

President Bashar Alasad promulgated the Legislative Decree no: 107/2011 which contains the Law of Local Administration. The following is the text of Legislative Decree no: 107

The President of the Republic, acting in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, decrees the following:

The Local Administration Law

Section 1: Definitions and Objectives

Chapter 1 Definitions

Article 1 - The expressions in this law mean what is stated beside each one:

“The Supreme Council”: The Supreme Council for Local Administration established as per this law.

“The Ministry”: The Ministry of Local Administration

“The Minister”: The Minister of Local Administration.

“The competent minister”: The minister of the competent ministry who is in charge of the public agency in the administrative unit.

“The Governor”: The representative of the central authority. He works for all ministries, and he is absolved from his position by a decree.

“The Administrative Unit”: The Governorate, city, town, or municipality, and they will have an honorary personality.

“The Council”: The elected local Council for the administrative unit. It practices its work in accordance with the provisions of the law.

“The Executive Committee”: The Executive Committee of the administrative unit.

“Governorate”: A geographical space within the administrative and local divisions of the Syrian Arab republic that comprises a number of cities, towns, municipalities, villages, and agricultural settlements. It is possible that the Governorate consists of one city.

“City”: Every Governorate center, area, or residential gathering whose population exceeds 50000 people.

“Town”: Every Sub-District center or residential gatherings whose populations are between 10001 and 50000 people.

“Municipality”: Every residential gathering or gatherings whose populations are between 5001 and 10000 people.

“Neighborhood”: A sector of the city, town, or municipality whose population is no less than 10000 in cities, 5000 in towns, 4000 people in municipalities, and no less than 1000 people in the residential gatherings that are conjoined to cities or towns.

“District”: A sector of the Governorate whose population is no less than 60000 people except for the villages that are directly connected to the District center and comprises two Sub-Districts at least.

“Sub-District”: A sector of the District whose population is no less than 25000 people. It may be directly connected to the Governorate center.

“Village”: The residential gathering delineated according to law 15/1971.

“Agricultural Settlement”: The residential gathering delineated according to law 15/1971.

“Neighborhood Committee”: The committee formed by a resolution of the Executive Committee.

“Secretary General”: The most senior employee in the administrative structure of the Governorate.

“Director”: The most senior employee in the administrative structure of city or town.

“The Local Plan”: The comprehensive plan that identifies the aims of the administrative unit for four years and the means, procedures, and activities necessary to achieve them.

“The Local Activities”: The service, developmental, economic, developmental investment, social, and cultural projects that are conducted by the administrative units within their scope of work.

“Economic Activities”: The investment and economic projects that are conducted by the administrative units.

“Social Activities”: The social services that are provided by the administrative unit within its scope to assist the organizations, associations, or science, educational, cultural, charity, and sport clubs that are non profit and help the families and individuals in all social and developmental levels.

“The Local Authority”: The Council of the administrative unit, its Executive Committee, and the related apparatuses.

“The Local Agencies”: The directorates of the ministries, administrations, and the general institutions in addition to the companies that moved their powers to the local authority.

“The Central Authority”: It consists of the ministries, administrations, institutions, companies, public bodies, and their related parties.

“The Central Agencies”: The directorates of the ministries, administrations, institutions, companies, and public bodies that did not move their powers to the local authorities and work within the scope of the administrative unit.

“Road Connection”: The existence of a working road connecting between the concerned localities.

“Geographical Connection”: The absence of a natural barrier between the related localities.

“Citizen Service Center”: It provides the citizens with services according to the conditions, and instructions put by the administrative unit with the other concerned parties to simplify the administrative procedures.

“The National Decentralization Plan”: The plan according to which the powers of the central authority is moved to the local authority.

Chapter 2 The Objectives of the Law:

Article 2

This law aims at:

- (1) Implementing the concept of decentralization of powers and responsibilities and putting them in the hands of people applying the principle of democracy that makes the people the source of every authority. This can be achieved by clear and unequivocal expansion and definition of the powers and competencies of the administrative unit Councils and enable them to exercise their powers and carry out their tasks to develop the administrative unit economically, socially, culturally, and spatially.
- (2) Establishing administrative units that are able to conduct planning and implementing, designing development plans for the local community, and to implement projects effectively. This is done through modification of the levels of the administrative units and through defining their local structures in accordance with their main function. In addition, there is a need to add a number of high quality jobs and make the administrative units in all levels responsible directly for the services, economy, education, and all the affairs that matter the citizens in these administrative units, so that the powers of the central authorities are restricted to planning, legislation and regulation, in addition to promoting the technologies and implementing major projects that administrative units are not able to implement.
- (3) Increasing the financial revenues for the administrative units to enable them to practice the developmental role in the local community alongside the role as service provider and making this community responsible for maintaining and developing these resources to ameliorate the living conditions of the citizens, providing better services, developing economic opportunities within the administrative units, creating job opportunities and complementarity between the service and development roles.
- (4) Helping the community to advance in its local framework and to grow in a balanced way. Creating equal opportunities between the Districts by inculcating the joint cooperation among the administrative units by establishing joint administrations that are able to implement major programs and projects effectively.
- (5) Simplifying the procedures to provide the citizens with services by establishing citizen service centers that issue certificates, provide services, and care directly in accordance with the regulations and conditions set by the administrative units Councils and the concerned ministries and administrations. This will enable the people to get the electronic governmental services and save money, effort, and time.

Chapter 3 The Supreme Council of the Local Administration:

Article 3

- (1) The Supreme Council is formed according to the following:
 - The Prime Minister as a chairman;
 - The Minister as Deputy Chairman;
 - The head of the body of international cooperation and planning as member;
 - Governors as members;
 - Chairmen of the local Councils of the Governorates as members;
 - The head of the Regional Planning Commission as member;

- The Deputy Minister as member
- (2) The Chairman of the Supreme Council invites the ministers concerned to coordinate with them to move some or all the powers of their ministries to the local units and suggest the necessary legislations and regulations.
- (3) The Supreme Council gives the final resolution about all the affairs and arrangements that it considers related to local administration concerning supporting and developing it, suggesting the related laws, and issuing the necessary executive orders.
- (4) The resolutions of the Supreme Council are binding to the ministries and all public parties.

Article 4

The Supreme Council undertakes:

- (1) To prepare the national decentralization plan according to a determined time line, supervising its implementation, and supporting this plan in coordination with all the stakeholders.
- (2) To issue the required resolutions to clarify the work mechanism of the local units.
- (3) To issue the executive regulations and the annual modifications to the lists of fees, resources and remunerations.

Article 5

- (1) The Supreme Council convenes twice a year at least and when needed, on invitation by its chairman.
- (2) The Supreme Council chairman invites whoever he sees appropriate to attend its meetings.

Article 6

- (1) The Supreme Council issues the national decentralization plan during a period of time that does not exceed six months after the issuance of the resolution.
- (2) The national decentralization plan sets a time line in a period of time that does not exceed five years with possibility of extension for one time to finish the process of transfer of powers.
- (3) The Supreme Council forms coordination committees to prepare for all legal, administrative, and technical aspects of this transition.

Section 2: The Administrative Units, their Councils, and their Executive Committees:

Chapter 1 The Administrative Units:

Article 7

- (1) The Syrian Arab Republic consists of administrative units that enjoy legal status and have financial and administrative autonomy. These are: the Governorate, City, Town, and Municipality.
- (2) It is possible that the Governorate consists of one city, represented by one Council. In this case the Governorate Council enjoys, in addition to their powers, the powers of the city Council and its Executive Committee.
- (3) All the villages and agricultural settlements that do not belong to a city, town or municipality are integrated into cities, towns, and municipalities, taking into consideration the administrative boundaries of the Governorates, Districts, and Sub-Districts. These villages and agricultural settlements must not be more than 15 km away from the border of the approved general urban plan, and be connected to them by road and geography. These villages and agricultural settlements will be represented in the city, town, or municipality Council in accordance with the provisions of this law.

Article 8

- (1) The administrative unit as legal entity represents the shared public interest of all the citizens dwelling in the administrative unit, including the interest of future generations.
- (2) The voters in the administrative unit are the holders of the will of the corporate personality. General, secret, direct, and equal voting in general elections is considered the basis whereby the people of volition of the corporate personality express their will.
- (3) The elected local Councils of the administrative units are considered the representative of the will of the legal entity, and their legal responsibilities are defined according to this law.

Article 9

- (1) The Governorates are established and their borders and centers are designated and modified by law.
- (2) The Cities are established and their centers and borders are defined and modified by a decision by the Prime Minister proposed by the Minister. The Cities previously established retain their status.

- (3) The towns and municipalities are established and their borders and centers are designated and modified on proposal by Executive Committee of the Governorate Council.
- (4) The neighborhoods are established by a decision of the Executive Committee of the administrative unit.

Article 10

At proposal by the Minister, the Supreme Council has the right to establish a City or Town for social, economic, touristic, archaeological, or border reasons without being bound to the number of inhabitants.

Article 11

All the Cities are treated the same way as the Districts centers regarding establishment of public administrations to be established according to laws and regulations in force.

Chapter 2 Local Administrative Councils

Article 12

Each administrative unit will have a Council that will be located in the center of the unit. The Council consists of elected in accordance with the provisions of the Law on General Elections by general, secret, direct, and equal suffrage.

Article 13

The number of members of local Councils is specified in accordance with the following:

- (1) The Governorate Council: one representative for each 10,000 inhabitants, with not less than 50 members and not more than 100 members.
- (2) The City Council: one representative for each 4,000 inhabitants, with not less than 25 members and not more than 50 members.
- (3) The Town Council: one representative for each 2,000 inhabitants, with not less than 10 members and not more than 25 members.
- (4) The Municipality Council: 10 members.

Article 14

- (1) The Civil Status records in the year that precedes the elections for the local Councils form the basis to determine the number of the population.
- (2) The numbers of the Central Bureau of Statistics are used for the communities that do not have civil registry and have been established after the issuance of this law.

Article 15

The mandate of the local Councils is four calendar years. It starts from the date of the publication of the names of the elected members. It can be extended by a legislative decree.

Article 16

It is not permitted to hold membership of more than one local Council simultaneously.

Article 17

The Councils are called for a meeting in their first session by a decision of the Minister within fifteen days from the date of issuing the legal act nominating the winning members. The Councils will definitely meet in the sixteenth day if no decision to call them for a meeting was issued.

Article 18

At the start of their period, the Council members swear the legally prescribed oath.

Article 19

- (1) The Council shall hold its first session under the chairmanship of the oldest member. The youngest member shall be secretary. The Chairman shall choose two observers from the remaining members. Together they form the temporary Bureau, of which the mission ends after election of the Permanent Bureau of the Council.
- (2) The act of naming the winners of the membership of the Council is read out. Then the interim chairman of the Council swears the legal oath in front of the Council and calls the members to take the oath individually.

- (3) A member is not permitted to participate in the work of the Council before taking the oath. If the member does not take the oath within fifteen days, he will be considered refusing the election, and he will be replaced by the candidate who has the next highest number of votes within their sector.

Article 20

- (1) In its first session, the Council shall elect the Chairman by secret ballot with absolute majority of those present. If the absolute majority is not achieved, the election will be repeated in the same session and the relative majority will be sufficient.
- (2) The session will be stopped immediately after the election of the Council's Chairman. Then the session is resumed under his chairmanship to elect the permanent Bureau that consists of the deputy chairman, the secretary and two observers.
- (3) The chairmen elected as per sub-paragraph 1, will be confirmed
 - a. For Councils of Governorates and Governorate Capitals by a Decree at proposal of the Minister of Local Administration
 - b. For other Councils by the Minister(Note, sub-paragraph 3 was added by virtue of Decree 128 of 2011)

Article 21

- (1) The Council elects a deputy for the chairman with the absolute majority of those present. If this is not achieved, the election is repeated and the relative majority will be sufficient.
- (2) A secretary and two observers are elected by the relative majority. When the number of votes is equal, they resort to drawing lots. Their election is repeated in the first session every year.
- (3) The Council elects the members of the Executive Committee in accordance with the provisions of article 28 of this law.

Article 22

- (1) If any seat of the Council becomes vacant for any reason, the Council elects a successor for this seat in the first session held.
- (2) If chairman deputy, secretary, or one or both observers did not attend three consecutive meetings during the mandate, and the Council did find any excusable reason for their absence, it elects a replacement.
- (3) If the secretary or one or both observers do not attend the session, the chairman of the Council assigns a member to perform the tasks of the absentee.

Article 23

The sessions of the Council are public, and the chairman of the Council has the right to invite whosoever he sees appropriate unless the chairman or third of the members request the session to be behind closed doors. In this case, the Council decides in a secret session by absolute majority of the members present whether the discussion related to any subject should continue behind closed doors or in public.

Article 24

In case of absence of the chairman of the Council, the deputy chairman will take his place with all powers and duties defined in this law and the laws and regulations in force. If the chairman is relieved from his duties, the chairman deputy in the Council of the City, Town or Municipality will be considered in charge of contracting and orders of expenditure and liquidation.

Article- 25

The Council forms permanent committees of its members and non-member experts. The rules of procedure define the nature of these committees, their establishment, and their method of work. The Council has the right to form temporary committees to examine specific issues when necessary.

Article 26

The rules of procedure of the Councils are issued by a resolution from the minister.

Chapter 3: The Executive Committees:

Article 27

Each Council will have an Executive Committee with mandate of four years starting from the date of the ratification of the resolution that name it.

Article 28

The number of members of the Executive Committee except for the chairman are determined as follows:

- (1) One member of the Executive Committee for every 10 members of the Governorate Council. This number must not be less than eight or more than ten including the deputy chairman.
- (2) Eight members in Governorate centers and Cities with more than 100,000 inhabitants. This number of members include the deputy chairman.
- (3) Six members in Cities with less than 100,000 inhabitants. This number includes the deputy chairman.
- (4) Four members in the Town and Municipality and including the chairman deputy.

Article 29

Taking into account the provisions of article 7 of this law.

- (1) The Governor chairs the Executive Committee of the Governorate Council. The City or Town Council is chaired by the head of their Executive Committee.
- (2) The deputy chairman of the Council shall be the deputy chairman of the Executive Committee. He will definitely work full time.
- (3) The Executive Committee shall distribute its duties to its members at its first meeting.
- (4) All members of the Executive Committee of the Council shall work full time.
- (5) The Minister has the right to issue a decision at the proposal if the chairman of the Council to appoint one or two members to work full time in the Executive Committees of Cities and Towns.
- (6) The chairmen of local Councils and full-time members in the Executive Committees are considered state employees, and the duration of their work lasts during the whole period of their assignment.
- (7) The formation of the Executive Committees in the Governorates, Cities, and Governorate centers, and the distribution of work among their members is ratified by the Minister. The minister also ratifies the formation of other Executive Committees and distribution of duties among their members by his decision, or by a decision of a person authorized by him to this effect. These Executive Committees do not start their work before the ratification of these resolutions.

Chapter III - The Local Councils Terms of Reference

Article 30

Within the general policy of the state, the local Councils are responsible for the affairs of the local administration and all the activities conducive to developing the Governorate economically, socially, culturally, and spatially, in line with the principles of balanced and sustainable development, in the fields of planning, industry, agriculture, economy, commerce, education, culture, heritage, tourism, transport, roads, irrigation, drinkable water and sanitation, electricity, medical care, social affairs and labor, services and public utilities, quarries and metal resources, disaster management and firefighting, traffic control and driving license centers, environment, sports and youth, and other joint projects of the administrative units.

Article 31

To ensure that the powers mentioned in the previous paragraph may be exercised the Councils are authorized to:

- (1) Coordinate with the central agencies excluded from the national plan for decentralization. That includes expressing an opinion on their work plans and implementing them according to the requirements of the work of these agencies.
- (2) Direct oversight of all local agencies whose powers have been moved during the various stages of the application of this law to the Administrative Unit in accordance with the National Decentralization Plan. This is done through follow-up by the Council and giving guidance to the Executive Committee, including:
 - a. Defining priorities and approval of long-term development plans.
 - b. Approve annual work plans and follow-up on their implementation.
 - c. Evaluate their work and propose everything necessary regard their management.
 - d. Ratification of their contracts in accordance with laws and regulations in force.
- (3) Supervision of the central agencies whose powers will be moved to the administrative units later on, according to the National Decentralization Plan. This is done through following-up by the Council and giving guidance to the Executive Committee, including:
 - a. Getting acquainted with their plans and budgets and giving an opinion about them.

- b. Requesting information, discussion, and coordination in addition to expressing an opinion about their work.

Chapter 1: Powers of the Governorate Council

Article 32

The Governorate Council prepares plans and follows-up their implementation to ensure the balanced and sustainable development in the Governorate. To do so the Council may:

- (1) Assign the competent parties in the local and central agencies or those who have domestic and international expertise to put a future vision for services, and social and economic development for the Governorate and translate this vision into long-term plans to realize the successive development stages, economically, socially, institutionally, and in education, depending on the material and human characteristics and capabilities of the Governorate.
- (2) Coordination with other local Councils, the central agencies and all entities of the public, private and civil sector during the preparation of the plan, ensuring their compatibility with the national five-year development plan.
- (3) Approve the indicative development plan at the Governorate level in the long and medium-term and linking it to the regional spatial plans.
- (4) Approving the annual economic, social, and service plans as binding for the Executive Committee. This plan also defines the phases of achieving the future vision and the measures to follow-up and monitor the performance of the Executive Committee in realizing the plan and inform the citizens about the results.
- (5) Adoption of programs to encourage local investment and support promotion of the Governorate and its investments.

Article 33

In addition to the powers contained in Article 32 of this Law, the Governorate Council shall take all decisions necessary to exercise the powers of the ministry, administration, or central agency whose powers have been transferred to the local authority according to the National Decentralization Plan and especially:

- (1) Preparing plans necessary to increase the productivity of the work, to improve the quality of production continuously, decreasing costs, and reducing expenses to augment profits.
- (2) Support the activities of other local Councils and to assist them in performing their duties.
- (3) Laying the foundations for investment of local resources for which central measures and plans did not specify alternative ways for investing them, after consultation of the competent Ministry.
- (4) Cooperation with other Governorate Councils to unite visions and aims regarding joint tasks to achieve regional complementarity.
- (5) Performing tasks exceeding the capabilities of the cities, towns and municipalities.
- (6) Adoption of disaster management plans to mitigate the dangers, address the consequences in the event of their occurrence, and store amounts of the following materials: Accommodation materials, food stuff, and petroleum products etc. in coordination with the competent ministries.
- (7) Preparing plans for protecting lives, facilities, and public and private properties from the dangers of fire.
- (8) Setting the rules of handling of movable and immovable assets of the Governorate, such as selling, rent, and investment. The required legal measures are followed with regard to handling of public funds.
- (9) Setting rules for the management of projects and facilities that serve the Governorate, in addition to rules related investing and maintaining the facilities abandoned by their owners.
- (10) Organizing every matter that is not organized directly by the central authority and that does not fall under the terms of reference of other Councils.
- (11) Setting the Governorate independent budget.
- (12) Preparing budgets and approve the annual plans for local agencies at the Governorate level.
- (13) Approving taking internal and external loans in accordance with applicable laws and regulations in force.
- (14) Accept gifts and donations in accordance with the laws and regulations in force.
- (15) Determine the tariffs to be levied for services which fall outside the scope of Governorate services at the request of stakeholders in coordination with the relevant ministries.
- (16) Implementing joint projects with administrative units inside the Governorate and join them or withdraw from them with administrative units outside the Governorate after the approval of the minister.

- (17) Adoption of partnership agreements between the Governorate and civil organizations, NGOs and providing support to civil initiatives in the field of social services and developmental programs.
- (18) Appointing the members of the permanent and temporary committees.
- (19) Establishing citizen service centers that issue licenses and provide services and care etc. to the citizens in accordance with the terms and conditions set by the Council and the ministries and departments concerned to simplify procedures.
- (20) Supervising the work of the Executive Committee and request general and quality reports of the office.
- (21) Adopting the annual report of the Executive Committee.

Article / 34:

- (1) The Governorate Council shall have an independent budget that does constitute a part of the general budget of State. The revenues and spending aspects of this budget are set by law No. 35 of 2007.
- (2) The Governorate Council has the right to decide funding investment developmental projects that have output not exceeding 25% of the Governorate's independent budget. This article is considered amended with respect to the aspects of the independent budget expenditures contained in Law No. 35 of 2007.
- (3) The Supreme Council has the right to reconsider this rate according to the requirements of the public interest.

Chapter 2 Powers of the Chairman of the Governorate Council.

Article 35

The Chairman of the Governorate Council has the following powers:

- (1) Representing the Council in courts and other parties.
- (2) Signing the records, resolutions and correspondence of the Governorate Council.
- (3) Following up the execution of resolutions, recommendations and proposals of the Council.
- (4) Inviting members of the Governorate Council to attend meetings of the regular and special sessions in accordance with the provisions of its rules of procedure. He chairs the meetings.
- (5) Coordinating the communication between the Governorate Council and the local authorities in relation to resolutions and measures taken by the Council.
- (6) Invite any of the Directors working within the scope of the Governorate, through the Governor, to attend meetings to discuss topics related to their work.
- (7) Supervising all administrative work related to the Council's office.
- (8) Receiving citizens' complaints related to the work of the Council and local agencies.

Article 36:

The chairman of the Governorate Council takes the responsibilities of addressing the Governor in all issues that require coordination with the central authority.

Article 37:

- (1) If the chairman of the Council is absent from the meetings of the Council, his deputy takes his place. If they both are absent, the oldest member of the attendees chairs the session.
- (2) The deputy chairman of the Council has all the authorities of the chairman in his absence or when he is unable to carry out his duties.

Chapter 3: Executive Committees of the Governorate Councils

Article 38:

The Executive Committee of the Governorate Council take the following competences:

- (1) Execute the resolutions of the Governorate Council and follow them up and submit periodic reports to the Council thereon.
- (2) Provide assistance to other Executive Committees within the Governorate in the performance of its functions upon request.
- (3) Oversee the work of the local agencies in the scope of the Governorate and submit periodic reports to the Council about thereon.
- (4) Creating the plans within the scope of the Council's work and submit them to the Council for the approval and follow-up their implementation.

- (5) Prepare the project of the independent budget for the Governorate in coordination with the concerned parties.
- (6) Cooperate with other Governorates in relation to preparing and implementing joint tasks.
- (7) Make notes about the work and resolutions of central institutions, and submit proposals when these resolutions affect the interests of the population of the Governorate.
- (8) Ratify the contracts of the local agencies within the limits laid down in contract regulations, laws and regulations in force.
- (9) Assign the general or private authorities to prepare economic, planning and technical studies for the development of the work and services of the administrative unit.
- (10) Supervise the preparation and readiness of protection of disasters and earthquakes schemes and fire prevention requirements prepared by the competent authorities.
- (11) Participate in securing the necessary assistance to help victims of disasters and epidemics.
- (12) Take the necessary measures to ensure the rights of the Governorate in the judicial lawsuits filed by it or against it.
- (13) Take any urgent decision that lies within the responsibilities of the Governorate Council, when there are no meetings, to protect the interests of the administrative unit. They should not violate any resolution in force issued by the Council. The new resolution is to be submitted to the Council in the first session. If it is rejected, the resolution is considered void and will not have any impact on rights of others.
- (14) Put the foundations and procedures for granting administrative licenses in accordance with the laws in force and regulations laid down by the competent ministry.
- (15) Form a committee of study for license applications to use public surface and ground water in agricultural projects and the granting of licenses for the use of water resources in accordance with the laws and regulations in force.
- (16) Issue administrative licenses for factories, industrial plants, touristic facilities, services facilities, and education facilities which by laws and regulations must be licensed by the Executive Committee of the Governorate.
- (17) Pricing local products.
- (18) Propose to create sports clubs, social and cultural clubs in the Governorate.
- (19) All the competences of the Governorate provided by the laws and regulations in force concerning the work of local associations.

Section four: Governorate management.

Chapter 1: The Governor

Article 39

In each Governorate, there is a Governor appointed and relieved of his post by a decree. The Governor is considered a member of the Executive Authority.

Article 40

The Governor takes the legal oath in front of the President before commencing their duties. The Governor represents the central authority in the Governorate and he/she works for all ministries.

Article 42

As a representative of the central authority, the Governor oversees the work of the local authorities and all local and central agencies in the Governorate, and he oversees their application of laws and regulations.

Article 43

The Governor must inform the Minister in case he/she leaves the Governorate.

Chapter 2 The powers of the Governor

Article 44

The Governor carries out the following tasks:

First:

- (1) Coordinate the communication between the Executive Committee in the Governorate and the central authority in relation to resolutions and measures taken by the Office.

- (2) The affairs of the workers in the Governorate agencies in accordance with provisions of the Basic Law of the Workers, except for internal security forces, and assignments to them by the competent minister.
- (3) Communicate orders and instructions of the central authority to the relevant local authorities and follow up their implementation.
- (4) Tasks assigned to them by the central authority which are originally within its terms of reference if there is no law that prevents the central authority from doing so.
- (5) Take the measures he deems necessary to enhance public security under laws and regulations in force, as per instruction by the Minister of Interior in things that are not in the powers of the Governorate Council and its Executive Committee.
- (6) Contact the public prosecutor in the Governorate about issues affecting public order, security affairs and speed of executing judicial decisions.
- (7) Apply the rules of constitutional public freedoms and maintaining them.
- (8) Carry out the role of judicial police in relation to flagrante delicto as stipulated in the Code of Criminal Procedure. He may order an investigation of hidden crimes. He performs the role of the administrative police through officers of the General Administration and the internal security forces in each Governorate in each Governorate in line with the instruction of the competent central authority.
- (9) Implement the measures for self-protection and prevention of all types of risks including those caused by nature or artificial hazards through specialized committees within the Governorate.

Second:

- (1) He is the spending and disbursement authority for payments of the Governorate budget and for financial settlements. He may delegate all or part of these powers to the concerned Directors.
- (2) He exercises the powers of the Minister as per in the contracts regulations within the limits given in laws and regulations in force.

Article 45

- (1) If a clear usurpation of a property or of property rights occurs, the Governor may decide to restore the situation as it was before the usurpation. In case of a clear violation causing a public dispute over crops and affecting security, the Governor may take the necessary measures for the preservation of the crops. He may distribute them among the eligible according to existing practices, or entrust a third person with it if that does not affect the ruling to be issued by the judicial authorities.
- (2) The administrative arrangements stay effective until they are repealed or amended by a justified resolution from the same authority, or until an irrevocable resolution is issued by the judicial authority dealing with the original dispute.

Article 46

With exception of the internal security forces, ministries and local agencies have to consult the Governor about the appointment and transfer of Directors of central departments, institutions and companies that work exclusively within the Governorate.

Article 47

All employees in the central administrations in the ministries, whose powers have been transferred to the Governorate and the inspectors delegated by an official task to the Governorate have to contact the Governor to brief him on their tasks before commencing.

Article 48

The Governor has to submit a report every three months to the Minister concerning the situation of the Governorate in general. A copy of the report should be sent to the competent ministries, each according to its competence.

Article 49

A house is provided to the Governor.

Article 50

- (1) The Governor executes the instructions issued by the ministers about planning, organizational and technical affairs for their ministries, if that does not contradict with the competences of the Governorate Council and its Executive Committee.
- (2) The Governor may make observations on these regulations before they are implemented. If the competent minister insists in writing on their instructions, the Governor may transfer the matter to the Presidency of the Council of Ministers through the Minister to take the final decision. When he sees that the implementation leads to a serious imbalance in public order or public security, he has to refer the case to the Presidency of the Council of Ministers directly.

Article 51

Directors of institutions, Directors of public and joint sectors, Directors of their branches in the Governorate and directors of local and central agencies and directors of public bodies and general directorates execute the written requests of the Governor concerning the public security, public health and public comfort provided that they do not lead to violating the laws and regulations in force.

Article 52

- (1) Internal security forces in the Governorate execute the orders of the Governor in accordance with paragraph 5 of the first item of Article 44.
- (2) If the Governor sees that internal security forces in the Governorate are not sufficient to ensure the security, order and public safety, he may request the Ministry of Interior to enhance these forces or ask the help of the military force. In exceptional cases when it is impossible to contact the central authority, they have the right to ask for help directly on their own responsibility, from the District Commander or the Location Commander and in this case their request is obeyed.

Article 53

The civil defense in the Governorate executes the orders of the Governor orders during peace and war times.

Article 54

The Governor exercises the following powers:

- (1) Establish committees that take the final decision in the appeals about technical inspections of vehicles.
- (2) Establish the wage-setting committee in the Governorate.
- (3) Appoint the chairman and members of the committee of joint passenger transportation.
- (4) Appoint committees of unified transportation lines.
- (5) Temporarily prevent the cars from running on one of the lines for reasons related to public security or the ongoing works on public roads.
- (6) Invite permanent workers who manage records of the vehicles to swear in according to the provisions of the high way code and its amendments.
- (7) Appoint teachers to teach religion and advice, guide, and do religious rituals in social care institutions working in the field of minors.
- (8) Distribute the profits resulting from the operation of the permanent shared capital in the social institutions according to the institutions of the competent ministry.
- (9) Deduct the loss that may result from investing the permanent capital in the social institutions.
- (10) Allocate a percentage of the annual profits of the permanent capital as a compensation for the chairman and members of the committee of work and minors working in the production.

Article 55

- (1) In the absence of the Governor, the Police Commander in the Governorate takes his place as a representative of the executive authority. The deputy chairman of the Executive Committee takes his place in all the powers related to the work of the Executive Committee, and in case the Governor is relieved from his duties, he is considered contracting and disbursing authority for financial settlements and payments, until a substitute has been appointed.
- (2) As chairman of the Executive Committee, the Governor can delegate to the deputy chairman of the committee, the secretary-general or Directors of the local and central agencies some of his powers in accordance with laws and regulations.
- (3) As a representative of the executive authority, the Governor may delegate some of his powers to the secretary general and Directors of the central agencies in accordance with laws and regulations.

Article 56

The Supreme Judicial Council is responsible for prosecuting the Governor for disciplinary offenses after his case has been transferred by a decree issued on proposal by the Minister. The public lawsuit cannot be filed against him unless by a resolution from the Supreme Judicial Council.

Article 57

Directors of the local agencies and central agencies have to inform the Governor when they leave the Governorate.

Chapter 3: The Secretary General of the Governorate

Article 58

- (1) A position of secretary general of the Governorate is to be created in each Governorate, and the organisational statute is to be amended to include a job description and conditions for employment.
- (2) The secretary-general is appointed by decision of the Prime Minister on proposal by the Minister. They must be from first category employees with experience, within the Governorate.
- (3) The terms “secretary general” and “general secretariat” replace the terms “ secretary” and “ secretariat” wherever found in the laws and regulations.

Article 59:

The Secretary General exercises the following powers:

- (1) Preparing the agenda of the Executive Committee meetings.
- (2) Auditing and preparing the resolutions issued by the Council and the Executive Committee.
- (3) Submitting the draft resolutions, plans and programs for the Council.
- (4) Transferring the topics to be presented to the relevant committees in the Council for consideration before submission to the Council.
- (5) Preparing records of the Executive Committee meetings and following-up of its decisions and documenting them according to the adopted norms.
- (6) Submitting annual plans to the Executive Committee for approval.
- (7) Following-up the implementation of Governorate plans and reporting about them to the Executive Committee.
- (8) Following-up on the implementation of the Governorate Council and the Executive Committee decisions.
- (9) Coordinating between the Governorate and the other bodies and public parties in the Governorate.
- (10) Applying the organizational statute of the Governorate.
- (11) Managing employee affairs in the General Secretariat departments, coordinating between its directorates, distribute the functions, monitor and follow-up implementation.
- (12) Submitting periodic reports to the Executive Committee in all areas of work of the Governorate.
- (13) Taking measures to ensure confidentiality of correspondence and documents with confidential status.
- (14) Auditing studies carried out by the General Secretariat and the local and central agencies in the Governorate before submitting them to the Governorate Council and its Executive Committee.
- (15) Marking the resolutions and correspondence before signature by the chairman of the Executive Committee or of the Governorate Council.
- (16) Carrying out tasks assigned by the Governor.
- (17) Attending the meetings of the Council and the office without having the right to vote.

Sector five: Councils of Cities, Towns and Municipalities, and their Executive Committees

Chapter 1: Powers of Councils of Cities, Towns and Municipalities.

Article 60

In addition to the competences of the local Councils set forth in Article 32 of this law, the Council of the city, the town or the municipality prepares the plans and follows-up their implementation to ensure a balanced and sustainable development in the local unit.

For this, it may:

- (1) Coordinate with the Governorate Council to prepare a future developmental economic, social and service vision of the city or the town. It also may coordinate to prepare long-term plans with phased development economically, socially, institutionally and culturally, depending on the characteristics of

the administrative unit and its human and financial resources. In addition, it may propose projects within the power of the Governorate Council and the central agencies to be included in their plans.

- (2) Participate and express their opinion about the regional spatial plans within the scope of the administrative unit.
- (3) Coordinate with the local Councils, central agencies, all public and private institutions and local community organisations in the preparation of the plan and in its discussion.
- (4) Approve the annual economic, social and services plans.
- (5) Approve programs to encourage local investment and support the promotion for the administrative unit and its investments.
- (6) Follow-up and approve of the urban plans in accordance with the laws and regulations.
- (7) Encourage the establishment of urban observatories and centers for documenting the local information.

Article 61

In addition to the competences mentioned earlier in Article 60, the Council of the City, the Town or the Municipality is in charge of taking all the necessary decisions and measures of the Ministry, administration or central institution of which the tasks have been transferred to the administrative unit according to the National Plan for Decentralization.

- (1) Lead and direct the work of the agencies of the city or the town to enhance their work through the Executive Committee and exercise oversight on all aspects of their activities.
- (2) perform the tasks of administrative unit stated in the Expropriation Laws.
- (3) performing the tasks of administrative unit stated in the laws and regulations of removing common property.
- (4) approval of the architectural and urban regulations as per laws and regulations in force.
- (5) supervising the readiness of the civil defense plans and the protection from disasters and pests in the administrative unit and following up their implementation.
- (6) Investing the local resources that have not been invested by other public institutions.
- (7) Change the allocation of public property of the city or the town and incorporate them in its private property.
- (8) Define the basic rules for handling movable and immovable property belonging to the administrative unit, such as selling, renting and investing them, within laws and regulations.
- (9) Establish and fund companies of economic profit for the administrative unit as per laws and regulations in force and grant private investment in the city or town.
- (10) Develop the necessary rules for the management of government facilities and projects that the central authority has entrusted to the Administrative unit.
- (11) Set the rules for the management and investment of projects and facilities that serve the unit and that were abandoned by their owners.
- (12) Establish companies of internal transport.
- (13) Sponsor youth and sports, organize leisure time activities and support activities of clubs, sport and physical education centers financially and technically.
- (14) Establish cities, playgrounds and sports centers and manage, invest and maintain them.
- (15) Define the foundations and criteria for granting of licenses for billboards.
- (16) Approve the annual budgets and plans for the local agencies at the administrative unit level.
- (17) Adopting the annual report of the Executive Committee.
- (18) Approve partnership agreements between the Council and local community organization and provide support to civil initiatives in the field of social services and development programs.
- (19) Create social support centers to carry out social activities and to enable beneficiaries and their families economically, socially, healthy, educationally and professionally. This is done through a variety of programs to be implemented via these centers so as to ensure the achievement of justice in the distribution of social services and implementation of the necessary programs to improve social circumstances in the Governorate.
- (20) Act as regulatory authority in each topic the central authority does not regulate directly.
- (21) Monitor the implementation of the instructions for the application of fire prevention requirements in all buildings, facilities and all constructions in the Governorate, and according to the fire prevention system approved by Engineers Syndicate according to the adopted norms.
- (22) Monitor the compliance with regulations for industrial safety, occupational health and safety and prevention of pollution of the environment.
- (23) Establish citizen service centers in the city and town.

Chapter 2 The powers of the Executive Committee of the Councils of the Cities, Towns and Municipalities.

Article 62

The Executive Committee of the Council of the city, the town or the municipality is responsible for:

- (1) Executing the resolutions of the Council.
- (2) Performing the tasks of the local Council in the oversight, coordination and management set out in article 32 of this law.
- (3) Preparing the annual and long-term economic, social and services plans and detailed programs for the implementation of these plans.
- (4) Monitoring and coordinating the activities of various local agencies, institutions and service departments in the administrative unit.
- (5) Expressing their opinion on the decisions of the agencies that do not affiliate with the Council when such decisions affect citizens' interests in the city or town.
- (6) Managing the income of the administrative unit, its money and properties, investing them according to the approval of the Council, monitoring their accounts and performing all the necessary work to ensure their rights.
- (7) Checking the files of the contracts before ratification by the competent authorities and giving the starting order.
- (8) Laying the criteria and procedures for the granting of building permits and administrative licenses.
- (9) Proposing the land acquisition projects for the public interest belonging to the administrative unit and all public bodies.
- (10) Assigning the general or private authorities to prepare economic, planning and technical studies for the development of the work and services of the administrative unit.
- (11) Taking the necessary measures to ensure the rights of the Governorate in the judicial lawsuits filed by it or against it.
- (12) Taking any urgent decision within the powers of the Council, when there are no meetings, to protect the interests of the administrative unit, whilst not violating any decision taken previously by the Council. The decision is to be submitted to the Council in its first session. If it is rejected, the resolution is considered void and will not have any impact on the emerging rights of others.
- (13) Forming neighborhood committees, committees of voluntary work and local development committees, overseeing their work and adopting the appropriate criteria for material and moral support and monitoring their activity.

Article 63

If a violation of a private building happens or if for health or technical reasons or for damage caused to others, works are required in the public interest, an agency defined by the Executive Committee is assigned to remove the violation or to do the required work. If the relevant person refuses, the agency removes the violation or does the work at his expense. In addition, the offender has to pay a fine in accordance with the provisions of the laws in force.

Article 64

- (1) While retaining the provisions of law No 9 of 27/01/1974 and its amendments, it is prohibited to distribute, demarcate or regulate land use in the administrative unit, any carry out multi-floor demarcation or any demarcation which includes a built part, without a map previously ratified by the administrative authority as appointed by the competent Executive Committee.
- (2) It is prohibited to correct the specifications of any building without a map previously ratified by the administrative authority as appointed by the competent Executive Committee.
- (3) The competent authority in the administrative unit has to send the transaction of correcting the specifications with approval or disapproval to the Secretariat of Real Estate Registry within three months of the arrival of the transaction. If this period expires without returning the transaction, the Directorate or the Secretariat of Real Estate Registry registers the correction.

Article 65

It is not permissible to any public, joint, cooperative, or private parties to erect any building in the boundaries of the city or town. Moreover, the aforementioned parties are not allowed to conduct any alteration or demolition to an old building before getting a previous permit from the Executive Committee. The city or town Director shall be responsible for supervising the competent administrations in charge of inspecting violations.

Article 66

- (1) It is prohibited to cut any tree in wooded areas located within the city or the town before obtaining a license from the Director on the condition that the relevant person commits to plant and take care of a certain number of trees instead of each tree he will cut.
- (2) If the concerned person breached his pledge, the Director will give orders to execute this pledge at his expense in addition to paying the fine incurred in accordance with law.

Article 67

It is possible, after getting permission from prosecution to allow the competent workers in the local administration units to enter the inhabited houses to make sure of the violations against the laws and regulations in force in accordance with the provisions and the legal processes adopted.

Article 68

- (1) The Executive Committee exercises its powers collectively.
- (2) Members of the Executive Committee are responsible for monitoring the sector assigned to them, each in the field of their competency to verify the adequacy and performance of the implementation of the decisions of the administrative unit and its Executive Committee and for filing reports about the flow of work to the office with observations and suggestions.

Chapter 3 Powers of the chairman of the City, Town or Municipality Council.

Article 69

The powers of the chairman of the city Council, town, or municipality are as follows:

- (1) Represent the administrative unit in courts and other parties.
- (2) Chairing the Executive Committee of the city or town.
- (3) Invite the members to attend the regular and special sessions in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Council, and he chairs its sessions.
- (4) Invite the members of the Executive Committee to meet in accordance with its rules of procedure, and he chairs its meetings.
- (5) Implementation of the resolutions of the Council and the Executive Committee and adhere to them.
- (6) Requesting from the secretariat of real estate registry to transfer the land located within the boundaries of the administrative unit, owned by the state, and that are not built to the property of this unit.
- (7) The powers of the chairman of the Executive Committee of the administrative unite Council in the laws and regulations in force.
- (8) Employee affairs in accordance with the laws and regulations in force.
- (9) Practicing executive issues that are not assigned to a specific party in this law within the boundaries of the administrative unit.
- (10) Spending and disbursement authority for financial settlements and payment.
- (11) Supervising the agencies of the administrative unit to ensure the implementation of their tasks.
- (12) Signing the resolutions and correspondence issued by the Council, the office and the departments of the administrative unit.
- (13) In case of the absence of the Chairman of the Council, his deputy replaces him in all his powers. When the Chairman is relieved from his position, his deputy is to be spending and disbursement authority for financial settlements and payments, until a substitute has been appointed.
- (14) The chairman of the Council may delegate some of his powers to others.

Chapter 4 The City or Town Director and their terms of reference:

Article 70

The position of Director of the first category is to be created in the Cities and Towns. The position is considered an addition to the staff, and the their rules of procedures are amended to include the job description and the conditions to occupy it. The Director is appointed by a resolution from the minister.

Article 71

The Director of the city or the town has the following terms of reference:

- (1) Organizing of the agenda of the Council and the office, preparing for their sessions, calling for attending the sessions and following up the resolutions issued by them.

- (2) Submitting the draft decisions, plans and programs to the Council.
- (3) Submitting the annual plans to the Executive Committee for approval.
- (4) Transferring the topics to be presented to the relevant committees in the Council for consideration before submission to the Council.
- (5) Following-up the execution of the plans of the city or the town and file reports about them to the Executive Committee.
- (6) Direct supervision of departments of the city or town and follow up their work.
- (7) Submitting periodic reports to the Executive Committee in all areas of work of the city or town.
- (8) Supervising employees in the administrative unit.
- (9) Studying the topics to be presented to the Council and submitting the results of the studies to the Chairman of the Council before submitting them to the Council.
- (10) Coordinating between the administrative unit on the one hand, and the rest of the bodies and public parties in the unit and the Governorate on the other hand.
- (11) Preparing the administrative and financial plans for the city or the town, preparing the programs for the projects suggested for implementation during the fiscal year and presenting them to the Chairman of the Council to present them to the Council.
- (12) Preparing the draft budget and closing account and presenting them to the chairman of the Council for submission to the Council.
- (13) Coordination with administrative and executive agencies working in the scope of the city or the town to facilitate the implementation of joint works between them.
- (14) Taking measures to ensure the confidentiality of correspondence and documents with confidential status.
- (15) Marking the resolutions and correspondence before they are signed by the chairman of the Executive Committee of the Governorate Council.
- (16) Works and tasks assigned to them by the chairman of the Council.
- (17) Attending the meetings of the Council and the office without having the right to vote.
- (18) Taking the measures for self-protection and prevention of all types of risks caused by nature or by artificial hazards in coordination with the competent parties.
- (19) Monitoring the implementation of instructions for the application of fire prevention requirements in all buildings, facilities and all constructions in the administrative unit, and according the fire prevention system approved by the Engineers Syndicate according to the adopted norms.

Section Six: Administrative divisions

Chapter 1 District and Sub-District

Article 72

- (1) The Supreme Council may create the position of Director of the first category in the municipalities on a proposal by the Minister. The Director is to be appointed by decision of the Minister.
- (2) The Director of the municipality exercises the powers of the Director of the City or the Town listed in article 71 of this law.

Article 73

The Governorates are divided into Districts. The Districts are divided into Sub-Districts. The Cities, Towns and Municipalities are divided into neighborhoods.

Article 74

The creating of Districts and Sub-Districts must be compatible with the requirements of the five-year plan of the state. The establishment is to be distributed over the years according to a plan prepared by the Ministry of Local Administration in coordination with the Ministry of the Interior. The Prime Minister shall adopt the plan. Selecting the District or the Sub-District that is proposed to be created must take into consideration the reconciliation between its centrality and ease of reach, or being in the way to the center of the higher administrative unit.

Article 75

The Districts are established, named, and their centers are designated and amended by a decree based on the proposal of the minister provided that these Districts include two Sub-Districts at least excluding the villages linked directly to the District center.

Article 76

Sub-Districts are created and their borders and centers are designated and modified by a resolution of the Minister based on a proposal from Governor.

District

Article 77

- (1) In every District there is a Director of the District who represents the Executive Authority in the District. The Director is responsible for the public security, the public comfort and safety. They supervise the implementation of laws and regulations. They perform the functions assigned to them by the legislations in force. They support the Councils of the administrative units in their District.
- (2) The Director of the District is affiliated with:
 - (A) the Minister of the Interior for a recruitment, transfer and HR and disciplinary affairs.
 - (B) The Governor as the representative of the executive authority.
- (3) The Director of the District undertakes the following terms of reference as a representative of the central authority:
 - (A) notice the laws and regulations to the various public departments, institutions and agencies of the District.
 - (B) notice the orders and instructions issued by the higher authorities of the central authority, the Governor, the Governorate Council and its Executive Committee and follow-up their implementation.
 - (C) take the necessary measures to consolidate public security within the laws and regulations in force.

Article 78

- (1) The Director of the District oversees all the departments of their District, working hours of their employees and propose sanctions against them, except for the court, the local Councils and their Executive Committees.
- (2) All the employees in the District mentioned in the previous paragraph have to submit to the Director of the District all the necessary data and everything that facilitate his mission. The Director can propose to sanction any employee the District in case of negligence.
- (3) The Director of the District submits reports to the Governor about the work of all the departments of the region in case of shortcomings.

Article 79

The Director of the District is responsible for the public order in that District. He exercises his job that is related to the judicial police in relation to witnessed crimes according to the provisions contained in the Code of Criminal Procedure. He gives orders to start investigating unwitnessed crimes when necessary. In additions, the Director performs his function with regard to administrative police through the competent employees and the internal security forces in the District.

Article 80

According to the Articles 77-76 of this law, the Director of the District may take initial measures to maintain order and submit proposals along with the ongoing investigations to the Governor to take the appropriate decision on the manifest infringement.

Article 81

The Director of the District informs the Governor when they leave their area of work.

Sub-District:

Article 82

- (1) In each Sub-District there is a Director of the Sub-District who represents the executive authority. He is responsible for public security, public comfort, and public safety in his Sub-District. He supervises the implementation of laws and regulations, provided that he does not contradict the powers of the local Councils and their Executive Committees.
- (2) The Director of the Sub-District affiliates directly with the Director of the District, execute their instructions and files reports to him about the progress of work within the Sub-District.

- (3) All the employees in the Sub-District, except for judges, have to execute the orders issued by the Director of the Sub-District in relation to securing the public interest in accordance with laws and regulations in force. The Director of the Sub-District may oversee their working hours and propose the appropriate penalties to the competent authority.
- (4) In addition to that, the Director of the Sub-District undertakes the following terms of reference:
 - A. Heads the internal security forces in the Sub-District.
 - B. Performs the functions of the judicial police and administrative police according to the laws and regulations in force.
 - C. Supports the Councils of the administrative units.
- (5) The Director of the Sub-District informs the Governor when they leave their area of work.

Chapter 2 Neighborhood:

Article 83

A committee is to be formed in every neighborhood headed by the mukhtar and membership of a number of members ranging between 7 and 11. The members are selected by the Executive Committee from the citizens living permanently in the neighborhood according to the procedures approved by the Council.

Article 84

The committee of the neighborhood reports to the Executive Committee, and it is regarded as one of its agencies.

Article 85

A selection committee is to be formed in the neighborhood headed by the mukhtar and membership of two members of the neighborhood committee elected by the selection committee. The selection committee meets at the invitation of its chairman.

Article 86

The Council divides the administrative unit into neighborhoods according to the definition of the neighborhood contained in Article 1 of this law.

Article 87

The committee of the neighborhood meets once a month at the invitation of its chairman. It submits the minutes of its meeting to the Executive Committee to study it and respond to its content.

Article 88

The duties of the neighborhood committee

- (1) Suggesting the annual service plan for the neighborhood.
- (2) Public contribution in the implementation of projects that benefit the public in the neighborhood, and organizing voluntary work committees to implement community projects under the supervision of the Executive Committee.
- (3) Notify the Executive Committee about any shortcomings in the implementation of the service projects on Sub-District level.
- (4) Taking care of the social, cultural, and spatial affairs in the neighborhood, as well as expressing the wishes of the citizens in these matters, and submitting related recommendations to the Executive Committee.
- (5) Supervising the health situation in general, hygiene, safety of drinking water and food items, and news regarding the infectious diseases and epidemics.
- (6) Help in executing the measures that lead to fighting unemployment, activating sports, fighting dangerous propaganda, maintaining the boundaries of the organizational chart, protecting ruins, grave yards, public infrastructure, and reinforcing the fight against illiteracy.

Article 89

The administrative unit Council should provide an office (or place) for the meeting of the committee where the mukhtar exercise his/her daily duties. The mukhtar has the responsibility of paying the fees of using this office including water, power and phone.

Article 90

The mukhtar must be:

- (1) In possession of the Syrian nationality for minimum of five years
- (2) Not a government employee
- (3) Must be registered in the civil registry of the administrative unit. When there is no civil status registry, he/she can be assigned from the permanent residents.
- (4) He must be over 35 years old.
- (5) He must have the basic education stage minimally.
- (6) Not sentenced due to a crime or felony.
- (7) He must be able to carry out his duties properly.

Article 91

In case the mukhtar is absent for more than 10 days, one of the election committee members should take his place as per the chairman of the office order.

Article 92

The mukhtar must take the following oath in front of the chairman of the administrative unit:
I swear to God that I will do my duties according to the laws and regulations honestly, impartially and conscientiously.

Article 93

Duties of the mukhtar:

- 1) Publishing laws, regulations, decisions, instructions and all that needs publishing in the bulletin of the committee's office, public places, and places of worship.
- 2) Performing their duties according to the civil status law in regard with the births and deaths, as well as documents imposed by the laws and regulations.
- 3) Support the concerned authorities about the security-related issues, watching strangers and foreigners, and reporting about them.
- 4) Contribution imposed under the law of military service, reserve military service, investigate the unregistered, supervise the deserters from military service and report about them.
- 5) Report about dropouts from basic education.
- 6) Help judicial authorities, seizure officers, collectors, customs, and public bodies staff.
- 7) Performing the duties of the judicial police within the legal terms and conditions.
- 8) Escorting public force representatives when entering homes.
- 9) Support to execution of judicial warrants.
- 10) Update residents registers according to residency, displacement, birth and death.
- 11) Update statistical tables and data concerning issues required by different authorities.

Article 94

The mukhtar gets money for the services he provides according to the adopted norms approved by the Council of the Unit in accordance with the rules specified by the Governorate Council.

Article 95

The mukhtar receives his official seal from the chairman of the Executive Committee according to the form approved by the Ministry of Local Administration. When lost, a report of the incident is made up and submitted to the chairman of the Executive Committee.

Article 96

The mukhtar is banned, under the legal accountability, from:

- 1) Carving an official seal or using it without written consent from the chairman of the Executive Committee.
- 2) Handing over his official seal to others for any reason.
- 3) Refrain from giving a certificate or a document that he is legally assigned to give.

Section 7: Joint Departments

Chapter 1 Joint Programmes and Projects

Article 97

- 1) As per a resolution from the Cabinet on the basis of a suggestion from the Minister, it is possible to establish a permanent management for service and development projects that fall into the specialty of the administrative unit.
- 2) The Minister, as per a suggestion from the Governors, can establish joint interim departments that can perform duties in favor of the neighboring cities, villages and municipalities within the range of one or two neighbor Governorates for a specific purpose or providing services, and other aids for villages and communities in order to achieve rural development.
- 3) For this specific purpose, a joint committee is formed as per a decision from the minister on the suggestion of Executive Committees for the concerned administrative units in order to study the project plan, funding, administration and investment.

Chapter 2 Service coordination offices

Article 98:

- 1) As per the Governor's decision, a coordination office should be established in each Governorate. It has the duty of coordination between all parties involved in the implementation of service facilities infrastructure in balanced and integrated manner.
- 2) The office includes representatives from the parties involved as well as the chairmen of the administrative units.
- 3) The office works under the supervision of a member of the Executive Committee in the specialized Governorate Council in the fields of services and public utilities.

Article 99

- 1) The office works to integrate the programs prepared by the involved parties according to an annual plan in a final program.
- 2) All public and involved parties are committed to the implementation of service infrastructure facilities according to the time line prepared by the office.

Article 100:

The principles and procedures governing the work of the office are defined by regulations issued by the minister.

Section 8: Members of the Councils:

Chapter 1 Local Councils members rights:

Article 101:

Members of the local Councils are not criminally or civil wise accountable for the incidents they tell, or views they express in the session or in the work of the committees.

Article 102:

Members of the local Councils have immunity during the period of their meetings. They may not be prosecuted criminally unless there is a permission from the Council. However, they may be arrested in case of flagrante delicto. In that case, the Council must be notified immediately.

Article 103:

If supervising authorities find that one of the decisions issued by the Council or the Executive Committee has a legal or administrative defect, they may ask for clarification from the issuing party in a formal letter. They may submit their auditing results to the minister to address them.

Article 104:

Regulations that apply to the lawyers syndicate also apply to the chairpersons of the administrative units Councils, and to their Executive Committees full-time members of lawyers with regard to exercising their profession.

Article 105:

Regulations that apply to the engineers syndicate also apply to the chairpersons of the administrative units Councils, and to the full time members of their Executive Committees who are engineers, with regard to their exercise to their engineering profession on the condition that it does not relate to their work.

Article 106:

- 1) If they are public sector employees, the chairmen of the administrative unit Councils, and the full-time members of the Executive Committees should earn their wages, wage-complementing benefits, specialization compensation, technical compensation, and family compensation from their original employers.
- 2) Other benefits that the chairman of the Council and full-time members were earning from their original employers, which are associated with job or profession they were doing, the concerned person shall get 2000 SP monthly instead of them, upon decision by the minister for the chairmen of Governorate Councils, and upon decision by the Governor for the chairmen of the local Councils, and full-time members of Executive Committees.
- 3) Chairmen and members of the Executive Committees who work full-time are assigned over work according to the Basic State Employees Law, according to the following:
 - A- Chairman of Governorate Councils upon a decision from the minister
 - B- Chairmen of City Councils, Town Councils, Municipalities and full-time members in the Governorate Council upon a decision from the Governor
 - C- Full-time Executive Committee members in cities, towns and municipalities upon a decision from the head of their Executive Committee.
- 4) The head of the administrative and the full-time member in the Executive Committee, who is not working in a public sector and has the certificate necessary for recruitment, earn a monthly lump sum on the basis of salary specified for starting the employment according to the applied laws and regulations. In addition, the employee shall receive a promotion for every two years after receiving the certificate in accordance with the Basic State Employees Law. They deserve benefits that have the quality of comprehensiveness exactly as the workers in the public sector according to the laws and regulations in force.
- 5) The Chairmen of the administrative units Councils, their members and Executive Committees members can benefit from the transportation compensation, vacations and sick leaves in accordance with the Basic State Employees Law.
- 6) The minister may decide to grant the chairmen of the administrative units Councils and full-time members of the Executive Committees a benefit that does not exceed 2000 SP
- 7) Members of the local Councils and their part-time Executive Committees members deserve a compensation for attending the sessions of the Councils, Executive Committees and committees. This compensation is determined by a decision of the minister.
- 8) People involved in item 1 in this article are promoted according to the promotion rules mentioned in the Basic State Employees Law.
- 9) Taking into consideration item 1 of this article, salaries, wages, compensations expenses that are mentioned in this article are paid as follows:
 - The general secretariate budget in the Governorate for the Governorate Council.
 - The administrative unit budget: cities, towns, and municipalities for the administrative unit Council.
- 10) The monthly wages that the head of the administrative unit or the full-time member in the Executive Committee, whether they are a worker in the public sector or not, is considered a monthly salary and subject to income tax, and deductions on salaries and wages.
- 11) Vacations and sick leaves are granted for the chairmen of Governorate Councils as per a decision from the Minister, and the Governor for the rest of the local Councils and full-time Executive Committee members.

Article 107:

The head of the administrative unit, and full-time members of the Executive Committee may combine their due wages with their retirement scheme.

Article 108:

The dues of the chairmen of the administrative units Councils, and the full-time members of the Executive Committees are subject to deductions according to the applied laws and regulations.

Article 109:

The position of “Head of the Council” or the full-time member in the Executive Committee for the administrative unit Council may not be combined with any other job.

Article 110:

Both the chairmen and members of the Council, as well as the members of the Executive Committees are not allowed to do any act or subject that can damage their duties, or compromise the interests of their administrative unit either in the experts committee, conflict resolution or tendering committees in bids of which the administrative unit is part.

Chapter 2 Local Councils members affairs

Article 111

The absence of state workers from their jobs for the reasons of attending local Councils sessions, the Executive Committees sessions, committees formed by these Councils sessions, as well as their absence when assigned by these Councils or their Executive Committees to do any duties related to the administrative affairs, is considered a legitimate absence.

Article 112:

- 1) Employees in the agencies affiliated with the ministries, administrations, and working institutions in the Governorate are transferred to the staff of the Governorate, city or town which transfer their specialties with the vacancies. The minister can rearrange the staff among these actors. Of course, the positions of the transferred staff are omitted from the record of those ministries, administrations or institutions.
- 2) The salaries of the transferred personnel are transferred upon a resolution by the minister of finance, under this article, to the budget of the administrative unit Council where they were transferred. Their offices and furniture are transferred upon instructions by the Governor.
- 3) The Governor shall exercise his powers, with regard to the employees affairs, which are stated in the Basic State Employees Lawr, and within the authorities conferred upon them by the minister.
- 4) Employees are transferred from one Governorate to another upon a prior approval from Governors.

Section 9: Supervision and termination

Chapter 1 Supervision

Article 113:

The local Councils and their Executive Committees are subject to official and public supervision. The concerned parties exercise this supervision according to the law.

First: Official Monitoring

Article 114:

- 1) Decisions of the Governorate Council and those of the Governorate Center Councils regarding the plans, programs and regulations are sent to the minister and the competent minister within seven days from the date of issuance.
- 2) Decisions by other Councils concerning matters referred to in the aforementioned paragraph are sent to the Governor within 3 days from their date of issuance.
- 3) The terms of the preceding two paragraphs are applied to the decisions of the Executive Committee made on behalf of the Council when there are no meetings for the Council.

Article 115:

- (1) Executive Committees are accountable to local Councils, which they are affiliated with directly. Those Councils have the right of holding the Executive Committees accountable, hold no-confidence for their elected members collectively or individually by two-thirds majority of the members of the Council.
- (2) The no-confidence resolution is sent directly to the Minister. Article 115 from this law is applied then.
- (3) The no-confidence resolution is effective from the date of adoption by the authorized party according to the terms of this law.
- (4) The Council elects a new Executive Committee, or a new member during the first term following the no-confidence resolution.

Article 116:

- (1) The no-confidence resolution shall be ratified by the minister.
- (2) In case the no-confidence resolution is not ratified by the minister, the resolution is sent back to the Council that issued it. In case the Councils persists, it should be transferred to the Council of State, counseling department, the general assembly to make the final decision.

Article 117:

- (1) If the decision mentioned in paragraph 113 or any other decisions are conflicting with the state laws, plans or regulations, the Minister or the competent minister with regard to the Governorate Council, and Governorate Center Councils may request revoking these decisions or amending them by the Council that issued them within 15 days. As for the rest of the Councils, the Governor may request revoking the decisions also within 15 days. In case the Council insists on its decision in the first meeting after the objection, the issue is referred to the general assembly, the counseling department in the Council of State. Its decision with regard to the Governorate Council, and Governorate Center Councils is final and binding. However, the decisions by other Councils are referred to the Minister whose decision shall be final and binding.
- (2) The rest of the Council's decisions are considered effective from the date of issuance.
- (3) The implementation of decisions, which are contested according to the terms of this law, is suspended until it is decided for by the competent institution.
- (4) Revoked decisions do not give any right for others from the date of revoking.

Article 118:

When dissolution of some or all Councils, the related Executive Committee continues its duties, and is authorized to do the duties of the Council, as well, until a new Council is elected.

Article 119:

- (1) The administrative unit Council elects by confidential ballot an auditing committee that is composed of at least 3 of its members. Their duty is to audit contracts, income, expenses, closing of the account and the related transactions that the Council or its Executive Committee does at the end of each year. The committee has the right to request the help of who they find eligible expert to achieve this. It has the right to request any information that can help it to fulfill its duty, as well.
- (2) The work of the committee ends by the end of February each year. It submits its report to the head of the Council within 15 days from the following month. In case the committee discovered any legal violation, the case is referred to the specialized parties.

Second: Public Monitoring

Article 120:

The public monitoring aims to ensure the implementation of programs, which were announced by the local Councils and Executive Committees and its committees and agencies to citizens, as well as the decisions that they take. This monitoring is represented by:

- (1) Local Councils, all Executive Committees, and local agencies adopt the principle of transparency in publishing the information as a right of citizens.
- (2) The Councils hold periodic sessions in which they display what the Council has done, listen to citizens' complaints, and publish the evaluation of the Executive Committees in terms of achieving objectives and implementing the plans.
- (3) The syndicates, civil, vocational organizations, CSOs have the right to monitor and criticize the local Councils, their offices, and the authorities' agencies. They practice this right by sending memorandums to the Council and the Executive Committee including their opinions and feedback.
- (4) Each citizen has the right of submitting a complaint, appeal, or criticism on the work of the Executive Committees, or the agencies of the authority. These agencies have to study those complaints, and investigate them quickly and fairly, and to reply to them on the condition that the final decision should not be made by the same party that is concerned with the complaint.
- (5) All types of different media outlets have the right to monitor the work of the administrative units according to the applied law and regulations.

Article 121:

- (1) Monitoring agencies shall discard all complaints that are not submitted and signed by the sender, and attached with documents, and a photocopy of the ID whether the complaint is against the head of the administrative unit, the Executive Committee, or the personnel working in those units.

- (2) A public case shall be initiated in case the complaint is false.

Chapter 2 Dissolution, Loss and Termination of membership

Article 122:

The president can dissolve all levels of local Councils. The call for reelection of new local Councils is within 90 days from the date of dissolution.

Article 123:

The membership is rescinded in Councils in the following two cases:

- (1) If a group of citizens felt that their representative in the Council has deviated from the general policy of the state, worked to achieve a personal interests forgetting the interests of the public, or if he/she refrained from doing his/her duties, the public then has the right to submit a note in this regard to the concerned Council. The Council has to investigate it. If he/she was proven guilty, the Council decides his rescind.
- (2) If a member was absent from three consecutive sessions, other than both military and reserve military service, the Council may rescind his membership in case his absence was not justified.

Article 124:

The decision to rescind membership is taken in the session attended by the absolute majority of the Council's members, and upon the approval of the two thirds of attendees. The member whose membership was rescinded can object to the decision, in front of the government, to the members of the Governorate Council, Governorate center Councils, and in front of the Minister for other local Councils. The decision made by these references is irrevocable.

Article 125:

- (1) Membership of a local Council member is lost by resignation or death. The membership is dismissed if the member lost one of the nomination conditions mentioned in the public elections law.
- (2) In case the membership is rescinded, terminated or lost by death, the substitute should be the member following in the number of votes from their sector, unless the competent authorities want to call for new elections.

Article 126:

In case the membership of one of the members of the Executive Committee of any Council is vacant, the concerned Executive Committee has the right to issue a resolution or assign one of its members to do the work until the replacement is elected.

Article 127:

A member of the local Council can submit a justified request to rescind his/her membership in the Council, and continue their work until the decision of rescinding is issued.

Article 128:

A member in the Executive Committee has the right to submit an apology request for the membership of the Executive Committee to the head of the Executive Committee to be viewed by the Council in the first session. He/She has to continue their work until the issuance of the necessary decision.

Chapter 3 The link between executive and local agencies with the administrative units:

Article 129:

The Executive Committee issues directives and orders to the agencies affiliated with it within the limits of applied laws and regulations. These agencies have the responsibility of notifying the apparatus that issued those directives and orders when they see a violation to the applied laws and regulations. They have to notify the issuing agency (apparatus) in written communication. If the issuing agency insists on the implementation, the case then is submitted to the minister and the competent minister.

Article 130:

Working agencies, within the scope of any administrative and non-affiliated units, can cooperate with the Council in this unit. They should respect decisions made, and help in the implementation of those decisions.

Article 131:

All agencies affiliated with the administrative units are under the supervision of the competent ministry technically. This ministry has the right to send directives to those agencies, and send notes on their work through the head of the Executive Committee in the Governorate.

Article 132:

(1) A number of police officers are placed at the disposal of the administrative unit according to criteria agreed upon between the interior Minister and the Minister.

(2) These officers are technically affiliated with the head of the administrative unit Council. They are affiliated with the ministry of interior professionally and administratively.

(3) The ministry of the Interior is the one that should pay the salaries of these officers. Administrative units should pay all other legal expenses (offices, equipment, vehicle, uniform compensation) .etc...

Article 133:

Upon a decision from the minister of interior, and after an agreement with the minister, the governing relations that are related to connections of those officers and their different affairs are defined.

Section 10: The financial provisions of the local Councils**Chapter 1: Means of Funding****Article 134:**

Taking into consideration applied laws and regulations, the following is added to the income of cities, towns, and municipalities:

- (1) 50% of entry prices to museums, castles and archaeological sites.
- (2) Excess of institutions, companies and projects with independent accounts affiliated with cities, town and municipalities.
- (3) Local taxes, fees and costs.
- (4) Gifts, bequest, and donations according to the applied laws and regulations.
- (5) Aids offered by international NGOs and twin programs which are approved by the minister according to the applied laws and regulations.
- (6) The outcome of selling, renting, and investing in private properties in cities, towns and municipalities according to the applied laws and regulations.
- (7) Fines resulting from the violations of local regulations, fines of fees and local costs.
- (8) Loans, credits and other resources that they can get from private sector according to the applied laws and regulations.
- (9) 3% of the total actual income for the fiscal year in the state budget is distributed to cities, towns and municipalities upon a decision from the minister and in accordance with specific criteria and principles.
- (10) 5% from the wealth coming from forests.
- (11) Rates that are added to the taxes and state fees
- (12) Aid planned in the state budget
- (13) Assistance planned in the independent budget
- (14) Loans, credits and other resources that they can get from the Public Loan Fund according to the applied laws and regulations.
- (15) 25% of the investment permit fees of mines and quarries

Article 135:

- (1) A daily fee is taken for billboards on local roads whether they are static, mobile, or lighting as well as advertisements in public places, shops and those within administrative boundaries of cities, towns and municipalities a fee that is no less than:

- a. 10 SP for 1 m², or a part of squared meter for advertising by road.
- b. 5 SP for 1 m², or a part of squared meter for advertisements in public places

- (2) A permit of installing advertisements is given by the Council according to criteria and principles that are clarified by the Council.

Article 136:

Taking into consideration the law of independent budget, the Governorate Council may issue a decision ratified by the Minister to pose local costs on new places to provide services and specific projects within the Governorate. The aforementioned is applicable provided that the decision taken shall not have an impact that

exceeds the current year unless the Council decides to extend its impact. However, the cost of one place must not exceed 500 SP, and it is possible upon a resolution of the supreme Council to increase this sum once a year according to the national inflation indexes.

Article 137:

The cost of investment in projects, which are implemented by the administrative unit, is defined as per a decision from its Council and ratified by the Governorate Council.

Article 138:

- (1) 25% rate is transferred from the Governorate independent budget to the Councils of cities, towns and municipalities as per a decision from the Governorate Council. This rate is directed to implementing investment projects in these units. This article is a modification for the expenditure from the independent budget.
- (2) The Supreme Council can modify the rate in the aforementioned item according to the public interest.

Article 139:

- (1) The administrative unit can get advances and credits as per a decision from the Council in accordance with the applied laws and regulations and in the light of its budget.
- (2) The administrative unit can get loans from banks and funds to implement its different projects according to the laws applied to the lending parties and within their budget.
- (3) The Council shall not give loans or advances to others without a legislative text.
- (4) It is allowed to get loans from foreign bodies in coordination with the concerned parties in accordance with applied laws and regulations.

Article 140:

- (1) Councils should define fines to violators in the regulations they issue. Those fines should not exceed 5000 SP. The Supreme Council can raise this fine once a year according to national inflation indexes.
- (2) Local Councils can issue necessary regulations to remove infractions according to applied laws and regulations before any prosecution in case the violator paid a specific rate of the fine, or paid another specific rate of the fine within 8 days from filing the report. Those two specific rates are determined by the Council.

Article 141:

The decisions of Councils that were mentioned in this chapter are issued by the two thirds majority approval.

Article 142:

- (1) The following parties are exempt from local fees and costs:
 - a. Ministries and public bodies, which have an administrative nature, public organizations, professional associations, unions, and their owned real estate provided that these real estates are not invested or prepared for investment.
 - b. Mosques, churches, abbeys, places of worship and religious properties that belong to all religions as long as they are used for worship purposes and are not invested.
 - c. Political and consular missions, and their professional members on the condition of reciprocity.
 - d. Properties of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent on the condition that those properties are not invested or ready for investment.
 - e. Properties of charities that are used for the purposes of these charities providing that these properties shall not be invested.
 - f. Graveyards.
- (2) Administrative units are dealt with exactly like the ministries and public bodies, which have an administrative nature, with regard to taxes and fees.
- (3) Public institutions, companies and public buildings, which have an economical nature, and public construction organizations have to pay the local costs and fees.

Chapter 2 Areas of expenditure:

Article 143:

The fields of expenditure for the administrative unit are defined as follows:

- (1) Investment expenditures that aim to achieve an increase in the immovable assets in their related projects according to laws of investment of public money.

- (2) Expenditures of salaries, wages, compensations, and administrative expenses and similar expenses that belong to the Councils and other affiliated agencies.
- (3) Costs of securing different local services and their projects.
- (4) Installments of repaying for loans, credits and interests.
- (5) The deficit of institutions and their affiliated companies and projects which have independent accounts.
- (6) Other expenses that they should pay according to the applied laws and regulations.

Chapter 3 The Budget

Article 144:

- (1) Each administrative unit's budget, which includes the income, and expenses of this unit, should be set according to the principles applied when setting the budget. These principles are mentioned in the basic financial law.
- (2) These budgets are separated from the general budget but linked to it according to the principles specified in the basic financial law.
- (3) The administrative unit's budget includes the sum of the budgets of the companies and institutions affiliated with it in addition to the projects that have independent accounts according to the principle of net results.

Article 145:

The Governorate budget includes the budgets of the administrative units affiliated with it except for Governorate centers.

Article / 146:

- (1) The budget project of each administrative unit is prepared by the Executive Committee of this administrative unit in cooperation with the budget committee in the Council.
- (2) The budget is approved by the Council.
- (3) The budgets are ratified as follows:
 - a. Governorate budget and cities within the general plan of the state is ratified by the Minister after the approval of the Minister of Finance.
 - b. Budget of cities, which are not included in the general plan of the state, by the Minister.
 - c. Budget of other local units by the Executive Committee of the Governorate Council.

Article 147:

Credits are distributed in the budgets of the local units. The transfer of these Credits is carried out according to the regulations for finance of administrative units.

Article 148:

- (1) The projects of the aforementioned budgets are prepared according to a classification that fits the principles of the basic financial law and the related regulations. Suggestions related to budgets are prepared according to the financial plan, principles and instructions issued by the ministry of finance based on the mentioned law.
- (2) Indicators that are mentioned in the principles of preparing the general budget are applied to the preparation of Governorate and cities budgets. Indicators sent by the Executive Committee of the Governorate Council are applied when preparing the budgets of towns and municipalities.

Article 149:

The provisions of the basic financial law, which are related to the implementation of the general budget, are applied when implementing the budget of the administrative units.

Article 150:

The minister has the right to amend the fields of spending the independent budget mentioned in Law No: 35 in 2007. He can add a new section or item to the aspects of spending of this budget in accordance with the public interest.

Chapter 4 General provisions

Article 151:

The central agency for of financial inspection monitors the financial affairs and the implementation of the administrative unit budgets as per regulations in force.

Article 152:

Contrary to the regulations in force, the basic provisions for loans, credits, and other financial and accounting affairs of the administrative units, institutions, companies and public buildings are set according to a special financial regulation issued by the minister of finance proposed by the minister according to the basic financial law.

Article 153:

The minister is authorized to determine the revenues of levy, the ways of granting them and who the beneficiaries are in coordination with the minister of finance.

Article 154:

A Lending bank is established for the administrative units by decree determining its capital, funding sources and duties. It replaces the municipal fund.

Article 155:

Decisions, which are mentioned in this section, shall not be taken on behalf of the competent Council when there are no council meetings.

Article 156:

- (1) A rate of 5% of the independent Governorate budget is allocated to hire temporary personnel for the cities, town, municipalities in accordance with a plan to hire temporary workers. It must be approved by the Council and the Minister.
- (2) The minister issues a regulation about incentives for the employees in the administrative units in coordination with minister of finance.
- (3) The Supreme Council may modify the rate in sub-paragraph 1 in the public interest.

Section 11: General and Transitional Provisions

Article 157:

The executive agencies operating in the administrative unit cooperate with the Council and respect its decisions within its powers. Moreover, they help it to implement these decisions.

Article 158:

- (1) The powers related to internal transport, of the ministry of transport are transferred to the Ministry of Local Administration wherever they are in the texts in force.
- (2) The ownership of the internal transport companies in Damascus, Aleppo, Homs, and Lattakia is transferred to the administrative unit including their debts and loans.

Article 159:

The staff of the administrative units and municipalities, which are added to existing cities, towns and municipalities, are added to the staff of those cities, towns and municipalities.

Article 160:

All applied laws and regulations that contradict the provisions of this law are considered definitely modified.

Article 161:

The validity of the following laws and decrees is stopped:

Law No 172 of 1956

Law No 215 of 1956 and its amendments

Law No 496 of 1957 and its amendments

Legislative Decree No 15 of 1971 and its amendments

Legislative Decree No 2297 of 1971 and its amendments

This legislative decree shall be published in the Official Gazette and shall be deemed to be in force from 1/10/2011

Damascus in 23/9/1432 AH corresponding to 23/8/2011 AD

Note

The changes in the translation are the following

1 Correction of terminology, e.g.

Province	becomes Governorate
Area	District
District	Sub-district (part of a district)
Plantation	Agricultural settlement.
Executive Office	Executive Committee (it is group of people)
National Decentralized Plan	National Decentralization Plan
Mayor	Mukhtar (is not a mayor)
Specializations	powers/competencies
Terms of reference	powers/competencies

2 Correction of translation mistakes (omissions, misunderstandings etc.)

3 Correction in style and language (making some sentences more English)