

UNION OF MUNICIPALITIES OF MONTENEGRO



STATUTE

Podgorica, December 2011

S T A T U T E

OF THE

UNION OF MUNICIPALITIES OF MONTENEGRO

BASIC PROVISIONS

Article 1

(1) The Union of Municipalities of Montenegro (hereinafter the Union) is National association of local communities of Montenegro, organized with the view to accomplish common interests and needs which represent an immediate interest of local communities citizens.

(2) In sense of this Statute, local communities are municipalities, Capital City and Historical Capital.

Article 2

(1) The Union of is organized on the principles of voluntary, union and equality of local communities, mutual respect and principles of ethics.

(2) The Union has a round seal 3 cm in diameter, with the following wording in a semi-circle: Montenegro, Union of Municipalities of Montenegro - Podgorica.

(3) The logo of the Union is in the middle of the seal, which shall be determined by the Executive Board.

NAME AND MAIN OFFICE OF THE UNION

Article 3

(1) The name of the Association is: *Zajednica opština Crne Gore*.

(2) Abbreviated name of the Association is: ZOCCG

(3) The Union has the capacity of a legal person.

(4) The main office of the Union is in Podgorica, Mitra Bakića 142.

(5) In legal transactions with foreign countries, the Union can use the English name: "Union of Municipalities of Montenegro".

AIMS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE UNION

Article 4

The aims of the Union shall be the following:

- To improve, develop and protect system of local self-government;
- To represent interests of local communities before central government;
- To represent interests of local communities before international organizations and associations of local authorities,

- To implement other needs and interests of local authorities in accordance with the Statute.

Article 5

Activities of the Municipality shall be the following:

- To develop and improve the legal system and the position of local government;
- To improve and develop sectors regarding communal and residential issues, spatial planning, construction, traffic development, road maintenance; economic and non-economic activities and other sectors under the authority of local government;
- To accomplish mutual cooperation between local governments in order to realize jointly interests of local population;
- To represent common local government interests in front of central authorities and other domestic and international entities;
- To participate in hearings and give opinions and suggestions regarding laws and other regulations which prescribe relations important for local population;
- To cooperate with international organizations for local government and other international organizations;
- To realize international cooperation with local governments of other countries and regions;
- To develop and improve education and culture of citizens and local government officials;
- To carry out publishing activities;
- To perform other activities of interest for members of the Union.

Article 6

The Union shall accomplish its aims through:

- Implementation of plans, programs and projects regarding local government improvement and development;
- Cooperation with state bodies in improving local governments development;
- Launching initiatives and giving suggestions to state bodies for finding better solutions for issues under local government authority;
- Organization of professional and scientific consultative meetings, public hearings and other forms of work in order to improve local government system and practice;
- Organization of publishing activities, publishing of a professional magazine and other informative activities;
- Other forms of organization, work and engagement in order to realize the aims of the Union.

MEMBERSHIP, RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF UNION MEMBERS

Article 7

(1) Members of the Union shall be municipalities and other local government units.

(2) Membership in the Union shall be realized by a decision of a competent body of local government unit.

(3) Membership in the Union shall be ceased by a decision of a competent local government body or on the basis of exclusion in case a member of the Union does not comply with the provisions of this Statute.

(4) Decision on exclusion shall be made by the Assembly of the Union.

Article 8

(1) Members of the Union shall exercise their rights and obligations through their engagement in the implementation of Union aims as well as through participation in election and work of the Union bodies.

(2) Members of the Union shall have right and the obligation to:

- Take initiatives and give suggestions regarding the implementation of Union aims;
- Participate in decision making in accordance with the Statute;
- Carry out provisions of the Statute and other enactments, decisions and conclusions;
- Participate in giving suggestions for, enacting and implementation of programs and plans of the Union;
- Direct and coordinate mutual relations and common interests;
- Pay the prescribed membership fee to the Union.

UNION BODIES

Article 9

The Union bodies are:

- Assembly;
- Executive Board;
- Supervisory Board.

1. The Union Assembly

Article 10

(1) The Assembly shall be the supreme body of the Union.

(2) The Assembly shall be consisted of local communities' representatives as following: Presidents of Municipal Assemblies and Mayors.

(3) The Assembly shall be summoned and chaired by the President of the Assembly.

(4) The President of the Assembly shall summon the Assembly also upon the proposal of the Executive Board or of a third of Union's members. The Assembly shall be summoned at latest within a month from the day when the proposal is made.

(5) If the President is detained or absent or for other reasons for not summoning the Assembly by the President at the proposal of an authorized proponent, the Assembly shall be summoned by vice-president.

(6) The Assembly shall make decisions if more than a half of the total number of Union's members' representatives is present. Decisions shall be made by the majority of votes of present Union members' representatives, if Statute does not stipulate a qualified majority for making particular decision.

(7) Working method of the Assembly shall be determined by the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly in accordance with the Statute.

(8) Membership in the Union's bodies and working bodies shall not be related to the mandate of local government's representative. It shall belong to the local government in the manner provided by the Statute.

(9) Assembly meetings shall be held when it is needed, and at least once a year.

Article 11

(1) The Union Assembly shall:

1. Adopt the Statute;
2. Adopt strategic documents, working programs and plans;
3. Consider and make decisions on general issues regarding the implementation of the Union's aims and activities;
4. Appoint and dismiss President and Vice-President of the Union's Assembly;
5. Appoint and dismiss president and members of the Supervisory Board;
6. Make the decision on the amount of membership fee;
7. Adopt the Financial plan of the Union;
8. Consider and adopt the Financial statement of the Union;
9. Consider and adopt the Union's Working report;
10. Dispose with the Union's property;
11. Make decisions on becoming a member of international associations;
12. Make decision on the dissolution of the Union's work;
13. Adopt the Rules of Procedure the Assembly;
14. Perform other activities of interest for the implementation of the Union's aims.

(2) The Statute and decision on dissolution of work of the Assembly shall be adopted by the Assembly by a majority of votes of Assembly members.

(3) Voting at the Assembly's sessions shall be public, unless the Assembly's members decide otherwise.

2. The Executive Board of the Union

Article 12

- (1) The Executive Board shall be an executive body of the Union.
- (2) The Executive Board shall be consisted of the Mayor of the Capital City, the Mayor of the Historical Capital and Mayors.
- (3) The Executive Board shall have the President and Vice-President elected by the Assembly among the Executive Board's members.
- (4) The Executive Board meetings shall be summoned, chaired and directed by the President.
- (5) The Executive Board's President shall represent the Union in the scope of authorities of the Executive Board.
- (6) If the President is detained or absent or for some other reasons why Presidents does not summon the meeting, the Executive Board's meeting shall be summoned, chaired and directed by the Vice-President.
- (7) The Executive Board shall make decisions if more than a half of the total number of its members is present, by the majority of votes of present members, unless according to the Statute a qualified majority is determined for making a particular decision.
- (8) In exceptional cases, the Executive Board can make decisions by written statement of its members.
- (9) Term of office of the President and Vice-President shall last 2 years. After that period of time, new election shall be made from the Executive Board's members.

Article 13

The Executive Board shall:

1. Execute decisions and conclusions of the Assembly;
2. Propose Working program of the Union;
3. Establish permanent and other working bodies;
4. Ensure that the aims of the Union are implemented;
5. Make decisions to organize professional consultative meetings, seminars, forums, lectures and other forms of activities of the Union in accordance with the Union's program;
6. Ensure that international cooperation is realized;
7. Ensures that relations of the Union with adequate international organizations are established;
8. Suggest to the Assembly to make decisions to become a member of international associations;
9. Determine proposal of the Statute of the Union and of other general enactments;
10. Approve the Enactment on organization and systematization of positions in the Union's Secretariat;
11. Appoint and dismiss the Secretary General of the Union, based on the public announcement, and upon the consent of the Union's Assembly;
12. Make decisions to initiate publishing activities and publish the Union magazine;

13. Appoint the editor and members of the editorial board of the magazine and other publications;
14. Propose the amount of membership fee;
15. Make decision on bestowing the status of an honorary member;
16. Make decision on awards and recognitions for contribution to the development and improvement of the Union aims;
17. Propose Financial plan and Financial statement of the Union;
18. Perform other activities of interest for the implementation of aims and work of the Union bodies which are not under the authority of the Assembly.

3. The Supervisory Board

Article 14

- (1) The Supervisory Board has the President and two members elected by the Assembly among its members.
- (2) Term of office of the Supervisory Board shall last two years.

Article 15

- (1) The Supervisory Board shall control substantive and financial operations of the Union at least once a year.
- (2) The control report referred to in Para 1 of this Article shall be submitted to the Executive Board and the Assembly by the Supervisory Board.
- (3) The Supervisory Board shall be accountable to the Assembly for its work.

REPRESENTATION AND MANAGEMENT

Article 16

The Assembly's President shall:

- Represent the Union within the authorities of the Assembly;
- Ensure that the Union's aims and programs are implemented;
- Summon, determine agenda and chair the Assembly's sessions;
- Ensure that the decisions of the Assembly are executed and performs other activities determined by the Statute.

Article 17

- (1) The Vice-President shall replace the President in case s/he is absent or kept from performing his duties.
- (2) The President and Vice-President shall be accountable to the Assembly for their work.
- (3) Term of office of the President and Vice-President shall last two years.

Article 18

(1) The Secretary General of the Union shall manage the work of the Secretariat and s/he shall be accountable for the regularity of the Union's work.

(2) The Secretary General shall:

- Represent the Union in legal transactions;
- Execute decisions and other enactments of the Assembly and the Executive Board related to the use and disposal of Union assets;
- Prepare proposals of decisions and other enactments adopted by the Executive Board and drafts of decisions and other enactments adopted by the Assembly;
- Carry out and ensure execution of decisions and other enactments of the Assembly and the Executive Board;
- Secretary General may have one or more assistants, who shall be appointed on 4-year mandate by the Executive Board, on the proposal of the Secretary General;
- Perform other activities in accordance with the Union's enactments;

(3) The Secretary General shall be accountable for his/her work and performance of the Secretariat to the Executive Board.

(4) Term of office of the Secretary General shall last four years and s/he can be re-elected more than once.

SECRETARIAT

Article 19

(1) The Secretariat shall be established for performing professional, administrative-technical, substantive, financial and other activities.

(2) The Secretariat shall be managed by the Secretary General.

(3) Enactment on the organization and systematization of the Secretariat shall be adopted by the Secretary General upon the consent of the Executive Board.

(4) If it is necessary, the Secretary General may entrust a part of professional and administrative-technical activities to other professional organizations or individuals upon the consent of the Executive Board.

WORKING BODIES OF THE UNION

Article 20

In order to consider particular issues of interest for local communities' development, Committees and Council as permanent working bodies of the Union shall be established:

1. Committee for Local Government's Development;
2. Committee for Urban Planning and Communal Activities;
3. Committee for Local Government's Financing;
4. Committee for Social Affairs.

Article 21

The Committee for Local Government's Development shall follow up and examine the implementation of laws and other regulations related to the organization and functioning of local government; exchange experience with local communities of Montenegro and other local communities and their associations; participate in the work of professional teams of competent ministries, consider comparative experiences of local communities of developed countries, give opinions, proposals and suggestions on laws and other regulations regulating local government, and perform other activities regarding local government system.

Article 22

The Committee for Urban Planning and Communal Activities shall follow up and investigate issues regarding communal, housing, urban planning, construction and other activities within the authority of local communities; give proposals, opinions and suggestions to competent ministries and other state bodies on laws and other provisions regulating issues from the stated sectors; examine comparative experiences in these sectors and perform other activities important for realizing its functions.

Article 23

The Committee for Local Government's Financing shall follow up and consider the implementation of laws and other regulations related to local government's financing; exchange experiences related to the implementation of regulations related to local government's financing with local communities in the country and abroad; participate in work of professional teams of competent ministries; give opinions, proposals and suggestions on laws and other regulations related to local government's financing; and perform other tasks from this sector.

Article 23a

The Committee for Social Affairs shall follow up and consider the implementation of laws and other regulations related to social affairs; exchange experiences related to their implementation by local communities in the country and abroad; participate in the work of professional teams of competent ministries, give opinions, proposals and suggestions on laws and other provisions regulating issues from the stated sector.

Council for EU Integrations and International Cooperation

Article 23b

(1) The Councils for EU Integrations and International Cooperation shall follow up the process of the EU Integrations, cooperate and exchange experiences with local governments, institutions, organizations and similar bodies included in the process of the EU Integrations in the country and abroad.

(2) In accordance with the Statute, the Council shall propose activities for fostering the integrations process, models for international cooperation, twinning and other forms of direct cooperation.

(3) The Council shall be consisted of mayors.

Composition and Term of Office of the Union's Working Bodies

Article 24

(1) Each Committee and Council shall be consisted of seven members.

(2) Committee members shall be proposed by local communities' representatives in the Union's Assembly.

(3) The President and Vice-President of the Committee shall be elected by Committee's members from its composition.

(4) Term of office of the Committee shall last four years.

Article 25

(1) The Committees shall work in sessions.

(2) The session shall be summoned and chaired by the Committee's President.

(3) The Committee shall make conclusions or views by the majority votes of Committee's members.

Article 26

Other authorized representatives of municipalities, state bodies, scientific and other workers can be present at Committees' sessions and participate in their work.

Article 27

(1) The Executive Board may establish a periodical working body for examining particular issues from the scope of the Union's activities.

(2) Composition and tasks of the working body shall be determined by the decision on its establishment.

ACQUISITION AND USE OF UNION'S RESOURCES

Article 28

(1) Resources for the work of the Union shall be determined through the annual financial plan in accordance with the program and aims of the Union.

(2) The Union shall obtain resources from membership fees, support from the Budget of Montenegro, charities, presents, donations, legacies of domestic legal entities and persons, support of other organizations and associations, as well as from own revenues gained from publishing activities and other activities aimed at the implementation of its aims in compliance with law.

PUBLIC CHARACTER OF WORK

Article 29

- (1) The work of the Union shall be public.
- (2) Sessions of the Assembly, the Executive Board and other bodies of the Union shall be public.
- (3) Members of the Union and the public shall be informed on the work of the Union directly, through publications and statements, as well as in other suitable ways.
- (4) The Union's bodies shall cooperate with the media.
- (5) The President of the Union, President of the Executive Board, Secretary General of the Union and Presidents of Committees and Council may give press releases on behalf of the Union within their authorizations.

DISSOLUTION OF THE WORK OF THE UNION

Article 30

- (1) The Union's work shall be ceased if there are no conditions for realization of its aims.
- (2) Decision on dissolution of work shall be made by the Assembly in accordance with the law by the two-third majority of votes of members present.
- (3) Dissolution of work shall be reported to the authorized body where the Union is registered, within 30 days from the day when the work ceases, in order to be deleted from the register.

TRANSITIONAL AND CLOSING PROVISIONS

Article 31

- (1) Amendments to the Statute shall be made by the statutory decision according to the procedure for its adoption.
- (2) Proposal of amendments to the Statute shall be submitted by the Executive Board.
- (3) Initiative for amending the Statute may be submitted by at least five members of the Union.

Article 32

Body in charge for registration shall be informed on the amendments to the Statute within 15 days from the day when the amendments are adopted.

Article 33

The Statute comes into force on the day when it is adopted.

Amendments No. 01-02/07
Podgorica, 25 May 2007
Amendments No. 01-03/09
Podgorica, 9 April 2009
Amendments No. 01-08-2/11
Podgorica, 23 December 2011