

Communique

The President of the Republic, Kais Said, has designated Ms Najla Bouden yesterday to form a government as soon as possible. This designation falls within the continuation of the State of Exception that the President of the Republic has declared on 25th of July 2021, and most important measures of which were detailed in the Presidential Decree number 117 issued on 22nd of September 2021.

While Al Bawsala welcomes the appointment of the first women ever to lead the Government, the organisation:

- Recalls that this designation is based on the Presidential Decree number 117 which represents, contrary to its title, a disguised temporary organisation for public authorities that consecrates gathering powers in the hands of the President of the Republic. This practice can have dangerous repercussions in light of the absence of any supervision, institutional, and judicial mechanisms stipulated in the Constitution of 2014. The organisation also denounces the absence of a clear time limit for these measures and of a comprehensive calendar for the upcoming steps and reforms, and expresses its concerns over the State of Exception turning into a permanent state which is fundamentally opposed to the Constitution of 2014 and the prerequisites of a democratic system.
- Insists on the importance of enabling the designated Head of Government to enjoy the full range of her jurisdictions following the formation of a gender-balanced government that is capable of dealing with pressing issues. The organisation reiterates its firm belief that breaking with the failures of the last decade requires a clear vision and serious and efficient solutions to deal with corruption, impunity, terrorism, undermining the rule of law, etc., and not to rely upon ad hoc and short-term solutions.

- Stresses the urgent need for transcending short sighted reforms towards more holistic approaches tackling the different political, economic, and social aspects. Said reforms should address the pressing issues in a comprehensive and efficient manner for these reforms to meet the expectation of all Tunisians.
- Urges for adopting a collaborative approach in preparing the institutional and deep reforms, and any suggestions for amendments in the electoral law and/or the political and constitutional order. This should be established through the creation of spaces for civic and citizen dialogues and interactions to rise up to this historical moment that will determine the future of the country and its political, economic, and social processes.
- Highlights the need to safeguard liberties and freedoms, as well as the good functioning of independent high authorities, especially during the suspension of the Constitution, and not utilise the exceptional measures to infringe upon them by the different public authorities.
- Invites the President of the Republic and the designated Head of Government to adopt an open and transparent communication policy to routinely clarify next steps and allow for interactions with all citizens and different components of the Tunisian society.