A 506

I assent.

(L.S.) **MYRIAM SPITERI DEBONO**
President

22nd July, 2025

ACT No. XIX of 2025

AN ACT to amend the Malta Council for Economic and Social Development Act, Cap. 431.

BE IT ENACTED by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the House of Representatives, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:-

Short title.

Cap. 431.

1. The short title of this Act is the Malta Council for Economic and Social Development (Amendment) Act, 2025 and this Act shall be read and construed as one with the Malta Council for Economic and Social Development Act, hereinafter referred to as the "principal Act".

Amendment of article 2 of the principal Act.

2. Article 2 of the principal Act shall be amended as follows:

(a) immediately before the definition "civil society" there shall be added the following new definition:

" "Chief Executive Officer" means the Chief Executive Officer of the Council appointed in accordance with article 7;"

(b) immediately after the definition "Council" there shall be added the following new definition:

" "Forum" means the Young Shapers Forum as established by article 6B;".

3. Immediately after sub-article (6) of article 4 of the principal Act there shall be added the following new sub-article: Amendment of article 4 of the principal Act.

"(7) The Chief Executive Officer shall attend for all Council meetings in his capacity as Chief Executive Officer and shall also act as secretary of the Council, and shall have the duty to ensure that a record of all minutes and decisions taken during such meetings is kept, which minutes shall be drafted by the Chief Executive Officer or a person delegated by him:

Provided that the Chief Executive Officer shall not have the right to vote during such meetings.".

4. Immediately after article 6A of the principal Act there shall be added the following new article: Addition of new article to the principal Act.

"Young Shapers Forum.

6B. (1) There shall be a Young Shapers Forum which shall, as much as possible, be representative of children aged between eleven (11) and (15) years, in order to promote the active participation of the said children in relation to issues of sustainable national economic and social development for future generations**.**

(2) The Forum shall be composed of five (5) members, appointed by the Minister upon the advice of the Commissioner for Children and shall be listed in a register held by the Commissioner for Children.

(3) The members of the Forum shall consist of children aged between eleven (11) and fifteen (15) years, representing all schools in Malta, provided that where possible these children shall represent the island of Gozo and various demographies.

(4) The Forum shall have the following functions which shall be carried out in relation to the sustainable national economic and social development for future generations:

(a) assist and provide its views to the Council in the promotion of active civic engagement of children aged between eleven (11) and (15) years and the well-being of future generations;

(b) provide its views to the Council in those issues which are referred by the Council to the Forum;

(c) facilitate intergenerational dialogue and cooperation to address issues which are of interest to children aged between eleven (11) and (15) years and the Council.

(5) Appointments of all members to the Forum shall be made for a period of one (1) year which commences on the date of appointment, and members may be reappointed.

(6) The Forum shall be invited by the Council at least five (5) times a year, to present the views of the Forum and to discuss matters referred to it by the Council.".

Substitution of article 7 of the principal Act.

5. Article 7 of the principal Act shall be substituted by the following new article:

"Chief Executive Officer.

7. (1) The Minister shall appoint a Chief Executive Officer, who among his responsibilities shall be responsible for the implementation of the objectives of the Council in the exercise of its functions and without prejudice to such generality shall:

(a) assume full responsibility for the exercise of his powers under the direction of the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry responsible for social dialogue;

(b) assume full responsibility for the administration and organisation and the administrative control of the officers and employees of the Council and for such purpose, assign to each officer or employee such duties as may be required;

(c) direct and assume final responsibility for any logistics relating to Council meetings and events;

(d) assume responsibility for all operations relating to external communication and public relations in connection with the work being carried out by the Council, provided that the consent of the Council shall be obtained prior to the publication of any statement on behalf of the constituted bodies of the Council;

(e) develop the necessary strategies for the implementation of objectives of the Council and the Committee and take the necessary actions for the implementation of such;

(f) provide the necessary support, being both administrative and secretarial, required by the Council, the Committee or any subcommittee that the Council may appoint from time to time;

(g) ensure the provision of all information required by the Council and, or the Committee, as may be required, for the effective carrying out of their functions;

(h) provide information and carry out preparatory work for the purpose of the Council's budget proposals, accounts and activity reports of the Council, and oversee and assess the execution of these tasks;

(i) ensure that the Council and its committees operate in adherence to the Government financial regulations;

(j) advise the Council on any matter that it may refer to him or on any matter which he considers necessary or expedient;

(k) ensure that as far as possible, the Council and the organs under its remit are provided with accessibility to the research and resources necessary for them to perform their duties;

(l) draft the agenda of the Council in accordance with the guidance and requests of the members of the Council, in conformity with article 5(3);

(m) ensure the maintenance of direct communication between the members of the Council and the officers or employees of the Council.

(2) The appointment of the Chief Executive Officer shall be for a period of three (3) years which may be renewed, and under such terms and conditions as the Minister may establish.

(3) In the case that the Chief Executive Officer is a public officer seconded from the Government, the officer shall have the right, on the termination of secondment, to revert to the former post without any loss of rank or seniority.".

Deletion of article 9 of the principal Act.

6. Article 9 of the principal Act shall be deleted.

Amendment of article 10 of the principal Act.

7. Article 10 of the principal Act shall be amended as follows:

(a) sub-articles (1) and (2) thereof shall be deleted;

(b) sub-article (3) thereof shall be substituted by the following new sub-article:

"(3) Cheques drawn on, and cash withdrawals made from, any bank account of the Council shall be effected in accordance with the Public Procurement Regulations in force.";

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(c) sub-article (4) thereof shall be deleted;

(d) immediately after sub-article (4) thereof there shall be added the following new sub-article:

"(5) The Council and all the bodies mentioned in articles 5A to 6A, including Committees and sub-committees, shall operate in accordance with the financial laws applicable to the Government.".

Substitution of article 11 of the principal Act.

8. Article 11 shall be substituted by the following new article:

"Contracts of supply of works and services.

11. The Council and all bodies mentioned in articles 5A to 6A, including Committees and sub-committees, shall comply with all the applicable laws in respect of public procurement and public contracts.".

Substitution of article 13 of the principal Act.

9. Article 13 shall be substituted by the following new article:

"Accounts and audit.

13. (1) The Chief Executive Officer shall ensure that proper accounts and other records in respect of the operations of the Council are kept, and shall ensure that a statement of accounts in respect of each financial year is prepared.

(2) The accounts of the Council shall be audited by an auditor appointed by the Chief Executive Officer:

Provided that the Minister responsible for finance may, after consultation with the Minister, require the books and other accounts of the Council to be audited or examined by the Auditor General who shall, for this purpose, have the power to carry out such physical checking and other verifications as may be deemed necessary.

(3) After the end of each financial year and in any case not later than the date on which the estimates of the Council are forwarded to the Minister, the Chief Executive Officer shall ensure that a copy of the statement of accounts duly audited be transmitted to the Prime Minister, to the Minister responsible for finance and to the Minister, together with a copy of any report made by the auditors on that statement or on the accounts of the Council.

(4) The Minister shall, as soon as possible, and in any case not later than eight (8) weeks after receiving a copy of every such statement and report, or if at any time during that period the House of Representatives is not in session, within eight (8) weeks from the beginning of the next following session, cause a copy of every such statement and report to be laid on the Table of the House of Representatives.

(5) The financial year of the Council shall commence on the 1st January and shall end on the 31st December of every calendar year:

Provided that the accounts of the Council for the year 2025, shall cover the period from September 2024 to December 2025.".

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Passed by the House of Representatives at Sitting No. 368 of the 16th July, 2025.

ANĠLU FARRUGIA
Speaker

ELEANOR SCERRI
Clerk of the House of Representatives

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