

How Syria's People's Assembly Distributed Committee Power

Decision 109/2026 announces the members of the Assembly to one or more of 26 permanent committees, and designates a chair, a vice chair and, in two cases, a rapporteur for each. It was issued by the Assembly's Speaker Abdul Hamid Aqil al-Awak on August 27, on the basis of Article 30(1) and Article 22(8) of the internal bylaws adopted July 30, and followed five sittings of the parliamentary bureau between August 7 and 26.

Under the bylaws, the bureau, chaired by the Speaker, appoints committee leaderships and allocates members. The committees are empowered to request documents from ministries and public bodies, summon officials, conduct field visits, and refer findings of criminal, financial or administrative wrongdoing to judicial and oversight bodies.

Committees, chairs and vice chairs

Committee	Chair	Vice Chair	Size
Investment, Reconstruction & Sustainable Development	Hossam al-Din Mohammad Zakaria Tatari	Ayesh Khalif al- Hussein al-Zarqa	17
Higher Education & Scientific Research	Ahmad Qaddour al- Aqel	Mohammad Ramez Kourj	17
Health	Aref Abdul Hamid Rizzouq	Aws Fayez Othman	17
Local Administration & Development	Imad Ali al-Ashrafani	Mahmoud Saleh al- Areed	17
Constitutional & Legislative Affairs	Abdul Nasser Hassan Hawshan	Hassan Ibrahim al- Dughaim	16
Diplomatic & Consular Affairs	Samira Ayman Wattar	Nawar Ilyas Najma	16
Defense, National Security & Emergencies	Khaldoun Jamal al- Ahmad	Munther Ahmad Sarras	16
Transitional Justice & Civil Peace	Osama Mohammad Saleh al-Assaf	Maher Abdul Wahab Alloush	16
Public Freedoms & Human Rights	Hassan Mohammad Salim Soufan	Yasser Shehadeh	15

Economic Affairs	Lina Fahim Aizouqi	Abdullah Zuhair al-Zayed	14
Social Affairs & Labor	Mahmoud Kamel Mustafa	Alwan Ayed al-Ali	14
Endowments, Religious Affairs & Ifta	Adnan Mohammad Jamal al-Din al-Khatib	Sobh al-Baddah	12
Victims & Martyrs of the Syrian Revolution	Ayman Abdo Shammou	Mirfat Mohammad Subhi Toutou	10
Education	Waddah Najib Rajab	Abdul Fattah Hussein Obeid	10
Agriculture & Food Security	Israa Zuhair al-Mashhour	Hammoud Ibrahim al-Hammoud	10
Culture, Heritage & Cultural Diversity	Tarek Mohammad Sallo	Nizar al-Rushdan	10
Financial Laws	Mustafa Yahya Akkoush	Adnan Ahmad al-Musalma	9
Media	Muayyad Hayel al-Qablawi	Mohammad Nayef Balaas	9
Public Border Crossings & Customs	Mohammad Sorour al-Mudhib	Abdul Razzaq al-Rayyes	9
Youth & Sports	Wajdi Tarif Zaidou	Osama Mahmoud al-Naous	8
Tourism	Mahmoud Madi al-Ali	Ali Masoud	8
Energy	Iqbal Mohammad Mansour	Abdul Karim Saleh Akidi	8
Budget & Accounts	Amin Bashir al-Bashir	Hossam al-Din Mohammad Razma	7
Communications, Digital Transformation & IT	Lara Fathi Qadid	Samer Douran Qara Ali	7
Transport & Navigation	Kim Hassan Ibrahim	Mohammad Fawaz al-Mahli	7
Family & Women	Asmaa Farhan al-Sibai	Rankin Mohammad Abdo	7

Committees with a named rapporteur (ameen): Communications, Digital Transformation & IT (Mohammad Saadi Sukkariya) and Energy (Abdul Halim Khader al-Ali).

What the numbers show

- **The committees fall into roughly two size tiers.** Eleven committees have 14–17 members; 15 have 7–12. The large tier is made up of the political and resource files (Diplomatic Affairs, Investment & Reconstruction, Higher Education, Health, Local Administration, Constitutional Affairs, Defense, Transitional Justice, Public Freedoms). Meanwhile, the small tier holds the technical and service files.

- **306 committee seats were distributed among 206 sitting members.** Eighty-nine MPs hold two seats, and two MPs hold three seats. Mustafa Abdul Rahman Abdi sits on Health, Public Freedoms & Human Rights, and Diplomatic & Consular Affairs. Abdullah Ghanoum sits on Victims & Martyrs of the Syrian Revolution, Endowments, Religious Affairs & Ifta, and Higher Education. The committees' composition may still be altered pending the filling of vacant MP seats. These include seats allotted to Suwayda and the seat of Mohammad Kalthoum (representing the Jisr al-Shughur district in Idlib), who passed away before the Assembly's inaugural session.

- **The largest committees are those with a mandate over reconstruction, rehabilitation, and foreign contact,** including Investment & Reconstruction (17) and Diplomatic & Consular Affairs (17).

How committee leadership is composed

- **The appointed third of MPs holds a large share of leadership, concentrated in the sovereign files.** Of the 70 members appointed by presidential decree, ten chair a committee and ten serve as vice chair. Their

committees include Diplomatic, Reconstruction, Higher Education, defense, Public Freedoms, Agriculture, Financial Laws, Media, Communications, Family, Constitutional, Transitional Justice, Economic Affairs, Victims, Endowments, and Budget.

- **Several members of the Supreme Elections Committee formed under Decree 66/2025 are now MPs, with some in committee leadership positions.** They include Hassan al-Dughaim (Constitutional, vice chair), Nawar Najma (Diplomatic, vice chair), Imad Barq (Higher Education, member; Family & Women, member), Anas al-Abda (Investment, member), Hanan al-Balkhi (Diplomatic, member), Bader al-Jamous (Economic, member), and Mohammad Ali Yassin (Economic, member; Defense, member).

- **Five of the 26 chairs are women, and the appointments cut across communities.** Lina Aizouqi (Ismaili) chairs Economic Affairs, and Lara Qadid (Christian) chairs Communications, Digital Transformation & IT. Israa al-Mashhour chairs Agriculture & Food Security, Samira Wattar chairs Diplomatic & Consular Affairs, and Asmaa al-Sibai chairs Family & Women. Minority and constituency placements notably include Gabriel Moshe Kouriya (member of the Assyrian Democratic Organization) who sits on Transitional Justice and Culture, Heritage & Cultural Diversity, Laith al-Balous (Druze leader from Suwayda) on Public Freedoms and Human Rights, Abdul Hakim Bashar (Kurdish National Council) on Local Administration & Development, and Sobh al-Baddah as vice chair of Endowments, Religious Affairs & Ifta (represents Suwayda's Bedouin tribes).

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- The bylaws allow the bureau to reorganize or merge committees, therefore the current structure is not permanently fixed.

Files without a committee of their own

The 26 committees contain no dedicated body for refugees and the return of internally displaced persons, for the missing and forcibly disappeared, or for the judiciary. Rather, responsibility over these files is divided between Constitutional & Legislative Affairs and Transitional Justice & Civil Peace. The martyrs and victims file however has its own committee.

Points to Watch

- Mudar Hamdan, a presidential appointee, does not appear on any committee list in the decision. If the bureau proceeds with his expected expulsion, his seat would be vacant pending a new appointment.
- If the Assembly proceeds with Hamdan's expulsion, a potential candidate is Îlham Ehmed (former co-president of the Executive Council of the AANES) if she is made an MP.
- Whether the Political Parties Law is routed through Public Freedoms & Human Rights, which the current division of labor implies, will be the first practical test of committee jurisdiction.