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RASED welcomes the arrival of the Draft Decentralization and Draft Municipal Laws at the legislative authority after conclusion of its preparation by the executive power. This is an essential part of the process of peaceful democratic transition and ensures sustainability of local and development in all governorates. Additionally and in parallel to this, it contributes to participatory decision-making and community accountability through access to real development as municipalities and decentralization are amongst the most fundamental pillars of total and qualitative democratic reform.

His Majesty the King advocated for this desired change during the opening of the Second Ordinary Session of the House of Representatives. Responsibility hereto falls upon on the legislative and executive powers, most important of which is the adoption of a set of legislative documents governing political and administrative life in Jordan. First of which is adoption of Decentralization and Municipal Laws through parties and conclusion of elections, where it is necessary for dialogue sessions with community and civil groups that are involved in the participatory process in decision-making to be available.

RASED commends the positive engagement between the government and civil society during the preparation period of the two laws, representing the formation of a complementary relationship between the government and civil society. Moreover it promoted the evolutionary process which led to the Decentralization Draft Law reaching the government in general and the Ministry of Interior Affairs in specific.

The current version as it was sent to the House of Representatives is the fourth amended version of this Decentralization Draft Law, RASED points out. The two draft laws have been amended after consultations and multiple activities initiated by the government with a number of civil society organizations. It is important to note that the current draft contains a number of positive changes which respond to the recommendations posed by the RASED team during the course of the cooperative year.

The House of Representatives has the favorable opportunity to work, develop and supplement the two draft laws. This opportunity is to be used in such a manner that contributes to the harmonization of decentralization and municipalities, and therein achieve adherence to best practices in the field of local administration.

RASED invites the legislative authority to initiate a national dialogue on the Decentralization and Municipal Laws so as to achieve sustainable development and incorporate community perspectives to attain equal opportunity and justice.

The sending of the two draft laws to the House on International Women's Day is an unequivocal message to the government and the House of Representatives to jointly preserve the right of female representation in the laws. In particular, RASED expresses its hope that the House will adopt integration of the women's quota in the Decentralization Law.

Given the importance of national dialogue, RASED will host the first national dialogues tomorrow, Tuesday March 10th, in Jerash Governorate in collaboration with the Local Development Directorate at the Ministry of Interior and the Administrative Committee in the House of Representatives.