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Federal Foreign Office



Institutionalizing the decentralization process

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To help the development of the decentralization process, one cannot deny the crucial role of cooperation between local, regional and international public authorities (parliament, government, government agencies and local and international governments), and civil society organization in order to build a democratic country.

For instance, in the last few years, both Moroccan public authorities and international bodies have recognized the vibrant role of civil society organizations in addressing needs and allowing citizens to become active participants in society. This stands real as they became channels through which citizens organize themselves and express their interests in a legitimate and efficient manner. In other words, these organizations have evolved significantly in this process and continue to grow on the basis of local needs.

Moreover, these civil society organizations have an outstanding role in shaping policies and laws, which contribute to the promotion of citizens' needs, enabling people to participate in the conduct of public affairs as well as discussing the problems affecting their lives directly. This participation is seen to help authorities to better shape their policies/ laws reflecting the real needs.

Therefore, there is a tendency to extend the scope and forms of cooperation between different bodies and make their partnerships more institutionalized to ensure its continuity and sustainability. To achieve this purpose, there are various efficient basics/ strategies that should be taken into consideration. The following are some suggestions:

- The government has to create a supportive and favourable environment for the development of non-state organizations.
- To establish various mechanisms that would enable a structured cooperation between national and international public authorities and civil society organizations.
- To clearly set obligations and responsibilities of public institutions for the continuity and sustainability of the cooperation.
- To encourage non-state organizations to implement the principles of good governance and decentralization at the local, regional and international levels.

In general, these suggestions would be very helpful to ensure strong participation of civil society organizations in drafting and implementing policies, to build an effective system to support them financially speaking, and to achieve good governance, transparency, and participation of citizens. In this respect, I hope the present event would be an opportunity to deepen my knowledge about the various good practices in other countries in the world concerning the ways to institutionalize and further enhance the cooperation between state and non-state organizations because through this they can strengthen the concepts of open, collaborative and transparent governance.

Supported by



Friedrich Naumann
STIFTUNG FÜR DIE FREIHEIT

