

Technical Working Group on Elections

Tuesday March 7, 2013 at 11.00–12:30
Riviera Hotel

Attendees

The following organisations attended:

1. Embassy of Sweden
2. Italian Embassy
3. Lebanese Association for Democratic Elections (LADE)
4. National Democratic Institute (NDI)
5. Samir Kassir Foundation
6. United Kingdom Embassy (UKE)
7. UN Development Programme (UNDP)
8. UNDP Lebanese Elections Assistance Programme (LEAP)
9. United States Embassy
10. Women in Front (WIF)
11. SMART Centre
12. European Union (EU)
13. Canadian Embassy
14. Lebanese Council of Women
15. CCER

Minutes

1. Richard Chambers (UNDP LEAP) welcomed the attendees and highlighted the agenda. He referred to the news that on 4 March the Decree calling for elections on Sunday 9 June was co-signed by the President of the Republic and the Prime Minister, establishing that elections would be conducted under Law 25/2008. However, there remained a possibility of political consensus on a new election law which may, or may not, impact on an election date.

2. Presentation by LADE on Monitoring the 2013 Parliamentary Elections:

Yara Nassar presented the work plan (attached) for LADE's long-term monitoring of elections. The project is to be launched on 19 March, although the project has been ongoing since November 2012 in terms of planning and monitoring developments. LADE referred to their disappointing experience relating to being refused accreditation from the MOIM to monitor the voters' registration, despite having been assured of access. The second phase of the project starts from March 2013 until June 2013, and will include monitoring the campaign period. The third phase is in June 2013 and will include monitoring the Election Day. The last phase is post-elections and will include the monitoring of the complaints process. LADE also briefed the attendees about the municipal by-elections which took place on March 3, 2013 as they mobilized observers to monitor the process in the field.

3. Briefing by UNDP LEAP on the timeframe of elections since the decree was signed:

Richard Chambers discussed with the attendees the various deadlines prior to the June 2013 elections (see attached timeframe). Candidates' rights to register and campaigning start once the decree is

published in the official gazette. The absence of a SCEC is likely to be problematic, especially for the media monitoring and the campaign finance monitoring.

He also provided an overview about the various draft laws that have been presented and the logistic preparations that are required for each one. There was also discussion over the need for the Cabinet to issue the MOIM with a budget for election operations. Finally, he briefed the attendees about the various activities on which the LEAP team is currently working on. One of these activities is developing a website for the project which will feature all the NGOs participating in the TWGE. As such, LEAP will request from each organization a brief about their current activities for the 2013 parliamentary elections alongside the logo and website of the organization.

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

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| Women in Front | Presented 4 TV ads that they have produced in collaboration with SMART center to encourage women candidates to participate in the upcoming elections. (As voter, candidate, polling officer). |
| Samir Kassir Foundation | Launch of the web series where families were selected and interviewed regarding their expectations of the 2013 elections. The results will be announced at the Riviera Hotel on Wednesday March 13, 2013 at 6:00pm. The foundation extended an invitation to the TWGE members. |
| CCER | Various field activities are taking place next to the parliament to advocate and demand for electoral reforms. CCER is considering the establishment of a shadow SCEC in case the cabinet fails to establish one. CCER have also extended an invitation for all the NGOs represented at the TWGE to join the campaign. |
| NDI | Announced the results of the focus groups for voter expectation that was done in partnership with LCPS. |