Federal Law No. 11 of 2016 on the regulation and powers of National Media Council (NMC)

We, Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates,
Having reviewed the constitution;
- Federal Law No. 1 of 1972 on competencies of ministries and powers of ministers and amendments thereto;
- Federal Law No. 15 of 1980 on printing and publishing;
- Federal Law No. 5 of 1999 on the establishment of Emirates Media Corporation;
- Federal Law by Decree No. 3 of 2003 on the Organization of Telecommunications Sector, as amended;
- Federal Decree-Law No. 2 of 2011 on the Establishment of the National Emergency and Crisis and Disasters, as amended;
- Federal Law by Decree No. 5 of 2011 on the Organization of Boards of Directors, Boards of Trustees and Committees in the Federal Government;
- Federal Law by Decree No. 8 of 2011 on the rules of the Preparation of the general budget and final account of the federal entities;
- Federal Law by Decree No. 5 of 2012 on combating cybercrimes;
- Federal Law by Decree No. 12 of 2014 on the Organization of the Profession of Auditors;
- Federal Law by Decree No. 2 of 2015 on Combating Discrimination and Hatred;
Following the approval of the Cabinet, Federal National Council and Federal Supreme Council,
- **We hereby issue the following Law:**

**Article (1): Definitions**

In the application of the provisions of this law, the following words and expressions shall have the meanings set out against each of them, unless the context otherwise requires:

**State:** The United Arab Emirates

**Cabinet:** The Minister's Council of the State

**Council:** The National Media Council (NMC)

**Board of Directors:** The Board of directors of the National Media Council (NMC)

**Chairman:** The Chairman of the Board of the National Media Council (NMC)

**Director General:** The Director General of National Media Council (NMC)

**Media Agencies:** The local and federal agencies or organizations that are concerned with media affairs

**Media:** Any means used to convey any media activities with their various kinds and forms, including electronic media or any other mode of information technology

**Media Activity:** Any activity related to the production, transmission, distribution and sending any digital, audio, video, or print information, including the activities of the press and printed matters, radio, TV and cinema movies or shows as well as any other related activities that are specified by the National Media Council (NMC).

**Article (2): Nature of the Council**

The Council is the federal authority that supervises media in the State, where it shall have a corporate person and an independent budget, and shall have the necessary legal capacity to carry out all actions and dispositions that could achieve the objectives of the same and shall belong to the Cabinet.

**Article (3): Head Office of the Council**

The Council shall be headquartered in the city of Abu Dhabi, where it may set up branches or offices within the State and abroad.
**Article (4): Council Objectives**

The Council is aimed at the following:
1- Draft the media policy of the State
2- Enact media legislations and ensure that they are implemented.
3- Coordinate the media policy between the member emirates in such a manner that complies with the policy of the State inside and abroad, supports the federation and highlights the national unity concept.

**Article (5): Council Powers**

The Council shall be responsible for the following:
1- Set and implement the necessary policies and plans for developing media sector.
2- Propose draft laws and regulations pertaining to the council operation in coordination with the appropriate agencies in the State.
3- Prepare the necessary rules, standards and regulations for the functions, licensing and approve media along with its workers and carry out media activities, including electronic media and publishing.
4- Enact rules and regulations that could ensure that the Council objectives are achieved in accordance with the regulatory rules set by the Council in this regard.
5- Coordinate with Media Free Zones authorities to formulate a regulatory framework for the purpose of organizing the relationship between the Council and such zones
6- Represent the State in the media-related meetings, conferences and activities inside the State and abroad as well
7- The other powers entrusted to the Council by virtue of laws and other relevant responsibilities set out in rules and regulations enacted by the Cabinet.

**Article (6): Board of Directors of the Council**

The Council shall be managed by board of directors about which a decision from the Cabinet shall be made.

**Article (7): Powers of the Board of Directors**

The Board of Directors shall be the supreme authority of the Council that exercises all necessary powers and responsibilities for this purpose, where it may specifically do the following:
1- Draw up the general policy of the Council, propose and follow up the implementation of the necessary policies.
2- Propose draft regulations that are pertaining to the Council operations and powers and achieve the objectives of the same and present them to the Cabinet for approval.
3- Prepare the organizational structure of the Council, determine the powers, duties and departments mentioned therein, and present the same to the Cabinet for approval.
4- Propose the draft annual budget for the Council and draft resolution of the closing annual account.
5- Any other powers or responsibilities entrusted to the Board by virtue of laws, regulations and decisions issued by the Cabinet, where the Board may delegate some of its powers to its chairman.

**Article (8): Chairman**

The Chairman shall supervise the various aspects of the board of directors of the Council as prescribed in the applicable rules and regulations of the Council.
Article (9): Director General of the Council
The Council shall have a director general to be appointed by virtue of a federal decree upon the proposal of the chairman, where he shall act as the legal representative of the Council, and the board of directors shall issue a decision on the determination of his powers and jurisdictions.

Article (10): Criteria and Rules Issued by the Council
Media agencies and other media in the State shall abide by the rules and regulations issued by the Council, and shall provide the information and data that may be requested by the Council to achieve the purposes of the same.

Article (11): Fiscal Year
The Fiscal Year of the Council shall commence on the 1st day of January and end on 31st of December of each year.

Article (12): Council Revenues
The Council revenues shall be generated from the resources below:
1-Annual appropriations allocated for the Council in the public budget.
2-Revenues achieved by the Council from carrying out its activities, including any fees or returns due by virtue of the applicable rules, regulations and decisions.
3-Gifts, donations, aids and grants as well as wills as decided by the Council on any party authorized to accept the same.

Article (13): Auditing
For the purposes of auditing, the Council may appoint a chartered accountant or an auditor and determine his wages or fees.

Article (14): Regulation of Administrative Fees, Violations and Measures
Based on a proposal from the board of directors, the Cabinet shall issue a regulation on the media activities and services provided by the Council and the administrative violations and measures pertaining to the application of the provisions of this law.

Article (15): Repealing the conflicting or contradictory Provision
Each provision that contradicts or is in conflict with this law shall be repealed.

Article (16): Continuation of Applying Regulations
The enforcement of the applicable rules and regulations as adopted by the National Media Council (NMC) shall continue at the time of promulgating this law in such a manner that must not contradict with the provisions of the same.

Article (17): Publishing & Enforcement
This law shall be published in the official gazette and come into effect starting the following day of its publication date.

KHALIFA BIN ZAYED AL NAHYAN
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
Issued by us at the Presidential Palace in Abu Dhabi on Sha’ban 16, 1437 Hijri (Islamic calendar), corresponding to May 23, 2016 (Gregorian calendar)