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THE CHARTER
**of the Council of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Non-
Governmental Non-Profit Organisations**

(approved by Resolution No. 738 of 31 August 1999)

Article 1

The Charter of the Council of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organisations (hereinafter the "Council") stipulates the status, scope, principles of the operation of the Council, composition of and membership on the Council, the rights and duties of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and members of the Council, and the organisation and administrative framework of the operation of the Council.

Article 2

The Status of the Council

The Council is an advisory and initiating body of the Government of the Slovak Republic to support the activities of non-governmental non-profit organisations. These mainly include civic associations, foundations and non-investment funds, associations of legal entities, property associations and charity and humanitarian organisations, which carry out publicly beneficial activities, in particular in the field of humanity and charity, care for children, youth and sports, education, human rights protection, healthcare, culture, protection of the environment and regional development.

Article 3

The scope of activities of the Council

/1/ The Council shall carry out tasks according to its own work plan that links up and complies with the work plan of the Government and the plan of legislative tasks of the Government of the Slovak Republic.

/2/ The scope of activities of the Council shall mainly include:

- a) initiating and evaluating policy materials and measures for decisions by the Government of the Slovak Republic concerning the support of non-governmental non-profit organisations,
- b) initiating legislative drafts and commenting legislative drafts relating to the conditions of activities of non-governmental non-profit organisations,

- c) cooperating with central bodies of state administration of the Slovak Republic on programmes of cooperation between the state and non-governmental non-profit organisations at all levels of public affairs administration, defining procedures and criteria for the access of non-governmental non-profit organisations to public funds, on the granting system of subsidies from the state budget to non-governmental non-profit organisations and proposing appropriate representation of non-governmental non-profit organisations in decision-making, monitoring and evaluating bodies,
- d) initiating activities of a publicly accessible information system with a databases structure on non-governmental non-profit organisation as well as programmes of the Government of the Slovak Republic, its decisions and adopted tasks that shall be based on the needs of non-governmental non-profit organisations and the Government of the Slovak Republic,
- e) shall establish specialised working groups for addressing exceptionally intricate problems.

Article 4

Composition of the Council and membership on the Council

- /1/ The Council is composed of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and members.
- /2/ The Government of the Slovak Republic appoints and removes the Chairman of the Council and the Deputy Prime Minister of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Human Rights, Minorities and Regional Development is the Chairman of the Council.
- /3/ The Chairman of the Council appoints and removes the Vice Chairman and members of the council upon a proposal by non-governmental non-profit organisations, ministers of the relevant ministries and other central bodies of the state administration of the Slovak Republic after their names list approval by the Government of the Slovak Republic.
- /4/ The Chairman of Council appoints and removes the Secretary of the Council upon the proposal by the Council.
- /5/ Representatives of non-governmental non-profit organisations, ministries and other central bodies of the state administration of the Slovak Republic having a competence with respect to non-governmental non-profit organisations are members of the Council. Their list is in the annex hereto.
- /6/ Non-governmental non-profit organisations and their umbrella and service organisations nominate the representatives of nongovernmental non-profit organisations after agreeing with the Chairman of the Council. State secretaries proposed by the relevant ministers represent the ministries. The representatives nominated by the competent central body of the state administration of the Slovak Republic represent other central bodies of the state administration of the Slovak Republic.
- /7/ Only a national of the Slovak Republic who is a person of integrity can be a member of the Council.

/8/ Membership in the Council is a honorary function. The members of the Council are irreplaceable in their function. The member shall inform the Secretary of the Council about his/her absence from the meeting in writing in advance.

/9/ The membership in the Council shall expire upon:

- a) death,
- b) removal,
- c) written resignation.

Article 5

The rights and duties of the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and members of the Council

/1/Chairman of the Council

- a) shall manage the activities of the Council and shall be accountable for its activities to the Government of the Slovak Republic,
- b) shall submit the Council its work plan for approval,
- c) shall convene sessions of the Council,
- d) shall propose the agenda for the meeting of the Council,
- e) shall propose conclusions from the meeting of the Council,
- f) shall submit the Government of the Slovak Republic initiative proposals and recommendations the Council agreed upon,
- g) shall appoint and remove the Vice Chairman and members of the Council after the approval of their names list by the Government of the Slovak Republic,
- h) shall appoint and remove the Secretary of the Council,
- i) shall appoint members of specialist working groups the Council has decided to establish and shall invite the representatives of other institutions to the meetings of the Council,
- j) shall perform tasks assigned by the Council.

/2/Vice Chairman of the Council:

- a) shall stand in for the Chairman of the Council within the scope of rights and duties entrusted with by the Chairman during his/her absence,
- b) shall participate with a voting right in the meetings of the Council.

/3/ The Secretary of the Council:

- a) shall prepare the draft work plan of the Council,
- b) shall organise and administratively support the preparation and meeting of the Council,
- c) shall have the administrative responsibility for the preparation of positions, proposals and recommendations to the materials submitted to the meeting of the Council,
- d) shall inform the Council on the performance with respect to its resolutions,
- e) shall participate without a voting right in the meetings of the Council.
- f) shall arrange for the minutes from the meeting of the Council.

/4/ Members of the Council:

- a) shall participate with a voting right in the meetings of the Council,
- b) shall approve the work plan of the Council and the agenda of the meetings of the Council,
- c) shall adopt positions, proposals and recommendations to the materials discussed at the meetings of the Council,
- d) shall submit the Council proposals and recommendations concerning the matters relevant for non-governmental non-profit organisations from their own initiative.

Article 6

Principles of the work of the Council

/1/ The Chairman of the Council shall convene the meetings of the Council.

/2/ The Council shall meet according to the need, however, at least once a month.

/3/ The Council shall be qualified to negotiate and decide when more than half of its members are present.

/4/ Council's decisions should be final if more than a half of present members voted in favour of the draft resolution. In case of tie of votes the vote of the Chairman of the Council shall be decisive.

/5/ The Council shall adopt positions that the Chairmen of the Council shall submit as recommendations to the sessions of the Government of the Slovak Republic.

/6/ Usually, the meetings of the Council are closed and the Council shall inform the public of the results of the meeting.

Article 7

Organisational and administrative support to the work of the Council and its meetings

/1/ The Human Rights and Minorities Section of the Offices of the Government of the Slovak Republic shall perform the tasks linked with the organisational and administrative and technical framework of its operation.

/2/ The expenses linked with the activities of the Council are financially covered by the Office of the Government of the Slovak Republic.

Article 8

The rules of procedure of the Council

The Council shall issue the Rules of Procedure of the Council and the rules of work for specialist working groups.

Article 9

Effect

This Charter shall enter into force on the day by its approval by the Government of the Slovak Republic.