

SHARJAH GOVERNMENT
CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL OF SHARJAH



حكومة الشارقة
المجلس الاستشاري لإمارة الشارقة

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CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL OF SHARJAH

Consultative Council of Sharjah, Brief Profile

2016-1999

Foundation of the Council

On December 6, 1999, His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan Bin Mohamed Al Qassemi, member of the Supreme Council of the Union and the Ruler of Sharjah issued the law No. (3) of 1999 on foundation of the Consultative Council of Sharjah. During the same year, His Highness did further issue the Amiri Decree No. (27) of 1999 promulgating the internal regulations of the Consultative Council whereby the Council exercises the functions and jurisdictions entrusted thereto in pursuance of the provisions set forth in the law founding the Council.

On December 7 of the same year, His Highness inaugurated works of the Council at the first ordinary session of the first legislation season and said: “This Council has been founded in order to consummate the mission of the Executive Council that we founded couple of weeks ago, so that the two councils assist us with performing the duties entrusted to the Government of the Emirate and to support the federal institutions as well. This is attributable to our understanding of the importance of the Citizens participation and performance of their effective role in serving their country through consultation and advice for having realized the objectives of founding this Council”.

His Highness added: “At this esteemed place, we invite you to effectively and diligently perform your national mission in light of truth, sovereignty of law, public interest and justice for ultimate realization of expectations and ambition. We are looking forward to

your participation in enriching development and enhancing principle of consultation (Shoora)”.

Formation of the Council

The Council comprises (44) qualified and experienced members.

Membership of the Council

At the beginning of each legislative season, His Highness the Ruler shall issue an Amiri Decree appointing the members of the Council. Membership continues for four years as of the date of the first meeting of the Council. It is noteworthy here that the provisions governing membership shall include:

- **Membership Duties:**

1. Oath taking prior to commencement of office.
2. Representing the entire Emirate with observance of the country's interest.
3. No interference in the business of the judicial or executive authorities.
4. Participation in at least one of the Council's committees.
5. Attending the sessions of the Council and meetings of the relevant committees.

- Membership Rights:

1. Subsequent to oath taking, the member shall be entitled to remuneration to be fixed under the internal regulations.

- Membership Immunity:

During office, members shall enjoy two types of immunity, viz.:

- 1) The member shall not be countable for the opinions he/she adopts within the Council or its committees, as the member does enjoy freedom of opinion.

- 2) Without permission of the Council, no investigation procedures, arrest, detention or any other criminal procedure may be adopted against any member during convention of the Council unless the member is red-handed.

Jurisdiction of the Council

The ultimate objective for foundation of the Council is to assist the Ruler and the Government Authorities in realizing public interest by providing opinion and advice in relation to all important matters concerning the community. In particular, to exercise various jurisdictions and powers pursuant to the law founding the Council and the internal regulations in the following fields:

- Public Policies:

- 1) Provide opinion and relevant proposals in relation to any matters referred by the Ruler.

- 2) Discuss any public matters relating to affairs of the country through enquiring the Executive Council or the heads of government departments and authorities with regard to their respective jurisdictions for onward production of the Council's recommendations to the Ruler.

- Laws and Legislations:

- 1) Discuss draft laws (local) referred by the Executive Council for approval, disapproval or amendment that is to be adopted by majority of the members present.

- 2) Propose promulgation of new laws, amend or cancel any prevailing law subject to the procedures set forth in the Council's foundation law and the internal regulations.

- 3) Subsequent to preparation and referral by the Executive Council, discuss the Emirate's general budget (revenues and expenditure) for any remarks.

- Services and Public Utilities:

- 1) Consider the matters relating to services and public utilities including development of natural resources and preservation of environment as well as proposing means for developing and improving performance in that regard.

- 2) Undertake control on administrative discipline systems for enhancing and protecting public order.

- 3) Request, from government departments, any studies, reports or proposals in relation to economic, social and cultural development for review and opinion.

- Suggestions and Complaints:

- 1) Receive any proposals and act thereon

- 2) Verify any petitions and complaints addressed to the Council. For satisfying requirements of verification, the Council may obtain any relevant information from competent government authorities.

Sessions of the Council

- 1) Legislative season continues for two years commencing from the date of the first meeting.

- 2) During each legislative season, the Council shall have two ordinary sessions. Period of the session shall commence in October each year and shall continue for at least eight months.
- 3) The Council holds the ordinary session based on an invitation to be issued under an Amiri Decree.
- 4) Under an Amiri Decree, the Council may be invited to an ordinary meeting, if necessary, for discussing any matters specified in such invitation.
- 5) Adjournment of ordinary and extra-ordinary sessions shall be effected under an Amiri Decree to be issued to that effect.
- 6) The Council holds an ordinary session on Thursday every two weeks unless the Council otherwise decides or if there exists no business requiring such meeting.
- 7) Sessions of the Council shall be open. However, the sessions may be held privately based on a request by the Chairman or by at least one third of the members or one of the department heads.
- 8) Sessions of the Council and its deliberations shall only be sound if majority of the members (22 members) are present.

Bodies of the Council

- **Chairman and Vice Chairman:**

1) The Chairman and the Vice Chairman shall be elected at the first session of the Council's legislative season through secret voting by majority of the members present (i.e. exceeds one half of the votes).

In absence of such majority, election shall be repeated between the two members who acquired more votes. In such event, election shall be upheld through relative majority (i.e. obtaining more votes compared to least number of votes).

Should candidates obtain equal votes, the Chairman and the Vice Chairman shall be elected by lot.

2) The Chairman shall exercise the following powers and functions:

a) Represent the Council with regard to contacting government departments, authorities and organizations.

b) Speaks in the name of the Council and signs the contracts on its behalf.

c) Supervises all business of the Council, its office and committees.

d) Supervises the secretariat general and exercises the powers of the department head in relation to employees and staff of the Council.

e) Prepares the budget and final balance sheet of the Council for presentation before the office of the Council.

f) Invites the committees to convene at between the sessions.

g) Chairs and controls the sessions of the Council.

3) Upon absence, the Chairman may authorize the Vice Chairman to exercise entire Chairman's jurisdiction or part thereof.

4) If the Chairman's absence extends to more than four continuous weeks, the Vice Chairman replaces and exercises jurisdiction of the Chairman.

• Office of the Council:

1) Office of the Council shall comprise the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Heads of permanent committees.

2) The Office shall undertake the following:

a) Discuss any proposals referred by the Council in respect of the matters presented at the session.

b) Discuss the draft annual budget and final balance sheet of the

Council.

c) Select the delegates of the Council based on the Chairman's nomination.

d) Conduct administrative business of the Council between the sessions.

e) Follow up any recommendations issued by the Council.

• Committees of the Council:

1) At the beginning of each session, the Council shall form the necessary permanent committees, namely:

a. Legislative and legal affairs, appeals, proposals and complaints committee.

b. Financial, economic and industrial committee.

c. Education, youth, culture and information committee.

d. Health, labor and social affairs committee.

e. Islamic affairs and awqaf, municipalities, security affairs and public utilities committee.

f. Family affairs committee.

2) The Council may form additional permanent or temporary committees subject to exigencies of business.

3) Committee members shall be elected by relative majority and the committee shall then elect the head and the rapporteur. One of the staff of the general secretariat shall be appointed as the secretary of committee.

4) Committees convene at invitation by the committee head, the Chairman of the Council or majority of the committee members.

5) Meetings of the committee shall be held privately in presence of the majority of the members.

6) Upon discussion of relevant matters, the committees may request presence of the heads of any government departments. The committees may further request any information or documents from government departments.

7) Two committees may jointly discuss one matter.

8) The committees shall produce a report along with its recommendations regarding the matter referred.

- Two Controllers:

1. In all events, the two controllers shall be elected by absolute majority at commencement of each ordinary session.

2. The two controllers receive and carry out the Chairman's instructions for keeping order at the meetings and reporting attendance/absence of the members.

3. Office of the two controllers terminates at the end of the session or upon selection of two new controllers.

- Secretariat General:

- 1) Secretariat General comprises the secretary general, directors of departments and the staff.

- 2) Secretariat General constitutes a technical and administrative department that assists the Council with performance of its functions. The Secretariat General enables the members to exercise their parliament duties effectively in relation to affairs and activities of the Council.

- 3) The Secretariat General of the Council shall have its main office in the Emirate of Sharjah.

To Contact

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