

Criteria for Membership of Dóchas

(These Criteria for Membership were extracted from the Merger Document and were adopted by the Membership at an Annual General Meeting which was held on 24/3/95. They were subsequently altered at an Annual General Meeting which was held on 26/3/98)

The following are the Criteria for Membership of Dóchas (as provided for in Section (h) of the Articles of Association):-

1. Membership Applications

Applications for membership shall be made in the manner outlined in section (h) of the Articles of Association.

2. General Criteria for Applicant Organisations

- (i) The applicant Non-Governmental Development Organisation (NGDO) should be non-profit making, humanitarian and non-partisan in its aims.
- (ii) The applicant NGO should exercise its activities at a national, or in any case at a wider than local level.
- (iii) A significant part of the applicants work should be concerned with development, (such as projects, development education, emergency aid or volunteers). (As per section (c) of the Articles of Association.
- (iv) The organisation should be headquartered in Ireland, or, if it is not, the Irish branch should have substantial powers of decision-making in its own right, including control and disposal of funds and appointment of personnel.
- (v) The organisation should be established in Ireland for at least two years.
- (vi) Copies of constitution and audited accounts for the two most recent years and any other relevant documentation shall be furnished on request to the Board of Dóchas and if necessary to the General Assembly.

The existing members must be satisfied that the aims, objectives and practice of the applicant organisation reflects the spirit and intention of Dóchas as well as complying with the criteria set out above, and that it has indicated acceptance of the following policy statements:

NGDO Charter – Basic Principles of Development and Humanitarian Aid NGDOs in the European Union

Code of Conduct on Images and Messages

3. Criteria for Continuing Membership

All Dóchas members must submit Annual Audited Accounts to Dóchas by 30th June each year at the latest. For the purpose of calculating membership fees these should clearly show the organisation's voluntary income figure.

Members must pay their Annual Membership fee within 30 days from the date on which the invoice is issued.

Members failing to pay their Annual Membership fee in the required 30 days from the date on which the invoice was issued shall have their membership reviewed by the Board.

Following the process outlined in (iii) above Members failing to pay outstanding Membership fees in the time prescribed by the Board shall forfeit membership will have to re-apply. In the event that an organisation decides to re-apply for membership in the future any outstanding fees must be paid before any new application for membership can be considered.

Members failing to attend three successive Annual General Assemblies shall forfeit membership and will have to re-apply.

Members must continue to comply with the general requirements for membership, and demonstrate a continuing interest in active co-operation and involvement with Dóchas and its work.

Any member organisation which appears to have ceased to comply with the requirements of Sections 2 or 3(ii) above, or which by its activities or orientation is considered to bring Dóchas into disrepute shall have its membership reviewed under the terms of reference of Section (j) of the Articles of Association.

4. Voting

Each member organisation shall be entitled to one vote at meetings of the General Assembly.

5. Amendments

These criteria for membership may be amended by a simple majority vote of the General Assembly convened on three weeks' notice, which notice shall include details of the proposed changes.