

Law No. (13) of 2015
Establishing the
Free Zone Council in the Emirate of Dubai¹

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

After perusal of:

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

Economic Development Committee Chairman Resolution No. (10) of 2011 Forming the Free Zone Council in the Emirate of Dubai; and

The legislation establishing and regulating free zones in the Emirate of Dubai,

Do hereby issue this Law.

Title of the Law
Article (1)

This Law will be cited as "Law No. (13) of 2015 Establishing the Free Zone Council 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:

Emirate:	The Emirate of Dubai.
Ruler:	His Highness the Ruler of Dubai.
Government:	The Government of Dubai.
Executive Council:	The Executive Council of the Emirate of Dubai.
Free Zone:	Any free zone established in the Emirate pursuant to legislation issued by the Ruler.

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¹*Every effort has been made to produce an accurate and complete English version of this legislation. However, for the purpose of its interpretation and application, reference must be made to the original Arabic text. In case of conflict the Arabic text will prevail.*

Law No. (13) of 2015 Establishing the Free Zone Council in the Emirate of Dubai

FZC:	The Free Zone Council in the Emirate of Dubai.
Chairman:	The chairman of the FZC.
Member:	A member of the FZC.
General Secretariat:	The general secretariat of the FZC.
Secretary General:	The secretary general of the FZC.

Establishment of the FZC

Article (3)

Pursuant to this Law, a public corporation named the “Free Zone Council in the Emirate of Dubai” is established. The FZC will have legal personality, financial and administrative autonomy, and the legal capacity required to undertake all acts and dispositions that ensure the achievement of its objectives.

Head Office of the FZC

Article (4)

The head office of the FZC will be located in the Emirate. The FZC may establish branches and offices within and outside of the Emirate.

Objectives of the FZC

Article (5)

The FZC will have the following objectives:

1. to contribute to promoting, developing, and qualifying Free Zones to attract investments; and to create an advanced investment environment that contribute to promoting industry, commerce, tourism, and services in the Emirate;
2. to enhance coordination, cooperation, and exchange of knowledge, experience, expertise, and practices among Free Zones;
3. to act as a reference authority that represents Free Zones before local, regional, and international entities;
4. to optimise competition among Free Zones in order to attract investments, and to identify sectors and investment trends in these Free Zones;
5. to enhance the implementation of the strategic plan of the Emirate in the areas related to the objectives and functions of Free Zones;

6. to improve and optimise the performance of Free Zones, and to ensure their competitive edge at the regional and international levels; and
7. to reinforce the role of Free Zones by adopting a flexible policy to enhance the efficiency of the economic activities conducted in these Free Zones.

Formation of the FZC

Article (6)

The FZC will be formed of a Chairman and a number of Members, appointed by a decree of the Ruler. Members must include officers in charge of Free Zone authorities and representatives from concerned Government entities in the Emirate.

Functions of the FZC

Article (7)

For the purpose of achieving its objectives, the FZC will have the duties and powers to:

1. contribute to formulating the policies and strategic plans of the Emirate by providing advice to the Government on Free Zone policies;
2. develop a comprehensive Free Zone strategy; devise a Free Zone general policy that takes into account the objectives and special characteristics of each Free Zone; and make the recommendations necessary to support and develop Free Zones;
3. standardise the rules and regulations applicable within Free Zones with respect to registration, licensing, and control, taking into account the special characteristics of each Free Zone;
4. coordinate with concerned entities in the Emirate to create a comprehensive database which serves Free Zones and the establishments operating therein, and which includes data on performance rates and indicators;
5. review the legislation and policies that affect Free Zones, and propose the necessary action in this regard;
6. coordinate with concerned entities in the Emirate on all matters relating to Free Zones and foreign investments in Free Zones;
7. explore the actual conditions in Free Zones, and propose appropriate solutions to promote and develop such Free Zones and to overcome any obstacles they encounter;
8. in coordination with concerned entities, represent Free Zones before local, federal, and international entities, and in local, regional, and international conferences and exhibitions;
9. promote investment projects and opportunities in Free Zones, and provide data and information on these projects and opportunities;

10. conduct studies and research, make proposals, and issue bulletins and statistics as required to assist the Government in formulating its economic and investment strategy to enhance the work of Free Zones;
11. hold conferences, symposia, workshops, and seminars on issues relating to Free Zones;
12. contribute to settling disputes among Free Zones or between Free Zones and other entities, with a view to serving the best interest of the Emirate;
13. seek assistance from experienced and competent persons, as it deems appropriate, and form specialised committees and work teams; and
14. perform any other duties that contribute to achieving the objectives of the FZC.

Meetings of the FZC

Article (8)

- a. The FZC will convene at the invitation of the Chairman at least once every three (3) months, or where necessary. Meetings of the FZC will be valid if attended by the majority of its Members, provided that the Chairman is in attendance.
- b. The Chairman will determine the agendas of meetings of the FZC based on the proposal of the General Secretariat. Invitations to attend any meeting will be sent by the General Secretariat to the Members together with the meeting agenda, at least one (1) week before convening the meeting.
- c. Resolutions of the FZC will be passed by majority vote of attending Members, and in the event of a tie, the Chairman will have the casting vote.
- d. Resolutions of the FZC will be recorded in minutes signed by the Chairman and attending Members.

Appointment and Functions of the Chairman

Article (9)

- a. The Chairman will be appointed by a decree issued by the Ruler.
- b. The Chairman will undertake the general supervision of the work and activities of the FZC, and may in particular:
 1. approve the general policy of the FZC, and the strategic plans and objectives for developing Free Zones;
 2. ensure efficient performance of the FZC by presiding over its meetings and managing its discussions;
 3. approve the charter of the FZC;

4. approve the resolutions regulating the administrative, technical, and financial work of the FZC;
5. approve the organisational structure of the FZC to enable it to implement and develop its plans, projects, and programmes;
6. approve the draft annual budget and final accounts of the FZC;
7. approve the plans, programmes, and initiatives for encouraging and developing business within Free Zones;
8. motivate the full and effective participation of all Members to ensure achievement of the objectives of the FZC; and
9. ensure effective communication among Members, and convey their viewpoints to the Executive Council.

Executive Body of the FZC
Article (10)

- a. The FZC will have a General Secretariat comprised of a Secretary General, appointed by a decree of the Ruler, and a number of employees.
- b. The Secretary General will have the duties and powers to:
 1. follow up the implementation of the general policy and strategic plans and objectives of the FZC, and the operational plans, programmes, and initiatives approved by the FZC;
 2. supervise the regulatory, administrative, and technical affairs of the FZC;
 3. draft the charter of the FZC, and submit it to the FZC for approval;
 4. follow up the implementation of the resolutions issued by the FZC;
 5. prepare a quarterly report on the work and activities of the General Secretariat, and submit it to the Chairman;
 6. make proposals and provide opinion and comments about the committees formed by the FZC, and submit the necessary recommendations regarding these committees to the Chairman;
 7. appoint the technical and administrative body of the General Secretariat in accordance with the relevant resolutions approved by the Chairman, and supervise its daily work;
 8. prepare the draft annual budget and final accounts of the FZC, and submit the same to the FZC for approval;

9. prepare the draft organisational structure of the FZC and General Secretariat, and submit it to the Chairman for approval;
10. coordinate and arrange for meetings of the FZC; and
11. perform any other duties assigned to him by the Chairman or the FZC.

Maintaining the Legal Personality of Free Zone Authorities

Article (11)

The provisions of this Law apply without prejudice to the legal personality and legally prescribed functions of the authorities managing Free Zones. A Free Zone will be managed in accordance with its regulatory legislation to the extent that such legislation does not contradict the provisions of this Law.

Cooperation with the FZC

Article (12)

All Free Zones must fully cooperate with the FZC and implement its resolutions.

Financial Resources of the FZC

Article (13)

The financial resources of the FZC will consist of:

1. contributions of Free Zones to the annual budget of the FZC, as determined in accordance with the percentages approved by the FZC; and
2. any other resources approved by the FZC.

Financial Year of the FZC

Article (14)

In regulating its accounts and records, the FZC will apply the rules and principles of commercial accounting. The financial year of the FZC will commence on 1 January and will end on 31 December of each year, except that the first financial year of the FZC will commence on the date on which this Law comes into force and will end on 31 December of the following year.

Issuing Implementing Resolutions

Article (15)

The Chairman will issue the resolutions required for the implementation of the provisions of this Law.

Repeals
Article (16)

The above-mentioned Economic Development Committee Chairman Resolution No. (10) of 2011 is 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 (17)

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 11 April 2015

Corresponding to 22 Jumada al-Thaniyah 1436 A.H.