

**Law No. (1) of 2012
Concerning
The International Humanitarian City¹**

We, Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Ruler of Dubai,

After perusal of:

- Law No. (6) of 2007 Establishing the International Humanitarian City,
- Government of Dubai Human Resources Management Law No. (27) of 2006 and its amendments, and
- Law No. (8) of 2010 Concerning the Financial Audit Department and its amendments,

Do hereby issue the following Law:

**Title
Article (1)**

This Law shall be cited as “**Law No. (1) of 2012 Concerning the International Humanitarian City**”.

**Definitions
Article (2)**

The following words and expressions, whenever mentioned in this Law, shall have the meaning indicated opposite each of them unless the context implies otherwise:

State:	The United Arab Emirates.
Emirate:	The emirate of Dubai.
Ruler:	His Highness the Ruler of Dubai.
Government:	The Government of Dubai.
City:	The International Humanitarian City.
Authority:	The authority of the City.
Chairperson:	The chairperson of the Authority.
Board of Directors:	The board of directors of the Authority.
CEO:	The chief executive officer of the Authority.
Competent Authorities:	Any local or federal government entity authorised to regulate Humanitarian Services pursuant to the applicable

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¹ *Every effort has been made to produce an accurate and complete English version of this legislation. However, for the purpose of its interpretation and application, reference must be made to the original Arabic text. In case of conflict the Arabic text shall prevail.*

	legislation.
Humanitarian Service:	Any humanitarian, charitable or environmental activity or other non-profit activity related to providing relief to others in response to humanitarian, natural or environmental disaster.
Commercial Activity:	Any trade, professional activity, service or other activity which is intended to make profit and is authorised in the City in accordance with this Law.
Humanitarian Service Establishment:	Any non-profit legal entity which is established in the City and licensed by the Authority to carry on any Humanitarian Services, through providing financial, moral, technical or administrative support. This includes branches of international organisations and agencies carrying on such services within the City.
Commercial Establishment:	Any for-profit legal entity which is established in the City and licensed by the Authority to carry on a Commercial Activity. This includes, without limitation, establishments providing support and logistic services to Humanitarian Service Establishments.
City Establishments:	Humanitarian Service Establishments and Commercial Establishments.

Scope of Application Article (3)

The provisions of this Law shall apply to:

- a. The City established as a free zone pursuant to the above Law No. (6) of 2007, whose location, area and boundaries are specified in the attached map, in addition to areas determined by the Chairperson;
- b. The Authority, as a public corporation that has the legal personality, financial and administrative autonomy and full legal capacity required to achieve the objectives of the City.

Objectives of the City Article (4)

The City aims to:

1. Establish the Emirate as a hub for providing humanitarian aid in emergency situations and for disaster relief, through securing the logistic infrastructure,

facilities and services required to enable Humanitarian Service Establishments based in the City to achieve their objectives across the globe;

2. Support, encourage and develop Humanitarian Services, as well as charitable and environmental services through inviting, attracting and licensing Humanitarian Service Establishments specialised in this area, to the extent that this does not conflict with the legislation in force in the Emirate;
3. Ensure quick and effective response in case of disasters and emergency situations, and provide, whether directly by the Authority or through City Establishments, the necessary organised relief to parties in need of such relief at the international level;
4. Create a favourable environment that supports humanitarian activities.

Powers of the Authority Article (5)

In order to achieve the objectives of the City, the Authority shall have the following powers and duties:

1. To lay down the regulations and bylaws required to regulate the Humanitarian Services and Commercial Activities in the City;
2. To license Humanitarian Service Establishments and Commercial Establishments operating in the City;
3. To identify and classify the Humanitarian Services and Commercial Activities permitted in the City, and to enhance and develop such services and activities to match humanitarian work needs at the international level;
4. To perform audit and inspection of City Establishments;
5. To purchase, lease, sell, rent, mortgage and dispose of land and facilities owned by the City;
6. To establish and manage the infrastructure and buildings of the City to the extent that this does not conflict with the standards and specifications adopted by the Competent Authorities in the Emirate;
7. To cooperate and coordinate with the federal, local, regional and international corporations and authorities engaged in providing Humanitarian Services;
8. To obtain from local and international financial institutions the loans, funding and financial facilities required by the City to achieve its objectives;

9. To invest the Authority's funds in the commercial, financial and service sectors in accordance with the policy adopted by the Board of Directors in this regard;
10. Any other tasks required to achieve the objectives of the City.

Organisational Structure of the Authority Article (6)

The organisational structure of the Authority consists of:

1. The Chairperson;
2. The Board of Directors;
3. The CEO;
4. The executive body.

Appointment and Powers of the Chairperson Article (7)

- a. The Chairperson shall be appointed pursuant to a decree of the Ruler and shall have general supervision on the work of the Authority. For this purpose, the Chairperson shall have the following powers and duties:
 1. To approve the general policy and strategic and development plans of the Authority;
 2. To approve the regulations and regulatory, administrative and financial bylaws of the Authority;
 3. To supervise the achievement of the objectives of the City, and approve the services, work, projects and activities performed by the City;
 4. To approve the draft general budget and final accounts of the Authority;
 5. To establish any other entities as necessary to achieve the objectives of the City;
- b. The Chairperson may delegate any of his powers under this Law to any member of the Board of Directors or to the CEO.

The Board of Directors
Article (8)

- a. The Authority shall be managed by a Board of Directors comprised of a chairman, a vice chairman and at least five (5) members appointed for a renewable term of three (3) years pursuant to a decree of the Ruler.
- b. The Board of Directors shall be convened by the chairman at least once every three (3) months and where necessary. Board meetings shall be valid if attended by the majority of its members provided that the chairman or vice chairman is also in attendance.
- c. Board resolutions shall be adopted by majority votes, and in case of a tie, the chair of the meeting shall have a casting vote. Board resolutions shall be recorded in minutes to be signed by the chair of the meeting and attending members.

Powers of the Board of Directors
Article (9)

The Board of Directors shall have the following powers and duties:

1. To adopt the annual budget, final accounts and financial and organisational structure of the Authority, and submit these to the Chairperson for approval;
2. To review policies, strategic and operational plans, bylaws, rules and regulations of the City which are proposed by the CEO, and to submit recommendations in respect of these to the Chairperson to take the necessary action;
3. To review and approve the rules and procedures proposed by the CEO for registration and licensing of City Establishments, and to determine the services provided by the Authority and the fees payable in return for such services;
4. To appoint and determine the remuneration of auditors and specialist consultants in order to assist in determining the City's initiatives and the budgets for their implementation;
5. To identify investment opportunities, to undertake supervision and to build the infrastructure of the City;
6. To establish, or enter into partnership with third parties to establish, corporations and companies affiliated to the Authority within and outside of the Emirate;
7. Any other duties assigned to it by the Chairperson.

The Executive Body
Article (10)

- a. The executive body of the Authority is comprised of the CEO and a number of administrative, financial and technical staff.
- b. The CEO shall be appointed and his remuneration and financial allowances shall be determined by the Chairperson. The CEO shall be directly accountable to the Chairperson for performing his duties under this Law and the applicable legislation in the City, and the duties assigned to him by the Chairperson or the Board of Directors.
- c. Staff of the executive body of the Authority shall be appointed and their terms of service, dismissal, remunerations, duties and other relevant issues shall be determined by a regulation to be issued in this respect by the Chairperson.

Powers of the CEO
Article (11)

- a. The CEO shall have the following powers and duties:
 - 1. To propose policies and strategic and operational plans to the Board of Directors to adopt them, and take the necessary action to implement such policies and plans after approval of the Chairperson;
 - 2. To prepare the regulations and regulatory, administrative, financial and technical bylaws required to regulate the work, activities and services performed by the Authority, and submit these to the Board of Directors for approval;
 - 3. To prepare the annual budget and final accounts of the Authority, and submit these to the Board of Directors for adoption;
 - 4. To prepare the organisational structure of the Authority and submit it to the Board of Directors for approval;
 - 5. To issue the resolutions necessary for creating the licensing records of City Establishments and other records related to the work of the Authority;
 - 6. To supervise the organisation of conferences and events related to the objectives of the City;
 - 7. To supervise the work, activities and services performed by the City Establishments.

8. To coordinate with ministries, and federal and local authorities and departments for the purpose of achieving the objectives of the City;
 9. To supervise the executive body of the Authority;
 10. To represent the Authority before third parties and sign for and on behalf of the Authority all contracts, including conclusion of contracts with City Establishments for the lease of land and buildings in the City to enable them to carry on their activities;
 11. To perform all duties and powers stipulated in the applicable legislation of Government entities in the Emirate;
 12. To open and manage bank accounts with banks within and outside of the Emirate upon approval of the Chairperson.
- b. The CEO may delegate any of his powers stipulated in paragraph (a) of this Article to any employee of the Authority.

Financial Resources of the Authority
Article (12)

The financial resources of the Authority shall comprise:

1. Movable and immovable property allocated to the Authority by the Government;
2. Fees and charges for the licences and services provided by the Authority;
3. Returns on investment of the Authority's property;
4. Donations and contributions approved by the Board of Directors;
5. Any other resources approved by the Chairperson to the extent that these do not conflict with the objectives of the City and laws in force in the Emirate.

Budget and Accounts of the Authority
Article (13)

- a. In regulating its accounts and records, the Authority shall follow the rules and principles of Government accountancy and the generally accepted accounting standards.
- b. The financial year of the Authority shall commence on 1 January and shall end on 31 December of each year.

Financial Audit
Article (14)

The Financial Audit Department shall audit the accounts of the Authority.

**Obligation of Government Entities to
Cooperate with the Authority**
Article (15)

All Government entities in the Emirate shall fully cooperate with the Authority to enable it to achieve its objectives.

Exemption from Fees and Taxes
Article (16)

- a. City Establishments and persons working in the City Establishments shall be exempt from all types of taxes, including the income tax, and customs duties in relation to their operations within the City.
- b. Property and activities of the City Establishments throughout the period of operation in the City shall not be subject to any nationalisation measures or private ownership restrictions.

Exemption from Compliance with Certain Laws
Article (17)

- a. Neither the City, City Establishments nor any person working therein, with respect to their activities in the City, shall be subject to the legislation, authority and powers of Dubai Municipality or the Department of Economic Development. However, this does not include legislation concerning health, public safety and the environment.
- b. The Authority may, at its discretion, seek assistance from Government entities in the Emirate and benefit from their available programmes and systems to license the City Establishments. Such programmes and systems shall be used in accordance with the bylaws in force in the City. Licences issued to City Establishments in collaboration with Government entities shall be deemed as issued by the Authority itself.

**Exempting the Government from Liability
Article (18)**

The Government shall not be liable towards third parties for any debts or liabilities claimed from the Authority or its affiliated entities. The Authority shall be solely liable for such debts or liabilities.

**Disclaimer
Article (19)**

Except in cases of fraud or gross negligence, neither the Chairperson, Board members nor the CEO, in the course of managing the City and its operations, shall be liable towards third parties for any action or inaction with respect to such management and operations. The Authority shall be solely liable for such action or inaction.

**Licensing the City Establishments
Article (20)**

- a. No person or entity may conduct any humanitarian or Commercial Activity within the City unless the relevant licence is obtained from the Authority.
- b. The City Establishments shall be licensed in accordance with the relevant rules and requirements adopted by the Authority, the legislation in force in the Emirate and the requirements of public interest.
- c. When licensing Humanitarian Service Establishments and their fund-raising activities, the legislation in force in the Emirate shall be observed.

**Licensing Rules for the City Establishments
Article (21)**

Establishment, registration, accreditation, liquidation, audit and supervision of the City Establishments, as well as the regulation of all their processes and related issues and determining their licensing terms and requirements and prescribed fees shall be subject to the relevant regulations and bylaws issued by the Authority.

**Obligations of the City Establishments
Article (22)**

Each of the City Establishments shall add to its name its legal status and its status as a free zone company/establishment in all of its activities, contracts, advertisements,

invoices, correspondence and publications, failing which the owner of the City Establishment will be responsible towards third parties for its liabilities.

Liability of the Authority
Article (23)

The Authority shall not be liable to third parties for any obligations resulting from the activities of the City Establishments or their staff members.

Prohibited Activities
Article (24)

The following activities shall be prohibited within the City:

1. Any activity that conflicts with the licence issued to the City Establishment, or with the regulations and bylaws in force in the City;
2. Any activity that involves unfair competition;
3. Any activity that conflicts with legislation in force in the Emirate or with public order or morals.

Assigning the Licence
Article (25)

Owners of City Establishments are prohibited from assigning the licence issued to them by the Authority to any entity whatsoever unless prior approval of the Authority is obtained.

Sanctions and Penalties
Article (26)

The Board of Directors shall issue a bylaw to determine the administrative sanctions for violating the provisions of this Law, the regulations or bylaws issued thereunder, or the terms of the licence issued by the Authority.

Judicial Officers
Article (27)

Employees of the Authority assigned by a resolution of the Chairperson shall be authorised as judicial officers to record any violations of the provisions of this Law and

the regulations and bylaws issued thereunder. For this purpose, they shall be authorised to issue the relevant violation reports and seek, while performing their duties, assistance from relevant Government authorities, including the police.

**Delegation of Powers
Article (28)**

The Authority may delegate any of its powers stipulated in this Law to any other entity pursuant to an agreement concluded in this respect.

**Issuing Implementing Bylaws
Article (29)**

The Chairperson shall issue the regulations and bylaws necessary for implementing this Law.

**Repeals
Article (30)**

- a. This law shall supersede Law No. (6) of 2007 Establishing the International Humanitarian City.
- b. Any other provision in any other legislation shall be repealed to the extent that it contradicts the provisions of this Law.

**Publication and Enforcement
Article (31)**

This law shall be published in the Official Gazette and shall come into force from the day on which it is published.

**Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum
Ruler of Dubai**

Issued in Dubai on 5 January 2012
Corresponding to 11 Safar 1433 A.H.