STATUTE OF THE FRATERNITAS ORDO DRACONIS VIGLAS

F.O.D. VIGLAS

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TITLE I

CONSTITUTION, NATURE AND PURPOSES

ARTICLE 1 – CONSTITUTION, NATURE, REGISTERED OFFICE AND PURPOSES

The Fraternitas Ordo Draconis Viglas – F.O.D. VIGLAS is an international non-profit associative institution of Magisterial, noble and chivalric character, inspired by the principles of fraternity, honour, dignity, solidarity, charity, culture and service.

The Fraternitas aims to preserve, restore and perpetuate the tradition of the nobles and dignitaries who, in 1408, founded the Societas Draconistrarum – Fraternitas Draconum, adopting, in keeping with its contemporary associative nature, its ideals of human dignity, fraternity, solidarity and service.

The historical documentation dating from 1408, preserved within the Hungarian documentary tradition, constitutes a historical reference for the Fraternitas. The historical name Societas Draconis or Societas Draconistrarum is understood herein in its proper historical context and does not identify the Fraternitas with modern organizations of different origin or designation.

The Fraternitas Ordo Draconis Viglas is therefore distinct from any other Order of the Dragon established, re-established or named in a later period, and identifies itself through its specific nature as a Fraternitas or Confraternity.

The historical tradition of the Societas is connected with Viglas Castle, which today constitutes the Official, Historical and International Seat of F.O.D. VIGLAS.

In particular, the Fraternitas pursues the following purposes:

a) the promotion of peace, universal fraternity and solidarity among peoples;

b) the promotion of tolerance, mutual respect, freedom of conscience and freedom of thought;

c) cultural, educational, social, welfare and charitable initiatives;

d) the promotion of social and economic development in accordance with the principles of solidarity and subsidiarity;

e) the protection and enhancement of cultural, artistic, literary, craft and historical traditions;

f) the dissemination of human values, solidarity and humanitarian assistance;

g) initiatives relating to environmental protection and sustainable development;

h) publishing, training and independent research activities;

i) relations of friendship, cooperation, twinning and partnership with institutions, associations and entities compatible with the principles of the Fraternitas;

j) the sponsorship and moral aegis of non-profit initiatives consistent with its purposes.

The Fraternitas may establish seats, representations, delegations, Priorates, Bailiwicks, Commanderies, Sections and other territorial structures in any country.

The duration of the Fraternitas is unlimited.

ARTICLE 2 – ASSETS AND RESOURCES

The resources of the Fraternitas consist of:

a) annual membership fees;

b) contributions relating to institutional activities, events and initiatives;

c) voluntary contributions from members and third parties;

d) public and private fundraising;

e) movable and immovable property;

f) donations, gifts, bequests and inheritances;

g) contributions, grants and funding compatible with its institutional purposes;

h) any other income compatible with the nature and purposes of the Fraternitas.

Membership fees and ordinary contributions are non-refundable.

Any donations may benefit from the reliefs provided for under applicable legislation.

The assets shall be used exclusively to pursue the institutional, cultural, welfare, charitable and social purposes of the Fraternitas.

In the event of dissolution, the General Chapter shall appoint the liquidator and determine the allocation of any remaining assets in accordance with applicable legislation, preferably in favour of non-profit entities pursuing charitable, solidarity-based or social purposes.

ARTICLE 3 – EMBLEM

The emblem of the Fraternitas consists of a Dragon arranged in a circular form, with its tail wrapped around its neck.

The Dragon's back is depicted as divided, as a symbol of trial, suffering and rebirth, with a symbolic wound from which blood is shown.

The white part represents the non-bleeding part of the Dragon.

The Cross of Saint George is placed in the white field as a symbol of Christian tradition, honour and the defence of the values of the Fraternitas.

The official motto is:

"O quam Misericors est Deus Justus et Paciens".

ARTICLE 4 – STANDARD AND MANTLE

The official Standard of the Fraternitas consists of the colours red and green.

Red represents courage, sacrifice and the blood shed in defence of the values of the Fraternitas.

Green represents life, hope, continuity and rebirth.

Members may wear the emblem of the Fraternitas as a pendant and, on the occasions provided for, wear the official mantle in red and green, as a symbolic reference to the Dragon's skin and the wound on its belly.

National and territorial structures shall use the same Standard, unless specific Magisterial provisions provide otherwise.

ARTICLE 5 – RITE AND CEREMONIAL

The rite of the Fraternitas is based on the principles of symbolic initiation, personal improvement, fraternity, honour and service.

Admission, investiture, promotion and official ceremonies are governed by this Statute and the Internal Regulations.

TITLE II

DIGNITIES, RANKS AND ADMISSION

ARTICLE 6 – HIERARCHY OF RANKS

The ordinary hierarchy of ranks within the Fraternitas is as follows:

1. Knight / Dame;
2. Knight Officer / Dame Officer;
3. Knight Commander / Dame Commander;
4. Knight Grand Officer / Grand Dame;
5. Knight Grand Cross / Dame Grand Cross;
6. Knight Grand Cross with Collar, reserved for the Prince-Grand Master and former Grand Masters.

If the office of Prince-Grand Master is held by a woman, the corresponding dignity shall be Dame Grand Cross with Collar.

ARTICLE 7 – DIGNITIES AD HONOREM

The Fraternitas may confer the following dignities Ad Honorem:

a) Knight Grand Cross Ad Honorem / Dame Grand Cross Ad Honorem;

b) Knight Grand Officer Ad Honorem / Grand Dame Ad Honorem;

c) Knight Ad Honorem / Dame Ad Honorem.

Dignities Ad Honorem constitute honorary recognition and do not automatically entail functions of governance or representation, or operational powers, unless expressly delegated or assigned by the Prince-Grand Master.

ARTICLE 8 – ADMISSION OF WOMEN AND MINORS

Women are fully admitted to the Fraternitas and may receive the corresponding dignities and chivalric ranks, with full dignity and institutional equality in relation to male members.

Minors may be admitted:

a) as Pages, from the age of ten, regardless of sex;

b) as Squires, from the age of thirteen to seventeen;

c) for girls, as Damsels, as the corresponding female designation within the youth pathway, following the same age ranges and the same educational path as Pages and Squires.

The Damsel pathway therefore constitutes the corresponding female form of the youth pathway for Pages and Squires.

The admission of minors shall take place in compliance with the applicable provisions on the protection of minors and any required authorizations.

Progression from Page to Squire, or from Page to Damsel for girls, and subsequently to a higher dignity or rank, shall take place in accordance with this Statute and the Internal Regulations.

Attaining the age of majority does not automatically entail the conferral of a higher chivalric rank, which must be granted in accordance with the ordinary procedures of the Fraternitas.

ARTICLE 9 – ADMISSION AND MOTU PROPRIO

Ordinary admission to the Fraternitas is decided by the Prince-Grand Master, following examination of the application and in compliance with the procedures laid down in this Statute and the Internal Regulations.

By way of derogation from the ordinary procedure, the Prince-Grand Master, as Supreme Head of the Fraternitas, may, by his own Motu Proprio, act autonomously and without the prior approval of the Grand Council or the Ordinary Council, to order:

a) the admission of a person;

b) the conferral of the rank of Knight or Dame;

c) the conferral of a higher rank;

d) the conferral of a particular dignity;

e) the conferral of a dignity Ad Honorem.

The Motu Proprio shall become effective on the date of the relevant decree or Magisterial act and shall not require subsequent ratification.

The Grand Chancellor shall register the acts in the official registers of the Fraternitas.

The power of Motu Proprio shall not limit the ordinary powers of the bodies of the Fraternitas.

Every member is required to pay the annual fee, unless expressly exempted by the Prince-Grand Master.

ARTICLE 10 – APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION

The application for admission shall be submitted to the Chancellery or to authorized territorial structures.

The candidate shall declare full acceptance of this Statute and the Internal Regulations.

The documentation may include:

a) birth certificate or equivalent document;

b) criminal record certificate or substitute declaration, where permitted;

c) photograph;

d) identity document;

e) personal and professional curriculum vitae;

f) any documentation relating to merits, qualifications and activities.

The Prince-Grand Master may waive, in whole or in part, the submission of such documentation.

Any voluntary contributions may be allocated to supporting charitable, institutional and cultural activities and to the preservation and promotion of the Fraternitas.

TITLE III

INVESTITURE AND CEREMONIAL

ARTICLE 11 – SOLEMN INVESTITURE

Investiture shall be solemnly celebrated in accordance with the official rite of the Fraternitas.

Dignities conferred Ad Honorem may also be awarded without a physical investiture, as determined by the Prince-Grand Master.

A member who has not yet been invested may not fully exercise the prerogatives associated with the rank, nor confer ranks or promotions, unless specifically provided for by a Magisterial act.

ARTICLE 12 – FORM OF INVESTITURE

Investiture shall include, according to the rank conferred:

a) the mantle;

b) the oath or solemn undertaking;

c) acceptance of the Statute and the Internal Regulations;

d) delivery of the insignia and any decorations;

e) issue of the relevant certificate or diploma.

ARTICLE 13 – AUTHORITY PRESIDING OVER THE INVESTITURE

Investiture is normally presided over by the Prince-Grand Master.

In the event of his absence, it may be presided over by the Lieutenant General or by another dignitary expressly delegated in writing by the Prince-Grand Master.

ARTICLE 14 – PLACE OF CEREMONIES

Investitures and major ceremonies shall ordinarily take place at Viglas Castle or at another location deemed suitable by the Grand Magisterium.

Official ceremonies shall be governed by the ceremonial rules of the Fraternitas.

TITLE IV

BODIES OF THE FRATERNITAS

ARTICLE 15 – FUNDAMENTAL BODIES

The fundamental bodies and structures of the Fraternitas are:

a) the Prince-Grand Master;

b) the Grand Magisterium;

c) the Grand Council or Supreme Council;

d) the Ordinary Council;

e) the General Chapter;

f) the Grand Jury;

g) the Council of Overseers;

h) the Corps of the Guard;

i) the territorial, national and international structures provided for by this Statute.

ARTICLE 16 – FOUNDING KNIGHTS

The Founding Knights constitute the historical and institutional point of reference for the Fraternitas.

They retain for life the rank of Knight Grand Cross, unless they resign, are deprived of it or are subject to disciplinary action under this Statute.

The Founders may be awarded a special insignia consisting of a gold plaque and a red or green sash.

ARTICLE 17 – PRINCE-GRAND MASTER

The Prince-Grand Master is the Supreme Head of the Fraternitas and directs the Grand Magisterium.

His term of office shall last five years and may be renewed without limitation.

The Prince-Grand Master:

a) directs the Fraternitas and the Grand Magisterium;

b) presides over the Grand Council and the General Chapter;

c) exercises the Magisterial functions provided for by this Statute;

d) orders ordinary admissions, appointments and promotions;

e) appoints and coordinates Magisterial Delegates and Vicars;

f) represents the Fraternitas;

g) exercises any other function provided for by this Statute.

Approvals by the competent bodies shall apply to ordinary procedures, without prejudice to the power of Motu Proprio provided for in Article 9.

At the end of his term of office, the Prince-Grand Master shall be entitled to the dignity of Knight Grand Cross with Collar, if he has not already been awarded it.

ARTICLE 18 – MAGISTERIAL DECREES AND THE SEAL

Resolutions of the Grand Council and the General Chapter shall be promulgated by the Prince-Grand Master.

Magisterial decrees shall become effective upon signature by the Prince-Grand Master or a person expressly delegated, and upon affixing the Seal of the Fraternitas, which is kept by the Grand Chancellor.

The Prince-Grand Master may delegate to the Lieutenant General, the Grand Chancellor or other authorized Delegates the signing of specific decrees.

Delegated acts shall be communicated and registered in accordance with the internal provisions.

The Motu Proprio acts referred to in Article 9 shall produce their effects directly and shall not be subject to ratification.

ARTICLE 19 – GRAND MAGISTERIUM AND ORDINARY COUNCIL

The Grand Magisterium is the governing and senior directing body of the Fraternitas and is presided over and directed by the Prince-Grand Master.

It comprises:

a) the Prince-Grand Master;

b) the Lieutenant General;

c) the Grand Chancellor.

The Grand Magisterium assists the Prince-Grand Master and coordinates the institutional, administrative, diplomatic and organizational activities of the Fraternitas, in compliance with the supreme authority of the Prince-Grand Master.

The Ordinary Council is the executive and operational body of the ordinary government of the Fraternitas and operates under the direction of the Grand Chancellor, who is responsible for its organization, composition and activities.

Its institutional members are:

a) the Lieutenant General;

b) the Grand Chancellor;

c) the Treasurer;

d) the Secretary;

e) the Grand Prior;

f) the Grand Commander;

g) the First Councillor.

The Grand Chancellor may supplement the Ordinary Council with further Dignitaries, Knights, Dames, collaborators and advisers, freely selected according to the organizational, administrative, diplomatic and operational needs of the Fraternitas.

The Grand Chancellor shall directly appoint and dismiss additional members, determine their assignments and respective responsibilities, and may establish working groups and operational committees within the Ordinary Council.

Additional members shall participate in the Council's work according to the functions assigned to them. The Grand Chancellor shall establish the arrangements for their participation and deliberation, distinguishing, where necessary, between members with voting rights and collaborators serving in a consultative capacity.

The Grand Chancellor directs the Ordinary Council, convenes and chairs its meetings, sets the agenda, assigns operational responsibilities and coordinates the activities of the Secretariat and the Treasury, while respecting the specific technical responsibilities of their respective heads.

The Ordinary Council operates within the directives of the Prince-Grand Master and the Grand Magisterium and reports to the Prince-Grand Master through the Grand Chancellor.

The composition and appointments of the Ordinary Council shall not alter the Magisterial hierarchy or the statutory powers of the other Dignitaries.

The term of collective appointments shall coincide with the term of office of the Prince-Grand Master, unless otherwise provided.

At the end of the Prince-Grand Master's term of office, the Grand Council shall entrust the Lieutenant General with initiating, within three months, the procedure for identifying the candidate for Magisterial succession.

ARTICLE 20 – LIEUTENANT GENERAL

The Lieutenant General shall be appointed by the Grand Council from a shortlist of three candidates proposed by the Prince-Grand Master.

He is the second-ranking dignitary of the Fraternitas.

He represents and replaces the Prince-Grand Master in the event of the latter's absence or prolonged inability to act.

Decisions taken by the Lieutenant General in the exercise of substitute functions may be revoked exclusively by a unanimous resolution of the Grand Council, without prejudice to acts already performed vis-à-vis third parties.

ARTICLE 21 – GRAND COUNCIL

The Grand Council comprises the following members, according to their respective functions:

a) the Lieutenant General;

b) the First Marshal;

c) the Grand Chancellor;

d) the Grand Prior;

e) the Grand Commander;

f) the Grand Bailiff;

g) the Treasurer;

h) the Secretary;

i) the Spiritual Adviser;

j) the Grand Ceremonial Officer;

k) the Standard-Bearer;

l) the Seneschal;

m) the Orator;

n) the First Councillor;

o) the Grand Judge;

p) any further dignitaries provided for by the Statute or the Internal Regulations.

Appointments are collegiate and not for life, except for the prerogatives recognized to the Founders and honorary dignities.

ARTICLE 22 – FOUNDING KNIGHTS AND INSTITUTIONAL CONTINUITY

The Founding Knights are the custodians of the historical and institutional memory of the Fraternitas.

They:

a) retain the Grand Cross dignity for life;

b) safeguard the history, values and traditions of the Fraternitas;

c) may propose and identify suitable persons to complete the Grand Council;

d) by secret ballot and with a majority of at least two thirds of the Founders present, may exercise a right of veto over appointments of Grand Dignitaries to social and institutional functions.

This power shall not apply to ordinary appointments of Knights and Dames and shall not limit the power of Motu Proprio of the Prince-Grand Master provided for in Article 9.

If the Prince-Grand Master becomes permanently unable to perform his function, the Founders may designate his successor in accordance with the internal procedures.

The Lieutenant General, the Grand Chancellor, the Treasurer and the Secretary shall be selected from among the Founders or their legitimate institutional successors.

The General Chapter may submit a list of candidates to the Founders.

ARTICLE 23 – FUNCTIONS AND POWERS

The Grand Chancellor is primarily responsible for the ordinary government of the Fraternitas and performs functions similar to those of a Head of Government. He is a member of the Grand Magisterium and works in direct cooperation with the Prince-Grand Master, in compliance with the latter's supreme Magisterial authority and the prerogatives of the Lieutenant General.

The Grand Chancellor is responsible for the political-institutional, administrative and organizational direction of the ordinary management of the Fraternitas, as well as for coordinating its operational structures.

In particular, he:

a) directs and coordinates the Ordinary Council, over which he presides;

b) determines the internal organization, operational priorities and work programme of the Ordinary Council;

c) freely selects, appoints and dismisses his collaborators, advisers and additional members of the Ordinary Council, assigning them duties and responsibilities;

d) may establish commissions, departments, working groups and support structures, determining their composition and powers;

e) coordinates the activities of the Secretariat, the Treasury and other administrative structures, while respecting the specific technical responsibilities of their respective heads;

f) supervises the implementation of resolutions and Magisterial guidelines within the scope of ordinary government;

g) manages the institutional, organizational and diplomatic relations of the Fraternitas, in accordance with the guidelines of the Prince-Grand Master;

h) proposes and coordinates the appointment of representatives, delegates and appointees for specific institutional functions;

i) ensures the administrative and organizational continuity of the Fraternitas;

j) reports to the Prince-Grand Master on the activities of the Ordinary Council and the conduct of ordinary government.

The Grand Chancellor shall independently exercise his powers of direction and organization, without requiring prior authorization for acts of ordinary administration, within the limits of the Statute, the Regulations and Magisterial guidelines.

Appointments of collaborators and advisers to the Ordinary Council shall be made by his own act and communicated to the Prince-Grand Master. Such appointments shall not alter the Magisterial hierarchy or automatically confer dignities or prerogatives belonging to other Dignitaries.

When exercising a Magisterial delegation, the Grand Chancellor acts in the name and on behalf of the Prince-Grand Master, within the limits of the delegation received.

The Grand Chancellor is directly accountable to the Prince-Grand Master for the exercise of his ordinary government functions.

TITLE V

FUNCTIONS OF THE DIGNITARIES

7. **Lieutenant General**

Represents and replaces the Prince-Grand Master in the cases provided for by the Statute and exercises the functions of Vicar General.

8. **Grand Chancellor**

Is the custodian of the Seal of the Fraternitas, provides the required countersignatures, directs and coordinates ordinary government within the scope of his powers, manages institutional and diplomatic relations, assists the Prince-Grand Master and the Lieutenant General, organizes the work of the Grand Council, supervises dependent or delegated structures and reports to the Prince-Grand Master.

The Grand Chancellor directs the Ordinary Council and coordinates the activities of the Secretariat and the Treasury, while respecting the specific technical responsibilities of their respective heads.

He may appoint or dismiss, after consultation with the Prince-Grand Master, Plenipotentiary Ministers, Ambassadors and Diplomatic Delegates.

When exercising a Magisterial delegation, the Grand Chancellor acts in the name and on behalf of the Prince-Grand Master, within the limits of the delegation received.

After the Prince-Grand Master and the Lieutenant General, he is the principal operational dignitary within the functions and delegations assigned to him.

9. **Treasurer**

Manages the treasury, collection of fees and contributions, donations and payments authorized by written orders.

10. **Secretary**

Manages correspondence, archives, the Secretariat, notices of meetings, minutes and institutional communications.

11. **Spiritual Adviser**

Looks after spiritual and religious matters and official celebrations.

12. **Grand Ceremonial Officer**

Is responsible for ceremonies, events, assemblies and institutional and diplomatic protocol.

13. **Standard-Bearer**

Safeguards and represents the Standard and assists with institutional and charitable activities.

14. **Seneschal**

Assists and guides new Knights and Dames through the process of joining the Fraternitas.

15. **Orator**

Is the custodian of the principles of the Statute, oversees official matters and contributes to maintaining order and dignity during meetings.

16. **First Councillor**

Assists with cultural, social, charitable and cooperation initiatives and manages institutional relations in accordance with the duties assigned.

17. **First Marshal**

Is primarily responsible for the planning, preparation, organization, choreography and conduct of all official functions.

He supervises compliance with the dress code and the proper arrangement and use of mantles, decorations, collars and medals according to rank, including Knight, Knight Officer, Commander, Grand Officer and Grand Cross.

During ceremonies, he monitors members' conduct and reports any violations of the Statute, the Internal Regulations or chivalric dignity to the Grand Magisterium or the Supreme Grand Council.

18. **Master of Ceremonies**

Is responsible for the Rite of Investiture Ceremonies and assists and cooperates with the Grand Ceremonial Officer in carrying out official functions.

19. **Captain of the Guard**

Commands the personal and institutional Guard Corps of the Prince-Grand Master.

He is appointed directly by the Prince-Grand Master and reports to the Prince-Grand Master and the Grand Magisterium.

He reports directly to the Prince-Grand Master with regard to the protection, representation and personal service of the Supreme Head.

He reports to the Grand Magisterium with regard to the organization, coordination and ordinary operation of the Guard Corps.

He coordinates the members of the Guard, representation services, internal discipline, ceremonial order and protocol; accompanies the Prince-Grand Master and cooperates with the Grand Magisterium and the other bodies of the Fraternitas.

He may receive further assignments from the Prince-Grand Master or the Grand Magisterium.

The Captain of the Guard does not exercise general disciplinary authority over members of the Fraternitas.

20. **Grand Jury**

Is the body competent in disciplinary and conciliatory matters.

It is composed of the Grand Judge, the First Judge and the Assistant Judge.

It examines internal disputes, violations of the Statute and the Internal Regulations, and disciplinary matters.

With the approval of at least ten High Dignitaries, it may request an extraordinary meeting of the Grand Council in order to bring any member, including the Prince-Grand Master, before proceedings, in accordance with the procedures set out in Article 32.

21. **Council of Overseers**

It is composed of at least three Knights, at least one of whom must hold the rank of Commander or higher.

It supervises territorial and diplomatic structures and the conduct of Knights and Dames.

It reports to the Lieutenant General.

It does not directly exercise disciplinary authority, except for the reporting and supervisory powers provided for by the Statute and the Internal Regulations.

ARTICLE 24 – MEETINGS OF THE GRAND COUNCIL

The Grand Council shall meet at least four times a year.

It shall be convened by the Prince-Grand Master or at the request of a majority of its members.

Notice of an ordinary meeting shall be given at least ten days in advance; in urgent cases, a meeting may also be convened on the preceding day.

It shall be chaired by the Prince-Grand Master or, in his absence, by the Lieutenant General.

A meeting shall be validly constituted when a majority of the members is present, provided that the Prince-Grand Master or the Lieutenant General is also present.

The presence of all members shall make the meeting valid even without prior notice.

Resolutions shall be adopted by a majority of those present. In the event of a tie, the Chairman’s vote shall prevail.

The Grand Council shall deliberate on:

a) the budget and financial statements;

b) matters to be submitted to the General Chapter;

c) assets;

d) fees and contributions;

e) the emblem and symbols;

f) general and territorial regulations;

g) regulations governing national structures;

h) any other matter assigned to it by the Statute.

ARTICLE 25 – INSIGNIA OF HIGH DIGNITARIES

The Grand Cross is accompanied by a gold plaque and a red or green sash, according to the ceremonial rules.

Collars, insignia, medals and other decorations are governed according to the rank and office held.

ARTICLE 26 – FORMER DIGNITARIES

Former High Dignitaries retain the corresponding title Ad Honorem.

During ceremonies, they shall have precedence immediately after the serving holders of the same dignity.

ARTICLE 27 – GENERAL CHAPTER

The General Chapter shall meet at least once a year.

It shall be convened by the Prince-Grand Master or, in his absence, by the Lieutenant General.

The meeting shall be validly chaired by the Prince-Grand Master, the Lieutenant General or a Magisterial Delegate.

An Extraordinary Chapter may be requested by half of the members entitled to participate.

If the General Chapter is not convened, the Grand Chancellor may arrange for it to be convened within two months.

Knights and Dames belonging to the categories provided for by the Statute shall participate.

Dignities Ad Honorem shall have a consultative function and no voting rights, unless otherwise provided by a Magisterial act.

The General Chapter shall:

a) examine the financial statements;

b) examine the report on activities;

c) ratify amendments to the Statute where required;

d) exercise any further powers assigned to it by the Statute.

Notice of the meeting must be given at least thirty days in advance by post, electronic means or publication on the official website.

Each member in good standing with membership obligations shall have one vote and may represent only one other member by proxy.

The Prince-Grand Master shall chair the assembly and verify the regularity of voting procedures.

The Prince-Grand Master may exercise a reasoned veto on institutional grounds.

At the first call, a quorum of half plus one of those entitled to vote is required; at the second call, the assembly shall be valid regardless of the number of those present.

Resolutions shall be adopted by a majority of votes cast, abstentions not being counted.

ARTICLE 28 – REGISTERS AND MAGISTERIAL ARCHIVE

Magisterial acts shall be registered by the General Secretariat in the official registers of the Fraternitas.

Acts shall be signed by the Prince-Grand Master and countersigned by the Grand Chancellor where required.

The historical archive of the Fraternitas is permanent and must be kept with particular care.

ARTICLE 29 – TERRITORIAL STRUCTURES

The Fraternitas may be organized into National Chapters, Provinces, Lieutenancies, Priorates, Bailiwicks, Commanderies, Sections, Sub-Priorates and other authorized structures.

The territorial head shall be a Magisterial Delegate, who may hold the title of Prior, Bailiff or Commander according to the level of the structure.

He shall manage ordinary affairs, meetings and ceremonies in the territory assigned to him.

He may be assisted by a Chancellor, Judge, Sacristan, Treasurer, Master of Ceremonies, Standard-Bearer, Councillor, Secretary, Seneschal and Orator.

Territorial structures shall have no administrative or accounting autonomy, unless specifically exempted by the Grand Council.

Structures may be divided into Sections, Commanderies, Sub-Priorates, Priorates and Bailiwicks.

The Grand Chancellor may accredit Plenipotentiary Ministers and Ambassadors.

ARTICLE 30 – GENERAL CHAPTER AND INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIONS

The General Chapter shall be convened by the Prince-Grand Master or, in his absence, by the Lieutenant General or the Grand Chancellor.

It shall examine the reports of the bodies and territorial structures.

Chapters in other States may participate through a maximum of three representatives.

TITLE VI

DISCIPLINE

ARTICLE 31 – DISCIPLINE AND SANCTIONS

The Lieutenant General may apply the minor sanctions provided for by the Internal Regulations.

In the event of serious violations, the Lieutenant General, after consulting the Grand Chancellor, may order a precautionary suspension pending examination by the Grand Jury.

Sanctions may include:

a) verbal warning;

b) written warning;

c) formal censure;

d) formal admonition or reprimand;

e) suspension;

f) removal from office;

g) life-long suspension from functions and prerogatives.

The Grand Jury may propose removal from office or life-long suspension after hearing the person concerned and obtaining the necessary information.

The accused must be informed and may defend himself or herself personally or with the assistance of a Knight of the Fraternitas.

The Prince-Grand Master may accept the explanations, impose a different sanction, confirm the decision or grant a pardon or commutation by Motu Proprio.

Removal from office and life-long suspension are prerogatives of the Prince-Grand Master, in accordance with the procedure laid down in this Statute.

If the accused is a member of the Grand Jury, the other two members shall conduct the assessment.

If the accused is the Prince-Grand Master, the proceedings shall take place in two stages before the Grand Council: the first requires a unanimous vote, and the second a simple majority.

The Grand Jury may regulate procedural matters in the Internal Regulations.

Internal disciplinary procedures do not constitute the exercise of public judicial functions. Any criminal offences remain within the jurisdiction of the competent public authorities.

ARTICLE 32 – ADVISERS AND EXPERTS

The Prince-Grand Master may invite members or persons from outside the Grand Council to address technical, scientific, cultural or specialist matters.

The Grand Chancellor, with the authorization of the Prince-Grand Master, may establish commissions composed of at least three Knights and any external experts.

TITLE VII

INTERNATIONAL NATURE, SEAT AND FINAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 33 – INTERNATIONAL NATURE AND FUNCTIONAL AUTONOMY

The Fraternitas is international in nature and operates through functional and territorial structures.

Dignities, appointments and functions exercised within the Fraternitas are associative and internal institutional matters and do not entail the exercise of sovereign authority or public powers, unless expressly recognized or conferred by the applicable law.

The Fraternitas may establish relations of friendship, cooperation, twinning, partnership and representation with entities and institutions compatible with its purposes.

ARTICLE 34 – OFFICIAL, HISTORICAL AND INTERNATIONAL SEAT

The Official, Historical and International Seat of the Fraternitas is established at Viglas Castle, Slovakia.

The Grand Council may resolve to transfer the seat.

Internal communications may be made by email, messaging systems or publication on the official website.

Unless otherwise provided, the ordinary notice period for communications is eight days, without prejudice to the specific time limits provided for in Articles 25 and 27.

ARTICLE 35 – RESIDENCE OF THE GRAND MASTER AND REPRESENTATION AT THE SEAT

The Prince-Grand Master has his residence at Viglas Castle, the Official, Historical and International Seat of F.O.D. VIGLAS.

The presence of the Grand Master at the Official Seat guarantees continuity of the Magisterial function and constitutes the principal institutional point of reference.

Viglas Castle therefore represents the centre of the Magisterial, institutional and ceremonial life of the Fraternitas, where the Grand Magisterium, the Grand Council, the General Chapter and major ceremonies may be convened.

In the event of the Grand Master's absence or inability to act, the functions of representation and governance shall be exercised, pursuant to Article 20, by the Lieutenant General, within the limits of his powers and any delegations received.

No permanent Magisterial Vicar is provided for at Viglas, except where specific requirements determined by the Grand Magisterium so warrant.

ARTICLE 36 – FINANCIAL YEAR

The financial year shall end on 31 December of each year.

Within one hundred and twenty days, the Treasurer shall prepare the financial report and accounting documentation.

The Grand Council shall examine and approve the documentation and submit it to the General Chapter where required.

Management shall be based on transparency, correctness and respect for the non-profit nature of the Fraternitas and the applicable legislation.

ARTICLE 37 – AMENDMENTS TO THE STATUTE

Amendments to this Statute shall be adopted exclusively by the Grand Council by a majority of two thirds of those present, unless higher majorities are required by the applicable law.

Where provided for in Article 28, amendments shall be submitted for ratification by the General Chapter.

The resolution of the Grand Council and any ratification by the General Chapter constitute two separate stages of the procedure.

For matters not governed by this Statute, the Internal Regulations and the applicable legislative provisions shall apply.

ARTICLE 38 – ENTRY INTO FORCE AND OFFICIAL TEXT

This Statute shall enter into force on the date of its approval by the competent body.

It may be published in such international languages as may be deemed appropriate.

In the event of translations, the official text approved by the Grand Council shall prevail over any translated version.

This document constitutes the official Statute of the Fraternitas Ordo Draconis Viglas – F.O.D. VIGLAS.