

Elections Update

December 20, 2008

The SRSG pays a visit to the IHEC training workshop in preparation for the Governorate Council Elections

The Independent High Electoral Commission has completed the final preparations for the cascade training on polling and counting procedures of approximately 260,000 electoral officials. Fifteen core trainers from the IHEC national office attended a five day workshop on the procedures and training techniques in Baghdad, December 14-18, 2008. The advisors of the UN led International Electoral Assistance Team facilitated the workshop.

The Special Representative of the Secretary General, Mr. Staffan de Mistura, addressed the IHEC national core trainers emphasizing the importance of their role and responsibilities in ensuring that the procedures for polling and counting are followed properly. "Properly implemented electoral procedures are essential for credible and legitimate elections. The Governorate Council Elections are very important for all Iraqis as their results will affect citizens' daily life", said Mr. de Mistura.

The training workshop aimed to prepare the team of core IHEC trainers for the delivery of accurate and consistent training on polling and counting procedures throughout the four levels of the training cascade. The first level of the cascade will reach 256 Governorate Election Office trainers and will start on December 21. The cascade training is expected to be completed in each Governorate by January 28, 2009.