

## Shura Council Law

### Article 1

In compliance with Almighty Allah's words:

"Because of the mercy of Allah you dealt with them gently. And were you severe, harsh-hearted, they would have broken away from about you; so pass over their faults and ask for Allah's forgiveness for them; and consult them in the affair. Then when you have taken a decision, put your trust in Allah. Certainly Allah loves those who put their trust in Him." and His words:

"Those who answer the call of their Lord (i.e. to believe that He is the only one Lord (Allah) and to worship none but Him Alone) and offer their prayer perfectly, and who conduct their affairs by mutual consultation, and who spend of what we have bestowed on them." (XLII, 38) and following His Messenger Peace Be Upon Him (PBUH) in consulting his companions and urging the nation to engage in consultation, the Shura Council shall be established to exercise the tasks entrusted to it, in accordance with this Law and the Basic Law of Governance, while adhering to the Quran and the Sunna of the Messenger (PBUH), maintaining brotherly ties and cooperating unto righteousness and piety.

### Article 2

The Shura Council shall hold fast to the bond of Allah and adhere to the sources of Islamic legislation. Members of the Council shall serve public interest and preserve the unity of the community, the entity of the State, and the interests of the nation.

### Article 3

The Shura Council shall consist of a chairman and 150 members chosen by the King from among scholars, experts, and specialists, provided that the representation of women therein is not less than (20%) of the members. Their rights, duties, and all their affairs shall be specified by royal order.

#### **Article 4**

A member of the Shura Council shall be:

- A. a Saudi national by descent and upbringing;
- B. well known for uprightness and competence; and
- C. not less than 30 years of age.

#### **Article 5**

Any Shura Council member may submit a request to be relieved from membership to the Chairman of the Shura Council, who in turn shall bring said request before the King.

#### **Article 6**

If a Shura Council member fails to perform his duties, he shall be interrogated and tried according to rules and procedures to be issued by royal order.

#### **Article 7**

When the position of a Shura Council member becomes vacant for any reason, the King shall choose a replacement and issue a royal order to this effect.

#### **Article 8**

A Shura Council member may not exploit his membership for his own interest.

#### **Article 9**

Membership of the Shura Council may not be combined with any government post or the management of any company, unless the King deems it necessary.

#### **Article 10**

The Chairman, Vice Chairman, Assistant Chairman, and Secretary General of the Shura Council shall be appointed and relieved by royal order. Their grades, rights, duties, and all their affairs shall be determined by royal order.

### **Article 11**

Prior to assuming their duties, the Chairman, members, and Secretary General of the Shura Council shall take the following oath before the King: *“I swear to Allah Almighty to be loyal to my religion, then to my King and Country, and not to reveal any of the State’s secrets, to preserve its interests and laws, and to perform my duties with sincerity, integrity, loyalty, and fairness.”*

### **Article 12**

The city of Riyadh is the seat of the Shura Council. The Council may convene in another area within the Kingdom if the King deems it appropriate.

### **Article 13**

The term for the Shura Council shall be four Hijri years effective from the date specified in the royal order issued for its formation. A new council shall be formed at least two months before the end of the current Council’s term. If the term expires before the formation of the new council, the previous one shall remain active until the new council is formed. When a new council is formed, the number of the newly selected members shall not be less than half of the Council’s members.

### **Article 14**

The King, or his designee, shall deliver an annual royal speech at the Shura Council on the domestic and foreign policies of the State.

### **Article 15**

The Shura Council shall express its opinion on the public policies of the State referred to it by the President of the Council of Ministers.

The Council shall specifically have the right to exercise the following:

- a) discuss and comment on the general plan for economic and social development;
- b) review and provide recommendations on laws and regulations, treaties, international agreements, and concessions;

- c) construe laws; and
- d) discuss and provide recommendations on the annual reports submitted by ministries and other government agencies.

### **Article 16**

Meetings of the Shura Council shall not be valid unless attended by at least two-thirds of its members, including the Chairman or his designee. Resolutions shall not be valid unless approved by the majority of Council members.

### **Article 17**

The Shura Council's resolutions shall be brought before the King who shall decide the resolutions to be referred to the Council of Ministers.

- If the views of both the Council of Ministers and the Shura Council coincide, the resolutions shall come into effect following the King's approval.
- If the views of the two Councils are at variance, the matter shall be referred back to the Shura Council to express its views on such variance and shall then bring it before the King to take appropriate action.

### **Article 18**

Laws, treaties, international agreements, and concessions shall be issued and amended by royal decree after review by the Shura Council.

### **Article 19**

The Shura Council shall form from among its members the standing committees necessary to exercise its powers. The Council may also form ad hoc committees to discuss any issue on its agenda.

### **Article 20**

The Shura Council's committees may seek the assistance of non-council members upon the approval of the Chairman of the Council.

## **Article 21**

The Shura Council shall have a general panel composed of the Chairman of the Council, Vice Chairman, Assistant Chairman, and heads of the standing committees.

## **Article 22**

The Chairman of the Shura Council shall submit to the President of the Council of Ministers a request to call any government official to attend the sessions of the Shura Council when matters relating to his jurisdiction are discussed. He shall have the right to participate in the discussion but not the right to vote.

## **Article 23**

The Shura Council shall have the right to propose and review a new draft law or an amendment to an existing law. The Chairman of the Shura Council shall bring before the King the Council's decisions.

## **Article 24**

The Chairman of the Shura Council shall submit a request to the President of the Council of Ministers to provide the Council with statements and documents in the possession of government agencies, as deemed necessary by the Council.

## **Article 25**

The Chairman of the Shura Council shall submit an annual report to the King regarding the Council's achievements in accordance with provisions of the Internal Regulations of the Council.

## **Article 26**

Employees of the Council's bodies shall be subject to civil service laws unless otherwise provided for by the Internal Regulations.

**Article 27**

The Shura Council shall be allocated a special budget to be approved by the King. It shall be disbursed in accordance with rules to be issued by royal order.

**Article 28**

The Shura Council's financial matters, auditing, and closing accounts shall be regulated in accordance with special rules to be issued by royal order.

**Article 29**

The Internal Regulations of the Shura Council shall define the powers of its Chairman, Vice Chairman, Assistant Chairman, Secretary General, bodies, meeting and voting procedures, work procedures, and committee work procedures. The regulations shall also specify the rules and protocols of debate, and other matters conducive to order and discipline within the Council, so that it may exercise its powers for the welfare of the Kingdom and the prosperity of its people. These regulations shall be issued by royal order.

**Article 30**

This Law may not be amended except in the same manner of its promulgation.