The nine-member Board of Commissioners (BOC) of the Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC) is selected by the Council of Representatives to serve for a five-year term. The current BOC was appointed in September 2012 and will remain in office until September 2017. The United Nations did not select the current BOC but provided technical advice and support to the selection process in accordance with its mandate.

### THE UN AND ELECTIONS IN IRAQ

Pursuant to UN Security Council Resolution 2110, the United Nations is mandated to provide advice and assistance to the Government of Iraq and the Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC) on the development of processes for holding elections and referenda.

To implement this mandate, a UNAMI-led integrated team of electoral advisers from UNAMI, UNDP and UNOPS is co-located within IHEC in Baghdad and the Kurdistan Regional Electoral Office in Erbil.

The Integrated Electoral Assistance Team (IEAT) provides technical advice and assistance.

Areas of intervention include election management; operations; field coordination; data center management; strategic planning; information technology; logistics; procurement; training; gender; legal and regulatory frameworks; complaints; graphic design; external relations; and public outreach.

### THE SELECTION PROCESS

In accordance with Law 11/2007 the COR forms a Committee of Experts (COE) to select candidates for the BOC, which is appointed by a majority vote in the House.

The COR Speaker requested UNAMI to advise and assist in the selection process. UNAMI’s role focused on ways to enhance the transparency of the selection process and mechanisms.

The COE also invited Iraqi civil society organizations to observe and report on its deliberations. Representatives from these organizations regularly attended COE sessions.

The opening of the BOC application process on 20 October 2011 was officially announced by the COR with postings on its website and nightly announcements on Iraqi television. At the close of the official application period on 10 November 2011 the COR had received over 7,000 applications.

On 18 February 2012 the COE announced that 4,355 applications conformed to Law 11/2007; 3,439 applicants were rejected for not meeting the basic legal criteria (relating to education, age, and citizenship).

Disqualified applicants had one week to appeal to a COE Complaints Panel. The applications accepted by the CoE were reviewed and graded according to their managerial, legal, electoral and educational credentials. The 60 “short-listed” applicants were then interviewed by the COE and the names of the final nine were reviewed by the Justice and Accountability Committee before being sent to the COR for a vote.

### LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Electoral Law 11 (2007) Section Three, Article Three provides the legal framework for the selection of the IHEC BOC as follows:

“The Board of Commissioners consists of nine members, at least two of whom must be legal professionals, selected by a majority vote of the Council of Representatives upon their nomination by a Committee composed of members of the Council of Representatives.

[They] must have expertise and experience in elections and must be known for their competence, integrity and independence taking into consideration female representation.”
MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WAEL MOHAMMAD AL WAELI
SARBAST MUSTAFA AMEDI, CHAIRPERSON
SAFAA IBRAHIM AL MUSAWY, SPOKESPERSON
GOLSHAN KAMAL ALI

GATEA MUKHLIF AL ZOUBAI, VICE-CHAIRPERSON
SIRWAN AHMED RASHEED

SUROUR ABID HANTOUSH
MUHSEN HASSAN AL MUSAWY
MUKDAD HASSAN AL SHARIFY, CEO (NON-VOTING MEMBER)