

Articles of Association of the Emirates Businesswomen Council

We the Chairman of the United Arab Emirates Federation of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry as per law no.22 for 2000 concerning the United Arab Emirates Federation of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry and its executive chart of 9/6/2002 and considering all regulations issued by the United Arab Emirates Federation of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry and considering all Businesswomen Councils regulations effective in the UAE and as per resolution no.10 for 2001 issued by the Board of Directors of the United Arab Emirates Federation of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry concerning the establishment of a UAE Businesswomen Council and based on what has been proposed by the General Secretary of the Federation of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry

Have decided:

Article (1)

A businesswomen council shall be established in the United Arab Emirates under the supervision of the Federation of the Chambers and shall work within the federation's general framework.

Article (2): Definitions

Country: United Arab Emirates

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.

General Assembly: General Assembly of women who are subject to the regulations of this Article of Association.

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

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

Chairperson: Chairperson of the UAE Businesswomen Council.

Article (3) Vision and Mission

In 2021 we strive to achieve woman leadership and place women brand on the global map

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 programs and studies.
- 3- Giving opinions and perceptions about the various federal and local legislation and laws relating to women's participation in and practicing business activity.
- 4- Enhancing relations and co-operation with regional and international organizations 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) Headquarter

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 and approved by the Chairman of the UAE Federation of the Chambers of Commerce.

Article (5) General Assembly

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.

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 (6)

UAE Businesswomen Council is prohibited from:

- 1- Engaging in political matters.
- 2- Seeking to achieve a goal that is not listed in the list of objectives in the Article of Association.
- 3- Any activity that is detrimental to the markets.

Article (7) 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 licenses 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. It is also given to expatriate ladies who owns or participate in managing business projects dully licensed by UAE authorities.

C) - 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 specialization or practice all various forms of business activity during study for training purposes and developing the means of involvement in business activity.

D) - 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 programs and the like.

E) - Founding membership:

This type of membership shall be given to all members who participated in establishing the UAE Businesswomen Council

Article (8)

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 pay the annual membership fee.

Article (9)

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 has the right to restore membership after meeting the required conditions.

Article (10) 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- Student membership: 200 Two hundred dirhams.
- 5- Honorary membership: (without fees).
- 6- Founding Membership (without fees).

Article (11) Board of Directors

The board of directors shall consist of (15) fifteen members. The members of the board of directors 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 by the General Assembly members as per the election regulations.

Article (12)

In its first meeting at the beginning of each session the Council shall elect by secret vote among its elected and appointed members a Chairwoman and two vice chairwomen.

The first vice-chairwoman is the one who secures the highest number of votes. In the case of candidates securing the same number of votes the election will be held again in the same manner. If the draw in votes continues there will be a draw.

Article (13)

If the number of candidates is equal to the number of required members then the candidates shall be announced winners by recommendation. If the number is less than the required number of members then nomination will remain open for five more days. If the required number is not complete then the Board of Directors shall continue to carry out its duties for a period of three months after which a new election will be called. The appointed members shall continue to carry out their duties when their membership expires until the concerned chamber will make new nomination.

Article (14)

Delegation is not accepted for nomination or for voting for the UAE Businesswomen Council.

Article (15)

Applicants for Board of Directors shall be, in addition to membership conditions, a member of the UAE Business Women Council for a year and shall have a commercial license for no less than five years prior to applying for nomination.

Article (16)

Objections to the election process are accepted in a period of one week after the completion of the election process. No objection shall be entertained after that date.

Objections shall be answered within two weeks by a committee formed and headed by the General Secretary or the Assistant General Secretary.

The decisions of the committee are final and cannot be appealed before any administrative or judicial authority.

Article (17)

Forming an election supervisory committee and determining the number of members of that committee is the exclusive authority of the General Secretary of the UAE Federation of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

Article (18)

If a membership is vacant due to death or resignation or losing one of the conditions of membership or not attending Board meetings then the person next in the number of votes shall succeed if the vacant membership is for an elected member, if the vacant membership is for an appointed member, then the concerned chamber shall be informed. The new appointed member shall complete the time of her predecessor.

Article (19)

If board members are less by a third then the number will be completed by the members who are next in the number of votes if applicable, if not then a new election will be held to complete the missing number.

A new board of directors shall be elected and appointed if the board is less than half its members.

Article (20)

The member appointed by the General Secretary shall be the Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Business Women Council.

Article (21)

1- The board of directors shall convene regularly once every two months at least or whenever the need arises whichever is shortest in time. The council's chairwoman shall call for the meeting. In extraordinary circumstances the board shall convene upon the written request of at least one third of the board members. In extraordinary circumstance the Chairman of the UAE Federation of Chambers may call for a board meeting. If he calls for a meeting then he shall attend and preside that meeting and shall have the right to vote.

- 2- The board's meeting shall not be deemed legal unless it is attended by at least eight members. If the quorum is not complete then another meeting will be called after five days. The second meeting shall be deemed legal if it is attended by five or more members. The board's decisions are taken by the majority of the members present. If the votes are equal then the chairwoman will have the decisive vote.

Article (22)

- 1- The first meeting of the board shall be held within no more than two weeks of the date it was formed. The chairwoman or its representative shall send a written invitation to the members stating the place, date and time of the meeting and including an agenda of the meeting.
- 2- Every board meeting will have a minute of the meeting. All the topics, discussions and procedures that were mentioned in the meeting shall be recorded in the minute including resolutions and recommendations. The minutes of meeting shall also include the names of the attendees and the absent members.
- 3- All the board's resolutions and recommendations shall be recorded in a register.

Article (23)

All board members are committed to attend its meetings. Absenteeism is not allowed except if there is an acceptable excuse that will be given to the General Coordinator prior to the meeting. In the case a member is absent for three meetings without excuse, that member shall be considered resigned from the Board of Directors, shall be registered in the minute of the meeting and shall be replaced by a reserved member as per the number of votes. If the member is an appointed member then the concerned chamber shall be informed to nominate another member.

Article (24)

- 1- 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 one of them shall be the member appointed by the General Secretary of the UAE Federation of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry.
- 2- 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, programs, meeting agendas and other relevant matters.

Article (25)

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 (26)

The council shall have three main committees which shall be in charge of working out and following up the implementation of the various plans, programs and activities. The board of directors may solicit the help of members of the general assembly in this matter provided that committees are chaired by members of the board of directors.

Article (27)

The UAE Businesswomen board of Directors shall present an annual report to the General Secretary on the proceedings of the Council and another report on the council's final accounts

Article (28)

The General Secretary of the federation appoints an auditor for the UAE Businesswomen Council accounts and determines the auditor's payment.

Article (29)

The council shall have three main committees which shall be in charge of working out and following up the implementation of the various plans, programs and activities. The board of directors may solicit the help of members of the general assembly in this matter provided that committees are chaired by members of the board of directors.

1- 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.

2- 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.

3- 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 (30)

Financial resources of the council 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 programs and seminars and the like which are organized by the council.
- Revenues of selling the various publications and releases which are issued by the council.

Article (31)

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 (32)

The General Secretary opens a bank account in one of the operating banks in the UAE under the name of the UAE Businesswomen Council. He nominates the persons who have the right to withdraw from this account. The council is not allowed to independently have other bank accounts without the approval of the General Secretary of the Federation.

Article (33)

The auditor shall audit the accounts of the council for the year he is appointed to audit. To carry out his duties he shall:

- 1- review the council's books
- 2- determine the council's financial commitments
- 3- carry out an inventory of charts of account

The UAE Businesswomen Council management shall facilitate the auditor's mission and provide any clarification he may ask for. The auditor shall be personally responsible before the general Secretary and the UAE Businesswomen Council board of directors.

Article (34)

The fiscal year begins on the first of January and ends at the end of December each year.

Article (35)

Businesswomen council employees shall be subjected to the Salary Authority Law in case the council request to join the authority and its request is approved.

Article (36)

The member appointed by the General Secretary shall be responsible for the finances of the businesswomen council, budgeting, supervising the accounts payable and accounts receivable and ensuring that they are correctly made. His remuneration shall be determined by the General Secretary and shall be taken from the account of the Businesswomen Council.

Article (37)

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.

Article (38)

The provisions of these articles of association shall be effective from the time of issuing them and all parties concerned have to implement them. Any regulation contradicting this law shall be deemed null and void. This Article of Association shall be published in the Federation's official Paper.