

Electoral update 5 January 2010

- All IHEC operational preparations to meet 2010 March 7 Council of Representatives (CoR) Elections are on track.
- Following the ballot lottery, all technical requirements for the finalization of the ballot design are now in place.
- Technical preparations for Out-of-Country Voting (OCV) are ongoing. Syria, Jordan, UK, Sweden, Germany, UAE, Australia, Lebanon, Iran, USA, Austria, Canada, Egypt, Netherlands and Turkey have been identified for OCV by the IHEC Board of Commissioners. UNAMI technical advisors are being deployed to the OCV headquarter in Erbil, to support the preparation and implementation of the OCV operation. Additional UN deployments are in process for neighbouring countries.
- Verification Process of Special Voting PDS cards has started on 3 January and is expected to be completed by 11 January 2010.
- The Elections Supreme Security Committee (ESSC) has finalized the National Security Plan and plans to hold a Commanders briefing and a number of press conferences to inform the public of planned security measures for the CoR elections.
- The IHEC has completed a Candidate Nomination process that saw submissions of 6529 nominations of candidates by 86 political entities and coalitions. All candidates are now under an obligatory vetting process with reference to candidates' educational background, affiliation with the outlawed Bath party, or conviction of crime violating honor.
- The IHEC Board of Commissioners (BoC) continues to meet daily, to discuss ongoing operational requirements and procedural issues.