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**Federal Law Number (6) of the Year 1974
Concerning Public Utility Associations**

We Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, president of the United Arab Emirates,

Pursuant to the provisions of the interim constitution,

And the federal law number (1) of the year 1972 concerning the function of ministries and the powers of the ministers and the laws issued in amendment thereof,

The federal law number (6) of the year 1974 concerning public utility associations,

And the submission of the Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, and the approval of the cabinet, the national federal council, and the attestation of the supreme council of federation,

We have issued the following law:

Chapter One

The Establishment of an Association

Article (1)

In applying the provisions of this law, the public utility association, referred to in the provisions of this law as "association", shall mean every organized group for a limited or unlimited period of time, formed of natural or legal personality, to accomplish a social, religious, cultural, educational, artistic action or to achieve humanitarian or charitable purposes or any other purpose through material or moral support or technical expertise and it seeks in all of its activities to participate in such acts for the purpose of public interest without seeking any material profit.

Specifying the aim of the society shall lie in the main purpose of the association.

Article (2)

The following conditions shall apply in order to establish an association:

1. The number of founding members shall not be less than 20. If necessary, the Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, referred to as Minister, may, according to the provisions of this law, authorize a lesser number on the condition that this number is not less than five;
2. The member must be above 18 years old;
3. The member shall enjoy full civil rights;
4. He/she must have good conduct and reputation. He/she should not be convicted in a crime of honor or decency, unless charges were dropped and rights were restored. These conditions shall not apply to associations formed of legal personality.

Article (3)

The founding members shall meet in a founding assembly to set-up the basic law of the association which shall include the following information:

1. The name of the association and the address of its main premises inside UAE;
2. The purpose of the society was established to achieve;
3. The names of the founding members, their titles, their date of birth, their profession, their nationality, and their addresses;
4. Conditions of membership, type of membership, approval and refusal procedures of membership, the rights of members and their duties;
5. The formation of the board of directors, its competencies and its rules;
6. Rules and regulations of the ordinary and extraordinary general assembly, its procedures, its competencies and conditions for its meetings to be legal;
7. Rules for amending the basic law of the association, establishing branches and merging the association with other associations;
8. The resources of the association and procedures of spending these resources, monitoring expenditures and the beginning and end of the financial year;
9. Conditions of voluntarily dissolving of the society, rules of liquidation, and the disposal of its assets.

The Ministry of Social Affairs referred to as Ministry in the provisions of this law shall prepare a model basic law to guide associations.

Article (4)

Membership of the association shall be of two types:

1. Active membership
2. Honorary membership

Active members are founding members and every person who joins the association according to its basic law. Honorary members are those persons on who the board of directors confer this title from among people of high status and opinion leaders who performed tremendous services to the country or the association, or those who have distinguished activities in the public domain.

It is permissible to have temporary and supporting members. The basic law shall specify conditions of such membership.

Article (5)

The founders shall elect from among them a temporary board of director and a representative to undertake the registration procedures stated in this law.

The representative shall provide the concerned department at the Ministry with three copies of the registration application together with the following documents:

1. The basic law of the association signed by the founding members and a summary of it;

2. Minutes of meetings of the general assembly;
3. Minutes of meetings of the temporary board of directors;
4. A list with the names of founding members and the names of the temporary board of directors;
5. The authorization of the board of directors to one of its members to submit the registration documents.

The Ministry shall organize a registry to register applications by serial numbers. The Ministry shall give the representative a statement with the date of application.

Article (6)

The concerned body at the Ministry shall discuss the application and issue a decision within (30) days as of the date of the application approving or disapproving registration and stating reasons for disapproval. It may introduce the amendments it deems necessary to the basic law of the association or to transfer the application to other specialized department. The applicant shall be notified by a registered mail with an acknowledgement of receipt with the decision taken in this regard.

Article (7)

The temporary board of director shall have the right to complain to the Minister in case the application is refused within 30 days as of the day of receiving the notification referred to in article (6). A decision with regard the complaint shall be taken with justification within 30 days as of the date of submitting the complaint.

The Minister may assign a committee to examine the justifications of the complaint and to give its opinion with its regard.

The decisions of the Minister with this regard shall be final and the complainant shall be notified by a registered mail with an acknowledgment of receipt.

Article (8)

The association shall be registered in a special register at the Ministry where the name, purpose, premises, starting date of its financial year, number of board members, name of chairman, name of treasurer and name of person who legally represent the association shall be recorded. Any amendments to this information shall also be registered in this register.

A summary of the basic law shall be published, free of charge, in the official gazette or in any other official publication decided upon by the Ministry.

Article (9)

The society shall acquire its legal personality upon the completion of the registration procedures according to the previous provisions.

Article (10)

The association shall enjoy the following financial exemptions:

1. Taxes and customs fees related to imported equipment for the association to practice its activities. It is not permissible to give away any of these equipment to any other body that does not enjoy tax and customs fees exemption unless 1 year has elapsed as of the date of importation, if due taxes, and customs are not settled.
2. Consumption of water and electricity;
3. Taxes on different celebrations implemented by the association.

Article (11)

The association may establish branches inside UAE. The basic law of the association shall specify the procedures for the establishment of these branches, their competencies, and other related provisions.

Article (12)

The Minister shall have the right to merge an association with another association of similar aims if the association is incapable of achieving its aims and fulfilling its commitments; if it violates the aims it was established to achieve; if it allocates its funds for other purposes than those it was established to achieve and if it commits a huge violation to the provisions of this law or to its basic law or when it loses any of its basis of its creation. The association may suggest to merge in another association with similar aims by a decision to be taken by an extraordinary general assembly meeting with the majority of two thirds of attending members.

In this case, the Minister shall approve the suggestion within thirty days as of the day of notifying him with the decision of merging.

The merging decision or suggestion of merging shall include the implementation procedures and their impact.

Article (13)

The association may not violate the purposes specified in its basic law.

Its members shall not interfere in politics. They shall not infuriate sectarian, ethnic or religious conflicts.

Article (14)

The association shall not participate in any conference or meeting outside UAE without a prior approval from the Ministry.

It shall not join any association outside UAE prior to an approval from the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and the Ministry of Interior.

Article (15)

The Ministry shall have the right to technically supervise and direct the programmes of the association and its projects in order to fall within the specified aim stated in the basic law. It may organize training events and provide the association with technical opinions and all other kinds of guidance that may enhance the level of its performance and services.

Article (16)

The association shall be financially supervised by the Ministry to ensure that its financial and in kind assets are put to serve the purposes and projects for which the association was created to achieve according to its basic law.

To achieve this, the Ministry may, at any time, examine the books of the association, its records, and its documents if it deems it necessary to do so.

Article (17)

The Ministry shall cooperate with other ministries and bodies in issues it deems necessary to achieve the aims of the association. It may, in agreement with other ministries and with bodies concerned with the activities of the association, authorize them to guide and technically supervise related issues.

Article (18)

The association shall keep at its premises records, books, correspondences, and publications. It shall specifically keep:

1. A record with the names of members and amount paid as membership fees;
2. Records of the minutes of meetings of the board of directors and the general assembly;
3. Financial records of income and expenditure supported by authorized documentation.

Article (19)

The books of the association and its records, correspondences and publications shall carry the name of the association, its purpose, its registration number, and its area of activity.

The association may not use a name that might lead to confusion between it and another association working in the same field.

Chapter Two

The board of directors

Article (20)

- Each association shall have a board of directors to provide the means needed to implement its activities and achieve its aims. The basic law of the association shall specify the competencies of the board of directors, conditions applicable to its members, the number of the board, elections rules, termination of membership, procedures and rules of the board meeting sessions and rules governing the legitimacy of its meetings and its decisions.
- The number of board members shall not be less than five. The term of membership shall not exceed 4 years. Membership may be renewed according to the basic law of the association.

Article (21)

- It is not permissible for a member to be a board member of more than one society aiming to achieve a similar purpose. Despite that, the Minister may give justified exception to this rule.
- It is not permissible for a member to be a board member and to work for the association in return for a wage or remuneration.

Chapter Three

The General Assembly

Article (22)

- The general assembly shall be formed from all active members who paid their annual due fees at the date when the assembly convenes and at least six months have elapsed as of the date of joining the association.
- The meeting of the assembly shall be attended by at least more than half of its members in order for the meeting to be legal. If this number is not attained the meeting shall be postponed to the following day. In this case, the meeting shall be legal if attended by one fourth of the members. If this number is not attained, the board of directors shall ask the Minister to authorize it to perform the competencies of the general assembly for a period not less than six months renewable to another six months.
- In all cases, the Ministry may assign a representative to attend the meetings of the general assembly.

Article (23)

The general assembly shall hold an ordinary meeting once every year within three months as of the end of the financial year to look into the following matters:

1. Approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Approve the report of the board of directors on the activities of the previous year, the programme of activities and the plan of action of the coming year.
2. Approve the budget and final accounts of the previous financial year and the draft budget of the coming year.
3. Suggestions submitted by member according to the officially authorized schedule as specified in the basic law of the association;
4. Elect a board member or filling vacant seats;
5. Select an auditor and specify his remuneration;
6. Other issues on the agenda of the meeting.

The general assembly shall issue its decisions by the absolute majority of attending members.

Article (24)

The general assembly may convene in an extraordinary meeting upon a justified request by the Ministry, the board of directors, or one quarter of the members eligible to attend the general assembly. If the board of directors does not call the general assembly to convene upon a request by the Minister or the members, the Minister may call the assembly to convene at the expense of the society.

Article (25)

The extraordinary general assembly shall look into the following matters:

1. The resignations submitted by one or more members of the board, expulsion of membership and vacant seats.
2. The suggestion to merge the association with another according to paragraph 2 of article (12).
3. Annulling the decisions of the board of directors
4. Voluntarily dissolving of the association
5. Other important and urgent issues.

The decisions of the general assembly in these issues shall be taken by the majority of two third of attending members.

Article (26)

The ordinary or extraordinary general assembly shall not look into matters not on the agenda of the meeting.

The extraordinary general assembly shall not look into a topic where a decision has been taken with its regard before the elapse of one year as of the date of issuing the decision.

Chapter Four

The Resources of the Association

Article (27)

The recourses of the association shall consist of:

1. membership fees;
2. contributions, grants, in kind and material donations;
3. assistance paid by the ministry;
4. income accrued from celebrations held by the society.

Any other source of income.

Article (28)

The funds of the association belong to the association and its members shall not have any right to these funds. Resigning or expelled members shall have no rights in these funds.

Article (29)

The association shall deposit its cash money in its name at one of the banks inside the state. It shall notify the Ministry accordingly (the basic law of the association shall state amounts to be kept in cash to cover urgent expenses).

Article (30)

The association shall spend its funds in activities that achieve its aims. It shall not use them in any kind of trade or financial speculations.

Article (31)

The board of directors shall submit to the Ministry a copy of the final account of the year which ended and the draft budget of the coming year within fifteen days as of their endorsement by the general assembly.

Article (32)

The Ministry shall allocate a financial assistance for the association. This type of assistance and means of spending it shall be organized by a decision to be taken by the Minister.

Article (33)

The Ministry, in looking into amounts to be specified for associations, shall take into consideration some or all of the following standards:

1. The extent of which the association needs assistance for its establishment;
2. The extent the society needs assistance to achieve its aims and to implement its activities.
3. The extent to which the association contributes to humanitarian services related to its activities.
4. The periodic reports prepared by the Ministry on the activities of the association and the extent of its abidance to its basic law.

Article (34)

The Ministry may increase, decrease, or halt its assistance according to the conditions of the association and the allocated annual budget of the Ministry.

Article (35)

The association shall not collect donations by any means unless it obtains a prior approval from the Ministry.

It shall not accept donations, benefits, or assistance from any person or body from outside UAE or donate any unless it obtains a prior approval from the Ministry.

Chapter Five

Dissolving the association

Article (36)

The association may be dissolved by a decision to be taken by the Minister in the following cases:

1. if the number of its members becomes less than that specified in paragraph number 1 of article number (2);
2. If it is revealed that its activities do not achieve its aims or if it becomes incapable of achieving these aims;
3. if it spends its funds on activities other than those it has specified;
4. if it becomes incapable of fulfilling its commitments;
5. if it refuses inspection or if it submits incorrect and deceiving information;
6. if it commits a huge violation of its basic law or the provisions of this law.

Despite this, the Minister, instead of dissolving the association, may appoint by a justified decision a temporary board of directors to take over the competencies of the elected board if such a procedure is in the welfare of the public for a period of 6 renewable months.

The decision to dissolve the association shall be based on the suggestion of a committee to be formed upon a decision by the Minister and headed by the general secretary of the Ministry and the membership of high official from the Ministry, a representative from the Ministry of Justice to be selected by the Minister.

Article (37)

Taking into consideration article (25), the association may voluntarily be dissolved by a decision to be taken by its extraordinary general assembly. The Ministry shall be informed of the date and place of the assembly meeting at least 15 days prior to the meeting.

Article (38)

Those responsible for an association, of which a dissolving decision has been taken, whether voluntarily or compulsory, may not dispose of its funds or its documentation prior to a decision taken by the Ministry. The decision shall specify means of dissolving the association, how to deal with its funds and documentation, and the associations entitled to receive the funds, if not specified in the basic law of the association, or in case of difficulty in implementing what has been specified in the law.

Concluding Provisions

Article (39)

The provisions of this law shall not be applied on the various activities referred to in article (1) implemented by schools, colleges and unions working in the field of youth.

Article (40)

The existing association, when this law enters into force, shall amend their basic law. They shall submit registration applications according to the provisions of this law within six months as of the date the law enters into force, otherwise they shall be considered as dissolved, and the Ministry will liquidate their funds and name the body that will receive these funds.

Article (41)

Any person violating the provisions of this law and its executive decision shall be punished by imprisonment for a period not exceeding three months and a fine not exceeding 500 D.H or one of these two penalties without prejudice to any other severer punishment stated in any other law.

Article (42)

The employees of the Ministry appointed by the Minister to implement the provisions of this law shall have inspection authority in examining and establishing the act of violation of these rules and their implementing decisions.

Article (43)

The Minister shall issue the necessary decision to implement the provisions of this law. The ministers, each according to his competency, shall implement this law.

Article (44)

Any text inconsistent or contradicting the provisions of this law shall be superseded.

Article (45)

This law shall be published in the official gazette. It shall enter into force as of the date of publishing it.

Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan
President of the United Arab Emirates

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