

Law No. (12) of 2017
Regulating
Civil Society Organisations in the Emirate of Dubai¹

We, Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Ruler of Dubai,

After perusal of:

Federal Law No. (2) of 2008 Concerning Public-benefit Civil Society Associations and Establishments;

Federal Law by Decree No. (7) of 2008 Concerning the General Authority of Youth and Sports Welfare, and the Entities Operating in the Fields of Youth Welfare and Sports;

Law No. (8) of 1997 Regulating the Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry and its amendments;

Law No. (3) of 2003 Establishing the Executive Council of the Emirate of Dubai;

Law No. (2) of 2011 Concerning the Islamic Affairs and Charitable Activities Department;

Law No. (8) of 2015 Concerning the Community Development Authority in Dubai;

Law No. (32) of 2015 Concerning the Official Gazette of the Government of Dubai;

Law No. (1) of 2016 Concerning the Financial Regulations of the Government of Dubai;

Law No. (8) of 2016 Regulating the Grant of Law Enforcement Capacity in the Government of Dubai;

Decree No. (9) of 2015 Regulating the Raising of Donations in the Emirate of Dubai;

Executive Council Resolution No. (26) of 2013 Concerning Charitable Associations, Bounteous Quran Memorisation Centres, and Islamic Foundations in the Emirate of Dubai; and

Local Order No. (96) of 1995 Concerning the Licensing and Regulation of Social Clubs in the Emirate of Dubai and its amendments,

Do hereby issue this Law.

Chapter One Preliminary Provisions

Title of the Law Article (1)

This Law will be cited as "Law No. (12) of 2017 Regulating Civil Society Organisations in the Emirate of Dubai".

Definitions Article (2)

The following words and expressions, wherever mentioned in this Law, will have the meaning indicated opposite each of them unless the context implies otherwise:

UAE:	The United Arab Emirates.
Emirate:	The Emirate of Dubai.
Ruler:	His Highness the Ruler of Dubai.
CDA:	The Community Development Authority in Dubai.
Director General:	The director general of the CDA.
Concerned Entity:	Any federal or local government entity having the jurisdiction, under the legislation in force in the UAE, to regulate any of the activities conducted by Civil Society Organisations.
Civil Society Association:	A non-profit entity comprising a group of natural and/ or legal persons organised for an indefinite term, and conducting any of the activities that are stated in Article (5) of this Law.
Civil Society Establishment:	A non-profit entity established by one or more founders based on allocating property to any of the activities that are stated in Article (5) of this Law.
Civil Society Organisation:	A Civil Society Association or a Civil Society Establishment.
Licence:	A document issued by the CDA to a Civil Society Organisation that meets the conditions and requirements for conducting authorised activities in accordance with the provisions of this Law.
Charter:	The charter of a Civil Society Organisation.

General Assembly:	The general assembly of a Civil Society Association.
Board of Directors:	The board of directors of a Civil Society Association.
Board of Trustees:	The board of trustees of a Civil Society Establishment.
Board:	A Board of Directors or a Board of Trustees.

Scope of Application **Article (3)**

- a. The provisions of this Law will apply to Civil Society Organisations existing in the Emirate by the effective date of this Law, and those established thereafter.
- b. This Law will not apply to the following entities:
 1. associations and establishments to which the above-mentioned Federal Law No. (2) of 2008 applies;
 2. entities which operate in the fields of youth welfare and sports and to which the above-mentioned Federal Law by Decree No. (7) of 2008 applies;
 3. private associations and establishments, and public-benefit establishments, that are established by legislation issued by the Ruler;
 4. Charitable Associations, Bounteous Quran Memorisation Centres, and Islamic Foundations licensed in the Emirate pursuant to the provisions of the above-mentioned Executive Council Resolution No. (26) of 2013; and
 5. business councils licensed by the Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry pursuant to the above-mentioned Law No. (8) of 1997.

Objectives of the Law **Article (4)**

This Law will have the following objectives:

1. to achieve social development in the Emirate through promoting the role of civil society;
2. to regulate the licensing of Civil Society Organisations and vest them with legal personality;
3. to enable Civil Society Organisations to provide their services in all areas of interest to the community; and
4. to encourage individuals and entities to engage in volunteer work and foster community engagement.

Activities of Civil Society Organisations

Article (5)

The activities that a Civil Society Organisation is authorised to conduct in the Emirate will be in the social, healthcare, instructional, cultural, scientific, educational, occupational, creative, artistic, and humanitarian fields, and in any other fields that aim to achieve public benefit as determined pursuant to a resolution issued by the Director General.

Functions of the CDA

Article (6)

For the purpose of achieving the objectives of this Law, the CDA will have the exclusive duties and powers to:

1. license Civil Society Organisations and their branches in the Emirate;
2. investigate the complaints filed with it against Civil Society Organisations, record the violations committed by Civil Society Organisations, and take the appropriate action in respect thereof;
3. propose the legislation regulating Civil Society Organisations in the Emirate; and
4. exercise any other duties or powers that are required for the achievement of the objectives of this Law.

Conducting Civil Society Activities

Article (7)

- a. A natural or legal person may neither establish or incorporate, in the Emirate, any entity to which this Law applies, regardless of its objective; nor open branches thereof; nor relocate it within the Emirate; nor conduct any of the activities mentioned in Article (5) of this Law through a Civil Society Organisation, without first obtaining a Licence and the required approvals and permits from the Concerned Entities.
- b. No public or private entity may allow any of its facilities to be used for conducting the activities of Civil Society Organisations by a natural or legal person who is not so licensed in accordance with the provisions of this Law.

Chapter Two

Civil Society Associations

Requirements for Incorporating Civil Society Associations

Article (8)

For a Civil Society Association to be incorporated, the following requirements must be met:

- a. The number of founders must not be less than ten (10), two (2) of whom are UAE nationals. As an exception to this rule, the Director General may increase or decrease the minimum number of UAE-national founders required for incorporation of the Civil Society Association.
- b. A founder member must:
 - 1. not be less than twenty-one (21) years of age at the time of submitting the incorporation application;
 - 2. have full legal capacity;
 - 3. be of good character and repute and not have been convicted of any felony or other crime affecting honour or trustworthiness, unless he has been rehabilitated;
 - 4. be a resident of the UAE, where he is a national of any of the Gulf Cooperation Council states;
 - 5. for non-UAE nationals, hold a valid UAE residence permit and have resided in the UAE for at least three (3) years;
- c. submit the Civil Society Association's Charter, which is consistent with the provisions of this Law and the resolutions issued in pursuance hereof. The Charter must include:
 - 1. the proposed name of the Civil Society Association, which must be indicative of the objectives for which the Civil Society Association is established, must be distinguishable from the names of other Civil Society Associations that conduct similar activities, and must be approved by the CDA;
 - 2. the proposed premises and geographic scope of work of the Civil Society Association;
 - 3. the objective for which the Civil Society Association is established, its activities, and the categories targeted by these activities;
 - 4. the names, nationalities, occupations, and places of residence in the UAE, of founder members;
 - 5. requirements and types of membership, procedures for acceptance and revocation of membership, and rights and duties of members;
 - 6. the rules and regulations governing the convention and functions of ordinary and extraordinary General Assemblies; the procedures for convoking General Assembly meetings and conditions for the validity of these meetings, and the methods of passing General Assembly decisions;
 - 7. the method of forming the Board of Directors and its functions;
 - 8. conditions for the forfeiture and cessation of membership;

9. rules of amending the Charter of the Civil Society Association; and procedures for establishing and closing down its branches and centres, and for its merger with other Civil Society Associations in the Emirate;
 10. the financial resources of the Civil Society Association and the methods of utilisation and allocation of these resources; the methods of controlling the expenditure of the Civil Society Association and the beginning and end dates of its Financial Year; the imprest system, if any, and the imprest amount maintained to meet contingent expenditure;
 11. the conditions for voluntary dissolution, and rules for liquidation, of the Civil Society Association; and
 12. any other information the CDA deems necessary.
- d. For a Civil Society Association to be licensed, it must not be a branch of an association licensed outside of the UAE.

Applicability of Requirements to Legal Persons Article (9)

The requirements stipulated in Article (8) hereof will apply to Civil Society Associations comprised of legal persons, to the extent applicable considering the legal status of these persons.

Pre-incorporation Representation of Civil Society Associations Article (10)

- a. The founders of a Civil Society Association will elect from among themselves an interim committee of at least three (3) members. The committee will select one or more of its members to represent it in finalising the licensing procedures stipulated in Article (11) hereof.
- b. The mandate of the interim committee referred to in paragraph (a) of this Article will expire upon the election of the Board of Directors in accordance with the provisions of Article (19) hereof.

Licensing Procedures Article (11)

- a. A Civil Society Association licensing application will be submitted to the CDA on the form prescribed by the CDA for this purpose, supported by the documents it requires.
- b. The CDA will consider the Civil Society Association incorporation application and attached documents. The CDA may require any documents, approvals, or authorisations by Concerned Entities as necessary for finalising the Civil Society's licensing procedures.

- c. The CDA will issue its decision on any Licence application within a period of thirty (30) days from the date of its submission. This period may be extended once for the same period. The application will be deemed rejected if no decision is issued within this period.

Initial Approval Article (12)

- a. The CDA will issue the applicant an initial approval of the Civil Society Association licensing. Upon obtaining this initial approval, the applicant may complete the steps required for finalising the licensing procedures.
- b. Prior to obtaining a Licence, a Civil Society Association that has been issued an initial approval may not conduct any activities, or amend the information provided to the CDA to obtain this approval.

Rejection of a Civil Society Association's Licence Application Article (13)

Where the requirements stipulated in this Law are not met, or for considerations of public interest, the CDA may reject a Civil Society Association's Licence application.

Requirements for Finalising Licensing Procedures Article (14)

- a. Upon obtaining the initial approval, a Civil Society Association must finalise all licensing procedures, including:
 - 1. providing a premises for the Civil Society Association in accordance with the conditions determined pursuant to a resolution of the Director General; and
 - 2. obtaining a permit to conduct activities from the Concerned Entity in accordance with the legislation in force.
- b. A Civil Society Association must satisfy the requirements for finalising licensing procedures no later than six (6) months from the date of being granted an initial approval.
- c. The Director General may extend the period stipulated in paragraph (b) of this Article once for the same period where there is a valid reason that prevents the relevant Civil Society Association from satisfying all licensing requirements.
- d. An initial approval will be deemed revoked if the relevant Civil Society Association fails to satisfy all licensing requirements within the prescribed period.

Licensing and Registration

Article (15)

The CDA will license a Civil Society Association upon satisfying all the requirements stipulated in this Law, and will register it in the relevant Civil Society Associations register maintained by it.

Legal Personality

Article (16)

A Civil Society Association will acquire legal personality once it is licensed and registered in the Civil Society Associations register, and its incorporation is announced in the Official Gazette of the Government of Dubai.

Licence Term

Article (17)

- a. The Licence of a Civil Society Association will be valid for a term of one (1) year, renewable for the same period. At the request of the Civil Society Association and subject to approval of the CDA and the Concerned Entity, the Licence may be valid for a term of more than one (1) year, up to three (3) years.
- b. A Civil Society Association must renew the Licence issued to it by the CDA no later than thirty (30) days from the date of its expiry, in accordance with the procedures determined pursuant to a resolution of the Director General.

General Assembly Formation

Article (18)

The General Assembly will be comprised of all members who satisfy membership requirements and have paid their Civil Society Association membership subscriptions prior to the General Assembly meeting.

Convocation of General Assemblies to Elect Boards of Directors

Article (19)

The interim committee referred to in Article (10) of this Law will convoke a General Assembly meeting, which will be held no later than six (6) months from the date of issuing the Licence, to elect the Board of Directors.

Establishing Branches of Civil Society Associations

Article (20)

A Civil Society Association may establish branches in the Emirate subject to the prior written approval of the CDA. The Charter of the Civil Society Association will determine

the procedures for establishing and closing down branches, will regulate their work, and will govern their relationships with the head office.

Amending the Charter Article (21)

No Civil Society Association may amend its Charter, substitute members of its Board of Directors, change its name, or relocate its premises, without first obtaining the relevant written approval of the CDA.

Administrative Bodies of Civil Society Associations Article (22)

A Civil Society Association may appoint administrative, specialised, and other staff to run its affairs in accordance with the relevant bylaws adopted by it and in line with the legislation in force in the Emirate.

Boards of Directors of Civil Society Associations Article (23)

- a. A Civil Society Association will have a Board of Directors comprising not less than five (5) members, at least two (2) of whom are UAE nationals. The Board of Directors will be responsible for administering the affairs of the Civil Society Association and providing the means required for conducting its activities and achieving its objectives.
- b. The Board of Directors will be elected by secret ballot. The Charter will determine the functions of the Board of Directors, the conditions that must be met by its members, the number of its members, the membership termination and revocation cases, the procedures for convoking its meetings, the requirements for validity of its meetings, and the method of electing its chairman.
- c. The term of the Board of Directors will be for a non-renewable period of two (2) years.
- d. A member of the Board of Directors must not be less than twenty-one (21) years of age.
- e. The Board of Directors will have a chairman who will represent the Civil Society Association before judicial authorities and third parties.
- f. Candidacy for the chairmanship and membership of the Board of Directors must first be approved by the CDA.

Membership of Boards of Directors

Article (24)

- a. A member of the Board of Directors of a Civil Society Association may not serve as a member of the Board of Directors of another Civil Society Association that conducts the same activity. The Director General may allow a person to serve as member on a maximum of two (2) Boards.
- b. A member of the Board of Directors of a Civil Society Association may not work for the same Civil Society Association for a salary or other remuneration.
- c. A member of the Board of Directors of a Civil Society Association may not be an employee of the CDA or any of the government entities that oversee the activities of the Civil Society Association.
- d. For considerations of public interest, the CDA may suspend any member of a Board of Directors, including the chairman of the Board of Directors.

Convocation of General Assembly Meetings

Article (25)

- a. A Civil Society Association must first obtain the approval of the CDA on convening a General Assembly meeting fourteen (14) days prior to the date of the meeting, failing which the meeting will be invalid.
- b. In addition to the meeting referred to in Article (19) of this Law, the Members of a Civil Society Association will be invited to General Assembly meetings at the times and in the cases stipulated in its Charter, and by means of a notice specifying the time, venue, and agenda of the meeting.
- c. A General Assembly meeting agenda and the reports to be discussed during the meeting must be sent to all members within the deadlines prescribed in the Charter. Where no deadlines are specified in the Charter, these documents must be sent no later than five (5) days prior to the date of the meeting.

Ordinary General Assembly Meetings

Article (26)

- a. In addition to the times and cases prescribed by the Charter for holding General Assembly meetings, a General Assembly must hold an ordinary meeting within three (3) months following the end of its Financial Year. This meeting will be dedicated to:
 - 1. ratifying the minutes of the previous meeting of the General Assembly;
 - 2. approving the Board of Directors' report on the work performed by it in the Financial Year then ended; and its programmes, activities, and work plan for the upcoming Financial Year;
 - 3. approving the draft budget for the upcoming Financial Year;

4. approving the balance sheet and final accounts for the Financial Year then ended;
 5. electing a new Board of Directors in the event of expiry of the term of the Board of Directors, or filling any Board of Directors' vacancies caused by any reason whatsoever;
 6. appointing an auditor, and determining his remuneration;
 7. considering voluntary dissolution and liquidation of the Civil Society Association; and
 8. any other matters specified by the General Assembly meeting agenda.
- b. An ordinary General Assembly may not discuss any matter that is not listed on its agenda.

Quorum of Ordinary General Assembly Meetings **Article (27)**

- a. An ordinary General Assembly meeting will be valid if attended by at least fifty-one percent (51%) of members. If that quorum is not present, the meeting will be postponed to a date no later than thirty (30) days from its date. The second meeting will be valid regardless of the number of attending members.
- b. Resolutions of the General Assembly will be passed by a fifty-one percent (51%) vote of attending members.
- c. A member of a General Assembly who has a personal interest in a matter referred to the General Assembly may not vote on the Board resolutions related to this matter.
- d. Attendance of meetings of the General Assembly and voting on its resolutions will be in person. Attendance and voting by proxy will not be valid.

Extraordinary General Assembly Meetings **Article (28)**

An extraordinary General Assembly meeting may be convoked upon the request of the CDA, or upon the request of the Board of Directors, or one third of the members, of the relevant Civil Society Association. Where the Board of Directors fails to convoke the General Assembly upon the request of the CDA or members, the CDA will convoke the General Assembly at the expense of the Civil Society Association.

Functions of Extraordinary General Assemblies **Article (29)**

- a. In its extraordinary meetings, a General Assembly will consider the following matters:
 1. resignations submitted by all or any members of the Board of Directors, where such resignations may break the quorum of Board of Directors meetings;

2. revocation of the membership of one or more of the members of the Board of Directors for valid reasons, subject to the prior written approval of the CDA;
 3. early termination of the tenure of the Board of Directors, and election of a new Board of Directors;
 4. proposed merger of the Civil Society Association with another Civil Society Association with similar objectives, provided that the other Civil Society Association's General Assembly approves the merger. In any event, the prior written approval of the CDA on this merger must be obtained;
 5. nullification of any of the resolutions of the Board of Directors;
 6. amending the Charter; and
 7. any urgent or emergency matters, or any other matters specified by the Charter.
- b. Subject to the provisions of paragraph (a) of this Article, an extraordinary General Assembly may not consider any matter that is not listed on its agenda.

Quorum of Extraordinary General Assembly Meetings Article (30)

- a. An extraordinary General Assembly meeting will be valid if attended by two thirds of members. If that quorum is not present, the meeting will be postponed to a date no later than fifteen (15) days from its date. The second meeting will be valid if attended by one half of the members, and if that quorum is not present, the second meeting will be postponed to a date no later than fifteen (15) days from its date. A third meeting will be valid regardless of the number of attending members.
- b. Resolutions of an extraordinary General Assembly will be passed unanimously or by the majority vote of two thirds of attending members.

Financial Resources of Civil Society Associations Article (31)

The financial resources of a Civil Society Association will consist of:

1. member subscription fees;
2. revenues generated from the activities, services, and investments the Civil Society Association is licensed to conduct; and
3. Donations, aid, grants, and bequests received by the Civil Society Association and approved by the CDA, in accordance with the legislation in force in the Emirate.

Property of Civil Society Associations

Article (32)

Civil Society Association's property will be deemed owned by the Civil Society Association. Members will have no claim on it. A withdrawn member or a member whose membership in the Civil Society Association has been terminated or revoked will not be entitled to claim a refund of his subscription fees, or to claim any part of the Civil Society Association's property.

Depositing Civil Society Associations Funds

Article (33)

A Civil Society Association must deposit its funds in its name into one or more accounts with any of the national banks licensed in the Emirate, and must notify the CDA of the details of these accounts and of any change to the type of account or the bank with which the funds are deposited within ten (10) days from the date of this change.

Spending Civil Society Associations Funds

Article (34)

- a. A Civil Society Association must spend its funds on achieving the objectives for which it is established. It may not engage in trading or financial speculation, or distribute any revenues or returns on the members of its Board of Directors, its founders, members of its General Assembly, or its employees.
- b. A Civil Society Association may, subject to the approval of the CDA and Concerned Entities in the Emirate, invest, in line with the legislation in force in the Emirate, the funds surplus to its needs to generate financial returns to enable it to achieve its objectives.

Chapter Three

Civil Society Establishments

Civil Society Establishment Charter

Article (35)

- a. The Charter of a Civil Society Establishment must include the following basic details:
 1. the name and geographic scope of work of the Civil Society Establishment, and the address of its head office in the Emirate;
 2. the objective for which the Civil Society Establishment is established, and the categories targeted by its activities;
 3. a detailed statement of the property that will be allocated to achieving the objectives of the Civil Society Establishment;

4. the rules for administration of the Civil Society Establishment, including the procedures for appointment of the chairman and members of its Board of Trustees, and for appointment of its director; and
 5. the conditions for the voluntary dissolution, and rules for liquidation, of the Civil Society Establishment.
- b. A Civil Society Establishment may be established pursuant to an official instrument or a registered will, either of which will be deemed as the Charter of the Civil Society Establishment. The Director General will issue a resolution determining the requirements and procedures for establishing Civil Society Establishments.

Boards of Trustees of Civil Society Establishments

Article (36)

- a. A Civil Society Establishment will be managed in accordance with its Charter by a Board of Trustees comprised of a chairman and not less than five (5) members. At least one of the members of the Board of Trustees must be a UAE national.
- b. The chairman of the Board of Trustees will represent the Civil Society Establishment before judicial authorities and third parties.
- c. The Board of Trustees will be governed by the same provisions stipulated herein in respect of Boards of Directors, to the extent applicable considering the status of Civil Society Establishments.

Applicability of the Provisions of this Law to Civil Society Establishments

Article (37)

Civil Society Establishments will be governed, to the extent applicable considering their status, by the provisions of this Law in respect of the licensing, registration, announcement of incorporation, and obligations of Civil Society Associations; and other related provisions.

Chapter Four

Civil Society Organisations

Obligations of Civil Society Organisations

Article (38)

A Civil Society Organisation must:

1. comply with the legislation in force in the Emirate, and the resolutions, bylaws, and instructions issued by the CDA;
2. comply with the terms of its Licence;
3. comply with the objectives specified in its Charter;

4. not conduct any activities other than those it is authorised to conduct, without first obtaining the relevant written approval of the CDA and the Concerned Entities in the Emirate;
5. not conduct any commercial activity without first obtaining the relevant written approval of the CDA and the Concerned Entities and obtaining a licence from the relevant commercial licensing authority. The revenues generated from that commercial activity must be allocated to further the objectives of the Civil Society Organisation;
6. obtain the approval of the CDA prior to opening any bank account with any of the national banks licensed to operate in the Emirate. Withdrawal from this account must be authorised by the signatures of two (2) officials of the Civil Society Establishment appointed by the Board;
7. provide the place where it will conduct its activities. This place must meet the relevant requirements determined by the CDA and the Concerned Entities;
8. not engage in politics; instigate sectarian, racial, religious, or ethnic conflicts; or compromise the state security and system of government of the UAE;
9. deposit all cash amounts it receives in its bank account prior to expending them on its activities;
10. respond to the reports, remarks, enquiries, and correspondence of the CDA within the relevant deadlines prescribed by the CDA;
11. obtain the prior written approval of the CDA to organise or participate in conferences, seminars, meetings, lectures, or any other events within or outside of the UAE. The application for this approval must be submitted twenty-one (21) days prior to the date of the event. The CDA must issue its decision on the application within five (5) working days from the date of its submission;
12. not establish any entity in partnership with another association within or outside of the UAE;
13. not open any branches outside of the UAE, and not be a branch or affiliate of any association existing outside of the UAE;
14. obtain the written approval of the CDA prior to inviting any important personality to the Emirate or hosting him therein;
15. keep records of the activities conducted by the Civil Society Organisation, and incorporate the information determined by a resolution of the Director General in these records;
16. enable the employees of the CDA or its authorised representatives to peruse and audit its records, documents, and books at any time;

17. not conclude any agreements or coordinate or cooperate with organisations or entities existing outside of the UAE;
18. not affiliate itself with, participate in, or join any association or establishment existing outside of the UAE, without first obtaining the written approval of the CDA; and
19. not use its facilities for other than the objectives for which it is established, and not use these facilities as sleeping places or accommodation for any persons other than its security staff.

Donations Article (39)

No Civil Society Organisation may raise Donations, allow the raising of Donations, or announce the same through print, audio, or visual means of communication and media, including social media, without first obtaining the relevant written approval of the CDA and the Concerned Entity.

Civil Society Organisation Data and Information Article (40)

A Civil Society Organisation must provide the CDA with the data and information it requires in respect of the Civil Society Organisation's regulatory affairs, and its local and international activities, particularly:

1. its annual work plans and programmes, including its social programmes;
2. names of the entities and organisations it cooperates with inside and outside of the Emirate;
3. the external events in which it wishes to participate;
4. print, audio, and visual material produced, published, or distributed by the Civil Society Organisation. In any event, the prior written approval of the CDA must be obtained before producing or distributing such material;
5. bank statements detailing all its financial transactions. These must be provided within the deadlines prescribed by the CDA;
6. the information, records, books, and documents required by the CDA;
7. a copy of its annual balance sheet and final accounts, approved by an audit firm recognised by the CDA, accompanied by supporting documents and a detailed audit report. These must be submitted no later than four (4) months from the end of the Financial Year;
8. a copy of the budget of the Civil Society Organisation for the upcoming year. This must be provided within fifteen (15) days from the date of its approval; and

9. copies of its minutes of meetings and a summary annual report on its work and activities.

Administration of Civil Society Organisations Article (41)

The CDA will take all the actions required for verifying the proper administration of Civil Society Organisations. For this purpose, it may require any data or information it deems necessary, particularly:

1. the names, personal and professional information, passport copies, and résumés of the persons working for Civil Society Organisations, whether on a full-time or part-time basis or as volunteers;
2. the organisational structures of Civil Society Organisations, and the functions and duties of their administrative units;
3. the internal bylaws, instructions, and operational guidelines of Civil Society Organisations; and
4. statistics on the activities, services, and beneficiaries of Civil Society Organisations.

Chapter Five Audit and Supervision

Financial Audit Article (42)

Civil Society Organisations will be financially audited by the CDA to verify sources of income, channels of expenditure, and proper allocation of financial and in-kind resources to implement their objectives and projects in line with their Charters in order to achieve their goals.

Supervision of Civil Society Organisations' Programmes Article (43)

The CDA will supervise the programmes and projects of Civil Society Organisations to verify that they are in line with the objectives determined in their Charters. The CDA may organise training courses and provide technical advice and any support to any Civil Society Organisation to enable it to achieve its objectives and improve its services.

Audit and Inspection Article (44)

- a. CDA employees will have the power to conduct audit and inspection of Civil Society Organisations. For this purpose, they will have the authority to:

1. access Civil Society Organisations and all their facilities for audit and violation recording purposes, and peruse the records and documents kept by them; and
 2. access any documents in the possession of Civil Society Organisations.
- b. A person who commits any of the following acts will be subject to legal prosecution:
1. preventing CDA employees from performing their duties under this Law and the resolutions issued in pursuance hereof;
 2. refraining from providing any information that may influence the investigations conducted by the CDA;
 3. refraining from, or delaying in, responding to the CDA's remarks or correspondence without a valid reason;
 4. refraining from implementing any of the measures required by the CDA;
 5. failure to report any incident or case that must be referred to the CDA for investigation pursuant to the provisions of this Law; or
 6. committing any other act that may obstruct the work of CDA employees.

Violation Recording Procedures Article (45)

The Director General or his authorised representative may take one or more of the following actions against any Civil Society Organisation that violates this Law or the resolutions issued in pursuance hereof:

1. require the violating entity to conduct an initial investigation into the committed violation and provide the CDA with the investigation report;
2. form a committee from among CDA employees to investigate the committed violation;
3. suspend the employee responsible for the violation from work until the investigation is completed;
4. seize the documents, records, and any other items used in committing the violation;
5. require the Board to impose a disciplinary penalty on the violating employee in accordance with the bylaws in force at the Civil Society Organisation. The Board must impose the penalty within fifteen (15) days from the date on which the CDA requires imposition of the same and refers the relevant documents to the Board, and must notify the CDA of the disciplinary penalty imposed;
6. if any crime punishable by law is discovered, refer the investigation documents to the Public Prosecution; and/ or
7. close the investigation, if no violation is proven.

Violations and Administrative Penalties
Article (46)

- a. Without prejudice to any stricter penalty stipulated in any other legislation, any person who violates the provisions of this Law and the resolutions issued in pursuance hereof will be punished by the following penalties:
1. warning;
 2. a fine of not less than five hundred Dirhams (AED 500.00) and not more than one hundred thousand Dirhams (AED 100,000.00). Upon repetition of the same violation within one (1) year from the date of the previous violation, the amount of the fine will be doubled. A fine must not exceed two hundred thousand Dirhams (AED 200,000.00);
 3. suspension of the activities of the violating Civil Society Organisation for a period not exceeding three (3) months;
 4. dissolution of the Board; and
 5. closure, revocation of the Licence, and dissolution, of the violating Civil Society Organisation.
- b. The penalties prescribed in paragraph (a) of this Article may be imposed in any order. The CDA will have the authority to impose on the violating Civil Society Organisation the penalty commensurate with the extent and gravity of the committed violation.
- c. In addition to the penalties prescribed in paragraph (a) of this Article, the CDA may order a violating Civil Society Organisation to remedy the violation within the period prescribed by the CDA, failing which the CDA may remedy the violation and hold the violating Civil Establishment liable to pay the relevant costs incurred.

Involuntary Dissolution, Liquidation, and Strike off
Article (47)

- a. The Director General may issue a reasoned resolution to involuntarily dissolve a Civil Society Organisation in any of the following cases:
1. if it is established that the Civil Society Organisation has committed any act that conflicts with public order or morality;
 2. where the Civil Society Organisation is convicted by a final court judgement for committing acts against the public interest;
 3. where the number of members of the Civil Society Association falls below the minimum number prescribed in paragraph (1) of Article (8) of this Law;

4. if it is established that the Civil Society Organisation's activities fail to achieve the objectives for which it is established, or if it becomes unable to achieve these objectives;
 5. if the Civil Society Organisation disposes of its property in a manner other than as prescribed;
 6. if the Civil Society Organisation becomes unable to fulfil its financial obligations;
 7. if the Civil Society Organisation refuses to be inspected; obstructs the work of CDA inspectors; or provides incorrect or false information;
 8. if the Civil Society Organisation commits a gross breach of its Charter, of this Law, or of the legislation in force in the Emirate;
 9. where the General Assembly of the Civil Society Association fails to convene for two (2) consecutive years; and
 10. where the Civil Society Organisation fails to comply with the provisions of this Law pursuant to Article (54) hereof.
- b. The resolution dissolving a Civil Society Organisation must determine the time frame for dissolution. Where required, the Director General may extend this time frame.
 - c. The CDA will appoint one or more liquidators in return for remuneration to be paid from the funds of the Civil Society Organisation.
 - d. A dissolved Civil Society Association will retain its legal personality to the extent required for completing its liquidation procedures.
 - e. The Director General will issue a resolution to strike the Civil Society Organisation off the register of Civil Society Organisations upon completion of the liquidation procedures. This resolution will be published in the Official Gazette of the Government of Dubai, and in two widely-circulated daily newspapers.

Law Enforcement Article (48)

- a. CDA employees nominated pursuant to a resolution of the Director General will have the capacity of Law Enforcement Officers to record the acts committed in breach of the provisions of this Law and the resolutions issued in pursuance hereof. For this purpose, they may access Civil Society Organisations and their facilities, issue the necessary violation reports, and, where necessary, seek the assistance of police personnel.
- b. Where the violation committed by a Civil Society Organisation constitutes a crime punishable by law, the CDA will refer the violation to the competent judicial entity.

Voluntary Dissolution Article (49)

Subject to the provisions of Article (47) of this Law, a Civil Society Organisation may be voluntarily dissolved as stipulated in its Charter, provided that the CDA is notified thirty (30) days prior to the date scheduled for dissolution.

Technical Audit Article (50)

Without prejudice to the role of the CDA to audit and supervise Civil Society Organisations, the Concerned Entities may audit the activities of these organisations in accordance with the applicable legislation.

Chapter Six General Provisions

Disposition of the Property of Dissolved Civil Society Organisations Article (51)

The persons in charge of the affairs of a Civil Society Organisation which has been voluntarily or involuntarily dissolved may not dispose of its property and records. The Director General will issue a resolution determining the method of disposing of the Civil Society Organisation's property and records, and the entity to which its rights and obligations are transferred. This resolution must enable any founder of a Civil Society Establishment to recover his movable and immovable property, upon settling all its liabilities to others, and deducting the Donations and grants received by the Civil Society Establishment.

Remuneration of Members of Boards of Directors Article (52)

Subject to a resolution of the General Assembly and the prior written approval of the CDA, members of Boards of Directors may be paid remuneration or any other financial consideration for performing their duties.

Governance of Boards Article (53)

The CDA will issue a regulation for governance of Boards, and will circulate it to Civil Society Organisations to comply with it.

Compliance Article (54)

Civil Society Organisations existing in the Emirate by the effective date of this Law must comply with its provisions, and amend their Charters accordingly, within one (1) year from the date on which this Law comes into force, failing which the procedures and measures required for dissolution and liquidation of violating Civil Society Organisations under this Law will apply. Where required, the Director General may extend this grace period once for the same period.

Seeking Assistance from Government Entities Article (55)

For the purpose of performing its functions under this Law, the CDA may seek assistance from Government Entities in the Emirate. Upon request, such entities must provide the CDA with support and assistance.

Grievances Article (56)

- a. Any affected party may submit a written grievance to the Director General against any decision, procedure, or measure taken against him under this Law within thirty (30) days of being notified of the contested decision, procedure, or measure, or upon the expiry of the period stipulated in paragraph (c) of Article (11) hereof.
- b. The grievance referred to in paragraph (a) of this Article will be determined, within thirty (30) days from the date of its submission, by a committee formed by the Director General for this purpose, and the decision on the grievance will be final. This does not prejudice the right to appeal this decision before the competent court.

Fees Article (57)

In return for issuing Licences and providing services under this Law and the resolutions issued in pursuance hereof, the CDA will charge the fees prescribed by a resolution of the Chairman of the Executive Council.

Payment of Fees and Fines Article (58)

Fees and fines collected pursuant to this Law and the resolutions issued in pursuance hereof will be paid to the Public Treasury of the Government of Dubai.

Issuing Implementing Resolutions

Article (59)

The Director General will issue the resolutions required for the implementation of this Law. These resolutions will be published in the Official Gazette of the Government of Dubai.

Repeals

Article (60)

The above-mentioned Law No. (96) of 1995 and its amendments are hereby repealed. Any provision in any other legislation will also be repealed to the extent that it contradicts the provisions of this Law.

Publication and Commencement

Article (61)

This Law will be published in the Official Gazette and will come into force on the day on which it is published.

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum

Ruler of Dubai

Issued in Dubai on 15 June 2017

Corresponding to 20 Ramadan 1438 A.H.