

## **Technical Working Group on Elections**

Wednesday October 9, 2013 from 11:00 till 12:30  
UNDP Country Office

### **Attendees**

The following organizations attended:

- 1- UNDP
- 2- SKeyes
- 3- PCDD
- 4- LADE
- 5- CCER
- 6- USAID
- 7- Swedish Embassy
- 8- Italian Embassy
- 9- Canadian Embassy
- 10- Lebanese Foundation for Permanent Civil Peace
- 11- Lebanese Council of Women
- 12- RDFL
- 13- Lebanese Transparency Association
- 14- NDI
- 15- SMEX

### **Minutes**

- 1- Richard Chambers welcomed the attendees and urged the new comers on presenting themselves. He presented the agenda for the meeting which consisted of the
  - Electoral developments, including elections deadlines for 2014;
  - Updates from TWGE participants;
  - Discussion on the SCEC.
  
- 2- The first slide presented by Richard included the important deadlines and dates for the 2014 elections. Most importantly the upcoming presidential elections raised the concerns of the attendees, especially that the parliamentary elections and the electoral law will be on hold during this period. Given the interest that was raised by this topic, Richard promised the participants that an elaborate discussion about the presidential elections will take place in the next TWGE tackling candidate registration, quorum, numbers... Richard continued by presenting the organizational structure of the MoIM and elaborated the role of each department.  
Ayman Mhanna from SKeyes asked about the fate of the nominated SCEC members, and the answer came that it is not put in practice yet because it wasn't published in the official gazette.

Then Yara Nassar from LADE informed the attendees that the DG of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, based on the recommendation of the DG of Personal Status at the MoIM, expects the 10,000 Lebanese expats to register again so they can vote from abroad in 2014. The legality of this matter was discussed among the participants who agreed that the MoFA was not doing any effort in this regard; there was no evidence that an official outreach for expatriates to register was taking place.

3- The updates on election related activities came as follows from the NGOs:

**NDI:** In the absence of the 2013 election, they are busy preparing for next year.

They are about to launch 2 small grants; one will focus on electoral reforms, and the second will focus on connecting citizens with election officials.

They are also working on training candidates and campaign managers from the Arab world.

The partnership with LADE and CCER is ongoing. They completed several focus groups which showed that citizens were not happy about the postponement of the elections.

**LADE:** Mobilizing discussion about elections. Reconnect with citizens in Lebanon and discuss the importance of elections. They believe that the peak of the discussions will take place from now till February 2014 because after this period the focus will shift to the electoral law and presidential elections.

They will push for OCV and collect as much answers as possible about the re-registration.

They will conduct opinion polls to measure the knowledge of citizens about reforms.

With CCER, LADE will conduct media campaigns.

They will also engage with university students and monitor their elections. LADE will start training their monitors in November 2013.

**CCER:** They will start implementing a new action plan where they will focus on a new election law, push for election on time and preferably early election.

**LTA:** They will work on the campaign finance monitoring all over the Lebanese territory, they will train around 900 observers to implement their project.

**SMEX:** They will build a platform about social networks in Lebanon related to elections. They will archive what has been happening in terms of elections in Lebanon.

**PCDD:** They are working with women department in the political parties in order to enhance their political participation. Holding roundtable meetings and workshops in order to identify the women's list of priorities and reforms.

They are holding focus group meetings with NDI on pre-printed ballots.

**LCW:** They are training women candidates for parliamentary and municipal elections. They also meet with stakeholders to implement action for women to get to parliament.

**SKeys:** They are launching call for contracts to build a platform assess quantitative and qualitative campaigning for candidates.

Ongoing consultancy to assess how the media deals with issues related to elections in order to either improve communication or train journalists on how to cover the news.

**RDFL:** They are working on elections from a gender perspective. Part of the consortium with LADE. They also work on a regional project with OXFAM to conduct a study about women participation in political parties and trade unions.

**UNDP:** In addition to LEAP, the governance programme also has a project in the parliament that deals with women political participation and youth participation.

4- Richard presented the SCEC recommendations after 2009, and the civil society organizations' recommendations. Many of these recommendations are available in the cabinet draft law.

The presentation also included the budget of the SCEC and the campaign spending ceiling in the 26 Lebanese districts.

Next TWGE meeting to be determined in November.