

Electoral Update 3 November

- Elections law - still no clarity on the law; the Council of Representatives is debating potential amendments: increase in number of seats from 275 to 311; change from closed to an open list proportional representation electoral system; percentage of compensatory seats; maximum number of candidates per list and how to accommodate Kirkuk. UNAMI is heavily engaged in trying to facilitate solutions so that the election will take place as planned, providing advice on different proposals for possible amendments to the Electoral Law.
- Implementation of all activities not directly related to the amendments to the Electoral Law is still ongoing. The IHEC is working to keep the targeted Election Day 16th January 2010 feasible.
- IHEC interrogation: Public Integrity Committee has opened investigation into IHEC and salaries for 37 director generals. A number of reports and media publications in local and international sources raised the issue of alleged corruption of the IHEC in the aftermath of questioning the IHEC Chairman on 5 October, and on 29 October accusations of IHEC loosing the Voter List from 2004 were published in Iraqi media, which can further undermine the credibility of the IHEC. UNAMI maintains its position that a continuing interrogation and possible removal of commissioners would severely disrupt the ongoing electoral preparations and consequently jeopardize the electoral timeline.
- The Board of Commissioners has extended coalition certification until 4 November. To date, 10 coalitions have applied for certification, 5 have been certified, and it is likely the deadline will be further extended.
- Candidate nomination is still on hold awaiting the necessary legislative clarifications.
- The IHEC Data Entry Centre (DEC) has transferred the database to the Voter Registration section for Final Voter List production and allocation of voters to polling stations and polling centres.
- The IHEC is awaiting response from the countries selected for conducting Out of Country Voting; 23 countries have been proposed. UNAMI is concerned now about the time remaining and IHEC's ability to conduct OCV in the absence of funding and clarity on the law.