



Law No 4 of 1981 for the Establishment of the Standing Committee for Environmental Protection 4 / 1981

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We, Khalifa bin Hamad Al Thani, the Emir of Qatar

Having perused the [Amended Provisional Constitution](#), in particular Articles [23](#), [34](#), and [51](#) thereof;

[The Civil Service Law](#) promulgated by Decree-Law No. 9 of 1967, as amended,

[Law No. 5 of 1970](#) specifying the powers of ministers and functions of the ministries and other government agencies, as amended,

[The Penal Code of Qatar](#) No. 14 of 1971,

[The Criminal Procedure Law](#) promulgated by Law No. 15 of 1971, Decree-Law No. 24 of 1972, identifying the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs,

[Law No. 8 of 1974](#) on Public hygiene,

The Resolution of the Council of Ministers at its regular meeting No. 38 of 1980 held on 29 October regarding the recommendation to

establish a Standing Committee for Environmental Protection,

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[Article 1 \(Amended By Law 13/1994\)](#)★

A committee called the “Standing Committee for Environmental Protection” shall be established and attached to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Agriculture. It shall have a balance sheet attached to the balance sheet of the Ministry.

Article 2 (Amended By Law 13/1994)★

Article 3

The committee may invite to attend its meeting any expert or specialist whose assistance is deemed required in any matter, without their vote being counted in the deliberations and voting.

Article 4 Cancelled (Repealed By Law 13/1994)★

Article 5

The committee shall do the following:

- 1 - Propose the general policy for the protection, guarantee and maintenance of environmental security in all sectors in the State of Qatar, and draw up the action plans necessary for the implementation of this policy.
- 2 - Prepare draft legislation, bylaws, regulations and requirements necessary for environmental protection and undertake follow-ups of their implementation.
- 3 - Coordinate between the various responsible bodies concerned with environmental protection and research laboratories and centres; evaluate their activities and provide the necessary recommendations in that regard.
- 4 - Monitor the activities of the various sectors in the State in the fields of provision of data, information, measurements and analyses; conduct studies on environmental conditions and the sources of pollution of the environment, and its effects and means of combat; evaluate these studies; and make the necessary recommendations with respect to all of these activities, including the funds necessary to engage in them.

- 5 - Verify the availability and efficiency of monitoring, measurement and control devices and the regularity of the workflow.
 - 6- Evaluate the studies necessary to protect the environment when planning any development project, whether government or civil, and approve these projects before they are implemented.
 - 7 - Work to provide technical personnel specialized in the fields of environment, and oversee the development of training programs required for their work.
 - 8 - Work to introduce environmental education in educational and media programs, develop awareness plans for citizens and encourage them, individually and collectively, to contribute to environmental protection.
 - 9 -Represent the State at bodies and organizations, and regional and international meetings with regard to environmental protection, monitor the implementation by the responsible authorities in the State of the provisions of international conventions acceded to by the State of Qatar in those fields; and work to complete the accession to any other similar conventions.
 - 10 - Monitor incidents of environmental pollution and the problems arising therefrom, follow-up the same, and prepare contingency plans necessary to confront and reduce them.
 - 11 - Any matters that are within its terms of reference referred to it by the relevant bodies in the State.
 - 12 - Propose the annual budget that the Committee may spend on its activities and in the carrying out of its duties.
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Article 6

The Committee shall convene at the invitation of the Chairperson at least once every month or whenever required. The meetings of the Committee shall be chaired by the Chairperson or his deputy who shall be elected by the Committee in its first meeting. In the event of the Chairperson's absence the meeting shall be chaired by the most senior member in age present. The meetings shall be valid if attended by a majority of its members. Resolutions shall be issued by a majority vote of the members present, and in the case of an equality of votes the Chairperson shall have a casting or second vote. Every member of the Committee shall be responsible for communicating the view of the body he represents regarding the matters tabled at the committee.

The Committee may form from amongst its members, or from other technical specialists in the organs of the State, working committees or groups to study any of the matters within its terms of reference, and to report thereon to the Committee.

[Article 7 \(Amended By Law 13/1994\)](#)★

The Environment Department in the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Agriculture shall assume the duty of the Technical Secretariat of the Committee to assist it in carrying out its duties. The manager of the Environment Department or his representative shall prepare for its meetings, record its minutes and provide it with the memoranda, details, information, reports and the necessary statistics in the fields of environmental protection. He shall follow-up the communication and implementation of its resolutions, recommendations and studies and the studies of the sub-committees formed and coordinate between them.

Article 8

The Chairperson of the Committee shall submit a report to the Cabinet quarterly, or whenever circumstances demand, on the activities and work of the Committee, the extent of its achievement of its objectives, and the constraints faced by it together with the necessary recommendations and solutions with respect to them.

Article 9

The regulations and requirements that must be fulfilled when establishing, producing or using any establishment, materials or processes or any other activity that leads to pollution of the environment, shall be issued by means of a decree based on the proposal of the Standing Committee for Environmental Protection.

In the event of violation of these regulations and requirements the Committee may request the withdrawal of the license of the offending works, establishments or activities. The relevant authorities shall be bound by the same without prejudice to the sanctions provided for in Article 12 of this Law.

Article 10

The Standing Committee for Environmental Protection shall have the right to request for details it deems necessary from anybody that practises an activity that lead to polluting the environment.

Article 11

The employees of the technical secretariat, delegated by the Chairperson of the Standing Committee for Environmental Protection by means of a resolution, shall have the capacity of law enforcement officers in establishing the occurrence of crimes committed in violation of the provisions of this Law.

They may, at any time, enter the places in which these crimes occurred, write notes, take samples, conduct measurements, tests and studies necessary to determine the extent of environmental pollution and the sources thereof, verify the application of the regulations and requirements for environmental protection.

Article 12

Without prejudice to any more severe sanction provided for by another law, a sanction of imprisonment not exceeding one year, and a fine of not more than five thousand riyals, or either of these sanctions, shall be imposed on any person who violates the regulations and requirements stipulated in [Article 9](#) of this Law. The court may, in addition to the above, pass judgement for the confiscation of the items or closure of the places, in which the action that was the source of pollution took place, for a period not exceeding three months.

The sanction shall be doubled in case of repetition.

A sanction of imprisonment not exceeding six months, and a fine of not more than two thousand riyals, or either of these sanctions, shall be imposed on any person who prevent the employees concerned from the performance of their duties stipulated in this Law or any person who violates the provisions of [Article 10](#) thereof.

The sanction shall be doubled in case of repetition.

[Article 13](#) Cancelled ([Repealed By Law 13/1994](#))★

Article 14

Any provision that contradicts the provisions of this law shall be repealed.

Article 15 (Amended By Law 13/1994) ★

The Minister of Municipal Affairs and Agriculture shall issue - in his capacity as Chairperson of the Standing Committee for Environmental Protection - the resolutions necessary for the implementation of the provisions of this law.

Article 16

All competent authorities, each within their jurisdiction, shall enforce this Law from the date of its publication in the *Official Gazette*.

Emir of the State of Qatar
Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani

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