

General People's Committee
Decree No. (1356) of 1981
on organising the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison

The General People's Committee:

Upon review of:

- Law No. (39) of 1977 issuing the Law regulating the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the political and consular corps;
- General Secretariat of the General People's Congress Decree No. (2) of 1979 on reorganising the secretariats;
- General Secretariat of the General People's Congress Decree on forming the General People's Committee including the appointment of the People's Committee Secretary to the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison;
- Based on the submission of the Secretary of the General People's Committee to the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison;

has decreed:

Article (1)

The People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison shall be the people's administrative instrument for implementing Basic People's Congress decrees and recommendations in the area of foreign policy, and also the instrument for communication with the peoples of the world through brotherhood bureaus and people's bureaus abroad.

The People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison shall exercise all competencies related to relations of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya with Arab and foreign countries and international and regional organisations and bodies to achieve the goals of the Great 1 September Revolution and support and protect the interests of the Jamahiriya and its citizens abroad.

In performing its duties, it may undertake the following in particular:

1. Monitor the implementation of the Jamahiriya's policy on foreign relations with Arab and foreign countries and propose means to ensure the strengthening of such relations.
2. Supervise the political activities of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and the brotherhood bureaus and people's bureaus abroad.
3. Contribute to promoting members of brotherhood bureaus and people's bureaus abroad.
4. Attend to the affairs of the official foreign political missions accredited by the Jamahiriya and organize political representation for such delegations.
5. Prepare the plans and send political and consular instructions to brotherhood bureaus and people's bureaus abroad to ensure introduction of the goals and principles of the Great 1 September Revolution and issues of the Arab nation, and to ensure the implementation of its policy on international, Islamic, and humanitarian issues.
6. Follow the affairs of the Islamic Dawah and religious missionary movements, study the circumstances of Muslims, and propose means for supporting and protecting them.
7. Prepare political, economic, and strategic studies and research on matters of importance

- to the Jamahiriya.
8. Protect the interests of the Jamahiriya and support the interests of citizens abroad and undertake the necessary measures to protect them.
 9. Perform all activities and procedures related to hospitality and protocol, supervise political and consular immunities and privileges, issue political and special passports, and perform all activities related thereto.
 10. Monitor the activities of people's and political organisations, parties, and liberation movements, and provide all types of support and assistance thereto.
 11. Monitor the affairs of Libyan missions abroad and work to solve their problems and link them to the nation.
 12. Monitor the activities of brotherhood and friendship associations and work to strengthen cooperation therewith.
 13. Monitor and take care of the affairs of Libyans residing abroad.
 14. Monitor the activities of Arab expatriates abroad, organize their movement, link them to the Arab nation and its concerns, and encourage them to contribute to the implementation of development plans in the Jamahiriya.
 15. Supervise the organisation of avenues of cooperation between the Jamahiriya and Arab and foreign countries and monitor the agreements entered into thereby.
 16. Study and research all international treaties and agreements in all fields and supervise the implementation, interpretation, and amendment thereof.
 17. Monitor the affairs of economic relations between the Jamahiriya and Arab and foreign countries and prepare economic studies and research on matters of interest to the Jamahiriya.
 18. Supervise the organization of international conferences held in the Jamahiriya.
 19. Provide opinions on participation in international organizations, bodies, and conferences and form delegations thereto.
 20. Any other competencies entrusted thereto pursuant to the legislation in force.

Article (2)

The People's Committee for the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison shall consist of:

1. Secretaries of the People's Liaison Bureaus for the Professional Congresses.
2. Secretaries of the People's Committee for the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison.

Article (3)

The People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison shall consist of:

1. The People's Committee for the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison.
2. The Professional Liaison Bureaus.
3. Brotherhood bureaus, people's bureaus, Libyan Arab delegations to countries, and international and regional organizations and bodies.
4. Departments, offices, and divisions on international cooperation affiliated to the different Secretariats of the General People's Committees.
5. The following departments:
 - a. Department of Liaison with the Arab Nation
 - b. Department of Islamic Affairs
 - c. Department of Liaison with Africa

- d. Department of Liaison with Asia and Australia
- e. Department of Liaison with Europe
- f. Department of Liaison with the Americas
- g. Department of Liaison with People's Organisations and Expatriates
- h. Department of Economic and Technical Cooperation Affairs
- i. Department of the United Nations and International Organisations
- j. Department of Treaties and Legal Affairs
- k. Department of Civil Affairs
- l. Department of Financial and Administrative Affairs
- m. Department of Protocol and Hospitality

Article (4)

The Secretary of the People's Committee for the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison shall be affiliated to the following:

- a. Office of Coordination and Follow-up
- b. Office of Confidential Affairs
- c. Office of Military Affairs
- d. Office of Brotherhood and Friendship Associations
- e. Office of Liberation Movements
- f. Office of Media and Research
- g. Centre for International Relations
- h. Centre for Translation

Article (5)

The People's Committee for the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison shall elaborate the executive plans for the competencies of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and its manner of operation and supervision over the implementation thereof.

Article (6)

The People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison shall have an Undersecretary for Communication Affairs and an Undersecretary for Technical Affairs, each assisting the Secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison in the performance of his duties. The competencies of each shall be defined as set out in this Decree.

Article (7)

The Undersecretary for Communication shall hold competence to oversee the work flow and implementation and monitoring thereof in the following departments:

- a. Department of Liaison with the Arab Nation
- b. Department of Islamic Affairs
- c. Department of Liaison with Africa
- d. Department of Liaison with Asia and Australia
- e. Department of Liaison with Europe
- f. Department of Liaison with the Americas
- g. Department of Liaison with People's Organisations and Expatriates

The Undersecretary shall be entrusted with directing and organising the activities of these

departments and coordinating between them, on the one hand, and between them and the other Bureau departments on the other hand. The Undersecretary shall be responsible to the People's Committee for the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison for these activities.

Article (8)

The Department of Liaison with the Arab Nation shall hold competence within the bounds of the scope of its work (the countries of the Arab region and Mediterranean islands), as follows:

- a. Monitor the implementation of the policy of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in its foreign relations, and propose measures to strengthen such relations, in cooperation with the competent bodies.
- b. Oversee the political activities of brotherhood bureaus and people's bureaus abroad and the affairs of political delegations accredited by the Jamahiriya.
- c. Monitor the question of Palestine and the Zionist movement, and monitor the affairs of the Palestinian resistance movement and research its work methods in all areas.
- d. Contribute to promoting members of brotherhood bureaus abroad.

Article (9)

The Department of Islamic Affairs shall hold competence to monitor the affairs of the Islamic Dawah, study religious missionary movements, follow the conditions of Muslims, and watch and monitor conversion movements to which they are exposed and propose means for supporting and protecting them.

It shall hold competence to monitor the affairs of the Hajj and Islamic conferences and assemblies, study, collect, and revive Islamic heritage, and study and monitor the Islamic projects established by the Jamahiriya or to which it contributes.

It shall also hold competence in everything related to foreign relations with Turkey and Iran.

Article (10)

The Department of Liaison with Africa shall hold competence within the bounds of the scope of its work (all African countries with the exception of the Arab countries), as follows:

- a. Monitor the implementation of the policy of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in its foreign relations, and propose measures to strengthen such relations, in cooperation with the competent bodies.
- b. Oversee the political activities of people's bureaus abroad and attend to the affairs of political delegations accredited by the Jamahiriya.
- c. Contribute to promoting members of people's bureaus abroad.

Article (11)

The Department of Liaison with Asia and Australia shall hold competence within the bounds of the scope of its work (the countries of Asia and Australia), as follows:

- a. Monitor the implementation of the policy of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in its foreign relations, and propose measures to strengthen such relations, in cooperation with the competent bodies.
- b. Oversee the political activities of people's bureaus abroad and attend to the affairs of political delegations accredited by the Jamahiriya.

- c. Contribute to promoting members of people's bureaus abroad.

Article (12)

The Department of Liaison with Europe shall hold competence within the bounds of the scope of its work (the countries of Europe), as follows:

- a. Monitor the implementation of the policy of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in its foreign relations, and propose measures to strengthen such relations, in cooperation with the competent bodies.
- b. Oversee the political activities of people's bureaus abroad and attend to the affairs of political delegations accredited by the Jamahiriya.
- c. Contribute to promoting members of people's bureaus abroad.

Article (13)

The Department of Liaison with the Americas shall hold competence within the bounds of the scope of its work (the countries of North, South, and Central America and the Caribbean Sea area), as follows:

- a. Monitor the implementation of the policy of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in its foreign relations, and propose measures to strengthen such relations, in cooperation with the competent bodies.
- b. Oversee the political activities of people's bureaus abroad and attend to the affairs of political delegations accredited by the Jamahiriya.
- c. Contribute to promoting members of people's bureaus abroad.

Article (14)

The Department of Liaison with People's Organisations and Expatriates shall hold competence to monitor the activities of international people's organisations, collect information thereon, oversee people's conferences and symposiums, monitor the implementation of its decisions, form people's delegations to participate in such conferences and symposiums, and work to link relations and coordinate communication among people's organisations and the General People's Congress in the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

It shall also hold competence to monitor the affairs of Arab expatriates and assist them, monitor their movement, and enable them to protect their language, culture, and ties to the Arab nation.

Article (15)

The Undersecretary for Technical and Administrative Affairs shall hold competence to oversee the work flow and the implementation and monitoring thereof in the following departments:

- a. Department of Economic and Technical Cooperation Affairs
- b. Department of the United Nations and International Organisations
- c. Department of Treaties and Legal Affairs
- d. Department of Civil Affairs
- e. Department of Financial and Administrative Affairs
- f. Department of Hospitality and Protocol

The Undersecretary shall be entrusted with directing and organising the activities of these departments and coordinating between them, on the one hand, and between them and the other Bureau departments on the other hand. The Undersecretary shall be responsible to the People's Committee for the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison for these activities.

Article (16)

The Department of Economic and Technical Cooperation Affairs shall hold competence to monitor economic relations between the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and all countries, organize aspects of cooperation, monitor the implementation of agreements entered into therewith and prepare periodic reports on the stages of their implementation, in coordination with the competent secretariats, and propose the amount of the Jamahiriya's cooperation in joint projects.

It shall hold competence to monitor international monetary policy and the petroleum policy of oil-producing and oil-consuming countries, and prepare reports thereon.

Article (17)

The Department of the United Nations and International Organisations shall hold competence to monitor international conferences and bodies, handle contributions and financial donations thereof, and watch and monitor the positions of other countries on cases of importance to the Jamahiriya.

It shall hold competence to monitor the affairs of the Non-Aligned Movement and prepare for the conferences and meetings thereof, draft reports and recommendations, monitor the implementation of its decisions and recommendations, in cooperation with the competent bodies, and propose the formation of delegations and nominations for permanent positions for international organisations, in coordination with the competent bodies.

Article (18)

The Department of Treaties and Legal Affairs shall hold competence to study and prepare draft international treaties and agreements to which the Jamahiriya is a party, handle the ratification procedures thereof, and oversee the implementation, interpretation, and amendment thereof.

It shall also hold competence to review the drafting of legislation and regulations on the activities of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and undertake the legal measures required to deal with issues of the Jamahiriya's land and sea borders.

Article (19)

The Department of Civil Affairs shall hold competence to oversee the Libyan Arab diaspora communities abroad, monitor the affairs of Libyans in the diaspora, assist them, and work to link them to the nation, and monitor the completion of civil status transactions for citizens located abroad with the competent bodies in the Jamahiriya.

It shall also hold competence on issues of certifications and counting citizens of the Jamahiriya abroad, as well as Arabs and foreigners residing in the Jamahiriya, and the property thereof.

Article (20)

The Department of Financial and Administrative Affairs shall hold competence to implement systems and rules related to workers' affairs in accordance with the laws, regulations, and decrees in force, and undertake activities related to the archives, mail, pouches, faxes, vehicle movement, printing, internal services, public relations, and everything related to financial and administrative affairs.

Article (21)

The Department of Hospitality and Protocol shall hold competence in all activities related to hospitality and protocol, and oversee the political and consular privileges and immunities of members of Arab and foreign political missions in the Jamahiriya and members of people's bureaus and brotherhood bureaus abroad.

It shall also hold competence to prepare, issue, renew, and cancel political and special passports, requests visas related thereto and oversee everything related to political and special passports issued by other countries.

Article (22)

A decree shall be issued by the secretary of the People's Committee for the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison specifying the competences of the offices affiliated thereto.

Article (23)

A decree shall be issued by the People's Committee for the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison on the internal regulation of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison.

Article (24)

Any provision that conflicts with those of this Decree shall be repealed.

Article (25)

This Decree shall enter into force on the date of its issue, and shall be published in the Official Gazette.

The General People's Committee – Libya

**Issued on 12 Muharram 1391 FDP
Corresponding to 9 November 1981 AD**