



Cooperation Contract

Article 1 – Principle of Voluntarism

- 1) The purpose of this Cooperation Contract is to establish a structured and easy to understand framework of action based on the principle of voluntarism.
- 2) Voluntarism is the conviction that an individual can rightfully own themselves, thereby entitling them to freely decide regarding their labor and their relationships.
- 3) The individual is free to view themselves as the property of God. In this case, the individual retains the freedom regarding their labor and their relationships. God does not keep slaves.

Article 2 – Principle of Contract

- 1) Contract is an agreement based on mutual declarations of intent regarding privileges and obligations of the contracting parties.
- 2) Privilege is a rightful claim arising from a contract.
- 3) Obligation is the required action arising from a right or privilege.
- 4) Action is behavior undertaken with an awareness of consequences.
- 5) General contract is a voluntary commitment declared to the general public. Non-compliance is considered a breach of contract, which may be reported by anyone.

Article 3 – Principle of Rightfulness

- 1) A right is any behavior that brings about or preserves social freedom, as well as any claim that does not conflict with this freedom.
- 2) Social freedom is the absence of aggression.
- 3) Aggression is any attempt at coercion outside of defense.
- 4) Coercion is the use or credible threat of violence against free will.
- 5) Violence is the use of force to inflict harm.
- 6) Harm is the loss of physical or mental integrity, the damage to property, or the financial loss resulting from a breach of contract.
- 7) Defense is any proportionate action necessary to prevent harm.
- 8) Inflicting harm is rightful if
 - a) it serves the purpose of defense, or
 - b) proportionate force is used in the context of training, a game, or a sporting competition, and participation is not compelled.

Article 4 – Principle of Ownership

- 1) Ownership is the right to possess a thing or the fruits of an idea and to exclude others from any interference.
- 2) Ownership is acquired through creation, contract, or the publicly declared intention to retain a thing that is not owned by anyone.
- 3) Ownership is lost when it is voluntarily relinquished, or when the thing or idea is used in a way that infringes upon the rights of others.
- 4) Possession, also called dominion, is the ability to dispose of a thing as one pleases. Possession may be rightful or unrightful.
- 5) Thing is a physical object capable of physical interaction.
- 6) Idea is a mental concept expressed in images, language, or art.
- 7) Fruits are the products and other yields obtained from a thing or idea in accordance with its intended purpose.
- 8) An animal is considered rightful property if the animal is allowed to live a life appropriate for its species. The details are to be clarified in an Animal Protection Contract.

Article 5 – Principle of Self-Ownership

- 1) Self-ownership is ownership of one's own body and identity.
- 2) Every individual has the fundamental right to self-ownership.
- 3) Individual is any living being with the natural faculty to move freely and act independently.
- 4) An individual that violates the principles of ownership and rightfulness forfeits their right to self-ownership for as long as the violation continues.
- 5) A child shares self-ownership with its parents. The parents are obliged to protect their child from violence. The details are to be clarified in a Child Protection Contract.
- 6) For the purposes of this contract, a child is a person under the age of 18.

Article 6 – Establishment of the Cooperative

- 1) The institution of the Cooperative is established upon acceptance of this Cooperation Contract.
- 2) Acceptance of the Cooperation Contract occurs through membership in an association whose purpose is to establish a local community within the Cooperative network.

Article 7 – Purpose of the Cooperative

- 1) The Cooperative is an ideological association that follows the principles set forth in this contract to facilitate voluntary and peaceful cooperation.
- 2) The Cooperative serves as a decentralized network for communication among its members and as a hub for the planning and implementation of projects.
- 3) A project carried out within the context of the Cooperative shall aim to support those in need or to establish a new association or enterprise.

Article 8 – Structure of the Cooperative

- 1) The Cooperative consists of local communities that are interconnected.
- 2) A local community is established when at least two people join together under this Cooperation Contract and give their community a name.
- 3) The local community shall be organized in such a way that its members can regularly participate in community meetings and projects.
- 4) The association of local communities is organized in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity.
- 5) Within the Cooperative, religious or political affiliations do not matter.

Article 9 – Membership

- 1) Anyone who joins a local community becomes a member for an indefinite period.
- 2) Membership in more than one local community is not permitted.
- 3) Membership ends upon resignation, expulsion, or death.
- 4) Resignation is effected by a declaration to the local community. It becomes effective when all contracts that demand membership in the Cooperative have been terminated.
- 5) Expulsion is carried out by the local community. Expulsion is only possible if the member to be expelled has violated more than one contract and mediation fails to prevent future violations.

Article 10 – Privileges and Obligations of Members

- 1) Every member is entitled to participate in the Cooperative's events and surveys.
- 2) Each member has obligations to the Cooperative arising from the contracts concluded within the context of the Cooperative.
- 3) Each member is obliged to declare, through a general contract referred to as a Contract Code, how contracts are formed, how they are terminated, and how breaches of contract are to be handled.
- 4) The Contract Code governs the interpretation of contracts and the resolution of disputes.
- 5) The Contract Code must not conflict with the principles of the Cooperation Contract. Everyone has the right to reject any contract offer at any time.

Article 11 – General Assembly

- 1) The General Assembly is the sole organ of the Cooperative. It decides on all matters that cannot be decided by a local community, in particular on amendments to the Cooperation Contract.
- 2) The General Assembly convenes only if requested by at least two-thirds of all local communities. The meeting must be convened in writing with four weeks' notice, which must include the agenda.
- 3) The General Assembly shall establish an Administrative Circle whose task is to plan, convene, and moderate the Cooperative's meetings.

Article 12 – Decision-Making

- 1) Decisions are made unanimously by consent.
- 2) Consent means that a proposal is approved by either preferring or tolerating its implementation.
- 3) No consent means that there is a valid objection to a proposal. The objection is valid if the implementation of the proposal would violate the principles of the Cooperation Contract, or if implementation is impossible.
- 4) If there are multiple candidates for an office, the candidate who receives the most votes wins. A candidate may be rejected by a valid objection.
- 5) Anyone who does not attend a meeting convened for the purpose of decision-making, and does not send a representative, thereby tolerates the decisions made in that meeting.
- 6) Decisions of the local community are recorded by an Administrator; decisions of the General Assembly are recorded by the Administrative Circle. The minutes must be made available to the affected members within one week.

Article 13 – Dispute Resolution

- 1) Dispute resolution is primarily conducted by a Mediator from the local community.
- 2) The goal of mediation is to reach a mutual agreement between the conflicting parties that meets their needs and interests.
- 3) The General Assembly shall establish a Mediation Circle, which shall be responsible whenever a local community is unable to resolve a dispute.
- 4) If the Mediation Circle fails to resolve a dispute, an independent arbitration court may be appointed. In the absence of an arbitration agreement, it is the responsibility of the Mediator in charge to work out such an agreement together with the conflicting parties.
- 5) The costs of dispute resolution shall be covered by the reserves of the local community that was unable to resolve the dispute.

Article 14 – Cooperation Points

- 1) The Cooperative uses a scoring system that works as follows:
 - a) If a member helps with community projects without compensation, the helper receives one Cooperation Point for every hour of time spent.
 - b) For every intentional breach of contract, Cooperation Points are deducted from the perpetrator in proportion to the damage caused.
- 2) The Cooperation Points must be documented in a list. The points list must clearly indicate who helped with what as well as the result of that help.
- 3) The local community appoints an Administrator who maintains the points list for the community members. The Administrator is responsible for the accuracy of the list.
- 4) Cooperation Points may be transferred from one member to another if the local community approves the transfer.
- 5) If a member leaves the Cooperative, their Cooperation Points are retained.