

NGO Registration Process

Local NGOs Application

In Maldives non-profit organisations/ Civil Society can be registered, under Associations Act 2003. The application should meet the following criteria;

- 1) Founder member: Minimum two Local Persons, aged 18 years or older.
- 2) ID card copy and criminal history of the founder member
- 3) Governing Regulation, in accordance with Associations Act and regulations made under the Associations Act.
- 4) Registration fee of Rf 100/- (one hundred rufiyaa)
- 5) Revenue stamp of Rf 50- (fifty rufiyaa)

Affiliated International Organizations

International affiliated organizations or branches should only operate in the Maldives after they have registered, under Associations Act 2003. The application should meet the following criteria;

- 1) Founder member: Minimum two Local Persons age 18 years or older
- 2) ID card copy and criminal history of the founder member
- 3) If a foreigner is included as founder member (s) Passport copy and criminal history from the registered country.
- 4) Governing Regulation, in accordance with Associations Act and regulations made under the Associations Act.
- 5) Copy of the Registration certificate of the original NGO
- 6) Letter of no objection and affiliation from original NGO
- 7) Registration fee of Rf 100/- (one hundred rufiyaa) for the registration of association
- 8) Revenue stamp of Rf 50- (fifty rufiyaa)

In this respect an association proposed to be registered shall be registered providing the information contained in the Governing Regulation are not in contravention to the principles of Islam, to this Act or to any other Acts of Maldives.

Information and other requirements of Governing Regulation:

The Governing Regulation of every association shall contain the following information and requirements.

- a) The name of the association;
- b) Full address of the registered office of the association;
- c) The objective(s) of the association;
- d) Income and properties of the association is not to be distributed among the general members nor among the members of the Executive Committee;
- e) Neither the founding members, nor the general members or the members of the Executive Committee have any ownership rights whatsoever to claim on any property, finance or belonging of the association;
- f) Any money or property left over after paying off the debts and liabilities of the association after its dissolution shall be given away to another non-profitable association or to a government approved charity;
- g) Types of membership and procedures on how to become a member of the association;
- h) Procedures on how to resign from and to terminate membership;
- i) Whether members of the association have to pay a membership fee or not, and if there is a membership fee, the amount and procedure for the payment of membership fee;
- j) How an association will raise funds for operations and other activities of the association;
- k) Designations of association's Executive Committee, and responsibilities of these designations;
- l) Procedures for appointment, election and removal of members from the Executive Committee of the association;
- m) Regulations on General Meetings, conduction, quorum, chairing and preparing minutes for such meetings;
- n) Regulations on Executive Committee Meetings, conduction, quorum, chairing and preparing of minutes for such meetings;
- o) How votes will be given at the General Meetings and Executive Committee Meetings of the association and how resolutions are to be passed in such meetings;
- p) Winding up of association;

- q) How the Governing Regulation could be amended;
- r) Any other information required by Associations Act and regulations to be incorporated in the Governing Regulation of associations.

Seal, Flag, Colour, Motto

A seal or flag or colour or a motto could be used for an association registered in accordance with provisions of the Act, after submitting the seal or flag or colour or the motto to the Registrar of Associations and registering it.

Founding members and Executive Committee of the Association

- 1) Persons proposing an association to be registered should in effect be the founding members of the association.
- 2) Within 6 months from the date of registration of an association under the Act the association shall hold a general meeting to appoint or elect an Executive Committee
- 3) Executive Committee should be submitted to the Registrar of the Association within 30 days from the date of holding the general meeting.
- 4) After the Executive Committee is appointed or elected the Executive Committee shall be involved and responsible for all the activities of the association.