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**Published on the website on May 2024**

**Legislative Decree No. (10) of 1980 Approving the Convention on the Establishment of the Regional Centre for Media Documentation 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 Convention on the Establishment of the Regional Centre for Media Documentation for the Gulf States;

Upon the submission of the Minister of Information;

And after the approval of the Council of Ministers;

**Hereby Decree the following:**

**Article One**

The Convention on the Establishment of the Regional Centre for Media Documentation for the Gulf States, signed in Doha on 27 Rabi' al-awwal 1400 A.H., corresponding to 12 February 1980, attached to this Law, has been approved.

**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: 21 Rabi Al-Thani 1400 A.H.

Corresponding to: 8 March 1980

**The Republic of Iraq**

**Ministry of Culture and Information**

**The Convention on the Establishment of the Regional Centre for Media Documentation for the Gulf States**

In a bid to strengthen the available foundations existing between the Arab States and for further convergence and integration among the Gulf region’s States, which are united by shared religion, land, environment, culture, language, history, and common interests will.

Recognising the significant social, educational, and cultural responsibility entrusted to various means of mass communication, and the role they play in advancing progress and growth to in creating and shaping the unified new society of the Arab people.

In pursuit of harmonising efforts, coordinating resources, and fostering cooperation in the field of media.

Desiring to provide all media bodies operating in the States of the region in general, and the regional media bodies whose establishment was decided in particular, with a legalised scientific foundation of information, and to create a body responsible with coordinating media work between these bodies, by securing the flow of global information and news to all of these bodies on the one hand, and securing the flow of national information collected by these bodies among themselves and between them and the rest of the world, on the other hand.

The governments of the Gulf States signatories to this Convention have agreed to establish the “Centre for Media Documentation for the Gulf States” in accordance with the following provisions:

**Outlet Name, Headquarters, Membership, and Objectives**

**Article One**

A Media Documentation Centre for the Gulf States, having the legal personality, hereinafter referred to as “the Centre”, shall hereby be established.

**Article Two**

The headquarters of the Centre shall be in Baghdad, and it shall have the right to establish liaison offices or appoint correspondents in any of the Contracting States (Members).

**Article Three**

The Centre’s membership shall include every Gulf Arab State that shall sign, ratify, or accede to this Convention.

**Article Four**

The Centre shall specifically aim to achieve the following objectives:

A - Assembling the largest possible amount of media production in its various forms and vessels, such as prints, audio-visual materials, government documents, research, studies, and other materials necessary for workers, students, and researchers in the media field.

B - Organising and analysing documents and information transfer vessels collected in accordance with systems, principles, and techniques that correspond to the latest methods and systems applied globally, after taking into account the adaptation of these global systems to the specifications and characteristics of the Arabic language on the one hand, as well as to the types and accuracy of the Arabic information in general and the Arab Gulf States in particular, on the other hand. All in order to derive the information and data contained in these documents and vessels, and organise them in information observatories and data banks that shall allow their accurate, quick, and easy retrieval.

C - Providing the information needed by planners, workers, and researchers in the media field in the Gulf region, providing them with the correct data on various Gulf issues, projects, and activities, and enabling them to follow the latest developments and trends in various branches of science and knowledge with the aim of advancing production, developing performance levels, and providing richer, more diverse, and more vital programmes and materials.

D - Revealing the civilisational and cultural assets of the region, by collecting national and folk heritage, as well as environmental arts and literature, documenting them, and making them available for use in various media and publishing outlets. This shall have a significant impact on supporting the Gulf’s direction towards cultural, artistic, and media unity, in addition to providing more opportunities for local artistic creativity in various media formats, reducing strong reliance on imported materials – and programmes.

E - Enhancing means of coordination and cooperation in producing and exchanging media programmes and materials within the States of the region, by monitoring the media assets of Gulf States in the form of unified indexes, and introducing them by issuing periodic bibliographic lists and distributing them to media bodies.

F- Opening up to foreign cultures by exchanging publications, media services, and technical expertise with different States and similar centres, as well as capturing cultures and information from the outside world and broadcasting them to the Gulf region by subscribing to information banks and services related to the media fields.

G- Supporting the infrastructure of information, library, and documentation services in the Gulf media bodies, and filling the current gaps in these services by laying the rules for the technical preparation of materials, by designing sets of standardised processing, storage, and retrieval systems, preparing guides to legalise work methods and performance, providing essential tools and references, along with training information and documentation specialists to apply these systems using these tools, in accordance with legalised work methods.

**Article Five**

In order to achieve its objectives, the Centre shall carry out all works and dispositions required by the nature of its work, and that would achieve the objective for which it was established.

**Board of Directors**

**Article Six**

The Centre shall have a Board of Directors consisting of one representative of each of the Member States in this Convention, who shall be the Minister of Information serving as an original member of the Board, as well as another representative he delegates who shall be an alternate member. Each one of them shall have the right to be accompanied to the Board meetings by a number of assistants or counsellor, and the Centre’s Director General shall serve as Board’s rapporteur.

**Article Seven**

The Board of Directors shall be the highest authority of the Centre, and it shall be responsible for setting the Centre’s general policy, directing its activities, and establishing the governing rules. It shall also have the authority to make the necessary decisions to achieve the Centre’s objectives for which it was established, in particular:

A - Issuing and amending the internal, financial, administrative, and technical systems, decisions, and regulations for the Centre, as well as determining the Centre’s relationships with the media bodies and institutions within the member States, as well as globally.

B - Approving the draft annual budget of the Centre, and ratifying the closing account.

C - Appointing and dismissing the Director General of the Centre and the those who hold key positions.

D - Appointing an auditor, approving his annual report, and determining his remuneration.

E - Determining the banks in which the Centre’s funds shall be deposited.

F- Reviewing periodic reports on the Centre’s activities, or reviewing any issues that the Director General deems necessary regarding the Centre’s objectives.

G- Determining the location of the next ordinary session of the Board.

**Article Eight**

The Gulf News Agency, Gulf Television Organization for the G.C.C. States, the G.C.C. Joint Program Production Institution, and any G.C.C. joint media institutions to be established in the future, shall participate in the Board meetings as observer members, who shall have the right to participate in discussions and submit proposals. However, they shall not have the right to vote. The Board of Directors shall have the right to call any other organisation to take part in its meetings as an observer.

**Article Nine**

The Board of Directors shall have the right to establish committees from among its members to undertake specific responsibilities, and it shall also have the right to delegate a designated task to one of its members or the Director General.

**Article Ten**

A - Taking into account the provisions of paragraph (B) below, the Board of Directors shall convene at the call of the Director General on the date he shall set, and at the place designated by the Board of Directors.

B - The Board shall hold two ordinary sessions every year in October/March. The call shall be sent to the members accompanied by the agenda, at least two months before the date of the meetings. It shall be permissible to hold extraordinary sessions at the request of at least two members. In this case, the Director General shall send the call along with the reasons for requesting the meeting.

C - The Member States shall have the right to vote regarding management, with each State having one vote.

D - The Board meeting shall only be valid in the presence of a majority of the members, and decisions shall be issued – by the majority of the votes of those present. In case of a tie, the side of the President shall prevail.

**Article Eleven**

A - The presidency of the Board of Directors shall be for a period of one year and rotating among the members, in alphabetical order of the names of their States. The President shall remain in charge of his duties until the presidency is assigned to his successor at the beginning of the next ordinary session.

B - In case the President of the Board is absent, the meeting shall be presided over by the representative of the member who will succeed him in the presidency.

**Article Twelve**

The Board of Directors shall have the right to issue a Decision by consensus. In this case, the unanimous approval of all members shall be required for this Decision, which shall be presented at the first ordinary session for confirmation in the meeting minutes.

**Executive Bureau**

**Article Thirteen**

The Centre shall be managed by a Director General appointed by virtue of a Decision from the Board of Directors for a period of four years, renewable for a similar period once. He shall be assisted in carrying out the basic functions by a sufficient number of qualified workers who are nationals of the Member States, in accordance with the regulations issued by the Board of Directors. He shall also have the right to appoint, as experts, a number of specialised persons in their fields, provided that this shall be accompanied by the approval of the majority of the members of the Board of Directors.

**Article Fourteen**

A - The Director General of the Centre shall have the following competences and powers:

1- Representing the Centre in its relations with third-parties and before the court.

2- Managing the administrative, scientific, and financial affairs of the Centre, in accordance with the approved regulations.

3- Preparing the draft balance sheet and closing account.

4- Implementing the decisions of the Board.

5- Presenting an annual report on the Centre’s activities and proposals for its development.

B - The Director General of the Centre shall be responsible before the Board of Directors.

**Article Fifteen**

The Centre shall have an internal regulation issued by the Board of Directors, including particularly the following:-

The competence of the President of the Board of Directors of the Centre.

The competence of the Director General.

The rules followed in the management of the Centre’s affairs as well as its system, including financial, administrative, and accounting rules.

The rules for the appointment, promotion, determination of salaries, remuneration, cash or in rem benefits, discipline, and termination of services of the employees, workers, and the staff of the Centre.

**The Centre’s Budget**

**Article Sixteen**

The Centre’s resources shall consist of the following:

A - Members’ contributions to the Centre’s budget, and their allocations shall be as follows: 19% for The United Arab Emirates, The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, The Republic of Iraq, The State of Qatar, The State of Kuwait, and 2.5% for the Kingdom of Bahrain and the The Sultanate of Oman.

B - The proceeds from its activities or the services it provides.

C - Grants, donations, and loans from the governments of the Member States.

**Article Seventeen**

The fiscal year shall start on the first of January and shall end on the last day of December of each year. The first fiscal year shall start from the date of the entry into force of this Convention, until the last day of December of the following fiscal year. The due date for financial obligations of the members shall be within the first three months following the start of the Centre’s fiscal year.

**Article Eighteen**

The draft budget shall be submitted to the Board of Directors for approval at least three months before the start of the fiscal year at the ordinary session in October. The closing account of the previous year shall also be submitted for approval, within three months from the end of the fiscal year, at the ordinary session in March.

**Article Nineteen**

The Centre shall be exempted from all taxes and financial fees and expenses of all kinds in all Member States.

**General Provisions**

**Article Twenty**

The Members shall be equal in rights and obligations, and the membership of any State shall not be terminated except if it fails to fulfil the obligations stipulated in this Convention. Termination of membership shall require the approval of the remaining signatory Member States of this Convention, those who have ratified it, or those who have acceded to it.

**Article Twenty-One**

Any member associated with this Convention shall have the right to withdraw from it, through a letter sent by its government to the President of the Board of Directors. The withdrawal shall only become effective after being presented to the Board of Directors. The financial obligations of the withdrawing member shall remain in effect until the end of the fiscal year in which the withdrawal becomes effective.

**Article Twenty-Two**

A - This Convention shall remain in force for an indefinite period, and any amendment to any of its provisions or the dissolution of the Centre shall not be made, except by a Decision from the Board of Directors, whether in its ordinary or extraordinary session.

B - In case of its dissolution, the Centre’s assets shall be transferred to the authority or authorities determined by the Decision taken to dissolving the Centre.

**Article Twenty-Three**

A - This Convention shall be ratified by the signatory parties, in accordance with their respective constitutional procedures, and the original ratification documents shall be deposited with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, as soon as possible.

B - This Convention shall come into effect on the first day of the month following the date of depositing the original ratification or accession documents by four of the Member States. If the deposit is completed in the second half of the month, the Convention shall enter into force from the first day of the second month thereafter. The Headquarters State shall then call for the first meeting of the Board of Directors.

C - The original copy of this Convention shall be deposited with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, who shall provide a certified copy or original copy to each State that ratifies or accedes to it. The Ministry shall also communicate what comes to it as a depositary State to the concerned States and others.

This Convention was issued in (Doha) on 27 / Rabi' al-awwal / 1400 A.H.

12/2/1980, between:-

The Government of the United Arab Emirates, represented by:

Minister of Information

The Government of Bahrain, represented by:

Minister of Information

The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, represented by:

Minister of Information

The Government of the Republic of Iraq, represented by:

Minister of Culture and Information

The Government of the State of Qatar, represented by:

Minister of Information

The Government of the State of Kuwait, represented by:

Minister of Information