

## **Technical Working Group on Elections**

Wednesday October 29, 2014 from 10:00 till 12:00  
Crowne Plaza Hotel Hamra

### **Attendees**

The following organizations attended:

- Ministry of Social Affairs
- Women in Front
- Canadian Embassy
- NDI
- UNSCOL
- ERIS
- IRI
- SKeyes
- LTA
- UNDP Parliament
- NDU
- UNDP LEAP

### **Minutes**

#### **A: Welcome and Introductions**

LEAP welcomed attendees to the first TWGE meeting since May 2014. The many electoral uncertainties over the summer had stood in the way of holding TWGE meetings.

#### **B: Electoral Development**

LEAP presented an update on recent electoral developments. This included an overview of the timeframe of electoral activities, including the preparations that had been taken by the MOIM, the candidate registration process and the difficulties faced with the election operations, budget, equipment and security. LEAP gave a detailed update on candidate registration, highlighting that the number of registered candidates had dropped from that in 2013. While the percentage of women candidates had remained at 6%, it was a lower number than in the previous year, and remains a very low proportion of the total number of candidates. The issue of the SCEC's partial and informal appointment was also mentioned.

The expected extension of the parliamentary mandate had still not formally been taken, and Parliament was expected to meet on 5 November to extend its mandate to 20 June 2017. There

was some discussion on the fact that the Constitutional Council may receive a challenge to the constitutionality of the extension and of the length of the extension and whether out-of-country voting would take place on 7 and 9 November if the law was not immediately published. LEAP presented a chart showing the history of parliamentary mandates from 1972 onwards. UNSCOL gave a short update on the political issues surrounding the debate over the extension.

## **C: Organizations Electoral Activities**

**SKeyes** is conducting a new study of the current electoral law and the provisions related to media and how they apply to social media. They are also looking into which court will be responsible for which kind of media once the electoral campaign will start. Ayman added that during the campaign period the online defamation would destroy the publication court.

**Women in Front** finalized their Women in Municipalities project which included several trainings and workshop for potential women candidates for the municipal elections. The number of potential women candidates is now 400.

They will be starting a new project with journalists aiming for the promotion of women quota.

Nada also mentioned that the Women in Parliament Coalition has additional members and advocates: LTA, MoSA, and UNDP Parliament.

**NDI** don't currently have a program directly related to elections, but they are continuously supporting CSOs working on electoral reforms in Lebanon.

**LTA** launched their campaign finance monitoring project in several areas in Lebanon including north Lebanon and baalback. Further launches will include Beirut and southern Lebanon. This project will include the training of 900 observers in addition to the development of 2 applications for the mobile phones.

**MoSA** works on promoting women participation on both the local and national levels. They finalized their project targeting women in municipal council. The project financed projects implemented in various municipalities and developed by women.

Another project for MoSA includes working with media institution to advocate for women participation in politics.

**ERIS** is providing technical assistance for the EU consortium. They are also training observers on election monitoring.

**IRI** will currently have a small scale project relating to polling procedures, and once elections are happening they will enlarge the same project.

**LEAP** was supposed to end in December 2014 but will most likely receive an extension from the EU. The project will move into a new direction which is providing technical assistance to the ministry even when there are no elections, and have an electoral cycle project.

In December 2014, the UN Election Division in New York will send a mission to Lebanon to conduct a needs assessment.

LEAP will continue with similar activities and will also be ready for municipal, parliamentary, and by elections.

#### **D: Other Updates**

The attendees suggested having a focused upcoming TWGE in order to strategize for the next elections.

Date of next meeting to be determined.