

LAW OF TURKMENISTAN
on Public Associations
(the Public Associations Act)

In accordance with the Constitution of Turkmenistan, this Act aims to realize the right of citizens to establish public associations and determines the legal and organizational bases of their operation, as well as regulating social relations arising in this sphere.

CHAPTER I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1. Concept of public association

A public association is a voluntary, self-governing, non-commercial formation, established on the initiative of citizens, associated on the basis of community of interests for the realization of common purposes that are reflected in its charter of public association.

Article 2. Legislation of Turkmenistan on public associations

1. The legislation of Turkmenistan on public associations is based on the Constitution of Turkmenistan, on universally recognized principles and norms of international law and consists of this Act and other laws and regulations of Turkmenistan.

2. If international agreements entered into by Turkmenistan establish rules other than those contained in this Act, then the rules of the international agreements are applicable.

Article 3. Scope of this Act

1. The force of this Act extends to public associations established on the initiative of citizens, excluding religious organizations and excluding non-commercial unions (associations) established by commercial organizations.

2. The force of this Act also extends to the activities of structural subdivisions – organizations, departments (branches) and representations – of international and foreign public associations established in the territory of the Republic of Turkmenistan.

3. Particular aspects of the establishment, operation, reorganization and liquidation of separate types of public association are to be governed by special laws. The operation of such public associations before these special laws are adopted is to be governed by this Act.

Article 4. Right of citizens to establish public associations

1. The right of citizens to establish public associations is to be realized both directly, through the association of natural persons, and via legal entities that are public associations.

2. In cases provided for by this Act, foreign citizens and persons without citizenship who are residing in Turkmenistan may, alongside citizens of Turkmenistan, become founders of public associations.

3. The right of citizens to associate includes the right to establish public associations in order to protect common interests and attain common purposes, the right to join existing public associations or to refrain from joining them, as well as the right to leave public associations without impediment.

4. Citizens have the right to establish public associations by their own choice, without prior permission from government bodies and local authorities, and also the right to join such public associations under conditions that comply with the provisions of their charters.

Article 5. The State and public associations

1. The State is to ensure that the rights and lawful interests of public associations are observed, to provide support for their operation, and to implement legislation governing the provision of tax advantages and other privileges to them.

2. Except in cases provided for by this Act, neither interference by the State in the operation of public associations and by public associations in State affairs nor imposition of the functions of public authorities on public associations is allowed.

3. Public associations may co-operate and take concerted action with public authorities, concluding agreements with them, and may carry out specific work on behalf of public authorities on a contractual basis.

4. In cases provided for by the legislation of Turkmenistan, issues affecting the interests of public associations are to be resolved by public authorities, with the participation of public associations or by agreement with them.

5. The labour legislation and the social security legislation of Turkmenistan are to extend to the personnel of public associations.

Article 6. Purposes of establishing and operating public associations

1. Public associations are to be established and to operate with the following purposes:

1) realizing and protecting citizens' civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights and freedoms;

2) developing citizens' initiative and independent action;

3) developing scientific, technical and artistic creativity;

4) public health protection;

5) participating in charitable activity;

6) cultural, educational, fitness, recreational and sporting activities;

7) nature conservation, protection of historical and cultural monuments;

8) raising patriotic and humanitarian awareness, preserving national traditions;

9) opening up international relations, strengthening peace and friendship between peoples;

10) other activities not prohibited by law.

2. The operations of public associations may support government bodies in realizing socially significant and publicly useful purposes and objectives.

Article 7. Limitations on establishing and operating public associations

1. It is forbidden to establish and operate public associations with the purpose of forcible change of the constitutional order of Turkmenistan or detriment to State security, which permit violent activities, oppose citizens' constitutional rights and freedoms, propagandize war, racial, national or religious enmity, encroach on citizens' health or morality or engage in extremist activities.

2. It is forbidden to operate unregistered public associations in the territory of Turkmenistan.

Article 8. Principles of establishing and operating public associations

1. Public associations are to be established and are to operate on the basis of the principles of volunteerism, equal rights, self-government, legality and transparency.

2. Public associations are free to define their own purposes, forms and methods of operation and their own internal structure.

3. A citizen's participation or non-participation in the activities of a public association cannot be used as a basis for limiting his/her rights and freedoms or for him/her to obtain any advantages.

4. Public associations must operate openly, and information on their founding and policy documents must be publicly available.

Article 9. Types of public association

1. International, national, regional and local public associations may be established and operate in Turkmenistan.

2. A public association established in Turkmenistan is recognized as international if, under its charter, at least one of its structural subdivisions – organizations, departments (branches), representations – is established and operates in foreign countries.

3. A national public association is an association whose activities, in accordance with the purposes stated in its charter, extend over the whole territory of Turkmenistan.

4. International and national public associations may be established if they have a minimum of 50 and 400 members respectively.

5. Regional public associations are associations that have departments, branches or representations in several regional administrative areas of Turkmenistan.

6. A local public association is a public association whose activities, in accordance with its charter, extend over the territory of one regional administrative area of Turkmenistan.

Article 10. Operating international and foreign public associations in Turkmenistan

1. Structural subdivisions – organizations, departments (branches) and representations – of international and foreign public associations may be established and operate in Turkmenistan.

2. The operation of structural subdivisions – organizations, departments (branches) and representations – of international and foreign public associations is to be governed by their charters, if these do not contravene the legislation of Turkmenistan and international agreements entered into by Turkmenistan.

Article 11. Founders and members of public associations

1. The founders of a public association may be natural persons who have attained the age of 18 and legal entities that are public associations.

Under the legislation of Turkmenistan, legal entities established in Turkmenistan may also be founders and members of a public association, alongside the above-mentioned persons and entities.

2. In addition, citizens who have attained the age of 16 may be founders of a children's public association, alongside the persons mentioned in paragraph 1 of this Article.

3. A public association of citizens who have attained the age of 14 is to be recognized as a public youth association.

4. A public association of citizens who have attained the age of 8 is to be recognized as a public children's association.

5. The members of a public association may be natural persons and legal entities that are public associations.

6. The members of a public association have the right to elect and be elected to the governing, management and internal monitoring/audit bodies of the association in question, as well as to monitor the activities of the governing and management bodies of the public association in accordance with its charter.

7. The members of a public association have rights and obligations under the requirements of its charter and may, if they fail to comply with these requirements, be excluded from the public association according to a procedure provided for by its charter.

8. The conditions and procedure for acquisition, loss of membership of a public association, including the conditions for retirement of members on grounds of age, are to be determined by the charter of the public association concerned.

9. The founders and the members of a public association are to enjoy equal rights and have identical obligations.

CHAPTER II. ORGANIZATIONAL LEGAL FORMS OF PUBLIC ASSOCIATIONS

Article 12. Organizational legal forms of public associations

1. Public associations in Turkmenistan can be established in one of the following organizational legal forms:

- 1) public organization;
- 2) public movement;
- 3) public foundation;
- 4) social initiative group.

2. Public associations are entitled to associate on a voluntary basis into unions (associations) of public associations, which are to be created, operate and terminate their operation according to the procedure defined in this Act.

Article 13. Public organization

1. A public organization is a membership-based public association established on the basis of joint activities to protect common interests and attain the associated citizens' purposes as stated in its charter.

2. The members of a public organization may, under its charter, be natural persons and legal entities that are public associations, unless this Act and the legislation of Turkmenistan on separate types of public association state otherwise.

3. The highest governing body of a public organization is the congress (conference) or general meeting. The standing management body of a public organization is an elected board accountable to the congress (conference) or general meeting.

Article 14. Public movement

1. A public movement is a non-membership mass public association, made up of participants, that pursues social, political and other publicly useful purposes supported by those who participate in the public movement.

2. The highest governing body of a public movement is the congress (conference) or general meeting. The standing management body of a public movement is an elected board accountable to the congress (conference) or general meeting.

Article 15. Public foundation

1. A public foundation is one of the forms of non-commercial foundation and is a non-membership public association whose purpose is to form assets based on voluntary contributions, other receipts not prohibited by law, and to use these assets for publicly useful purposes. The founders and administrators of the assets of a public foundation are not entitled to use the said assets in their own interests.

2. The governing body of a public foundation is formed by its founders and (or) participants or by a decision of the public foundation's founders that is adopted in the form of recommendations or personal nominations, or by means of electing participants in the congress (conference) or the general meeting.

Article 16. Social initiative group

1. A social initiative group is a non-membership public association whose purpose is to jointly tackle various social problems that arise for citizens at their place of residence, work or study, that tries to satisfy the needs of any group of people with interests related to attaining the social initiative group's purposes as stated in its charter and to implementing its programmes in the place where it is established.

2. A social initiative group is formed on the initiative of citizens and organizes its work on the basis of self-government in accordance with a charter adopted at the meeting of its founders.

3. A social initiative group does not have any higher bodies or organizations in authority over it.

Article 17. Unions (associations) of public associations

Public associations, regardless of their organizational legal form, are entitled to establish unions (associations) of public associations on the basis of founding agreements and (or) charters adopted by the unions (the associations), forming new public associations. Unions (associations) of public associations acquire legal capacity as legal entities at the point of their State registration.

CHAPTER III.

ESTABLISHMENT OF PUBLIC ASSOCIATIONS

Article 18. Procedure for establishing public associations

1. Public associations are to be established on the initiative of their founders, of whom there must be no fewer than five.

2. Decisions to establish a public association, to approve its charter and to form governing, management and internal monitoring/audit bodies are to be made at the congress (conference) or the general meeting.

3. A public association acquires legal capacity as a legal entity at the point of its State registration at the Ministry Adalat ('the Ministry of Justice') of Turkmenistan and of its data being recorded in the Unified State Register of Legal Entities.

Article 19. Charter of public association

1. The organization and structure of public associations are to be governed by a charter.

2. The charter must provide for:

1) the name, purposes and objectives of the public association, its organizational legal form;

2) the structure of the public association, its governing, management and internal monitoring/audit bodies;

3) the geographical area within which the public association is to operate;

4) the conditions and procedure for acquisition and loss of membership of the public association (for an association whose charter provides for membership), the rights and obligations of members of and participants in the association concerned;

5) the competence of the public association's governing and management bodies and the procedure for their formation, their tenure of office;

6) the registered office of the standing management body;

7) the procedure for scheduling sessions of the management body and for decision-making during these meetings;

8) sources for the formation of cash resources and other assets of the public association, the rights of the public association and its structural subdivisions to manage the assets;

9) the procedure for making amendments and additions to the charter of public association;

10) the procedure for reorganization, liquidation of the public association, as well as the procedure for distribution of assets remaining after liquidation of the public association.

3. For public foundations, apart from the information indicated in paragraph 2 of this Article, the charter must provide for:

1) the minimum size and form of donations;

2) directions for the use of these amounts.

4. The charter of public association may also include other provisions concerning the operation of the public association that do not contravene the legislation of Turkmenistan.

Article 20. State registration of public associations

1. State registration ('registration') of public associations is to be carried out by the Ministry of Justice of Turkmenistan under the procedure laid down by the legislation of Turkmenistan.

2. Public associations are subject to mandatory inclusion in the Unified State Register of Legal Entities under the procedure laid down by the legislation of Turkmenistan.

3. The following documents are to be submitted for registration of a public association:

1) an application signed by all founders and members of the management body of the public association concerned, with their full names;

2) two copies of the charter of public association;

3) the minutes of the founding congress (conference) or general meeting, containing information about the establishment of the public association, approval of its charter and formation of its governing, management and internal monitoring/audit bodies;

- 4) details of the founders;
- 5) a document attesting payment of registration fee;
- 6) a document showing the provision of a legal address to the public association.

4. For registration of an international public association – with the exception of an international public association established in Turkmenistan – it is necessary to submit, in addition to the documents listed in paragraph 3 of this Article, a document attesting that it has a structural subdivision – organization, department (branch), representation – outside the borders of Turkmenistan.

5. For registration in Turkmenistan of structural subdivisions of foreign public associations it is also necessary to submit, under the established procedure, notarized copies of the founding documents of the main public association, established in the foreign country.

6. Documents are to be submitted for registration within one month of the date of when the public association's founding congress (conference) or general meeting was held.

7. Public associations are to be registered within 25 calendar days of submission of the documents listed in this Article.

8. Amendments and additions to the charters of public associations, as well as changes to factual details that are subject to registration, are to be registered under the same procedure and within the same time frames as are public associations themselves; they acquire legal force from the time of this registration.

9. Registration fees are to be paid under the procedure and in the amounts provided for by the legislation of Turkmenistan for registration of a public association, for subsequent amendments and additions to its charter.

10. Children's public associations are to be registered after at least one citizen who has attained the age of majority has been elected to their governing bodies.

Article 21. State Register of Public Associations

1. The Ministry of Justice of Turkmenistan is to maintain a State Register of Public Associations, including data on public associations, and is to issue registration certificates.

2. Records of registration of a public association and of amendments and additions made to the charter of a public association are to be entered in the State Register of Public Associations by the Ministry of Justice of Turkmenistan under the procedure laid down by this Act and by other legislation of Turkmenistan.

Article 22. Refusal to register a public association

1. A public association may be refused registration if:

1) the public association's charter contravenes the Constitution of Turkmenistan, the provisions of this Act and other legislation of Turkmenistan;

2) a public association with the same name has previously been registered for the geographical area within which the association concerned operates;

3) the full list of founding documents has not been submitted or they have not been drawn up according to the appropriate procedure;

4) it is established that the founding documents submitted for registration contain deliberately false information;

5) the name of public association is insulting to the morality, national and religious feelings of citizens;

6) one of the public association's founders is a person who has been declared legally incapable by a court or has an unspent or incorrectly expunged conviction for committing a serious or especially serious crime.

2. Where registration of a public association is refused, the applicant is to be informed of this in writing, indicating the grounds for refusal of registration.

3. Refusal to register a public association does not prevent repeat submission of documents for registration, provided that the grounds for the refusal have been eliminated.

4. The repeat application is to be considered and the decision on it rendered according to the procedure provided for by this Act.

Article 23. Appeal against refusal to register public associations

A decision refusing to register a public association may be challenged in court.

Article 24. Name and symbols of public associations

1. The name of a public association must contain an indication of its organizational legal form and the nature of its operation. The designation of the public association's organizational structure must contain an indication of the public association's name and of the structural subdivision that it represents.

2. Public associations may have flags and other symbols.

3. Public associations' symbols must not coincide with the State symbols of Turkmenistan or with the symbols of foreign states and international organizations.

4. Public associations' symbols must not propagandize the purposes mentioned in Article 7(1) of this Act.

5. A public association's symbols are to be constituted by the congress (conference) or general meeting and are subject to registration under the procedure laid down by the legislation of Turkmenistan.

Article 25. Procedure for reorganization of public associations

1. A public association may be reorganized by decision of its highest body.

2. Reorganized public associations are to be registered under the procedure laid down by this Act.

CHAPTER IV. RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF PUBLIC ASSOCIATIONS

Article 26. Rights of public associations

1. For the purposes stated in its charter, a public association has the right:

1) to freely disseminate information about its operation;

2) to participate in decision-making by government bodies and local authorities under the procedure provided for by this Act and by other legislation of Turkmenistan;

3) to hold meetings, rallies, demonstrations under the procedure laid down by the legislation of Turkmenistan;

4) to found media and carry on publishing activities in accordance with the legislation of Turkmenistan;

5) to represent and protect their rights, the rights and lawful interests of their members and participants and of other citizens to government bodies and local authorities;

6) to take initiatives on social issues, to submit suggestions to government bodies;

7) to engage in entrepreneurial activity in accordance with the procedure laid down by this Act;

8) to participate in elections in accordance with the procedure laid down by the legislation of Turkmenistan.

2. Public associations may co-operate with international public organizations, maintain international contacts and relations and also conclude relevant agreements under the procedure laid down by the legislation of Turkmenistan.

3. Public associations may also enjoy other rights pursuant to the legislation of Turkmenistan.

Article 27. Obligations of public associations

A public association is obliged:

1) to comply with the legislation of Turkmenistan, the commonly recognized principles and norms of international law, and the norms provided for by its charter and other founding documents;

2) to submit information about its operation to the Ministry of Justice of Turkmenistan within the prescribed time frames, indicating the actual location of its standing management body, its name and details of the public association's managers, as part of the information to be included in the Unified State Register of Legal Entities;

3) at the request of the Ministry of Justice of Turkmenistan, to submit the decisions of the governing bodies and officers of the public association, as well as reports about its operation, as part of the information to be submitted to tax authorities and the authorities of the Pension Fund of Turkmenistan;

4) to submit information to the Ministry of Justice of Turkmenistan about amendments and additions to its charter and about changes to factual details that are subject to registration;

5) to register projects and programmes of non-repayable foreign technical, financial, humanitarian aid and grants with the Ministry of Justice of Turkmenistan, and to submit regular interim reports and final reports on implementation of the projects, programmes concerned and on use of the grants;

6) to keep accounting records, to submit statistical reports, to meet its tax liabilities and to pay pension contributions to the State pension insurance scheme under the procedure laid down by the legislation of Turkmenistan.

CHAPTER V. OWNERSHIP BY PUBLIC ASSOCIATIONS, ADMINISTRATION OF THEIR ASSETS

Article 28. Ownership by public associations

1. A public association may own buildings, structures, facilities, housing stock, transport, equipment, inventory, property designated for cultural, educational and recreational purposes, cash resources, stocks, other securities and other assets necessary for the material provision of the operation specified in its charter. For the purposes of ensuring State and public security, the laws of Turkmenistan or international agreements entered into by Turkmenistan may define types of asset that may not be owned by public associations.

2. A public association may also own institutions, publishing houses and mass information media, founded and acquired using its own funds, in accordance with the purposes stated in its charter.

3. A public association's organizational divisions are entitled to administer the public association's assets within limits defined by that public association's charter.

4. A public association's legally authorized organizational divisions are to have a separate balance sheet and a current (operating) bank account and may also have other accounts in banks, credit institutions.

5. Ownership by public associations is protected by law.

Article 29. Financing the operation of public associations

1. The following may be main sources of financing for the operation of a public association:

1) joining and membership fees (if payment of these is provided for by the public association's charter);

2) payments received from holding lectures, exhibitions, lotteries, auctions, sporting and other events in accordance with the purposes stated in the public association's charter;

3) income from entrepreneurial activity, transactions governed by civil law;

4) earmarked funds and payments received from legal entities under a procedure laid down by the legislation of Turkmenistan, including from foreign non-commercial organizations and foreign government-funded agencies (in the form of grants);

5) voluntary contributions;

6) other sources not prohibited by the legislation of Turkmenistan.

2. A public association's cash resources and other assets may not be redistributed among the members of the public association and are to be used only to fulfil the purposes and objectives of its charter.

3. Public associations are permitted to use their resources for charitable purposes.

4. A public association is not liable for its members' financial obligations.

5. The members of a public association are not liable for the public association's financial obligations.

Article 30. Public associations' entrepreneurial activities

1. In order to achieve the purposes set out in its charter, a public association may, in accordance with the legislation of Turkmenistan, engage in entrepreneurial activities. Income from these activities must be used only in order to achieve the purposes set out in the charter.

2. Public associations may establish enterprises to conduct such business, as well as acquire assets intended for use in the course of entrepreneurial activities.

3. Income from public associations' entrepreneurial activities is subject to tax liability and to the payment of pension contributions in accordance with the legislation of Turkmenistan.

4. Income from public associations' entrepreneurial activities may not be redistributed among the members of these associations.

CHAPTER VI.
SUPERVISION OF
THE OPERATION OF
PUBLIC
ASSOCIATIONS

Article 31. Oversight of public associations' compliance with the legislation of Turkmenistan

The General Procuracy Service of Turkmenistan and the procurators subordinate to it are responsible for overseeing public associations' exact, uniform compliance with the laws and regulations of Turkmenistan.

Article 32. Monitoring the compliance of a public association's operation with the legislation of Turkmenistan and with its founding documents

1. The Ministry of Justice of Turkmenistan is responsible for monitoring the compliance of a public association's operation with the Constitution of Turkmenistan, with other laws and regulations of Turkmenistan and with its founding documents.

2. The Ministry of Justice of Turkmenistan is entitled to:

- 1) request their founding documents from public associations' governing bodies;
- 2) direct its representatives to participate in events held by public associations;
- 3) obtain explanations from the members of a public association and other citizens about matters relating to compliance with its charter.

3. If it is revealed that a public association has violated the legislation of Turkmenistan or that actions taken by a public association have contravened the purposes stated in its charter, the Ministry of Justice is entitled to issue the association with a written warning.

4. If, over a period of one year, a public association has received more than two written warnings requiring it to eliminate violations or relating to its failure to provide the Ministry of Justice of Turkmenistan with information or for engaging in entrepreneurial activities without fulfilling the purposes provided for by its charter, the Ministry may apply to the courts for liquidation of the public association.

5. A public association is to submit the following to the Ministry of Justice of Turkmenistan within the prescribed time frames:

- 1) information about its continued operation, indicating the location of its management body;
- 2) lists of members of the public association's elected bodies, indicating full names, dates of birth, citizenship, permanent residential addresses, places of work (study);
- 3) information about the numbers in the public association, its organizational divisions;
- 4) details of events held by the public association.

6. Under the procedure laid down by the legislation of Turkmenistan, the Ministry of Justice of Turkmenistan is to provide the public authority for combating money laundering and terrorist financing with details of projects and programmes of non-repayable foreign, technical, financial humanitarian aid and grants, if the amounts involved exceed the amounts specified or are untypical of the operation of the public association receiving this aid.

Article 33. Supervision of the operation of public associations

1. Environmental, fire, public health and other public supervisory authorities may supervise public associations' compliance with the relevant standards.

2. The financial and tax authorities are responsible for overseeing, within the bounds of

their competence, public associations' financial and economic operation.

CHAPTER VII. SUSPENSION, TERMINATION OF OPERATION AND LIQUIDATION OF PUBLIC ASSOCIATIONS

Article 34. Suspension of operation of public associations

1. A court may suspend a public association's operation for a period of up to 6 months on application by the Ministry of Justice of Turkmenistan in cases where it has violated the requirements of the Constitution, legislation of Turkmenistan and the provisions of its charter, if the Ministry of Justice of Turkmenistan has issued the public association with a written warning and the public association has failed to eliminate the violations that have provided grounds for issue of the written warning within the time frames laid down or has failed to provide information about eliminating it, with supporting documents.

2. If a public association's operation has been suspended for a period laid down by judgment of the court, the public association is prohibited from all operation, with the exception of activities directed at eliminating the violations that have provided grounds for the suspension of operation.

3. If the violations that have provided grounds for suspension of a public association's operations are eliminated during the period of suspension, then the public association may resume its operation at the end of the period laid down and is to inform the Ministry of Justice of Turkmenistan of elimination of the violations, with supporting documents.

4. If the violations identified have not been eliminated by the public association within the prescribed time frame, the Ministry of Justice of Turkmenistan may apply to the courts for its liquidation.

Article 35. Termination of operation of public associations

A public association's operation may be terminated by decision of the congress (conference) or general meeting, in accordance with the charter of the public association concerned.

Article 36. Liquidation of a public association

1. A public association may be liquidated by judgment of a court if:

- 1) it has violated the requirements of Article 7(1) of this Act;
- 2) the public association has violated the legislation of Turkmenistan and (or) its own founding documents during the year following issue of a written warning or has failed to eliminate violations that have provided grounds for suspension of the public association's operation, within the time frame prescribed by a court judgment;

3) if, on registration, the public association, in the person of its founders, was irremediably in breach of this Act and (or) other legislation of Turkmenistan;

4) if, over a period of one year, it has failed to submit information about amendments and additions to its charter and about changes to factual details that are subject to registration and to inclusion in the Unified State Register of Legal Entities;

5) it has violated citizens' rights and freedoms.

2. A public association may be liquidated by judgment of a court for violation of requirements established by the legislation of Turkmenistan for the implementation of projects and programmes of non-repayable foreign, technical, financial humanitarian aid and for the use of grants.

3. Any application to the court for liquidation of a public association on the grounds specified in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article is to be submitted by the Ministry of Justice of Turkmenistan.

4. The liquidation of a public association is to be conducted in accordance with the legislation of Turkmenistan.

5. Information on the liquidation of public associations is subject to publication.

6. The judgment of liquidation of a public association is to be sent to the authority that maintains the Unified State Register of Legal Entities, for the removal of the association concerned from that register.

Article 37. Appeal against a judgment suspending a public association's operation or liquidating a public association

1. An appeal may be brought against a judgment suspending a public association's operation or liquidating a public association, under the procedure laid down by the legislation of Turkmenistan.

2. The reversal of a judgment suspending a public association's operation or liquidating a public association will entail compensation by the State for all losses incurred by the public association in connection with the illegal suspension of its operation or its liquidation.

CHAPTER VIII. RESPONSIBILITY FOR VIOLATION OF THE LEGISLATION OF TURKMENISTAN

Article 38. Responsibility for violation of the legislation of Turkmenistan on public associations

Violation of the legislation of Turkmenistan on public associations entails responsibility under the procedure laid down by the laws and regulations of Turkmenistan.

Article 39. Public associations' responsibility for violation of the legislation of Turkmenistan

If a public association violates the legislation of Turkmenistan, it is responsible under the laws and regulations of Turkmenistan.

CHAPTER IX. CONCLUDING PROVISIONS

Article 40. Entry into force of this Act

This Act is to come into force from the day of its official publication.

Article 41. Concluding provisions

1. The charters and other founding documents of public associations established before this Act has come into force must be brought into conformity with this Act.

2. The following are declared no longer in force:

1) the Public Associations Act (Law of Turkmenistan of 21 October 2003 on Public Associations, Parliamentary Gazette of Turkmenistan, 2003, No. 4, p. 35);

2) Section X of the Law of Turkmenistan of 2 July 2009 on the Insertion of Amendments and Additions into Some Legislative Acts of Turkmenistan (Parliamentary Gazette of Turkmenistan, 2009, No. 3, p. 45).

**President of Turkmenistan
Gurbanguly BERDIMUHAMEDOV.**

Ashgabat, 3 May 2014

Translated from the official language of Turkmenistan.

Published in the newspaper *Neytralny Turkmenistan* on 10 May 2014.