

The Union for Arab Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions



THE REGULATION
OF
THE UNION FOR ARAB ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCILS
AND
SIMILAR INSTITUTIONS

The General Assembly
Algiers, June 20, 2022

The Regulation of the Union for Arab Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions

The assembled representatives of the Union for Arab Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions are:

- The Economic and Social Council of Jordan;
- The Economic and Social Council of Algeria;
- The Economic and Social Council of Palestine;
- The Economic and Social Council of Lebanon;
- The Economic and Social Council of Morocco;
- The Economic and Social Council of Mauritania.

With the participation of:

- The Republic of Sudan, represented by Ministry of Labor and Administrative Reform;
 - The National Council for Social Dialogue of the Arab Republic of Egypt, represented by Ministry of Manpower and Immigration;
 - The Republic of Yemen, represented by Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs.
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- Affirming their commitment to the principles, standards and declarations issued by the League of Arab States and the Arab Labor Organization, especially the declaration of principles on the social affair in Arab countries; in addition to Riyadh declaration of February 2014, on development and employment.
 - Recalling the United Nations International Principles, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Pact on economic, social and cultural rights and the new generation of individual and collective human rights.

- According to the international labor standards and work basic rights and principles, which are approved by member states in the International Labor Organization.
- Convinced that establishing and strengthening the dialogue concept could balance between the economic and social developments and increase the capacity of confronting challenges and economic and social crises.
- Believing of the importance to mobilise all the dialogue features at the national and at the Arab levels to reinforce the economic and social stability and to strengthen unity for Arab societies.
- Acknowledging that promoting the concept of dialogue and of its institutions is the optimal means to reinforce the social cohesion and preserve the civil and social peace.

They have agreed to create the Union for Arab Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions according to the articles of the following regulation:

Article one

Regulation denomination

The present regulation is named: **“Regulation of the Union for Arab Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions”**. It includes the fundamental principles and dispositions that regulates the function of the Union for Arab Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions, and it comes into force from the date of its adoption and approval by the General Assembly.

Article 2 Definitions

The following **words and expressions**, wherever they appear in this regulation, should have the meanings assigned to them below, unless context indicates otherwise:

1. **The Union:** It includes the Arab Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions.
2. **The General Assembly:** It includes members of the Arab Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions, with one representative from each Arab Economic and Social Council or Similar Institution of the same state.
3. **The Administration Council:** It includes, in addition to the president and to the vice president, five members from presidents of the Arab Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions of the Union Members Arab States, who are elected by the General Assembly.
4. **The General Secretariat:** The general secretariat of the Union for Arab Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions.
5. **The president:** The president of the Union Administration Council.
6. **The vice president:** The vice president of the Union Administration Council.
7. **The Secretary General:** The Secretary General of the Arab Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions.
8. **The members:** Members of the Union for Arab Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions.
9. **The President Office Vacancy:** Vacancy in the president office is determined according to the following cases:
 - Death.
 - Resignation.
 - End of his representative status in his country.

Article 3

Union establishment

A union is established to regroup the Arab Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions, called: **“Union for Arab Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions”**, and enters into force from the date of the present regulation amendment by the General Assembly.

Article 4

Union aims

The Union aims, through its member councils, to achieve the following:

1. To promote, spread and raise the culture of dialogue, in all its forms & levels, in order to activate mechanisms within the Union.
2. To encourage the Arab States for creating economic and social councils in order to promote and deepen participatory democracy and achieve peace and social stability in the Arab world, according to the Arab principles and standards of the League of Arab States and the Arab Labour Organization, the international principles of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as the fundamental principles and rights at work adopted by the member States of the International Labour Organization, the International Pact on Economic, social and Cultural Rights and the new generation of individual and collective human rights.
3. To coordinate efforts between Arab Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions in Arab and International Forums.
4. To undertake research and studies on topics related to the Union’s fields of activity.
5. Develop plans to promote social dialogue in the Arab world.
6. To establish relationships with the concerned regional and international organisms.

7. To contribute for a balanced socio-economic development, so as to achieve social justice and cohesion.
8. To strengthen partnership and complementarity between the social partners in the process of formulating a system of national economic and social policies and legislation.

Article 5

Union Attributions

The Union shall work towards attaining its objectives through:

1. The organization of periodic conferences and forums, as well as seminars and specialized workshops in the fields of dialogue;
2. The promotion of the exchange of skills, experiences and information among the members of the Union;
3. The collection and dissemination of data and information on issues related to social dialogue;
4. The participation in Arab and international forums related to the Union's works;
5. The cooperation with similar organizations and associations of common interest;
6. The activation and enhancement of the role of training in the various fields of dialogue;
7. The contribution to the development and construction of a balanced economic and social vision to achieve sustainable development;
8. The creation of a website for the Union;
9. The General Secretariat of the Union shall prepare an annual report on its activities and send a copy to each Member State of the Union of Arab Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions. This report shall be published on the website of the Union.

Article 6

Union composition

The Union is composed of:

1. **The General Assembly:** It shall be composed of the Arab Economic and Social Councils and similar institutions, with one representative from each Arab Economic and Social Council or similar institution in the same state;
2. **The Administration Council:** It is composed, in addition to the President and the Vice-President, of five members of the General Assembly of the Union for Arab Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions. Its members shall be elected by the General Assembly;
3. **The General Secretariat of the Union:** the executive body which ensures the execution of the functions of the Union;
4. **The President of the Union:** He/she is the President of its Administration Council, and the President of the General Assembly. He/she is elected by the General Assembly;
5. **The Vice President of the Union:** He/she is the Vice President of the Administration Council, and is elected by the General Assembly;
6. **The Secretary General of the Union:** He/she shall be chosen on the proposal of the host State of the headquarters of the Union, approved by the Governing Council and adopted by the General Assembly, for a term of four years, renewable once.

Article 7

Meetings of the Union General Assembly

1. The General Assembly shall meet periodically once a year, at a time and place determined by the Administration Council of the Union upon official invitation, signed by the Secretary General, and attached to the agenda of the meeting at least one month in advance;
2. The members shall have the right to debate and vote, and all members shall have the right to participate in the various activities of the Union;
3. An extraordinary session may be held at the request of a member of the Union and with the approval of the members quarter, or upon the decision of the Union Administration Council.

Article 8

Presidency of the Union General Assembly

1. The General Assembly of the Union shall elect every three years, at the beginning of its session, the President and the Vice-President of the Union.
2. The term of office of the Union President shall be three (3) years and shall not be renewable.
3. In the event of a vacancy in the office of the Union President, the Vice President shall exercise the President's functions, until the appointment of a new President of the Council, elected at the last session of the General Assembly, who shall preside over the Union and complete the remainder of the term.
4. The President of the Union shall preside over the meetings of the General Assembly and direct the meetings of its Administration Council.

Article 9

Attributions of the Union General Assembly

The General Assembly shall have the following attributions:

1. To adopt the fundamental lines of work, policy and objectives of the Union.
2. To discuss and decide on the subjects of the agenda.
3. To elect members of the Administration Council of the Union among the members of the General Assembly.
4. To accredit the Secretary General of the Union upon the proposal of the host State and the approval of the Administration Council, so that the required experience, competence and specialization are available.
5. To adopt a plan of action and budget for the Union for a period of three years.
6. To accredit new members of the Union of Arab Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions in the Member States of the League of Arab States, subject to the following conditions:
 - a. To enjoy independence,
 - b. To be recognized by the national authorities,
 - c. To be established by legislation,
 - d. To represent the economic and social partners and to strive to establish a balance between them.
7. To approve the participation of any relevant Arab or international institution or organization in the meetings of the General Assembly as an observer.
8. To determine the proportions of members' contributions to the financing of the budget of the Union's action plan.
9. To approve the working regulation of the Union and any subsequent amendments.
10. To approve the dissolution of the Union.

11. To approve the administrative and financial reports submitted by the Administration Council for the current period.
12. To elect the President and the Vice President of the Union.

Article 10

Union Administration Council

1. The Administration Council of the Union, in addition to the President, is composed of five members from among the Presidents of the Economic and Social Councils for the Arab States and Similar Institutions, members of the Union, who shall be elected for a period of three years.
2. The Economic and Social Councils for the Arab States and Similar Institutions cannot be represented in the Administration Council of the Union by more than one member from each Arab State.
3. The geographical representation of the Arab countries within the Administration Council of the Union should be taken into consideration.

Article 11

Meetings of the Union Administration Council

1. The Administration Council of the Union shall meet regularly twice a year in the Headquarters State or in any other host State, and it may be invited to an extraordinary meeting with the approval of the majority of its members.
2. Decisions are taken at the Council meetings with a majority of the votes of the members present, so that each member has one vote. In the case of a tie, the President shall have the casting vote.

3. The meeting's decisions shall be signed by the President of the Administration Council and the Secretary General, subject to the approval of the Council.
4. The President shall conduct the meetings of the Administration Council and, in the case of absence, the Vice-President shall assume the presidency of the meeting.
5. If a member of the Administration Council is unable to attend, the latter may delegate one of the officers of the Economic and Social Council to represent him/her at this meeting.
6. The Council may adopt decisions by vote, subject to written or electronic signature.

Article 12

Attributions of the Union Administration Council

The Union Administration Council shall have the following attributions:

1. To monitor the implementation of general policies and action programs of the Union,
2. To study the reports of the Union and its Commissions, and to take the necessary decisions and recommendations in this regard.
3. To examine the Union's action plan and its forecasted balance sheet,
4. To debate and approve the draft agenda of the meeting of the Union General Assembly,
5. To establish the internal regulation of the Union, so that they do not contravene the provisions of the present Regulation.

Article 13

Attributions of the General Assembly President / President of the Administration Council

The President of the General Assembly/President of the Administration Council shall have the following attributions:

1. To preside over the meetings of the General Assembly and to conduct its sessions.
2. To invite Arab, regional and international institutions and organizations to attend the meetings of the Union General Assembly.
3. To lead the meetings of the Administration Council and sign the minutes of the meeting with the Secretary General.
4. To invite the General Assembly to meet in coordination with the Secretary General of the Union.
5. To represent the Union in Arab and international conferences and forums to which the Union is invited.
6. To distribute the work tasks among the members of the Council in order to supervise the works of the Union.

Article 14

Attributions of the Union Vice President

The Vice President of the Union shall have the following attributions:

1. To act on behalf of the President of the Administration Council in case of absence;
2. To carry out the missions entrusted by the President between the two meetings of the Administration Council.
3. To manage the affairs of the Union in the event of a vacancy in the office of the President of the Union.

Article 15

Attributions of the Union Secretary General

The Secretary General shall have the following attributions:

1. To manage the works of the Union, to lead and represent its affairs in all matters within its work and competence;
2. To prepare the meetings of the Administration Council and the General Assembly in coordination with the President of the Administration Council;
3. To invite the Administration Council to periodic and extraordinary meetings, and to set the date and place of its agenda, under the supervision of the President of the Administration Council;
4. To elaborate the draft action plan of the Union and its provisional balance sheet, and to present it to the Administration Council and to the General Assembly of the Union;
5. To receive applications for admission of new members to the Union and to submit them to the Administration Council and the General Assembly of the Union;
6. To sign cheques and orders of the Union, in addition to the signature of the financial officer of the Union;
7. To implement a previously approved Union action plan;
8. To prepare a report on the activities of the Union and present it to the Administration Council and the General Assembly of the Union;
9. To prepare the draft agenda for the meeting of the Union General Assembly, to fix its place and time and to submit it to the Administration Council;
10. To implement the decisions of the Administration Council of the Union and to submit periodical reports to it;
11. To create a website for the Union with all necessary data and information.

Article 16

Union Financial Officer

1. The Administration Council of the Union shall appoint a Financial Officer of the Union on the proposal of the Secretary General;
2. The Financial Officer shall have the following attributions:
 - a) To sign the financial documents of the Union, in addition to the signature of the Secretary General,
 - b) To prepare the draft budget for the Union Plan program,
 - c) To prepare the final budget for the implementation of the Union Program,
 - d) To estimate the financial statements and expenditures of the Union for the past fiscal year,
 - e) To supervise the collection of Union revenues and expenditures through official receipts and a report prepared by a certified auditor.

Article 17

Union Resources

1. The resources of the Union include membership fees, grants and donations from members accepted by the Council.
2. The value of the membership fees shall be fixed by the General Assembly and may be adjusted by the Administration Council, subject to approval by the General Assembly at its next meeting.
3. The fiscal year shall correspond to the calendar year.
4. The Secretary General shall submit, in the first quarter of the coming year, the financial situation and the budget to the Administration Council for adoption by the General Assembly.
5. The Secretary General shall be responsible for the management of the assets of the Union in accordance with the directives of the Administration Council.

6. The financial records in hard copy shall be kept for a period of five years, and an electronic copy shall be kept permanently.
7. The Administration Council shall approve, at the Annual General Meeting, the appointment of an external auditor to audit the accounts, the financial report, the general budget and the final accounts. The auditor shall be invited to attend the meeting on the financial report to answer questionnaires.
8. The Council shall present the draft annual budget prepared by the General Secretariat of the Union for discussion, approval and adoption at the Annual General Assembly.

Article 18

The vote

1. Decisions are taken in the meetings of the General Assembly and the Administration Council of the Union by the ordinary majority of those present.
2. The Vote shall be by show of hands, except for elections which shall be by secret ballot, as well as the decision to dissolve the Union or to withdraw confidence.
3. The approval of two thirds of the members is required in the decision to dissolve the Union or to withdraw the confidence of the President of the Administration Council of the Union or of one of its members.

Article 19

Union Relations

1. The Union of Arab Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions shall cooperate with Arab, foreign and international institutions which have the same common objectives, or whose missions and works are related to its objectives.
2. The Union may exchange representation in meetings with regional and international parties.

Article 20

Union Headquarters

1. The host State undertakes to provide a headquarters for the Union, approved by the General Assembly, where all conditions will be available to direct the works of the Union and to achieve its objectives, including:
 - To equip the headquarters of the Union with the necessary furniture, and to provide it with office equipment such as means of communication, transportation, computers and photocopying;
 - To pay the wages of the Secretary General, the Financial Officer and the secretariat, which are essential for the functioning of the Union;
 - To provide the offices of the Union with essential services such as water, electricity, telephone and the Internet, and to take charge of the costs of consumption;
 - To manage the input and output of publications related to the work of the Union;
 - To manage the financial transfers to the Union account in foreign currencies (US Dollar);

2. The President of the Administration Council shall sign a headquarters agreement with the government representative of the host State.
3. The headquarters of the Union and its activities such as meetings, conferences, seminars and training sessions shall enjoy diplomatic immunity.

Article 21

Approval and Amendment of the Regulation

These Rules shall come into force from the date of their approval by the General Assembly of the Union's founding members, and any amendment to this Regulation shall be approved by the two-thirds majority of the General Assembly.

Article 22

General Provisions

The President of the Administration Council shall be elected, in the first session, among the Arab Maghreb States, and the Vice-President shall be elected among the Middle Eastern States. Conversely, in the second session, the President shall be elected among the Middle Eastern States and the Vice-President shall be elected among the Arab Maghreb States, so as to ensure the permanence of the principle of alternation.

Pr. Dr. Sidi Mohamed
BOUCHENAK KHELLADI,
Union President

M. Mohamed El Amine
DJAFRI
Union Secretary General