

Draft Statutes

The Lebanese National Coalition for Freedom of Association and Integrity of CSOs

Article 1

The Name of the Coalition:

The Lebanese National Coalition for Freedom of Association

Article 2

The Coalition's Headquarters

To be suggested by participants

Article 3

Applicable laws

The Lebanese related laws and regulations

Article 4

The nature and objectives of the coalition

The Lebanese coalition for freedom of association is a none-for-profit coalition that aims at gathering associations, trade unions and political parties and other civil society institutions around the aim of freedom of association and CSO's integrity in order to protect the right to freedom of association of all forms of violations and enhance the image and performance of CSOs.

Article 4

Membership

The membership is open to all associations, CSOs, parties, trade unions and to individuals who sign the declaration of the coalition, accept to abide by its bylaws, and supports its aims and objectives.

Any member can join the coalition upon the approval of one third of the general assembly.

Article 5

Loss of Membership

- A member shall lose his membership in the coalition upon his own wish, death or in case the coalition takes a decision to remove him.

- Any member who wishes to resign should submit a written request to the general assembly.
- A member shall be removed by a decision to be taken by a majority of 2/3 of the general assembly.

Article 6

Restrictions on the loss of membership

A member shall lose his membership upon the following conditions:

- If he does not attend the meetings of the coalition for three consecutive times.
- If he does not abide by its bylaws,
- If he does not pay his membership fees for two consecutive years.

Any member can contest the decision to end his membership within a period of two months as of the date of the decision.

Article 6

The structure of the coalition and its meetings

- The coalition shall be formed of a general assembly of all members and of a board of maximum 15 members to be elected for 2 years term.
- The elections should guarantee that the different CSOs (political parties, NGOs and trade unions) are represented in the board of the coalition.
- Elections should take place after one month maximum of agreeing on the aims and objectives of the coalition
- The general assembly shall convene once a year and the board once every six months and when the need arises for a meeting.
- The quorum is achieved when half of the members plus one attend the meeting
- Founding members shall hold temporary positions until the elections are held.
- Minutes of meetings shall be registered and signed.
- Minutes of meetings shall be circulated to members within one week time after the meeting.

Article 7

Financial resources of the coalition

- Membership fees to finance its activities
- Grants and donations from local and official institutions
- Foreign donations subject to the approval of the general assembly.

The board shall prepare an annual report on the coalition's finances to be discussed by the general assembly and sent to concerned government departments.

All transactions should be signed by the coalition treasurer, the chairman of the coalition or his deputy in his absence.

If a decision is taken to dissolve the coalition, its assets shall go to the Arab Red Cross or Crescent.

The dissolution decision shall be taken by 2/3 of the general assembly members.

Article 8

Amendments to the bylaws

- Amendments to the bylaws could be introduced only if 2/3 of the general assembly members approve the amendments.
- The board shall receive amendment suggestions (within a period to be agreed upon) and forward them to the general assembly.
- The general assembly shall endorse them within a period to be agreed upon.
- When amendments are approved they become part of the bylaws and the concerned government department shall be informed in writing.