

Saudi Arabia Majlis AlShoura Law

Article 1:

In line with the Almighty Allah's words: 159 It is part of the Mercy of Allah that thou dost deal Gently with them. Wert thou severe or Harsh-hearted, they would have broken away from about thee: so pass over (Their faults), and ask for (Allah's) forgiveness for them; and consult them in affairs (of moment). Then, when thou hast taken a decision, put thy trust in Allah. For Allah loves those who put their trust (in Him). And, with Allah's words:" 38 Those who respond to their Lord, and establish regular prayer; who (conduct) their affairs by mutual consultation; who spend out of what we bestow on them for sustenance;

Then, following the example of God's Prophet (peace be upon him) in consulting his companions and urging the nation to do the same; The Majlis Al-Shoura shall be set up to undertake appropriate tasks in compliance with this law and the Basic law of Government, in adherence to the Book of God and the Prophet's Sunnah and in fostering the bonds of brotherhood as well as in co-operation in righteousness and piety.

Article 2:

The Majlis Al-Shoura shall be established on the Qur'anic injunction calling on Muslims to hold fast by the Rope of God, and on strict adherence to the sources of Islamic Legislation. The Members of the Majlis shall be keen to uphold the general good and to preserve the unity of the community as well as the entity of the State and the interests of the Nation.

Article 3:

The Majlis shall consist of a Chairman and sixty well-educated and qualified members to be selected by the King. The rights and duties of the members and all their affairs shall be determined by a Royal Decree.

Article 4:

A member of the Majlis shall be:

- (a) A Saudi National by birth and descent.
- (b) Of proven integrity and efficiency.
- (c) Not less than 30 years old.

Article 5:

The member of the Majlis may submit a request to the Chairman that he be relieved from his post, and, in turn, the Chairman shall forward the matter to the King.

Article 6:

If a member of the Majlis plays his duties false, an investigation shall be conducted, and he shall be prosecuted in accordance with rules and procedures issued by a Royal Order.

Article 7:

If, for any reason, the seat of a Majlis member becomes vacant, the King shall name a substitute by a Royal Order.

Article 8:

The member of the Majlis may not exploit his membership to serve his own interests.

Article 9:

The member of the Majlis may not be combined with a government post or a senior administrative job with a company unless the King sees a need for this.

Article 10:

The Chairman of the Majlis, his deputy and the Majlis' Secretary-General shall be appointed and may be relieved from their posts by a Royal Order.

Their grade, rights and duties as well as other affairs shall be determined by a Royal Order.

Article 11:

The Chairman, members and the Secretary-General of the Majlis shall take the following oath before reporting to work with the Majlis:

"I swear by Almighty God that I will be loyal to my Religion, then to my King and country; shall not divulge any secrets of the State; will uphold its interests and laws; and will perform my duties in good faith, honesty, sincerity and fairness."

Article 12:

The city of Riyadh shall be the headquarters of the Majlis. However, the Majlis may meet in any other place inside the Kingdom if approved by the King.

Article 13:

The Majlis term shall be four Hijira calendar years beginning as of the date set in the Royal Order by which the Majlis was established. The new Majlis shall be set up at least two months before the expiration of the term of its predecessor. If the term ends before a new Majlis is formed, the old Majlis shall continue to discharge its duties until a new Majlis has been set up. When a new Majlis is established, its new members shall account, at least, for one half of the total number of members.

Article 14:

The King, or whomever he may deputize, shall deliver a Royal speech before the Majlis on a yearly basis dealing with State domestic and foreign policies.

Article 15:

The Majlis may express its opinion on the general policies of the State referred to it by the Prime Minister. It may in particular:

- (a) discuss and express its opinion of the general economic and social development plan.
- (b) study laws, regulations, treaties, international agreements and concessions, and offer its comments thereon.
- (c) interpret Laws.
- (d) discuss and make suggestions concerning the annual reports submitted by various ministries and other government bodies.

Article 16:

A meeting of the Majlis shall be valid only if attended by at least two thirds of its members, including the Majlis Chairman or whomever he may deputize. Resolutions shall not be legal unless approved by the majority of the Majlis members.

Article 17:

Resolutions passed by the Majlis shall be submitted to the Prime Minister, who shall refer them to the Council of Ministers for consideration. If the Majlis and the Council are of the same opinions, Royal endorsement shall be issued; but if their opinions are at variance, the King may take whatever he may deem proper.

Article 18:

Laws, international agreements, treaties and concessions shall be issued and amended by Royal Decree, after being reviewed by the Majlis.

Article 19:

The Majlis shall form specialized committees, from among its members, to carry out its various functions. The Majlis shall also have the right to set up special committees, from among its members, to discuss any item on its agenda.

Article 20:

The Majlis affiliated committees may, with the Chairman's approval, seek the help of anyone they consider suitable from among non-members.

Article 21:

The Majlis shall set up its panel comprising the Chairman of the Majlis, his deputies, and heads of the Majlis specialized committees.

Article 22:

The Chairman of the Majlis shall submit to the Prime Minister a request to call any government official to attend the Majlis sessions, while the Majlis is discussing matters within the area of competence of this official who shall have the right to take part in the discussions but not the right to vote.

Article 23:

Every group of ten members of the Majlis may make a motion for the enactment of a new regulation or the amendment of one already in effect and present it to the Chairman who shall forward it to the King.

Article 24:

The Chairman of the Majlis shall submit an application to the Prime Minister requesting access to governmental documents and statements deemed necessary by the Majlis for the pursuit of its activities.

Article 25:

The Chairman of the Majlis shall submit an annual report to the King detailing the activities carried out by the Majlis in accordance with its internal by-laws.

Article 26:

Civil Service regulations shall be applied to the personnel of the Majlis, unless its internal by-law stipulates otherwise.

Article 27:

The Majlis shall have a special budget endorsed by the King, and dispensed in accordance with rules issued by a Royal Order.

Article 28:

The Majlis financial affairs, financial control and final accounts shall be organized in accordance with special rules issued by a Royal Order.

Article 29:

The Majlis internal by-law shall organize the duties of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman, and the Secretary-General. It also organizes the Majlis bodies, the manner in which its sessions are run, the way the Majlis and its committees go about their work and its method of voting. Likewise it organizes the rules of debate, rejoinder and other matters that could enhance order and discipline in the Majlis and enable it to perform its duties in an manner that is beneficial to the Kingdom and the well-being of its people. This by-law shall be issued by a Royal Order.

Article 30:

This law shall be amended in the same manner in which it has been issued.