

Adopted on December 4, 2001

THE LAW OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA ON PUBLIC ORGANIZATIONS

The Republic of Armenia attaches great importance to the development of civil society, and by the given law pursues the objectives of promoting the foundation and development of activities of public organizations, as entities operating in conformity with legal regulations.

Article 1. Sphere of Application of the Law

1. This law regulates the legal relations arising while exercising the constitutional right of a person to form public associations in Republic of Armenia and pertains to the formation, activities, re-organization and dissolution of public organizations.
2. Application of the given law does not extend to religious organizations, political parties, trade unions, foundations, legal persons' associations as well as other kinds and types of non-commercial organizations envisaged by law.

Article 2. Legislation on Public Organizations

The legislation on public organizations consists of the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia (RA), the RA Civil Code, the given law, other laws and international treaties signed by the RA.

Article 3. The Concept of Public Organization

1. A public organization (hereafter referred to as organization) is a type of (not for profit) public association which does not pursue the purpose of gaining profit and redistributing this profit among its members, and into which (the organization), based on their common interests, in the manner prescribed by the law, physical persons, including RA citizens, foreign citizens and those without a citizenship, have joint for satisfying their non religious spiritual and non material other needs; for protecting their and other persons' rights and interests; for providing material and non-material assistance to certain groups and for carrying out other activities for public benefit.

If the organization along with the objectives mentioned in this clause also has political, religious, professional objectives, than it is not a public organization and it can be registered as an organization of another legal-organizational form.

2. A person's right to form associations with other persons encompasses the right to freely set up an association, the right to become a member (participant) of an organization, and the right to freely withdraw from membership (participation) of an organization, regardless of nationality, race, sex, language, religion, political and other believes social origin, welfare standards and citizenship. This right may be restricted, in cases and manner envisaged by law, for the servicemen of the military and law enforcement bodies.
3. A public association, if its objectives correspond to the objectives set forth in Article 1 of this law, may be registered as a public organization acquiring the status of a legal entity

from the moment of its state registration. The state registration, promoting the implementation of the chartered goals of a public association by setting it up as a legal entity, does not impede the person's right to form associations in what regards creating such associations, being a member of or acting through the associations without state registration.

4. Without state registration an association shall not have the status of a legal entity with the ensuing rights and obligations, and shall not be vested with the rights set forth in Article 15 clauses 3 to 6 and shall not bear responsibilities stipulated by Article 16. That association shall operate in conformity with the principles set forth in Article 4, without violating other requirements of this law, other laws and legal acts.

[The word "member" hereafter will be equivalent to the word "participant", words "become a member ", "affiliate" - to the word "participate", words "membership", "affiliation" - to the word "participation".]

Article 4. Principles of Activity of Organizations

1. The basic principles of activities of public organizations are legality, publicity, voluntary membership, equality of the members before the law, self-governance, and joint leadership.

The organizations are equal before the law.

2. The organization determines independently its organizational structure, goals, objectives and methods of activity.

3. The organization may engage in entrepreneurial activities only through creating a commercial organization or through participating in one.

Article 5. The State and the Organization.

1. The state shall ensure the protection of the legal rights and interests of an organization.

2. The state shall provide assistance and aid to the organization in cases and manner prescribed by the laws and other legal acts.

3. Organizations, on their own initiative or on the initiative of the state or the local self-governance bodies, may fully implement or participate in the social, healthcare, educational, teaching, cultural, sport and other socially significant programs and actions of the state or the local self-governance bodies by concluding written contracts or other agreements of mutual understanding.

4. Interference of state bodies and local self-governance bodies and their officials in the activities of an organization is prohibited, except for cases stipulated by law.

Article 6. Founders and Members of Organizations.

1. Each of the founders of an organization after establishment of the latter is a member of the organization with the same rights and liabilities as other members of the organization.

2. A person, who is not a founder of the organization, may become a member of an organization based on his/her free will and according to the procedures stipulated by the charter of the organization.

An underage person, up to 14 years old, may become a member of an organization on his/her will based on the written statement of his/her legal representative.

If an underage person, from 14 years old to 18 years old, in the order prescribed by law is not recognized as a person with an ability to act, he/she may become a member of an organization based on his/her application with the written consent of his/her legal representative.

The organization's charter may envisage specific stipulations regarding the rights and obligations of its underage members.

3. A person's membership in an organization is not a base for restricting the person's rights and liberties.

Article 7. Protection of the Rights of the Members of the Organization.

1. Each member of the organization has the right:

- 1) To be present at the assembly of the organization, if it is held with the participation of the delegates of the members of the organization, and the person was not elected as one;
- 2) To get acquainted with the recorded documents of the work of the organization bodies, to receive copies of the adopted resolutions (fees collected for the copies shall not exceed the expenses incurred for making the copies).
- 3) To appeal the decisions of the organization's bodies to higher bodies in the manner envisaged by the charter of the organization.

2. A resolution of the organization's body (including the supreme body), adopted in violation of law, charter of the organization, or in violation of regulations set forth by the governing bodies of the organization or in violation of the rights and legal interests of the organization or its member, shall be rescinded in legal form upon a member's filed protest. Unless the law stipulates otherwise, the protest may be filed within the period of 60 days, following the day when a member of an organization learnt or was supposed to learn about the adoption of a resolution of this kind.

Article 8. Creation of organization

1. An organization may be created as a result of its foundation by the founders or reorganization of an organization /organizations/ that had any kind of organizational-legal form of public associations.

2. Organization is considered created from the moment of its state registration according to the procedure stipulated by law.
3. The organization is created without time limits unless the organization's charter stipulates otherwise.

Article 9. Foundation of Organization

1. At least two founding physical persons (founders) shall conclude an agreement, which shall specify the procedures for joint actions prior to state registration of the organization and the conditions for handing over their properties to the organization.

If the person who wants to found an organization is underage (up to 14) his/her legal representative shall sign the contract on his behalf. An underage person (from 14 to 18 years) who is not recognized, in the order prescribed by law, as a person with an ability to act, shall sign the contract with the written consent of his/her legal representative.

2. On demand of one of the founders the agreement on founding the organization may be notarized.

3. The founders bear joint liabilities for the obligations related to the foundation of organization until the latter is legally registered.

4. On the basis of the agreement on founding the organization the founders shall draw up a charter, which shall be submitted for approval to the founding assembly of the organization

5. The assembly of the organization's founders may take place either in form of a general meeting or via telecommunication means, by drawing up the appropriate protocol or by exchanging documents, which clearly show that the document comes from the person who is mentioned in the document as the author. The founding assembly may be held in one or several sessions or stages, with no time limitations of the adjournments.

6. The founding assembly along with the approval of the charter of the organization, shall also make a decision on applying to the state registration body dealing with legal entities (hereafter referred to as state registration body) with the aim of getting state registration, and it shall elect an authorized person from the organization. If the organization's charter stipulates bodies other than the supreme body, the founding assembly may elect the bodies that are to be formed exclusively by the organization's supreme body, or those bodies may be elected upon getting state registration, by the supreme body of the organization.

7. A member of the organization, who is involved in other organization bodies may not simultaneously be elected to be a member of the supervising body.

Article 10. Name, Symbol and Location of Organization

1. An organization shall have a name, also short name (abbreviation) and logos.

2. The name of organization shall express in Armenian the nature of its activities and shall contain the words "public organization". With the exception of these words the name shall not contain other words indicating organizational-legal status, such as (fund, foundation, union, co-operative, association, partnership, commonwealth, representation, branch, etc.),

as well as other words like (national assembly, supreme council, government, ministry, court, army, embassy, consulate, marz (region), community, etc.) so that the name of organization does not bear resemblance with the names of state and local-governance bodies.

3.A full or short name of a prominent person shall be used in the name of the organization only with his/her consent and in case if the prominent person is dead with the consent of his/her heirs. If the prominent person or his/her heirs, in case if the prominent person is dead, consider that the activities of the organization cast a shadow on the prestige of the prominent person, he/she may file a lawsuit to the competent court with the request of depriving the organization of the right to use the prominent person's name in the name of the organization.

4. Any declension and translation of the word "Hayastan", as well as the usage of the name of a prominent person that has no heirs, may be used in the order established by the Government of the RA.

5. The name of the organization, its short name (abbreviation) and logo, including the logo on the stamp of the organization, if such is envisaged, must be acceptable in terms of public moral, and it should be different from and not bear confusing resemblance with the names, abbreviations and logos of other organizations, as well as states, international and foreign well-known organizations, and other legal entities.

6. The location (legal address) of premises of the organization's supreme body is recognized as the location of the public organization.

Article 11. Charter of the Organization

1. The founding document of the organization is its charter, which must include the organization's:

- 1) Name and location.
- 2) Purpose and goals of activity,
- 3) Procedures for becoming a member and for withdrawing membership;
- 4) The member's rights and obligations;
- 5) Management order, procedure and time frame for convening the supreme body, the range of issues to be solved exclusively by the supreme body and decision-making procedures; procedures for forming bodies elected by the supreme body (if the organization besides the supreme body shall have other bodies, including individual positions), procedures for making changes in the staff of those bodies, range and term of authority of each body and their decision-making procedures.
- 6) The position, the procedure of election and range of authority of the officials entitled with authority to represent the organization without the power of attorney (this clause is not necessary if such authority is not granted)
- 7) Those governing bodies, which are authorized to make decisions on acquisition, possession, usage and management, also on alienation and withdrawal of property, according to the type and size of the property (this clause is not necessary, if those actions are to be carried only by the supreme body).

- 8) The body, which is authorized to define the sum of membership fees and the procedure of their collection (this clause is not necessary if membership fees are not envisaged, or if the sum and the procedures for collection are stipulated by the charter)
- 9) Procedures for setting up separate branches and institution (this clause is not necessary if their creation is not envisaged)
- 10) Procedures for supervising the organization's activities (this clause is not necessary if the supervision is carried out by the supreme body)
- 11) Procedures for challenging decisions of bodies by the members of the organization (this clause is not necessary if the creation of bodies other than the supreme body is not envisaged).
- 12) Procedures for making changes and amendments to the charter.
- 13) Procedures for re-organization and liquidation.

The charter of the organization may also stipulate other provisions that do not contravene the RA laws.

2. Each copy of the charter, or of the changes and amendments to the charter shall be signed by the authorized person of the organization and fastened in such a way that the seal of the state registration body put on the place of fastening assures the integrity of the charter.

3. If the charter of organization contravenes the laws, including newly adopted ones, the organization is obliged on the next meeting of its supreme body to bring its charter into accordance with the provisions of laws, and until then the organization shall operate in accordance with the provisions of laws.

4. The charter of the organization acquires legal force at the moment of state registration of the organization.

The changes and (or) amendments to the charter of the organization or a new charter acquire legal force at the moment of their state registration.

The state registered changes and amendments of the charter of the organization form an inseparable part of that charter.

5. The change of the address of the organization's location within the borders of the same area does not require a change in the charter. The state registration body should be informed in the time frames stated in Article 16 of this law.

Article 12. State Registration of an Organization

1. The state registration of an organization, as well as registration of changes and amendments to the charter of an organization, or state registration of a new charter and state registration of dissolution (suspension of activities) of an organization shall be carried out in a manner prescribed for registration of legal entities, taking into account specific stipulations of this law.

2. For state registration, the organization shall submit the following documents to the state registration body:

- 1) An application for state registration of the organization;

- 2) The protocol of the organization's founders assembly, with the resolutions approving the charter of the organization; the election of authorized person from the organization and the decision to apply to the state registration body for state registration. Of these documents the resolution for applying to the state registration body shall be adopted not earlier than 60 calendar days from the date of handing over or delivering to the state registration body the documents mentioned in the Article hereof;
- 3) The founders', and if their number exceeds five, at least five of the founders' and the organizations' authorized persons' passport information: name, family name (at the will of the person also patronymic), date of birth (day, month and year), number and serial number of the passport, body which issued the passport, registration address, phone numbers and e-mail address;
- 4) At least two copies of the charter;
- 5) Receipt of the duty paid for state registration.

3. Within 21 days upon receiving all requested documents and making an entry in the main register, the state registration body is obliged to consider the registration application and either register the organization or reject its registration. If not all the requested documents are submitted or if they are illegible, or contain faults not related to the main content, the state registration body shall notify the organization in written form within the period of seven calendar days. In this case the terms for considering the registration of the organization set forth by this article, shall be suspended but not for more than for 10 days.

4. Application of an organization shall not be considered for state registration if the organization submits a statement of cancellation before the state registration body will make a decision regarding this.

5. The state registration of an organization is rejected if the requirements set forth in this law are not fulfilled. Those include cases:

- 1) When the organization did not fix the faults or did not apply to the state registration body for canceling its application within 10 calendar days after being notified that not all documents were presented or that they were illegible or contained faults not related to the main content.
- 2) When the name of the organization, short name (abbreviation) and the logos did not correspond to the requirements of Article 10 of this law.
- 3) When the presented charter contravenes the RA Constitution and laws.

6. In case of state registration of the organization the state registration body upon expiry of the term set for consideration of the application for state registration established in clause 3 of this law, shall send to the organization or give to its authorized person the certificate on state registration and all copies of the organization's charter approved by the state registration body except one, which shall be kept in the organization's state registration files.

7. Upon rejecting state registration, or removing registration from the agenda on the initiative of the organization, the state registration body, upon expiry of the term for state registration established in clause 3 of this law, should send to the organization or return to its authorized person the receipt of the state duty for state registration and all the copies of the

organization's charter, except one which shall be kept in the state organization's registration files. In case of rejection of registration, the state registration body shall notify the organization also in written form the grounds for rejecting state registration referring to corresponding legal norms.

8. Upon expiry of the term set for consideration of the application for state registration established in clause 3, in cases when the registration of the organization is not carried out and neither the organization has been rejected to be registered, and when the application for state registration is not removed from the agenda on the initiative of the organization, the organization is considered to be registered, and the state registration body within one day shall send to the organization or give to its authorized person the certificate on state registration and all copies of the organization's charter approved by the state registration body except one, which shall be kept in the organization's state registration files.

9. After the organization's state registration was rejected or when the application for state registration was removed from the agenda on the initiative of the organization, the organization may apply for registration to the state registration body at any time according to the procedure prescribed by the Article hereof.

10. The decision to reject the state registration of an organization may be appealed in the court.

11. The argument between the founders regarding the process of creation of the organization shall be solved through the court. The court, prior to making a decision, may suspend the duration of the time set for consideration of the application for state registration in the state registration body.

Article 13. State Registration of Amendments to the Charter of the Organization

1. For the state registration of changes and (or) amendments to the charter of the organization, or for the state registration of a new charter the organization shall submit to the state registration body the following documents:

- 1) An application for state registration;
- 2) Copy of the resolution of the supreme body to introduce changes and (or) amendments to its charter or to adopt a new charter;
- 3) At least two copies of changes and (or) amendments to the charter, or of the new charter;
- 4) Receipt of the state duty paid for state registration;

2. The state registration of changes and (or) amendments to the charter or the new charter of an organization shall be carried out in the manner and time frame stipulated by Article 12 of the law hereof. The charter shall be considered in full text, with due regard to changes and amendments.

Article 14. The Structure, Management and the Supreme Body of the Organization

1. The structure of the organization is stipulated by its charter and (or) by the decisions of its bodies corresponding to its charter.

The organization is managed through its bodies, which operate according to the law and to the organization's charter.

The bodies of the organization and their structure are formed according to the procedures stipulated by the law and the organization's charter.

The supreme body of the organization is its assembly (assembly, convention, summit, etc.), which has the authority to make the final decision on any matter concerning the activities of the organization.

2. The regular meeting of the organization shall be convened not less than once in two years, in the manner prescribed by the charter of the organization, in the form of joint meeting of its members, or via the telecommunication means, by drawing the appropriate protocol or by exchanging documents, which clearly show that the document comes from the person who is mentioned in the document as the author.

The charter of the organization may envisage the participation of all the organization's members or of their delegates, elected with the proportion determined according to the procedures envisaged by the charter, in the general assembly.

The participants shall be notified about the agenda, place, date and time of the beginning of work of the assembly by a registered letter, or by other ways envisaged by the charter of the organization, in terms stipulated by the charter, but no later than 14 days before the meeting.

3. In case of a valid demand from one third of the organization members or the supervising body (supervisor) of the organization, an extraordinary general meeting shall be convened in the period of 14 days and the participants shall be notified about the agenda, place, date and time of the meeting, in the manner prescribed for convening regular meetings and in the time frames envisaged by the charter, but no later than 3 days before the beginning of the meeting.

If the charter envisages the participation of delegates of the organization members in the meeting, and if it is not possible to elect new delegates within the time frames stated in this clause, the delegates who were elected to participate in the previous meeting of the organization shall take part in the extraordinary meeting.

4. The meeting of the organization shall be considered valid if convened in the manner prescribed by the charter, and if the number of participants exceeds the total number of all the members or the delegates stipulated by the charter, which may not be less than half of the total number.

5. The minutes of the general meeting of the organization shall be kept for the time stipulated by the charter of the organization, which may not be less than three year.

6. The supreme body of organization enjoys the exclusive authority:

- 1) To approve the organization's charter (if it was not approved by the founders assembly), the introduction of changes and (or) amendments to it, or approval of a new charter.
- 2) To approve the reports on the activities of the organization and on utilization of property.
- 3) To elect those bodies, which are subordinate and accountable exclusively to the supreme body (if the organization has bodies other than the supreme body), including the election of the body which shall carry out supervision of the activities of the organization; to introduce changes to the staff or premature termination of the authority of those bodies, meanwhile the duration of their authorities may not exceed the time period envisaged by the charter for the convention of regular meeting of the organization.
- 4) To make decision on restructuring the organization; to approve the act on devolving property or the balance sheet on division of property, except restructuring by the decision of the court.

5) To make decision on dissolving the organization, except cases when decision on dissolution is made by court.

6) To solve other issues, if the charter of the organization envisages the solution of those issues exclusively by the supreme body.

The supreme body of the organization cannot delegate its right on adopting a decision on exclusive issues to other bodies of the organization.

7. The general meeting of the organization shall make decisions in the manner prescribed by the charter of the organization.

Decision on the issue of the exclusive authority of the supreme body shall be accepted, if more than half of the members of the organization or of all the delegates have voted for this decision, and if the law or the organization's charter does not envisage a larger number of votes for the adoption of this decision.

8. If during the activities of the organization or during the general meeting some situation arises that is not regulated by the charter of the organization, the issues shall be solved by the decision of the supreme body.

Article 15. Rights of the Organization

1. For the implementation of its statutory goals, in the manner prescribed by the law, the organization has the right:

- 1) To disseminate information about its activities;
 - 2) To organize and carry out peaceful meetings, rallies, marches and demonstrations without weapons;
 - 3) To represent and defend the rights and lawful interests of itself and its members in other organizations, before court, the state and local self-governance bodies;
 - 4) To cooperate with other non-commercial organizations, including international and foreign non-governmental non-commercial ones; as well as to form unions with those organizations or become a member (participant) of the unions formed by them, pertaining its independence and the status of legal entity for the purpose of carrying out systemized activities, representing and protecting common interests;
 - 5) To establish separate sub-units: branches and representations, in the manner prescribed by its charter;
 - 6) To establish commercial organizations or participate in such organizations.
2. The law may also stipulate other rights of organization.

Article 16. Obligations and Responsibilities of the Organization

The organization is obliged:

- 1) Upon request of any person and within reasonable time frames, that should not exceed 7 calendar days, to give the person an opportunity to get acquainted with the charter of the organization;
- 2) To keep office and accounting records in the manner prescribed by the law;
- 3) To keep personnel records of its members;

- 4) To submit for approval to a general meeting of organization the reports on its activities and on utilization of its property, not less than once in two years, guaranteeing the publicity of those reports;
 - 5) To submit to the state bodies reports and information in the manner and cases stipulated by the law;
 - 6) Upon well-grounded demand of the state authorized body in the field of justice of the Republic of Armenia (hereafter referred to as state authorized body) within reasonable time frames to provide the latter with other documents concerning the activities of the organization, and to allow the representatives of that body to be present at the general meeting of the organization.
 - 7) To apply to the state registration body within the period of one month following the creation or dissolution of separate subdivisions or institutions, for their registration or withdrawal from the records, in the manner prescribed by the law;
 - 8) In case if the official entitled with the right to represent the organization without power of attorney has changed and (or) if the legal address of the organization has changed, to submit to the state registration body, within the period of 14 calendar days, the passport information of the newly elected person and (or) the information on the new legal address of the organization.
2. The law may stipulate other obligations of the organization.
3. For carrying out illegal activities the organization and its officials bear responsibilities stipulated by the law.

Article 17. Property of the Organization

1. The organization's property comes from membership fees; grants; donations; from activities carried out in the manner prescribed by the law, and from other sources not prohibited by the law, including foreign ones.

2. Property devolved to the organization, by proprietary rights, by the founders of the organization and its members, as well as all property obtained through other sources shall be considered as the property of the organization.

The organization shall possess, use and manage its property for the fulfillment of and according to its statutory goals, in the manner prescribed by its charter and the law.

The founders and members of the organization do not have proprietary rights over the property devolved to the organization (including membership fees). They do not bear responsibility for the liabilities of the organization, and the organization does not bear responsibility for the liabilities of its members.

3. The property of an organization shall not be distributed among its founders and members.

Article 18. Supervision of Organization's Activities

1. The charter of the organization may stipulate the procedures for supervision of activities of the organization.

If the charter of an organization envisages the formation of a supervising committee (supervisor), the annual reports on activities of organization and utilization of property shall be submitted for approval to the supreme body along with the conclusions of the relevant supervising committee (supervisor).

2. The supervising committee (supervisor) of the organization is authorized:
 - 1) At any time to carry out inspection of financial activities of the organization;
 - 2) To check all the documents pertaining to the activities of the organization and, in the manner prescribed by the charter of the organization, to present suggestions for obligatory discussions to the organization bodies;
 - 3) Require and receive oral or written information from the officials, members and the workers of the organization;
 - 4) Exercise other authority arising from the charter of the organization or from the resolutions of its supreme body.

3. The state authorized body, and in cases stipulated by law also other state bodies, shall supervise the compliance of organization's activities to the law, according to the range of their authority and to the procedures envisaged by law for their inspections and observations.

4. In cases when such violations of law have been discovered, that can be rectified by proper measures undertaken by the organization, the state authorized body shall warn the organization in written form, suggesting the order and the terms for fixing the violations.

Article 19. Reorganization of the Organization.

1. The reorganization of a public organization (merger, unification, division, separation, restructuring) shall be implemented upon the decision of its supreme body. The reorganization of an organization on a base of a court decision shall be implemented only in cases and in the order stipulated by the law.

The organization may merge with another organization (organizations).

The organization may join to another organization.

The organization may be joined by another organization (organizations).

The organization may be divided into other organizations.

An organization (organizations) may be separated from the organization.

The organization may be restructured into other legal-organizational forms of public associations or into a foundation.

2. As a result of the organization's (organizations') reorganization, the changes and (or) amendments to their charters or the termination of activity, as well as the newly established legal entities shall obtain state registration in accordance with the procedures stipulated by the law.

Article 20. Dissolution of Organization.

1. The dissolution of a public organization leads to the termination of its activities, without devolving its rights and obligations to other persons through legal succession. The organization is considered dissolved and its activities terminated, from the moment of state registration of the termination of activities.

2. A public organization may dissolve voluntarily upon the decision of its supreme body, including expiration of the terms for which the organization was founded or accomplishment of objectives for which the organization was established.

3. Only the court may adopt a decision on compulsory dissolution of a public organization, at the request of the state authorized body and only at the presence of grounds stipulated by the law.

4. The dissolution of an organization shall be carried out according to the order and conditions envisaged by the law for the dissolution of legal entities.

5. After dissolution of the organization the property, which remains after satisfying the creditors' claims, shall be used for the achievement of the organization's statutory goals and if this is not possible the property shall be transferred to the state budget.

6. Within the period of 10 days after the implementation of the decision of the organization's supreme body, other organization bodies and the dissolution committee on dissolving the organization, any member of the organization has the right to appeal this decision in the court. In this case the court, by its decision, may suspend the implementation of the disputed decision, until the court examination of the case is finished.

7. The state registration of dissolution of an organization shall be carried out in the manner prescribed for state registration of dissolution of legal entities.

Article 21. Grounds For Compulsory Dissolution of an Organization.

1. The state authorized body may file a lawsuit with a request to dissolve an organization in the following cases:

- 1) When the activities of an organization are aimed at the forced overthrow of the RA constitutional order, incitement of ethnic, racial and religious hatred, or propaganda of violence and war
- 2) When an organization has committed numerous or gross violations of law, or carried out activities contravening its statutory purposes.
- 3) When the founder (founders) or the authorized person of the organization has committed gross violations or breaches of law while founding the organization.

2. The legal procedures stipulated by the Article hereof shall be applied, if other means of eliminating the violations of law have produced no results or have proved to be exhausted.

3. An organization may also be dissolved as a result of bankruptcy.

Article 22. International Relations of an Organization

An organization, in accordance with its charter, may become a member of international and foreign non-governmental non-commercial organizations, and may have other international relations.

An organization, in accordance with its charter, may found separate subdivisions in foreign states, in conformity with the legislation of those states, unless international treaties adopted by the Republic of Armenia stipulate otherwise.

Article 23. Activities of Separate Subdivisions of International and Foreign Non-governmental Non-commercial Organizations in the Republic of Armenia.

1. Provisions of the given law, regulating activities of the organizations, shall also expand on activities of separate subdivisions (branches, representations) international and foreign non-governmental non-commercial organizations operating in RA.

2. Separate subdivisions of international and foreign non-governmental non-commercial organizations (branches, representations) operating in RA shall not have the status of a legal entity, shall be registered in the manner prescribed by the RA law and shall act on behalf of the founder and on the basis of charter approved by the latter, which shall not contravene the legislation of RA. Activities of foregoing organizations may be terminated upon the decision of the founder, as well as the ruling of court upon request of the state authorized body, in the presence of grounds stipulated by Article 21 hereof.

3. Property remained after termination of activities (dissolution) of the separate subdivisions of international and foreign non-governmental non-commercial organizations operating in the Republic of Armenia shall be deemed as a property of the founders.

Article 25. Concluding Provisions

1. This law shall enter into force from the moment of its official publication.

2. The entering into force of this law does not require the obligatory re-registration of organizations, separate subdivisions and institutions.

3. The provisions of this law prevail over the charters of organizations, as well as their separate subdivisions and institutions.

4. From the moment this law enters into force the law of the Republic of Armenia "On Public Organizations", adopted on October 22, 1996, shall be considered invalid.

**President of the Republic of Armenia
R. Kocharyan**

**Yerevan
December 24, 2001**