

Constitutional Reform and the Rationalization of the Exercise of Power in the Algerian Political System after 2020

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Abstract:

This study analyzes how the 2020 constitutional amendment contributes to rationalizing the exercise of power by examining the substance of constitutional reforms and their impact on institutional performance. It focuses on relations among the executive, legislative, and judicial branches, emphasizing cooperation and balance, and employs institutional, systems, and descriptive–analytical approaches. The study concludes that the amendment represents an important step toward rationalizing power, though its effectiveness depends on practical and institutional implementation.

Keywords: Constitutional Reform; 2020 Constitutional Amendment; Political Rationality; Algerian Political System.

Introduction:

The process of constitutional reform functions as a vital tool which enables political systems to adapt their structures according to new developments that emerge in different areas because it distributes authority and creates adaptable boundaries between branches and monitors how constitutional institutions operate. The present-day constitutional systems protect their amendment process through established mechanisms which function as their fundamental constitutional element. Most constitutions across the world contain flexible elements which require special procedures to become rigid instruments. The Constitution holds supreme status according to Algeria and other states which enforce its position as the highest law while requiring all citizens to show respect for it. Algeria established four constitutions which brought various changes to its political system after achieving independence but the 1996 Constitution underwent multiple revisions until the 2020 constitutional amendment. The political system of that time underwent major changes which led to the creation of this amendment because of worsening social and political and security problems and because people in Algeria started to lose interest in politics and distrust the political system. The existing state of affairs required the implementation of core changes which would boost both openness and responsibility systems while creating effective power distribution for successful governance that meets the needs of complete development and political stability and fights against all forms of corruption and establishes new rules to rebuild public trust in the present system which operates under legal authority and follows established laws

Study Objectives:

- The research project seeks to accomplish these specific research targets through its investigation.
- The research investigates how constitutional reform content works to make Algerian political system power management more logical.

- The research evaluates constitutional reform content which protects separation of powers and creates equilibrium between these government branches.
- The research study demonstrates how constitutional reforms fail to enhance institutional performance transparency because they generate minimal effects which do not create better oversight systems for political accountability.
- The paper will show its final evaluation about constitutional reforms through a method which establishes solid political systems that produce political stability in Algeria.

Study Problem:

The Algerian government has enacted constitutional reforms which aim to strengthen power equilibrium and create logical authority distribution yet the following question arises: To what extent have the constitutional reforms been effective in rationalizing the exercise of power in the Algerian political system after 2020?

Study Hypotheses:

- Scientists developed these research hypotheses to address the identified issue.
- The 2020 constitutional reforms will not achieve their full potential until they receive support from political changes and institutional reforms because the current political system faces deep-rooted structural and social problems.
- The Algerian constitutional reforms achieve their highest effectiveness through their ability to establish logical power distribution between legislative and executive and judicial branches of government.

Study Methodology:

This research applies its own set of methodologies together with specific analytical methods to conduct its investigation.

- **The Descriptive–Analytical Method:** The research uses the descriptive–analytical method to gather data which enables the creation of a full descriptive record about the research topic. The constitutional reform process becomes clear through this study which describes all its development stages while studying its documents to understand how it affects government operations and current political system management. The study evaluates the constitutional documents which the constitutional founder created to determine their alignment with Algerian social needs that emerged after the popular movement.
- **The Institutional Approach:** The approach shows that rules together with laws and organizational structures determine which people will get access to power and how resources will get distributed throughout society. The study investigates constitutional institutions through their legal framework and organizational makeup and it studies the relationships between these institutions and their operational duties and authority levels.
- **The Systems Approach:** The research employs systems approach to study constitutional reform documents and power exercise rules because this analytical framework views political systems as unified systems which combine multiple components to make up their operational framework.
- **Structure of the Study:** The study requires two main sections to test its research hypotheses while solving the core problem which needs solving. The first section explains the 2020 constitutional amendment substance which works to transform Algerian political power structures. The second section evaluates the restrictions which

stop these reforms from making power exercise more logical within the Algerian political system.

THE FIRST TOPIC : AMENDING THE 2020 CONSTITUTION AND THE REENGINEERING OF POWER IN THE ALGERIAN POLITICAL SYSTEM

“For constitutions to be effective, they must keep pace with development and change in accordance with changing circumstances. This can only be achieved by incorporating provisions that allow for their periodic revision, because absolute rigidity may lead to attempts to change them by force. Some believe that the principal cause of revolutions lies in the fact that, while nations evolve, constitutions remain static.¹” An examination of the contexts preceding the amendment of the 2020 Constitution in Algeria reveals that it emerged in response to specific political and social circumstances. These began with demands for changing the existing regime prior to 2019, and with “the dominance of corrupt money over electoral processes, whereby certain business figures became a key factor in the capture of power and an active component of the political equation. The funds they acquired—largely through dubious transactions under a rent-based economic system—were gradually transformed into administrative, economic, and political influence.²”

Accordingly, it became necessary to undertake a series of reforms implemented by the Algerian political system following the presidential election of 12 December 2019, which resulted in the election of Mr. Abdelmadjid Tebboune as President of the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria. In accordance with his presidential program, he initiated a set of reforms of a political, economic, and social nature, among others. Foremost among these was the holding of a referendum to amend the Constitution on 1 November 2020, which is considered the first step toward reengineering political life in Algeria. This followed a series of consultations and workshops to revise the 1996 Constitution with various official and non-official actors. The most significant amendments introduced by the 2020 constitutional revision can be summarized as follows:

- **At the level of the preamble:** The preamble constitutes an integral part of the Algerian Constitution. It reviews the historical evolution of the Algerian state and highlights the principal stages it has undergone over thousands of years up to 2019, during which the popular movement of 22 February 2019 was constitutionalized and regarded as the most significant phase in the history of the modern Algerian state. The preamble also sets out the broad guidelines for combating and preventing corruption, the place of participatory democracy in the construction of constitutional institutions, and the role of the various actors in the management of public affairs and in the democratization of political life, through the guarantee of fundamental rights and freedoms, both individual and collective, the reinforcement of the principle of the separation of powers and the balance among them, and the reduction of social disparities and regional inequalities. It further affirms the necessity of protecting the environment and confronting climate change through the rational exploitation of natural resources in order to achieve sustainable development. It also recognizes the role of youth in building the state and strengthening their role in addressing existing challenges and stakes through their political and social empowerment. The most salient element contained in the preamble to the 2020 constitutional amendment is the central role of the National People’s Army in safeguarding the country against all threats to national security, such as transnational crime and cybercrime, together with an emphasis on professionalism and the modernization of the institution as an urgent necessity in light of the transformations witnessed by the region and the world in general.³
- **At the level of fundamental rights, public freedoms, and duties:** The 2020 constitutional amendment preserved the various fundamental rights, public freedoms, and duties, while expanding the scope of those rights described as fundamental in the different constitutional

provisions (Articles 34, 35, etc.). It also facilitated the exercise of freedom of assembly and the freedom of peaceful demonstration,⁴ which may now be exercised upon mere notification. In addition, it constitutionalized electronic media through the right to establish television and radio channels, as well as electronic websites and newspapers, under the conditions prescribed by law.⁵ This represents a normative advancement in the media function in its digital form, which falls within the general orientation of the state toward the digitalization of various sectors and the alignment with international developments in the field of electronic uses.

The amendment further reaffirmed the facilitation of procedures for the formation and financing of political parties, as was the case in the 2016⁶ constitutional amendment, in addition to strengthening women's political empowerment and expanding their opportunities for representation in elected bodies through the requirement of their inclusion on electoral lists of candidates.⁷ It also enshrined the right to freedom of trade, investment, and entrepreneurship within the limits permitted by law, together with the necessity of ensuring citizens' social empowerment. Moreover, it guaranteed the right to culture on an equal basis, within the framework of enhancing cultural security and promoting, safeguarding, and protecting the national tangible and intangible cultural heritage by all available means.⁸

- **At the Level of the Organization of Powers and the Principle of Separation of Powers:** The organization of the three branches of power occupied a significant place in the 2020 constitutional amendment, which granted extensive powers to the President of the Republic. The same eligibility requirements for candidacy established by the 2016 constitutional amendment were maintained, with the clarification that a person may stand for the presidency only once, renewable only once, whether consecutively or non-consecutively. This provision was incorporated into the entrenched clauses in accordance with Article 223 of the same amendment, which stipulates that no constitutional revision may affect this aspect. The rationale for this lies in the fact that one of the causes of the Algerian popular movement of 22 February 2019 was the rejection of a fifth presidential term; consequently, this rule was included among the non-amendable provisions. Furthermore, in the event that the presidential term is interrupted due to the resignation of the President of the Republic during his term, or for any other reason whatsoever, it is considered a full term.⁹ Since the principle of the peaceful transfer of power requires the limitation of the presidential mandate, this places the popular will in a position of effective implementation by granting citizens the freedom to choose their rulers at the end of each presidential term, which may be renewed only once.¹⁰ Within the framework of regulating terms of office, a term may end either in a normal manner—namely, upon the expiration of the five-year period—or in an exceptional manner, as follows: “The Constitutional Court must establish itself automatically when the President of the Republic becomes unable to fulfill his duties because of a severe long-term medical condition. The court needs to verify this medical condition through all available verification methods. The Constitutional Court will need three-quarters of its members to support this proposal before it can present the impediment declaration to Parliament. The President of the Republic becomes unable to serve when both chambers of Parliament hold a joint session which requires two-thirds of their members to approve the declaration. The Council of the Nation president will take charge as temporary Head of State for up to forty-five days while following Article 96 of the Constitution to perform his duties. The vacancy becomes official when the mandatory resignation process follows the rules from previous and following sections of this article. The Constitutional Court will automatically convene to determine the final vacancy of the Republic Presidency following the resignation or death of the President of the Republic. The certificate which shows the final vacancy declaration will directly reach Parliament for its automatic convening. The President of the Council of the Nation will serve as Head of State for up to ninety days until the country organizes its presidential elections. The process will continue for up to ninety more days when the Constitutional Court provides its opinion if the scheduled events become impossible to conduct. The Head of State who receives this

appointment will not receive any rights to run for the Presidency of the Republic. The Constitutional Court must automatically convene to determine the final vacancy of the Presidency of the Republic and the existence of an impediment affecting the President of the Council of the Nation when the President of the Republic dies or resigns while the Presidency of the Council of the Nation remains vacant for any reason. The President of the Constitutional Court will take over as Head of State in this situation. The Head of State who receives their appointment through these previously mentioned conditions will carry out their duties according to the rules which the earlier paragraphs and Article 96 of the Constitution establish and they will not have permission to run for the Presidency of the Republic.^{11,}

Based on our reading of Article 94 of the 2020 constitutional amendment, it may be stated that the Algerian political system benefited from the experience that preceded the popular movement, which was characterized by the absence of a legal provision allowing for the extension of the electoral process within three months when all constitutionally prescribed procedures had been exhausted. This constitutional amendment was adopted at a time marked by intense struggles over power among various actors and by calls for the establishment of a democratic system endowed with popular legitimacy and founded on the rule of law. In light of the preceding contexts and political polarizations, and drawing on David Easton's systems approach—which conceptualizes the political system as an open system that interacts with its environment, receives demands as inputs, processes them through transformational operations (policy-making) within the "black box," produces outputs (policies and decisions), and then receives feedback to adjust itself—it can be argued that the extension of the presidential term constituted a reaction to the preceding phase and a response to the inputs of the popular movement, which had rejected the holding of elections on two successive occasions due to the existing system's failure to meet its demands. The executive authority is headed by the President of the Republic, who thus enjoys extensive powers in the executive domain, including chairing the Council of Ministers, through which the President directs the general policies of the state across various sectors and decides on all matters not resolved at the level of the government or the presidency.¹² He also exercises regulatory authority in matters not reserved to legislation, in accordance with the provisions of Article 141 of the 2020 constitutional amendment. Furthermore, in his capacity as head of the executive authority, the President of the Republic possesses appointment powers to senior offices: he appoints the Prime Minister, who leads the government when legislative elections result in a presidential majority, while a Head of Government leads the government when legislative elections produce a parliamentary majority.¹³ He also appoints ministers upon the proposal of the Prime Minister and terminates their functions in accordance with the principle of parallelism of forms. In addition, pursuant to Article 92 of the 2020 constitutional amendment, the President of the Republic appoints in the following¹⁴:

- The functions and duties stipulated in the Constitution,
- Civil and military functions within the State,
- Appointments made in the Council of Ministers upon the proposal of the Prime Minister or the Head of Government, as the case may be,
- The First President of the Supreme Court,
- The President of the Council of State,
- The Secretary-General of the Government,
- The Governor of the Bank of Algeria,
- Judges,
- Officials of the security services,
- Walis (provincial governors),
- Executive members of regulatory authorities.

The President of the Republic appoints ambassadors of the Republic and extraordinary envoys abroad and terminates their functions. He also receives the letters of credence of foreign diplomatic representatives and their instruments of termination of mission.

In addition to the positions provided for in paragraphs 4 and 5 above, an organic law shall determine the other judicial offices to which the President of the Republic makes appointments.

From the foregoing, it is evident that the President of the Republic enjoys extensive powers of appointment to senior positions that combine executive, judicial, and security authority. This raises the issue of the concentration of appointment authority within a single institution and the extent to which the principle of separation of powers is effectively implemented. Within the framework of the powers vested in the President of the Republic concerning national defense policy, as he is the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces of the Republic and bears responsibility for national defense, the 2020 constitutional amendment, pursuant to Article 91 thereof, further granted him the authority to decide on the deployment of military units abroad following approval by Parliament by a two-thirds majority of the members of each chamber. This strengthens his role in defending the vital and strategic interests of the State and in combating all forms of transnational organized crime, as well as enabling him to stabilize the regional environment by cutting off the sources of terrorism along the borders,¹⁵ particularly with the Sahel states, in light of the growing threats from neighboring countries resulting from unconstitutional changes, armed groups, and multifaceted hybrid threats.

In the field of legislation, the role of the President of the Republic overlaps with that of the legislative authority, as he may legislate by ordinance in many cases, even though the enactment of laws is an original competence of the legislative branch. Article 142 provides that: "The President of the Republic may legislate by ordinances in urgent matters in the event of the vacancy of the National People's Assembly or during the parliamentary recess, after consulting the Council of State...". This confirms that the substance of the 2020 constitutional amendment reaffirmed this power, considering it important for regulating the affairs of the state and individuals, particularly in urgent matters.

With regard to foreign policy, the President of the Republic is regarded as the principal actor in directing the foreign policy of the Algerian state in many instances. According to Article 91, paragraph 12, of the 2020 constitutional amendment, the President of the Republic concludes and ratifies international treaties; appoints the Minister of Foreign Affairs, as well as all ambassadors, consuls, and extraordinary envoys abroad, and terminates their functions; and receives the credentials of foreign representatives and the instruments terminating their missions. Moreover, Article 153 of the same amendment stipulates that he "ratifies armistice agreements, peace treaties, treaties of alliance and union, treaties relating to the borders of the state and those concerning the law of persons, treaties entailing expenditures not provided for in the state budget, and bilateral or multilateral agreements relating to free trade areas, partnership, and economic integration, after they have been expressly approved by each chamber of Parliament."¹⁶ On this basis, it can be stated that the President of the Republic assumes significant roles in the domain of foreign policy, including representing the state in international forums, whether within international organizations or in the context of establishing or severing relations between states, concluding treaties, and making appointments within the diplomatic corps.

Furthermore, the President of the Republic enjoys supreme powers, including the right to initiate constitutional amendments, to grant pardons, and to reduce or commute sentences, as well as the possibility of consulting the people on any issue of national importance by

referendum, convening the electoral body, dissolving Parliament, and calling early presidential elections. He also confers state decorations, insignia, and honorary certificates.¹⁷ These constitute supreme prerogatives exercised exclusively by the President of the Republic, which attests to the position of the President within the Algerian political system.

Based on our presentation of the various functional roles performed by the President of the Republic, it can be stated that he occupies an exceptionally important position within the Algerian political system. He has been entrusted with multiple competences, including those related to the legislative and regulatory spheres, foreign policy, national defense, and other powers that make him the core of the political process in Algeria and the official actor responsible for directing and formulating public policies in the country.

In addition to the President of the Republic, who presides over the executive authority, the executive is led by a Prime Minister or a Head of Government, depending on the case (as previously indicated). This reflects the dual nature of the executive authority in the Algerian political system, whose powers are as follows¹⁸:

- He directs, coordinates, and oversees the work of the government;
- He distributes powers among the members of the government in accordance with constitutional provisions;
- He ensures the implementation of laws and regulations;
- He presides over government meetings;
- He signs executive decrees;
- He appoints to civil positions in the state that do not fall within the appointment authority of the President of the Republic or those that the latter delegates to him;
- He ensures the proper functioning of the public administration and public services.

From this presentation of powers, it may be concluded that the Prime Minister does not enjoy extensive authority, as his role consists essentially in implementing the program of the President of the Republic, in accordance with the requirements of the nature of the Algerian system of government, which is a semi-presidential system. This contrasts with the position of the Head of Government in the presence of a parliamentary majority, who prepares the government's action program and is responsible for its implementation.

Furthermore, the 2020 constitutional amendment granted an important role to the legislative authority at both the legislative and oversight levels with respect to government action, through the right to submit oral and written questions, conduct interpellations, establish parliamentary inquiry committees, discuss the budget and finance laws, examine the statement of general policy, debate the government's action plan and vote on it, and submit a motion of censure (which entails political responsibility that may extend to the dismissal of the government). In this way, the amendment reaffirmed a flexible separation of powers based on balance and cooperation between the legislative and executive authorities. As for the new provision concerning members of parliament, it stipulates that a deputy enjoys immunity only with regard to acts related to the performance of his duties, and may be subject to judicial proceedings for acts unrelated to his parliamentary functions following an explicit waiver of his immunity.¹⁹

As it is often said, "the strength of a state is measured by the strength of its opponents." The relationship between opposition and state power can thus be summarized as a dialectical one: a strong opposition is not the antithesis of the state, but rather an essential partner in its construction and in the consolidation of its stability and strength, through the correction of trajectories and the provision of oversight and accountability. By contrast, its absence may lead

to unbalanced decision-making. It should be noted that the strength of the state lies in its capacity to accommodate opposition within robust institutions. Accordingly, the 2020 constitutional amendment granted the parliamentary opposition a distinctive status, endowing it with rights that enable effective participation in parliamentary work and in political life, in particular²⁰:

- freedom of opinion, expression, and assembly;
- entitlement to financial support in proportion to its representation in Parliament;
- effective participation in legislative activities and in the oversight of government action;
- representation that guarantees its effective participation in the bodies of both chambers of Parliament, notably the rotating chairmanship of committees;
- the right to refer matters to the Constitutional Court, in accordance with paragraph 2 of Article 193 of the Constitution;
- participation in parliamentary diplomacy;
- the allocation by each chamber of Parliament of a monthly session to discuss an agenda proposed by one or more opposition parliamentary groups.

In light of the foregoing, it may be concluded that the parliamentary opposition plays a significant role in rectifying public policies through its oversight function in both chambers of Parliament.

With regard to the judicial authority, the 2020 constitutional amendment affirmed the principle of judicial independence by providing guarantees for judges and protecting them from all forms of pressure to which they may be subjected, thereby ensuring the foundations of a fair trial. However, the President of the Republic's chairmanship of the High Council of the Judiciary has provoked considerable criticism, on the grounds that he represents the executive authority and that this arrangement is therefore incompatible with the principle of independence.²¹

Within the framework of strengthening the principle of constitutional review of all types of laws, the Constitutional Court was established in place of the Constitutional Council. Its composition is diverse, including specialists in constitutional law, members of the Supreme Court and the Council of State, and members appointed by the President of the Republic in accordance with Article 186 of the 2020 constitutional amendment. This composition combines both electoral and appointment methods. The Constitutional Court is entrusted with numerous constitutional functions, including oversight of the electoral process and the examination of appeals, as well as review of the constitutionality of laws and treaties of various kinds. In this way, the Constitutional Court exercises a central competence within the pillars of good governance, which is founded on transparency, integrity, and the reinforcement of the principle of the rule of law.

Within the framework of political life, the Independent National Authority for Elections was established under the 2020 constitutional amendment. It was created to redesign the electoral system in a free and fair manner so as to enable citizens to express their will through the choice of their representatives in the management of public affairs, particularly following the political and social transformations experienced by Algeria as a result of the spread of various forms of corruption at all levels and across all sectors, which led the public to rise up against these irresponsible practices.²² The Independent National Authority for Elections is considered one of the gains that emerged from the popular movement and contributed to the success of the presidential election of 12 December 2019, after the holding of elections had been rejected on two consecutive occasions, as previously indicated.

In the field of combating and preventing corruption, the High Authority for Transparency, Prevention of Corruption, and the Fight against Corruption was established by virtue of the 2020 constitutional amendment. It is entrusted with multiple tasks in this domain, including²³:

- Formulating a national strategy for transparency, prevention of corruption, and the fight against corruption, and ensuring its implementation and monitoring;
- Collecting, processing, and communicating information related to its field of competence and making it available to the competent bodies;
- Notifying the Court of Auditors and the competent judicial authority whenever it observes the existence of violations, and issuing orders, where appropriate, to the institutions and bodies concerned;
- Contributing to the strengthening of the capacities of civil society and other actors in the field of combating corruption;
- Monitoring, implementing, and promoting a culture of transparency, prevention, and the fight against corruption.

Accordingly, the High Authority for Transparency, Prevention of Corruption, and the Fight against Corruption constitutes a fundamental transformation in the field of anti-corruption through its institutionalization and the granting of a prominent status within Algeria's oversight institutions, especially after the proliferation of various forms of corruption in previous phases, which had a direct impact on impeding the momentum of development.

Among the features of modern constitutions is the inclusion of what are known as advisory institutions of a rights-based, social, cultural, and scientific nature within their new constitutional texts, as a fundamental pillar of democracy, the expansion of participation, and the realization of the rule of law.²⁴ In this context, the National Observatory of Civil Society was established with the aim of promoting the values of citizenship, strengthening the principle of participatory democracy, and achieving sustainable development.²⁵ Furthermore, within the framework of enhancing political, social, and cultural socialization, the Supreme Council for Youth was created under the 2020 constitutional amendment, seeking to empower young people in various fields and integrate them into decision-making and the management of public affairs at both the national and local levels.

In light of the foregoing within this axis, it can be stated that the 2020²⁶ constitutional amendment included numerous substantive reforms that, taken as a whole, aim to govern constitutional institutions and rationalize the exercise of power by strengthening the principles of oversight and accountability, reinforcing the principle of separation of powers, improving the quality of governance, and benefiting from previous experiences, particularly those related to combating and preventing corruption.

THE SECOND TOPIC: THE LIMITS OF RATIONALIZING THE EXERCISE OF POWER IN THE 2020 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

Through our examination of the substance of the constitutional document in Algeria, which has passed through several stages and was adopted following critical trajectories marked by the popular movement, preceded by a major wave of corruption across various sectors and the stagnation of the development process, these reforms came in order to avoid the recurrence of previous scenarios, while ensuring the principle of political rationality in the management of public affairs and rebuilding trust between the citizen and the ruler. According to governance and policy indicators, political stability is considered the foremost measure of state strength. Accordingly, it can be said that constitutional reform in Algeria had a direct impact on the exercise of power, especially after 2020. This may be summarized as follows:

- **Safeguarding fundamental rights and freedoms:** One of the outcomes of the constitutional amendment is the protection of fundamental rights and freedoms, particularly those relating to freedom of opinion and expression, the right to trade union activity and peaceful demonstration, the freedom to establish political parties and civil society institutions, the guarantee of academic freedom, the reinforcement of the principle of equality in assuming leadership positions, and the empowerment of youth in various fields. In this way, the existing political system seeks to ensure respect for these rights through all available mechanisms, thereby contributing to the rationalization of the exercise of power.
- **Enshrining the principle of the rule of law:** The 2020 constitutional amendment emphasized the consolidation of the principle of the supremacy of law, whereby all authorities are subject to a set of fundamental rules that define their functions and regulate the nature of relations between individuals and state institutions. In this manner, it seeks to prevent the arbitrary use of power and its abuse.
- **Flexible separation of powers:** The 2020 constitutional amendment contributed to strengthening the flexible separation between the executive and legislative authorities by establishing cooperation and balance through multiple mechanisms, while preventing the dominance of one authority over another. Although the nature of the system of government in Algeria is semi-presidential, it is nevertheless observed that the executive authority prevails over the other powers, and that the office of the President of the Republic is centralized at the apex of the executive branch, especially in light of the presidential majority. Consequently, the President directs and shapes the general policies of the state across various sectors, even though the separation of powers remains a fundamental principle among the indicators for measuring state strength, as it constitutes the primary pillar of good governance.
- **Strengthening Oversight and Accountability:** Oversight, accountability, auditing, and performance evaluation constitute fundamental pillars for ensuring the rational exercise of power in any existing political system. This was affirmed by the 2020 constitutional amendment through the establishment of oversight bodies (previously mentioned) aimed at combating and preventing corruption, emphasizing the necessity of activating both ex ante and ex post oversight mechanisms to strengthen the principle of transparency, reinforcing the role of Parliament in supervising government action, enhancing the role of the parliamentary opposition, and involving various actors in political decision-making—particularly political parties and the different institutions of civil society. It also reinforces the principle of judicial independence and the supremacy of the Constitution.
- **Supporting Political Legitimacy:** One of the most notable provisions introduced by the 2020 constitutional amendment is the limitation of presidential terms to only two mandates, whether consecutive or non-consecutive, in order to ensure the effective application of the principle of the peaceful transfer of power and to prevent its concentration in the hands of a particular group, especially in light of previous governing experience, where the extension of terms had negative repercussions for the political stability of the state. The same principle applies to members of Parliament within the framework of regulating the circulation of power and combating political corruption through various means. Moreover, the exercise of governance was linked to a system of direct elections in accordance with the popular will, meaning that the people themselves

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choose their representatives in the various representative councils, in response to the demands for political reform imposed by earlier stages.

- **Strengthening the Principle of Participatory Democracy:** The establishment of the National Observatory of Civil Society has contributed to enhancing the trajectories of associative action in Algeria by providing it with renewed momentum in decision-making, a development affirmed by the 2020 constitutional amendment through the expansion of the base of popular participation, neighborhood committees, and political parties in the management of public affairs, while guaranteeing the principle of popular sovereignty as the source of all authority. By expanding the role of citizens, civil society, and political parties in public life, the Constitution contributes to ensuring that authority emanates from the popular will and remains subject to it.

Conclusion:

The 2020 constitutional amendment presents constitutional reform as the essential tool which modernizes political systems and creates efficient power management systems and steps to enhance state authority through legal frameworks and rights protection. The constitutional amendment process requires actual enforcement of its provisions because politicians need to show their commitment to make these laws work in practice. The study produced three main results which now form its research conclusions:

- The 2020 constitutional amendment resulted from the popular movement which established a new political structure for Algeria through the political system's attempt to create efficient operations for gaining public approval and restoring public confidence.
- The amendment introduces multiple core changes which affect how the government operates and how different constitutional bodies function in their legislative and administrative roles.
- The system faces its most common criticism because the executive branch maintains control over all other government branches through the President of the Republic who retains wide-ranging authority in various domains.
- The constitutional institutions which have restricted autonomy face challenges because their member selection process continues to generate concerns about their ability to function as independent organizations.

The 2020 constitutional amendment has brought power exercise improvements to Algeria through its impact on political institutions and elected councils which now operate better and through improved public administration efficiency and digitalization progress. The study presents its final recommendations based on this information which include:

- The principle of separation of powers needs activation to create a system which enables different government branches to work together effectively.
- Parliament needs to build stronger oversight systems which will help them monitor government activities while maintaining complete public disclosure and official conduct transparency.
- The system promotes political involvement through the inclusion of all official and unofficial actors who participate in national and local decision processes under participatory democracy principles while maintaining proper activation of public participation.
- The government needs to create a culture which promotes open communication while using digital technology to transform different sectors so that citizens can access information which will build better relationships between leaders and their people.
- Local communities need to develop their abilities while youth must gain political power and local governments should receive expanded authority.
- The field of sustainable development requires organizations to track all its developments because they must enhance their governance systems and state stability to reach fair social and economic development.

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