Proclamation No. 341/2003
Chambers of Commerce and Sectorial Association Establishment Proclamation

1) Short Title

This Proclamation may be cited as the "Chambers of Commerce and Sectorial Association Establishment Proclamation No. 341/2003."
2. **Definition**

Unless the context otherwise requires, in this Proclamation:

1) "Ministry" means the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

2) "Chamber" or "Chambers" means Chambers of Commerce and Sectoral Associations or Sectorial Association to be established pursuant to this Proclamation, as appropriate.

3) "Region" means any of those Regions specified under Article 47(1) of the Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, and includes Addis Ababa and Dire Dawa.

4) "Sectoral Association" means an association established in accordance with Article 440 of the Civil Code, by producers for the purpose of purging their common interest.

5) "Business Person" and "Commercial Activity" shall have the meanings assigned to them under Article 2(2) and 2(3) of the Commercial Registration and Business Licensing Proclamation No. 67/1997, respectively.

3. **Objectives**

Chambers shall have the following objectives:

1) to provide different services to the business community;

2) to safeguard the overall rights and benefits of their members;

3) to promote and publicize products and services of the country;

4) to enhance trade and investment of the country;

5) to serve as a bridge between the business community and the Government;

PART TWO

The Ethiopian Chambers of Commerce and Sectorial Association

4. **Establishment**

The Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce and Sectorial Association having its own juridical personality and its head office in Addis Ababa, is hereby established.

5. **Powers and Duties**

The Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce and Sectorial Association shall have the following powers and duties:

1) to encourage the establishment of Chambers at different levels and provide necessary supports after being established;

2) to find local and foreign markets for products and services;

3) to participate with the concerned organs, in identifying export products, improving their quality and quantity and in finding solution to problems pertaining to trade activities;

4) to establish relations with foreign chambers in order to exchange information and share experience;

5) to organize or participate in local or foreign trade exhibitions upon obtaining licenses from the concerned organ;

6) to settle disputes arising out of business transactions between members, by way of arbitration, when the parties so request;

7) to issue product certificate of country of origin upon delegation by the Government;

8) to prepare commercial gazettes, bulletins, reports, compile statistical information and provide different trainings;
The council shall elect the Chairperson and the vice Members from among its members; and those elected shall be the president and the vice president of the Chamber.

6. Organization

The Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce and Sectorial Associations shall have:

1) a Council;
2) a Board of Management /hereinafter the “Board”/; and
3) a President, a Vice-president, a Secretary, and; the necessary staff

7. Members

1) Without prejudice to the Directive to be issued by the Ministry pursuant to Article 24(2) of this Proclamation, the Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce and Sectorial Associations shall have the following members.

(a) Representatives of Regional Chambers of Commerce and Sectorial Associations.
(b) Representatives of the Chamber of the National Sectorial Associations.
(c) Representatives of City Chambers of Commerce and Sectorial Associations.

2) Members shall establish the Council.
3) Number of representatives in the Chamber shall be determined by the Council.
4) Chambers of Commerce and Sectorial Associations established in Addis Ababa and Dire Dawa shall become members of the Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce and Sectorial Associations.
5) Where there are more than one Chambers of Commerce and Sectorial Associations in a region, these Chambers, shall be represented in the Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce and Sectorial Associations only through the regional Chamber of Commerce and Sectorial Associations.
6) Vote appointment in the Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce and Sectorial Association shall be determined by the Council on the basis of number of members as stated below.

(a) Number of members of City Chambers of Commerce and Sectorial Associations that have established their regional Chamber of Commerce and Sectorial Associations;
(b) Number of members that have established their city Chamber of Commerce and Sectorial Associations;
(c) Number of members of Chambers of Regional Sectorial Associations that have established their National Chamber of Sectorial Associations;

7) The council shall elect the Chairperson and the vice Charrpersan from omang its murmurs; and those alected shall be the president and the vice president of the Chamber.
8. **Powers and Duties**

1) The Council shall have the following powers and duties:

(a) to approve annual budget and work program of the Chamber;
(b) to elect Board members of the Chamber;
(c) to assign an Auditor for the audit of the books of accounts and financial documents of the Chamber;
(d) to examine and approve reports submitted to it from the secretary and the Auditor;
(e) to approve internal regulations of the Chamber, and give decisions on other matters concerning the Chamber;

2) The Council may delegate its powers and duties to the Board, the President, the Vice President or the Secretary as appropriate.

9. **Meetings**

1) The Council shall have a regular meetings once a year; it may, however, convene extraordinary meetings as deemed necessary;

2) There shall be a quorum where more than half of the members of the Council are present;

3) The Council shall decide by a majority vote; provided, however, the chairperson shall have a casting vote in case of a tie.

10. **Members of the Board**

1) The Council shall elect the president and his deputy and Board members not exceeding 11 from among its members;

2) The president shall be the Chairperson of the Board;

3) The term of office of the Board members shall be two years;

4) The Board may prescribe its own rules of procedure.

11. **Powers and Duties**

The Board shall have the following powers and duties:

1) to ensure the implementation of the decisions of the Council;

2) to employ and dismiss the Secretary of the Chamber;

3) to decide on matters submitted to it by the Secretary;

4) to perform such other duties as are necessary for the attainment of its purposes.

12. **Powers and Duties of the President and the Vice-President**

1) The President shall:

(a) be the Chairperson of the meetings of the Council and the Board;

(b) call extraordinary and regular meetings of the council;

2) The Vice-President shall assume the powers and duties of the president during the latter’s absence;

3) The term of office of the President shall be two years.
13. Powers and Duties of the Secretary

1) The Secretary shall be accountable to the Board, and as such shall, subject to the directives of the Board, direct, supervise and administer the Chamber;

2) Without limiting the generality provided under Sub-Article (1) of this Article, the Secretary shall:

(a) exercise the powers and discharge the duties of the Chamber in accordance with the directives given to him by the Board;

(b) organize the office of the chamber, employ, administer, and dismiss personnel and fix their salaries and allowances, in accordance with directives given to him by the Board;

(c) submit to the Board candidates for heads of departments and services;

(d) examine and decide on applications for membership in accordance with directives given to him by the Board;

(e) ensure that the revenue of the Chamber is collected;

(f) assist and coordinate activities of different committees established by the Board;

(g) operate the bank account of the Chamber in accordance with the directives issued by the Board;

(h) prepare and submit to the Board, annual budget and work program of the chamber, three months before the beginning of each fiscal year; and implement same upon approval;

(i) prepare and submit to the Board reports on the financial standing and performance of the Chamber, within three months after the closure of the fiscal year;

(j) perform such other duties deemed necessary for the attainment of the purpose of the Chamber.

PART THREE
Regional Chambers of Commerce and Sectorial Associations

14. Establishment

1) City Chambers of Commerce and Sectorial Associations established in any Region and Regional or Woreda Sectorial Associations of the same region may establish their Regional Chambers of Commerce and Sectorial Associations.

2) The head office of each Chamber established in accordance with Sub-Article (1) of this Article shall be the capital city of the region.

3) Chambers to be established in accordance with Sub-Article (1) of this Article shall have their own juridical personality.

15. Powers and Duties

Regional Chambers of Commerce and Sectorial Associations shall have the following powers and duties—

1) to coordinate the activities of City Chambers of Commerce and Sectorial Associations and woreda Sectorial Associations;

2) to find local and foreign markets for products and services;
1. Members

(a) The Council shall elect the Chairperson from:

1. Number of representatives in the Chamber shall be determined by the Council on the basis of numbers as stated below:

3) to settle disputes arising out of business transactions between members by way of arbitration, when the parties so request;

4) to provide support and assistance for cities where Chambers are not established;

5) to create awareness among members of the business community of the Region on the policies, Proclamations, Regulations and directives to be issued by Federal as well as Regional Government; and to participate at discussion forums prepared by the Government;

6) to determine the contributions to be made by Chambers;

7) to prepare commercial gazettes, bulletins and reports; compile the statistical informations of the foreign and provide different trainings;

8) to conduct studies on problems pertaining to trade activities, and propose solutions in consultation with the concerned Regional organs and the Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce and Sectorial Associations;

9) to establish relations with local as well as foreign Chambers in order to exchange information and share experience;

10) to organize or participate in local or foreign trade exhibitions upon obtaining license from the concerned organ;

11) to issue certificate of country of origin upon delegation by the government;

12) to charge fees for the services it provides;

13) to own property, enter into contract, sue and be sued in its own name;

14) to perform such other duties deemed necessary for the attainment of its purposes.

16. Members

1) Without prejudice to the directives to be issued by the Ministry pursuant to Article 24(2) of this Proclamation, regional Chambers of Commerce and Sectorial Associations shall have the following members:-

(a) Representatives of City Chambers of Commerce and Sectorial Associations;

(b) Representatives of Regional Sectorial Associations; and

(c) Representatives of Woreda Sectorial Associations.

2) Members shall establish the Council;

3) Number of representatives in the Chamber shall be determined by the Council;

4) Vote appointment of the Council members in the regional Chamber of Commerce and Sectorial Associations shall be determined by the Council on the basis of numbers as stated below:

(a) Number of members that have established the regional Chamber of Commerce and Sectorial Associations shall be determined by the Council on the basis of numbers as stated below:

(b) Number of members of the Woreda Sectorial Associations that have established the regional Sectorial Associations;

(c) Number of members of that have established the Woreda Sectorial Associations.

5) The Council shall elect the Chairperson from among its members; and those elected shall be the president and the Vice President of the Chamber.
PART FOUR
City Chambers of Commerce and Sectorial Association

17. Applicable Provisions
Article (6), (8), (9), (10), (11), (12), (13) of this Proclamation shall as appropriate be applicable for Regional Chambers of Commerce and Sectorial Associations.

18. Establishment
1) City Chambers of Commerce and Sectorial Associations may be established in the cities of the regions or Administrations;
2) In one city there shall be one City Chamber of Commerce and Sectorial Associations only;
3) Chambers to be established in accordance with Sub-Article (1) of this Article, shall have their own juridical personality;
4) City Chambers may establish branch offices in the same city deemed necessary.

19. Powers and Duties
City Chambers of Commerce and Sectorial Associations shall have the following powers and duties:-
1) to find local and foreign markets for products and services;
2) to participate with the concerned organs, in respect of identifying export products, improving their quality and quantity and in finding solutions for problems pertaining to trade activities;
3) to settle disputes arising out of business transactions, between members, by way of arbitration, when the parties so request;
4) to determine contribution to be made by members;
5) to charge fees for the services it provides;
6) to perform such other duties deemed necessary.
20. Members

1) Those traders having business license and permanent working place in the city; and Sectorial Associations to be mentioned in the directive to be issued by the Ministry pursuant to Article 24(2) of this Proclamation may be members of the Chambers of Commerce and Sectorial Associations;

2) Membership shall be voluntary;

3) Members of City Chambers of Commerce and Sectorial Associations shall establish the Council;

4) Traders residing in cities where Chambers are not established may be members in the neighbouring Chambers, until they establish their own.

5) Those producers who are members of Woreda Sectorial Associations may also be members in City Chambers of Commerce and Sectorial Associations;

6) Each member shall have equal vote in the meetings of the Council;

7) Vote apportionment of Woreda Sectorial Associations in the City Chambers of Commerce and Sectorial Associations shall be equal to the number of their members.

21. Members of the Board

1) The Council shall elect the president and his deputy and Board members not exceeding 11 from among its members;

2) The president shall be the Chairperson of the meetings of the Board.

3) The term of office of the Board members shall be two years;

4) The Board may prescribe its own rules of procedure.


Article (6), (8), (9), (11), (12) and (13) of this Proclamation shall as appropriate be applicable to City Chambers of Commerce and Sectorial Associations.

PART FIVE
Chambers of Sectorial Associations

23. Foundation

Sectorial Associations shall be founded by owners of firms envolved in different sectors of production activites.

24. Organization of Sectorial Associations

1) Sectorial Associations may establish their Chambers at Woreda or Regional or national levels;

(a) Sectorial Associations established by owners of different production firms shall organize their respective Woreda Chamber of Sectorial Associations,

(b) Chamber of Sectorial Associations established at different woredas, shall organize their respective Regional Chamber of Sectorial associations, and

(c) Regional Chambers of Sectorial Associations shall organize the National Chamber of Sectorial Associations.

2) The Ministry shall determine by directive;

(a) Sectorial Associations to be established from the very beginning at Woreda level or at regional level or at National level.

(b) Sectorial Associations to be represented in the Chambers of Commerce and Social Associations, and

(c) The criteria to be fulfilled by Sectorial Associations in order to be represented in Chambers of Commerce and Sectorial Associations.
25. Objective

Sectorial Associations to be established at different levels shall have the following objectives:

1) to create conducive environment for producers to be organized and strengthened;
2) to encourage urban and rural producers of handicrafts;
3) to provide necessary support to upgrade the quality of products;
4) to disseminate and compile information on products;
5) to encourage participation of members in the economy by coordinating their knowledge, wealth and labour;
6) to create conducive environment for members to safeguard their common interest;
7) to create conducive environment for Sectorial Associations to conduct discussions with the Government on different issues;
8) to create conducive environment for Sectorial Associations to conduct discussions with the Government on different issues.

26. Establishment

1) Woreda, Regional and National Sectorial Associations established in accordance with Article 23 and 24 of this Proclamation shall have their juridical personality pursuant to this proclamation;
2) The head office of Woreda and Regional Sectorial Associations shall be the capital city of that Woreda or Region. The head office of the National Sectorial Associations shall be Addis Ababa.

27. Powers and Duties

1) National Sectorial Associations shall have the following powers and duties:
   (a) to coordinate the activities of regional Sectorial Associations;
   (b) to conduct studies on problems affecting producers and propose solutions in consultation with the concerned organ of the Federal Government;
   (c) to organize or participate in local or foreign exhibitions upon obtaining license from the concerned organ;
   (d) to determine contributions to be made by members, by way of arbitration, when the parties so request;
   (e) to prepare production gazettes, bulletins, reports; and disseminating technology and market information to their members;
   (f) to provide different training to their members;
   (g) to create awareness among members on government policies; proclamations; regulations and directives; and participate at discussion forums prepared by the government;
   (h) to determine contributions to be made by members;
   (i) to charge fees for the services it provides;
   (j) to own property; enter into contract, sue and be sued in its own name;
   (k) to perform such other duties deemed necessary for the attainment of its objective.
2. Regional Sectorial Associations shall have the following powers and duties:—

(a) to coordinate the activities of woreda Sectorial Associations;
(b) to conduct studies on problems affecting producers; and propose solutions in consultation with the concerned organ of the regional government;
(c) to organize or participate in local or foreign exhibitions upon obtaining license from the concerned organ;
(d) to consult each other on the possibility of enhancing their common production and marketing capacity; and implement same;
(e) to settle disputes that arise between members, by way of arbitration; when the parties so request,
(f) to prepare production gazettes; bulletins, reports, and disseminate technology and market information to their members,
(g) to provide different trainings to their members;
(h) to create awareness among members on government policies; proclamations; regulations and directives; and participate at discussion forums prepared by the Government;
(i) to determine contributions to be made by members;
(j) to charge fees for the services it provides;
(k) to own property; enter into contract; sue and be sued in its own name;
(l) to perform such other duties as are necessary for the attainment of its objective.

3. Woreda Chamber of Sectorial Associations shall have the following powers and duties:—

(a) to conduct studies on problems affecting their members; and propose solutions in consultation with the concerned organs of the Government of the woredas
(b) to create the possibility of enhancing the production and marketing capacity of their members;
(c) to organize or participate in local or foreign exhibitions upon obtaining license from the concerned organ;
(d) to settle disputes that arise between members; by way of arbitration; when the parties so request
(e) to prepare production gazettes; bulletins reports, and disseminate technology and market information to their members;
(f) to provide different training to their members;
(g) to create awareness among members on government policies; proclamations; regulations and directives; and participate at discussion forums prepared by the Government;
(h) to determine contributions to be made by members;
(i) to charge fees for the services it provides;
(j) to own property; enter into contract; sue and be sued in its own name;
(k) to perform such other duties as are necessary for the attainment of its objective.
28. Applicable provisions

Article (6), (8), (9), (11), (12), and (13), of this Proclamation shall as appropriate be applicable for Chambers to be established at national, Regional and Wereda level.

PART SIX
Miscellaneous

29. Registration of Chambers

1. The Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce and Sectoral Associations and other Chambers to be established at Regional and City levels shall obtain certificate of registration, after being registered by the Ministry and by the regional concerned Bureaus respectively;

2. The Ministry and Regional concerned Bureaus are empowered by this proclamation to register and issue certificates to Chambers;

3. The Ministry or Regional concerned Bureaus shall issue certificates or notify the reasons for rejection in writing within 30 days acceptance of application;

4. Chambers established at Regional, Wereda or City level shall submit copies of their certificate to the Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce and Sectoral Association.

30. Source of Income

Income sources of Chambers established at different levels are:-
1. Membership contributions;
2. Service fees; and
3. Grant and subsides


1. Chambers functioning before the effective date of this Proclamation shall be reorganized in line with the provisions of this Proclamation;

2. The rights and obligations of Chambers established in accordance with Proclamation No. 148/1978 are hereby transferred to Chambers to be reorganized in accordance with this Proclamation;

3. Chambers to be established after the coming into force of this Proclamation, shall have juridical personality from the date they obtain certificate in accordance with Article 29 of this Proclamation.

32. Auditors

1. The Books of accounts and financial documents of every Chamber shall be audited annually by external auditors;

2. Copies of audit reports shall as appropriate be submitted to the Council, Board and to the office who issued certificate of registration.
33. Fiscal Year
The fiscal year of Chambers shall be from Hamle 1 upto Sene 30.

34. Power to Issue Regulations
The Council of Ministers as deemed necessary shall issue Regulation to implement this proclamation.

35. Power to Issue Directives
The Ministry shall issue directives which are necessary to implement this proclamation.

36. Repealed laws
1. Chambers of Commerce Proclamation No. 148/1978 is hereby repealed;
2. No other law or customary practice which is inconsistent with this Proclamation shall have effect.

37. Effective Date
This Proclamation shall come into force as of 27th day of May, 2003.

Done at Addis Ababa, this 27th day of May, 2003.

GIRMA WOLDE GIORGIS
PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERAL
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA