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**Legislative Decree No. (44) of 2002 amending some provisions of the Law on Associations, Social and Cultural Clubs, and Private Bodies Operating in the Field of Youth, Sports and Private Institutions promulgated by Legislative Decree No. (21) of 1989**

**We, Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of the Kingdom of Bahrain.**

Having reviewed the Constitution;

And Law on Associations, Social and Cultural Clubs, and Private Bodies Operating in the Field of Youth and Sports and Private Institutions promulgated by Legislative Decree No. (21) of 1989;

Upon the submission of the Minister of Labour and Social Development;

And after the approval of the Council of Ministers;

**Hereby Decree the following Law:**

**Article One**

A second Paragraph shall be added to Article (3) of the Law on Associations, Social and Cultural Clubs, and Private Bodies Operating in the Field of Youth and Sports and Private Institutions promulgated by Legislative Decree No. (21) of 1989, with the following text:

It shall be prohibited for the associations programmes to include what undermines the principles of the Islamic faith or national unity or that stir up discord or sectarianism.

**Article Two**

A sixth Chapter entitled "Qualitative Unions of Associations" and its Articles from 55 bis to 55 bis (4) shall be added to Part One of the aforementioned law, with the following texts:

**Article 55 bis:**

It is permissible for associations to establish specific unions among themselves, each of which shall have legal entity. The qualitative union shall consist of associations that carry out a joint activity in a specific field at the level of the Kingdom, with the aim of organizing and coordinating this activity among themselves, and working to raise its level.

No more than one union shall be formed in the field of the joint activity of associations.

Joining the union shall be at the request of the association after the approval of its General Assembly. The union shall not reject the request when the conditions for joining are met.

**Article 55 bis (1):**

For the establishment of the qualitative union in accordance with the provisions of this law, it is required that the registration application be submitted to the competent administrative authority by at least three associations registered in accordance with the provisions of this law and conducting joint activity in a specific field from the fields indicated in it.

The registration application shall be subject to the provisions prescribed in this law.

**Article 55 bis (2):**

The union shall draw up its statute and administrative and financial regulations and submit them to the competent administrative authority for review and approval.

The statute of the union shall be issued by a decision of the competent Minister.

**Article 55 bis (3):**

The union shall be competent in the following:

a.      Developing a general vision of the role of the associations which work in its field of activity regarding the implementation of social and cultural development programmes.

b. Conducting the necessary studies to provide the necessary funding for the associations in order to develop their resources, and to help provide the subsidies and assistance and advising them on means to support their financial capabilities.

c.      Coordinating the efforts between the member of the associations of the union to ensure their integration.

d. Evaluating the services provided by the associations in the light of the needs of the community and the capacities of those associations and their available resources.

e.   Preparing a database and the provision of the adequate information on the associations working in the field of its activity, and publishing a directory of lists of the associations registered in the qualitative field to familiarize citizens with them and urge them to contribute and participate in their activities.

f.      Organizing the technical and administrative preparation and training programmes for the employees and members of the associations.

g.      Representing the associations' members of the union in the international conferences relating to their activities.

**Article 55 bis (4):**

The provisions of the associations stipulated in Part One of the aforementioned law shall apply to unions in a manner that does not conflict with the provisions of this Chapter.

**Article Three**

The Ministers -each within his jurisdiction- shall implement this Law, and it shall come into force from the day following its publication in the Official Gazette.

**King of the Kingdom of Bahrain**

**Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa**

**Prime Minister**

**Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa**

**Minister of Labour and Social Development**

**Abdulnabi Abdullah Alshoala**

**Issued at Riffa Palace:**

**On: 16 Shaaban 1423 A.H. Corresponding to: 22 October 2002**