

Pursuant to the provisions of Section (3) of Article (8) of the Kurdistan Region Council of Ministers Law No (3) of 1992 as amended, and further to the Council of Ministers Decision No (120) in the Meeting No (69) on 03 November 2021 and Decision No (130) in the Meeting No (73) on 12 January 2022, the Council of Ministers issue the following Bylaw:

## **Bylaw No (14) of 2022**

### **Bylaw of the High Council for Women and Development in Kurdistan Region – Iraq**

#### **Article 1:**

The following terms, for the purposes of this bylaw, shall have the following meanings:

**First:** The Region: Kurdistan Region – Iraq

**Second:** Council of Ministers: Council of Ministers of the Region

**Third:** The Council: High Council for Women and Development

**Fourth:** The General Secretary: General Secretary of the Council

#### **Article 2:**

**First:** A Council shall be established in the Presidency of the Council of Ministers named (High Council for Women and Development) as follows:

1. Prime Minister  
Chair
2. Deputy Prime Minister  
Deputy Chair

3. Minister of Interior  
Member
4. Minister of Planning  
Member
5. Minister of Labor and Social Affairs  
Member
6. Minister of Education  
Member
7. Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research  
Member
8. Minister of Endowment and Religious Affairs  
Member
9. Minister of Health  
Member
10. Minister Culture and Youth  
Member
11. Secretary General of the Council  
Member

**Second:** The Council Has the authority to change members of the Council by decreasing or increasing the number based on needs, roles, responsibilities and activities of the Council; it may also invite any other person, experts and specialists, to participate in the Council meetings without the right to vote.

**Third:** The Council shall be affiliated to the Council of Ministers with the main office in Erbil, Capital of the Region, and may open offices in the governorates and independent administrations based on needs.

### **Article 3:**

The followings are the objectives of the Council:

**First:** Working on women issues and securing their rights under the effective laws and relevant international treaties and conventions.

**Second:** Adopting legal, civil and democratic means to prevent violation of women rights.

**Third:** Participation of women in decision making process and taking responsibilities in leading and governing the Region.

**Fourth:** Developing and improving women and benefiting from their capacities in different walks of life.

**Fifth:** Attempting to achieve gender equality and balance in the high posts of the Region based on merit.

#### **Article 4:**

The followings are the mandates of the Council:

**First:** The Council conducts works of monitoring, empowerment and consultation to strengthen the government institutions' responses to improve gender equality issue within Kurdistan society.

**Second:** Identifying obstacles and challenges facing women through collecting the necessary evidence and data.

**Third:** Coordination and cooperation with the institutions of the Region to develop women capacities throughout the Region.

**Fourth:** Working to establish Women Development Fund in cooperation with the Council of Ministers and other stakeholders.

**Fifth:** Recommending and developing government policies on issues related to women; guided by documents and evidences on the government responses.

**Sixth:** Follow-up of government institutions' works on women issues; identify the gaps and recommend and submit appropriate solutions to the Council of Ministers.

**Seventh:** Recommending draft laws and bylaws on organizing and developing women affairs and issues; and submitting them to the Council of Ministers.

**Eighth:** Recommending and adopting appropriate procedures to achieve and secure equal opportunities for women in every area, especially in health, education, economy and politics with due consideration to the protection of all rights and liberties.

**Ninth:** Recommending the necessary mechanisms and procedures to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and strengthen the social and legal protection systems.

**Tenth:** Working to enforce all women rights under the international treaties ratified by Iraq; and working to secure all rights and liberties bestowed on women by the Constitution, laws and the aforementioned international treaties.

**Eleventh:** Coordination and cooperation with the international community, local and international organizations and the United Nations agencies to transfer experiences and knowledge to develop and strengthen responses of the government institutions.

**Twelfth:** Dissemination of specific awareness on women rights and liberties and their protection through conferences, seminars, meetings, studies, surveys or any other scientific methods.

**Thirteenth:** Participation in committees, boards and meetings organized by the government of the Region on women issues and achieving gender equality.

#### **Article 5:**

The Council shall have a Secretary General with a special grade to be appointed by a Regional Decree on the recommendation of the Prime Minister; who must have at least undergraduate university degree. The Secretary General shall have the powers to make decisions and issue decrees related to the Council and shall be accountable to the Council of Ministers. The followings are linked to the Secretary General:

**First: Office of the Secretary General:** this office shall be managed by an employee with the grade of (Director) and must have at least undergraduate university degree. The Director of the Office shall be responsible of organizing the affairs of the Office of the Secretary General as well as coordination with the directorates and sections of the Council.

**Second: Directorate of Relations and Media:** shall be managed by an employee with the grade of (Director) and must have at least undergraduate university degree in the field of relations or media. The Directorate shall be responsible of preparation of news, activities and media reports and their dissemination on media outlets.

**Third: Directorate of Programs:** shall be managed by an employee with the grade of (Director) and must have at least undergraduate university degree. The Directorate shall work under the supervision of the Secretary General.

**Fourth: Directorate of Development:** shall be managed by an employee with the grade of (Director) and must have at least undergraduate university degree. The Directorate shall be responsible of organizing and managing issues related to development of gender equality under the supervision of the Secretary General and in cooperation with the Directorate of Programs and the other directorates of the Council.

**Fifth: Directorate of Planning and Research:** shall be managed by an employee with the grade of (Director) and must have at least undergraduate university degree. The Directorate shall work on supervising, directing, monitoring and assessing studies and researches conducted within the framework of the Council's plans and in cooperation with governmental and non-governmental partners and universities in order to develop policies and strengthen response programs.

**Sixth: Directorate of Administration and Finance:** shall be managed by an employee with the grade of (Director) and must have at least undergraduate university degree. This Directorate works on organizing administrative and financial affairs of the Council in coordination with the various directorates of the Council.

**Article 6:**

The Council shall have two advisors, with specific knowledge on the mandated areas of the Council, to be appointed on the recommendation of the Secretary General; they must have at least undergraduate university degree and experience of no less than 10 years in their fields of expertise.

**Article 7:**

**First:** The Council shall have an advisory council chaired by the Secretary General and membered by the advisors and directors of the Council.

**Second:** The Secretary General may invite any civil servant or any other person relevant to the subject matter of the meeting.

**Third:** The advisory council shall meet at least once a month to discuss and exchange on important internal issues, decisions and operations of the Council.

**Article 8:**

The Council may issue internal procedures to organize and implement its works and activities.

**Article 9:**

Bylaw of the High Council for Women Affairs No (1) of 2009 shall be repealed.

**Article 10:**

The relevant authorities shall enforce the provisions of this Bylaw.

**Article 11:**

This Bylaw enters into force as of its publication in the official gazette (Waqaih Kurdistan)

Masrour Barzani

Prime Minister

**Compelling Reasons**

For the public interest and in order to restructure and institutionalize High Council of Women and Development, with due considerations to the gender equality situation and the status of women and the needs to further develop the Kurdistan society in the various areas related to equality, this Bylaw was enacted.