

Law No. 8 of 1998 on Private Associations and Foundations 8 / 1998

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We, Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar,
Having perused the [Amended Provisional Constitution](#), in particular [Articles 23, 34 and 51](#) thereof;
[Law No. 2 of 1974](#) establishing associations, as amended by Decree-Law No. 17 of 1989;
[Law No. 9 of 1993](#) organising the Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs, and assigning the competencies thereof;
[Decree-Law No. 24 of 1995](#) abolishing the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Housing and re-distributing its competencies;
The proposal of the Minister of Endowments and Islamic Affairs;
The draft law submitted by the Council of Ministers; and
After consulting the opinion of the *Shura* Council;
Hereby promulgate the following Law:

[Article 1 \(Amended By Law 3/2001\)](#)

expressions shall have the meanings assigned to them, unless the context otherwise requires:

“Ministry” means the Ministry of Civil Service Affairs and Housing;

“Minister” means the Minister of Civil Service Affairs and Housing;

“Association ” means a group of several natural or juristic persons who share in common a humanitarian, social, cultural, scientific, religious or charitable activity, whose purposes shall not be to achieve a material profit or engage in political matters;

“Private Foundation” means any special facility created by one or more natural or juristic persons for one or more charitable purposes, or public or private benefit for an unlimited period. It shall not include in its purposes the achievement of profit or engaging in political matters.

Part 1

Private Associations

Chapter One

Establishment and Objectives of an Association

Article 2

To establish an association, the following conditions shall be met:

1. The number of founders shall be no fewer than twenty (20) people;
2. A founding member shall be of Qatari nationality;
3. A founding member shall not be under the age of eighteen (18) years;
4. A founding member shall have not received a final sentence in respect of a crime involving moral turpitude or dishonesty, unless such person has been rehabilitated;

Article 3

Founders shall meet as a constituent committee body to prepare the Memorandum of Association and Articles of Association, and shall be jointly liable for what such expenses as its establishment entails.

Article 4

An Association's Memorandum of Association shall particularly include the following:

1. The date and place of its issue;
2. The names, nationality, place of residence and age of each founding member;
3. The name of the Association, the location of its headquarters and its objectives.

Article 5

Each Association shall have an Articles of Association that includes, in particular, the following:

1. The name of the Association, its area of operation and the location of its headquarters;
2. The purpose of the Association and its business rules;
3. Conditions of membership, the duties and rights of the members and the manner in which membership is withdrawn or voided, and the manner in which a member is to be dismissed;
4. The framework of operation of the Board of Directors', duration, terms of reference, the number of its members, and the manner and date of their election;

5. Terms of reference of the General Assembly, procedures for convening meetings, dates of meetings and the requisite quorum for the validity of a meeting, voting and decision-making processes;
6. The financial disposition of the Association at the beginning and end of the Association's financial year, its financial resources, and how these resources are used and disposed of;
7. Methods of financial control;
8. The rules relating to the organisation of accounts, budget-setting, final accounts and the signing off of accounts;
9. The manner in which amendments may be made to the Articles of Association of the Association or its established branches, or amendments regarding its union or integration with other organisations;
10. The rules for the dissolution of the Association and the party to whom the Association's funds devolve. The Articles of Association may not make provision that the dissolved Association's funds will be devolved to any other entity than private Associations or Foundations that operate in one or more areas of the dissolved Association.

Article 6

The founders of an Association shall submit an application to the Ministry for registration and declaration, accompanied by the following documents:

1. Three copies of the Association's Memorandum of Association or Instrument of Incorporation and Articles of Association, after this has been endorsed and signed by the founders;
2. Minutes of the meeting of the founders establishing the Association stating the names of the members of the Interim Committee who will undertake the management of the Association in accordance with the provisions of Article [11](#) of this Law.

Article 7

The Ministry may, within thirty (30) days from the date of submission of the application for registration and advertisement, and if so required by the public interest, reject this application on the grounds of a reasoned decision, or request such amendments to the Association's Articles of Association as the Ministry deems necessary. The lapse of this period without a reply being received from the Ministry shall be deemed an implicit rejection of an application.

The founders may, within thirty (30) days from the date of notification of the decision of rejection or amendment, or from the date of lapse of the period prescribed in the previous paragraph, appeal to the Minister, who will submit such appeal to the Council of Ministers, within the next thirty (30) days. The decision issued by the Council of Ministers on the appeal shall be deemed final and shall not subject to any appeal

Article 8

The Ministry's approval of an application for registration and declaration shall be by means of a decision of the Minister and approval of the Council of Ministers. The registration details of an Association shall be recorded in a special register in the Ministry, stating the Association's particulars such as its name, the location of its headquarters, objectives, the duration of its fiscal year, the names of the members of the Interim Committee, the number of board members and its legal representative.

The Ministry shall take responsibility for advertising the registered Association by publishing its Memorandum of Association and Articles of Association in the *Official Gazette*, and for the issuance of a certificate of registration signed by the Minister.

Any amendment to the Articles of Association of the Association shall be registered and advertised in accordance with the provisions of this Law.

Article 9

The Association acquires legal identity once its registration and declaration stipulated in this Law are complete.

Article 10

The Ministry shall maintain a file for each Association including a copy of its Memorandum of Association, Articles of Association, certificate of registration and the decisions issued in this regard.

Chapter Two

Management of an Association

Article 11

An association shall be managed by a board of directors consisting of no fewer than five (5) members, elected by the association's general assembly from among its members for a period of three (3) years. Such members may be re-elected for more than once.

In exceptional circumstances, founders may select a number of members to comprise a temporary committee to manage the association until the election of the first board of directors.

Article 12

The board of directors shall elect from among its members a chairperson, vice-chairperson, secretary and treasurer. The chairperson of the board of directors may sign any documents on behalf of the Association and shall represent the Association before courts and in its relationships with third parties.

The vice-chairperson shall deputise for the chairperson in his absence. Where the position of a board member becomes vacant for any reason, such vacancy shall be filled by the candidate who obtains the greatest number of votes among the candidates in the general assembly meeting at which the election of the board has taken place. The new member shall complete the term of office of his predecessor.

Article 13

The general assembly shall consist of all members who have fulfilled their obligations to the Association. The general assembly shall convene annually at an ordinary meeting on the invitation of the board of directors.

In the event of the failure of the board of directors to call for a general assembly meeting, the Ministry may call for this meeting by itself.

The general assembly shall hold its meetings at the headquarters of the Association, although such meetings may be held in an alternative venue following the approval of the Ministry.

The Articles of Association of the association shall specify the procedures for convening meetings, the requisite quorum for the validity of a meeting and voting processes.

Article 14

The general assembly at its regular meeting shall consider the following matters:

1. The annual report of the board of directors;
2. Ratification of the final accounts for the end of the fiscal year;
3. Adoption of the estimated draft budget for the new fiscal year;
4. The auditor's report;
5. Adoption of the appointment of an auditor and determination of his remuneration;
6. Election of members of the board of directors by secret ballot;
7. Indemnifying the previous board of directors;
8. Other issues included in the agenda.

Article 15

The board of directors shall invite the general assembly to an extraordinary meeting if it deems such meeting appropriate, and shall also convene an extraordinary meeting if this is requested by one third of the members entitled to attend the general assembly, provided that the purpose of the meeting is indicated in the invitation to such meeting.

Article 16

The general assembly, at its extraordinary meeting, shall consider the following matters:

1. The important and urgent issues the board of directors or members deemed worthy of presenting;
2. Make a decision on the resignation of the chairperson of the board of directors, or the resignations submitted by members of the board of directors, or some or all of them due to matters affecting the Association or public interest;
3. Cancelling the membership of the chairperson or of members of the board of directors, or all or some of them;
4. Amendment of the Articles of Association of the Association;
5. Dissolution of the Association, or its union or integration with another organisation.

Article 17

A general assembly may not, at any ordinary or extraordinary meeting, consider issues not included on the agenda.

An extraordinary meeting may not be held to consider an issue on which a decision has already been given, unless one (1) year shall have elapsed from the date of issuance of such decision.

Chapter Three

Dissolution of Association

Article 18

An Association may be dissolved by a decision of the general assembly at an extraordinary meeting attended by two thirds of the members. The decision on the dissolution shall be taken in accordance with the majority of the members present.

Article 19

The Minister's decision may dissolve an Association in any of the following cases:

1. In the event that membership numbers fall below twenty (20);
2. In the event of repetition of its prejudice to the provisions of this Law or its Articles of Association;
3. In the event of a violation of the provisions of this Law.

The Minister may, instead of dissolving an Association, appoint a temporary board of directors for a period not exceeding six months, if this action best serves the public interest and achieves the purposes of the Association.

Regarding the decision issued by the Minister to dissolve an Association, or the temporary appointment of a board of directors, the rules of appeal provided for in Article 7 of this Law shall apply.

Article 20

On the dissolution of Association, its funds and documents shall be disposed of in accordance with the provisions of its Articles of Association.

Chapter Four

Finance and Control of Association

Article 21

The funds of an Association, including subscriptions and movable and immovable property, shall belong to that Association. Members, or a withdrawing member, or a member whose membership is cancelled shall not be entitled to such funds.

Article 22

An Association shall abide by the rules, regulations and accounting forms issued by the Ministry.

Article 23

An Association shall keep at its headquarters all records, books and documents required by and in accordance with the rules, regulations and principles of accounting.

Article 24

An Association shall deposit its funds in its name with one or more local banks selected by the board of directors. Withdrawals may not be made from these funds without the signature of the chairperson, or his deputy and treasurer.

Article 25

An Association may, following the approval of the Ministry, and consistent with its purposes, invest the surplus of its funds to help finance its activities.

Article 26

The board of directors of an Association shall submit to the general assembly the final accounts for the end of the financial year, and shall also submit the estimated draft budget for the following financial year. The board of directors of an Association shall submit to the Ministry a copy of each.

The Ministry may cross-check these documents and may delegate its representatives to the General Assembly meetings.

Article 27

An Association may not fundraise to achieve its objectives, except with the permission of the Minister, which shall be made in a manner that is consistent with the laws and regulations in force.

Article 28

On the proposal of the Minister, the Council of Ministers may grant a subsidy or a loan to an Association and may also exempt an Association from customs duties or any taxes or fees in order to help it achieve its goals.

Article 29

An association may not join or participate in or become annexed to any association, organisation or club based outside the State. It may also not send or receive any loans, gifts, donations, bequests, endowments or other funds to or from a person, association, body or club based outside the State unless the written approval of the Ministry has first been obtained.

Article 30

The accounts and activities of an Association shall be subject to the supervision and control of the Ministry in order to verify their compliance with the law, the Articles of Association and its prescribed accounting principles.

Article 31

The Minister may, by means of a decision, approve the opening a bank account for a registered Association outside the State if it is based on the same principles stipulated in this Law. The Minister's decision in this regard shall explain the manner in which the account should be opened and the methods used to follow up this activity.

Part 2

Private Foundations

Chapter One

Article 32

Unless otherwise specially provided for in this Part, the provisions regulating Associations shall apply to private Foundations, bearing in mind that the document establishing a Foundation shall substitute for a Memorandum of Association in these provisions.

Article 33

A Private Foundation shall be founded with a founding document of the founder or a Memorandum of Association between founders, and shall have a Articles of Association. The founder or founders shall be jointly and severally liable for the expenses entailed in founding a Private Foundation. A Private Foundation's capital shall be wholly-owned by the founder or founders.

[Chapter Two](#)

[Finance, Management and Control of Foundation](#)

Article 34

A Foundation's funds dedicated to its purposes and the proceeds of properties endowed thereto shall be deemed to be the property of the Foundation. Its founder or founders shall not be entitled to recover such property.

Article 35

In the exercise of its activity, a Private Foundation shall be dependent on its own funding and may not be given government subsidies or be permitted to fundraise. However it may accept gifts and bequests.

Article 36

A Private Foundation's Articles of Association shall detail the management structure of the Foundation and the manner in which it is to be managed

Article 37

The Ministry shall supervise and control the work of private Foundations within the scope specified in the executive bylaws. The Ministry may dismiss managers who prove negligent or who use a Foundation's funds in a manner not consistent with the purpose or intent of its founder or founders. The Ministry may also appoint replacements, peruse the books and records and documents of a Foundation that relate to its work and may amend its Articles of Association. A Foundation shall provide any information, documents or data requested by the Ministry.

[Part 3](#)

[Sanctions](#)

Article 38

Without prejudice to any more severe penalty provided by any other legislation, any person committing any of the offences enumerated in this Article shall be punished by imprisonment for a term of not less than one month and not exceeding six months and by a fine of not less than One Thousand (1,000) Riyals and not exceeding Ten Thousand (10,000) Riyals, or either of them:

1. Writing or presenting in writing any document or a record that he is obliged to present by law that he knows to contain false statements;
2. Embarking on an activity for a private association or foundation before registration of such Association or Foundation has taken place in accordance with the provisions of this Law;
3. Initiating an activity in contravention of the purpose for which an Association or Foundation was created, or spending monies of an Association or Foundation in a manner that does not achieve its purpose, or uses its funds for the purpose of financial speculation;
4. Knowingly continuing in bad faith the activity of a private association or foundation despite a decision having been made to dissolve it;
5. Collecting donations for a private association or foundation in contravention of the provisions of this Law. Such donations may be confiscated by a decision of the Minister and be allocated to charitable purposes.

Article 39

Any person committing any other offence in contravention to the provisions of this Law or its executive bylaws shall be punished by a fine of not less than Five Hundred (500) Riyals and not more than One Thousand (1000) Riyals.

Part 4

Final Provisions

Article 40

Employees of the Ministry, who are delegated by a resolution of the Minister, shall have the capacity of judicial enforcement officers to investigate in the event of violation against the provisions of this Law and the decisions implementing thereof. In so doing, they may enter the headquarters of an association or foundation and its annexes; inspect thereof and peruse documents and records.

Article 41

Within six months from the date on which this Law comes into effect, all private associations and foundations which are in existence at the time when this Law comes into effect shall adjust their status pursuant to its provisions. This deadline may be extended once for a similar period by a decision of the Minister.

Article 42

The Minister shall issue the necessary bylaws and decisions to implement the provisions of this Law, design a template for a memorandum or instrument of incorporation, together with the Articles of Association for private Associations and Foundations.

Article 43

[Law No. 2 of 1974](#), referred to above, and any provision that violates this Law shall be rescinded.

Article 44

All competent authorities, each within its own jurisdiction, shall enforce this Law which shall come into force thirty days after its publication in the *Official Gazette*.

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