

EGYPT

Law on Non-Governmental Organizations

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Part I: Associations

Chapter I: Foundation of Associations

Article 1: For the purpose of enforcing the provisions of the present law there shall be deemed as an association, each group of an organization continuing for a definite or indefinite period, comprising natural or judicial persons or both of them with a total of at least ten persons in all cases, and oriented to a purpose other than material profit.

Article 2: It is a requirement for an association, to be founded that it shall have a written statute of its own signed by all founders and to possess an appropriate headquarters in the Arab Republic of Egypt.
Co-founders of an association shall, in no case, comprise persons finally convicted to a criminal or freedom-restrictive penalty under a misdemeanor of dishonorable or anti-fidelity conduct unless rehabilitated.
Non-Egyptians may hold the membership of an association under the rules provided for in the executive regulations.

Article 3: The statute of an association shall include the following data :

1. Name of association, which should be derived from its purpose in such a way as to avoid any confusion with any other association operating in the same geographical jurisdiction.
2. Type, field of activity and geographical jurisdiction of association.
3. Address of premises elected as a headquarters of the association.
4. Name, surname, age, nationality, vocation and place of residence of each of the founding members.
5. Resources and method of utilization and disposal.
6. Representative bodies of the association, terms of reference for each, method of reelecting, discharging and annulling or suspending membership as well as the quorum necessary for valid meetings and valid resolutions.
7. System and conditions of membership and rights and obligations of members, particularly each member's right to have access to the association's documents, attend and cast vote on the general assembly.
8. Financial control system.
9. Rules of amending the association's statutes and setting up branches, cases of termination and parties to which the association's property will devolve in such cases.
10. A statement specifying the competent person to apply for associations to acquire a public-benefit capacity.
11. A statement specifying the founders' assembly representative authorized to conduct foundation procedures.

Attached to the executive regulations for the present law there will be a model form of a statute, which may be followed by associations.

Article 4: In no case shall a statute of an association may stipulate for its property to devolve, upon termination, to any party other than NGO Assistance Fund or any other association or NGO or federations governed by the provisions of this law.

Article 5: An application for registering a summary statement of an association's statute shall be submitted on the relevant form accompanied with the following documents:

1. Two copies of statute both signed by all founders.
2. A declaration by each of the founding members, purporting that condition set forth under Article 2 and data under item "D" of Article 3 hereof are satisfied.
3. Occupancy receipt for the association's premises.

The administrative body shall affix the date of submitting registration application on a copy thereof to be delivered to applicant and shall enter some on a special register.

The executive regulations of this law shall define procedures for submitting application, duty payable for entering the association's statute in a special register, up to a maximum of LE100, the proceeds of which shall be paid to the NGO Assistance Fund. A form of registration application referred to shall be attached to the executive regulations.

Article 6: The administrative body shall be under obligation to enter a summary statement of the association's statute into the relevant register within sixty days from the date of submission by the founder's assembly representative of a registration application. Should sixty days elapse without being made, registration shall be deemed effective under the law.

The association shall be judged to be a judicial person by conducting such registration or by the lapse of sixty days from the day the association representative has applied for registration, whichever earlier.

Should the administrative body realize, within the sixty days referred to, that the association's purposes comprise an activity prohibited under Article 11 hereof, the body shall reject the registration application by a decision to be notified to the representative of the founders' assembly by a registered letter with acknowledgement of receipt within the aforementioned sixty days.

The representative of the founders' assembly may challenge the decision before the competent court within sixty days effective the date of notification in accordance with prescribed procedures.

The administrative body shall carry such procedure as to have a summary statement of the association's statute published in the Official Gazette (Al-Waqie Al-Misria) with sixty days from the date the association is judged a

judicial person.

Article 7: There shall be set up within the jurisdiction of each court of first instance one or more committee to be formed annually under a decision by the Minister of Justice. Such committee shall be headed by at least a counselor of the court of appeal to be nominated by the court's general assembly with the following as members :

1. A representative of the administrative body nominated by the Minister of Social Affairs.
2. A representative of the regional Federation nominated by the board of directors of the general federation. Such committee shall comprise, as a member, a representative of the association to the dispute to be nominated by its general assembly or board of directors.

The committee shall be concerned with the considering disputes that may arise between the association and the administrative body.

The committee meeting shall be valid, only with the presence of all its members. Its resolution shall be issued within sixty days from the date of submitting dispute thereto, by majority of votes. In case of equal votes, the chairman's shall be the casting vote. The executive regulations of the present law show other rules and procedures for running business of the committee. No action in respect of dispute shall be accepted by the competent court unless resolution thereon has been taken by the committee or the period stipulated in the preceding paragraph has elapsed. Action shall be filed within sixty days of the date of issuing the resolution according to relevant procedures of file cases.

Article 8: Without prejudice to paragraph 3, Article 6 of the present law, the administrative body may object to whatever it deems as contradictory to the law in the statute of the association or as regards the founders. However, this shall not preclude it from being obliged to enter the association into the relevant register within the period set forth in Article 6 hereof. Should it find any justification for objection, the administrative body shall notify the association by registered mail with acknowledgement of receipt, with reasons of such objection. Should the association fail to eliminate causes of such objection within the period specified by the administrative body, the dispute shall be submitted to the committee set forth in the preceding article. When an action on objection is filed before the competent court, following the issuance of the committee resolution, the administrative body may request the competent court to urgently pass a judgment to eliminate cause of contravention, while maintaining the association in operation or to impose a temporary suspension on the activity of the association pending settlement of subject of suit. The administrative body shall annotate the text of verdict opposite the relevant entry of the association in the special register.

Article 9: Any interested party shall have the right to have access to the summary statement of the association's statute and obtain a copy endorsed as true against payment of such duty as may be defined by the executive regulations up to a maximum of LE20; the proceeds to which shall be paid to the NGO Assistance Fund.

Article 10: In amending an institution's statute, the same procedures set forth in this chapter as regards foundation.

Chapter II: Purposes, Rights and Obligations of Associations

Article 11: Associations seek to implement their purposes in various community development domains according to the rules and procedures set forth by the executive regulations.

Subject to the opinion of the competent federation and approval of the administrative body, an association may operate in more than one field. Secret associations shall be banned. Associations shall not be allowed to conduct any of the following purposes or activities :

1. Form military or Para-military formations or detachments.
2. Threaten national unity, violate public order or morality or advocate discrimination against citizens, on account of sex, origin, color, language, religion or creed.
3. Practice any political or trade union activity exclusively restricted to political parties and trade unions.
4. Seek profit or practice any profit-oriented activity. However, adopting commercial controls to generate such income that contributes to the realization of the association's purposes shall not be considered a contravening activity.

Article 12: State civil servants may be seconded to work with associations, at their request, to provide support necessary for performing associations' missions. Secondly shall be made for one year renewable under a decision by the competent minister subject to approval by the prime minister or whoever authorized thereby.

Article 13: Without prejudice to any privileges set forth under any other law, associations subject to the present law shall be eligible to the following privileges :

1. Exemption from registration and entry duties, payable by the association in all types of contracts to which it may be party to, such

- as contracts of ownerships, mortgage or other rights in kind.
2. Exemption from taxes and stamp duties currently or to be in future levied on all contracts, powers of attorney, printed material and records, etc.
 3. Exemption from customs, taxes and other duties on the imported equipment, tools and production requirements as well as giveaways, donations and aids from abroad, under a resolution by the prime minister based on a proposal by the Minister of Social Affairs and presentation by the Minister of Finance, on condition that these objects are necessary for its main activity. Of these objects, it is prohibited to dispose of such durable goods as are identified under a resolution by the Minister of Social Affairs in agreement with the Ministry of Finance before the elapse of five years, as long as the taxes and customs duties due thereon remain unpaid.
 4. Exemption of real property owned by the association from the real-estate tax.
 5. A 25% reduction on railway transport duties for equipment and machinery.
 6. Household telephone subscription and call tariffs shall apply for associations, which shall be defined under a decision by the administrative body.
 7. A 50% reduction shall be given on consumption value of water, electricity and natural gas produced by the public authorities, public sector companies and any other government bodies.
 8. Contributions given to associations shall be considered an income liability up to a maximum of 100%.

Article 14: Each member shall have the right to withdraw from the association at any time of his choice, provided he will notify the association by a registered letter with acknowledgement of receipt. This shall not prejudice the association's right to demand him to settle any dues outstanding or moneys owed thereby.

Article 15: The association shall have the right to own real property in such a manner that enables it to fulfill its purposes.

Article 16: The association may join, participate or belong to a club, association, authority or an organization domiciled outside the Arab Republic of Egypt that practices such activity that does not conflict with its purposes, provided that the administrative body have been notified and sixty days have elapsed from date of notification without any written objection on its part.

Article 17: The association has the right to accept contributions. It may collect contributions from natural or juridical persons and in such a manner as may be set forth by the executive regulations. In all cases, no association shall

have the right to obtain money from abroad either from an Egyptian or foreign persons or a foreign body or its local representatives. Nor shall the association send any of the abovementioned, save for books, publications, technical and scientific magazines to persons or organizations abroad unless so authorized by the Minister of Social Affairs.

Article 18: In order to realize its purposes and reinforce its financial resources, the association may set up service and productive projects, celebrations, charity bazaars, fairs and sport games.

Article 19: The association shall keep at its management centre the relevant documents, registers and correspondence. The executive regulations define such records and how to use them and the data contained. These records shall be stamped before being used by the administrative body.

Article 20: Each member of the association shall have the right to have access to the association's records. Employees to be specified under a decision by the Minister of Social Affairs and representative of the competent federation may have access to the association's headquarters or branches with the purpose of reviewing its records according to such procedures as may be set forth by the executive regulations hereof.

Article 21: Each member of the association shall have the right to have access to the association's records. Employees to be specified under a decision by the Minister of Social Affairs and representative of the competent federation may have access to the association's headquarters or branches with the purpose of reviewing its records according to such procedures as may be set forth by the executive regulations hereof.

The balance sheet, board of directors' report and auditor's report shall remain in display at the association's headquarters at least eight days prior to the meeting of the general assembly until ratified. The executive regulations shall define the manner of displaying such documents.

Article 22: The association undertakes to deposit with a bank or a saving fund, its cash funds in its same registered name.

The association shall expend its own funds in such manner as may fulfill its purposes. It may invest its surplus income in areas of guaranteed gain that ensure a fixed source of income or reinvest same in its productive or service projects.

In all cases, associations shall refrain from engaging into financial speculations. The executive regulations shall define cases and conditions for investing the association's funds.

Article 23: In cases where an association issues such a resolution that the administrative body deems to be in conflict with the law or its statute, the administrative body may demand the association, by a registered letter with a knowledge of

receipt, within ten days from being so notified under Article 38 hereof, to withdraw the resolution.

Should the association fail to withdraw such resolution within fifteen days from being so notified, the administrative body shall have the right to submit the matter to the committee set forth under Article 7 hereof. Each party concerned shall have the right to challenge any resolution to be issued by the committee before the competent court.

Chapter III: Machinery of the Association General Assembly

Article 24: The general assembly shall be composed of all active members who have completed at least six months and satisfied obligations under the association's statute.

Article 25: The general assembly shall be convened up in an invitation in writing to each member eligible to attend the assembly. This invitation shall define the place, date of agenda and the meeting shall be addressed by :

1. The board of directors.
2. A number of persons authorized by twenty five percent members eligible to attend the general assembly.
3. The commissioner appointed under Article 40 hereof.
4. The competent administrative body should it deem it necessary.

Article 26: The general assembly shall be held at the main headquarters of the association. It may also be held in any other place to be defined on the invitation to which the agenda is enclosed. A copy of the documents to be submitted to the general assembly shall be sent to the administrative body and to the federation to which the association is affiliated, at least fifteen days before the meeting. The federation may authorize someone to attend the meeting.

The general assembly may discuss other issues, not stated in the agenda subject to the approval of the absolute majority of total members.

The administrative body and the competent federation shall be notified with a copy of the minutes of the general assembly meeting within thirty days as of the date of meeting.

Article 27: The general assembly shall be convened to an ordinary meeting at least once a year during the four months following the end of the association fiscal year to discuss balance sheet, final account and the board of directors' report on results of the year, auditor's report. Besides it elects new directors to replace those whose term has expired or terminated in addition to appointing an auditor and determining his fees as well as such other issues as the board of directors may enter into the agenda. The general assembly may be convened

for an ordinary meeting whenever necessary.

The general assembly may be convened to extraordinary meetings to discuss amendments to the statutes of the association, dissolving, merging with other associations, discharging all or some of the directors or for any other issues that are required under the statute of the association to be discussed in an extraordinary meeting.

- Article 28:** The meeting of the general assembly shall be considered as valid if attended by absolute majority of its members
In case of incomplete quorum, the meeting shall be adjourned for another session to be held within a period of at least one hour or at most fifteen days of the date of the first meeting as may be decided by the statute of the association. In this case the meeting shall be valid if attended in person by at least ten percent of the members or twenty members whichever less provided that the number of attendees in the first case shall be at least five members.
- Article 29:** A member of the general assembly may authorize in writing another member to represent him in attending the general assembly according to such rules as may be decided by the statute of the association. A member may not represent more than one member. A member of the general assembly may authorize in writing another member to represent him in attending the general assembly according to such rules as may be decided by the statute of the association. A member may not represent more than one member.
- Article 30:** A member of the general assembly shall not participate in voting if he has a personal interest in the proposed resolution, save for the election of the machinery of association.
- Article 31:** Resolutions of the ordinary general assembly shall be issued by the absolute majority of the attending members. Resolutions of the extraordinary general assembly shall be issued by an absolute majority of its members unless the statute stipulates a special majority.

Board of Directors

- Article 32:** Each association shall have a BOD composed of an odd number of at least five and at most fifteen directors as may be decided by the statute. The directors shall be elected by the general assembly for a term of six years. One third of the directors shall be reelected by lot on a biennial basis to replace directors whose membership has terminated.
The first BOD shall be appointed by the founders' assembly for a period of maximum three months. In associations involving foreign members, the percentage of Egyptian directors shall be at least similar to their percentage to total members of the association.
- Article 33:** A candidate to the directorship of an association shall be required to enjoy

his civil rights. Other conditions shall be determined by the statute of associations.

- Article 34:** The BOD shall have in display at the association's headquarters on the day following closing date for candidature, a list of candidates, names. The administrative body shall be notified with the list within the following three days, sixty days prior to the date of elections.
The administrative body as well as any party concerned may notify the association with those deemed to be excluded due to failure to satisfy candidature conditions. Should, within fifteen days from date of advising the association, candidature not be proved to have been relinquished, the administrative body may submit the matter to the committee set forth under Article 7 hereof. Challenge to the committee's resolution shall be made before the competent court before the scheduled date of elections.
- Article 35:** It is prohibited to combine the directorship of an association and employment in the administrative body or any other body conducting supervision, directing, controlling or financing the association, unless so authorized by the prime minister or whosoever authorized thereby for reasons related to public interest.
Such ban shall not apply to associations, whose membership is restricted to one of the said bodies.
- Article 36:** A director may not perform any work for account or in the interest of an association, where he has a personal interest. This shall not prejudice his right to be paid for works performed for the association wherever the statute allows so subject to approval by the BOD and ratification by general assembly of such approval at the first meeting that follows.
In all cases, the director shall have the right to be paid for the actual expenses incurred thereby for performing business of the association. A director may not cast vote on a resolution for granting him fees or reimbursement of costs incurred.
- Article 37:** The board of directors shall manage the affairs of the association. To this end, it may perform any kind of function except those required under this law and the association's statute to be first ratified by the general assembly. The board of directors should have a chairman who represents the association before courts and third parties.
- Article 38:** The association's board of directors shall hold at least one meeting every three months. Meeting shall be valid only if attended by the majority of its members.
Resolutions shall be issued by absolute majority of members present unless otherwise stipulated by the statute.
In case of equal votes, the chairman's shall be the casting vote. The board of directors shall advise the administrative body with the resolutions issued thereby or the general assembly within thirty days of the date of issuance.
- Article 39:** The board of directors may appoint one of the directors or otherwise as a

manager of the association. The appointment decision shall define the administration functions assigned thereto.

Article 40: Subject to the provisions of the association's statute, in case the number of directors is not sufficient for a valid meeting to be held, the Minister of Social Affairs may, if necessary, subject to consultation with the General Federation of NGOs and Associations appoint, under a justifiable decision, a commissioner from among the rest of directors or otherwise, who shall be vested with board of directors' terms of reference.

The commissioner shall convoke the general assembly, within sixty days, to elect a new board of directors. Otherwise, the assembly shall be deemed to be invited by virtue of law that is on the next Friday following the unfulfilled date referred to.

The conditions for such meeting shall be governed by the executive regulations of this law. The commissioner's mission shall end up with the election of the new board of directors.

Chapter IV: Dissolution of Associations

Article 41: An association may be dissolved by a resolution of the extraordinary general assembly, according to the rules set forth in its statute. The dissolution resolution may include the appointment of a liquidator or more, determination of a term for liquidation and the liquidator's fees.

Article 42: The association may be dissolved by virtue of a ruling of the competent court, at the request of the administrative body under the usual proceedings to file lawsuits, in the following cases :

1. Disposal of its funds or appropriation for purposes other than those designated.
2. Obtaining funds from sending funds to a foreign party, in contravention to provision of the second paragraph of Article 16 hereof.
3. Committing a gross violation of law or the public order or morality.
4. Failure to hold the general assembly for two years consecutively or failure to convene the assembly upon invitation in application of the provision of the second paragraph of Article 40 hereof.
5. Joining membership or affiliation to a club or society or authority or organization domiciled outside the Arab Republic of Egypt, in violation of the provision of Article 16 hereof.
6. Existence of proof that its real purposes are to target or practice an activity prohibited under Article 11 hereof.
7. Collecting contributions in violation of the provisions of the first paragraph of article 17 hereof whenever so requested, the competent court, may issue an express injunction within maximum three days,

to stop the activity in violation pending settlement of the subject matter of the dissolution request.

In all cases, the competent court elect to exclusively judge as invalid the act in violation, to eliminate cause of violation on which the request is based or to discharge the board of directors. Should the competent court decide to dissolve the association, it shall stipulate into its ruling the appointment of one or more liquidator for a definite period and a defined fee. Every party concerned may contest the ruling before the court of appeal according to proceedings and within the time limits prescribed. Any members of the dissolved association shall be deemed as a concerned party.

Article 43: In cases stipulated in the preceding two articles, where the time limit prescribed for liquidation has expired without it being completed, it may be extended for another similar period by a resolution of the General Federation of NGO's and Associations. Otherwise, liquidation shall be completed by the administrative body.

Article 44: The administrators in charge of the dissolved association shall surrender to the liquidator immediately upon request, the association's funds, documents and registers, together with any deposit taken where the association's funds are deposited and any debtors, they shall refrain from disposing of any affair, funds or rights of the association without an order in writing by the liquidator.

Article 45: When liquidation has been completed the liquidator shall allocate the proceeds in accordance with the provisions of the association's statute. Should such provision be nonexistent in the statute or, if available, impossible to implement the proceeds of liquidation shall accrue to the NGO Assistance Fund referred to in chapter IV hereof.

Article 46: The court of first instance, within which jurisdiction the association's headquarters lie, shall be exclusively competent to decide on actions filed by or against the liquidator.

Article 47: Subject to the provision of Article 44 hereof, members of a dissolved association and any other administrator in charge shall be banned from pursuing its activities or disposing of its funds. In addition, it is prohibited for any person to participate in the activities of any dissolved association.

Part II: Non Governmental Organizations (NGO's)

Article 54: In matters not covered by a special stipulation in this part, NGO's shall be governed by those provisions prescribed in respect of associations.

Article 55: An NGO shall be established by appropriating funds for a specified or unspecified period of time for purposes other than material profit. In this respect the provisions of Article 11 hereof shall apply.

Article 56: An NGO shall be established or a single founder or groups of founders involving national or judicial persons or both combined. The founders shall draw up a statute, specifically encompassing the following data

1. NGO name, geographical jurisdiction and headquarters in Arab Republic of Egypt.
2. Purpose for which NGO is established.
3. A detailed account of funds appropriated to realize the association's purposes.
4. Association's management organization, including methods of appointing head and members of boards of trustees and manager. An NGO may also be established under an official deed or registered will, either of which shall be deemed to be statute for the NGO, provided it contains the data stipulated in the preceding paragraph.

A model form of such statute will be attached to the executive regulations of this law that may be adopted by NGO's.

Article 57: In cases where an NGO is established by an official deed, the founder may, until it has been registered, rescind some by a further official deed.

Article 58: An NGO shall be judged as a judicial person effective the day following registration of its statute or deemed to be as such registration with the administrative body shall be made at the request of the NGO founder head of board of trustees or the executor of will.

Article 59: Each NGO shall have a board of trustees to be composed of at least three members appointed by founder(s). The head and members shall be chosen from among the trustees or other persons. Appointments as well as any amendments to the board of trustees shall be notified to the administrative and the General Federation of NGO's. In case of non-appointment of a board of trustees or vacancy of one or more seats of the board and failure to appoint replacement(s) in the manner set forth in the statute, the administrative body shall undertake such appointment under advice to the General Federation of NGO's.

Article 60: An NGO shall be managed by the board of trustees according to its own statute. The head of the board shall represent the NGO before the courts and third parties.

Article 61: An NGO may receive funds from third parties subject to approval by the Minister of Social Affairs of such donation and such conditions placed by donor.

Article 62: Should the administrative body be in possession of serious indications on the practice by an NGO of any activity prohibited under Article 11 hereof, it may demand the competent court to remove causes of contravention or dissolve the NGO.

The competent court may, whenever so requested, may issue and express injunction within maximum three days to suspend the activity in violation pending settlement of the subject.

In all cases, should the competent court decide to reject the dissolution request, it may judge as invalid of the action in violation, rectify violation on which request is based or discharge the board of trustees.

Should the competent court decide to dissolve the NGO, the ruling shall stipulate the appointment of a liquidator or more for a period of time and against such fees as it may determine. Every concerned party shall have the right to challenge the ruling before the court of appeal according to the prescribed procedures, within the prescribed timeframe. Members of the NGO board of trustees or any of its founders shall be deemed as the concerned parties in respect of contest.

Proceeds of liquidating the NGO shall accrue to the NGO Assistance Fund.

Article 63: An NGO shall have an annual balance sheet. Subject to approval by the administrative body, such balance sheet may, depending on the nature of funds appropriated and according to the statute substituted by a periodical account showing the NGO's revenues and expenses and aspects of expenditure.

Part III

Chapter I: Activity Specific and Regional Federations

Article 64: Associations and NGO's shall establish among themselves activity specific or regional federations that are deemed as juridical persons.

The activity specific federation consists of associations and NGO's exercising or financing a common activity in a specific field nationwide or governorate-wide.

A regional federation consists of associations and NGO's existing within a government irrespective of their activity.

Membership of an activity specific and regional federations may be accessed

against an application by the association or NGO, subject to approved by the general assembly or the board of trustees as the case may be. The federation may not reject the application whenever membership conditions are notified.

Article 65: It is not allowed to establish more than one regional federation within the same governorate. Moreover it is not allowed to establish one or more activity specific and regional federations for the same activity within one and the same governorate where members are less than ten associations or NGO's.

Article 66: The founders' assembly shall consist of association and NGO's applying for the formation of an activity specific and regional federations. In its foundation and dissolution, the federation shall be subject to the provisions of founding dissolving association set fourth in this law. The founders' assembly shall draw up a statute for the federation to be governed by the provisions for the statutes of associations, without conflicting with the nature of the federation.

Article 67: The activity specific and regional federations shall have the following terms of reference :

1. Prepare a data base, provide adequate information on associations and NGO's operating in the field of its activity including related studies and researches as well as local and international conferences related to their activities
2. Seek to publish a directory of associations on an activity specific and regional basis, in order to enlighten citizens as to them, urging them to contribute and share in its activities.
3. Conduct necessary social researches in fields of the federation's activity or its geographical jurisdiction and contribute to public social researches to be conducted by the General Federation of NGO's.
4. Coordinate efforts by associations and NGO's members of the federation to ensure integration.
5. Evaluate services carried out by associations and NGO's, against community requirements and the potential and resources available to them.
6. Organize technical and administrative formation and training programmes for employees and members of associations and NGO's.
7. Consider problems of financing associations and NGO's and seek to settle them.

Chapter II: General Federation of Associations and NGO's

Article 68: There shall be established a General Federation of Associations and NGO's as a juridical person, domiciled in Cairo, comprising an activity specific and

regional federations.

The general federation of associations and NGO's shall be run by a board of directors composed of thirty members. The chairman and ten members interested in social issues shall be appointed by the President and the remaining members shall be elected from among the members of the associations and NGO's subject to this law.

The tenure of the board shall be three years. The board of directors shall draw up by laws of the federation, method of management and organization of business. The bylaws shall be issued under a decision by the Minister of Social Affairs. The General Federation of Associations and NGO's shall have the following terms of reference.

1. Draw up an overall conception of the rule of associations and NGO's in implementing social development programmes.
2. Carry out studies required to provide necessary finance for associations and nongovernmental organizations, so as to develop their resources. Contact foreign and local bodies to help provide grants and aids in addition to counsel on methods of supporting their financial abilities.
3. Organize technical and administrative formation and training programmes for the employees and members of associations and nongovernmental organizations in coordination with activity specific and regional federations and associations and nongovernmental organizations.

Article 69: The general federation shall have a general congress consisting of the chairmen of boards of activity specific and regional federations and associations and NGO's. They shall have the right to elect the members of the board of the general federation.

The general congress of the general federation shall be held annually. Persons concerned with social issues may be invited to attend this congress to discuss issues turned over from its technical committees, activity specific and regional federations or associations and NGO's.

Article 66: The founders' assembly shall consist of association and NGO's applying for the formation of an activity specific and regional federations. In its foundation and dissolution, the federation shall be subject to the provisions of founding dissolving association set fourth in this law. The founders' assembly shall draw up a statute for the federation to be governed by the provisions for the statutes of associations, without conflicting with the nature of the federation.

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1. Prepare a data base, provide adequate information on associations and NGO's operating in the field of its activity including related studies and researches as well as local and international conferences related to their activities
2. Seek to publish a directory of associations on an activity specific and regional basis, in order to enlighten citizens as to them, urging them to contribute and share in its activities.
3. Conduct necessary social researches in fields of the federation's activity or its geographical jurisdiction and contribute to public social researches to be conducted by the General Federation of NGO's.
4. Coordinate efforts by associations and NGO's members of the federation to ensure integration.
5. Evaluate services carried out by associations and NGO's, against community requirements and the potential and resources available to them.
6. Organize technical and administrative formation and training programmes for employees and members of associations and NGO's.
7. Consider problems of financing associations and NGO's and seek to settle them.

Part IV: The Assistance Fund for Associations and Nongovernmental Organizations

Article 70: There shall be established under this law, within the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Assistance Fund for Associations and Nongovernmental Organizations.

Article 71: The fund shall have a board of directors; chaired by the Minister of Social Affairs with the following as members :

1. Two members to be nominated by the General Federation of Associations and NGO's.
2. Five members shall be chosen from among chairmen of boards of associations and NGO's, that satisfy the conditions of nomination; subject to the approval of the General Federation of Associations and NGO's. It shall be taken into consideration that each member shall represent a different specific activity and one of them shall represent public welfare associations.
3. The two public figures interested in social issues.
4. One of the undersecretaries of the Ministry of Social Affairs.
5. The term of the fund's board of directors shall be three years. A

member may be reappointed for more than one term.

A decree shall be issued by the Minister of Social Affairs regarding the formation of the board of directors of the fund, statute and procedures of nomination for membership and operations; in the manner provided for in the executive regulations.

Article 72: An association or an NGO may run for the membership of the board of directors of the fund provided that it satisfies the following conditions

1. Name of association, which should be derived from its purpose in such a way as to avoid any confusion with any other association operating in the same geographical jurisdiction.
2. Auditor's reports, balance sheet and final accounts for the preceding three years prior to nomination shall confirm its sound financial status.
3. The association or NGO should not have committed any contravention provided for in this law within the preceding five years prior to nomination.

Article 73: The board of directors of the fund shall be the overriding authority in control of its affairs. The board shall have the right specifically to

1. Act as necessary to develop the resources of the fund.
2. Carry out required studies concerning the financial conditions of associations and the priorities for providing aid to them.
3. Collect financial data on associations and limits for extending their activity. Issue bulletins to enable donors, at home and abroad, to estimate their conditions. Prepare and publish an annual directory listing associations and the NGO's as well as activity specific and regional federations affiliated thereto so as to enable citizens to contribute to these organizations and to voluntary social work.
4. Draw up an overall policy for providing aid to associations and NGO's.
5. Set controls for allocating aids and grants.
6. Distribute aids to all associations and NGO's.

Article 74: The resources of the fund shall be made up mainly of :

1. Funds earmarked in the state general budget as aid to associations and NGO's established under the provisions of this law.
2. Proceeds of donations, grants and constructions received by the funds.
3. Proceeds of funds accruing thereto from dissolved associations and

NGO's.

4. Additional taxes levied in favor of charity works.

Article 6: The administrative body shall be under obligation to enter a summary statement of the association's statute into the relevant register within sixty days from the date of submission by the founder's assembly representative of a registration application. Should sixty days elapse without being made, registration shall be deemed effective under the law. The association shall be judged to be a judicial person by conducting such registration or by the lapse of sixty days from the day the association representative has applied for registration, whichever earlier. Should the administrative body realize, within the sixty days referred to' that the association's purposes comprise an activity prohibited under Article 11 hereof, the body shall reject the registration application by a decision to be notified to the representative of the founders' assembly by a registered letter with acknowledgement of receipt within the aforementioned sixty days. The representative of the founders' assembly may challenge the decision before the competent court within sixty days effective the date of notification in accordance with prescribed procedures. The administrative body shall carry such procedure as to have a summary statement of the association's statute published in the Official Gazette (Al-Waqie Al-Misria) with sixty days from the date the association is judged a judicial person.

Article 7: There shall be set up within the jurisdiction of each court of first instance one or more committee to be formed annually under a decision by the Minister of Justice. Such committee shall be headed by at least a counselor of the court of appeal to be nominated by the court's general assembly with the following as members :

1. A representative of the administrative body nominated by the Minister of Social Affairs.
2. A representative of the regional Federation nominated by the board of directors of the general federation. Such committee shall comprise, as a member, a representative of the association to the dispute to be nominated by its general assembly or board of directors.

The committee shall be concerned with the considering disputes that may arise between the association and the administrative body.

The committee meeting shall be valid, only with the presence of all its members. Its resolution shall be issued within sixty days from the date of submitting dispute thereto, by majority of votes. In case of equal votes, the chairman's shall be the casting vote. The executive regulations of the present law show other rules and procedures for running business of the committee. No action in respect of dispute shall be accepted by the competent court

unless resolution thereon has been taken by the committee or the period stipulated in the preceding paragraph has elapsed. Action shall be filed within sixty days of the date of issuing the resolution according to relevant procedures of file cases.

Article 8: Without prejudice to paragraph 3, Article 6 of the present law, the administrative body may object to whatever it deems as contradictory to the law in the statute of the association or as regards the founders. However, this shall not preclude it from being obliged to enter the association into the relevant register within the period set forth in Article 6 hereof. Should it find any justification for objection, the administrative body shall notify the association by registered mail with acknowledgement of receipt, with reasons of such objection. Should the association fail to eliminate causes of such objection within the period specified by the administrative body. The dispute shall be submitted to the committee set forth in the preceding article.

When an action on objection is filed before the competent court, following the issuance of the committee resolution, the administrative body may request the competent court to urgently pass a judgment to eliminate cause of contravention, while maintaining the association in operation or to impose a temporary suspension on the activity of the association pending settlement of subject of suit.

The administrative body shall annotate the text of verdict opposite the relevant entry of the association in the special register.

Article 9: Any interested party shall have the right to have access to the summary statement of the association's statute and obtain a copy endorsed as true against payment of such duty as may be defined by the executive regulations up to a maximum of LE20; the proceeds to which shall be paid to the NGO Assistance Fund.

Article 10: In amending an institution's statute, the same procedures set forth in this chapter as regards foundation.

Part V: Penalties

Article 75: Without prejudice to any such aggravated penalty as may be stipulated in the Penal Code or any other law, crimes set forth in this part shall be subject to the following penalties:

First: He who establishes a clandestine association or practices any of the activities provided for in items 1, 2, 3 of Article 11 hereof shall be penalized with imprisonment for a period not more than one year and a fine of no more than

LE 10,000.

Second: A penalty of imprisonment for a period not more than six months and a fine of no more than LE 2000 shall be inflicted on those who have:

1. Established an entity under any title whatsoever to practice an activity of associations and NGO's, without abiding by the provisions prescribed by this law.
2. Practiced an activity of associations and NGO's in spite of the issuance of a ruling or decision suspending or dissolving some.
3. Received, in his capacity as a chairman or member of an association or NGO, no matter whether such capacity is valid or alleged, funds from abroad or send out abroad any of such funds or collect contributions without the approval of the administrative body.
4. Expended money owned to associations and NGO's or the federation for personal purposes or use such money in financial manipulations.
5. Disposed of funds owed to such an association or NGO that has been adjudged as dissolved or liquidated or issued a decision to this effect with an order in writing by the liquidator.

Third: A penalty of imprisonment for a period of no more than three months and a fine of no more than LE 1000 or either penalty shall be inflicted in any of the following cases:

1. He who practices one of the activities of associations and NGO's before its registration has been completed, save for foundation procedures.
2. Any member of the board of directors or managers of an association or NGO, who contributes, through action on his part, to its access, participation or affiliation to a club, association, organization or authority domiciled outside the Arab Republic of Egypt without notification to or not withstanding protest by the administrative body.
3. Any liquidator who has distributed funds owed to an association or NGO in violation of the provisions of this law.
4. Any member of the board of directors of a public welfare association, who has contributed, through an action on his part, to the merger of the association into another, without approval of the administrative body.

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<http://www.egypt.gov.eg/english/laws/ngo/index.asp>