



Elections for Iraq's Council of Representatives

FACT SHEET #3 Role of the United Nations (UN)

What is the UN's mandated role in the 10 October elections?

At the request of the Government of Iraq and pursuant to Security Council resolution 2576 of 27 May 2021, the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) is mandated to advise, support and assist the Government of Iraq and the Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC) in efforts to plan and execute transparent and credible elections.

To avoid any misunderstanding: the October elections are and will remain, at all times, Iraqi-owned and Iraqi-led. This means that Iraqi authorities and stakeholders bear the full and ultimate responsibility.

In addition to the ongoing provision of technical electoral assistance and advice, the Security Council decided that UNAMI should provide a strengthened, robust and visible UN team, with additional staff, in advance of the upcoming election, to monitor the election day; as well as to engage and coordinate with appropriate logistical and security support to international and regional third-party observers invited by the Government of Iraq. Further to this, UNAMI is also mandated to launch a UN strategic messaging campaign to educate, inform, and update Iraqi voters on election preparations, and UN activities in support of the elections in advance of and on election day.

To implement this mandate, a UNAMI-led integrated team of electoral advisors from UNAMI and other UN Agencies is advising, supporting and assisting IHEC in Baghdad. UNAMI's Office of Electoral Assistance (OEA) also has teams of electoral advisers deployed in all UNAMI regional hubs in Baghdad, Basrah, Erbil, Kirkuk and Ninewa.

The UNAMI electoral advisors provide advice, support and assistance in the areas of elections management, operations, field coordination, communications and outreach, results management, information technology, procurement, logistics, training, gender, legal affairs, regulatory frameworks, complaints and challenges, graphic design, COVID-19 mitigation measures and election security.

How are legal framework and electoral adjudication mechanisms supported by the UN?

UNAMI's OEA provides legal and technical advice to help the IHEC Legal Committee to develop clear and concise regulations, procedures, codes of conduct, electoral policies and other necessary directives emanating from IHEC and electoral legislation and also in line with international standards and best practices. Moreover, technical support is being provided to IHEC's Legal Committee and Complaints and Appeals Department – to strengthen IHEC's electoral adjudication mechanisms and appeal process.

What specific operational support is being provided by the UN?

The IHEC Operations and Information Technology Department is responsible for coordination of all efforts and planning leading to election day. It oversees such IHEC sections as Logistics, Field Coordination, Information Technology (IT), Training and Procedures, Voter Registration and Election Security.

Providing technical assistance and advisory support to the IHEC Operations is a team of UNAMI electoral advisers led by a Senior Operations Advisor and a Deputy Operations Advisor. The team also includes international and national advisers with expertise in IT and Graphic Design, Training and Procedures, Field Coordination, and Procurement. The Field Coordination Section comprises advisors to all Governorate Electoral Offices (GEOs).

The team engages with their IHEC counterparts on a daily basis - providing advice on all operational aspects and phases of the electoral process, including voter registration, candidate nomination, procurement and logistics. It works on polling and counting procedures, the candidate nomination process, the ballot lottery, design and implementation of cascade polling training, IT preparations, development of software, manuals for electronic devices, finalization of the voter list, preparation of the list of polling centers, and finalization of procurement processes for ballot papers and sensitive materials. The team also analyses each part of the process and provides advice on changes and measures that will increase transparency.

How is UNAMI's OEA supporting the Governorate Electoral Offices?

Within the UNAMI OEA Operations, the Field Coordination Team deals directly with each of the 19 IHEC GEOs. The Field Coordination team is led by one Field Coordination Advisor and eight Regional Operations Advisors, who are responsible for the GEOs in each of the regions. The Regional Operations Advisors are supported by international UN Volunteers and national advisers, the latter being co-located in each GEO. The Field Coordination Advisor is responsible for advising IHEC's Field Coordination Section on communications and overall management of field offices, flagging issues of concern reported by field staff and ensuring all activities are implemented according to operational plans. The UNAMI OEA field teams are based in six locations and provide advice to all 19 GEOs on all operational aspects.

How is UNAMI's OEA supporting the IHEC Procurement Section?

The UNAMI OEA Procurement Advisor supports the IHEC Procurement Section on various aspects of assets and services procurement, including the drafting of procurement plans; supplier sourcing; database, transportation and administration related procedure; operational efficiency of services and assets procure; and negotiation aspects. The Procurement Advisor also supported IHEC in negotiating the printing of ballot papers,

sensitive forms and electoral materials for IHEC, as well as all necessary materials for the ballot lottery.

What UN support is provided on IT, election procedures and staff training?

The UNAMI OEA Training and Procedures Advisor supports IHEC on the development of procedures and training plans for all phases of the election process, in particular polling and counting. The work also takes into account legal aspects, providing advice to ensure that all procedures are operationalized according to the regulations, are as transparent as possible and coordinated across different sections and departments.

The UNAMI OEA IT Team supports IHEC on all aspects of technology related to elections. The team works on and supports the IHEC IT Team on critical activities and electoral landmarks such as developing and running recruitment applications for polling staff; finalizing the voters list; developing the candidate registration database; developing results tabulation software to process manual counting result forms; developing a geographic information system (GIS) application to collect polling center coordinates; and reviewing and supporting electronic equipment and software for polling and transmission of results.