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**Published on the website on May 2024**

**Legislative Decree No. (11) of 1993 ratifying the Agreement on the Headquarters of the Arab Gulf Program for Supporting the United Nations Development Organizations**

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

Having reviewed the Constitution;

Emiri Order No. (4) of 1975;

And the Agreement on the Headquarters of the Arab Gulf Program for Supporting the United Nations Development Organizations signed in the city of Manama on 22 June 1993;

And upon the submission of the Minister of Foreign Affairs,

And after the approval of the Council of Ministers,

**Hereby Decree the following Law**

**Article One**

The Agreement of the Arab Gulf Program for Supporting the United Nations Development Organizations signed in the city of Manama on 22 Dhu al-Hijjah 1413 A.H., corresponding to 22 June 1993, attached to this Law, has been ratified.

**Article Two**

The Ministers - each within his jurisdiction - shall implement 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: 22 Muharram 1414 A.H.

Corresponding to: 12 July 1993

**The Agreement on the Headquarters of the Arab Gulf Program for Supporting the United Nations Development Organizations**

Based on the decision made by the Ministry of Finance of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries during their meeting in Kuwait on 21 April 1981, regarding the establishment of the Arab Gulf Program for Supporting the United Nations Development Organizations, and their decision to select the city of Manama in the State of Bahrain as its headquarters.

The Government of the State of Bahrain and the Arab Gulf Program for Supporting the United Nations Development Organizations,

Desiring to define the legal status, privileges, immunities, and facilities enjoyed by the Program in light of its international status, to enable it to carry out its responsibilities effectively,

Have agreed as follows:

**Article -1-**

**Definitions**

For the purposes of this Agreement:

1- The term "State" refers to the State of Bahrain.

2- The term "Program" refers to the Arab Gulf Program for Supporting the United Nations Development Organizations.

3- The term "President" refers to the President of the Arab Gulf Program for Supporting the United Nations Development Organizations.

**Article -2-**

**Program Headquarters**

The permanent principal headquarters of the Program shall be located in Manama.

**Article -3-**

**Legal Personality**

The Program shall have legal personality, with the capacity to contract and transact in real and movable property and take legal actions in accordance with the provisions of the Bahraini laws.

**Article -4-**

**Funds and Assets**

A- The funds of the Program, whether immovable or movable, and its assets shall enjoy judicial immunity, unless the President expressly agrees in writing to waive such immunity.

B- The inviolability of the buildings occupied by the Program shall be preserved, and the funds and assets of the Program in the State of Bahrain shall not be subject to inspection, quarantine, confiscation, seizure or any similar form of interference, whether executive, judicial or legislative.

C- The inviolability of archives and documents of all types, whether belonging to the Program or in its possession, shall be maintained.

D- Any financial or administrative restrictions shall not affect the operation of the Program, and the Program shall have the following privileges:

1) Maintaining balances in local or foreign currencies.

2) The freedom to transfer funds and currencies from the State of Bahrain in accordance with the provisions of Bahraini law.

E- The Program, its funds, revenues, and properties shall enjoy the following:

1) Exemption from all direct taxes, except for charges for public utilities or actual services provided to it or enjoyed by it.

2) Exemption from customs duties, prohibitions, and restrictions on the import of equipment imported by the Program for its official use.  The equipment covered by this exemption shall not be disposed of until five years have passed and with the approval of the Government of Bahrain and in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

3) Exemption from customs duties, prohibitions, and restrictions on the import and export of publications related to the official work of the Program.

**Article -5-**

**Communications**

The Program shall enjoy freedom of communication regarding its official correspondences. No censorship shall be imposed on authorized official correspondences bearing the official seal, and this shall not hinder the taking of appropriate security measures in coordination with the Program.

**Article -6-**

**Meetings**

The Government of the State of Bahrain shall provide the necessary facilities for holding meetings and consultations related to the Program in Manama, including ensuring entry and exit visas, residence permits, and registration exemptions for foreigners.

**Article -7-**

**Privileges and Immunities of Program Personnel**

The President and the number agreed upon with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Bahrain among the key employees, their spouses, and minor children shall enjoy all privileges and immunities granted to United Nations staff in accordance with the provisions of the 1946 United Nations Convention on Privileges and Immunities.

**Article -8-**

**Purpose of Granting Privileges and Immunities**

The privileges and immunities granted under this Agreement are intended to ensure the performance of the Program's functions and are not intended to serve the personal interest of its personnel.

**Article -9-**

**Lifting Immunity**

The Program shall have the right and duty to lift immunity in cases where it deems that it would impede the course of justice, and immunity may be waived without compromising the purpose for which it was granted.

**Article -10-**

**Personal Cards**

The Government of the State of Bahrain shall provide Program personnel with special personal identification cards, demonstrating that they are employees entitled to the privileges and immunities specified in the Agreement.

**Article -12-**

**Interpretation of the Agreement**

This Agreement shall be interpreted in light of its primary objective, which is to enable the Program to fully and efficiently perform its duties and achieve its goals and functions.

**Article -11-**

**Entry into Force of the Agreement**

This Agreement shall enter into force from the date when the necessary legal procedures for its implementation are completed in the State of Bahrain.

This Agreement has been signed in the city of Manama on 22 Dhu al-Hijjah 1413 A.H., corresponding to 12 June 1993, in two original copies in the Arabic language.

**For the Government of the State of Bahrain**

**Minister of Foreign Affairs**

**For the Arab Gulf Program for Supporting the United Nations Development Organizations, Head of the Program**