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**Law No. (62) of 2006 Establishing and Organising the Bahrain Exhibition and Convention Authority**

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

Having reviewed the Constitution,

And the National Audit Office Law, promulgated by Legislative Decree No. (16) of 2002,

The Shura Council and the Council of Representatives have approved the following Law, which we have ratified and enacted:

Article One

Establishment of the Authority

A public authority shall be established called the "Bahrain Exhibition and Convention Authority," hereinafter referred to as "the Authority," which shall have legal personality and financial and administrative independence, and shall be subordinate to the Minister responsible for trade affairs, hereinafter referred to as "the Minister."

Its headquarters shall be located in the city of Manama. It may, however, establish offices or branches domestically or internationally.

Article Two

Competencies of the Authority

The Authority shall be responsible, in coordination with relevant entities, for the following:

1- Organising trade conferences and exhibitions in the Kingdom of Bahrain and attracting and encouraging the holding of international, regional, and local conferences in the Kingdom.

2- Establishing, managing, marketing, and maintaining conference and exhibition centres under its purview, whether independently, through specialised companies, or via companies it creates solely or in partnership with others to fulfil its objectives.

3- Granting licences for commercial conferences and exhibitions, supervising them, and evaluating them.

Article Three

Non-Commercial Conferences and Exhibitions

The Authority may organise non-commercial conferences and exhibitions in agreement with relevant entities, in accordance with the rules and controls issued by a decision of the Authority's Board of Directors.

Article Four

Powers of the Authority

In exercising the powers granted to it under this Law, the Authority shall have the right to:

1- Own immovable and movable assets and invest them, provided that such actions do not conflict with its assigned duties.

2- Enter into contracts and take legal measures, including the right to litigate and seek arbitration.

3- Enjoy all privileges accorded to ministries and government agencies.

4- Act as an agent for the licence holder who agrees to this in specific actions defined by the Authority's internal regulations.

Article Five

Fees

The Authority shall impose fees on the licences it issues and the services it provides. A decision by the Authority's Board of Directors shall specify the fee categories, rules, rates of increase, and conditions for exemptions.

Article Six

Licences

1- Applications for licences shall be submitted to the Chief Executive Officer of the Authority, who shall notify the applicant of the acceptance or rejection of their application by the methods specified in the internal regulations within one month from the date of submission.

Applicants whose requests are rejected may appeal to the Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Authority within two weeks from the date of being informed of the rejection, and the Chairperson shall make a decision on the appeal within two weeks from the date of its submission.

2- The licence holder under the provisions of this Law must comply with the conditions of the licence as specified in the internal regulations.

The Chief Executive Officer of the Authority may revoke the licence if the licence holder violates one or more of the licence conditions, in accordance with the procedures determined by the internal regulations.

The concerned party may appeal against the decision to revoke the licence to the Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Authority within two weeks from the date of revocation, and the Chairperson shall issue a decision on the appeal within two weeks from the date of its submission.

3- Applicants whose appeals under Clauses (1) and (2) of this Article are rejected may challenge the decision before the competent court within thirty days from the date of being notified of the rejection, and the court shall adjudicate the matter urgently.

Article Seven

Breach of Obligation by the Licensee

If the licensee fails to deliver the licensed premises on time, the Authority may remove the occupancy administratively at the licensee's expense and, if necessary, by force. In such cases, an inventory of the items occupying the premises shall be made and recorded in a report, and then transferred to a location designated by the Authority for this purpose.

The licensee shall be notified in this regard by the methods specified in the internal regulations.

The licensee must retrieve the aforementioned items within the time frame set by the internal regulations after paying double the prescribed fee for the period of non-compliance, proportional to the duration of the licence, as well as any expenses incurred by the Authority.

If the licensee fails to do so, the Authority may sell the items by public auction unless otherwise agreed, and the Authority shall collect the amounts owed from the sale proceeds and seek recourse for any balance if applicable.

Article Eight

Board of Directors

The Authority shall have a Board of Directors, chaired by the Minister, comprising no fewer than six members with expertise and specialisation in the field of conference and exhibition organisation. Their appointments and the duration of their membership shall be determined by a decision from the Prime Minister, based on the Minister's proposal. The Board shall elect a Deputy Chairperson at its first meeting to act in the Chairperson's absence or in the event of an impediment.

Article Nine

Competencies of the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of the Authority shall be considered the supreme authority responsible for managing its affairs, setting the general policy it follows, and approving the plans that govern its operations. The Board shall take all necessary measures to achieve the objectives for which the Authority was established, specifically, without being bound by governmental rules, to:

1- Establish internal regulations for organising and managing conferences and exhibitions.

2- Establish internal regulations governing the financial, administrative, and technical affairs of the Authority.

3- Establish internal regulations governing the appointment, promotion, transfer, salary determination, bonuses, and disciplinary accountability of the Authority's employees, along with all matters related to their employment affairs.

4- Approve the estimates of the Authority's annual budget and the final accounts.

5- Review periodic reports submitted regarding the Authority's operations and its financial system.

6- Establish rules for utilising foreign expertise in the field of conferences and exhibitions.

7- Consider any matters the Cabinet or the Minister wishes to present that fall within the Authority's jurisdiction.

The Board of Directors may delegate some of its competencies to the Chairperson or the Chief Executive Officer of the Authority.

Article Ten

Meetings of the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of the Authority shall meet four times a year and whenever necessary, upon the invitation of the Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson. A meeting shall be valid only if the majority of members are present, including the Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson. Decisions shall be made by a majority vote of those present. In the event of a tie, the Chairperson’s side shall prevail.

The Minister may object to the decisions of the Board of Directors within one week of being informed. If the Board insists on its decision, the Minister shall present the matter to the Cabinet within two weeks of being informed of the Board's insistence on its previous decision, and the Cabinet shall make a final decision on the disagreement within thirty days of the matter being raised.

The Board may invite the Chief Executive Officer of the Authority and others whose expertise is deemed beneficial to attend its sessions, without them having a counted vote.

Discussions and decisions of the Board shall be recorded in a register prepared for this purpose.

Article Eleven

Appointment of the Chief Executive Officer

The Authority shall have a Chief Executive Officer appointed by a decision from the Board of Directors for a term of five years, renewable for similar periods.

In the event of a vacancy in the position of the Chief Executive Officer for any reason, a replacement shall be appointed in the same manner and method mentioned in the previous paragraph.

One of the Board members or any qualified employee of the Authority, chosen by the Board, shall temporarily assume the duties and powers of the Chief Executive Officer until a new Chief Executive Officer is appointed.

Article Twelve

Powers of the Chief Executive Officer

The Chief Executive Officer shall exercise his powers within the Authority in accordance with the provisions of this Law and relevant laws and regulations, and shall be subject to the oversight of the Board of Directors. In particular, he shall have the following:

1- Proposing internal regulations governing the holding and organisation of conferences and exhibitions.

2- Proposing internal regulations governing financial and administrative affairs.

3- Proposing internal regulations governing the appointment of employees.

4- Proposing the annual budget and presenting the final accounts.

5- Proposing rules for utilising foreign expertise in the field of conferences and exhibitions.

Article Thirteen

Remuneration of the Chief Executive Officer

The Board of Directors shall determine the remuneration due to the Chief Executive Officer, including allowances and other financial or in-kind benefits.

Article Fourteen

Resignation of the Chief Executive Officer

The Chief Executive Officer may resign from their position by submitting a written request to the Board of Directors at least three months before the specified resignation date.

The resignation shall be accepted by a decision of the Board of Directors.

Article Fifteen

Dismissal of the Chief Executive Officer

a. The Board of Directors may, by decision, dismiss the Chief Executive Officer from their position before the end of their term due to a breach of their duties, misconduct, incompetence in performing their tasks, breach of trust, or inability to perform their job duties for health reasons.

b. The Chief Executive Officer shall be granted the opportunity to defend themselves before the Board of Directors before being dismissed, and they shall continue to exercise their duties until the date of dismissal unless the Board decides to suspend their during the investigation.

Article Sixteen

Budget of the Authority

The Authority shall have an independent budget, with the financial year commencing on the first of January and ending on the last day of December of each year. Exceptionally, the first financial year of the Authority shall commence from the date of enforcement of this Law and end on the last day of December of the following year.

The internal regulations shall specify the financial rules and procedures necessary for investing the Authority's funds, managing them, the records that the Authority must maintain to regulate its operations, and how to monitor its accounts.

Article Seventeen

Financial Resources

The financial resources of the Authority shall consist of:

1- Allocations designated by the State for it.

2- Fees levied for the benefit of the Authority.

3- Revenues generated from the Authority's activities and the returns on its investments.

4- Gifts, donations, grants, and contributions approved by the Board of Directors.

The Authority shall retain any surplus revenues to finance future development projects.

The Authority's funds shall be considered public funds for the purposes of applying the provisions of the Penal Code.

Article Eighteen

Employees of the Authority

The employees of the Authority shall be governed by special rules and regulations specified in the internal regultions issued by a decision of the Board of Directors. They shall also be subject to the provisions of Law No. (13) of 1975 regarding the regulation of pensions and retirement gratuities for government employees.

Article Nineteen

Contracting Systems

The provisions of the Authority’s internal regulations shall govern all contracts concluded by the Authority pertaining to the holding and organisation of conferences and exhibitions.

Article Twenty

Authority's Replacement of the Bahrain International Exhibition

The assets, rights, and properties of the Bahrain International Exhibition Centre, along with its affiliated facilities, shall be transferred to the Authority, which shall assume all its rights and obligations.

Article Twenty-One

Transfer of Employees

All employees of the centre referenced in Article Twenty of this Law shall be transferred to the Authority, with their employment conditions adjusted in accordance with the special rules and regulations outlined in the internal regulations.

Article Twenty-Two

Implementation of the Law

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

King of the Kingdom of Bahrain

Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa

Issued at Riffa Palace:

On:

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Corresponding to:

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