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**Decision No. (100) of 2023**

**on Honorary Consuls**

**Accredited in the Kingdom of Bahrain**

Minister of Foreign Affairs:

Having reviewed Legislative Decree No. (7) of 1992 approving accession to the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations concluded on April 22, 1963;

Law No. (37) of 2009 regarding the diplomatic and consular corps, as amended by Law No. (20) of 2014, and in particular Article (75) thereof;

The Implementing Regulation of Law No. (37) of 2009 regarding the diplomatic and consular corps promogulated by Decision No. (31) of 2019, amended by Decision No. (113) of 2021;

Decision No. (24) of 2014 regarding the legal regulation of Honorary Consuls accredited in the Kingdom of Bahrain

And Based on the proposal of the Undersecretary for Consular and Administrative Affairs;

**Decided the following:**

**Article (1)**

In applying the provisions of this Decision, the following words and expressions shall have the meanings assigned to them unless the context of the text requires otherwise:

Kingdom: Kingdom of Bahrain.

Ministry: Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Minister: Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Honorary Consulate: An accredited consulate of another country to work in this capacity in the Kingdom.

Honorary Consul: A person accredited to another country to work as an honorary consul in the Kingdom.

Accredited country: The country that wishes to establish an honorary consulate in the Kingdom.

Jurisdiction: The area designated for the honorary consul in which they exercise their functions.

Consular patent: The instrument sent by the government of the accrediting country through diplomatic channels or in any other way it deems appropriate to the Kingdom in order for the Honorary Consul to exercise their duties in the Kingdom.

Consular exequatur: The instrument issued by the Minister and delivered to the Honorary Consul to begin exercising their duties in the Kingdom.

**Article (2)**

Honorary Consulates are established in the Kingdom based on an agreement between the Kingdom and the accredited country, provided that there are diplomatic relations between the Kingdom and the accredited country.

**Article (3)**

An honorary consulate shall not be established if the accredited country has diplomatic or consular representation resident in the Kingdom. No more than an honorary consulate shall be established for the accredited country in the Kingdom.

If the establishment of the honorary consulate is approved, the number of employees shall not exceed one honorary consul and three employees.

**Article (4)**

The Ministry shall be provided with the names of persons nominated to serve as an honorary consul. The Ministry may approve the appointment of one of them. The following conditions are required for approval to appoint an honorary consul:

1) must be a Bahraini citizen or hold the citizenship of the country requesting their appointment or any other country that has diplomatic relations with the Kingdom.

2) must be a permanent resident of the Kingdom.

3) must be thirty years of age or over.

4) must be fully qualified, of good conduct, and of known social standing.

5) must not have been convicted in a final judicial ruling in a felony or misdemeanor which undermines honor or trust.

6) must be nominated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the accrediting country.

7) must not be an accredited honorary consul for another country, or responsible for looking after the interests of another country in the Kingdom.

**Article (5)**

Approval for the appointment of the honorary consul in the Kingdom shall be by a decision of the Minister, after the approval of the Cabinet. This decision shall specify the headquarters of the Honorary Consulate and its jurisdiction, and an exequatur shall be issued by the Minister.

**Article (6)**

The exequatur shall be for a period not exceeding five years, renewable by a memorandum issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the accrediting country, taking into account the conditions stipulated in Article (4) of this Decision.

**Article (7)**

The Honorary Consul shall not exercise their duties except after the issuance of the decision approving their appointment and the issuance and delivery of an exequatur from the Ministry. Before commencing their duties, they must submit to the Ministry copies of the official papers and seals that they would use for consular work for approval.

The honorary consul is given a consular patent from the accredited country which is sent to the Ministry through diplomatic channels.

**Article (8)**

The honorary consul carries out their tasks and duties in person. They shall not delegate or authorize anyone to carry out the tasks and duties assigned to them.

**Article (9)**

The honorary consul enjoys the privileges, immunities and facilities stipulated in the agreements to which the Kingdom is a party and generally accepted diplomatic norms.

**Article (10)**

The privileges, immunities and facilities referred to in Article (9) of this Decision are granted to the Honorary Consul only, and do not apply to members of their family or employees of the Honorary Consulate.

These privileges, immunities and facilities shall be withdrawn if the accrediting country waives them in whole or in part.

**Article (11)**

The honorary consul shall abide by the legislation in force in the Kingdom, not abuse the privileges, immunities and facilities granted to them, and not use the headquarters in a way that is inconsistent with the exercise of the duties and work of the honorary consulate.

The honorary consul or their employees are also prohibited from interfering in the internal affairs of the Kingdom or contacting any party in the Kingdom except through the Ministry.

**Article (12)**

It is prohibited to use honorary consulate’s official papers and seals for any work or task that does not fall within consular business.

**Article (13)**

The mission of the Honorary Consul ends in the following cases:

1. Closing or canceling the Honorary Consulate for any reason.
2. In the event that the Honorary Consul violated any of the legislation in force in the Kingdom or the provisions or directives issued pursuant to this Decision.
3. If the Honorary Consul no longer meets the conditions stipulated in Article (4) of this Decision, or it was found that none of them were met when the Honorary Consul was granted exequatur.
4. If the Honorary Consul misuses the privileges, immunities and facilities granted in line with the position.
5. If the Honorary Consul fails to comply with any of the consular duties set forth in this Decision.
6. Death of the Honorary Consul.
7. The accrediting country withdraws consular patent.
8. Withdrawal of exequatur.
9. Severing diplomatic relations with the accrediting country.
10. Expiry of the accreditation period.

**Article (14)**

After the approval of the Cabinet, the Minister may withdraw the exequatur and terminate the mission of the Honorary Consul at any time without giving reasons. The Ministry shall inform the accrediting country of this through diplomatic means.

In the event that the Honorary Consulate was shut, or its duties were completed for any reason, a committee will be formed from the Ministry, an employee from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the accrediting country, and an employee from the Honorary Consulate to complete the procedures for closing or transferring the duties.

**Article (15)**

The privileges, immunities and facilities granted to the Honorary Consul shall end upon the end of the duties of the Honorary Consulate in the Kingdom, the withdrawal of exequatur, or in the case that the accrediting country withdraws the consular patent.

**Article (16)**

Honorary Consulates and Honorary Consuls working in the Kingdom must adjust their status in accordance with the provisions of this Decision within six months from the date of its implementation.

**Article (17)**

Decision No. (24) of 2014 regarding the legal regulation of Honorary Consuls accredited in the Kingdom of Bahrain shall be repealed.

**Article (18)**

The Undersecretary for Consular and Administrative Affairs and those concerned - each within their jurisdiction - must implement the provisions of this Decision, and it shall come into force from the day following the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

**Minister of Foreign Affairs**

**Dr. Abdullatif bin Rashid Al-Zayani.**

Issued on 02 Jumada al-Awwal 1445 A.H.

Corresponding to: 16 November 2023