

**NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT
ACTION PLAN**

The action plan is divided by sectors as they relate to the six pillars of the strategy; respect for human rights, citizenship and rule of law, political participation, legislative reform, youth and education, and free media.

SECTOR: YOUTH					
OBJECTIVE	PROGRAMS	MECHANISM	ENTITY	TIMEFRAME	OUTCOME
Enhance youth participation in the political process and institute a culture of debate, dialogue, respect for the other, and pluralism.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Awareness workshops that would deepen the culture of volunteerism and debate. - Awareness workshops that would raise awareness on the concept of political activity, deepen the culture of political participation, and ensure a citizenry well informed of their duties and obligations. - Build communication channels with the youth to address their aspirations and challenges facing them through adopting a youth dialogue with the aim to enhance political and societal participation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Committees - Workshops - Focus groups - Legislations 	<p>These programs need to incorporate representatives from all branches of the government and the civil society including the private sector, each in their respective area of specialty as it relates to political development.</p> <p>Those include: the Ministry of Political and Parliamentary Affairs, the Ministry of Education, the Higher Council for Youth, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, among others.</p>	Rolling - Year round	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An enlightened democratic generation that believes in diversity and democratic transition of power. - A narrowed trust gap with the government - Increased youth political participation

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SECTOR: POLITICAL PARTICIPATION & POLITICAL PARTIES

The Jordanian Constitution safeguarded freedoms of opinion and expression within the limits of the law. And stipulated their right to gather within the limits of the law. These freedoms are the essence of political life in its legal term. In order to ensure that the law does not limit these freedoms or hinder them there is a need to draft a law that regulates political life in Jordan based on the articles of the constitution where by freedom to engage in politics is guaranteed by the law.

OBJECTIVE	PROGRAMS	MECHANISM	ENTITY	TIMEFRAME	OUTCOME
Arrive at an environment conducive to active party life.	Workshops aimed at enhancing and encouraging women, youth, and persons with disabilities involvement in party and political life.	- Workshops	Parliament, Ministry of Political and Parliamentary Affairs, Higher Council for Youth, Independent Election Commission, Civil Society, National Women Commission, National Center for Human Rights, among others.	Year round with special focus on election rounds	Active participation in party life by all segments including youth, women, and person's with disabilities.
	Capacity building programs, including campaigning and communication skills.	- Workshops - Training - Funding			
	Institute a mechanism that ensures an active role for parties in political development based on the notion of complementing the government rather than competing with it.	- Legislations - Committees			

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	<p>Review all legislations dealing with political participation, this includes, but is not limited to, the Political Parties Law and the Elections Law. (Addressed in more detail in the section on legislation)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Legislation - Committees 			
	<p>Review legislations that hinder women’s active participation in political life (Addressed in more detail in the section on legislation) and develop partnerships with civil society organizations that are able to supplement decision makers with programs and measures that advance women’s status inline with Jordan’s international commitments.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Legislation - Committees 			
	<p>Allow party life on university campus</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Legislation 			

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	Empower local and municipal councils to help reduce pressure on Parliament and allow the letting go of the mentality of “service Deputy”.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Legislation- Workshops- Funding			
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SECTOR: CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

Civil Society must be empowered. CSOs and the government need to work together and forge partnerships to develop a shared vision of the objectives and mechanisms for the next stage of reform to make political reform a success. Measures to eliminate mistrust between the government institutions and CSOs must be introduced, including the removal of all legal and political obstacles and to extend support to CSOs in national priority areas. Further, CSOs must be empowered through capacity building, working with grassroots, building coalitions, and lobbying.

OBJECTIVE	PROGRAMS	MECHANISM	ENTITY	TIMEFRAME	OUTCOME
<p>Enhance CSOs role as partners in political development process.</p> <p>Encourage citizen participation in CSOs and their activities at the local level.</p> <p>Representation of CSOs in municipal councils.</p> <p>Institute communication channels with CSOs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Engaging with CSOs throughout the country through dialogue, town hall meetings and other outreach tools. - Workshops and programs aimed at local governance and the CSOs role in promoting it. - Forming a committee to develop the necessary legislation to ensure CSOs representation on municipal councils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Workshops - Focus groups - Training - Legislation 	<p>Committee to develop legislations to be formed immediately from relevant ministries and CSO representative.</p>	<p>Year round.</p>	<p>Active participation of CSO in the democratic process as well as enhanced citizen participation in CSO resulting in widening the decision making process at both the national and local levels.</p>

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SECTOR: WOMEN					
OBJECTIVE	PROGRAMS	MECHANISM	ENTITY	TIMEFRAME	OUTCOME
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Encourage and enhance women's participation in political life at both the local and national level. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Workshops aimed all segments of society to ensure knowledge and understanding of women's role in the political life and streamline gender in institutions, CSOs, and political parties - Capacity building workshops for women with special focus on the rural areas. - Awareness campaigns aimed at families and households to ensure gender mainstreaming through upbringing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Legislation - Workshops - Outreach campaigns 	Ministry of Political and Parliamentary Affairs, Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Ministry of Social Development, National Women Commission, Higher Council of Youth, Ministry of Education, National Center for Human Rights, Independent Election Commission, CSO representatives, among others relevant in the field	Workshops, outreach campaigns, capacity building – year round.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Revised legislations inline with international standards. - Enhanced women participation in political life. - Deepened societal understanding and acceptance of women as leaders and part of the decision making process.

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	<p>- Form a committee on the national level to revise all laws and regulations that limit women's active political participation. Also the same committee to be tasked with revisiting the education curricula with the aim of eliminating negative stereotypes of women and instilling a culture of equal opportunity regardless of gender.</p>	<p>- Committee - Legislation</p>	<p>The committee needs to include representatives of civil society organizations, human rights organizations, the media, and all ministries of relevance including Awaqaf, Municipalities, Political and Parliamentary Affairs, Education, and Justice</p>	<p>Committee to be formed immediately for a period of six month. Present a report with concrete recommendations for immediate implementation</p>	
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SECTOR: MEDIA

There is a need to revise media legislation. Laws have to be inline with international human rights principles, and guaranteeing freedoms of speech and expression. To promote freedom of the press, article 15 of the constitution needs to be fully activated.

OBJECTIVE	PROGRAMS	MECHANISM	ENTITY	TIMEFRAME	OUTCOME
<p>A free, independent, and responsible media that address the concerns of the people and functions as the fourth authority of a system of checks and balances.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limit state ownership of media to a certain percentage and introduce a by-law to separate ownership from editorial control. - Prevent state censorship of the media and interference in its work. - Abolish mandatory membership in the Jordan Press Association in compliance with article 20 of the International Human Rights Declaration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Legislation - Committee - National dialogue - Training 	<p>Ministry of Political and Parliamentary Affairs, Higher Council for the Media, Journalists and opinion leaders, Civil Society organizations, National Center for Human Rights.</p>	<p>Immediate and to conclude in 6 months</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased credibility of the government and a narrowed trust gap between the citizenry and the state. - Transparency and accountability

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SECTOR: EDUCATION

For democracy to thrive, it needs to exist in a culture that is committed to pluralism. Education reform has thus far focused on quantity rather than quality. Efforts need to move well beyond the quantity to deal with the content of the curricula. Students need to be encouraged to think independently and critically where diversity of opinion is encouraged rather than suppressed. There is a need to move beyond the indoctrination to training people to be thinkers and innovators.

OBJECTIVE	PROGRAMS	MECHANISM	ENTITY	TIMEFRAME	OUTCOME
	Establish a National Commission for Accreditation and Quality Assurance of Education Institutions to uphold quality standards throughout the educational system.	Legislation	Ministry of Education, Ministry of Higher education, Universities	Started	
	Improve the quality of basic and secondary education and ensure the promotion of pluralism and diversity. This would entail the incorporations of the notion of citizenship, democracy, pluralism and human rights. Further the education system needs to promote critical and	Committee to overhaul the education system	Ministry of Education, Ministry of Higher Education, Ministry of Parliamentary and Political Affairs, Higher Council for Youth among others	Immediate and conclude task with recommendation in 6 months	

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	creative thinking. (courses proposed: critical thinking courses, new way of teaching history, communication skills, etc) (Upgrade the national education and military science courses in schools and universities adopt an interactive approach rather than lecture style)				
	Increase private sector involvement.	Social Corporate Responsibility		Year round	
	Approve a comprehensive strategy for higher education.			Immediate and to conclude in 6 months	
	Revise universities' admission policies.				
	Upgrade skills of faculty and administration at universities.	Capacity building, training workshops, and incentives		Year round	

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	Synchronizing all national efforts at educational reform under the umbrella of this strategy, whereby ad-hoc initiatives are not the norm but the exception.			Parallel with other to improve education	
	Create consultative councils for all faculties with the memberships of current students and alums as stakeholder in contributing to the development and improvement of the educational quality and environment. As well as ensuring student membership on the University Council and Faculty of Student Affairs Council			Immediate and ongoing	
	Abolishing legislations and regulations that hinder or limit political activity on campus – which could be a way to curb and end university	- Committee - Legislation	Parliament, Ministry of Political and Parliamentary Affairs, Higher Council of Youth	To revise all legislations within a period of 6 months	

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	violence phenomenon.				
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SECTOR: CITIZENSHIP AND RULE OF LAW

Rule of law should be the guiding force in all dealings and enforced without discrimination. Everyone should answer to the same law and no one is above the law

OBJECTIVE	PROGRAMS	MECHANISM	ENTITY	TIMEFRAME	OUTCOME
Citizenship should be the overriding principle that unites all Jordanians. It needs to be promoted in schools, the educational curricula, and universities as well as within public institutions.	To enhance knowledge of rights and obligations as prescribed in the constitution.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Awareness workshops. - Advocacy campaign 		Year round	A culture of meritocracy where all are equal under the law regardless of origin, ethnicity, religion, or gender.
	Empower civil society organizations and increase communication and contact with all segments of society to further boost the civil societies capacity to participate in political life.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Workshops - Technical and financial assistance 	Ministry of Social Development, Ministry of Political and Parliamentary Affairs	Year round	
	The civic and national education curricula need to be revamped in a way that promotes those concepts and shifts the teaching method from lecturing to interacting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Committee - Workshops 	Ministry of Education, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Parliamentary and Political Affairs, Independent Election Commission, National Center for Human Rights, Civil Society,	Immediate with the aim to have an outline of a revamped curricula within 6 months	

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			public and private sector		
	The establishment of clubs that promote awareness and knowledge of the concept.		Ministry of Parliamentary and Political Affairs, Higher Council for Youth	Immediate and year round	

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SECTOR: HUMAN RIGHTS

Basic human rights and freedoms include the right to free expression, and right to form associations and assemble peacefully, freedom from intimidation and threats. These rights must be available to people on an equal basis, without discrimination of any kind. Social justice is crucial to arrive at democracies. Jordan enjoys a relatively healthy human rights environment, but there is room for improvement.

OBJECTIVE	PROGRAMS	MECHANISM	ENTITY	TIMEFRAME	OUTCOME
<p>To streamline and ensure that all legislations are in line with the international conventions and treaties dealing with all aspects of human rights.</p>	<p>Spread knowledge and awareness of international treaties Jordan is signatory to.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Workshops - Legislation - Awareness raising and advocacy campaigns 	<p>Ministry of Parliamentary and Political Affairs, National Center for Human Rights, civil society organizations, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Education</p>	<p>Year round</p>	<p>A popular sense of social justice</p>
	<p>Raise awareness and educate citizens on the concepts of human rights and respect of other points of view thus arriving at a tolerant community that believe in and respects pluralism.</p>				
	<p>Ensure the right to equal opportunity is safeguarded and process is transparent. Be in hiring, education, or assigning and executing national contracts.</p>				

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SECTOR: LEGISLATION

Legislation alone cannot achieve the objectives of establishing justice; it becomes meaningless if not matched with guarantees for implementation. Further, it requires constant updating and development in order to respond to the needs of the times.

OBJECTIVE	PROGRAMS	MECHANISM	ENTITY	TIMEFRAME	OUTCOME
<p>Modern legislations that meet Jordan's obligations to international commitments and enhance political life and culture in Jordan, and aims to strengthen and guarantee citizens' rights and freedoms, achieve equality among them, and organize the relationship with the state.</p>	<p>Reinforce the participation of Members of the Lower House of Parliament (MPs) in drafting legislation by giving them adequate time to examine and rule on issues pertaining to legislation by provide the offices of MPs with logistical and technical support as well as expertise.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Legislation - Capacity building - Funding - Dialogue - workshops 	<p>Parliament, government, judiciary, bar association, civil society, private and public sector</p>	<p>All laws need be revised within a period of 6 months and recommendation s presented for immediate implementation.</p> <p>With regards to the Elections Law, Parties Law, and Municipalities Law, education Law, and Labor Law, these most definitely need to be done before parliamentary and municipal</p>	<p>Legislations in line with international standards, safeguarding the rights of all citizens to public life and social justice, and conducive to a healthy political democratic process</p>
	<p>Develop the commission delegated with drafting legislation in the executive authority through: Re-examining laws governing the work and structure of the</p>				

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	<p>Legislation and Opinion Bureau, to ensure independence of its staff and help it carry out its responsibilities. Amending its by-law to guarantee the separation of its legislative responsibility from the task of providing opinions and rulings, in view of the risk that arises from combining both tasks, and in order to ensure total independence and impartiality in the process of drafting legislation.</p>			<p>elections with enough time for the laws to have taken effect.</p>	
	<p>Establish an independent commission to develop and modernize legislations; namely the Elections Law, Political Parties Law, Press and Publications Law, Union Law, Municipalities Law, education Law, and Labor Law (as indicated in the strategy document)</p>				

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	<p>Set general guidelines, instructions and principles that should be followed when drafting legislation, the most important being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Legislative amendments shall aim to achieve increased protection and greater respect for human rights, as stipulated in international charters and conventions. With specific focus on ensuring equality and removing all forms of discrimination against women in Jordanian laws and legislations.- Promote principles of national pride, objectivity and tolerance, and reject sectarianism, fanaticism and racism.- Reinforce the rule of law whose objective is ensuring public interest, equality and				
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	<p>equal opportunity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Abide by the provisions of international agreements when issuing or amending legislation.				
	<p>Judiciary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ensure judicial independence by reinforcing the constitutional principle that stipulates that judges are independent and are subject to no authority when dispensing their duties, except that of the law- Ensure an independent budget for the judiciary.- Endorse special criteria and procedures in appointing judges.- Ensure continuous training of judges. Particular with regards to freedom of press and women related matters.- Leverage the judicial upgrade strategy				

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	developed by the Ministry of Justice.				
	- Reinforce the authority of the Bar Association to enable it to carry out its duties and keep abreast with developments in the profession.				

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IMMEDIATE ACTION

The immediate challenges should not distract Jordan from seeking the long-term benefits of democratization, which will also contribute to its internal stability. There needs to exist a national debate that involves all stakeholders, even those who insist on excluding themselves, through which the concept of citizenship as the founding factor of democracy can be defined, promoted and truly owned by all stakeholder, from the state to the individual. For any reform process to move forward the following must also be met

OBJECTIVE	PROGRAMS	MECHANISM	ENTITY	TIMEFRAME	OUTCOME
<p>A system of checks and balances where all are stakeholders with rights and duties.</p>	<p>The conclusion of a national, inclusive pact between the government and the people that would agree on guiding principles, including commitment to pluralism; political, religious and cultural, at all times and by all forces, commitment to the principle of peaceful rotation of power as decided by the electorate; the protection of personal and group rights; a commitment to pursue objectives by all forces through peaceful means; and finally a commitment to inclusion.</p>	<p>National Dialogue</p>	<p>Royal Court, the government, civil society, and private sector</p>	<p>Immediate</p>	<p>Popular ownership of the reform agenda.</p> <p>A strong government able to make the hard decisions needed under the umbrella of a national consensus as they are stakeholder with the government and share the responsibility.</p>

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	<p>A national dialogue to arrive at a clear definition of who is a Jordanian. It should be made clear that all Jordanians are equal before the law, as the Constitution explicitly states, and that the law should be applied equitably to all of them.</p>	<p>Special committee as a first step later to extend to a national dialogue with an official entity to adopt resolutions</p>	<p>The committee to include opinion leaders, community leaders, public and private sector, and civil society</p>	<p>Immediate</p>	
	<p>Corruption must be confronted. There needs to be an institutionalized mechanism through the law that would place a system of checks and balances that would make it more difficult for corrupt practices to take place and provide an institutional check on abuses when they occur.</p>	<p>Legislation</p>	<p>Anti-Corruption Commission</p>	<p>Immediate</p>	
	<p>An economic plan must be developed to free Jordanians of the rentier/patronage system and move the country toward a meritocracy that</p>	<p>Committee</p>	<p>Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Labor, Ministry of Political and Parliamentary Affairs, civil society and private sector</p>		<p>Such a plan would deal with the chronic problems of unemployment and dependence on external aid, taking</p>

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	would encourage productivity and result in a self-sustaining economy.				into consideration the needs of the less privileged through the provision of proper safety nets.
	A comprehensive national communications strategy on reform is very much needed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Technical assistance - Funding 	Royal Court, Ministry of Political and Parliamentary Affairs, Parliament, Higher Media Council	Immediate	
	A detailed communications strategy for parliament as well as strong research center is crucial to the well functioning of the legislative body.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Technical assistance - Funding 	Royal Court, Ministry of Political and Parliamentary Affairs, Parliament, Higher Media Council	Immediate	
	A national umbrella and action plan that would synchronize all reform efforts, without the need for ad-hoc initiatives including monitoring and evaluation units in each ministry to follow up on the implementation of recommendations and prepare regular public progress reports to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Committee - Regulations - Technical assistance 	Royal Court, government, civil society, public and private sector	Immediate	

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	ensure accountability.				
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