

# **SRI AUROBINDO INTERNATIONAL MULTIVERSITY**

## **(Institute of National Importance)**

### **DRAFT BILL FOR THE ABOVE-NAMED MULTIVERSITY**

#### **PREAMBLE**

An Act to create a Sri Aurobindo International Multiversity as an Institute of National Importance based on the vision and philosophy of Sri Aurobindo and The Mother. The Sri Aurobindo International Multiversity shall be a unique prototype of a university of tomorrow – which would meet the newly emerging aspirations of the individual and society arising from the evolutionary thrust with which the earth atmosphere is charged. The Sri Aurobindo International Multiversity would be a global Affiliating network for Integral Education, Research, Teaching, Training and Extension; its aim being to foster the complete development of the five principal aspects of the human being: Physical, Vital, Mental, Psychic and Spiritual. The Multiversity is a hybrid online and onsite, loose conglomerate of multi-locational, multi-dimensional, multi-layered, financially, academically, and administratively autonomous affiliated Institutes and Centres with equal status and powers to attain standards of global excellence. The Sri Aurobindo International Multiversity through its network of collaborative and affiliated Institutes and Centres would establish new patterns of teaching and learning which would serve as models for the nation and the world.

Be it enacted by Parliament as a tribute to Sri Aurobindo to commemorate his hundred and fiftieth birth anniversary.

#### **Short Title and Commencement**

1. (1) This Act may be called the Sri Aurobindo International Multiversity – Institute of National Importance Act, 2021.
- (2) It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by Notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

#### **Declaration of Multiversity as an Institute of National Importance**

2. Whereas the objects of the Multiversity mentioned in Preamble and in Section 4 of this Act are such as to make this Multiversity of National importance and also International, it is hereby declared that this Multiversity is an Institute of National Importance.

#### **DEFINITIONS**

3. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires:
  - a. “**Multiversity**” means the Sri Aurobindo International Multiversity – Institute of National Importance (SAIM); it is a affiliating hybrid online and onsite, active network and a loose conglomerate of multi-locational, multi-dimensional, multi-layered, financially, academically, and administratively autonomous affiliated Institutions and Centres with equal status and powers to attain standards of global excellence;
  - b. “**Governing Council**” means the Council of Governance referred to in Section 16;
  - c. “**Academic Council**” means the **Integral Learning Council** referred to in Section 17;
  - d. “**Director General**” means the **Education Director** of the Multiversity as referred to in Section 21;
  - e. “**President**” means the Chairperson of the Multiversity as referred to in Section 20;

- f. **“Founding Affiliates”** means Institutes/Centres that are part of creating and administrating the Multiversity, and whose educational/academic institutions and educational/academic programs are affiliated to the Multiversity;
- g. **“Founding Members”** are Institutes/Centres who will participate in the creation and administration of the Multiversity and shall contribute to the corpus fund of the Multiversity, however its institute(s)/centre(s) shall not be affiliated;
- h. **“Integral Education”** means an education based on the growth and development of the mental, vital and physical faculties centred around the psychic and spiritual. It is an education that is complete and gives equal importance, as the Mother said, to “the five principal aspects corresponding to the five activities of the human being; the physical, the mental, the vital, the psychic and the spiritual.”;
- i. **“Free Progress”** means, in the words of The Mother: “a progress guided by the soul and not subjected to habits, conventions or preconceived ideas.”;
- j. **“Teacher”** means the person facilitating, mentoring, engaging in reflective practice, guiding, instructing, training and conducting research;
- k. **“Affiliating Institute/Centre”** means the Institute or Centre which is given affiliation by the Multiversity to conduct courses and programs leading to degree, diploma, certificate or any other courses with or without credits;
- l. **“Regulation”** means Regulation approved by the Governing Council;
- m. **“Prescribed”** means prescribed by the Regulations;
- n. **“School”** means the School of Advanced Studies and Research to be conducted by the Multiversity for postgraduate studies and research;
- o. **The Administrative Hub** of the Multiversity shall be a coordinating and networking liaison centre, between the Affiliating Institutes/Centres (including the Founding Affiliates) for programs, courses and research, and shall consist of the Governing Council, Integral Learning Council, and the Executive and Coordinating Councils.

#### 4. (1) **Vision and Objects**

The Multiversity has been conceived to manifest the Integral Free Progress vision of Sri Aurobindo and the Mother in Higher Education. It shall be the first of a kind of a unique prototype of a hybrid online and onsite, loose conglomerate of affiliated Institutes and Centres, which are multi-locational and financially, academically and administratively autonomous with equal status and powers, with a central Administrative Hub. The main function of the Multiversity Hub is to be a coordinating and networking liaison centre, between the autonomously Affiliating Institutes/Centres (including the Founding Affiliates and the Founding Members) for the programs and courses offered through the Multiversity, in keeping with the Preamble of the Multiversity.

The Multiversity will encourage and facilitate new modes of learning and teaching, original and applied research, teacher education, and new resource and pedagogies of teaching and curricula – ‘as an education for the world at large’.

According to the Mother, an Integral education would heal the schism created between Matter and Spirit. She felt that with some variations, this education could be adapted to all nations, and reinstate ‘the legitimate authority of the Spirit over a Matter fully developed and utilized.’ The Mother wrote: “The three lines of education – physical, vital and mental – deal with that and could be defined as the means of building up the personality, raising the individual out of the amorphous subconscious mass and making him a well-defined self-conscious entity. With psychic education we come to the problem of the true motive of existence, the purpose of life on Earth, the discovery to which this life must lead and the result of that discovery; the consecration of the individual to his eternal principle.”

Emanating from the above broad vision the objects of the Multiversity through its autonomous Founding Affiliates and Affiliated Institutes/Centres shall be as under:

- a. To develop a system of education which is integral and fosters a growth of consciousness and a change of human nature;
- b. To develop new patterns of education for the integration of self, and of the wisdom of diverse cultures and disciplines of knowledge and praxis;
- c. To develop innovative teaching methodology based on the three principles of Sri Aurobindo viz: nothing can be taught, the mind has to be consulted in its own growth and education to be relevant needs to work from the near to the far;
- d. To develop new patterns of innovative knowledge creation, curriculum, research, training, immersions, learning experiences and extension at various levels of educational accomplishment by having Integral and innovative pedagogies of knowledge so as to set an integral and high standard of education and its applications with multi- and interdisciplinary programs and courses comparable to world class Institutions;
- e. To develop an innovative free progress evaluation system in such a way that can foster inner progress, originality and creativity in the students;
- f. In design, instruction and delivery to maintain a high academic standard of conceptual clarity, coherence, originality of thinking, self-reflection leading to application in life; power of expression and integration into different domains of knowledge and praxis; and help students to synthesize diverse ideas and wideness of scholarship in students and teachers;
- g. To build a Free Progress Integral Educational architecture to facilitate the creation of a pool of Integral leaders, facilitators and resources in diverse fields at the ground level;
- h. To create a template to transform access, quality and equity in a new system of Integral Higher Education based on both conventional and open education resources and services (OERS) which would strive to cultivate professional and human excellence;
- i. To develop multi-language approach in certain courses and other materials related to extension activities so as to reach people at all levels and at all places;
- j. To provide for inter-relationships for national and global participation; to network and link with Centres of excellence at national and global levels for imparting state-of-the-art integral education including research, experiences, extension, training, praxis as comparable with world class Institutions;
- k. To conceive, design and create such programs and pedagogies that could help students and teachers come in touch with their deepest and highest potential (Swadharma);
- l. To establish close linkages with industry, the society and all stakeholders at large to make state of the art teaching, training, research and extension relevant to the needs of the nation and the globe;
- m. To make arrangements for continuing, adult, distance and online education;
- n. To recognize, accept and maintain the financial autonomy (including movable and immovable assets) of the Founding Affiliates, the Founding Members and the Affiliating Institutes/Centres.
- o. To recognize, accept and maintain the administrative and academic autonomy of the Founding Affiliates, as well as the Founding Members and Affiliating Institutes/Centres;
- p. To develop and implement an integral free-progress subjective and objective system of assessment and evaluation which each Centre/Institute shall use to assess and evaluate their students;
- q. To encourage teacher-education programs that develop teachers who mentor and guide the students through example and inspiration;

- r. To confer degrees, diplomas, certificates and other educational/academic distinctions including honorary degrees. Courses and programs could be taken for degrees/credit or as Audit (non-degree and non-credit) options;
- s. To provide close linkages for the purpose of research and the dissemination of knowledge with premier concerned Institutions at National and International levels;
- t. To create capabilities for advancement of knowledge, skill and competency at various levels;
- u. To create capabilities for upgrading the infrastructure of global standard of education, training and research in the related areas;
- v. To manifest divine consciousness in the physical life and create a synthesis between matter and spirit;
- w. To do anything else which is required to be done to achieve the above objects, and the Integral vision of Sri Aurobindo and The Mother.

(2) The above vision and objects will be complied with on its own initiative and through its Autonomous Founding Affiliates and Affiliated Institutes/Centres.

5. There shall be a Multiversity established by the name “**Sri Aurobindo International Multiversity – Institute of National Importance**”.
  6. The President/Chairperson, the Director General/Education Director, the Governing Council, the Integral Learning Council, the heads of the Founding Affiliates and of the Affiliating Institutes/Centres, the head of the School of Advanced Studies and Research and all other persons who may hereafter become such officers or members of the authorities so long as they continue to hold such office or membership, are hereby constituted a body corporate by the name “Sri Aurobindo International Multiversity – Institute of National Importance”.
  7. The Multiversity shall function basically as an affiliating and research Multiversity and it shall have Integral Education system through completely financially, academically and administratively autonomous Founding Affiliates, and Affiliated Institutes/Centres. Provided, however, the Multiversity may also have its own School of Advanced Studies and Research for research, innovation and experiments in integral learning.
- All Founding Affiliates, Founding Members and Affiliated Institutes/Centres will remain outside the purview of the governance of this act for financial and administrative matters. The association between the Multiversity and the said institutes/centres would be limited to the process of affiliation and accreditation of courses and programs offered by the said institutes/centres.
8. The Multiversity shall have perpetual succession and common seal with powers, subject to the provisions of this Act, to acquire and hold property, to contract, and shall by the said name, sue and be sued.
  9. The Administrative hub of the Multiversity shall be set up at Auroville, Tamil Nadu, India. However, this hub could be re-located or multi-located as nodal hubs across India and the world when required by the Governing Council. The main function of the Multiversity Hub is to be a coordinating and networking liaison centre, between the Founding Affiliates, the Affiliating Institutes/Centres for the programs and courses offered through the Multiversity, keeping with the Preamble of the Multiversity.
  10. The **jurisdiction** of the Multiversity shall be the entire world.

11. (1) **The following Institutes/Centres shall become**

- a. Founding Affiliates:
  - Auroville Foundation, Auroville
  - International Centre for Integral Studies (ICIS), Delhi
  - Sri Aurobindo Centre for Advanced Research (SACAR), Puducherry
- b. Founding Members without affiliation:
  - Institute of Human Study (IHS), Hyderabad

- (2) All the Institutes/Centres shall continue to enjoy all privileges, rights and autonomy under the Multiversity which they used to have immediately before getting affiliated under the Multiversity.

Provided, however that the students admitted in the above Institutes/Centres shall get degree, diploma, certificate or requisite credits from the Multiversity on completion of all educational requirements and requisite credits for such degree, diploma and certificate or credits.

12. (1) No person shall be excluded from any office of the Multiversity or from membership of its authorities or bodies, committees or from admission to any degree, diploma, certificate or other educational/academic distinction or course of study on the sole ground of sex, race, creed, caste, class, place of birth, religious belief or political or other opinion.
- (2) It shall not be lawful for the Multiversity to impose on any person any test whatsoever relating to sex, race, creed, caste, class, place of birth, religious belief or profession or political or other opinion in order to entitle him/her to be admitted as a teacher or a student or to hold any office or post in the Multiversity or to qualify for any degree, diploma or any other educational/academic distinction or to enjoy or exercise any privilege of the Multiversity or any benefication thereof.

**Powers and Functions of the Multiversity**

13. Subject to the provisions of this Act and overall vision and objects as narrated under Section 4 of this Act, the Multiversity shall have following powers and functions:

- a. To recognize Founding Affiliates as affiliated centres and institutes from the commencement of this Act;
- b. To affiliate Centres and Institutes conducting innovative programs and courses and also conduct Integral training, research, innovation and experiments through its own School of Advanced Studies and Research as envisaged in the vision and objects of the Multiversity;
- c. To frame Regulations;
- d. To provide general guidelines and norms for Integral innovative syllabus, teaching scheme for various courses of studies of different programs and provide for the flexibility for the Founding Affiliates and Affiliated Institutes/Centres in the education system leading to degree, diploma, certificate and other educational/academic distinction after following process as laid down in the Regulation;
- e. To decide general guidelines for Free Progress, Integral and innovative evaluation system for courses and programs leading to granting of degrees, diplomas, certificates and other distinction after following process as may be laid down in Regulation;
- f. To institute degrees, diplomas and certificates and other distinction and the procedure and norms under which such degrees, diploma, certificates and other distinctions shall be awarded;

- g. To develop and maintain relationships with other Institutes or Centres of excellence in India and in other countries for education, training, praxis and research including distance and continuing educational programs;
- h. To receive funds, subscriptions, donations, benefactions and gifts to fulfil the objects and vision and other purposes of the Multiversity;
- i. To cooperate with other national and international institutions in the conduct of research and education;
- j. To grant association to Institutes, Centres (other than affiliating), as the case may be, in India and abroad for collaborative educational research and extension activities in the manner as prescribed under the Regulation;
- k. To affiliate Centres or Institutes to run programs, courses and learning experiences, on the lines of vision and objects of the Multiversity on such terms and conditions as prescribed under the Regulation;
- l. Provided, however, that the Founding Affiliates / Affiliated Institutes/Centres / courses once approved by the relevant bodies of the Multiversity shall not require any further approval from any other regulatory bodies of the Central or the State Government under which the Founding Affiliate and/or the Affiliated Institute/Centre is located;
- m. To establish School of Advanced Studies and Research in specialized areas for conducting research, innovation and experimentation at Masters and doctorate levels;
- n. To withdraw affiliation partly or fully of any Institute or Centre other than the Founding Affiliates in the manner and procedure as prescribed under the Regulation;
- o. To make arrangements for continuing, adult and distance and online education programs;
- p. To take decisions on the question of policy relating to the general and educational administration of the Multiversity Hub;
- q. To take decisions regarding the admission policy for programs to be offered by the School of Advanced Studies and Research to be conducted by the Multiversity;
- r. To take decisions about designations, appointments of officers, teachers and other employees as are necessary for carrying out of the functions of the Multiversity Hub;
- s. To develop and maintain twinning arrangements with any other Universities, Institutes, Schools and Centres of excellence in India and abroad for education, training and research including distance, online and continuing education programs including through Founding Affiliates and Affiliating Institutes/Centres;
- t. To establish and maintain such infrastructure as may be necessary for carrying out the activities of the Hub of Multiversity;
- u. To acquire, hold, lease or sell any of the Multiversity properties and enter into a deal in this respect;
- v. To create partnership, affiliation, and other classes of professional or honorary or technical membership or office as to be determined;
- w. To appoint committees, consultant or adviser either permanently or on need base to advise or for disposal of any particular business of the Multiversity on the terms and conditions to be determined;
- x. To do all such other things as may be necessary to achieve the objects and vision as narrated under Section 4 of this Act;
- y. To maintain a credit bank for students to enable flexible learning choices and accumulate credits into an account for recognition for certification, diplomas or degree offered by SAIM or any other Institution of Learning.

### **The Authorities of the Multiversity**

14. The authorities of the Institute shall be as under:

- a. Governing Council;
- b. Integral Learning Council (will also be known as Academic Council);

- c. Executive Council;
- d. Coordination Council;
- e. Any other authorities as may be declared as authorities by the Regulation.

### **Officers of the Multiversity**

15. The following shall be the officers of the Multiversity:
- a. President also known as the Chairperson;
  - b. Director General also known as the Education Director;
  - c. Registrar or Secretary of the Council;
  - d. Any other post as may be declared as officer by the Regulation.

### **The Governing Council**

16. There shall be Governing Council which shall be the supreme principal authority of the Multiversity.

- (1) The Governing Council shall consist of the following members, namely:

- a. The President, who shall be the Chairperson of the Council; the President/Chairperson shall be appointed from amongst the members of the Governing council by the majority;
- b. The heads of all the Founding Affiliates as provided under Section 11 of this Act;
- c. One representative to be nominated by Auroville Foundation;
- d. One expert in Integral education to be appointed by the trustees of the Sri Aurobindo Ashram Trust, Pondicherry;
- e. One of the officers of the Government of India in charge of education, not below the rank of Dy Secretary or equivalent;
- f. Two heads of the Affiliating Institutes/Centres other than the Founding Affiliates to be nominated by the President/Chairperson;
- g. Two eminent educationalists to be nominated by the Governing Council out of whom one should be a woman;
- h. The Director General known as Education Director shall be appointed from amongst the members of the Governing council by the majority;
- i. One alumnus who has studied or conducted research in any of the Founding Affiliates or the Affiliating Institutes/Centres of the Multiversity, to be nominated by the President/Chairperson;
- j. One head of the School of Advanced Studies and Research of the Multiversity;
- k. The Registrar shall work as Secretary of the Council.

- (2) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Council shall be responsible for the general superintendence, direction and control of the affairs of the Multiversity and shall exercise all the powers of the Multiversity including framing, amending, modifying or rescinding the regulations governing the educational and administrative affairs to achieve the objects and vision of the Multiversity as envisaged under Section 4 of this Act.

- (3) Without prejudice to generality of the provisions of sub section (2) above, the Council shall also have the following powers, namely:

- a. To take decisions on the question of policy relating to the administrative and educational governance of the Multiversity;

- b. To examine and approve the plans for the development of the Multiversity and to identify sources of finance for implementation of the plans;
  - c. To approve the Annual Budget, Annual Report and annual accounts along with the balance sheet and audit report of the Hub of the Multiversity;
  - d. To affiliate participating Centres and Institutes as part of global network as learning Centres in the manner as prescribed under the Regulation;
  - e. To withdraw affiliation, partly or fully of any Centre or Institute other than the Founding Affiliates in the manner as prescribed under the Regulation;
  - f. Provided, however, before taking the final decision to withdraw the affiliation, the Institute/Centre must be given full opportunity of being heard;
  - g. To affiliate any Centres or Institutes in the manner as prescribed under the Regulation;
  - h. To ensure that the vision, objects, purpose and the spirit of establishment of the Multiversity do not get subordinated for any educational programs, courses, teaching methodology and innovative evaluation system;
  - i. To grant degrees, diplomas, certificate to the students who meet with the educational requirements and requisite credits as decided for the respective courses and programs and also grant other educational distinctions including honorary degrees or titles and to institute and award fellowships and scholarships in such manner as prescribed under the Regulation;
  - j. To appoint such committees as it considers necessary to exercise its powers and performing its functions assigned under this Act;
  - k. To delegate any of its powers to any of its officers, employees or other authorities or committees appointed under the Regulation or by the Council;
  - l. To create educational, administrative, technical and other posts and to decide designations, qualifications, manner of appointment, pay scales, remuneration and their conditions of service, discipline and appeal rules and the rules of conduct for the Multiversity hub and School of Advanced Studies and Research under the Regulations;
  - m. To approve the establishment of School of Advanced Studies and Research for conducting research, innovation and experiments leading to Postgraduate and Doctorate degrees;
  - n. To prescribe fees and other charges for the postgraduate and research programs leading to degree of Masters and Doctorate to be conducted under the School of Advanced Studies and Research of the Multiversity;
  - o. To exercise such other powers and perform such other functions which are required to achieve the objects of the Multiversity.
- (4) The Governing Council shall meet (physically or online) at least twice in a calendar year, however, with the permission of the President/Chairperson, more meetings may be held.
  - (5) The term of the membership of the nominated members shall be for a period of **four** years from the date of nomination. Provided, however, the nominated members shall be eligible for re-nomination for the next term.
  - (6) The ex-officio member shall continue to be a member so long as he/she holds the office by virtue of which he/she is the member of the Governing Council.
  - (7) Any vacancy in the Council occurring before expiry of the term shall be filled, in the same manner as provided in the sub section (1) of section 16 of this Act and such member shall hold office for the remainder of the term of the member in whose place he/she is nominated.



- (8) A member may resign from his/her office by writing under his/her signature addressed to the President/Chairperson and his/her resignation shall take effect from the date it is accepted by the President/Chairperson.
- (9) For transaction of the business in the meeting of the Council, there shall be a quorum of 7 members – minimum of 4 to be members of the Founding Affiliates and Affiliating Institutes/Centres.
- (10) Other provisions regarding summoning and holding of the meeting other than the first meeting of the Council will be provided under the Regulation.
17. (1) There shall be an **Integral Learning Council** (also be known as Academic Council) which shall be the principal educational authority of the Multiversity consisting of the following members:
- a. The Director General who shall be the Education Director;
  - b. One representative from each of the Founding Affiliates as provided under section 11 of this Act;
  - c. One officer of the Government of India in charge of education and not below the rank of Dy Secretary or equivalent;
  - d. Up to three heads/representatives of the Affiliating Institutes/Centres other than the Founding Affiliates to be nominated by the Director General/Education Director by rotation as per the procedure laid down by the Regulation;
  - e. One expert in Integral education to be appointed by the trustees of the Sri Aurobindo Ashram Trust, Pondicherry;
  - b. Up to two research scholars to be nominated by the Director General/Education Director;
  - a. Up to three persons who are eminent in different fields to be nominated by the Director General/ Education Director depending upon the educational areas of the programs and courses conducted by the Founding Affiliates and/or Affiliated Institutes/Centres of the Multiversity;
  - b. One alumnus who has studied or conducted research in the Founding Affiliates and/or Affiliated Institutes/Centres to be nominated by the Director General/Education Director.
- (2) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Regulations and the vision and objects of the Multiversity, the Integral Learning Council shall exercise following powers and perform following functions namely:
- a. The Integral Learning Council shall be responsible for the maintenance and improvement of standards of teaching, research, training, evaluation and extension activities on the lines of the vision and objects of the Multiversity and the philosophy of Sri Aurobindo and The Mother;
  - b. To take measures to ensure that the approach of integrality of the programs, courses and apprenticeships/learning experiences is faithfully observed, keeping in view the objects of the Multiversity and the educational philosophy of Sri Aurobindo and The Mother;
  - c. To decide guidelines for fostering an innovative syllabus, curricula, teaching scheme for various courses of studies of different programs and experiences of the Multiversity and provide for the flexibility in the education system for grant of credits, degree, diploma, certificate and other educational distinction after following process as laid down in the Regulation;

- d. To recommend to the Governing Council for awarding degrees, diplomas, certificates and other distinction to the qualified students who have attained requisite credits and other educational requirements prescribed by this Council for respective degree, diploma or certificate records of educational performance of the students received from different Founding Affiliates and/or Affiliated Institutes/Centres after following process as may be laid down in Regulation;
  - e. To take steps to ensure high quality of the content of courses or programs, innovative pedagogy, conducting of original and applied research, reflective evaluation methods, taking into consideration of the objects of the Multiversity;
  - f. To take continuous review of the compliance of the objects of the Multiversity, innovations made and the feedback received about the quality of programs and courses from different stakeholders;
  - g. To ensure that the objects, purpose and the philosophy of the establishment of the Multiversity do not get subordinated in any educational programs, courses, learning experiences, teaching methodology and innovative evaluation system;
  - h. To consider the matters of general educational interest either on its own initiatives or on reference from the Governing Council and to take appropriate action thereon;
  - i. To recommend to the Governing Council such educational regulations as are consistent with this Act, objects of the Multiversity;
  - j. To prescribe the criteria and process for admission to postgraduate courses and doctorate programs to be conducted at the School of Advanced Studies and Research of the Multiversity;
  - k. To recommend to the Governing Council about granting affiliation to new Institutes and Centres;
  - l. To recommend to the Governing Council about withdrawing the affiliation granted as per the procedure laid down under the Regulation;
  - m. To recommend to the Governing Council about establishment of School of Advanced Studies and Research to be conducted by the Multiversity on its own for postgraduate and research, innovation and experimental programs in the specialized areas;
  - n. To exercise such other powers and perform such other functions as may be conferred upon it under the Regulation.
- (3) The term of the nominated members shall be for a period of four years. Provided, however, the nominated members shall be eligible for renomination for the next term.
  - (4) The ex-officio members shall continue to be the members to long as he/she holds the office by virtue of which he/she is the member of the Integral Learning Council.
  - (5) Any vacancy in the Council occurring before expiry of the term shall be filled in in the same manner as provided in the relevant section of this Act and such member shall hold office for the remainder of the term of the member in whose place he/she is nominated.
  - (6) The Integral Learning Council shall meet at least two times in one calendar year. More meetings may be held with the permission of the Director General/Education Director.
  - (7) The Registrar of the Multiversity shall be the Secretary of the Integral Learning Council.
  - (8) Other provisions regarding summoning and holding of the meeting other than the first meeting of the Integral Learning Council will be provided under the Regulation.

### **The Executive Council**

18. (1) The Executive Council shall be the Executive body of the Multiversity and shall consist of the following members:
- a. Director General/Education Director;
  - b. Heads of two Founding Affiliates/Founding Members as provided under section 11 of this Act;
  - c. The Finance Officer to be appointed by the Executive Council;
  - d. Two Heads of the Affiliating Institutes/Centres to be nominated by the Director General/Education Director;
  - e. Two persons who are experts in law, administration, finance to be nominated by the Governing Council;
  - f. The Registrar will be the Secretary.
- (2) Subject to the provisions of the Act and the Regulations the Executive Council shall exercise following powers and perform following duties:
- a. To take steps to manage network of Institutions and Centres;
  - b. To manage and regulate the finance, accounts, property and all other day-to-day administrative affairs of the Hub of Multiversity;
  - c. To invest money in such fixed deposits or Government securities or any other financial instruments as prescribed by the law from time to time;
  - d. To accept on behalf of the Multiversity any bequest, donation or transfer of any movable or immovable property to the Multiversity;
  - e. To provide the buildings, premises, furniture, apparatus and other means needed for carrying on the work of the Multiversity;
  - f. To approve to enter into, vary, carry out and cancel contracts on behalf of the Multiversity, provided, however, where there is financial involvement on the part of the Multiversity, the approval of the Governing Council shall be taken;
  - g. To create and manage Network Hub, special Centres, laboratories, museums and hostels managed by the Multiversity;
  - h. To create and manage fellowships, scholarships or freeships including travelling fellowships;
  - i. To approve and recommend the budget estimates, accounts of the Multiversity hub to the Governing Council;
  - j. To exercise any other powers and perform any other functions as prescribed by the Regulation;
  - k. Provided, however, the above powers will be exercised subject to availability of the financial provisions approved by the Governing Council.
- (3) The quorum to transact the business of the meeting shall be four members one of whom shall be from the Founding Affiliates, and one from the Affiliating Institutes/Centres.
- (4) The Executive Council shall meet at least once in two months. However, with the permission of the Director General/Education Director more meetings may be held.
- (5) Other provisions regarding summoning and holding of the meeting other than the first meeting will be provided under the regulations.

### **Coordination Council**

19. (1) There shall be a coordination council which shall consist of the Director General/Education Director, all Heads of the Founding Affiliates, Founding Members and Affiliating

Institutes/Centres and such other members as may be prescribed by the Regulations. The Director General shall be the Education Director.

- (2) The Coordination Council shall be the principal coordinating body of the Multiversity and shall subject to the provisions of the Act, the Regulation and the vision and objects be responsible, generally to maintain coordination, harmony and tuning between the Founding Affiliates, and the Affiliating Institutes/Centres.
- (3) In particular it shall also perform following functions:
  - a. To facilitate sharing of experience, ideas and concerns, with a view to enhance the performance of all the Institutes and Centres;
  - b. To deliberate on such matters of common interest of Institutes and Centres and as may be referred to it by any Institute or Centre;
  - c. Promote necessary coordination and cooperation in the working of the Institutes and Centres;
  - d. To review achievements of vision objects and policy of the Multiversity; and
  - e. To perform such other functions as may be referred to by the authorities and as may be prescribed by the Regulation.

### **The President/Chairperson**

20. (1) The President/Chairperson of the Multiversity shall be appointed by the Governing Council from amongst the eminent Educationalists or Researchers having great accomplishment at his or her credit and has preferably worked in the areas as envisaged in the vision and objects under section 4 of this Act by following such procedure and on such terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the Governing Council of the Multiversity;
- (2) The term of the office of the President/Chairperson shall be for a period of five years;
- (3) The President/Chairperson shall preside over the meetings of the Governing Council and at the convocations of the Multiversity for conferring degrees, diploma or other educational distinctions;
- (4) The President/Chairperson shall also have the following powers namely:
  - a. To call for any information or record of the Multiversity;
  - b. To appoint Director General/Education Director by following such procedure and in such manner as provided in this Act and regulations;
  - c. To remove the Director General/Education Director in accordance with the provisions of sub section 6 of Section 21;
  - d. Such other powers as may be prescribed by the Regulation;
  - e. The President/Chairperson shall have, subject to the provisions of the Act, power to cause an inspection or to take review to be made by such person or persons as he or she may direct, of School of Advanced Studies and Research conducted by the Multiversity or its buildings, libraries, laboratories, system, processes and also of the evaluation done, teaching, research, training, and extension activities conducted and other work done in respect of any matter connected with the administration and finances of the Hub of the Multiversity.

### **The Director General/Education Director**

21. (1) The Director General/Education Director shall be the Chief Executive and Academic officer of the Multiversity and shall, subject to the provision of the Act and Regulation, provide leadership to the Multiversity. He or She shall be responsible for implementation of the decisions taken by the authorities and the President/Chairperson of the Multiversity and also shall exercise general superintendence and control over the affairs of the Hub of the Multiversity.
- (2) The Director General/Education Director shall be appointed by the majority of the members of the Governing Council and subject to the provisions of sub section 6 of this section hold office for a period of five years. Provided, however that at the time of appointment the person should not be more than sixty-five years of age.

Provided that, after expiry of the term of five years a person will be eligible for one more term of five years or till the time, he or she attains the age of seventy years whichever is earlier.

The procedure for appointment of the Director General/Education Director shall be initiated six months before the expiry of the term of existing person.

Notwithstanding anything contained above, in following situation the Governing Council may make temporary appointment:

- a. When the Act comes into existence and the authorities are yet to be constituted the Governing Council may appoint First Director General/Education Director for a period of one year or till the regular appointment is made under this section whichever is earlier;
  - b. If in any extraordinary circumstances before expiry of the term of existing person the new appointment cannot be possible, the Governing Council may make arrangement to give charge of the office of the Director General/Education Director or even make temporary appointment as they deem fit. However, such arrangement will be for a period not exceeding one year;
  - c. Whenever Director General/Education Director goes on leave, the President/Chairperson may make arrangement to give charge of the office of the Director General/Education Director to one of the existing Statutory officers of the Multiversity.
- (3) His or Her other terms and conditions shall be decided by the Regulation except for the first temporary appointment where the Governing Council will decide such terms and conditions.
- (4) The Director General/Education Director shall also exercise such other powers and perform such other functions as to be prescribed by the Regulation.
- (5) In any emergency which, in the opinion of the Director General/Education Director requires that immediate action should be taken, he or she shall take such action as he or she deems fit and shall at the earliest opportunity thereafter furnish information about his or her action to such authority or body as would have in the ordinary course dealt with the matter.

Provided that if such authority or body is of the opinion that such action ought not to have been taken by the Director General/Education Director, it may refer the matter to the President/Chairperson who may either confirm the action taken by the Director General/Education Director or annul the same or modify it in such manner as he or she

thinks fit and thereupon it shall cease to have effect or as the case may be, shall take effect in such modified form, however, such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done by or under the orders of the Director General/Education Director.

Where the exercise of these powers by the Director General/Education Director under the said section, involves the appointment of any person, such appointment shall be confirmed by the competent authority empowered to approve such appointment in accordance with the provision of this Act and the regulations not later than six months from the date of the order of the Director General/Education Director, otherwise such appointment shall cease to have effect on the expiration of a period of six months from the date of the order of the Director General/Education Director.

- (6) The President/Chairperson may, on the representation made or otherwise and after making such inquiry as may be necessary and is of the opinion that the continuance of the Director General/Education Director in the office is not in the interest of the Multiversity, by order in writing stating the reasons therein, direct the Director General/Education Director to relinquish his or her office from the date specified in the order.

Provided that before taking such action under the above section, the Director General/Education Director shall be given charge sheet indicating the allegations against him or her with full opportunity to defend and also the opportunity of being heard.

### **The Registrar/Secretary**

22. (1) The Registrar/Secretary shall be full time salaried officer of the Multiversity. He or She shall be appointed in such manner and on such emoluments and other conditions of service as may be prescribed by the Regulations.
- (2) Normally the Registrar/Secretary shall perform following functions:
- a. To issue enrollment numbers to the students admitted in the Institutes and Centres affiliated to the Multiversity and maintain register of such enrolled students;
  - b. To be the custodian of the record, seal, properties and funds of the Hub of the Multiversity;
  - c. To conduct the official correspondence on behalf of the Hub of the Multiversity;
  - d. He or She shall work as Secretary of certain authorities of the Multiversity as provided in respective relevant sections of this Act;
  - e. He or She shall attest and execute all documents on behalf of the Multiversity;
  - f. He or She shall subject to the control of the Director General/Education Director be responsible for the administration and services of the Hub of the Multiversity; and
  - g. He or She shall exercise such other powers and perform such other functions as may be prescribed by the Regulations or as assigned by any Director General/Education Director of the Multiversity.
- (3) All the above Officers as provided in Section 22 to 26 shall be responsible for the discharge of their duties to the Director General/Education Director.

### **SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS**

23. (1) The Multiversity shall establish a fund to be called “Sri Aurobindo International Multiversity Fund” consisting of:

- i. Any contribution or grant or loan by the Central, State Government or any National Statutory body;
  - ii. The income from all sources including income from the fees and other charges;
  - iii. Money through bequest, donations, gifts, endowments and other grants, if any;
  - iv. Money received from the collaborating organisation or industry in terms of the provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding between the two or more establishments, consultancy, testing, sponsored chairs, fellowship and for providing infrastructure facilities on rent;
  - v. Money received from the sale of any movable or immovable property of the Hub of the Multiversity;
  - vi. Money received from the affiliating Institutes or Centres by way of fees for granting affiliation, if prescribed under the Regulation.
- (2) All funds of the Multiversity shall be deposited in such Banks or invested in such manner as the Executive Council may decide.
  - (3) The fund shall be applied towards the expenses of the Multiversity including expenses incurred in exercise of its powers and discharge of its functions by or under this Act and the Regulation.
24. (1) The Hub of the Multiversity shall maintain proper accounts and other relevant record and prepare an annual statement of accounts, including income and expenditure account and the balance sheet in such form and in such manner as may be prescribed.
- (2) The Hub of the Multiversity shall adopt a proper system of internal checks and balances and controls in discharge of its financial, accounting and auditing functions as may be prescribed.
  - (3) The accounts of the Hub of the Multiversity shall be audited every year by an auditor, who shall be the Chartered Accountant, as defined in the Chartered Accountant Act, or a firm of Chartered Accountants to be appointed by the Governing Council.
  - (4) The accounts of the Hub of the Multiversity certified by the Chartered Accountant or firm as appointed, together with audit report thereon shall be placed before the Governing Council and the Governing Council may issue such instructions to the Multiversity in respect therefore as it deems fit and the Executive Council of the Multiversity shall comply with such instructions.
  - (5) An internal auditor shall audit the accounts of the Hub of the Multiversity to ensure concurrent audit of all books of accounts and such periodical internal report shall be placed before the Governing Council for review.
25. The Multiversity shall prepare for each financial year an annual report containing such particulars as the Governing Council may specify and shall submit to the Governing Council on or before such date as may be prescribed. The Governing Council shall consider such report and may pass resolutions thereon and thereupon the Executive Council shall take action in accordance with such resolution and if no action is taken, the reasons for taking no action shall be communicated to the Governing Council.
26. (1) The Hub of the Multiversity shall, with the approval of the Governing Council constitute, for the benefit of its officers, researchers and other employees, in such manner and subject to such conditions as may be prescribed, such schemes of pension, provident fund insurance as it may deem fit, and also aid in establishment and support of the associations,

funds, trusts and conveyance calculated to benefit of the officers, researchers and other employees of the Multiversity.

- (2) Where any such provident fund has been so constituted, the provision for the Provident Fund Act of the Government of India shall apply to such fund as if it is a Government Provident Fund.
27. No act or proceedings of the Governing Council or any authority of the Multiversity or any Committee constituted under this Act or by Regulations shall be questioned on the ground merely of the existence of any vacancy in or defect of, in the constitution of such Governing Council, Authority or committee of the Multiversity.
28. Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, the Multiversity shall have powers to confer degrees, diplomas and grant certificates and confer honorary degrees and other educational/academic distinctions and titles as approved by the Governing Council.
29. The Multiversity shall furnish to the Government of India and concerned National Statutory Bodies, such reports, returns, statements, documents and other information, as may be required by them from time to time.
30. (1) No officer or employee or member of teaching/research staff of the Hub of Multiversity shall be dismissed or removed or reduced in rank except after an inquiry in which he/she has been informed of the charges against him/her and given a reasonable opportunity of being heard in respect of those charges. Provided that nothing in this section shall apply to any person who is appointed on purely temporary basis.
  - (2) An appeal against an order of dismissal, removal or reduction in rank or of termination of service shall lie to the Director General/Education Director or when the Director General/Education Director has passed such order for such penalty, to the President/Chairperson within sixty days from the date of communication of such order and the decision of the Director General/Education Director or the President/Chairperson, as the case may be, shall be final. However, when such final orders are passed a proper inquiry as deems fit should be done.
31. The Central Government shall have powers to issue directions from time to time as may be required for compliance of the provisions of this Act, the regulations and under any other law for the time being in force and the Multiversity shall comply with the same.
32. (1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Governing Council shall have in addition to all other Powers vested in it, the powers to make regulations to provide for administration and Management of the affairs of the Multiversity.
  - (2) In particular and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing powers, such regulations may provide for all or any of the following matters, namely:
    - i. Summoning and holding of the meetings of the authorities of the Multiversity, except for the first meeting of the Governing Council. These provisions shall be other than the provisions in this respect provided in the Act in relevant sections;
    - ii. Granting affiliation to the Institutes and Centres other than the Founding Affiliates as mentioned under section 11 which are already provided full affiliation and autonomy under the Act;



- iii. The powers and functions to be exercised and discharged by the President/Chairperson, Director General/Education Director, officers, researchers and other employees of the Multiversity;
- iv. The constitution, powers and duties of the authorities, bodies other than those which are already provided as authorities under this Act, and the qualifications and disqualifications for membership of such authorities, term of office of the membership, appointment and the removal of members thereof and other matters connected therewith;
- v. The procedure and the criteria to be followed in establishment of programs, courses of study and admission of the students in the School of Advanced Studies and Research to be conducted by the Multiversity;
- vi. The procedure to be followed for enforcing discipline in the Multiversity;
- vii. The management of properties of the Multiversity;
- viii. The diplomas, the degree, the certificates and other educational/academic distinctions and titles which may be conferred or granted by the Multiversity and withdrawal or cancellation of any such degrees, diplomas certificates and other distinctions and other titles and the requirement thereof, including procedure to be followed;
- ix. The conduct of examinations or innovative evaluation system for the programs to be conducted in the School of Advanced Studies and Research;
- x. Extension educational activities including adult, continuing and distance educational programs;
- xi. The creation of different categories of posts;
- xii. The fees and other charges, deposits which may be paid to the Multiversity for the School of Advanced Studies and Research for the courses and programs;
- xiii. The norms, procedures and terms and conditions for granting affiliation to Institute and the Centres;
- xiv. Procedure for cancelling or withdrawing affiliation, partly or fully;
- xv. The preparation of the budget estimates and maintenance of accounts of the Multiversity;
- xvi. General guidelines and the model of executing of contracts or agreements by or on behalf of the Multiversity;
- xvii. The classification and procedure for appointment of officers, researchers and other employees of the Multiversity;
- xviii. The terms and tenure of appointments, salaries and allowances, contractual services, rules of discipline and other conditions of service of the officers, researchers and other employees of the Multiversity;
- xix. The terms and conditions governing deputation of researchers, officers, employees of the Multiversity;
- xx. The terms and conditions governing fellowships, scholarships, stipends, medals and prizes;
- xxi. The authentication of the orders and the decisions of the different authorities of the Multiversity;
- xxii. The matter relating to the hostels and housing for the students, researchers, officers and employees of the Multiversity including the disciplinary control therein;
- xxiii. All matters which by this Act are required to be prescribed by the Regulation;
- xxiv. Charging fees for granting affiliation to the Institute and Centres as affiliating fee.
- xxv. Any other matters for which the Governing Council feels to prescribe regulation for smooth functioning of educational or general administration.

33. No suit, prosecutions or other legal proceedings shall lie against and no damage shall be claimed from the Multiversity, the President/Chairperson, Director General/Education Director, the authorities or officers or employees of the Multiversity or any person in respect of anything

which is done in good faith or purporting to be done in pursuance of this Act or any regulation made thereunder.

34. (1) If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the Government of India may, by order published in the official Gazette, make such provision not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, as may appear to be necessary for removal of difficulties.

Provided that no such order shall be made under this section after the expiry of two years from the date of commencement of this Act.

- (2) Every order made under this section shall be laid, as early as possible, after it is made before the Parliament.

### **TRANSITORY PROVISIONS**

35. Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act or the Regulation, any student of a college or institution affiliated to other University and now they are going to be under the jurisdiction of this Multiversity shall immediately before the date of affiliation to this Multiversity, was studying or was eligible for any examination of the other Universities shall be permitted to complete his or her course in preparation thereof and this Multiversity shall provide for such period and in such manner as may be prescribed for the instruction, teaching, training and examination of such students in accordance with the course of studies of the other University.

36. It shall be the duty of the Governing Council:
- i. To give affiliation to the Centres or Institutes, in consistency with the provisions the Act;
  - ii. To make arrangements for constituting the Integral Learning Council, Executive Council and other authorities of the Multiversity; and
  - iii. To frame first Regulations.