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**Legislative Decree No. (22) of 1982 regarding the approval of the Convention of the Centre for Popular Heritage of the Arab Gulf States**

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

Having reviewed the Constitution;

Emiri Order No. (5) of 1982;

And the Convention of the Centre for Popular Heritage of the Arab Gulf States;

Upon the submission of the Minister of Information;

And after the approval of the Council of Ministers,

**Hereby Decree the following Law:**

**Article One**

The Convention of the Centre for Popular Heritage of the Arab Gulf States signed in Kuwait City on 1 Jumada al-Awwal 1402 A.H., corresponding to 24 February 1982, attached to this Law shall be approved.

**Article Two**

The ministers - each within his jurisdiction - shall implement this Law and it shall come into force upon its publication in the Official Gazette.

**Acting Emir of the State of Bahrain**

**Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa**

Issued in Riffa Palace

On: 6 Dhu al-Qi'dah 1402 A.H.

Corresponding to: 25 August 1982

**Convention of the Centre for Popular Heritage of the Arab Gulf States**

The governments of the United Arab Emirates, the State of Bahrain, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Republic of Iraq, the Sultanate of Oman, the State of Qatar and the State of Kuwait.

And in a bid to strengthen the available foundations for further convergence and integration among the Gulf region's countries, which are united by shared religion, land, environment, culture, language, history, interests, and common will,

And recognizing 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 create and shape the unified new society of the Arab people,

And in pursuit of harmonizing efforts, coordinating resources, and fostering cooperation in the fields of media, heritage and culture,

And stemming from the comprehensive study of Arab folk heritage to understand its origins, components, and characteristics, the desire arises to unify the efforts of the contracting states in caring for and safeguarding Gulf Arab folk heritage to seek the sources of authenticity and the richness inherent in their heritage, which serves as a sincere expression of their various sufferings and creations throughout history and to provide scientific material for social studies in the sciences and history of humanity, and to protect this heritage from loss, misuse, distortion, and manipulation and to appropriately employ and enrich it with contemporary life in various possible fields.

The parties have agreed to establish the Centre for Popular Heritage of the Arab Gulf States in accordance with the following provisions:

**Part One: Establishment of the Centre, its Headquarters and Membership**

**Article One:**

By virtue of this Convention, a centre shall be established, with independent legal personality, named the (Centre for Popular Heritage of the Arab Gulf States), hereinafter referred to as the Centre.

**Article Two:**

The headquarters of the Centre shall be located in the city of Doha.

**Article Three:**

The Centre's membership shall include every Gulf Arab state that signs, ratifies, or accedes to this Convention.

**Article Four:**

A- The competent authority designated by the member states shall establish local liaison points for the Centre. These points shall benefit from its efforts and accomplishments, coordinate within its work plan, and its responsible head shall act as the local representative in the Advisory Committee for Planning and Coordination.

B- The local liaison points in member states shall be financially and administratively subject to their respective countries, and their relationship with the Centre shall be of a technical and consultative nature, determined by the work plan, field research projects, and the nature of collaboration for area surveys.

**Part Two: Objectives and Means of the Centre**

**Article Five:**

The Centre aims to achieve the following objectives:

1- Collect, document and achieve everything related to the popular culture in the Gulf Arab countries, which represents the spirit, wisdom and various creations of the people over the ages.

2- Provide and publish studies about the Gulf Arab popular heritage, based on a comprehensive study of our Arab popular heritage, and connect it to the world's folklore to understand its origins, primary components, characteristics and interactions. This is to recognize the features and legacies of our ancient heritage and identify the role and place of our Arab heritage within.

3- Safeguard this heritage as a national cultural wealth, protect it from exploitation by third parties, preserve the moral and material rights of member states, and establish its foundations.

4- Emphasize the national content of the field work nature of collecting and preserving popular heritage through fostering wide popular participation that contributes to gathering materials and supporting official efforts to protect and preserve the heritage.

5- Establish a specialized central library for popular heritage using the latest scientific methods to serve as a reference for all researchers. The Centre provides images of rare books and manuscripts to the libraries of member states.

6- Incorporate appropriate aspects of popular culture and its noble values into modern education curricula in member states.

7- Develop the capabilities of member states in the field of interest and special care for heritage.

**Article Six:**

The Centre shall employ all necessary means to achieve its objectives, especially by:

1- Encouraging and supporting the efforts of individuals and private institutions that relate to its field of work.

2- Conducting specialized training courses to qualify local personnel and rely on them.

3- Issuing a specialized scientific journal, organizing cultural seasons or participating in them, and innovating modern methods and ideas to spread heritage and connect new generations with their heritage.

4- Collaborating with the Regional Centre for Media Documentation of the Gulf States, especially in matters related to heritage, and with entities engaged in similar work or that could assist in achieving its purposes both domestically and internationally.

5- Establishing necessary permanent and temporary committees to study specific matters.

6- Any other matters decided by the Board of Directors within the Centre's objectives.

**Part Three: Board of Directors**

**Article Seven:**

The Centre shall establish a Board of Directors composed of one representative from each of the member states. The representative of a member state may delegate his representative to attend the Board of Directors meetings on his behalf. The Director-General shall act as the rapporteur of the Board, and each member may be represented by one or more delegates in the meetings.

**Article Eight:**

The Board of Directors is the highest authority of the Centre, responsible for setting its overall policies, directing its activities, and establishing the governing rules. It shall have the authority to make the necessary decisions to achieve the Centre's objectives, including:

A- Issuing internal, financial, administrative, and technical regulations, decisions, and statute for the Centre, as well as determining its relationships with the concerned entities and institutions within the member states, as well as globally, including international and regional organizations.

B- Approving the Centre's annual budget proposal and endorsing the final accounts for the previous fiscal year.

C- Appointing the Director-General of the Centre.

D- Appointing the occupants of the key positions based on nominations from the member states; if nominations are not received within a month, the Director-General shall make the appointments.

E- Appointing the auditor for the upcoming financial year, reviewing and approving their annual report, and determining their annual remuneration.

F- Determining the banks in which the Centre's funds shall be deposited.

G- Reviewing periodic reports on the Centre's activities or any issues presented by the Director-General related to the Centre's objectives.

H- Determining the location and date of the next ordinary session of the Board.

I- Establishing the working regulations of permanent and temporary committees and study groups.

J- Reviewing and approving reports from permanent and temporary committees.

**Article Nine:**

The Board of Directors may establish committees among its members to undertake specific responsibilities and it may also delegate a designated task to one of its members or the Director-General.

**Article Ten:**

A- The Board of Directors shall convene at least twice a year upon the invitation of its President. The first meeting shall take place at least two months before the start of the new fiscal year, and the second meeting shall occur within three months after the conclusion of the previous fiscal year. Invitations shall be sent along with an agenda at least one month prior to the meeting dates. Extraordinary sessions may be held upon the request of the President of the Board of Directors or at least three of its members. In such cases, the Director-General shall issue invitations on behalf of the President of the Board of Directors, specifying the reasons for convening the meeting.

B- Each member state shall have the right to vote in the Board of Directors, with each state having one vote.

C- The Board meeting shall be considered valid if attended by a simple numerical majority of its members. Decisions shall be adopted by a majority vote of the present members.  In case of a tie, the side favoured by the President shall prevail.

**Article Eleven:**

A- The presidency of the Board of Directors shall be for a one-year term, rotating among the members according to the alphabetical order of their countries' names.  The President shall continue to perform his duties until the new President assumes office at the beginning of the next ordinary session.

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

**Article Twelve:**

The Board of Directors may issue a decision by consensus. In this case, the unanimous approval of all members is required for this decision, which shall be presented at the first ordinary meeting for confirmation in the meeting minutes.

**Part Four: Executive Bureau:**

**Article Thirteen:**

The Centre shall be managed by a Director-General appointed by a decision of the Board of Directors. The Director-General shall be a national of the member states and shall be assisted in key functions by a sufficient number of personnel experienced in their respective fields, in accordance with the regulations issued by 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 judiciary.

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

3- Preparing the budget and final accounts.

4- Implementing the decisions of the Board of Directors.

5- Presenting an annual report on the Centre's activities and proposing its development.

6- Proposing amendments to the provisions of this Convention.

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

**Article Fifteen:**

An advisory committee for planning and coordination shall be established for the Centre, presided by a member of the Board of Directors from the host country or his representative. The committee shall consist of:

A- Delegates from the competent authorities determined by the member states.

B- Responsible officials of the local points of contact in the member states.

C- A selection of experts specialized in popular heritage from the Gulf region and the Arab world, proposed by the Director-General and approved by the Board of Directors.

**Article Sixteen:**

A- The tasks of the Advisory Committee for Planning and Coordination include discussing and evaluating action plans aimed at achieving the Centre's objectives, providing ideas and suggestions to support them, and presenting recommendations to the Board of Directors for approval.

B- The Advisory Committee for Planning and Coordination shall meet once every year before the convening of the Board of Directors in its ordinary session, which is held before the start of the Centre's new fiscal year. The Director-General may also call for a meeting if deemed necessary.

**Article Seventeen:**

The Centre shall have internal regulations governing its operations, issued by a decision of the Board of Directors.

**Part Five: Centre's Budget**

**Article Eighteen:**

A- Member contributions to the Centre's budget and their allocations shall be as follows:

19% for each of the following countries: United Arab Emirates, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Republic of Iraq, State of Qatar, State of Kuwait, 2.5% for the Kingdom of Bahrain and 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.

D- Income derived from investing the accumulated general reserve.

**Article Nineteen:**

A- 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.

B- 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 Twenty:**

The draft budget shall be presented to the Board of Directors at least two months before the start of the fiscal year for approval. The final accounts for the previous year shall be presented to the Board of Directors within three months from the end of the fiscal year for adoption.

**Article Twenty-One:**

The Centre shall be exempted from all taxes and financial fees in all member states.

**Part Six: General Provisions**

**Article Twenty-Two:**

Members shall be equal in rights and obligations, and the membership of any state shall not be terminated except if it fails to fulfil its 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 Three:**

Any member associated with this Convention shall have the right to withdraw from it by sending a letter from 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 Four:**

This Convention shall remain in force indefinitely. No amendment to any of its clauses or the dissolution of the Centre shall occur except by a decision of the signatory member states. Amendments shall be ratified by the parties that have signed them in accordance with their constitutional procedures.

**Article Twenty Five:**

A- This Convention shall be ratified by the signatory parties in accordance with their constitutional procedures, and the original ratification instruments shall be deposited with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar.

B- This Convention shall come into effect on the first day of the month following the date of depositing the original ratification or accession instruments 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 beginning of the second month thereafter. The host state shall then invite the first meeting of the Board of Directors.

C- The original copies of this Convention shall be deposited with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar, which 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 country to the concerned countries and others.

This Convention has been drafted in the city of Doha on the twenty-fourth of the month of Muharram in the year fourteen hundred and two Hijri, corresponding to the twenty-first of November in the year one thousand nine hundred and eighty-one Gregorian.

**Government of the United Arab Emirates, represented by:**

**Minister of Information**

**Government of the State of Bahrain, represented by:**

**Minister of Information**

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

**Minister of Information**

**Government of the Republic of Iraq, represented by:**

**Minister of Information**

**Government of the Sultanate of Oman, represented by:**

**Minister of National Heritage and Culture, Minister of Information and Youth Affairs**

**Government of the State of Qatar, represented by:**

**Minister of Information**

**Government of the State of Kuwait, represented by:**

**Minister of Information**