



شعبة الترجمة الرسمية
Official Translation Department

Charter of the International Dates Council

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Translation of Saudi Laws



NOTE:

The translation of Saudi laws takes the following into consideration:

- Words used in the singular form include the plural and vice versa.
- Words used in the masculine form include the feminine.
- Words used in the present tense include the present as well as the future.
- The word "person" or "persons" and their related pronouns (he, his, him, they, their, them) refer to a natural and legal person.



Charter of the International Dates Council

Article 1: Definitions

In this Charter, the following terms and phrases shall have the meanings assigned thereto, unless the context requires otherwise:

Charter: Charter of the International Dates Council.

Member: The state, organization, or body enjoying full or associate membership.

Council: The International Dates Council.

Simple Majority: The vote of at least 50% + 1 of attending members in a meeting which satisfies the quorum.

Supermajority: The vote of at least two thirds of attending members in a meeting which satisfies the quorum.

Executive Commission: An elected body tasked with implementing the decisions and instructions of the Council of Members.

Council of Members: The highest authority in the International Dates Council.

General Secretariat of the Council: The executive organ of the Council.

Article 2: Legal Status

A council named “International Dates Council” (hereinafter referred to as the “Council”) shall be established in accordance with this Charter. Said Council shall enjoy an independent international legal personality in accordance with the objectives and duties provided for in this Charter.

Article 3: Council Objectives

The Council aims to:

1. promote international cooperation between member states in all areas relating to the development of the date industry;
2. improve production and quality of dates and enhance manufacturing thereof;
3. improve the income and living standards of workers in the date industry and achieve sustainable agricultural and rural development, food security, environmental balance, and optimal utilization of natural resources, especially water; and
4. develop international date trade, enhance transparency therein, and promote local, regional, and international marketing of dates.



Article 4: Council Duties

1. Providing technical support, advice, and information which aim to achieve the objectives of the date industry with regards to its sustainability, domestic marketing, and international trade.
2. Introducing systems, methods, and rules for exchanging expertise and information between member states.
3. Introducing programs in cooperation with member states and relevant regional and international organizations for the development of prominent local, regional, and international research centers which address common challenges in the date industry to achieve sustainability and preserve the environment.
4. Optimizing the use of natural resources in the production of high-quality dates according to the demands and preferences of local and international consumers.
5. Introducing training programs for the workforce and capacity-building programs for institutions in the date industry in cooperation with member states as well as local, regional, and international organizations and agencies.
6. Participating in developing awareness programs for pest control of date palm trees and dates, and programs for pest control of cross-border infestation of date palm trees and dates.
7. Introducing a program for the development and promotion of international standards for dates, monitoring the implementation of such standards, and unifying the terms and names of various types of dates, weights, and measurements.
8. Introducing programs to market dates and promote the consumption thereof locally, regionally, and internationally, and creating a directory of companies engaged in the export and import of dates and products thereof to facilitate international trade.
9. Providing assistance to states in setting programs for the development of post-harvest operations, as well as programs and plans for the development of date manufacturing according to the demands and preferences of local, regional, and international consumers.
10. Introducing programs for the preservation of genetic resources and diversity of date palm trees, and participating in the establishment of local, regional, and international associations for the preservation of said resources.
11. Promoting the organization of exhibitions for local, regional, and international date production, consumption, and trade, as well as the localization of relevant technology.



12. Enhancing the private sector's role in date production and marketing.
13. Promoting investment in date palm tree cultivation, production, manufacturing, and trade.
14. Promoting cooperation and coordination with relevant regional and international organizations.
15. Establishing a database for date production and distribution; publishing and exchanging essential information on date production, manufacturing, marketing, international trade, standards, and prices; and issuing a date international price index.
16. Setting rules for international cooperation in the date industry to protect intellectual property rights relating to date production and manufacturing, consumer protection, and fraud and deceit prevention in local, regional, and international date trading.
17. Promoting and developing joint regional and international efforts for building human and institutional capacity in the date industry in member states; providing solutions for common problems; exchanging expertise and information through research and training; raising awareness; promoting the date industry; transferring relevant technology; and applying best practices in date production, manufacturing, and marketing.
18. Advocating issues relating to the development of date production, protection, and trade in international and regional forums; facilitating the exchange of expertise and information; promoting communication between members through periodic meetings to advance their common interests; providing necessary information on dates; and strengthening the role of the Council as a leading international documentation and information center as well as a reference on all matters relating to dates.
19. Promoting demand for dates, especially new uses of dates.

Article 5: Headquarters

The Council shall be headquartered in the city of Riyadh in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The Council may establish offices outside the headquarters state.

Article 6: Privileges and Immunities

The headquarters state and the Council shall enter into a headquarters agreement to determine the status of the Council as well as the privileges and immunities granted thereto, including the Council's Executive Director, senior officers, advisors, and experts contracted thereby.

Article 7: Types of Membership

1. **Full Membership:** For date-producing states which have ratified this



Charter, or states the Council of Members unanimously approved their accession to the Council.

2. **Associate Membership:** For date-importing states as well as date-importing regional and international organizations and entities the Council of Members approved their accession to the Council.

Article 8: Full Member Rights

A full member state shall have the right to:

1. attend Council of Members meetings and other Council meetings and activities;
2. vote in meetings and run for Council posts and positions;
3. participate in Council bodies; and
4. be represented in the Council of Members by a single seat.

Article 9: Member Obligations

A member shall:

1. implement Council decisions without impinging on the sovereignty of member states and their independence in decision making;
2. pay their financial obligations to the Council in due time;
3. cooperate with other members to achieve the objectives provided for in this Charter;
4. continuously provide the Council with data, statistics, and documents on the production, manufacturing, marketing, and trading of dates in their respective countries, as well as other information requested by the Council, its bodies, and specialized committees to carry out duties assigned thereto, without prejudice to the laws of member states;
5. apply the unified quality standards and specifications approved by the Council in regional and international trade;
6. implement Council policies on best practices in production, manufacturing, and marketing of dates;
7. promote international trade of dates and promote transparency therein by following Council guidelines and principles and other international agreements relating to international trade;
8. participate in activities for promoting dates locally, regionally, and internationally through media, cultural, educational, and health campaigns which aim to promote and increase consumption of dates and products thereof by providing information on their organic, natural, chemical, nutritional, gustatory, and other characteristics; and
9. assist the Council in carrying out its duties.



Article 10: Rights of Associate Members

States or organizations with associate membership shall have the right to attend and participate in the Council's open meetings and activities in a non-voting capacity.

Article 11: Organizational Structure

The International Dates Council shall comprise the following:

- a) The Council of Members.
- b) The Executive Commission.
- c) The General Secretariat of the Council.
- d) Specialized committees formed by the Council of Members.

Article 12: Council of Members

1. The Council of Members, which consists of full members, is the highest authority in the Council. It shall take decisions; approve Council policies, programs, plans, and budgets; and set priorities and mechanisms and make arrangements to achieve Council objectives.
2. The Council shall, by special vote, approve its financial and administrative regulations, as well as personnel and other Council internal regulations.

Article 13: Meetings of the Council of Members

1. The Council of Members shall hold an ordinary meeting once a year in the headquarters state, unless it decides to hold such meeting in a member state upon an invitation therefrom. In any case, the General Secretariat of the Council shall notify member states of the meeting's date and venue at least six weeks prior to the set date.
2. The Council of Members may hold extraordinary meetings upon the request of the Chairman or at least four members, provided that members are notified of the date and agenda of such meetings at least four weeks in advance. Extraordinary meetings shall be held at the Council's headquarters.

Article 14: Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Council of Members

1. The Council of Members shall, in its first meeting, elect a chairman and vice chairman for a term of two years, renewable once. The chairman and vice chairman shall not receive any remuneration. However, the Council shall incur their travel and accommodation expenses when attending meetings.
2. Council of Members meetings shall be chaired by the Chairman. In his absence, meetings shall be chaired by the Vice Chairman. In the absence of both the Chairman and the Vice Chairman, the Council of Members shall, on



a temporary basis, elect a chairman and a vice chairman from among its members.

Article 15: Quorum for Council of Members Meetings

A Council of Members session shall be deemed valid if attended by at least 50%+1 of its members.

Article 16: Approval of Council of Members Resolutions

Resolutions of the Council of Members shall be passed by agreement of its members. If an agreement is not reached, resolutions shall be passed by simple majority vote, unless this Charter stipulates otherwise.

Article 17: Council Reports and Documents

1. The Council shall prepare an annual report on its activities, work progress, and performance evaluation.
2. Arabic and English shall be the official languages for Council meetings.

Article 18: Observers

The Council may, upon unanimous agreement, invite any non-member state or international, regional, or local organization or agency concerned with its activities and objectives to attend its meetings in an observer capacity.

Article 19: Cooperation and Relations with Other Organizations

The Council shall cooperate and carry out joint activities with international governmental and non-governmental organizations concerned with consumption, consumer protection, and food safety in order to coordinate with said organizations and prevent duplication of efforts.

Article 20: Executive Commission

1. The Council of Members shall elect an executive commission to implement its resolutions and policies. The executive commission shall supervise and financially oversee the General Secretariat, and shall report to the Council of Members and operate according to its policies.
2. The Executive Commission shall be composed of the Chairman of the Council of Members as chairman and four members elected by the Council of Members from among its members for a term of two years to represent the different regions based on the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization's regional structure for the Near East, with a member representing each of the following regions:
 - a) GCC states and Yemen.



- b) North Africa.
- c) Near East (excluding GCC states and North Africa).
- d) Other states.
3. The Council's internal regulations shall determine the duties of the Executive Commission.
4. The Council's Executive Director shall, in such capacity, participate in the Executive Commission's meetings and deliberations in a non-voting capacity.
5. A member of the Council of Members may participate in Executive Commission meetings which address matters relevant to said member in a non-voting capacity.
6. The Executive Commission shall hold two meetings annually, one of which shall be held prior to the annual meeting of the Council of Members. It may hold extraordinary meetings at the request of the Chairman or three members.
7. Executive Commission meetings shall be deemed valid if attended by the Chairman and at least three of its members. Its decisions shall be passed by agreement or simple majority.

Article 21: General Secretariat of the Council

1. The Council shall have a general secretariat in charge of its administrative, financial, and technical affairs, including:
 - a) managing Council funds;
 - b) preparing for meetings of the Council of Members, the Executive Commission, and committees;
 - c) monitoring the implementation of Council of Members resolutions and Executive Commission decisions, particularly those relating to consultations, technical support, and training and to the conduct of studies and research; and
 - d) drafting Council laws and regulations.
2. The General Secretariat shall be composed of an executive director, the senior officer of the Secretariat, and a team of employees to assist him. The number and duties of said employees shall be determined according to work requirements and the Council's organizational structure.
3. The Council of Members shall, by simple majority, appoint the Executive Director based on a recommendation by the Executive Commission which is responsible for specifying his qualifications and duties. The Executive Director shall be responsible before the Executive Commission and Council of Members for any tasks assigned thereto.



4. The Executive Director shall appoint employees in accordance with the approved organizational structure and relevant regulations.
5. The Executive Director and his employees shall be responsible only before the Executive Commission and Council of Members. They shall refrain from carrying out any act conflicting with their duties and may not disclose or publish Council information without the permission or authorization of the Executive Commission or the Council of Members.

Article 22: Agreements and Memoranda of Understanding

The Council may conclude cooperation and partnership agreements and memoranda of understanding with date and palm tree research centers, specialized centers, and relevant entities.

Article 23: Contributions and Subscriptions

The Council of Members shall determine the amount of contribution payable by states based on the membership type stipulated under this Charter.

Article 24: Resources

Council resources shall comprise:

1. annual contributions; and
2. financial and in-kind grants and donations unanimously approved by the Council of Members.

Article 25: Management of Council Funds

The Council may open bank accounts inside or outside the headquarters state, and the Executive Commission shall authorize the Executive Director and an officer from the General Secretariat to withdraw from such accounts.

Article 26: Budget, Expenses, and Financial Statements

1. The Executive Director shall draft the Council's budget for the following year prior to the end of the current fiscal year and shall submit the same to the Executive Commission for review and evaluation prior to submission to the Council of Members for approval.
2. The Executive Commission shall periodically designate areas of expenditure in line with Council objectives.
3. The Council shall incur the travel and accommodation expenses of representatives of member states in the Council of Members and the Executive Commission.
4. The Council shall incur the expenses of Council of Members meetings held



in the headquarters state upon a call by the Council. If such meetings are held in a member state upon its invitation, said state shall incur all local expenses associated with organizing the meeting, and the Council shall incur the travel and accommodation expenses of representatives of member states.

5. The Executive Director shall prepare semi-annual financial statements on revenues, expenditures, and budget implementation and submit the same to the Executive Commission. He shall also prepare an annual financial report and submit it to the Council of Members for approval.

Article 27: Independent Auditors

The Council of Members shall, upon the recommendation of the Executive Commission, appoint an independent auditor to audit Council accounts for a term of two years, renewable once.

Article 28: Depository

Under this Charter, the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia shall designate a depository.

Article 29: Signature

This Charter shall be open for signature in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the City of Riyadh, as of 29/01/1435H, corresponding to 02/12/2013.

Article 30: Ratification, Acceptance, and Approval

1. This Charter shall be subject to the ratification, acceptance, or approval of the signatory states in accordance with their respective statutory procedures.
2. Ratification, acceptance, approval, or accession documents shall be deposited with the Depository.

Article 31: Entry into Force

The Charter of the Council shall enter into force upon the ratification of at least nine states.

Article 32: Accession

Accession to the Council shall, in accordance with the provisions of this Charter, be open to date producing and date importing countries and shall become effective from the day following the date on which the accession document is deposited with the depository.



Article 33: Suspension of Membership

1. The General Secretariat shall give a notice of payment to a full member defaulting on annual subscription fees. Said member shall forfeit the right to vote upon the lapse of six months without paying such dues.
2. The General Secretariat shall give a notice of payment to an associate member defaulting on annual subscription fees. Said member shall pay the dues within six months of receiving the notice.
3. Council membership shall be suspended if the annual subscription fees are not paid within one year from the date of the notice, unless an acceptable justification is provided to the Executive Commission.

Article 34: Revocation of Membership

The Council of Members may, by supermajority, upon the recommendation of the Executive Commission, revoke the membership of a member who defaults on payment of the financial dues for two consecutive fiscal years without acceptable justification or who fails to carry out his obligations as stipulated under this Charter or commits acts which hinder the implementation thereof. Such member shall remain liable for payment even after his membership is revoked. Membership may be reinstated upon payment of outstanding dues.

Article 35: Withdrawal

A Council member may withdraw from the Council pursuant to a written notice delivered to the Chairman of the Council of Members who shall communicate the same to the Executive Commission and the General Secretariat. Withdrawal shall become effective six months after receipt of said notice, provided that said member fulfills his obligations prior to his withdrawal.

Article 36: Settlement of Disputes

Any dispute arising between members over the interpretation or application of the provisions of this Charter shall be resolved amicably through official communications and negotiations.

Article 37: Amendment of the Charter

The Council of Members may, by special vote, amend any of the provisions of this Charter upon a recommendation submitted to the Chairman of the Council by the Executive Commission or any of its members 120 days prior to the meeting of the Council of Members and to all members 90 days prior to the meeting of the Council of Members. An approved amendment shall become effective 90 days following the date on which at least 50% of member states deposit their respective instruments of ratification, acceptance, or approval thereof. As an exception, Articles 7, 8, 9, and 40 of this Charter shall be



amended only by unanimous agreement.

Article 38: Reservations

No reservations may be made regarding any of the provisions of this Charter.

Article 39: Termination and Dissolution of the Council

1. The Council of Members may, by supermajority, terminate the Council as of the date specified by the Council of Members resolution.
2. Upon termination, the Council of Members shall form an independent committee to liquidate and settle Council accounts and distribute funds resulting from the settlement as well as other assets among members in proportion to their contributions. However, if such process results in a deficit, such deficit shall not be borne by the headquarters state.

Article 40: Copies

This Charter shall be drafted in two originals, in the Arabic and English languages, each being equally authentic.