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**Legislative Decree No. (7) of 1980 Approving the Statute of the Arab Bureau of Education for the Gulf States**

We, Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa, Emir of the State of Bahrain.

Having reviewed the Constitution;

Emiri Order No. (4) of 1975;

And the Statute of the Arab Bureau of Education for the Gulf States;

And upon the submission of the Minister of Education;

**Hereby Decree the following:**

**Article One**

The Statute of the Arab Bureau of Education for the Gulf States, issued by the Second Conference of Ministers of Education for the Gulf States held in Riyadh, The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and attached to this Law, has been approved.

**Article Two**

The Ministers – each within his jurisdiction – shall implement the provisions of this Law, and it shall come into force from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

**Emir of the State of Bahrain**

**Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa**

Issued at Riffa Palace

On: 20 Rabi' al-awwal 1400 A.H.

Corresponding to: 7 February 1980

**The Arab Bureau of Education for the Gulf States**

**Riyadh**

**The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**

**The Statute of the Arab Bureau of Education for the Gulf States Promulgated by Decision No. (1) of the Decisions of the Second Conference of Ministers of Education**

**In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious and the Most Merciful**

**The Statute of the Arab Bureau of Education for the Gulf States**

**Introduction**

As the participating States in this Office form among themselves a unified region in language, population, and Islamic belief, close in geography, environment, economic resources, historical achievements, social and cultural conditions, customs, and behaviour.

Therefore, it shall be in the collective interest of all these States – both in the present and the future – to unify educational objectives, establish common principles for curricula, and coordinate and integrate efforts in the development and enhancement of education, as it is the foundation upon which future generations are raised. This shall be done by highlighting the identity of the Arab Islamic region, providing its civilisational requirements and spiritual and material needs, in order to strengthen the unity of its people and establish education therein on clear scientific basis with clear definitions and objectives, protecting the future of its generations from deviance, as well as emphasising on the Islamic identity as the source from which we draw the foundations of our being distinguished by its high civilisation and exemplary humanity. In order to achieve these objectives, this Bureau was established and it shall operate in accordance with the attached Statute.

**Chapter One**

**Article One: Terminology:**

The terms mentioned in this Law shall have the meanings assigned to each of them below, unless otherwise indicated.

Statute: The Statute of the Arab Bureau of Education for the Gulf States.

Bureau: The Arab Bureau of Education for the Gulf States.

The Member States shall be as follows:

1- The United Arab Emirates.

2- The State of Bahrain.

3- The Republic of Iraq.

4- The Sultanate of Oman.

5- The State of Qatar.

6- The State of Kuwait.

7- The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Conference: The General Conference of Ministers of Education for the Gulf States.

Council: The Executive Council of the Arab Bureau of Education for the Gulf States.

Body: The General Directorate of the Arab Bureau of Education for the Gulf States.

**Article Two: The Objectives of the Bureau:**

In order to achieve the objectives of its establishment, the Bureau shall undertake the following duties:

1- Taking the necessary measures to implement and follow-up the decisions of the Conference of Ministers of Education in the Member States, work to coordinate and complete the processes of education development and enhancement, showcase the identity of the Arab-Islamic region, strengthen the unity of its people, and set education on clear scientific foundations with clear definitions and objectives.

2- Establishing joint educational institutions and centres among the Member States.

3- Encouraging and promoting cultural cooperation, communication, and exchange of experts through the following:

( A ) Collaborating with educational and cultural bodies and centres established in Member States.

( B ) Organising the exchange of visits between specialists in education, and holding educational, scientific, and cultural seminars and meetings, as well as camps and joint trips among Member States.

( C ) Regulating the exchange of scholarships for the individuals of Member States.

( D ) Organising communication with Arab and international educational institutions, and representing the Bureau at their conferences.

( E ) Strengthening the relationship with the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization, And mutually representing each other at meetings and conferences as an observer.

4- Working to achieve coordination and integration in the field of university and higher education and research centres among Member States, by facilitating the exchange of expertise and experiences, and the unification and equivalence of scientific degrees.

5- Fostering the Arab-Islamic culture and the contemporary Arab-Islamic thinking and working to highlight them, as well as spreading the Arabic language and facilitating learning it in foreign States, and especially in Islamic States, as well as proposing the means to achieve this at the Conference.

6- The Bureau shall convene the meeting of Ministers of Education in its ordinary and extraordinary sessions. It shall also convene conferences and seminars at various levels.

**Chapter Two**

**The Formation of the Bureau**

**Article Three: The Structure of the Bureau:**

The Arab Bureau of Education for the Gulf States shall consist of the following:

( A ) The Executive Council.

( B ) The General Directorate.

( C ) The centres and other bodies added to or established in the Bureau.

**Article Four: The Formation of the Executive Council:**

The Council shall consist of the following:

( A ) One member from each State at the level of an Undersecretary of a Ministry, nominated by the State, who shall have be experienced and competent in educational matters.

( B ) In case one of the seats of the Executive Council becomes vacant, the State represented by the member shall appoint a replacement.

**Article Five: Members representing the Conference:**

Although the members of the Executive Council shall represent their governments, they shall exercise the authority granted to them by the Conference on behalf of the entire Conference.

**Article Six: Council Headquarters:**

The Council shall establish its headquarters at the Arab Bureau of Education for the Gulf States in Riyadh, and it shall be permissible to hold its meetings at any location within the Member States.

**Article Seven: Dates of Meetings:**

( A ) The Council shall convene twice a year in two ordinary sessions, in April and November.

( B ) It shall be permissible for the Council to convene in extraordinary sessions by virtue of its own Decision, or at the request submitted to the President of the Council from half of the members, or at the call from the Director General.

**Article Eight: Competences of the Council:**

The Competences of the Executive Council shall include the following:

1- Preparing the draft agenda of the Conference.

2- Preparing the necessary draft budget for the programmes, the different types of activity, and the body.

3- Following up on the implementation of programmes, and monitoring the disbursements of the budget.

4- Carrying out the duties assigned by the Conference, and those specified by the provisions of this Statute.

5- Proposing the nomination of the Director General from among the Member States for a period of four years, in accordance with the conditions approved by the Conference.

**Article Nine: Preparation of the Agenda:**

( A ) The Director General shall prepare the draft agenda well in advance of the meeting, provided that the members shall arrive one month prior to the date of the meeting.

( B ) The draft agenda shall include the following:

1- The subjects referred to the Council by the Conference of Ministers.

2- The Director General’s report on the work of the Bureau since the last meeting of the Council.

3- The Articles that the Council has decided to include.

4- The Articles proposed by any State.

5- The Articles related to the budget and the accounts.

6- The Articles proposed by the Director General.

( C ) At the extraordinary sessions of the Board, the requesters of the meeting shall determine the subjects of the meeting, as well as determine the time at which they wish to hold the session. The Director General shall communicate the calls to the concerned parties within fifteen days of receiving the request to hold the extraordinary session.

( D ) At the beginning of each meeting, the Council shall approve its draft agenda, and it shall have the right to amend it or add new Articles thereto.

**Article Ten: Members and Representatives:**

( A ) The President of the Conference and the Director General shall have the right to attend meetings of the Executive Council without taking part in voting.

( B ) The members of the Council shall have the right to seek, during the sessions, the assistance of advisers and experts.

( C ) A member of the Executive Council shall have the right to, after consulting his government, appoint in writing one or more deputies who may replace him, in the order of their appointment, at any session of the Council’s. In such case, he shall notify the President of the Council of the name and qualifications of his deputy. If the President does not object, the deputy shall replace the original member in his absence.

**Article Eleven: Presidency of the Council:**

( A ) The Executive Council shall elect from among its members a President and a Vice-President at the opening of the ordinary session of the Council that follows the ordinary session of the General Conference.

( B ) The term of office of the Executive Council and the Vice-Presidency shall be one year, starting from the end of the session of the Conference in which the members of the Council were appointed, until the end of the ordinary session following the Conference, which shall include the Presidency, the Vice-Presidency, and the ordinary and extraordinary sessions.

( C ) The Presidency and the Vice-Presidency shall rotate among the Council members.

( D ) If the President or the Vice-President is unable to attend the Council’s session, the Council shall elect from among its members a President for this session. This shall not prejudice the rule of rotation of the Presidency and the Vice-Presidency among the members.

( E ) The powers of the President shall be summarised in the following:

1- Announcing the opening, closing, suspension, and adjournment of the sessions.

2- Managing the work and discussions of the Council, and taking into account the implementation of the provisions of the Statute.

3- Giving the floor to members, presenting research subjects for voting, and announcing and closing the discussion if the Council agrees.

4- Ruling upon points of order and announcing decisions.

5- Receiving the request to hold extraordinary meetings.

6- The President and the Vice-President shall have the right to participate and vote.

7- The Vice-President shall enjoy the powers of the President in his absence, as well as the competences entrusted to him.

**Article Twelve: The Meetings:**

( A ) The meetings of the Council shall not be valid unless the meeting’s quorum of members is met, which is an absolute majority of the delegates of the Member States.

( B ) Only members of the Council or their deputies shall be entitled to vote.

( C ) The President shall call speakers to speak in the order of their requests, and he shall specify the time to be allowed for each speaker.

( D ) To suspend discussion of any matter, decision, or amendment until the text is distributed to the members present, if a member so requested.

(E) With the approval of the Council, it shall be permissible for the proposal to be divided into paragraphs, and each separate paragraph shall be voted on.

(F) If an amendment to the proposal is submitted, the Council shall vote on the first amendment.

(G) Any member shall have the right to propose to adjourn the session, adjourn it, or adjourn the discussion on the presented subject. If the proposal is seconded, a vote shall be taken immediately.

(H) The member shall have the right to submit a proposal on a point of order during the discussion of any subject, which shall be ruled upon immediately by the President.

(I) The following proposals, according to their order, shall take precedence over other:

1- Adjournment of the discussion on the presented subject.

2- Closing the discussion on the presented subject.

3- Adjournment of the meeting.

4- Suspension of the meeting.

(J) A proposal that was approved or rejected in the same Council session shall not be reconsidered, except by the absolute majority.

**Article Thirteen: Voting:**

( A ) Each Council member shall have one vote.

( B ) The Council shall take its decisions by an absolute majority of the present and voting members.

( C ) Voting shall normally be done by show of hands.

( D ) A decision or proposal shall not be voted on unless it has been seconded, except as specified in the text.

(E) If there are exceptionally urgent and important procedures, the President of the Council shall have the right to, either personally or through delegation to the Director General, consult the members by correspondence, and the proposed decisions by correspondence shall be taken if approved unanimously.

**Article Fourteen: The Formation of the General Directorate of the Bureau:**

The General Directorate of the Bureau shall consist of the Director General, his deputy, and the competent directorates.

1- The Director General, who is the Head of the General Directorate of the Bureau, and he shall solely be responsible before the Conference and the Executive Council for all the affairs of the Bureau in terms of management and supervision. This shall include the development and presentation of proposals before the Executive Council and then the General Conference, as well as the implementation of their decisions. He shall be competent to:

( A ) Participate in all meetings of the General Conference and the Executive Council without having the right to vote.

( B ) Present before the Executive Council the draft programme of the Bureau’s work along with the necessary budget estimates.

( C ) Prepare periodic reports on the Bureau’s work and communicate them to the members of the Executive Council for discussion.

( D ) Order the disbursement and take other financial measures within the limits of the approved budget, in accordance with the regulations.

(E) Representing the Bureau in the Member States and Arab and foreign educational organisations.

(F) Preside over the committee that consists of competent directorates, in order to decide on the work, proposals, and expenses proposed by these directorates, according to the approved budget.

2- Deputy Director General: He shall be competent in the following:

( A ) Assisting the Director General in the tasks entrusted to him.

( B ) Acting on behalf of the Director General during his absence.

( C ) Any other tasks that the Director deems necessary to be delegated to him, in accordance with the provisions of this Statute.

3- Competent directorates, namely:

- The Educational Programmes and Science Directorate.

- The Cultural Programmes, Documents, and Media Directorate.

- The Financial and Administrative Affairs Directorate.

- Any other Directorate that the Conference deems necessary to add.

**( A ) The Educational Programmes and Science Directorate, which shall be competent with:**

1- Working to unify the objectives and systems of education and the general principles of curricula, educational means, and textbooks and raise the educational level in the States of the region.

2- Working on exchanging expertises and information in various fields of education, with a focus on preparing and providing teachers, school libraries, tests, assessment, and educational planning.

3- Encouraging the exchange of visits between specialists in education, organising the attendance of cultural, educational, and regional seminars, as well as organising scholarships among Member States.

4- Organising joint programmes and projects, such as: Literacy and adult education, technical and vocational education, education of persons with disabilities and special education, educational assessment methods, and in-service teacher training.

5- Contributing to achieving coordination of foreign aid to sister and friendly States.

6- Coordinating the efforts of Member States in the scientific field.

7- Assisting in the exchange of expertises through conferences and seminars, the dissemination of scientific information and technical expertise, and the results of applied research work.

8- Strengthening scientific, technical, and applied research in participating States.

9- Cooperating with other authorities in the Arab States and international organisations concerned with education, scientific, and technical affairs through seminars and conferences, and exchanging information and expertises, in order to achieve the maximum possible educational and scientific progress in general, and with regard to the natural resources available in the region in particular.

**( B ) The Cultural Programmes, Documents, and Media Directorate, which shall be competent with:**

1- Emphasising on all types of cultural thought in the participating States, especially with regard to Islamic culture, the history of culture, science, arts, and literature among Arabs, and Arab-Islamic culture and civilisation.

2- Promoting the Arabic language, by simplifying its rules, facilitating its printing, improving its teaching methods, and spreading it abroad through establishing schools and cultural centres, encouraging the Arabisation movement, standardising terminologies regionally and with other Arab States, and prioritising scientific and linguistic conferences.

3- Working on exchanging expertises, information, and research results between the participating States, providing technical and cultural aids, holding conferences and seminars, and cooperating with international organisations and authorities to achieve these purposes.

4- Working to strengthen and consolidate cultural cooperation in the media outlets, and hold cultural festivals and visits.

5- Providing assistance to provide teachers, books, devices, and grants to the participating States.

6- Strengthening relations with foreign institutes dealing with Arab-Islamic studies, and working to develop mutual relations between Islamic States and societies as well as with cultural and artistic authorities, organisations, and conferences.

7- Cooperating with the the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization and the UNESCO, and striving to promote various types of human knowledge, by following up the latest international developments and working to present research and cite successful studies to benefit from them in cultural, social, and economic development.

**Chapter Three**

**Article Fifteen: Appointment of Employees:**

1- The appointment, promotions, and the conditions of service and discipline of employees shall be determined in accordance with the Bureau’s staff regulations.

2- The Executive Council shall appoint the Bureau’s Vice-Director General as well as the heads of the competent directorates upon nomination by the Director General, and it shall be permissible to replace them with the approval of the Council.

3- The Director General shall have the right to appoint and dismiss the rest of the employees.

4- Collecting documents related to the region (books, publications, periodicals, bulletins, etc.). As well as bibliographical processing, facilitating access to them, exchanging them, and providing the Member States with the requested materials thereof.

5- Serving the research needs of the competent directorates, and carrying out bibliographic research related to them.

6- Providing educational, cultural, and scientific authorities in the Member States with newspapers, booklets, and bulletins for books such as statistical, media, and bibliographic bulletins.

7- Issuing educational, cultural, and scientific magazines in cooperation with other directorates and bodies.

8- Undertaking the artistic production of publications, documents reproduction, and document preservation.

9- Providing library services to the Arab Bureau of Education for the Gulf States and carrying out public affairs tasks that do not fall within the competences of other directorates or tasks entrusted to them by the Director General.

**( C ) The Financial and Administrative Affairs Directorate, which shall be competent with:**

1- Handling all financial operations required to meet the Bureau’s needs.

2- The Fund Secretariat in general, and all matters related to documents, receipts, and registers, in accordance with the financial systems.

3- Implementing all the services needed by the employees of the Bureau and its directorates, such as: Vacations, internal and external transfers, securing office furniture and equipment, processing and printing tools and others, and completing transactions and correspondence.

4- Organising registers, files, and cards of employees and workers.

5- Preparing the draft general balance sheet of the Bureau, and implementing the decisions of the General Conference and the Executive Council regarding the procedures of registers, auditing, closing entries, preparing the closing account, and other financial commitments.

At its own discretion and in accordance with the list of employees, and it shall have the right to impose penalties on them.

6- It shall be preferable to appoint the employees of the Bureau from among nationals of the Member States.

7- Non-Saudi employees of the Bureau shall be granted allocations, to be determined with the approval of the Executive Council.

8- The Director General shall have the right to delegate to his deputy or Heads of the competent directorates, in any of the administrative competences and powers entrusted to him.

**Article Sixteen: Capacity of the Bureau’s Employees:**

The responsibilities of the Director General as well as all employees, shall be of a strictly regional nature. They shall not, in performing their duties and functions, seek or receive instructions from any government or authority outside of the Bureau.

**Chapter Four**

**Article Seventeen: Shares of Member States in the Budget:**

The Member States shall bear the budget of the Bureau, and their shares therein shall be determined on the basis of their respective shares in the budget of the League of Arab States.

**Article Eighteen: Deposit and Withdraw of the Bureau’s Funds:**

The Bureau’s funds, from the shares of Member States and from their donations in the name of the Arab Bureau of Education for the Gulf States, shall be deposited in a bank in Riyadh. Withdrawals from them and the responsibility for disbursement shall be determined in accordance with a regulation issued by the Executive Council.

**Article Nineteen: Disbursement and Deposit Orders**

Disbursement and deposit orders shall be made with the approval of the Director General.

**Chapter Five**

**General Provisions**

**Article Twenty: Reports by States Members:**

Each Member State of the Bureau shall send a periodic report on the developments of educational and cultural activity in it. This periodic report shall include legislation, statistics, programmes, and projects that are related to these fields.

**Article Twenty-One: Relations with other Competent International Authorities and Bodies:**

The Bureau shall have the right to send representatives to meetings held by other intergovernmental organisations specialised in education, culture, and science, in order to benefit from the expertise and experience of these organisations in the field of education. The Bureau shall also have the right to invite experts from these organisations to provide the required advice.

**Article Twenty-Two: Privileges of the Members of the Conference, Council, and Employees:**

The members of the General Conference, the Executive Council, the members of the committees and the employees of the Bureau, shall enjoy diplomatic privileges and immunity while carrying out their duties, in accordance with international custom.

**Article Twenty-Three: Amendment of the Statute:**

It shall not be permissible to amend the Bureau’s Statute, except by a Decision from the Conference, issued by an absolute majority.