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**RECENT CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS
IN JORDAN**

(2011 – March 2012)

by

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THE "ROAD MAP" FOR POLITICAL REFORM

INTRODUCTION

- Since 1989, Jordan has embarked on a wide range of political and economic reforms. The reform agenda gained momentum since H.M. King Abdullah's accession to the throne in 1999.
- Many initiatives were adopted. The National Agenda was considered a blueprint for reform. Yet, due to various circumstances including regional instability and the stalemate in the Peace Process, the pace of reform went through many ups and downs.

2011

March 14 The National Dialogue Committee (NDC) was set up with the main task of proposing draft laws for parliamentary elections and political parties.

March 22 H.M. the King has tasked the new government to speed up the political reform process.

March 23 The amended Public Meetings Law (*approved by Government in February 2011*) was adopted by the Parliament

May 5 The Royal Committee on Constitutional Reform (RCCR) was also set up to review and propose Constitutional amendments.

June 2011 The NDC completed its mandate and submitted its report to the Prime Minister on the 4th of June 2011. The report contains two draft laws: one on political parties, and the other on parliamentary elections. The report contains also a list of constitutional clauses that have to be revisited by the Royal Committee.

August 13 The Royal Committee submitted its recommendations on constitutional reforms, which proposed 42 constitutional amendments, including the establishment of an Independent Commission for Elections, and the Constitutional Court. The government has set up a drafting committee to reformulate the recommendations into legal texts.

September 1 A Royal decree calling for an extraordinary session to consider the constitutional amendments.

September 23 The two Chambers of Parliament endorsed the constitutional amendments.

December 27 The drafting committee finalized the draft law on the establishment of the Independent Commission for Elections and then approved by the government.

December 27 The draft law on the establishment of the Independent Commission was submitted to the Parliament .

2012

By the end of January 2012

- The draft law on Political Parties will be ready.

By the end of February 2012

- The amended Municipalities law expected to be adopted by the Parliament.

By the end of March 2012

- The draft Elections Law will be finalized, and then submitted to the Parliament.

By the end of June 2012

- Municipal Elections will be held.

Before the end of 2012:

- The Draft Elections Law will be endorsed;
- The Parliament will be resolved;
- The date for general elections will be set.

In line with the new constitutional amendments, the following are in process, the establishment of

- A Constitutional Court in charge of observing the compatibility of legislations with the constitution.
- An Administrative Court is in the process of being established as an instrument to enhance transparency in the Public Sector performance and to enhance the specialization of the Judiciary.