

Technical Working Group on Elections

Tuesday June 4, 2013 at 11:00-12:30

UNDP Country Office

Attendees

The following organizations attended:

- 1- UNDP
- 2- SKeyes
- 3- PCDD
- 4- IFES
- 5- SMART center
- 6- US Embassy
- 7- USAID
- 8- EU
- 9- UK Embassy
- 10- Swedish Embassy
- 11- Italian Embassy
- 12- Women in Front
- 13- Lebanese Foundation for Permanent Civil Peace
- 14- Lebanese Council of Women

Minutes

- 1- Richard welcomed the attendees and reminded of the purpose of the TWGE which is to share updates and information about the electoral process. He mentioned that the initial intention was to hold these meetings on monthly basis, but unfortunately and due to the uncertainties related to the electoral process the meetings were less frequent. Richard introduced the main purpose of today's meeting which is to discuss the key development:
 - The Constitutional Council challenges;
 - The candidate registration;
 - And the upcoming plans and activities of the local and international organizations.
- 2- The MoIM launched on the closing of the candidate registration its website: www.elections.gov.lb, and the UNDP – LEAP launched its website: www.lebanon-elections.org, which were both presented to the attendees.
- 3- Richard continued by presenting the various alternatives that face the challenges against the law number 246 presented to the Constitutional Council. The EU asked about the deadline that the CC has to respond to the challenge and which is maximum 1 month. Richard

continued by saying that different scenarios may occur based on the response of the CC, one of them will be that elections will take place in September or October 2013. Rabieh Kays clarified that the Constitutional Council is facing two challenges; one from the President of the Republic and another one from FPM, that's why the CC will try to come up with the result in the shortest period possible but not necessarily before June 20, 2013. The Italian Embassy asked about the rationale behind the 246 law which is mainly that the parliament can extend its mandate under exceptional circumstances (war, armed conflicts, and others..). The CC has to decide if the circumstances presented in the law 246 are exceptional. These circumstances have to be over a short period and specific. The CC has to receive 7 votes out of 10 of his members for the final result to be approved. USAID asked if this extension can be extended again, and the answer was positive.

- 4- Richard presented the candidate registration table which shows the number of candidates in each district divided by confession and gender.
- 5- Further questions were addressed by the attendees about the SCEC whose members were nominated by the cabinet but not appointed yet since their names were not published in the official gazette. The variable ceiling was set in the same session when the SCEC was nominated, and it is 6,000 LBP. The fixed ceiling remains 150,000,000 LBP.
- 6- The steps forward:
 - Agreement on a new electoral law,
 - There might be sub-committee session to discuss the various electoral systems,
 - Possible intervention on women quota and seats distribution,
 - LEAP has a lot of lessons learned from the close work with MoIM and several areas can be improved.

Date of next meeting to be determined.