

Electoral Update 30 November 2009

- Following the veto of Vice President al-Hashimi to the amendments of the election law on November 8, the CoR adopted another amendment which is pending VP Hashimi's approval. Current efforts of UNAMI focus on facilitating clarification on disputed issues and obtaining political consensus on a proposal being supported by the majority of political blocs.
- UNAMI team has provided a technical opinion on different options that have been considered. Total number of seats, allocation of seats for governorates and allocation of seats for minorities are still being debated.
- From an operational standpoint, IHEC continues to maintain its state of readiness for the upcoming Parliamentary elections. Certain activities have been put on hold, however due to absence of legal clarity and Eid holidays. The IHEC will reopen the candidate nomination process once the election law is officially ratified.
- Last week of February is being discussed as feasible option for the Election Day if clarity on the law is reached in the coming days.
- Status of operational preparations – following the confirmation of regular polling centre locations by all GEOs, the IHEC is completing the VRU analysis and final voter distribution to polling centres and stations.
- Electoral security planning process continues awaiting clarity of electoral legislation and confirmed dates for the election; the National conference for ISF commanders has been scheduled for 13 December; security assessments of GEO warehouses and Count Centres are ongoing.
- Public outreach campaign preparations and activities at the GEO level are ongoing in all governorates; GEOs are reporting continuing meetings, symposiums and contacts with media and other stakeholders on electoral issues. Open list system, candidate nomination, rules of political campaign, seat allocation and women representation are the main points of interest for the local stakeholders.
- IHEC Procedures and Training section is reviewing the national cascade training plan for approx. 300 000 polling and counting staff, in coordination with GEOs.
- Procurement and logistics preparations are ongoing – delivery of voting screens to GEOs, printing of training materials, the work of technical committees for the ballots, Final Voter List, ink, stamps and ballot boxes.
- Graphic materials – ballot designs, forms, voter education - have been designed and are ready for finalization, pending clarity with legislation and Election Day.