

**IEAT working paper # 3:  
ELECTORAL SYSTEMS – PRESENTATION OF DIFFERENT MODELS**

1. The “Electoral system” refers to the manner in which leaders and representatives are chosen. An electoral system has a number of parts, but the most important are the manner in which votes are translated into seats or results (the “electoral formula”), the division of the people into groups to be represented (the “basis of representation” or electoral districts), and the ballot structure (candidate vs. parties; closed, open or free lists; how many votes for the voter, etc).

2. In Iraq, the major issues being debated by political parties in relation to the electoral system to be used for the provincial council elections refer to: a) the electoral district, and b) the nature of the lists of candidates – whether closed or open. The fact that discussions center on lists of candidates would indicate that the accepted electoral formula is proportional representation, a type of which was used during the 2005 elections. In any case, all these elements of the electoral system are inter-related. Different systems will also have consequences regarding the practicality of various mechanisms to ensure the representation of women and minorities, as well as the possibility of voting by IDPs.

3. In order to better appreciate the various models, a number of fact sheets have been developed, which present in a systematic manner the different features of various models of electoral systems. The models include:

- Fact sheet # 1 : First past the post;
- Fact sheet # 2 : Closed list proportional representation;
- Fact sheet # 3 : Limited open list proportional representation;
- Fact sheet # 4 : Free vote open list proportional representation;
- Fact sheet # 5: Mixed member proportional representation;
- Fact sheet # 6: Block vote;
- Fact sheet # 7: Single non-transferable vote.

4. Additionally, other fact sheets comparing different models have also been prepared, as follows:

- Fact sheet # 8: Summary chart comparing electoral systems
- Fact sheet # 9: Comparison block vote and open list PR..

Baghdad, April 2008