

**DECREE NO. 11 FOR THE YEAR 2014
FORMATION AND ORGANIZATION OF
THE NATIONAL SPACE SCIENCES AGENCY**

We Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa, King of the Kingdom of Bahrain;
In pursuance of:
The Constitution;
Law No. 13 for the year 1975 with regard to the regulation of the salaries and pensions for the civil servants, as amended;
Decree-Law No. 25 for the year 1976 approving the Arab Satellite Communications Organization Convention;
Decree No. 9 for the year 1985 approving Kingdom of Bahrain's joining the International Maritime Satellite Organization (INMARSAT) and Annexes thereto;
Decree-Law No. 2 for the year 1993 approving the Kingdom of Bahrain's membership of the International Mobile Telecommunications Organization Convention;
Decree-Law No. 21 for the year 1996 with respect to Environment, as amended by Decree-Law No. 8 for the year 1997;
Decree-Law No. 1 for the year 1999 approving membership of the Kingdom of Bahrain in the Arab Satellite Communications Organization Convention, as amended;
Decree No. 31 for the year 2000 ratifying the amendment to Paragraph 7 of Article 4 of the Arab Satellite Communications Organization;
Decree-Law No. 1 for the year 2002 ratifying amendments to the International Mobile Telecommunications Organization Convention;
Decree-Law No. 39 for the year 2002 with respect to the State Budget, as amended;
The Telecommunications Law promulgated by Decree-Law No. 48 for the year 2002;
The Civil Service Law promulgated by Decree-Law No, 48 for the year 2010;
In accordance with the recommendation submitted by the Prime Minister;
Upon approval of the Council of Ministers;
Have decreed as follows:

Article 1

For the purposes of this Decree, the following terms and expressions shall have the meanings assigned thereto unless otherwise required by the consent:

- The Kingdom: The Kingdom of Bahrain
- The Minister: The Minister of Education
- The Agency: The National Space Sciences Agency established under the provisions hereof.
- The Board: The Board of Directors formed under the provisions of Article 05 hereof;
- Chairman: The Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Agency.
- Chief Executive Officer: The Chief Executive Officer of the Agency appointed under the provision of Article 9 hereof.

Article 2

There shall be formed an agency cited as "The National Space Science Agency" reporting to the Council of Ministers and subject to the Monitoring and supervision of the Minister.

The headquarters of the Agency shall be in the Kingdom. However, the Agency may establish offices or branches within and outside the Kingdom.

Article 3

The Agency shall endeavour to realize the following objectives:

1. Promote space sciences in the Kingdom and establish a sound infrastructure to observe the space and earth with the aim of attaining comprehensive and sustainable development.
2. Achieve a leading role for the Kingdom in the areas of space sciences and associated technology.
3. Develop advanced space related research programs and promote advancement in satellite technology to keep up to date with the development witnessed by the Kingdom to achieve practical and technological development corresponding to the Kingdom's 2030 Vision.
4. Enhance the culture of scientific research methodology for citizens to support their capabilities in technological innovation and support space science development.
5. Develop national human resources to create a highly scientific, leading and excellent space foundation.

6. Establish relationships of cooperation in regional and international joint projects with space agencies and with technological, industrial and research agencies involved in space sciences.
7. Provide space information and earth observation data, which serve the comprehensive development process and contribute to the Kingdom's space scientific advancement and sustainable development.
8. Encourage the Kingdom to join international conventions and agreements of space sciences and associated technological perceptions.
9. Any other objectives required by the nature of the Agency's activities and approved by the Board.

Article 4

The Agency shall assume all functions and authorities required for the attainment of its objectives, which do not conflict with the applicable laws of the Kingdom and under the monitoring and supervision of the Minister. The Agency shall, in particular:

1. Set forth integrated rules, regulations and programs for sponsorship and development of space science related activities and associated technological perceptions.
2. Handle all transactions and functions associated with the nature of its activities and required for attaining its objectives.
3. Own and rent properties and assets required for exercising its activities.
4. Organize exhibitions, conferences and events in space science and technological perceptions associated therewith and participate in representing the Kingdom in events held in the nationally and overseas.
5. Provide all services in correspondence with the Agency's activities.
6. Prepare projects of development and qualification to promote or expand on services provided by the Agency.
7. Charge fees for services provided for various authorities within the Kingdom and overseas.
8. Take any action or practice any other functions that help to achieve its objectives.

Article 5

1. The Agency shall have a Board of Directors consisting of seven members including the Chairman and Vice Chairman who must be experienced and knowledgeable about the objectives of the Agency. The Board members shall be appointed by Decree on recommendation of the Minister.

2. The term of membership on the Board shall be four years, which term is renewable once for a similar term. With respect to the First Board, the term of membership for most of the members shall be four years, whereas for the rest shall be three years. The decree of their appointment shall specify the term of membership of each of them.
3. The Board shall meet at least once every quarter by convocation of the Chairman or the Vice Chairman. The Chairman may call for an ordinary meeting at any time or within fifteen days from the date of receiving a substantiated request in writing from the Minister, from at least two members of the Board or from the Chief Executive Officer. A notice of invitation to a meeting must include the purpose of the meeting and an agenda be attached thereto.
4. At the first meeting, the Board shall elect a Vice Chairman who shall act for the Chairman in the Chairman's absence, inability to attend or vacancy of the position. The Board shall draw up business regulations including standing orders for its meetings in modern technological means and mechanism for decision-making on urgent matters.
5. A meeting of the Board shall be valid in the presence of a majority of the members including the Chairman or the Vice Chairman. Resolutions of the Board shall be adopted by a majority vote of the present members. In the event of a tie, the Chairman or the Vice Chairman shall have a casting vote. The meetings and resolutions of the Board shall be documented in minutes to be signed by the Chairman and all the members who were present at the meeting.
6. The Chief Executive Officer shall attend all meetings of the Board except for the instances specified in the Board's regulations. The Board may invite to its meetings any experts to seek their assistance or stakeholders for discussing and listening to their views. Such experts or stakeholders shall not have a counted vote with regard to the resolutions and recommendations adopted by the Board.
7. On nomination by the Vice Chairman, the Board shall appoint a Secretary from the staff members of the Agency. The Secretary shall prepare the agendas of meetings, take minutes, keep all documents and records of the Board and perform any other assignment by the Board within the functions of the Agency.
8. If the position of a Board member becomes vacant for any reason, a replacement will be appointed by the same instrument provided

for in Paragraph 1 of this article. The new member shall complete the term of his predecessor.

9. The Board may set up permanent or *ad hoc* administrative, technical or financial committees for consideration of specific matters and submission of related proposals.

Article 6

The Board of Directors is the highest authority that draws up the general policy of the agency. The Board may take any resolutions or actions it feels appropriate for conducting the objectives of the Agency, subject to the applicable rules and regulations. The Board shall in particular exercise the following functions:

1. Draw up the Agency's general policy, business strategies and annual programs and submit the same to the Minister for approval.
2. Establish rules and issue regulations and resolutions required for the implementation of the provisions of this decree.
3. Propose amendment to the organizational structure of the Agency and submit the same to the Minister to promulgate appropriate orders.
4. Approve the Agency's programs and projects which the Board feels essential to improve and develop the management of the Agency and business methods and implementation follow-up.
5. Approve the Agency's services.
6. Propose wages for the Agency staff members, including allowances and other benefits, provided that the wages earned by counterparts in the labour market, whether in major companies within the Kingdom or overseas, be taken into account.
7. Manage the funds of the Agency and its branches.
8. Propose considerations for services provided by the Agency.
9. Approve the budget of the new year and the audited final account of the fiscal year.
10. Approve all legal disposals, the most important of which are the draft contracts and agreements of which the Agency is a party.
11. Nominate candidates for higher positions to the Minister for taking the actions required for appointment according to the position title.
12. Study the regular reports presented by the Chief Executive Officer on the business progress at the Agency and take the necessary decisions required.
13. Dispatch Board members or Agency staff members to represent the Agency to seminars, meetings and conferences of relevant objectives to the Agency whether inside the Kingdom or overseas.

14. Form subcommittees from outside the Board as experts to consider one or more subjects referred to the Board and determine their remunerations. Such committees must submit their reports and business results to the Board.
15. Any other business relevant to the objectives and authorities of the Agency provided for in this decree or the implementing regulations and resolutions.

The Board may authorize its Chairman or Vice Chairman to implement certain functions of the Board.

The Board shall submit an annual report on its entire business to the Minister for referral to the Council of Ministers.

Article 7

The Chairman shall represent the Board in its relationships with others and may delegate other Board members to carry out certain functions. The Chief Executive Officer shall report directly to the Chairman.

Article 8

The remunerations of the Chairman and of the Board members shall be determined by an edict of the Council of Ministers.

Article 9

1. The Agency shall have a Chief Executive Officer at the status of Undersecretary and be appointed by decree on a recommendation of the Board to the Minister. The powers and responsibilities of the Chief Executive Officer shall be specified subject to the rules and regulations of the Agency. The Chief Executive Officer shall have one Deputy or more at the status of Assistant Undersecretary, to be appointed by decree on a recommendation of the Board to the Minister.
2. The Chief Executive Officer shall report to the Board of Directors for the Agency's business progress, subject to the provisions of this decree and the rules, regulations and resolutions issued in implementation thereof.
3. The Council of Ministers, on a recommendation by the Minister, shall determine the remuneration of the Chief Executive Officer, including allowances and monetary and in-kind benefits.
4. If the position of the Chief Executive Officer becomes vacant for any reason, a replacement will be appointed with the same instrument provided for in Paragraph 1 hereof. The Board shall

assign the Chairman or any Board member or any qualified staff member of the Agency to assume the powers and responsibilities of the Chief Executive Officer on a temporary basis until a new Chief Executive Officer is appointed.

Article 10

1. The Board of Directors and the Chief Executive Officer of the Agency shall exercise the functions provided for herein and in the rules, regulations and resolutions issued in implementation thereof under the direct supervision of the Minister.
The Board shall submit to the Minister regular reports on the activities and business progress of the Agency and any obstacles and proposed solutions to eliminate them. The Board shall provide the Minister with any statements, information, resolutions, minutes, records or reports required by the Minister to perform his supervisory role and control over the business of the Agency.
2. In the course of performing his supervision and control of the Agency, the Minister may issue general directions with regard to matters he feels touching the public interest and the Board shall abide thereby. The Minister shall be the responsible person for the Agency before the Council of Ministers and the Legislative Authority.

Article 11

The financial resources of the Agency shall consist of:

- i) The annual budgets allocated by the State.
- ii) The proceeds of Agency's activities and investment returns of its funds.
- iii) Considerations of services rendered by the Agency.
- iv) Other funding resources approved by the Council.

Article 12

1. At the beginning of each fiscal year, the Board appoints an external auditor, or more, with an international standing to audit the accounts of the Agency for a period of three years, which term is not renewable. The Board shall determine the auditor's annual remunerations.
2. The Agency may not assign any other task, other than the accounts auditing, to the external auditor during its term of assignment.
3. Within a period of not more than three months from the end of the fiscal year, the auditor shall audit the Agency's accounts and prepare a report in accordance with the internationally recognized accounting standards. The report shall cover all data and information which properly reflect the financial position of the Agency.

4. The external auditor shall submit its report on the Agency accounts auditing to both the Minister and to the Board within three months from the end of the fiscal year.

Article 13

In the course of performing its functions, the Agency may obtain any information, data or documents it feels required for achieving its objectives. The public and private authorities shall provide the Agency with the data, information and documents requested within the time specified by the Agency.

Article 14

The provisions of Law No. 13 for the year 1975 with regard to the regulation of the salaries and pensions of the civil servants, as amended, shall apply to the staff members of the Agency.

Article 15

The Board of directors shall issue the rules, regulations and resolutions required for the implementation of the provisions of this decree.

Article 16

The Prime Minister and the Ministers, each within his/her own jurisdiction, shall implement this decree which shall come into force as from the day immediately following its publication in the Official Gazette.

**KING OF THE KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN
HAMAD BIN ISA AL-KHALIFA**

**PRIME MINISTER,
KHALIFA BIN SALMAN AL-KHALIFA**

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