UBI CENTERS ADMISSION AND EXPULSION POLICY

(approved by the Board of Directors on 27 May 1994 and ratified by the Members’ Meeting on 26 May 1995)

Admission criteria and methods

ARTICLE 1

1.1 As stated in art. 2 of the Statute, the UBI supports all branches of the Italian Buddhist community, and welcomes several types of Buddhist associations: Centers, Institutions, Monasteries, Groups and other associations (shortened to the “Centers” hereinafter).

1.2 As stated in art. 7 of the Statute, these organizations have to be institutionally committed and primarily teach and practice Buddhism; some of said organizations solely engage in the practice and/or education of disciples, while others also carry out cultural enrichment and/or social welfare activities.

1.3 The UBI also welcomes actual Foundations.

ARTICLE 2

2.1 In application of the provisions in art.7 of the Statute, Centers seeking membership in the UBI have to meet all of the following basic requisites:

a) be structured and organized according to a written document bearing a verifiable date (Statute);

b) carry out non-profit activities, mainly pertaining to the practice and dissemination of the Dharma in reference to the Three Jewels and the Four Noble Truths. They must have operated continuously for at least three years, at its own headquarters; the Center has participated in events scheduled by UBI (public meetings, Vesak celebrations, conventions) for at least one year.

c) state the Tradition subject of its teachings and its eventual lines of transmission;

d) named a Master responsible for spiritual guidance;

e) the Center upholds ethical behavior that honors the Five Precepts at its site.
ARTICLE 3

3.1 Centers who intend to join the UBI may send a written application to the President, as specified in article 8 of the Statute.

3.2 The application must be accompanied by the following documents:
   a) articles of constitution (Statute), listing the purpose, teaching tradition, governing bodies, and registered address. The articles of constitution must foresee the establishment and upkeep of a Members’ list and a Register of Meeting Minutes;
   b) name and personal data of members of the governing bodies;
   c) profile of the Master, indicating whether or not he/she resides at the Center;
   d) a written statement by which the Master assumes responsibility for the Center spiritual guidance;
   e) documentation regarding the activities performed in the previous three years (programs, initiatives, etc.), indicating the respective number of participants;
   f) publications (if any);
   g) income statements and balance sheets for the last three years;
   h) a statement from the Center, authorizing the UBI to perform checks and audits, through its own designated employees and also in collaboration with other entities, as required to complete the admission process, and thereafter for as long as the Center is a member of the UBI.
   i) ownership title, or lease or gratuitous bailment listing the Center as the owner or occupant of the premises listed in the Statute as being used for teaching and practice.

ARTICLE 4

4.1 The President of the UBI, with the assistance of the Secretariat, shall review the application, and having verified that the requisites in art. 3.2 have been met, entrust the task of verifying compliance with the requisites in art. 2, and the validity of documents in art. 3.2 to three other individuals, selected by the Board of Directors in advance from Traditions associated with the UBI, but not necessarily members of the Board of Directors.

4.2 Said designated individuals shall contact and personally visit the Center, follow its activities for six months, and, if necessary, recommend organizational and statutory changes. The requesting Center shall bear all related expenses.

4.3 The designated individuals shall complete their task and provide a written report to the President within seven months of being appointed.

ARTICLE 5

5.1 Any Foundation seeking membership in the UBI must be statutorily committed to the promotion, dissemination, support and development of initiatives pertaining to the culture and practice of Buddhism in all of its aspects, in accordance with the Traditions, and traditions deemed admissible by the UBI.

5.2 The membership application must be sent to the President of the UBI together with the following documents:
   a) articles of association, Statute, and decree of recognition (and in lack thereof, list the details of the application for recognition);
b) the names and personal data of the Founders and members of administrative and control bodies;

c) documentation on activities conducted in the previous three years;

d) publications (if any);

g) income statements and balance sheets for the last three years;

h) a statement authorizing the UBI to perform checks and audits, through its own designated employees and also in collaboration with other entities, as required to complete the admission process, and thereafter for as long as the Foundation is a member of the UBI.

5.3 The President of the UBI, assisted by the Secretariat, shall review the membership applications, and ascertain the receipt of documents listed in art. 5.2 and 5.1.

5.4 The President may, at his own discretion, entrust the task of assessing the validity of the documents provided to a member of the Board of Directors or to an individual selected by the Board of Directors itself.

5.5 Said designated individual shall personally contact the Foundation and follow its activities for six months, and, if necessary, recommend organizational changes.

5.6 The designated individual shall complete his task and provide a written report to the President within seven months of being appointed.

ARTICLE 6

6.1 The Board of Directors shall deliberate on the membership applications at least twice a year, based on the reports prepared by the delegates who followed-up on the applications, or based on the President's report if the applicant is a Foundation and, if necessary, ask the Center or Foundation to provide additional information or clarifications, also by means of inviting their representatives to attend a Board of Directors’ meeting. The applicants shall be held to respond within a maximum of sixty days.

6.2 Within thirty days of approving the membership application of a Center or Foundation, the Board of Directors shall notify the President thereof as well as other Centers and Foundations associated with the UBI, and the Ministry of Internal Affairs (Directorate-General of Religious Affairs).

Members’ Obligations

ARTICLE 7

7.1 Member Centers and Foundations are held to:

a) respect, over the course of their activities, the provisions in art. 7 of the UBI Statute, and everything pertaining to Buddhist ethics;

b) regularly attend events scheduled by the UBI (Annual meetings, Vesak Celebrations, Conventions);

c) collaborate with all other members of the UBI;

d) send to the Secretariat of the UBI, in a timely manner, copies of the programs and forthcoming initiatives schedule, and every year, by the end of March, provide a report on the activities performed the year prior, as proof of the quality and continuity of the association's activities;
e) pay the membership dues on time;

f) promptly inform the UBI of any change in the requisites provided at the time of admission.

7.2 The Centers and Foundations shall add to their description the phrase: “Member of the Italian Buddhist Union”.

Expulsion Criteria

ARTICLE 8

8.1 A Center or Foundation may be expelled pursuant to one or more of the following reasons:

a) it no longer meets the requisites indicated in art. 2 and 5.1 of this Policy, and has been inactive for over twelve months;

b) does not participate in the activities of the UBI (2 consecutive absences from Meetings and/or Vesak Celebrations). Members are not allowed to delegate another member Center as their proxy for two consecutive events;

c) fails to pay the association fee for two consecutive years;

d) violates the provisions of resolutions adopted by the UBI's governing bodies to an extent that its relationship with the UBI cannot continue, even on a temporary basis;

e) behaves in a manner contrary to Buddhist ethics and teachings, inflicts any sort of damage upon the UBI, even moral damage, or foments grave disagreements and disruptions within the UBI.

8.2 The Center in question shall be summoned to appear at a Board of Directors' meeting to clarify the situation.

8.3 With regard to matters in paragraphs a) and e) of art. 8.1, the Board of Directors shall seek the opinion of the Dharma Masters and Teachers’ Assembly.

8.4 The Board of Directors’ decision to expel the Center, based on the documents in its possession, shall be communicated to the President thereof, to other member Centers and Foundations of the UBI, and to the Ministry of Internal Affairs (Directorate-General of Religious Affairs) within thirty days.