

**Office of His Highness Sheikh
Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan
President of the United Arab Emirates**

**Federal Law No. (22) of 2000
regarding the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry**

After reviewing the Constitution;

The Federal Law No. (1) of 1972 with respect to the powers of ministries and the authorities of ministers and the amending laws thereto;

The Federal Law No. (8) of 1973 with respect to civil service in the federal government and the amending laws thereto;

The Federal Law No. (5) of 1976 with respect to the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry;

The Civil Proceedings Law issued as part of the Federal Law No. (5) of 1985 and the amending laws thereto;

The Federal Law No. (11) of 1992 with respect to civil procedures;

The Pensions and Social Security Law issued as part of the Federal Law No. (7) of 1999;

And based on the proposal of the Minister of Economy and Commerce, the approval of the Cabinet and Federal National Council and the endorsement of the Supreme Council of the Federation;

I, Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates, have issued the following law:

Article (1)

Definitions

In implementing the provisions of this law, the following words shall have the meanings set beside each unless otherwise stated:

State: State of United Arab Emirates.

Ministry: Ministry of Economy and Commerce.

Minister: Minister of Economy and Commerce.

Competent Authority: Federal and Local Competent Authority.

Chambers: UAE Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

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

General Assembly: General Assembly of the Federation of Chambers.

Board: Board of Directors of the Federation of Chambers.

Chairman: Chairman of the Board and Chairman of The Federation of Chambers.

Executive Bureau: Executive Bureau of the Board.

Secretariat General: Secretariat General of the Federation of Chambers.

Part I

Establishment, objectives and authorities of the Federation of Chambers

Chapter I

Establishment of the Federation of Chambers

Article (2)

A federation of the UAE chambers of commerce and industry shall be established under the name of the “Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry” and shall consist of the chambers of commerce and industry in the UAE.

Article (3)

The Federation of Chambers shall have a legal entity and the competence to own and deal conclusively with movable and immovable property and accept donations and wills that are not inconsistent with its objectives.

Article (4)

The Federation of Chambers shall be regarded as a general non-profit establishment. Its head office shall be in Abu Dhabi City but the Federation of Chambers may have a branch or more in the UAE.

Chapter II

The objectives of the Federation of Chambers

Article (5)

The Federation of Chambers aims at achieving the following objectives:

1. Co-ordinating the chambers' works and combining their efforts to ensure the achievement of the objectives, for which they have been established.
2. Doing its utmost to overcome the obstacles and solve the problems faced by the chambers in exercising their activities with a view to achieving their purposes and objectives.
3. Supporting co-operation and co-ordination with the federal and local authorities as well as the regional and international organizations and agencies concerned with economic affairs for the achievement of the public welfare.
4. Looking after commercial and industrial affairs and other related disciplines of economic activity and taking part in developing them.
5. Ensuring the existence of harmony and co-operation among traders, industrialists and professional societies in the different economic sectors in the event of submissions from the chambers.
6. Supporting co-operation between traders, industrialists and the government and ensuring that the traders' interests are reconciled with those of producers and consumers for the achievement of public welfare.

Chapter III

The powers of the Federation of Chambers

Article (6)

The Federation of Chambers shall exercise all the powers necessary for achieving the objectives for which it has been established and shall do the following in particular:

1. Organizing local, regional and international conferences and workshops of economic and commercial nature or alternatively taking part in such conferences and workshops and following up the implementation of the recommendations issued in them.
2. Co-operating with the competent authorities and chambers in the field of promoting and developing national trade and industry and increasing their investments and exports.
3. Gathering and co-ordinating the data, information and statistics of economic nature in co-operation with the competent authorities.
4. Providing the authorities with the data, statistics, researches and studies related to the economic development in the UAE based on their request.
5. Commenting on the draft laws and regulations related to economic affairs, which are referred to it by the competent government authorities.
6. Studying the problems and difficulties related to commercial and industrial affairs and showing the results of the study to the competent government institutions.
7. Taking part in the local, regional and international committees formed to study the matters related to the commercial and industrial affairs inside and outside the UAE.
8. Representing the chambers inside the UAE and taking part in the economic discussions held by the federal authorities with the other countries and the international organizations and agencies. Based on the request of the local authorities, the Federation of Chambers may take part in their economic discussions.

9. Representing the chambers in the local, regional and international conferences, agencies, organizations and exhibitions of economic nature.
10. Concluding co-operation agreements with the economic chambers, federations and organizations outside the UAE.
11. Issuing periodicals and leaflets covering researches, studies and statistics of economic nature.
12. Issuing combined commercial and industrial directories at UAE level, finding information spaces on the Internet and giving permission to people to publish such directories after reaching agreements to this effect with the concerned chambers.
13. Organising exhibitions and markets in the UAE and abroad within the limits of laws and regulations in force after reaching agreements with the concerned authorities.
14. Settling commercial and industrial disputes through arbitration if the parties to a dispute agreed on referring it to the federation. If the dispute involves people who are members in more than one chamber or between a member in any of them and a foreigner or a foreign party the federation shall settle such dispute in accordance with the provisions of Federal Law No. (11) of 1992 relating to civil proceedings.
15. Inviting specialists and experts from government and other departments so as to seek their opinions in the issues which fall under the authorities of the federation of chambers.
16. Forming committees affiliated to the federation of chambers for achieving the federation's objectives. The executive regulations shall determine the types of such committees and their authorities and rules of work.

Part II
The Federation of Chambers' Bodies and their Authorities

Article (7)

The federation of chambers shall consist of:

- 1- General assembly.
- 2- Board.
- 3- Executive bureau of the board.
- 4- General Secretariat.

Chapter I

General Assembly

Article (8)

The general assembly shall consist of all UAE nationals who are members in the chambers' boards and whose names have been sent to the federation of chambers.

Article (9)

The general assembly shall convene once a year at least based on the request of the chairman and the meeting shall be held at the premises of the federation of chambers or its branches or the premises of any of the chambers. The general assembly may be invited to convene based on the request of the boards of at least chambers.

The minister or the board may invite the general assembly to hold an extraordinary meeting.

Article (10)

The invitation for convening the general assembly shall be made during the assembly's ordinary meeting sessions and by at least one month before the specified day of convening the general assembly.

If the general assembly has been invited for an extraordinary meeting, the invitation shall be made by at least 10 days before the specified day of convening the general assembly.

Article (11)

The general assembly's agenda shall be distributed on members by at least 15 days before the date of the meeting. If the general assembly has been invited to an extraordinary meeting, the agenda shall be enclosed with the invitation letter.

Article (12)

The meeting sessions of the general assembly shall be considered valid if they have been attended by the absolute majority of members. In the event of incomplete quorum, the meeting shall be postponed to another session, which shall be held within the next 21 days. The second meeting shall be valid no matter how many members attend the meeting.

Article (13)

The decisions of the general assembly shall be issued by the absolute majority of the votes of the attending members and the federation of chambers' by-laws shall determine the method of voting.

Representatives from the concerned ministries may attend the general assembly meeting sessions as observers and a decision determining the names of such representatives shall be issued by the minister in co-ordination with these ministries.

Article (14)

The chairman shall chair the general assembly meeting and in the event of his absence, the vice-chairman shall replace him.

Article (15)

In its ordinary meeting, the general assembly shall discuss the topics on agenda and particularly the endorsement of the annual budget and closing account. The general assembly may discuss any other topics which are not listed on the said agenda based on a request signed by the majority of the members of two chamber boards.

Chapter II

Board

Article (16)

The board shall consist of the chairmen of chamber boards ex officio their positions and a member from each chamber who shall be selected by its board.

The secretary general shall take the position of administrator for the board meetings. However, he shall not have a counted vote.

A representative from the ministry may attend the board's meeting sessions as an observer. However, he shall not have a counted vote in the board's deliberations.

Article 17

In the first meeting session, the board shall select a chairman and a vice-chairman of the board from among the chambers' board chairmen for a three-year term through a secret vote.

The vice-chairman shall replace the chairman in his absence and the event of the absence of both of them, the board shall select someone from among its members to act as chairman.

In the event the position of the chairman or that of the vice-chairman becomes vacant, the board shall select someone to replace them in the board's next meeting for completing the term until its end in accordance with the provision of this article.

Article (18)

The board chairman is the chairman of the federation of chambers and he shall represent the federation of chambers before other parties and courts. He shall also abide by the federation of chambers' decisions and recommendations and shall put them into effect.

Article (19)

The board shall convene at the invitation of its chairman every three months at least or at any time based on the request of at least two chambers.

Article (20)

The board's meeting sessions shall be considered valid by the attendance of the majority of members. Besides, decisions shall be issued by the absolute majority of the votes of attending members. In the event of a tie, the session's chairman shall have the casting vote.

In case of emergency, matters may be passed to the board. However, the decisions shall be issued unanimously.

Article (21)

The board shall work out the regulations necessary for implementing the provisions of this law, which shall specifically deal with the following:

1. The rules related to organising the holding of the meetings of the general assembly and the board.
2. The rules of elections and voting.
3. The rules related to forming the permanent and interim committees.
4. The rules related to the arbitration of disputes stipulated in Article (6) of this law.
5. The rules related to managing the funds of the federation of chambers.
6. The authorities and responsibilities of the federation of chambers' staff and the rules of appointing them, terminating their services and their salaries.
7. The rules related to keeping the books of the federation of chambers.

8. The authorities of transfer from the allocations of the budget of the federation of chambers or exceeding a specific allocation within the limits of the total endorsed budget.
9. The rules related to fixing and collecting the contributions of chambers to the budget of the federation of chambers.
10. The rules of depositing the funds of the federation of chambers in banks and the person authorised to draw from them.

Article (22)

The board shall be the authority in charge of the affairs of the federation of chambers and running its affairs within the limits of the general policy of the federation and the objectives it has been established for and in line with the provisions of this law and its executive regulations as well as the decisions issued by the general assembly.

The board shall be specifically in charge of the following:

- 1- Implementing the decisions and recommendations of the general assembly.
- 2- Supervising the administrative and financial works and other activities of the federation of chambers.
- 3- Studying the draft annual budget and closing account of the federation of chambers before submitting them to the general assembly.
- 4- The matters referred to the board by the general assembly or the minister.

Chapter III

Executive Bureau

Article (23)

The board shall form an executive bureau which shall consist of the board chairman, his vice-chairman and three members who shall be selected from among the board's members. Besides, the secretary

general of the federation of chambers shall be administrator for the executive bureau.

The executive bureau shall be responsible for studying the urgent matters related to the federation of chambers. It shall also take the necessary decisions, provided that they shall be submitted to the next meeting of the board for endorsement.

The board may assign some of its authorities to the executive bureau.

Chapter IV

General Secretariat

Article (24)

The federation of chambers shall have a general secretariat which shall consist of a secretary general, an assistant secretary general and a sufficient number of officers and employees. The secretary general and the assistant secretary general shall be appointed by a decision issued by the board. The appointment of the officers and employees of the general secretariat shall be by a decision issued by the board chairman based on the recommendation of the secretary general.

The general secretariat shall be responsible for implementing all the decisions of the board and running the administrative and financial affairs of the federation of chambers.

Part III

Financial Affairs of the Federation of Chambers

Article 25

The federation of chambers shall have an annual budget and the fiscal year of the federation of chambers shall start on January 1 of every year and shall end on December 31 of the same year. The first fiscal year shall start from the date of putting this law into effect and shall end on December 31 of the following year.

The general secretariat shall have to prepare the draft budget and shall submit it to the council three months before the beginning of the new

fiscal year. The general secretariat shall also have to prepare the closing account of the federation within the next 90 days from the end of the fiscal year and shall submit it to the board along with the auditor's report.

Article (26)

The board shall appoint an auditor who shall be registered in the register of auditors working for the ministry. The auditor shall be in charge of auditing the accounts of the fiscal year in which he was appointed for auditing its accounts and submitting a report about the auditing result along with his remarks to the board.

Article (27)

The federation's resources shall consist of:

1. The funds allocated by the government for the federation of chambers in the general budget.
2. The contributions of the chambers.
3. Revenues of investing the resources and activities of the federation of chambers.
4. The donations which have been accepted by the board.

Article (28)

The federation's funds shall be considered public funds and the rules related to public funds shall apply.

Article (29)

Each chamber shall contribute an amount of no less than Dhs50,000 per annum to the budget of the federation of chambers.

Article 30

The funds of the federation of chambers shall not be spent except for the purposes for which the federation has been established. The board

shall work out a system for investing the surplus funds within the framework of the provisions of this law.

(Article 31)

The secretary general shall be in charge of implementing the budget and organising the accounts of the federation of chambers under the supervision of the board.

(Article 32)

The Federal Law No. (5) for the year 1976 said above shall be cancelled, and every rules violates or not consistent with the same shall be cancelled.

(Article 33)

This law shall be published in the official gazette from the date of its publication.