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2.3. Reform agenda

The interim government announced six reform commissions on 11 September 2024,[106](#) tasked with bringing forward proposals on reforming the constitution, police, judiciary, the election commission, public administration and to combat corruption.[107](#) Later in October 2024,[108](#) another four reform commissions were announced, tasked with bringing forward reform proposals on health, media, labour rights and women affairs.[109](#) Yunus has stated that the reports of these commissions would form a charter for a 'new Bangladesh' built on consensus, and it will form the basis for the upcoming election.[110](#)

All of the 'main'[111](#) six reform commissions (on the constitution, police, judiciary, elections, public administration and anti-corruption) submitted their reports with recommendations to Yunus in January–February 2025.[112](#) Thereafter, Yunus formed another commission, the National Consensus Commission, that consists of the heads of the first six commissions, and is chaired by Yunus himself.[113](#) The purpose of this commission is to find national consensus around reform initiatives and their implementation.[114](#) The commission started working on 15 February 2025[115](#) and has a deadline of six months to reach consensus.[116](#) The remaining commissions submitted their reports in March–May 2025.[117](#)

The reform commissions have proposed extensive changes to key institutions.[118](#) Some of the commissions' many proposals include:

- Constitutional amendments, inter alia to establish an improved balance of powers among top government positions, as well as a bicameral parliament.[119](#)
- Decentralising the judiciary.[120](#)
- Reducing bureaucracy by restructuring administrative divisions and provinces, and reducing the number of ministries and directorates to 25 (from 40).[121](#)
- Reforming the police.[122](#)
- Introducing new anti-corruption laws (including introducing public asset declarations, and criminalising private sector bribery).[123](#)
- Reforming labour laws (inter alia by harmonising national laws with international standards on occupational safety, compensation, and maternity protection).[124](#)
- Establishing an independent regulatory body to oversee the media sector.[125](#)

At the time of writing, the National Consensus Commission had not forged consensus around a reform plan.[126](#)

The interim government has reshuffled hundreds of public officials to depoliticise government institutions.[127](#) Officials in 'constitutional and statutory institutions, public administration, the

judiciary, law enforcement agencies, financial institutions, and service sectors'[128](#) have been re-assigned, transferred, forced into retirement or dismissed.[129](#) International Crisis Group reported that 850 leaders in local governance bodies had been replaced as of mid-August 2024. [130](#) In November 2024, TIB reported on a persisting 'culture of partisan control of political and governance space, extortion and dominance' leading to internal conflicts, that sometimes included violence.[131](#) International Crisis Group also reported on the bureaucracy remaining politicised and 'highly inefficient', which may pose a challenge to enforce reforms.[132](#)

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