

Electoral Update 28 October 2009

- 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.
- Electoral preparations have reached a critical point if the 16 January Election Day is to be met. The IEAT estimates that in order to meet the timeline and to preserve the quality and international standards of elections, candidate nomination must start no later than 1 November. This will leave only 35 days to then prepare the ballots and deliver them to the printer.
- Other activities from the electoral timeline are being implemented by the IHEC, although all preparations are hampered by absence of legislation and budget.
- The Board of Commissioners has decided to extend coalition certification for 5 days. To date, four coalitions have applied for certification and it is likely the deadline will be further extended.
- The IHEC held a press conference on 21 October at Al-Rashid hotel in Baghdad, followed by a statement – urging the CoR to clarify the electoral law and outlining electoral preparations and operational timeline.
- The IHEC Data Entry Centre (DEC) has finished the VRU data entry process: all 575,620 forms 222 have been processed, audited and archived.
- Ballot estimates completed by the IHEC – it is planned to print 25,000,000 ballots for in country voting.
- UNAMI with its implementing partners continues to work closely with IHEC in preparation for January 16, 2010 Council of Representatives Election. IEAT Chief Technical Adviser is engaged in a number of high-level meetings with senior Iraqi and international stakeholders facilitating the electoral preparations process.