

Federal Decree by Law No. (57) of 2022 Establishing UAE Media Council

We, Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan President of the United Arab Emirates,

- Upon reviewing the Constitution;
- Federal Law No. (1) of 1972 Concerning the Jurisdictions of Ministries and Powers of Ministers, as amended;
- Federal Law No. (15) of 1980 Concerning Press and Publications;
- Federal Law No. (8) of 2011 Re-organizing the State Audit Institution;
- Federal Decree Law No. (26) of 2019 Concerning Public Finance;
- Federal Decree-Law No. (7) of 2020 Establishing the UAE Government Media Office (GMO) and amendments thereof;
- Federal Decree-Law No. (49) of 2022 on Human Resources in the Federal Government;
- Federal Decree-Law No. (55) of 2022 Establishing the UAE Media Council;
- Based on the proposal of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Presidential Court and the approval of the Council of Ministers;

Have promulgated the following Decree by Law:

Article (1)

Definitions

In application of the provisions of this Decree by Law, the following terms and expressions shall have the meanings ascribed thereto unless the context requires otherwise:

- State** : United Arab Emirates.
- Ministry** : Ministry of Culture.
- Council** : UAE Media Council.
- BOD** : Board of Directors of the UAE Media Council.
- Chairman** : BOD Chairman.
- Secretary General** : The Council Secretary General.

Article (2)

Media Council Establishment

In accordance with the provisions of this Decree by Law, a Council called the “UAE Media Council” shall be established, affiliated with the Cabinet, and shall enjoy legal personality, financial and administrative independence, and legal capacity required to undertake all the regulatory business and actions that ensure the implementation of its competencies.

Article (3)

Headquarters

The Council headquarters shall be located in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, and branches or offices thereof may be established inside or outside the State upon a decree of the Chairman.

Article (4)

Financial Stability Council Competencies

The Council shall undertake the following functions:

1. Coordinate with government media agencies nationwide to unify strategic media directions and general media messages at both federal and local levels.
2. Coordinate with government media agencies to align national and local media policies, ensuring support for the union and emphasising national identity and unity.
3. Propose the legislation, bylaws, standards and principles required for regulating and licensing the media tools and activities including, online media and publication, including those operating in the free zones, and supervise their implementation upon the approval of the Cabinet.
4. Follow up the media content of everything printed, published and broadcasted inside State, including the free zones.
5. Register and approve the media professionals and foreign media reporters in State including the free zones.
6. The powers assigned to the Ministry and related to the media in accordance with Federal Law No. (15) of 1980 concerning Press and Publishing, or any legislation issued in replacement thereof.

7. Establish and organize a comprehensive database of information and data related to the competencies of the Council in coordination with the concerned authorities.
8. Conduct specialised studies and research in areas relevant to the Council's competencies.
9. Any other competencies authorized thereto pursuant to the laws or regulations and resolutions issued by the Cabinet.

Article (5)

The BOD

1. The Council shall be managed by a Board of Directors consisting of a Chairman and several members. The Chairman of the Board of Directors shall be the Head of the National Media Office, and the members shall be representatives of local governments and relevant entities holding the rank of Director General or higher.
2. The BOD members shall be appointed, and the term of the Board, its operating procedures, decision-making mechanism, and remuneration shall be determined by a decision of the Cabinet.

Article (6)

Board of Directors Competences

The BOD Chairman shall exercise all the powers and authorities necessary to enable the council achieve objectives thereof, including the following competences:

1. Propose policies, strategies and legislation related to the competences entrusted to the Council, in coordination with the Concerned Authorities in the State, and submit them to the Cabinet for approval.
2. Propose the Council general policy, strategic plan, programmes and projects in accordance with the procedures followed in this regard, and follow up on implementation thereof after approval by the Chairman.
3. Audit the annual budget of the Council and closing account thereof, and submit them to the Chairman for approval.
4. Accept donations, subsidies, and grants in accordance with the competences of the Council, and in accordance with the legislation in force in this regard.
5. Any other powers or authorities granted thereto pursuant to laws, regulations or Cabinet

resolutions.

The BOD may delegate any of its powers or authorities to the Chairman, provided that the delegation is in writing and specific.

Article (7)

The Chairman Competences

The Chairman shall exercise the following powers:

1. Adopt the Council general policy, strategic plan, and necessary programmes and projects.
2. Approve the laws, regulations and work plans necessary for the proper progress of work in the Council.
3. Approve the organisational structure of the Council and submit it to the Cabinet for approval.
4. Approve the Council draft annual budget and final account, and submit them to the Ministry of Finance for necessary action in accordance with applicable legislation.
5. Exercising the powers assigned to the Minister of Culture and Youth related to the media in accordance with Federal Law No. (15) of 1980 concerning Press and Publishing, or any legislation issued in replacement thereof.
6. Approve appointment of one or more external auditors, if necessary, and determine their fees.
7. Form permanent or temporary committees and work teams to enable the Council to carry out its competencies, and define the functions and operating procedures of these committees and work teams.
8. Any other powers or authorities granted thereto pursuant to laws, regulations or Cabinet resolutions.

The Chairman may appoint a deputy thereto and delegate any of its powers or authorities to the deputy, provided that the delegation shall be in writing and specific.

Article (8)

Secretary General Competencies

The Council shall have a Secretary General whose appointment and grade shall be determined by a federal decree based on the recommendation of the Chairman. He shall be responsible before the Chairman for implementing the policies, strategies, legislation and rules of the Council and the proper

conduct of its technical, administrative and financial affairs. In particular, he shall have the right to do the following:

1. Propose the policies, strategies and programmes of the Council and supervise the implementation thereof after approval.
2. Propose draft laws, decrees, regulations and resolutions related to its organisational units, and present them to the BOD to take the necessary actions thereon.
3. Approve the systems, regulations and action plans necessary for the proper functioning of the Council and present them to the Chairman for approval.
4. Follow up on the implementation of plans, programmes, projects and activities that the Council supervises, manages or implements.
5. Propose the regulatory structure of the Centre and submit it to the BOD for approval.
6. Supervise the preparation of the annual budget and the final account of the Council, submit them to the BOD to be approved by the Chairman, and follow up on the implementation of the budget within the approved appropriations.
7. Supervise and empower the organisational units affiliated thereto, follow up on their achievements and performance results, and propose the necessary systems and procedures to contribute to improve and develop performance.
8. Approve plans and programmes of rehabilitation and train the Council administrative staff.
9. Represent the Council in its relationship with others and before the courts.
10. Submit periodic reports related to the Council work progress, achievements and performance and present them to the BOD.
11. Appoint employees and consultants and terminate their services in accordance with the legislation in force.
12. Conclude contracts and agreements necessary to achieve the goals and competencies of the Council in accordance with the legislation in force.
13. Any other duties, competencies, and powers assigned to the Council by virtue of laws or regulations, or by the BOD or Chairman.

The Secretary-General may delegate any of its powers to any senior staff member of the Council as they deem appropriate, provided that the delegation is in writing, specific, and approved by the Chairman.

Article (9)

Administrative Staff

The Council shall have an administrative staff that assists the Chairman, the BOD, and the Secretary General in exercising the powers entrusted thereto, and the members thereof shall be appointed in accordance with the human resources legislation in force in the Federal Government.

Article (10)

Financial Resources

The Council financial resources shall consist of the following:

1. The annual appropriations allocated to the Council in the State general budget.
2. Gifts, donations, grants, bequests and endowments that are offered to the Council and accepted by the BOD.
3. Any other resources the Council achieves from exercising powers thereof.

Article (11)

Council Funds Management

The Council funds shall be managed and the financial and accounting affairs thereof shall be organised in accordance with the legislation and systems regulations in force in the Federal Government.

Article (12)

Fiscal Year

The fiscal Year of the Council shall commence on the first of January and end on the thirty-first of December of each year, provided that the first fiscal year of the Council shall commence on the date the provisions of this Decree by Law come into force and end on the thirty-first day of December of the following year.

Article (13)

Accounts Auditing

1. The Council shall be subject to the oversight of the Supreme Audit Institution and shall provide the Supreme Audit Institution with all the data or information requested regarding the business thereof.
2. If necessary, the Council may contract with an auditor licensed in the State to audit accounts thereof in accordance with standard accounting principles.

Article (14)

General Provisions

1. The Council shall replace the Ministry in all competences, rights, obligations, and legislation related to media affairs and regulation, including the rights and obligations stipulated in any contracts, agreements, or memoranda of understanding concluded by the Ministry concerning the media.
2. The Chairman may decide to include any media entity after completing the necessary procedures, coordinating with the relevant authorities and obtaining the Cabinet approval.
3. Employees of the organisational units at the Ministry related to the Council competencies, whose transfer is decided upon through coordination between the Ministry and the Council, shall be transferred to the Council by a decision of the Cabinet. These employees shall maintain their current grades, total salaries, and benefits as outlined at the time of this Decree by Law issuance. Their service at the Council shall be considered a continuation of their service with their previous employer.
4. By virtue of a resolution issued by the Cabinet, all assets, appropriations, allocations and budgets determined for media affairs at the Ministry shall be transferred to the Council.

Article (15)

Executive Resolutions

Upon the Chairman recommendation, the Cabinet shall issue the resolutions necessary to implement the provisions of this Decree by Law. For that purpose, the Cabinet may assign the Ministry or any other entity to exercise the competencies stipulated in this Decree by Law until the Council carries out all its operational procedures.

Article (16)

Repeals

1. The Ministry competencies related to media contained in both Federal Law No. (1) of 1972, referred to, and Federal Law No. (15) of 1980 regarding Press and Publishing shall be repealed, and any provision that contradicts or conflicts with the provisions hereof shall be repealed.
2. Subject to the provisions of this Decree by Law, the resolutions and regulations issued prior to its enactment and in effect at the Ministry in Media Affairs shall remain valid until they are replaced by new resolutions and regulations issued in accordance with this Decree by Law.

Article (17)

Publication and Entry into Force of Decree by Law

This Decree by Law shall be published in the Official Gazette, and shall come into effect from the day following the date of its publication.

Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan
President of the United Arab Emirates

Issued by Us at the Palace of the Presidency in Abu Dhabi:

Dated: 5 October 2022

Corresponding to: 9 Rabi' I 1444 H