



The Reform Process of the Nineteenth Palestinian Government





Second Quarter Monitoring Report on:

**The Reform Process of
the Nineteenth Palestinian Government**

July 1st –September 30th, 2024



The Coalition for Accountability and Integrity (AMAN) would like to thank Researcher Ahmad “Ilayyan for preparing this report. Thanks, are also extended to Dr. Azmi Shuaibi, AMAN’s Board Advisor, as well as AMAN’s work team for supervising, reviewing and editing this report.

All rights reserved to the Coalition for Accountability and Integrity (AMAN).

For quotation, please refer to the publication as follows: Coalition for Accountability and Integrity (AMAN). 2024. Monitoring report. Second quarter. On the reform process of the nineteenth Palestinian government. Ramallah, Palestine.

The Coalition for Accountability and Integrity (AMAN) has exerted efforts to verify the information contained in this paper, and hence assumes no responsibility for the use of the information for purposes outside the context of the objectives of the paper after its publication.

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	4
Introduction	6
Focal Point 1: Social Welfare System in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip	9
1.1 Decisions and Authorization Issued by the Palestinian Council of Ministers	9
1.2 Government Committees	10
1.3 Government Strategies and Plans	11
1.4 Allocated Financial Budgets	11
Focal Point II: Public Finance and Fiscal Sustainability (economic stability, economic recovery)	12
2.1 Decisions and Authorizations Issued by the Palestinian Council of Ministers	12
2.2 Government Committees	13
2.3 Public Budget	13
Focal Point III: Institutional reform (Institutional restructuring and merging, Combating corruption)	16
3.1 Decisions and Authorizations Issued by the Palestinian Council of Ministers	16
3.2 Government Committees	17
3.3 Government Strategies and Plans	18
3.4 Allocated Financial Budgets	19
Focal Point 1V: Rule of law (Justice, Security, Freedom, Promotion of Democracy and Human Rights)	20
4.1 Decisions and Authorizations Issued by the Palestinian Council of Ministers	20
4.2 Government Strategies and Plans	21
4.3 Allocated Financial Budgets	21
Results	23
Sources and References	26

● Executive Summary

Reform strategies are necessary mechanisms that governments, administrations and institutions periodically resort to as a culmination of a planning phase and as an evaluation technique. This is due to the aim of reform seeking to overcome the challenges faced in the previous phase. Furthermore, reform also aims to define the various requirements for the next phase in terms of policies; procedures, legislative, executive and institutional measures, in addition to looking into the reality of the financial and human resources available to reform government's work in some of these areas. Aspects such as promoting integrity and combating corruption in public fund management; integrity of governance and requirements for a democratic transition; sustainable development that is responsive to the needs of citizens and enhances confidence in the political system etc. In this regard, political will is a must for success to counter desires of those who have personal interests in some centers of influence, and hence have no interest in reform/change.

The 19th Palestinian government held 13 regular sessions between July 1st and September 30th, 2024, in which 108 decisions were issued. 12 of these decisions, representing 10% of the total decisions, were related to relief, reconstruction and social welfare system for the West Bank and Gaza (WB&GA). The number of mandates of the Palestinian Council of Ministers (Council) related to these issues and system was only one. It was by assigning state institutions to intensify their work to meet the needs of citizens for emergency relief in the Gaza Strip (GS) within available possibilities, and to strengthen coordination with relief institutions operating in the GS.

With regard to finances and financial sustainability (economic stability, economic recovery, financial sector integrity), the number of decisions related to these matters amounted to 12 or 10% of all decisions issued by the Council. And although the Council did not issue any authorization related to public finances, the Decree Law amending the law on the remuneration and salaries of members of the PLC and governors was issued. This above-mentioned law directly relates to public funds, since it granted high officials in the Palestinian Authority (PA) (appointed with the rank of minister or head a government department) pension benefits equivalent to those assigned for ministers, members of the Legislative Council (PLC) and governors. This contradicts the government's orientations towards reform in terms of rationing operational expenses and adopting financial reform measures, which doubled the burden on the public treasury.

The Council also issued 14 decisions or 11% of the total decisions relating to institutional reform in the areas of (restructuring and integration of institutions, combating corruption, and upgrading services and digital transformation). While there was only one reform-related assignment, as follows:

1- Assigning the Ministry of Telecommunications and Digital Economy (Communication Ministry) the task of coordinating with the relevant authorities to provide public schools with high-quality Internet services to facilitate students' educational journey. Also, there were two decisions related to reform in general; and the approval of the recommendations by Standing Ministerial Reform Committee. In addition, a number of decree laws were issued that were directly or indirectly related to institutional reform (restructuring and integration of institutions, combating corruption, and upgrading services and digital transformation); these are:

- a. Decree Law No. (6) of 2024 regarding the separation of the industrial and national economy sectors.
- b. Decree Law No. (10) of 2024 amending the Decree Law No. (6) of 2018 and its amendments on Higher Education.
- c. Decree Law No. (11) of 2024 on the Cancellation of the Legal Personality and the Independent Financial Disclosure of the Risk Prevention and Agricultural Insurance Fund.

In regard to the rule of law (justice, security, freedom, promoting democracy and human rights), the Council issued a single separate decision, representing 1% of the total issued. Furthermore, no mandates were issued by Council during the monitoring period, neither did the Council issue any mandates concerning the rule of law; and in terms of openness to the media and communication with civil society organizations (CSO), the Council issued a separate decision in this regard.

● Introduction

Reform strategies are necessary mechanisms that governments, administrations and institutions periodically resort to as a culmination of a planning phase and as an evaluation technique. This is due to the aim of reform seeking to overcome the challenges faced in the previous phase. Furthermore, reform also aims to define the various requirements for the next phase in terms of policies; procedures, legislative, executive and institutional measures, in addition to looking into the reality of the financial and human resources available to reform government's work in some of these areas. Aspects such as promoting integrity and combating corruption in public fund management; integrity of governance and requirements for a democratic transition; sustainable development that is responsive to the needs of citizens and enhances confidence in the political system etc. In this regard, political will is a must for success to counter desires of those who have personal interests in some centers of influence, and hence have no interest in reform/change.

Government reform is considered key element in developing the political and economic systems, as it contributes to enhancing transparency and accountability within governments, as well as build effective administrative systems and strong institutions capable of improving public services and supporting economic development. It also plays a crucial role in promoting competitiveness and attracting investments, which contributes to the economic growth and job creation. Moreover, government reform is an essential part of supporting and promoting sustainable development by creating the necessary environment and tools for that. Therefore, understanding the importance of government reform is an indispensable step to achieve development and stability in societies.

The PA is suffering from a budget deficit crisis that is described as complex and severe, since it is manifold and negatively affecting the various components of Palestinian society. It is worth noting that the suffocating financial crisis is not the result of the genocide war on Gaza, since its causes and repercussions span over the past three decades. Regarding this matter, AMAN, in more than one of its previously issued reports, pointed out that policies of the last three Palestinian governments tried to address the budget deficit crisis and the accumulated debts by increasing revenues and reducing expenditures. However, these efforts failed, according to recent reports from the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF)¹.

The PA faced challenges and difficulties in the management of public affairs, both at the administrative and financial levels, which led to internal reform demands and initiatives calling for building effective and accountable Palestinian institutions, which was before any external international demands and attempts to reform PA institutions. As international demands emerged before the end of the interim period in 1999, and in particular by the United States of America (U.S), the official sponsor of the "peace process", and the European Union (EU), as the leading international funder to help build the capacity of PA institutions. It is worth noting that the internal Palestinian reform projects first crystallized during the term of the first legislature elected in 1996, who presented its reform proposal in 2002. It was followed by: The Hundred Days Plan of the Palestinian Government, The Reform Document Adopted by the CSOs and Private Sector in 2003, The Palestinian Governmental Reform and Development Plan (2008-2010), and The Government National Reform Agenda (2017-2023). These reform projects focused on adopting binding policies and practices that are based on respecting the rule of law, strengthening governance, and avoiding the risks of corruption, as a necessary entry point to end the occupation and establish an independent and democratic Palestinian state².

¹ Coalition for Accountability and Integrity (AMAN). 2024. Areas of spending cuts and revenue increases to face the current financial crisis. Ramallah-Palestine.

² Position Paper-AMAN: The PA's Renewed Demand: Method to Buy Time in the Framework of Conflict Management and Perpetuation of the Occupation, published on 07/02/2024. <https://www.aman-palestine.org/activities/23125.html>

At the end of last March, the 19th Palestinian government, headed by Dr. Muhammad Mustafa, was sworn in by President Mahmoud Abbas. During the period of his mandate to form the government since then, the Prime Minister provided a response to his assignment by presenting the ministerial statement, which is the basic document in which the government illustrates its program and plans (i.e. obligations that the government places on itself before the Legislative Council) and also before citizens and civil society (CS). This constitutes the basis by which citizens and CS can follow up on the implementation of these commitments, in a process of accountability in their regards. And since the PLC has been dysfunctional since 2007, Palestinian governments, including the 19th government, have been unable to submit the ministerial statement provided for in the Basic Law³. Despite that, The Prime Minister's response to the letter of assignment and the commitments it contained constitute the government's promises in the absence of the official ministerial statement.

The Prime Minister made a set of commitments to the President of the State of Palestine and the citizens⁴. These commitments can be classified into a set of focal points: alleviate the suffering of our people, especially in the GS, by providing all forms of support and relief; prepare for economic recovery; raise the level of performance of national institutions and unify the northern and southern governorates' institutions; strengthen reform programs and anti- corruption efforts; enhance transparency and good governance, abide by the principles of disclosure and accountability; address the financial crisis and launch a national workshop to emerge from this crisis situation to economic development; empower citizens in marginalized and targeted areas to reinforce their resilience; ensure public freedoms and freedom of the press; promote partnership with all components of society.

Objective of the Report

To monitor developments in the reform process in-line with the announced reform program.

Time line of the Report

July 1, 2024 to September 30, 2024.

Methodology and Tools Used in the Preparation of this Report

In order to achieve the objective of the report, which is monitoring the reform process of the 19th Palestinian government during the period extending from July 1, 2024 to September 30, 2024, the descriptive approach was applied. This was to monitor the most significant developments in the reform process in accordance with the government's announced program, while highlighting points that reflect progress or deviation along the way. It was carried out through several stages as follows:

• First stage: Monitoring and Collecting Relevant Information

Information Collection: all available related information to the report was collected by relying on the following sources:

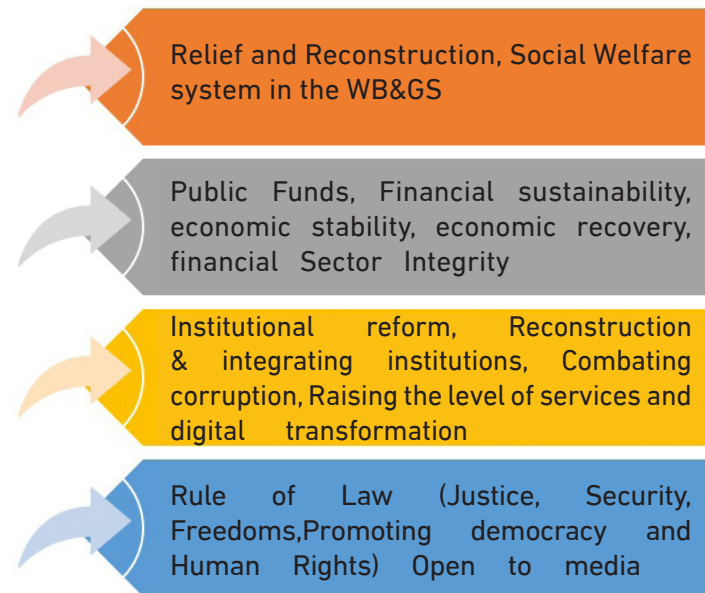
1. Decisions issued by the Council.
2. Plans issued by the Council.
3. Government committees in charge of implementing decisions.
4. Review of the official website of the Ministry of Finance (MoF).
5. Relevant decisions, statements and data issued by the Palestinian Monitory Authority (PMA)- (decisions, instructions, circulars, reports), by visiting the PMA website.

³ The Palestinian Basic Law, article 66, paragraph 1: Once the Prime Minister selects the members of the government, the Prime Minister shall submit a request to the Legislative Council to hold a special session for a vote of confidence. The vote of confidence shall take place after hearing and discussing the written ministerial declaration which specifies the program and policy of the government. The session shall be held no later than one week from the date of submission of the request.

⁴ Letter accepting the assignment from the Prime Minister-designate to His Excellency the President, published on the Palestinian News and Information Agency (Wafa). For more details: <https://www.wafa.ps/Pages/Details/91917>

- **Second stage: Classifying relevant information, according to field**

Once the relevant information was collected, it was classified into a number of areas related to the reform process, as follows:



- **Third stage:** prepare the draft report based on the collected data and its analysis; conclude relative findings and recommendations.
- **Fourth Stage:** present the draft report in a discussion workshop; include relative observations and recommendations in the draft; prepare final copy of the report.
- **Fifth Stage:** edit and publish the report

● Focal Point I: Relief and Reconstruction; Social Welfare System (West Bank and the Gaza Strip)

The humanitarian situation in the GS took first priority in the government's program. It includes a developed comprehensive plan for providing humanitarian assistance and immediate relief to our people in the GS. This task although takes priority it is significantly hindered by Israeli obstacles and restrictions that limit entry and delivery of food and assistance in the required quantities to the besieged Palestinians in the Strip. Nevertheless, the government will form a working group at the ministerial level to carry out this task, and appoint an exclusive Coordinator for Humanitarian Affairs for the Gaza Strip to lead the task force and efforts needed. This includes the development of programs and executive plans to restore basic services such as fuel, water, electricity, health services, and others. The government will also organize a consultative conference with all international and regional bodies to regulate this urgent issue, while focusing to attract global attention, and oblige the international community to pressure the Israeli government to end this tragic situation⁵. This focal point is divided into four sections, as follows:

First: Decisions and Assignments/Authorizations Issued by the Council.

Second: Government Committees

Third: Government Strategies and Plans

Fourth: Allocated Budgets

1.1 Decisions issued by the Council Reflecting the Political Will for Reform and Development in this Area

The Council issued a number of decisions related to relief and reconstruction, as well as to the social welfare system in the WB&GS, during the period of July 1, 2024 to September 30, 2024, as illustrated in the table below:

Table 1: Decisions issued by the Palestinian Council of Ministers

Decision	Meeting No.	Date
Increasing the number of beneficiaries of the free government health insurance for unemployed workers inside the Green Line (occupied Palestine 1948) by providing 5,000 new health insurance cards, in addition to the previous 5,000 cards.	Meeting No. 13	3/7/2024
Approving the recommendations of the Standing Ministerial Committee of Jerusalem regarding the protection of Palestinian property in Jerusalem.	Meeting No. 13	3/7/2024
Assigning State Institutions to intensify work to meet citizens' emergency relief needs in the GS, within available means. To also strengthen coordination with relief institutions operating in the Strip.	Meeting No. 15	16/7/2024
Instructing the heads of government departments to intensify field visits to the various governorates to observe and respond to the needs of our people in order to alleviate their suffering in light of the difficult political, economic and social conditions.	Meeting No.15	16/7/2024
Forming a committee to study the situation of "Declaring the Southern Governorates a Disaster Area".	Meeting No.17	23/7/2024
Extending the work time period of the committee studying the situation " Declaring the Southern Governorates a Disaster Area".	Meeting No.19	6/8/2024
Restructuring and activating the technical committee issued by the Standing Ministerial Social Committee.	Meeting No. 20	13/8/2024
Adding the Ministry of Culture (MoC) to the membership of the Technical Committee issued by the Standing Ministerial Social Committee.	Meeting No.21	20/8/2024

⁵ Dr. Mohamed Mustafa's Government Program, published on 23/3/2024.

Approving procurements to address the damage caused by the incursions of the occupation forces into the governorates of Jenin, Tulkarm and Tubas.	Meeting No. 23	3/9/2024
Formation of a ministerial committee for emergency work.	Meeting No.24	10/9/2024
Renewing contracts with employees of marginalized areas, behind the apartheid wall, and Bedouin communities in support of steadfastness of the areas targeted by occupation and settlements.	Meeting No. 25	17/9/2024
Providing government support to livestock owners to reinforce their resilience against the occupation.	Meeting No. 25	17/9/2024

The number of decisions related to relief, reconstruction and the social welfare system for the WB&GS amounted to 12 decisions out of a total of 108 decisions taken during the period mentioned above and published in the section on decisions adopted by the Council, accounting for 10% of the total decisions issued by the Council.

Within the same context, only one assignment⁶ was authorized by the Council that related to relief, reconstruction and the social welfare system, which was assigning state institutions to intensify work to meet the needs of citizens for emergency relief in the GS within available means, and to strengthen coordination with relief institutions operating in the Strip. By reviewing the Council's mandates issued from July 1 to September 30, 2024, it was found that the assignment had no time limit for implementation.

1.2 Government Committees⁷

The 19th government formed many committees in various fields with the aim of supporting the Council in studying the extensive and detailed topics referred to it, and to present the Council with doable recommendations that assist it in making decisions regarding the areas discussed by these committees. In this regard, two committees were formed during the period covered by the report, which extended from July 1 st to September 30, 2024, in the field of relief, reconstruction and the social welfare system.

- a. One committee was formed to study "declaring the southern governorates a disaster area".
- b. A Ministerial Committee was formed to take charge of Emergency actions.

However, the Council issued further decisions related to the reformation and activation of committees, as follows: 1. activating and re-forming of the technical committee issued by the Standing Ministerial Social Committee. 2. Adding the Ministry of Culture to the membership of the technical committee issued by the Standing Ministerial Social Committee.

On the same note, the Council also issued a separate decision extending the time period for the committee working on "declaring the southern provinces a disaster area".

⁶ Assignments: issuing an order to a committee or a designated person to carry out a task within a specified framework, according to a decision issued by the competent authority "the Palestinian Council of Ministers". Assignment can be defined as: authorizing a person, or a group of individuals, or committee by a specific order to achieve certain goals.

⁷ Article (1) of the System of Government Committees and National Teams No. (10) of 2023, Council of Ministers. Committee Definition: The committee that is formed by a decision of the chairman or the council in accordance with the provisions of this system. Standing Committee: The committee that is formed by a decision of the Council, and is responsible for addressing strategic and sensitive priorities, or with high public importance, serving the government's long-term vision; its work shall be an important part of the strategic objectives of the Government throughout its legal term. Interim Committee: The committee that is formed to research topics that do not fall within the competence of the standing committees or topics related to the work of the Standing Committee, but it needs specialized technical expertise in order to carry out its tasks thoroughly. Its main concern is addressing government priorities in the short term and within a limited scope of action. For further information, visit: <http://muqtafi.birzeit.edu/pg/getleg.asp?id=18806>

1.3 Government Strategies and Plans⁸

The government's emergency plan for 2024 aimed to rearrange priorities and respond to the needs of the average Palestinian, where it included a set of emergency interventions. In general, this plan aims to coordinate and provide emergency relief assistance to the GS in order to face the humanitarian crisis resulting from the genocide war and aggression inflicted on Palestinian citizens there, with focus on the most pressing issues and provision of shelter for the displaced and afflicted. It also called for strengthening the provision of humanitarian assistance and emergency health and social services to occupied WB cities and camps; to also ensure provision of all regular government services including social, health, educational, security and economic to citizens in all of areas.

In regard to relief, reconstruction and the social welfare system, the plan listed the following objectives: 1. Inventory the destruction in the GS. 2. Reconstruct areas destroyed by the Israeli incursions and aggression in the WB. 3. Provide basic services. 4. Social welfare. 5. Strengthen presence at the international level. 6. Community outreach and field visits.

However, the government uses the contingency plan to achieve certain ends, and not in accordance with provision of the Basic Law in Chapter VII, which defines the provisions and principles of the state of emergency and proclaims it by a presidential decree that clearly stipulates the objective, the area it covers, and the period of time⁹.

1.4 Allocated Budgets

Review of the 2024 Citizen's Budget - public expenditure structure and budget distribution as classified by the government, revealed that the Palestinian 19th government did not approve a separate item for emergency situations within the expenditure structure, related to Relief, Reconstruction and the Social Welfare System in the WB&GS¹⁰. According to the 2024 government emergency plan, the financial cost associated with each area during the year is as follows:

Table 2: 2024 Estimated Cost for Areas of Intervention

Areas of intervention	Budget/estimated cost-2024 (million dollar)
Ensuring provision of basic services	394
Emergency humanitarian aid	955
Social Assistance	61
Job creation	31
Total	1,441

8 In the book entitled "Reform and Administrative Development Strategies: Their Role in Enhancing National Security" by Dr. Faisal Al-Sameer, Al-Riyyad. 2007-p. 31, a definition of strategy; and suggestion to analyze the situation and change it if necessary, which includes determining the nature and amount of resources. What is intended here is: the visions, aspirations and future perceptions that are evoked by senior leaders in CSOs to anticipate, evoke and confront the future, deal with its challenges and prepare its requirements. All of which may be developed in the form of objectives, plans or policies, and translated through mechanisms, techniques and practices.

9 For more information, see: Provisions of the State of Emergency, Basic Law: Article (110).

10 Citizens' Budget of the Public Budget. Published on 26/8/2024. Posted on the Palestinian Initiative for Deepening Global Dialogue and Democracy – MIFTAH: <http://www.miftah.org/arabic/PublicationDetails2020.cfm?id=346>

● **Focal Point II: Public Finance and Fiscal Sustainability (Economic Stability, Economic Recovery, Financial Sector Integrity)**

Ever since the inception of the PA in 1994, according to the provisions of the Oslo Accords signed with the Israeli government, the tense relationship between politics and economy has been strongly present in the Palestinian scene. And although the Oslo agreement granted the PA full civil powers over areas classified as A&B, as well as the management of the economic resources in these areas in line with Palestinian goals and priorities, it robbed the PA of a great deal of sovereignty by denying it control over: border crossings, land and its uses in Area C, which constitutes 61% of the total area of the WB and most of the natural resources (water and space). Moreover, in exchange for these limited powers and capabilities “granted”, the PA had to bear absolute responsibility for meeting life needs and securing basic rights for all Palestinian citizens in the WB&GS, such as jobs, housing, health care, education, food, infrastructure facilities etc. According to this very difficult equation the PA was forced to work under since its establishment. Thus, to bridge any potential deficit or gap between available financial resources and the current development needs, international mechanisms were established to provide and manage aid, which has continued until today. Needless to say that the structure and functions of international aid do change from time to time, depending on the Local, regional and international political conditions, as well as on the Palestinian economic conditions. This focal point was divided into 4 sections as follows:

First: Decisions and Authorizations Issued by the Council.

Second: Government Strategies and Plans.

Third: The Public Budget.

2.1 Decisions Issued by the Council

In the period between July 1, 2024 and September 30, 2024, the Council issued decisions related to public funds and financial sustainability (economic stability, economic recovery, financial sector integrity) of which are illustrated in table 3 below:

Table 3: Decisions Issued by the Council

Decision	No of Meeting	Date
Referring the draft decision on the e-commerce law to the heads of government departments for action.	13	3/4/2024
Assigning the competent authorities to prepare a comprehensive study on the reality of endowment (Waqf) lands within the framework of seeking to govern their management and the optimal investment of their resources	15	16/7/2024
Adopting a memorandum of understanding with the Jordanian Government on mutual administrative and technical cooperation in customs affairs.	16	16/7/2024
Providing projects to support women, especially in the GS.	17	23/7/2024
Approving procurement processes for the needs necessary to implement the projects of the Palestinian Fund.	18	30/7/2024
Ratifying the Memorandum of Understanding between the Palestinian Ministry of Industry and the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Kingdom of Morocco in the field of industrial cooperation.	18	30/7/2024
Approving the recommendations of the Technical Committee for the Management of State Property in its meetings No. (91 and 92).	20	13/8/2024
Approving of the recommendations submitted by the Public Authority for Industrial Estates and Free Industrial Zones regarding the Jenin Industrial Free City concession contract.	22	27/8/2024

Granting a number of local government unit, the authority to collect property tax and fines for default.	23	3/9/2024
Adopting the executive plan to implement the recommendations on preventing smuggling operations through the Karama crossing.	24	10/9/2024
Approving of the unified mechanism for the work of the Quota and Commodity Lists Committee (A1, A2).	24	10/9/2024
Islamic Development Bank projects in the southern governorates.	25	17/9/2024

The number of decisions issued by the Council that are related to public finance and financial sustainability (economic stability, economic recovery, financial sector integrity) amounted to 12 out of 108 decisions, which accounts to 10% of the total decisions taken.

In the same context, the Council did not issue any assignments in regard to the above-mentioned field (i.e., public finance and financial sustainability (economic stability, economic recovery, financial sector integrity) during the period covered by the report; July 1-Sept.30, 2024. Moreover, the Council also did not issue any decision in that regard.

2.2 Government Plans and Strategies

Unlike the 18th Palestinian government, which approved a number of strategies directly or indirectly related to public finance¹¹, the 19th Palestinian government has not published on the website of the Council any general or specific plans or strategies related to public finances as of September 30, 2024.

That said, it is worthy to note that the effective financial and economic strategies are essential to the Palestinian government to ensure long-term economic and social stability. This includes providing job opportunities, and trying to overcome the economic challenges resulting from the occupation and the financial sanctions it imposes on the PA, in addition to economic challenges resulting after October 7, 2023.

2.3 The Public Budget

The Decree Law No. (9) of 2024 regarding the public budget for the fiscal year 2024 was issued and published in issue (217) of the Official Gazette on 26/8/2024. However, the decision was published in violation of the law. Apparently, the decree law was issued at that particular time due to the government's inability to submit the draft public budget for the fiscal year 2024 within the specified legal deadlines allowed by the law, which must not go beyond 30/6/2024, although with granting the MoF the authority to collect revenues and continue spending with monthly appropriations of (1/12)¹², and from the 2023 budget.

The public budget in 2024 amounted to (19.4) billion shekels (NIS). While the 2023 budget amounted to (21) billion NIS, and the actual expenditures for 2023 amounted to (19.7) billion NIS¹³. The 2024 budget is based on the need for austerity measures, including: reducing salary and wage expenses, as well as the operational and capital expenditures, and to maintain minimal development expenses. In regard to expenditures, in the 2024 budget these expenses were estimated at 19.4 billion shekels, a decrease of 7.6% from the 2023 budget and a 1.4% decrease from the actual spending in 2023.

11 Sectoral Strategy for the Economy (2021-2023), National Employment Strategy 2021-2025, Sectoral Strategy for Labor 2021-2023.

12 The President issues a Decree Law on the submission of the 2024 budget. for more information, see: <https://www.bnews.ps/ar/node/23112>

13 The 2024 Citizens' Budget, published on 26/8/2024. Published on the Palestinian Initiative for Deepening Global Dialogue and Democracy- MIFTAH: <http://www.miftah.org/arabic/PublicationDetails2020.cfm?id=346>

Development projects allocations were set at 1,512 million NIS in the public budget, which is a decrease of 29% from the 2023 budget¹⁴.

Table 4: Most Important Features of the 2024 Public Budget¹⁵

Budget Features	Million NIS
Total Revenue	14.042
Net Revenue	13.952
Public Expenditures & Net lending	19.410
Grants and foreign assistance (public budget and development support)	2.510
Financing gap (deficit)	2.948
Illegal Israeli Deductions	3.860
Total deficit after Illegal Israeli Deductions	6.808

Policy makers in Palestine do not consult with CSOs regarding public issues in general, and the public budget in particular. According to the Dem Indicator 3.10.0.5-V in 2022, it received a score of 0.53 out of 1. However, some CSOs have sometimes been involved in specific topics such as the participation of some CSOs in locally held discussions on amending the Civil Service Law, and strategic plans to combat corruption¹⁶.

The MoF does not apply the participatory approach with citizens when it comes to the management of the public budget. Thus, it does not use a specific mechanism through which citizens can participate in the various stages of the public budget, nor is there a department or unit dedicated to the participatory process at the Ministry. Furthermore, the ministry did not specify a specific scope or goal for participation.

Moreover, as the researcher examined the MoF compliance with international standards to achieve the lowest level of transparency of the public budget, which requires adherence to the eight basic documents¹⁷ set by the International Budget Partnership, he discovered the following results shown below.

Table 5: Public Budget Indicators

Document	Published	Unpublished
Pre-Budget Statement		--
Summary of the budget proposal		--
Approved and adopted public budget		--
Citizens budget ¹⁸	Published	
Reports (monthly and quarterly) ¹⁹	Published	
Semi-annual report		--
End of the year Report "Final Account" for the year 2023		--
Audited Report- 2023		--

14 Approving the 2024 emergency budget with expected expenditures of NIS 19 billion and revenues of about 14 billion NIS; Palestinian News and Information Agency (Wafa): <https://www.wafa.ps/pages/details/100005>

15 The 2024 Citizens' Budget, published on 26/8/2024. Previous source.

16 Coalition for Accountability and Integrity (AMAN). 2023. Assessing the Level of Participation in the Palestinian 2022 Public Budget. Ramallah-Palestine.

17 Coalition for Accountability and Integrity (AMAN). 2023. Public Budget Performance Report 2022. Ramallah-Palestine.

18 For information, see: <https://www.pmf.ps/internal.php?var=10>

19 Monthly Financial Reports 2024, Financial Operations – Revenues, Expenditures and Funding Sources; published on the MoF website: <https://www.pmf.ps/internal.php?var=11&tab=01>

Due to the importance of the PMA in terms of public funds, as it is the body responsible for formulating and implementing monetary and banking policies to ensure the safety of the banking sector, and maintain a balanced growth of the local economy, in addition to its main objective to maintain monetary and financial stability and promote a sustainable economic growth, the researcher visited its website [ps://www.pma.ps/ar/](https://www.pma.ps/ar/) during the period of July 1, 2024 and September 30, 2024, where he discovered that it (i.e., the PMA) did not take any measures to address the catastrophic economic conditions in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

However, the PMA previously issued a set of instructions, which are represented in Instructions No. (1) of 2024 regarding the continuity of the financial cycle of the national economy. These instructions are related to postponing the deduction of loan installments for borrowers residing in the GS until 30/4/2024, without charging the borrower any interest, returns or fees during this period. It is worth noting, though, that the PMA issued a second instructions No. (5/2024)²⁰, which extends the application of Instructions No. (1/2024) until 31/8/2024, while no instructions were issued to extend the application of Instructions No. (5/2024).

On another note, on 26/8/2024, the Official Gazette, in its issue No. (217), published a decree law amending the Law on Remuneration and Salaries of Members of the Legislative Council and Governors²¹. This above-mentioned law directly relates to public funds, since it granted high officials in the PA (appointed with the rank of minister or head a government department) pension benefits equivalent to those assigned for ministers, members of the PLC and governors. This means that they receive the pensions prescribed for ministers without paying contributions to the public retirement fund. On the contrary, the Fund, in this case, is obliged to return to them the contributions they paid since their appointment to the PA institutions²². The amendment of the law is part of the conciliatory policy applied by the ruling authority to certain groups, and specifically those in senior positions²³. And as of the writing of this report, no law has been issued repealing the mentioned law.

**** The amendment of the aforementioned law contradicts the government's orientations towards reform, rationalization of expenditures, and taking measures for financial reform, which will double the burden on the public treasury.**

20 Instructions No. (5) of 2024 Amending the Instructions for the Continuity of the Financial Cycle of the National Economy; Published on the official website of the Palestine Monetary Authority. <https://www.pmaf.ps/internal.php?var=11&tab=01>

21 Law No. 11 of 2004 on the Remuneration and Salaries of Members of the Legislative Council, Members of the Government and Governors. For more information, see: <https://maqam.najah.edu/legislation/1737/>

22 The Independent Commission for Human Rights calls for the repeal of the amendment to the law on the remuneration and salaries of members of the Legislative Council and governors. Published on 29/9/2024. For more information: <https://www.ichr.ps/statements/11131.html>

23 Position of the Civil Society Team for transparency of the Public Budget on "Law by Decree No. (8) of 2024 amending the Law on the Remuneration and Salaries of Members of the Legislative Council, Members of the Government and Governors; published on 7/9/2024: <https://www.aman-palestine.org/activities/26449.html>

- **Focal Point III: Institutional Reform (Institutional Restructuring and Merging, Combating Corruption, Upgrading the level of services and Digital Transformation)**

Any reform process in any country must be comprehensive and multi-layered, manifested in the following three aspects: 1. Political reform, which aims at expanding the circle of public and political participation in the management of the state and community affairs; also, in selecting their rulers and monitoring their competencies at work. 2. Economic reform, which aims to raise the economic growth rate, improve public services for citizens and raise their standard of living. 3. Social reform. The reform process begins with the realization of a balanced separation of the powers of the three political branches (executive, legislative and judicial) and activating mutual control between them. it also means the respect of each of them the functional competencies vested in the other authority in accordance with the constitutional and legal rules in force and adopted. This helps to build and consolidate the principle of integrity of governance, since it is based on expanding the base of horizontal participation to the extent that power is no longer concentrated, where anyone holding a public office becomes responsible for his work separately but in a connected circle. There is also a comprehensive reform program that covers all issues and areas related to the system of governance²⁴

This focal point is divided into four sections, as follows:

First: Decisions and Authorizations Issued by the Council.

Second: Government Committees

Third: Government Strategies and Plans

Fourth: Allocated Budgets

3.1 Decisions Issued by the Council

During the period from July 1, 2024 to September 30, 2024, the Council issued a set of decisions, including those related to institutional reform (Restructuring, integrating of institutions, combating corruption, upgrading the level of services and digital transformation), as shown in the table below:

Decision	Meeting No.	Date
Assigning the Communication Ministry, the task of coordinating with the relevant authorities to provide public schools with high-quality Internet services to facilitate students' educational journey.	13	3/7/2024
Forming a ministerial committee for digital transformation as part of the government's initiative towards developing administrative, technical and legislative procedures for digital transformation.	14	9/7/2024
Forming a committee to study the amendment of the licensing system for ground and satellite radio and television stations, satellite broadcasting services companies, and offices of satellite stations and media production.	14	9/7/2024
Approving the recommendations of the special committee to study the fate of the competencies of the Ministry of Information, and the transfer of the General Directorate of Publications and Media Affairs from the abolished Ministry of Information to the Ministry of Culture, to assume its duties immediately upon the amendment of the relevant legislation.	14	9/7/2024
Approving the recommendations submitted by the Technical Committee for the Management of State Property.	14	9/7/2024
Approval of the renewal of the maintenance contract for the computerized health information system to enhance the quality of services provided in health institutions.	16	16/7/2024

²⁴ Coalition for Integrity and Accountability (AMAN), 2023. The Reality of Accountability of Non-ministerial Public Institutions Affiliated with the Council of Ministers. Ramallah-Palestine.

Approving the recommendation of the Ministerial Committee for Reform to implement the government's policy to improve the quality of services provided.	17	23/7/2024
Adoption of the Annual Complaints Report 2023 in the Government's Institutions	18	30/7/2024
Approving to extend the time period for the committee working to study the amendment of the licensing system for: radio and television stations ground and satellite, satellite broadcasting companies, and satellite stations offices and media production No. (18) of 2018.	20	13/8/2024
Forming a special committee to study the criteria for granting permits to purchase plots of land for Palestinians who do not hold a Palestinian identity card; Palestinians living inside the Green Line (occupied Palestine 1948).	22	27/8/2024
Approving the recommendations of the technical team for the implementation of policies and procedures on rationalizing spending on government vehicles.	22	27/8/2024
Approving the competencies and tasks of the Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy.	25	17/9/2024
Approving the recommendations of the Standing Ministerial Reform Committee.	24	10/9/2024
Approving the recommendations of the Standing Ministerial Reform Committee in its meeting No. (11) on 05/08/2024.	20	13/8/2024

The number of decisions on institutional reform (Restructuring, integrating of institutions, combating corruption, upgrading the level of services and digital transformation) amounted to 14, which is 11% of the 108 decisions issued by the Council during the monitoring period. Two of which were on the endorsement of the recommendations of the Standing Ministerial Reform Committee.

Within the same context, the Council issued one assignment related to this focal point, as follows: Assigning the Communication Ministry, the task of coordinating with the relevant authorities to provide public schools with high-quality Internet services to facilitate students' educational journey.

3.2 Government Committees

The 19th government formed many committees in various fields with the aim of supporting the Council in studying the detailed and extensive topics referred to it, and to present the Council with doable recommendations in order to take appropriate decisions in the areas discussed by these committees²⁵. During the period covered by the report, which extended from July 1, 2024 to September 30, 2024, a total of 3 committees were formed for the purposes of institutional reform, as follows:

- One ministerial committee was formed for digital transformation as part of the government's initiative towards developing administrative, technical and legislative procedures for digital transformation.
- One committee was formed to study the amendment of the licensing system for ground and satellite radio and television stations, satellite broadcasting services companies, and offices of satellite stations and media production.
- One special committee was formed to study the criteria for granting permits to purchase plots of land for Palestinians who do not hold a Palestinian identity card; Palestinians living inside the Green Line (occupied Palestine 1948).

²⁵ Article (1) of the System of Government Committees and National Teams No. (10) of 2023, Council of Ministers. Committee Definition: The committee that is formed by a decision of the chairman or the council in accordance with the provisions of this system. Standing Committee: The committee that is formed by a decision of the Council, and is responsible for addressing strategic and sensitive priorities, or with high public importance, serving the government's long-term vision; its work shall be an important part of the strategic objectives of the Government throughout its legal term. Interim Committee: The committee that is formed to research topics that do not fall within the competence of the standing committees or topics related to the work of the Standing Committee, but it needs specialized technical expertise in order to carry out its tasks thoroughly. Its main concern is addressing government priorities in the short term and within a limited scope of action. For further information, visit: <http://muqtafi.birzeit.edu/pg/getleg.asp?id=18806>

A separate and single decision was issued by the Council to extend the time period for the work of the committee studying the amendment of the licensing system for: radio and television stations ground and satellite, satellite broadcasting companies, and satellite stations offices and media production No. (18) of 2018.

3.3 Government Strategies and Plans

Unlike the 18th government²⁶, which endorsed a number of strategies directly or indirectly related to institutional reform (Restructuring, integration of institutions, combating corruption, upgrading the level of services and digital transformation), the 19th government did not publish any general or specific plans or strategies related to public funds, as of the September 30, 2024.

A set of decree laws were issued that were directly or indirectly related to the institutional reform (Restructuring, integration of institutions, combating corruption, upgrading the level of services and digital transformation), as follows:

a. Decree Law No. (6) of 2024 on the Separation of the Industrial and National Economy Sectors

This Decree Law was published in Issue No. (216) of the Official Gazette dated 22/07/2024. Article 1 of the mentioned Law included the following: "Article (3) of the Decree Law No. (10) of 2021, regarding the governance of a number of state bodies, institutions and authorities, shall be cancelled from the provisions of the Law and its amendments."

By reviewing the Decree Law No. (10) of 2021, stipulation of article (3) revealed the following: 1. The Industrial Estates and Free Zones shall be merged with the Investment Promotion Authority, to become a single institution called "Investment Promotion and Industrial Estates Agency". 2. The management of the Authority is supervised by a board of directors chaired by the Minister of National Economy and the membership of the rest of the members of the Board of Directors of the Investment Promotion Authority (IPA) in addition to a representative from the Environmental Quality Authority (EQA) and developer representatives from the Board of Directors of the Industrial Estates and Free Zones (IEFZs) until a new Board of Directors is appointed for the Authority in accordance with the law. 3. The Board of Directors of the Authority specified in paragraph (2) of this Article shall be entrusted with carrying out the necessary procedures to unify the administrative team and the headquarters of the Authority. 4. The legislations governing the work of (IEFZs) and (IPA) shall remain in force to the extent that it does not conflict with the provisions of this Decree Law until the necessary amendments are made in accordance with the law. Thus, the Decree Law has restored the legal personality and independent financial disclosure of the (IEFZs).

b. Decree Law No (10) of 2024 on Amending the Decree Law No. (6) of 2018 and its Amendments Regarding Higher Education

This Decree Law was published in issue No. (217) of the Official Gazette dated 26/08/2024. In its 2nd article it pointed out that paragraph 2 of Article 30 of the Original Law shall be amended to read as follows: "The Board of Trustees must be re-formed every three years." In addition, article (30) of the Decree Law number (6) of 2018, stated that the "The term of office of the Board of Trustees shall be three years, renewable for one time only." Thus, the amended legal texts defined the duration of occupancy for Boards of Trustees with the right to renew more than once. According to this article, the Board of Trustees occupies the position through a decision issued by the University based on an internal system that has been issued by it, with the right to renewal more than once.

26 Sectoral Strategy for Public Money Management 2021-2023.

c. Decree Law No (11) of 2024 on the Cancellation of the Legal Personality and the Independent Financial Disclosure of the Agricultural Risk Prevention and Insurance Fund

This Decree Law was published in issue No.(217) of the Official Gazette dated 26/08/2024. It stipulates the abolition of the legal personality and independent financial disclosure of the Agricultural Risk Prevention and Insurance Fund (ARP&IF). According to this decree, the Ministry of Agriculture is the legal and signatory successor to the mentioned fund, and hence it assumes all its obligations; also, its functions, allocations, property, assets, funds, rights and employees shall be transferred to it.

Governance of non-ministerial governmental institutions and the correction of their situation is considered support to the government's efforts that aim at rationalizing public spending and reducing the public budget deficit. However, However, the confusion in abolishing the legal personality at times, and restoring it at other times, contributes to the instability of these institutions.

Therefore, a decision must be issued by the Council to form a higher national committee to undertake the restructuring of non-ministerial public institutions with the aim of developing a guidebook for the restructuring of these institutions. The guidebook must cover the following: main focal points for the restructuring processes; a well-developed concept paper clarifying the definition of a public institution, financial and administrative independence, cases of resorting to public institutions for the management of a public facility, in addition to the meaning of cancellation, annexation or merger, and the legal, financial and administrative implications of all that.

3.4 Allocated Budgets

As we reviewed the 2024 citizens' budget, and in particular the public expenditures structure and budget distribution, according to the government classification, we found that the 19th Palestinian government failed to allocate a specific item²⁷ within the expenditure structure concerning institutional reform.

²⁷ Citizen's General Budget for General Budget 2024, published on 26/8/2024. MIFTAH: <http://www.miftah.org/arabic/PublicationDetails2020.cfm?id=346>

● **Focal Point IV: Rule of law (Justice, Security, Freedom, Promotion of Democracy and Human Rights)**

Since 2010, the Palestinian political system has been declining in its constitutional and popular legitimacy. One of the reasons is failure to hold legislative and presidential elections, although decision makers attempted to hold them in 2010, without success and have not been organized over the subsequent years. This particular aspect of the political system failed mainly due to the internal division on the one hand, and the Israeli occupation on the other, noting that the occupation is the source of all evils to Palestinians and a major obstacle in this regard. Another reason is the lack of seriousness of decision-makers in organizing these elections which has also contributed to the crisis of the Palestinian political system.

In addition to the above challenges and obstacles, the 19th government assumed its duties under very complicated political circumstances as a result of the occupation's genocide war on the GS and its increasing and continuous aggression on cities and camps of the WB. Furthermore, the government is also facing a financial blockade represented by the decline in funding and foreign aid, in addition to the piracy of clearance funds/maqassah seized by the Israeli government from November 2023 to June 2024. This is in addition to the increasing series of cuts from these funds, leading to the cessation of transferring the full amount during the first three months of the formation of the government. All of the above factors constituted big challenges and difficulties for the government in maintaining the provision of basic services, much less improving them.

The rule of law requires that the law be the reference for all, and that no one is above the law. This section is divided into four sections:

First: Decisions and Authorizations Issued by the Council and Government Committees

Second: Government Strategies and Plans

Third: Allocated Budgets

4.1 Decisions Issued by the Council

During the period of April 2 to June 30, the Council issued a set of decisions, some of which were related to the rule of law (Justice, Security, Freedom, Promotion of Democracy and Human Rights) as illustrated below:

Table 7: Decisions Issued by the Council

Decision on:	No. of Meeting	Date
Forming a committee to review the National Emergency Plan for Drug Prevention.	17	23/7/2024

The number of decisions issued by the Council does not seem a priority on the government's agenda, as reflected during the monitoring period from July 1 to September 30, 2024, regarding the rule of law (Justice, Security, Freedom, Promotion of Democracy and Human Rights) where only one decision was issued that concerns the formation of a committee to review the National Emergency Plan for Drug Prevention. Moreover, no assignments were authorized during the monitoring period all together, and hence non-were issued in relations to the rule of law either²⁸.

28 Issued during meeting No. (17), held on 23/7/2024.

4.2. Government Plans and Strategies

Unlike the 18th²⁹ Palestinian government, which approved a number of strategies directly or indirectly related to the rule of law (Justice, Security, Freedom, Promotion of Democracy and Human Rights), the 19th government did not publish, on its website, any plans or strategies, public or specific, related to the rule of law as of the writing of this report.

4.3 Allocated Budgets

By reviewing the 2024 Citizens' budget, and in particular the public expenditures structure and budget distribution, according to the government classification, we found that the 19th Palestinian government failed to allocate a specific item within the expenditure structure concerning the rule of law³⁰ (Justice, Security, Freedom, Promotion of Democracy and Human Rights).

The administrative and legal indicators issued by the competent authorities provide a general idea of standard criteria by which legal administrative outputs can be measured.

The form by which the issued Decree Law on the rule of law (Justice, Security, Freedom, Promotion of Democracy and Human Rights) was as follows:

a. Decree Law No. (7) of 2024 on amending the Security Service Law No. (8) of 2005 and its amendments; published in Issue (216) of the Official Gazette "Waq'a'i" issued on 22/7/2024

The Decree Law included a set of amendments, some were in regard to modifying the power and subordination of the Palestinian security forces by redistribution of security authorities. Also, a new reference was added for the security forces by amending the first article of the law by adding the following: the competent minister: the Minister of Interior, the Commander-in-Chief, the Head of General Intelligence, or the Commander of the Presidential Guard.

This is in addition to amendments made on the rights and duties of members of the Palestinian security forces. And also, the establishment of a sub-committee of officers formed by a decision of the competent minister, who will play a supporting role for the work of the Officers Committee, and provide proposals and recommendations to it for the purposes of taking the appropriate decision thereon³¹.

The changes contained in the law do not reflect a clear vision of reform related to the rule of law. Rather, it reflects the desire of the head of authority to tighten direct control over the security agencies, bodies and institutions.

- Democracy and human rights

The UN general assembly and the Commission on Human Rights have sought to make use of international human rights instruments to promote a common understanding of democratic principles and values. As a result, in 2000, the Commission recommended a set of important legislative, institutional and practical measures in support of democracy. And in 2002, the Commission proclaimed the following principles as essential elements of democracy: respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, freedom to join associations, freedom of expression and opinion. Also, access to and exercise of power within the rule of law, freedom to organize periodic, free and fair elections based on public ballot.

29 Sectoral Security Strategy 2021-2023 and Justice Sector Strategy 2021-2023.

30 Citizen's Public Budget for Public Budget 2024, published on 26/8/2024. MIFTAH: <http://www.miftah.org/arabic/PublicationDetails2020.cfm?id=346>

31 The Civil Forum for Promoting Good Governance in the Security Sector calls for the repeal of the decision by law on amending the law of service in the security forces. for more information, see: <https://www.aman-palestine.org/activities/26220.html>

Also, democracy, development, the rule of law and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing. All of which aim to preserve and promote the individual's dignity and fundamental rights, achieve social justice, encourage the economic and social development of society, enhance community cohesion, and consolidate national security.

In addition, the Palestinian Declaration of Independence and the Palestinian Basic Law adopted the fundamental principles and values of democracy, and the 19th Palestinian government, in its program, underlined a number of the democracy foundations. However, it did not issue any decision related to democracy and human rights, nor did it publish any plans and or strategies related to the subject on any of its websites.

- Disclosure and Openness to the Media and Communication with Civil Society Organizations

CSOs are considered a social capital, largely due to the social work they provide that aims at protecting the rights of individuals and groups. Moreover, these organizations contribute to political, social and economic reform efforts, not to mention their contribution to the formulation and implementation of public policies, in addition to their role in the social accountability of the bodies in charge public affairs.

In addition, CSOs contribute to: defending the rights of individuals, institutional capacity-building, management of development programs, disseminating information, combating corruption, securing means of livelihood support, promoting women's status and participation, and supporting marginalized groups.

Recently however, CSOs have been facing serious challenges due to a range of factors. The most urgent of these is the escalation of violence by Israeli colonialism against the Palestinian people and their CSOs. This Israeli aggression is inflicted through various practices, including: arrests of activists, forced closure of functioning institutions in Jerusalem, incursions of CSOs headquarters and confiscation of their property, imposed censorship, and the delegitimization of CSOs through terrorism-related allegations.

Another challenge lies in the PA and its authoritarian and undemocratic practices...such as imposing restrictions on freedom of expression, marginalizing grassroots organizations voices in decision-making related to development and the formation of strategies and policies³².

During the period from July 1 to September 30, 2024, the Council issued a separate decision related to media disclosure and communication with CSOs in an indirect way. This decision constitutes 1% of the total decisions issued by the Council during the monitoring period. Furthermore, the Council did not issue any assignments or form committees related to the issue. In addition, the 19th government did not publish, on the Council's website, any plans or strategies, general or specific, related to disclosure to media and communication with CSOs.

It is worthy to mention that the current Cybercrime Law was misused by some officials to censor, blackmail or prosecute people for their political opinions and positions. The Government, on its part, made promises to reconsider its provisions...however, until the writing of this report, it has not taken any action to reconsider the treatment and correction of certain provisions of the Law in question.

32 Dr. Elaine Kuttub, "How Civil Society Organizations Respond to Current Conditions". Posted on the website of Badil Palestinian Center: <https://www.badil.org/ar/publications/haq-al-awda/issues/items/3485.html>

● Results:

1. The 19th Palestinian government held 13 regular sessions during the period from 1 July to 30 September 2024, issuing 108 decisions.
2. The Council issued a number of decisions related to relief, reconstruction and social welfare system for the (WB&GS); amounting to 12 decisions or 10% of the total decisions issued. While the Council issued only one mandate related to relief, reconstruction and the social welfare, which was assigning State Institutions to intensify work to meet the needs of citizens for Emergency Relief in the GS within available means and to strengthen coordination with relief institutions operating in the Strip.
3. The number of committees formed for the purpose of relief, reconstruction and social welfare system is only two committees: one to study the issue of "declaring the southern governorates a disaster area", and the other was a ministerial committee for emergency needs.
4. The Council issued decisions relating to the re-forming and activation of the committees, as follows: 1. Re-form and activate the technical committee issued by the Standing Ministerial Social Committee. 2. Adding the Ministry of Culture to the membership of the technical committee issued by the Standing Ministerial Social Committee.
5. The Council issued a separate decision on extending the work period for the committee working on "Declaring the southern governorates a disaster area".
6. The 19th government did not publish any specific plans or strategies relating to relief, reconstruction and the social welfare system.
7. The 19th Palestinian government allocated a financial budget for relief, reconstruction and the social welfare system; referred to in the 2024 Government Emergency Plan.
8. The Council issued 12 decisions related to public finances and financial sustainability (economic stability, economic recovery, financial sector integrity), representing 10% of the total decisions issued by the Council. However, the Council did not issue any assignments related to public finances.
9. No decision was issued by the Council to form committees related to public finance and financial sustainability.
10. The 19th government did not publish any specific plans or strategies on public finances and financial sustainability (economic stability, economic recovery, financial sector integrity).
11. The Decree Law No. (9) of 2024 regarding the public budget for the fiscal year 2024 was issued and published in issue (217) of the Official Gazette on 26/8/2024. This decree law was issued due to the government's inability to submit the public budget draft for the fiscal year 2024 within the specified legal deadlines.
12. Citizens and CSOs did not participate in the preparation of the 2024 public budget, whereas policymakers in Palestine often do not consult CSOs on issues in general, and budget related issues in particular.

13. To date, the Right to Access Information Law has not been issued despite the inclusion of a draft law on the agenda of the PLC since 2005. Also, the cybercrime law has not been reviewed.
14. No instructions were issued to extend the PMA's instructions No. (5/2024), concerning the postponement of the deduction of loan installments for borrowers residing in the GS until 31/8/2024.
15. The decree law was issued to amend the law on the remuneration and salaries of PLC members and governors. This above-mentioned law directly relates to public funds, since it granted high officials in the PA (appointed with the rank of minister or head a government department) pension benefits equivalent to those assigned for ministers, PLC members and governors. This contradicts the government's orientations towards reform in terms of rationing operational expenses and adopting financial reform measures, hence doubling the burdens on the public treasury.
16. The Council issued a number of decisions on institutional reform (restructuring and integration of institutions, combating corruption, upgrading services and digital transformation) amounting to 14 decisions or 11% of the total decisions issued. While there was only one reform-related assignment, which is assigning the Ministry of Telecommunications and Digital Economy the task of coordinating with the relevant authorities to provide public schools with high-quality Internet services to facilitate students' educational journey. And two other decisions were related to reform in general, and to endorse the recommendations of the Standing Ministerial Reform Committee.
17. A total of 3 committees were formed for the purposes of institutional reform:
 - a. Ministerial Committee for Digital Transformation as part of the government's initiative towards developing administrative, technical and legislative procedures for digital transformation.
 - b. A committee to study the amendment of the licensing system for ground and satellite radio and television stations, satellite broadcasting services companies, and offices of satellite stations and media production.
 - c. A special committee to study the criteria for granting permits to purchase plots of land for Palestinians who do not hold a Palestinian identity card; Palestinians living inside the Green Line (occupied Palestine 1948).
18. A separate and single decision was issued by the Council to extend the time period for the work of the committee studying the amendment of the licensing system for: radio and television stations ground and satellite, satellite broadcasting companies, and satellite stations' offices and media production No. (18) of 2018.
19. the 19th Palestinian government did not publish any specific plans or strategies related to institutional reform (restructuring, integrating institutions, combating corruption, and upgrading the level of services and digital transformation).
20. A number of decree laws were issued that were directly or indirectly related to institutional reform (reconstruction and integrating institutions, combating corruption, upgrading services and digital transformation); these are:
 - a. Decree Law No. (6) of 2024 regarding the separation of the industrial and national economy sectors.
 - b. Decree Law No. (10) of 2024 amending the Decree Law No. (6) of 2018 and its amendments on Higher Education.
 - c. Decree Law No. (11) of 2024 on the Cancellation of the Legal Personality and the Independent Financial Disclosure of the Risk Prevention and Agricultural Insurance Fund.

21. The Palestinian 19th government did not allocate any budgets related to institutional reform (reconstruction and integrating institutions, combating corruption, upgrading services and digital transformation).
22. The Council issued a single and separate decision related to the rule of law (Justice, Security, Freedom, Promotion of Democracy and Human Rights) representing 1% of the total decisions issued by the Council. And within the same context, no assignment was issued by the Council during the monitoring period, nor did the Council issue any mandates related to the rule of law.
23. The Palestinian 19th government did not publish any specific plans or strategies related to the rule of law (justice, security, freedom, promotion of democracy and human rights).
24. The Palestinian 19th government did not allocate any budget related to the rule of law (justice, security, freedom, promotion of democracy and human rights).
25. The Council issued a single and separate decision related to disclosure to media and communications with CSOs in an indirect way. While it did not issue any assignments related to the issue.
26. The Council did not form any committees related to disclosure to media and communications with CSOs.
27. The Palestinian 19th government did not publish any specific plans or strategies on disclosure to media and communications with CSOs.
28. The Palestinian 19th government did not allocate any budget item related to disclosure to media and communications with CSOs.

● Sources and References

a) Studies and Reports:

- Coalition for Accountability and Integrity (AMAN). 2024. Areas of Spending Cuts and Revenue Increases to Face the Current Financial Crisis. Ramallah-Palestine.
- Coalition for Accountability and Integrity (AMAN). 2023. Public Budget Performance Report 2022. Ramallah-Palestine.
- Coalition for Accountability and Integrity (AMAN). 2022. Political Integrity, the Extent to which Weak and Fragility of Governance Hinders Government Reform Policies.
- Coalition for Accountability and Integrity (AMAN). 2022. Fifteenth Annual Report on the Status of Integrity and Anti-corruption in Palestine. Ramallah-Palestine.
- Emergency Basic Income for Palestine - Policy Brief Issue (2), published by the Palestine Economic Policy Research Institute (MAS).
- Government Decisions Analysis Report 2022, 01 January - 31 December 2022.
- Report on the Work of Government Committees, 01 January - 31 December 2022.
- Muayad Afaneh writes: The Reality of the Public Budget in Palestine, on 24/6/2024.
- Inflation Report for the First Quarter 2024, Issue 20, Research and Monetary Policy Department, May 2024, Palestine Monetary Authority.

b) Websites:

- Palestinian News and Information Agency (Wafa): <https://www.wafa.ps/Pages/Details/98342>.
- Official Gazette "Waqai": <https://ogb.gov.ps/ar>.
- Official website of the Council of Ministers: <http://www.palestinecabinet.gov.ps/portal>.
- Government Emergency Plan 2024, published on the official website of the Palestinian Council of Ministers: <https://www.palestinecabinet.gov.ps/portal/publication/9/1>.
- Palestinian Ministry of Finance: <https://www.pmof.ps/internal.php?var=10>.
- Official website of the Palestinian Capital Market Authority: <https://www.pcma.ps/about/>



AMAN was established in 2000 as a civil society organization that seeks to combat corruption and promote integrity, transparency and accountability in the Palestinian society. The Coalition was first formed by an initiative from a number of civil society organizations working in the field of democracy, human rights and good governance. In 2006, the Coalition was accredited as a national chapter for Transparency International.

AMAN is a Palestinian think tank and a specialized body providing knowledge on corruption at the local and regional level through producing specialized reports and studies. The periodic publications include: The annual Integrity and Anti-Corruption Report, the annual Palestinian Integrity Index and the National Integrity System studies and reports, in addition to the Coalition's continued contributions to produce reports and studies on the status of corruption in the Arab region.

As part of the global anti-corruption movement - and of international alliances and partnerships with relevant specialized coalitions and organizations - AMAN plays a key role in the transfer and contextualization of necessary international knowledge and tools to combat corruption in all sectors.

Website: www.aman-palestine.org

Email : info@aman-palestine.org

f @ t v in /AmanCoalition

Ramallah, Irsal St, Remawi Building , 1st floor

Tel : 2989506 2(970+) 2974949 2 (970+)

Fax : 2974948 2 (970)

Gaza-Southern Rimal - Habboush St. - Sub of Martyrs St. Dream

Tel : 082884767

Fax : 082884766