

Electoral update 19 January 2010

- Operational preparations for the Council of Representatives Elections to be held on 7 March 2010 are still on track.
- The ongoing De-Ba'athification process including appeals continues to put pressure on the timeline and the inclusiveness of the electoral process; IHEC is engaged in intense process of mandatory vetting of the candidates, expected to be completed by 31 January.
- On 18 January the IHEC held the first of the two planned lotteries for selecting over 300,000 polling staff for the Election Day, the second lottery is planned for 21 January in Erbil. UNAMI Chief Technical Advisor to the IHEC addressed the audience praising the IHEC's efforts to ensure the integrity of the polling process.
- The nation-wide training cascade on polling and counting procedures was successfully launched on 18 March in Erbil, with 360 participants from all Iraqi governorates.
- On 19 January 2010 the Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC) started the printing of ballots for the upcoming parliamentary elections. Overall, more than 26 million ballots of 19 different types will be printed and distributed to approximately 50,000 polling stations which will be established by the IHEC to accommodate regular voting, special needs and absentee voting (police, military, detainees and hospitals), as well as out-of-country voting.
- Voter List - all decisions necessary for the finalization of the Voter List including decisions on all complaints related to the Voter List are now in place. It is expected that creation of PDF files for polling stations will start next week after the special voters from the Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Defense are removed from the list.
- The list of polling centres has been sent to the GEOs for their final check and corrections.
- IHEC has started the deployment of office managers for the Out of Country Voting programme (OCV). Managers for Turkey, Iran and Jordan have been deployed so far. UNAMI is deploying electoral advisers to support the programme.