



Fact Sheet **Electoral Codes of Conduct**

A **Code of Conduct** for a group or organization can be defined as an agreement on rules of behaviour for the members of that group or organization. In the electoral context, **Codes of Conduct** can contribute to fairness and to the appearance of fairness in the administration of an election. A **Code**, by definition, comprises a body of principles, intended to guide the behaviour of those participating in an election.

The Independent High Electoral Commission of Iraq (IHEC) considers honest, moral and ethical conduct and behaviour to be of the highest importance to all actors associated with the electoral process, beginning with the IHEC Board of Commissioners and all IHEC employees. As such, pursuant to the authority given in the law of the IHEC No. 11 of the year 2007, article 6, paragraph 4, a **Code of Conduct** was specifically created for the members of the Board of Commissioners. All IHEC employees, including polling staff, are also required to sign a **Code of Conduct** before beginning activities with the Commission.

In addition to adherence to internal Codes of Conduct, the IHEC has elaborated and embraces international standards for the external actors that interact with the IHEC and participate in the electoral process. The following organizations and groups must all adhere to established Codes of Conduct as embraced by the IHEC:

1. Political Entity Agents – The Political Entity Agents **Code of Conduct** is binding on the actions of the political entity, its leaders, candidates, members, and supporters. Every political entity must make every effort to ensure that its leaders, candidates, members, and supporters understand and abide by the Code of Conduct.
2. Domestic Observers – In addition to observation, Domestic Observers also record facts, receive impressions and report. The **Code of Conduct** is designed to allow observers to promote confidence in the electoral system overall and the right to observe all aspects of a national election
3. International Observers – The applicable **Code of Conduct** for International Election Observers was formulated by the United Nations in 2005. It can be found in its entirety at <http://www.uniraq.org/electoral/IraqElections.asp>. This document serves as the international standard to which the IHEC anticipates all international observation groups to uphold.

If any of the above groups (including the IHEC Board of Commissioners) is found in breach of a Code of Conduct, disciplinary action can be taken and the individual can be potentially removed from office. In the case of observers or party agents, the IHEC may remove accreditation privileges for that organization or entity and further prosecute the matter if found to be a breach of the Electoral Law.

Additional inquiries regarding the IHEC **Codes of Conduct** can be directed to the following email address: observers@ihec-iraq.com.