

Policy Recommendations *for* Constitutional Reforms in Bangladesh

Context

The anti-discrimination protests of July 2024 marked a transformative moment in Bangladesh's history, leading to a regime change and a focus on systemic reforms. The country is now in a transitional phase, with key stakeholders prioritizing equitable and sustainable development to address long-standing challenges.

For over a decade, the **Institute of Informatics and Development (IID)** and the **Youth for Policy (YfP)** network have advocated for constitutional reforms to ensure inclusive representation. These include proportional representation, youth participation, reserved parliamentary seats for marginalized groups, and disability-sensitive policies, all crucial to strengthening political equity and advancing Bangladesh's democratic progress.

Drawing on years of research, policy dialogues, and consultations with policymakers, stakeholders, and youth, this document compiles **actionable policy recommendations** to drive reform. Alongside these recommendations, it highlights **examples and best practices from other countries**, demonstrating how similar challenges have been successfully addressed globally.

This compilation serves as a strategic guide and resource for policymakers, civil society, and development partners. It aims to inspire informed action and align Bangladesh's governance and development framework with the nation's aspirations for equity, sustainability, and resilience.

Recommendations

Key policy measures address systemic challenges and advance equity, sustainability, and resilience in Bangladesh's governance and development framework. **Each recommendation is paired with examples of successful global practices**, offering practical insights for impactful reform.

Policy Measures

Global Examples



Recognition for marginalized communities

Formally Recognize Indigenous, Harijan, transgender, and marginalized communities, ensuring their rights.

Australia's Voice to Parliament highlights global efforts to include marginalized groups in governance.



Representation of disabilities in Parliament

Reserve at least **two parliamentary seats** for persons with disabilities, prioritizing women for the 50 reserved women's seats.

Rwanda's legislature includes quotas for persons with disabilities, promoting inclusive decision-making.



Transgender representation in Parliament

Reserve parliamentary seats for transgender individuals and remove gender identification barriers.

India's inclusion of transgender individuals in local governance sets a precedent for political representation.



Youth participation in politics

Create permanent youth participation mechanisms, like advisory councils or parliamentary quotas.

Scotland's Youth Parliament involves young people in political decision-making.

Policy Measures

Global Examples



Decentralization of power in leadership roles

Amend the constitution to separate roles of party leader, prime minister, and parliamentary leaders.

Germany's model ensures accountability by separating executive and legislative powers.



Prime minister term limits

Limit the prime minister to two terms and consider indirect election through Parliament to strengthen democracy.

The United States enforces a **two-term limit** for the president to avoid power over-concentration.



Infringement on MPs' independence

Remove Article 70 to empower MPs to vote independently, promoting debate and accountability in Parliament.

The UK Parliament empowers MPs to vote freely, fostering vibrant legislative debates.



Balanced prime minister-president powers

Redistribute power between the prime minister and president, ensuring checks and balances across branches.

France's semi-presidential system ensures balanced power between the president and prime minister.



A clear power transfer framework

Reintroduce the caretaker government system with amendments to ensure impartiality during elections and safeguard free and fair electoral processes.

Nepal's transitional government frameworks ensure smooth power transfers during political transitions.



Balanced power in a bicameral legislature

Introduce a **bicameral legislature for broader representation** and enhanced democracy.

India's bicameral Parliament ensures diverse representation with the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.



Value-based constitution

Adopt a value-based constitution centered on democracy, equality, and justice.

South Africa's constitution promotes unity through universal values.

About IID

IID (Institute of Informatics and Development) is a research organization that primarily works on public policy and emphasizes inclusive public participation in the policymaking process.


We are dedicated to building an 'IID Society' — informed, inclusive, and democratic — through evidence-based policy decisions and strengthened public participation.

 www.iid.dev

About YfP

The IID Youth for Policy (YfP) network was established in 2013 through a national forum to ensure active involvement of youth in public policy.

Currently, YfP works with over 12,000 youth across more than 40 districts. Through Policy Camps, Policy Hackathons, policy forums, and the Youth Manifesto initiative, YfP continues to enhance the skills and capacities of youths of Bangladesh.

 www.youthforpolicy.org