

# Technical Working Group on Elections

Tuesday 12 February 2013 at 11.00–12:30  
UNDP Lebanon Country Office

## Attendees

The following organisations attended:

1. Antoine University
2. Embassy of Sweden
3. International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES)
4. Italian Embassy
5. Lebanese Association for Democratic Elections (LADE)
6. Lebanese Foundation for Permanent Civil Peace (LFPCP)
7. National Democratic Institute (NDI)
8. Partnership Centre for Democracy & Development (PCDD)
9. Samir Kassir Foundation
10. United Kingdom Embassy (UKE)
11. UN Development Programme (UNDP)
12. UNDP Lebanese Elections Assistance Programme (LEAP)
13. United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
14. United States Embassy – MEPI project
15. Women in Front (WIF)
16. SMART Centre

## Minutes

### 1. Introduction

Richard Chambers (UNDP LEAP) welcomed the attendees and highlighted the agenda, and explained that the ultimate goal of the TWGE meetings is to establish a liaison between civil society organizations working on elections and the Technical Assistance Group to the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities.

### 2. IFES presentation about Risk Assessment

IFES team presented an overview of Lebanese elections by level of risk assessment, a continuation of previous support to MOIM in 2009. The risk assessment follows a methodology related to reviewing electoral districts and considering category of risk factors (political, confessional and electoral). The 2013 project is based on the current law's districts but will be adapted in the case of the adoption of a new law/districts. The project includes developing software to map potential risks. Reports will be issued on monthly basis until April and later on a bi-weekly basis. IFES indicated their interest and willingness to share with TWGE colleagues, and a copy of the report will be made available.

### 3. Briefing by UNDP LEAP on the work of the parliamentary sub-committee on electoral systems

Richard Chambers provided an overview of current discussions on the electoral law; where a comparative chart of various electoral laws was viewed and questions from participants were addressed. The timeline for elections with significant deadlines was also discussed, especially relating to the appointment of the SCEC and issues of potential parliamentary extensions.

**4. Updates from TWGE participants on their elections activities for 2013 are summarized as follows:**

- LADE** LADE has officially been approved by MIOM to monitor the voter register. Through the Civil Campaign for Electoral reform several events are being held as part of monitoring the elections including a meeting on February 13, 2013 for civil society organizations to call for the formation of SCEC on time. CCR is also following on expat voting, working on reviewing the voter register updates and integration of lists. Another campaign is being prepared for preprinted ballots. An additional meeting will be held to engage citizens in observing elections on February 15, 2013.
- PCDD** Organizing the Plan and Win campaign which is targeting 10-12 members of political parties where an event will be held on 23-24 February , 2013 to discuss elections.
- Women in Front** Mapping based on the 1960 law to include women candidates in the political party's list.  
Antoine University: Holding a meeting for political parties on 25 February-1 march for updates on election strategy along with media and communication strategy. Open invitation for participation.
- Samir Kassir Foundation** Developing a web series with L'Orient Le Jour newspaper where families will be selected to people will be interviewed regarding their expectations of the 2013 elections. Results will run on the web page of the paper in French and Arabic and an event will be held in Riviera Hotel to announce the results of the findings.
- Lebanese Foundation for Permanent Civil Peace** Working with three women groups to create a platform to build capacity and advocacy on elections and peace building and identified three candidates accordingly.
- NDI** Supporting LADE and CCER through initiatives for monitoring elections. Promoting the use of pre- printed ballots through a campaign and focusing on the inclusion of women and youth in elections.  
Previously held focus group discussion to determine knowledge on voter secrecy and ballots. Results showed that one person only out of four working groups was aware of such initiatives.

Following updates from participants, the voter education clip which was prepared by the LEAP project on behalf of the MIOM was shown. Attendees expressed high satisfaction with the campaign and positive feedback was observed were several commented that they have seen the billboards.

The next TWGE meeting will take place on **Thursday March 7, 2013 at 11:00am, at the Riviera Hotel, Raouche.**