

## **Technical Working Group on Elections**

Thursday April 11, 2013 at 11.00–12:30  
UNDP Country Office

### **Attendees**

The following organisations attended:

1. Embassy of Sweden
2. Lebanese Association for Democratic Elections (LADE)
3. National Democratic Institute (NDI)
4. International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES)
5. UNSCOL
6. Lebanese Physical Handicapped Union (LPHU)
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. Kulluna Mass'oul
13. Lebanese Foundation for Permanent Civil Peace
14. European Union (EU)
15. Canadian Embassy
16. Lebanese Council of Women (LCW)

### **Minutes**

#### **1- Presentation by the Lebanese Physical Handicapped Union (LPHU)**

Mr. Fadi Sayegh gave a presentation on issues related to access to the electoral process by persons with disabilities. He referred to the work of LPHU as election observers and advocates for electoral reforms, but who highlight the role of persons with disabilities in elections, specifically the problems of gaining access to polling stations. Detailed reference was made to the work of a committee that was established at the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities (MoIM) to liaise with groups representing persons with disabilities and which had met several times in 2010 and which had developed a report with recommendations related to the rights of people with disability to access the polling stations. This report had been submitted to the Council of Ministers but so far had not been discussed. The same committee had restarted its meetings in 2013 and again developed a series of recommendations, and which again had been sent to the Council of Ministers but again these had not been discussed. Mr. Sayegh indicated that there may be some different opinions about what were the best measures that could be taken, but that LPHU were against any proposal that sought to treat disabled voters differently from other voters. Hence, in response to a question, Mr. Sayegh argued that there should not be 'separate' polling stations for persons with disabilities.

## **2- Briefing by UNDP LEAP on the timeframe of elections**

Mr. Richard Chambers presented a short overview of the major electoral events that had taken place since the last TWGE meeting including the March 22 resignation of the cabinet, the change in the election date (from June 9 to June 16) and the April 10 adoption of new amendments to electoral legislation that had suspended candidate registration. Discussions followed on the impact of these events on the electoral environment and especially that of candidate registration. Dr. Hassan Krayem highlighted that the current suspension of dates is a temporary measure to allow for political consensus over a new electoral law to be reached without directly repealing the current law. He noted that a parliamentary session was to be called for May 15 and that informal meetings of the parliamentary sub-committee would also be taking place.

## **3- Updates from TWGE participants on their elections activities for 2013:**

- **LADE** have launched their election observation project. They have experienced problems in relation to accessing information from the MoIM and receiving formal accreditation documents. It noted that there were problems in relation to the appointment of Registration Committees.
- **CCER** are still working on the advocacy for electoral reforms, including a series of events and demonstrations. They also have an on-going online petition against the postponement of the elections.
- **SMART Center** finalized an electoral draft law.
- **NDI** in partnership with LADE are hosting the implementation meeting of the Global Network for Domestic Elections Monitoring.
- **Kulluna Mass'oul** emphasized on the importance of the Lebanese expatriates to participate in the upcoming election and in drafting the electoral law.