

Official Gazette

We, Al Hassan Bin Talal, the Regent

In accordance with Article (٣١) of the Constitution and pursuant to what has been decided by the House of Senates and the House of Deputies, we hereby ratify the following Law and order that it be promulgated and incorporated in the laws of the State:

Cooperative Law No. (١٨) for the year ١٩٩٧

Article (١): This law shall be cited as (Cooperative Law of ١٩٩٧) and shall come into force on the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

Article (٢): The following words and phrases wherever stated in this law will have their meanings specified below unless the context indicates otherwise:

Corporation: Jordan Cooperative Corporation.

Board of Directors: The Corporation Board of Directors.

Chairman of Board of Directors: The Prime Minister or his deputy minister.

Director General: Director General of the Corporation.

Article (٣):

- A.** Pursuant to the provisions of this law, an official corporation called Jordan Cooperative Corporation shall be established. It shall enjoy a legal entity status with financial and administrative independence. In this capacity, it may acquire moveable and immovable properties, undertake all legal actions, including concluding contracts, accepting gifts and donations, file legal actions and to be sued and shall be represented in legal cases by the procurator general or the district attorney, and it may appoint any lawyer.
- B.** The Corporation's head office shall be located in the City of Amman, and it may open branches throughout the Kingdom under the decision of the Board.

Article (٤): The Corporation shall oversee the cooperative sector, increase the economic, social, and cultural level of the cooperative persons and local communities, promote self-reliance to achieve the social and economic benefits for the cooperatives without practicing the cooperative work directly by itself.

To achieve these goals, the Corporation undertakes the following responsibilities and duties:

- A.** Register and supervise the cooperative societies and unions.
- B.** Provide advices, guidance, and technical services to the cooperative societies and unions and their members, follow up their accounts, and certify their balance sheets.
- C.** Provide technical support to the cooperative societies and unions to facilitate their communication with the lending sources and to establish qualitative or general funds to fund their projects.
- D.** Hold cooperative training and education courses for the cooperative societies and unions members and workers including the establishment of cooperative institutes and training centers for this purpose.

- E. Disseminate cooperative culture through the different communication means with the citizens.
- F. Prepare draft regulations on the cooperative sector in the Kingdom.
- G. Cooperate and coordinate with the relevant entities to enable the cooperative societies and unions implement their development programs in different sectors.
- H. Participate with the cooperative societies and unions in representing the cooperative sector before the Arab, regional, and international public and private organizations.

Article (٩):

- A. The Corporation shall be managed and supervised by a Board of Directors formed as follows:
 - ١. Chairman of the Board of Directors.
 - ٢. Director General: Vice-chairman
 - ٣. Secretary General of the Ministry of Agriculture: Member
 - ٤. Secretary General of the Ministry of Finance: Member
 - ٥. Secretary General of the Ministry of Planning: Member
 - ٦. General Manager of the Agricultural Credit Corporation: Member
 - ٧. Director General of the Housing and Urban Development Corporation: Member
 - ٨. President of Jordan Cooperative General Union: Member
 - ٩. President of Jordan Farmers Union: Member
 - ١٠. Three persons from the cooperative members appointed for four renewable years by the Council of Ministers based on the recommendation of the Chairman of Board of Directors.
- B. Remuneration of the Board members for attending the meetings shall be allocated by a decision of the Council of Ministers upon the recommendation of the Chairman of the Board.

Article (١٠): The Board shall assume the following functions and authorities:

- A. The drawing of the Corporation's general policy.
- B. Coordinate with the cooperative societies and unions to set up plans and programs for the cooperative sector in the Kingdom.
- C. Study and approve the Corporation annual balance sheet and present it to the Council of Ministers for approval.
- D. Approve the Corporations organizational structure.

Article (١١): The Board shall meet upon the invitation of the Chairman or the Vice-chairman in his absence at least once every two months or whenever the need arises. A meeting shall be legal if at least the majority of members, including the Chairman or, in his absence, the Vice-chairman, are in attendance. The Board's decisions shall be taken unanimously or by the majority votes of the present members. In the event of a tie vote, the side with which the meeting's chairman voted shall prevail.

Article (١٢): The Director General shall be appointed in accordance with the Civil Service Law by a decision of the Council of Ministers upon the recommendation of the Chairman of the Board provided that the appointment decision shall be approved by the Royal Decree.

Article (١٣): The Director General shall carry out the duties and authorities:

- A. Implement the Corporation's general policy, set out by the Board, and the instructions and decisions.
- B. Manage the Corporation's works and supervise its staff and financial and administrative matters.
- C. Propose programs to achieve the Corporation's goals and tasks, and raise recommendations thereon to the Board.
- D. Prepare the Corporation's annual budget draft and present it to the Board.
- E. Any other tasks delegated by the Board or assigned to him by the regulations and instructions issued in accordance with the provisions of this law.

Article (١٠): The Corporation's financial sources shall consist of the following:

- A. The funds allocated by the government in the budget.
- B. Gifts, donations, and subsidies approved by the Board provided to obtain the approval of the Council of Ministers if they are of non-Jordanian source.
- C. The returns on the Corporation's moveable and immoveable properties.
- D. The funds devolved upon it from Jordan Cooperative Corporation.
- E. Charges of an services provided by it.

Article (١١): The Corporation's financial year shall commence on the ١st of January of each year and shall end on the ٣١st of December of the same year.

Article (١٢):

- A. The Cooperative Corporation's staff and workers shall be transferred to the Corporation upon the issuance of this Law without breaching their acquired rights.
- B. The Cooperation shall subject to the regulations on the administrative, financial, supplies, works, and workers applicable to the ministries and government departments.

Article (١٣): The Corporation's funds shall be considered public property under the Collection of Government Debts Law.

Article (١٤): The Corporation and Jordan Cooperative Union provided for in Article (١٨) of this Law shall enjoy the exemptions and facilitations enjoyed by the ministries and government departments.

Article (١٥): The Corporation's accounts shall be supervised by the Audit Bureau.

Article (١٦):

- A. Under regulations issued for this purpose, the provisions and procedures related to the establishment and registration of the cooperative societies and unions and branches, as well as all matters related to their membership conditions, in addition to the method of their management, dissolution, disposition of their properties, method of forming their general assemblies and board of directors, their meetings, their assigned tasks, and other related administrative and financial matters, defining the membership fees and subscription fees.
- B. The cooperative societies registered before the provisions of this Law came into force shall be considered registered under this Law provided to rectify their situations in accordance with the provisions of this Law within one year of its enforcement.

Article (١٧):

- A. The cooperative societies and unions, including Jordan Cooperative Union provided for in Article (١٨) of this Law as well as its branches and the qualitative unions shall enjoy after approving their licensing and registration a corporate entity status with financial and administrative independence. In this capacity, they may acquire moveable and immoveable properties; conclude contracts including selling, mortgage, and borrowing contracts; accept donations, gifts, subsidies, and legacies; undertake all legal actions; and achieve its purposes and objectives under this law and the regulations promulgated thereunder, and well as their articles of association and bylaws.
- B. It is condition to obtain the approval of the Council of Ministers to accept donations, gifts, subsidies, and legacies if they are of non-Jordanian source.

Article (١٨):

- A. Jordan Cooperative Union shall consist of all regional and qualitative cooperative unions of all types and grades in the Kingdom.
- B. More than one cooperative societies of similar objectives, purposes, and activities may form a qualitative union. It shall not be allowed to establish more than one qualitative union for the same objectives and purposes in the Kingdom.
- C. It shall not be allowed to establish more than one regional cooperative union in the governorate.

Article (١٩): Jordan Cooperative Union and its branches, and the cooperative unions and societies of different types and purposes are private entities managed by their members in accordance with the cooperative and democratic basics and principles.

Article (٢٠): The loans granted to any creditor from Jordan Cooperative Corporation shall be transferred to the party determined by the Council of Minister by a decision issued by the Council, and the provisions, procedures, and conditions to collect such loans shall be determined by a system issued for this purposes

Article (٢١): The Cooperative Law No. (٢٠) for the year ١٩٧١ and its amendments, as well as the regulations promulgated thereunder shall be cancelled. In addition, Jordan Cooperative Corporation shall dissolve itself and the Cooperation shall be deemed the legal successor of Jordan Cooperative Corporation. Furthermore, the moveable and immovable properties and rights, projects and all obligations of Jordan Cooperative Corporations shall be devolved upon the entity decided by the Council of Ministers.

Article (٢٢): The Council of Ministers may issue the regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this law.

Article (٢٣):

The prime minister and ministers shall be entrusted with the implementation of the provisions of this law.

Deputy Prime Minister for Services
Affairs, Minister of Administrative
Development, and Acting Minister of
Foreign Affairs
Dr. Abdullah Ensour

Prime Minister and
Minister of Defense
Dr. Absullam Al Majali

Minister of Transport and
Minister of Post and
Communications
Dr. Bassam Al Saket

Minister of Justice
Riad Al Shaka'a

Deputy Prime Minister for
Development Affairs, and
Minister of Prime Ministry
Affairs
Dr. Hawwad Al Anani

Minister of Municipal,
Rural and Environmental
Affairs
Tawfiq Kreishan

Minister of Planning
Dr. Rima Khalaf

Minister of Endowments
and Holy Islamic Affairs
Dr. Abdulsallam Al Abadi

Minister of Prime Ministry
Affairs
Saad Eddin Jumah

Minister of Housing and
Public Works
Eng. Nasser Al Lousi

Minister of Education and
Higher Education
Dr. Munther Al Masri

Minister of Water and
Irrigation
Dr. Munther Hadadeen

Minister of Health
Dr. Ashraf Al Kurdi

Minister of Interior
Natheer Rasheed

Minister of Finance
Suleiman Hafez

Minister of Industry,
Trade, and Supply
Dr. Hani Al Mulqi

Minister of Energy and
Mineral Resources
Mohammad Saleh Al
Hourani

Minister of Agriculture
Mejhim Al Khraisha

Minister of Labor
Dr. Saleh Al Khasawneh

Minister of Culture
Minister of Youth
Dr. Qassim Abu Ein

Minister of State for
Media Affairs

Minister of Tourism and
Antiquities
Akel Bultaji

Minister of Social
Development
Dr. Mohammad Khair
Mamsar