

**United Arab Emirates
Federation of UAE Chambers
of Commerce & Industry**

**Articles of Association
of the Businesswomen Council
in the United Arab Emirates**

Definitions:

Businesswomen Council: Businesswomen Council in the United Arab Emirates.

Board of directors: Board of directors of the Businesswomen Council.

Federation of chambers: Federation of UAE Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

General Secretariat: General Secretariat of the Federation of UAE Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

Council: Businesswomen Council

The country's chambers: Chambers of Commerce and Industry in the United Arab Emirates.

Members: Members of the board of directors of the Businesswomen Council.

Article (1)

A businesswomen council shall be established in the United Arab Emirates under the supervision of the federation of chambers and shall work within the federation's general framework in accordance with Decision No. (10) of 2001 which was issued in the 67th meeting of the board of directors of the Federation of UAE Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

Article (2)

The Businesswomen Council's head office shall be in the headquarters of the federation of chambers in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates and other branches may be opened in the country's emirates if needed after obtaining the approval of board of directors by a majority vote.

Article (3)

The Businesswomen Council shall attempt to achieve the following main objectives:

- 1- Developing the interests of businesswomen in the United Arab Emirates and overcoming all difficulties and problems which they may face in their commercial, industrial and service businesses.
- 2- Encouraging the participation of women in the various economic sectors and enhancing their role in participating in investment activities as well as providing the required training programmes and studies.
- 3- Giving opinions and perceptions about the various federal and local legislation and laws relating to women's participation in and practising business activity.
- 4- Enhancing relations and co-operation with regional and international organisations and associations so as to benefit from the exchange of expertise and information with the aim of developing businesswomen's activities in the various sectors.

Article (4)

The council's general assembly shall consist of all businesswomen who are members in the council and meet the conditions of membership.

The general assembly shall hold its meetings at least once a year and the meeting shall be held in one of the headquarters of the federation of chambers for discussing the topics on agenda and endorsing the annual budget and closing account as well as reviewing the annual report on the council's activities.

Businesswomen belonging to the special membership category (stated in Article "10C" of the articles of association) shall not have the right to vote or be elected to the membership of the board of directors.

The general assembly may be called for an extraordinary meeting if needed and the invitation shall be made by the chairwoman of the board of directors after obtaining the approval of the majority.

Article (5)

The board of directors shall consist of (15) fifteen members of which a chairman of the board, two vice-chairwomen and a treasurer shall be elected. The board's term in office shall be three years after which the general assembly shall be invited to elect a new board of directors.

Article (6)

The members of the board of directors stated in Article (5) shall include seven incumbent members representing the country's chambers and a permanent representative of the federation of chambers, while the remaining seven members shall be elected. All members shall have the right to vote and express their opinions.

Article (7)

Executive Bureau:

In its first meeting, the board of directors shall elect an executive bureau, which shall be presided over by the chairman of the board of directors

and shall include a vice-chairwoman and three other members in the board of directors.

The executive bureau shall have the authority of studying urgent matters related to the board of the directors and shall take the necessary decisions regarding them. The decisions shall be referred to the next meeting of the board of directors for endorsement.

The executive bureau shall also have the authority of approving the application of subscription to the council and drawing up the general policies of the council in addition to outlining activities, programmes, meeting agendas and other relevant matters.

Article (8)

An administrative body shall be in charge of the council's administrative work under the supervision of the general secretariat. The body shall work in accordance with the regulations and by-laws in effect at the federation of chambers.

Article (9)

The council shall have three main committees which shall be in charge of working out and following up the implementation of the various plans, programmes and activities. The committees include:

Services and Public Relations Committee:

The committee shall be in charge of developing and providing various services for female business owners and streamline such services through being familiar with the relevant government legislation in addition to giving opinions relating to the amendment of such legislation in case it hindered the development of women's business and providing proper facilities.

Studies and Training Committee:

The committee shall be in charge of preparing studies and researches which may help in developing women's work in the country and participating in the relevant seminars and conferences.

This is in addition to training businesswomen through guiding them to join suitable training courses and preparing training seminars as well as inviting specialists in the field so as to make businesswomen familiar with the latest methods of business and technological developments which take place in the world of business and investments.

International Relations Committee:

The committee shall be in charge of preparing for participation in and being familiar with the international conferences, seminars and forums which are held outside the United Arab Emirates.

This participation is aimed benefiting from information, expertise and experiences and boosting ties of co-operation of all forms with the various businesswomen councils and associations with the aim of being familiar with the opportunities available for developing the council.

The board of directors may form other committees as deemed necessary for developing the council's works as per economic changes.

Article (10)

Membership in the council's general assembly:

A)- Active membership:

This type of membership shall be given to all UAE national women who own or take part in the management of business ventures that are licensed by official authorities in the country.

B)- Participating membership:

This type of membership shall be given to UAE national women who own or manage a specific business activity without having licences issued in their names for some or other reasons but can prove their business activity through certificates or documents issued by specific institutions which have a relation with the activity such as (the sectors of agriculture, communications, contracting, real estate and the like).

This type of membership shall also be given to UAE national women who invest or own shares and stakes in companies working in the various economic sectors.

C)- Special membership:

This type of membership shall be given to businesswomen of all nationalities who own, are partners in or manage commercial, industrial or service businesses or female investors in the various economic sectors.

D)- Student membership:

This type of membership shall be given to all UAE national or other female students who study in economic and business fields of specialisation or practise all various forms of business activity during study for training purposes and developing the means of involvement in business activity.

E)- Honorary membership:

This type of membership shall be given to women who advocate women's causes in all of their various works or women who made

significant contributions for supporting this drive whether through facilities, donations or providing training programmes and the like.

Article (11)

Conditions of membership:

Membership shall be restricted to women who meet the following conditions:

- 1- They should be well-behaved and mannerly.
- 2- They should have reached 21 years of age with the exception of female students.
- 3- They should practise a specific economic activity.

Article (12)

Termination and freezing of membership:

The membership of members who violate the council's regulations or decisions may be terminated by a decision taken by the board of directors and by a sweeping majority without giving reasons.

The board of directors or executive bureau may freeze the membership of its members if they violate the council's regulations or decisions or fail to pay the specified fees after the expiration of the legal period. The board of directors and the executive bureau have the right to restore membership after meeting the required conditions.

Article (13)

Membership fees:

Annual subscription fees for the council's membership shall be as follows:

1- Active membership:	2,000	Two thousand dirhams
2- Participating membership:	2,000	Two thousand dirhams
3- Special membership:	2,000	Two thousand dirhams
4- Student membership:	200	Two hundred dirhams
5- Honorary membership:		(without fees)

(Article 14)

Financial resources of the council:

They are the funds received by the council through the following sources:

- Fees of membership.
- Donations.
- Revenues of investing the council's funds in the various sectors.
- Fees of the training programmes and seminars and the like which are organised by the council.
- Revenues of selling the various publications and releases which are issued by the council.

(Article 15)

The financial system of the Businesswomen Council shall be affiliated to the financial system of the federation of chambers and all financial revenues shall be deposited in a special account in the name of the

Businesswomen Council. The account shall have its own statements which shall be managed and supervised by the federation of chambers.

(Article 16)

During the first year which shall start after the first meeting of the council's board of directors, financial and executive regulations shall be issued for the articles of association of the Businesswomen Council and the council shall depend on these regulations in running its works.

(Article 17)

For matters not mentioned in the above articles and if it is deemed necessary to make decision regarding administrative and technical matters, the council's working mechanism and meetings and the like, the law and executive regulations of the federation of chambers shall be the main reference.

The provisions of these articles of association shall be effective from the time of issuing them and all parties concerned have to implement them.