Law Relating to the Registration of Associations

(The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law No. 31/2014)

The 7th Waning Day of Waso, 1376 M.E.

(18th July, 2014)

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw hereby enacts this Law:

Chapter I

Title and Definition

1. This Law shall be called the Law Relating to the Registration of Associations.

2. The expressions contained in this Law shall have the meaning as follows:

(a) **State** means the Republic of the Union of Myanmar;

(b) **Union Government** means the Union Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar;

(c) **Union Registration Body** means a body, formed and assigned duty by the Union Government, that carries out registration for the union associations;

(d) **Region or State Registration Body** means a body, formed and assigned duty by the Region or State Government, that carries out registration of the Region or State associations;

(e) **Nay Pyi Taw Council Registration Body** means a body, formed and assigned duty by the Nay Pyi Taw Council, that carries out registration of the Nay Pyi Taw Council associations;

(f) **Self-administered Division or Self-administered Zone Registration Body** means a body, formed and assigned duty by the Self-administered Division or Self-administered Zone, that carries out registration of the Self-administered Division or Self-administered Zone associations;

(g) **District Registration Body** means a body, formed and assigned duty by the District General Administration Department, that carries out registration of the district associations;

(h) **Township Registration Body** means a body, formed and assigned duty by the Township General Administration Department, that carries out registration of the township associations;
(i) Association means a domestic association and an international non-governmental organization;

(j) Domestic Association means a non-profit social association in the State, formed collectively by five or more persons for any objectives or processes in accord with the rights contained in the State Constitution for the interest of the State and the citizens, or for the common interest of the members. This expression include branch bodies of the association;

(k) International Non-Governmental Organization means an organization formed in any foreign countries that registered with the Union Registration Body and have objective to carry out any social activity in the State;

(l) Registration Certificate means an accrediting certificate as a domestic association or international non-governmental organization;

(m) Ministry means the Ministry of Home Affairs of the Union Government;

(n) Department means the General Administration Department, the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Chapter II

Objective

3. The objectives of this Law are as follows:

(a) to enable to apply and carry out the registration of associations in accord with this Law;

(b) to enable to form the associations freely in accord with the provisions of the State Constitution;

(c) to enable to cause the performances of the associations to support the development of the State and interest of the citizens;

(d) to enable the associations to obtain assistances from the relevant ministries in accord with law, in implementing their works;

(e) to cause the civil societies more strengthened.

Chapter III

Formation of Various Levels of Registration Body and the Functions and Duties Thereof

4. The registration bodies shall be formed as follows to register the associations:
(a) Union Registration Body;
(b) Region or State Registration Body;
(c) Nay Pyi Taw Council Registration Body;
(d) Self-administered Division or Self-administered Zone Registration Body;
(e) District Registration Body;
(f) Township Registration Body.

5. (a) The Union Government shall form the Union Registration Body with the following persons:

(i) Minister, Ministry of Home Affairs Chairman
(ii) Deputy Minister, President’s Office Member
(iii) Deputy Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Member
(iv) Deputy Minister, Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development Member
(v) Director General, Foreign Economic Relation Department Member
(vi) Director General, General Administration Department Secretary
(vii) Director General, Union Attorney General's Office Joint Secretary

(b) The Region or State Government shall form the Region or State Registration Body with the following persons:

(i) Minister for social affairs Chairman
(ii) Region or State Police Commander Member
(iii) Two representatives from the Region or State Associations Members
(iv) Director, Region or State General Administration Department Secretary
(v) Region or State Law Officer, Region or State Joint Secretary
Advocate General’s Office

(c) The Nay Pyi Taw Council shall form the Nay Pyi Taw Registration Body with the following persons:

(i) A member of the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman

(ii) Commander of the Nay Pyi Taw Police Force Member

(iii) Two representatives from the Nay Pyi Taw Council Associations Members

(iv) Director, Nay Pyi Taw General Administration Department Secretary

(v) A district law officer, District Law Office Joint Secretary

(d) The Self-administered Division Leading Body or Self-administered Region Leading Body shall form the Self-administered Division or Self-administered Region Registration Body with the following persons:

(i) An Executive Committee member of the Self-administered Division or Region Leading Body Chairman

(ii) District Police Commander, Myanmar Police Force Member

(iii) Two representatives from the Self-administered Division or Self-administered Region associations Members

(iv) Assistant Director, District General Administration Department Secretary

(v) The relevant law officer assigned duty by the Chairman Joint Secretary

(e) The Township Administrator, Township General Administration Department shall form the Township Registration Body with the following persons:

(i) Township Administrator, Township General Administration Department Chairman

(ii) Township Police Commander, Myanmar Police Force Member

(iii) Two representatives from the Township associations Members
6. The functions and duties of the registration bodies are as follows:

(a) making decision relating to the applications of the associations for registration;

(b) issuing to and renewal of the registration certificate of the domestic associations;

(c) causing the associations to carry out in accord with law and providing assistance;

(d) coordinating with the relevant departments to facilitate the objectives and processes;

(e) carrying out allowing to register of and extension of the term of the registration certificate, by the Union Registration Body, to the international non-governmental organizations and, issuing and the change of the registration certificate to the domestic associations which are desirous to carry out activities in the whole country;

(f) refusing to change or extend the term of registration certificate if it is found that any provisions contained in this Law or any prohibitions contained in the rules, notifications, orders, directives and procedures issued under this Law.

Chapter IV

Allowing the Domestic Associations to Register

7. If the domestic associations are desirous to register voluntarily, the chairman, secretary or responsible person shall apply to the relevant registration body by expressing the following facts:

(a) name of the association;

(b) place and contact address;

(c) date of initial establishment;

(d) objective;

(e) programme;

(f) number of executive committee members;

(g) number of members;

(h) list of the fund and property owned by the association;
(i) activities performed;
(j) constitution and regulation;
(k) other facts, if any;
(l) date of application.

8. The relevant registration body shall issue the temporary registration certificate to the association that applied under section 7 within 7 days from the date of application, excluding the public holidays. Then, after having scrutinized in accord with stipulations:

(a) it may allow the registration as the association by prescribing terms and conditions, if there is no cause to affect the rule of law and security of the State. If it is decided to allow as such, the registration certificate shall be issued to the applicant within the following stipulated period from the date of the receipt of the application:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Registration Body</th>
<th>Period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(i) Union Registration Body</td>
<td>90 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(ii) Region or State Registration Body</td>
<td>60 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(iii) Nay Pyi Taw Council Registration Body</td>
<td>60 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(iv) Self-administered Division or Self-administered Zone Registration Body</td>
<td>30 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(v) District Registration Body</td>
<td>30 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(vi) Township Registration Body</td>
<td>30 days</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(b) If an association which is allowed to register is required to pay the registration fee, it shall be caused to pay the stipulated registration fee before the issue of the registration certificate;

(c) If it is decided not to allow to register as an association, the intimation letter, by mentioning the reason completely, shall be replied to the applicant within the following stipulated period from the date of such decision:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Registration Body</th>
<th>Period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(i) Union Registration Body</td>
<td>30 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(ii) Region or State Registration Body</td>
<td>30 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(iii) Nay Pyi Taw Council Registration Body</td>
<td>30 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(iv) Self-administered Division or Self-administered Zone Registration Body</td>
<td>15 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(v) District Registration Body</td>
<td>15 days</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
(vi) Township Registration Body 15 days.

9. The association that applied for registration may, if it receives the reply letter from the relevant registration body that registration is not allowed, it may re-apply after discussing with the relevant registration body on the reason of refusal and after revising and fulfilling the requirements.

10. A domestic association registered with the Union Registration Body has the right to carry out activities in the whole country. The registration fee is stipulated as one hundred thousand kyats.

11. An association registered with the Region or State Registration Body has the right to carry out activities in the relevant Region or State. The registration fee is stipulated as thirty thousand kyats.

12. An association registered with the Nay Pyi Taw Council Registration Body has the right to carry out activities in the territory of Nay Pyi Taw Council. The registration fee is stipulated as thirty thousand kyats.

13. An association registered with the Self-administered Division or Self-administered Zone Registration Body has the right to carry out activities in the territory of the relevant Self-administered Division or Self-administered Zone. No registration fee is required to pay.

14. An association registered with the District Registration Body has the right to carry out activities in the relevant district. No registration fee is required to pay.

15. An association registered with the Township Registration Body has the right to carry out activities in the relevant township. No registration fee is required to pay.

Chapter V

Allowing the International Non-governmental Organizations to Register

16. An international non-governmental organization shall, to obtain the registration certificate, apply to the Union Registration Body by its responsible person of such organization by expressing the following facts:

(a) name of the organization;
(b) name of the head;
(c) name of the responsible person;
(d) place and contact address;
(e) activity to be carried out in Myanmar;
(f) ministries to be related;
(g) work project;
(h) number of executive committee members;
(i) place of branch office and contact address;
(j) name of the in-charge of the branch office;
(k) date of application.

17. The Union Registration Body shall issue a temporary registration certificate to the association applied under section 16 within seven days, excluding the public holidays, from the day of application. Then, after having scrutinized in accord with stipulations:

(a) it may allow the registration as the association by prescribing terms and conditions, if there is no cause to affect the rule of law and security of the State. If it is decided to allow as such, the registration certificate shall be issued to the applicant within ninety days from the date of the receipt of the application;

(b) the association which obtains the right to register shall pay the stipulated registration fee. The registration fee is stipulated as one hundred thousand kyats;

(c) if it is decided not to allow for registration as the association, it shall reply to the applicant within thirty days by mentioning the reason completely for not allowing registration.

18. The association that applied for registration may, if it receives the reply letter from the relevant registration body that registration is not allowed, it may re-apply after discussing with the relevant registration body on the reason of refusal and after revising and fulfilling the requirements.

Chapter VI

Associations Which are Not Necessary to Apply for Registration

19. The associations which are not necessary to apply for registration under this Law are as follows:

(a) associations that carry out the religious and economic matters only;

(b) political associations which shall apply to the Union Election Commission under the Political Parties Registration Law;

(c) associations formed under any existing law.
Chapter VII

Renewal and Extension of the Term of the Registration Certificate of the Associations

20. The domestic associations which obtained the registration certificate:

(a) shall submit the annual report to the relevant registration body together with the financial statement;

(b) shall have the right to renew the registration certificate once in five years by presuming that it still exists by submission of the annual report;

(c) shall not necessary to pay the registration fee again for the renewal under subsection (b).

21. The international non-governmental organizations which obtain the registration certificate have the right to extend the term once in five years. The stipulated registration fee shall be paid again for the extension.

22. The associations which obtain the registration certificate shall, if they fail to submit the annual report to the relevant registration body for five consecutive years, be presumed that such associations are no longer be active, exist and carry out; and if desirous to activate, carry out in continuation, they shall re-apply as the new application.

23. The domestic associations which are refused for renewal of registration or deregistered by the relevant registration body have the right to exist in continuation up to sixty days if they receive the reply letter, and may re-apply after discussing with the relevant registration body on the reason for not allowing and after revising and fulfilling the requirements.

24. The international non-governmental organizations and the domestic associations desirous to carry out activities in the whole country which are refused for renewal of registration or deregistered by the relevant registration body have the right to exist in continuation up to one hundred and twenty days from the day or receipt of the reply letter, and may re-apply after discussing with the relevant registration body on the reason for not allowing and after revising and fulfilling the requirements.

Chapter VIII

Protecting the Associations and Benefit

25. The Ministry and local administrative bodies shall provide assistance and protection, in accord with law, to the lawful activities of any registered association.

26. Any registered domestic association has the right to accept and obtain the aids provided by the State.
27. The registered domestic associations may accept, obtain the aid, in accord with the existing laws, from any foreign government, international non-governmental organization, domestic association or individual person.

28. Any registered domestic association has the right to sue, be sued, establish a fund, collect donation in accord with law, open bank account, and own moveable and immoveable property.

29. Any registered domestic association has the copyright, in accord with law, on its own seal, own mark and design of own uniform.

Chapter IX

Miscellaneous

30. Any member of the political party may participate in the associations formed under this Law except the matter of the relevant party.

31. Any civil service personnel may participate in the associations formed under this Law in accord with the Civil Service Personnel Law.

32. The associations shall, in performing the works by making alliance with each other, carry out to have the situation of taking reciprocal responsibility, equality and fairness in right and role.

33. The associations which have obtained the registration certificate shall, if desirous to carry out by changing the purpose and process mentioned when allowed or beyond them, submit to the relevant registration body, obtain its permission, and carry out.

34. A domestic association shall, if desirous to extend its organization from the township level to the Region or State level, apply to the relevant registration body and carry out in accord with the provisions of this Law.

35. A domestic association has the right to carry out to a region in the country which encounters any disaster, beyond its jurisdiction, and it shall inform to the administrative body and registration body of the relevant region and carry out.

36. An unregistered international non-governmental organization shall, if desirous to carry out social activities at a region in the country where any disaster has been encountering, apply to the Union Registration Body. The Union Registration Body shall issue the temporary certificate soonest.

37. An association shall, if desirous to liquidate, change the name or change the address; inform, in writing, to the relevant registration office where it has registered, within seven days.
38. An association shall, if desirous to change the representatives of the association because of voluntary resignation, death or any cause, inform to the relevant registration office where it has registered, within seven days.

39. The representatives of the association for the various levels of registration body may be coordinated, selected and assigned duty once in two years by the arrangement of the associations.

40. In implementing the provisions of this Law:

   (a) the Ministry may issue the necessary rules, regulations and bye-laws with the approval of the Union Government;

   (b) the Union Registration Body may issue the necessary notifications, orders, directives and procedures;

   (c) the Region or State Registration Body and the Self-administered Division or Self-administered Zone Registration Body may issue the necessary orders and directives.

41. The rules, procedures, orders and directives issued under the Law Relating to Organization of Association (The State Law and Order Restoration Council Law No. 6/88) may be applied and carried out as far as they are not contrary to this Law.

42. The associations registered and formed under the Law Relating to Organization of Association (The State Law and Order Restoration Council Law No. 6/88) shall be presumed as the associations formed under this Law.

43. The Law Relating to Organization of Association (The State Law and Order Restoration Council Law No. 6/88) is hereby repealed.

.........................................................................................................................

I signed according to the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Sd./ Thein Sein

President of the Union

Republic of the Union of Myanmar