

## **Electoral update 12 January 2010**

- Following the ballot lottery, all technical requirements for the finalization of the ballot design are now in place.
- Preparation of special voting list for police and military expected to be completed by 14 January 2010 but many gaps remain.
- On 11 January the Elections Supreme Security Committee held a weekly meeting. Planning for the CoR elections is ongoing.
- Technical preparations for Out-of-Country Voting (OCV) are ongoing. Syria, Jordan, UK, Sweden, Germany, UAE, Australia, Lebanon, Iran, USA, Austria, Canada, Egypt, Netherlands, Denmark and Turkey have been identified for OCV by the IHEC Board of Commissioners (BoC). All but Egypt have indicated to the Iraqi MOFA they will agree to OCV.
- IHEC has opened its Out-of-Country HQ in Erbil. All IHEC OCV Country Managers appointed and attended a three day briefing in Erbil. Regulatory framework and polling materials are being prepared by the IHEC.
- 10,087 Domestic Observers have been accredited in 14 GEOs since 1 December. No International Observers have been accredited to date. The accreditation period for political entity agents opened on 3 January and the first reports are expected shortly.
- Training workshop for 16 IHEC master trainers, facilitated by UNAMI advisors, started on 10 January, in preparations for the nation-wide cascade training for up to 300,000 polling and counting staff. The workshop aims at assisting the IHEC in achieving consistency and quality control throughout the cascade.
- The number of candidates for 2010 elections remains 6595, after the amendments made by the IHEC and political entities; the certification process is ongoing, to date, IHEC did not receive any response from the concerned ministries, the deadline to receive the lists with ineligible candidates is 13 January.
- UNAMI is providing technical advice to IHEC on matters of the candidates' obligatory vetting process, with reference to candidates' educational background, affiliation with the outlawed Ba'ath party, or conviction of crime violating honour.
- The Accountability and Justice Commission (AJC) has requested IHEC to strike up to 14 political entities from the ballot. UNAMI is concerned that such a strike will violate CPA Order 97 (5) and infringe on the independence of IHEC. The IHEC BoC's final decision on the matter is pending.