

# Proposed Scenarios to Develop the Local Administration





## **1. Direct election for all members of the Governorate Councils and the allocation of the Gender Quota by 25%**

### **The Scenario Explained:**

This scenario sheds light on increasing Citizen Participation in the decision-making process, and assigning the citizens a task to choose members of the Governorate Councils for them. This scenario promotes justice and strengthens the citizens' following up process with the Councils' performances.

The scenario will maintain the current Administrative Organizational Structure that consists of a Governorate Council and an Executive Council. However, the scenario demands more amendments, reviews and objective evaluation for the Legislative frameworks which governs the Local Administration, in addition to developing it in alignment with the purpose of Decentralization.

Through this scenario, all members of the Governorate Councils will be directly elected by locals according to the divisions of the Electoral Districts and the specified number of seats for each Election District.

Moreover, this scenario also raises the representation of women to a minimum of 25% of the total number of the Governorate Councils' members. It also requires linking the Electoral Districts with the geographical boundaries of the Municipalities – taking into consideration reducing the number of seats in each electoral district.

### **The Requirements of the First Scenario:**

- Review and develop the Decentralization law based on the challenges and recommendations collected from the National Dialogue process.
- Develop a detailed plan that allows Ministries to delegate powers to Executive Councils. This detailed plan shall be linked to a timeline that demonstrates the powers that have been delegated each year, and in the same time, the education process of members of the Governorate Councils regarding blending their work with these powers.
- Distribute financial resources in accordance with the needs of the Governorates after preparing a needs assessment guide. Additionally, establish clear principles for preparing a Development Needs Guide.
- Build a special guide to determine the relationship between the Governorate Councils, Executive Councils and the Municipal Councils.
- Offer special Headquarters to Governorate Councils to promote independency for its members.

- Provide transportation for members of the Governorate Councils.
- Establish development units for the Governorate Councils – (Unlike development units in the governorates).

### **The Expected Opportunities:**

- What makes this scenario unique is that it is easy to apply; especially that the previous Decentralization law became familiar with the community and stakeholders.
- Enhancing the representation through electing all members of the Governorate Councils increases the locals' interests in participating in the electoral process. Additionally, it contributes to the promotion of participative decision-making at the local level.
- This scenario contributes to reducing the efforts of raising community awareness of the concept of Decentralization, considering that this scenario is very similar to the previously applied decentralization concepts.
- If an appointment process is canceled, this scenario limits the Central Government's from interfering with the work of the Governorate Councils, as the members will express the views and wishes of their voters, and in the same time, the voters will be watching them closely.

### **The Expected Challenges:**

- If the relationship's framework between the Governorate Councils and the Municipal Councils is not properly defined, both councils will be highly competitive.
- Failure to delegate powers will limit the success of decentralization
- If the powers delegated to the Governorate Councils won't be amended, their members won't feel independent as the law states.
- The legislations under the law, regulations and instructions should be amended so they won't be a challenge for the members of the Governorate Councils.
- If the structure of the Government departments and the representation mechanism in the Executive Councils won't be modified, then an obstacle in dealing with the members of the Executive Council would emerge.
- The absence of regulations and instructions that clarify the relationship between the Governorate Councils and the Executive Councils will affect the decision-making process and will cause decisions based on personal opinions to be taken; and this shall limit justice in dealing with members.

## 2. All members of the Governorate Councils are indirectly elected

### **The Scenario Explained:**

This scenario is different from the one before; as it will not allow citizens to directly vote for members of the Governorate Councils anymore. Direct election shall be replaced by indirect election- that revolves around the idea of attracting elected members in the institutions and commissions and forming them a Governorate Council.

The scenario shall take action in case no agreement was made in regards to canceling the idea of Governorate councils Elections (Decentralization). Where Governorate Councils will be formed by Mayors, The President of the Chamber of Commerce, The President of Jordan Chamber of Industry (if found), a representative of the Associations, a representative of the Union of Charity Organization, The President of the Student Union affiliated to the governorate, a female representative of the General Federation of Jordanian Women, a female representative of the Jordanian National Forum for Women, and any institution whose chairman is elected by election.

However, this scenario has some risks, such as the abolition of citizens' representation through the help of the electees from different institutions and commissions to form the Governorate Councils. This shall decrease the electoral democracy in Jordan. In addition, this shall form a challenge in choosing the Governorate Council Chairman and the Permanent Office members. On the other hand, this scenario have a few advantages like reducing the gaps between elected institutions in Jordan, and strengthening the coordination among organizations.

This scenario requires a totally new legislation for the Local Administration System, (whether for the Governorate Councils or Municipal Councils).

**The Expected Opportunities:**

- Practical and scientific experience that contribute to the enhancement of development work in particular and the success of the local management approach in general.
- Unifying efforts in local development and not implementing repetitive projects.
- Reducing the gaps between councils across the governorates.
- Improving the coordination in development work.
- Allowing the Governorate Councils to collect additional resources for local development (taxes or local fees and contributions from the community and the private sector).

**The Expected Challenges:**

- This scenario requires a change in national policies and new legislation that organizes the local authorities sector.
- Decreasing the representation of local citizens in the Governorate Councils, and not guaranteeing the representation of all regions.
- Not being neutral in regards to annual budgets and distributing projects according to the needs assessment.
- Minimizing the representation of women in the Governorate Councils – in comparison with the previous situation.
- Conflict of interest when selecting the Executive Office for the Governorate Council, especially since members that shall be selected will have biased opinions when taking decisions that revolve around the area, district or institution that these members come from.

### 3. Governorate council with direct and indirect election system

#### **The Scenario Explained:**

In order to avoid conflicts of interest and to achieve the objective of decentralization approach to properly and fairly distribute the resources, this scenario comes as an alternative to achieve participatory in developing the development process. This scenario aims to adopt a hybrid system from electoral systems, namely direct and indirect election.

This scenario is based on governorate council member's selection from the municipalities, national civil society institutions, Associations, charitable unions, national women's organizations and all institutions that have their own elections. 50% of the provincial council members to be selected depending on the indirect voting system and 50% by the direct voting system through the voting process, and this scenario requires a substantial legislative amendment, what is noteworthy in this scenario that it promotes coordination between the various councils and institutions in the provinces and contributes to the institutionalization of work development and building plans, strategies and needs guides.

This scenario, if implemented, requires amendments to the regulations and instructions within local authorities and local institutions to be consistent with the implementation of the mixed system scenario, also this scenario is free of direct appointment by the government, but this scenario does not have real women's representation as most of those who hold Local elected authorities and institutions are males and this will limit the presence of women in the leadership positions at the local level.

**The Expected Opportunities:**

- Consolidation of neutrality in practical practices through building a governorate council representative for all segments and community groups.
- The existence of practical and scientific experiences that contribute in promoting development work in particular and the success of the local management approach in general.
- Building the council through direct and indirect elections, which means that citizens have more than one opportunity to cast their votes to choose their candidates in the governorate council, municipalities and any institution in which any citizen can elect such as the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Associations and others.
- Efforts unification in the local development and not to repeat projects.
- Fair distribution of financial resources among all due to the presence of representatives of all regions and brigades.
- Limiting the executive office in the governorate council to the members that been chosen by direct election.
- There is no appointment for the members of the Governorate councils.

**The Expected Challenges:**

- Insufficient women representation.
- Reducing the real representation of citizens within the governorate councils.
- Fear of forming alliances pressured by members coming from one side against the elected.
- The number of municipalities is inconsistent with the principle of reducing the number of governorate council members.







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