Areas for improvement at future electoral events that could be addressed in the short term include:

* consolidating IECI regulations;
* reviewing and improving the register;
* enhancing voter education and information;
* ensuring that independent media monitoring capacity is in place;
* enhancing the training of election officers;
* reviewing candidacy eligibility; and
* enhancing communication between IECI headquarters and the field.

For the longer term, areas for improvement include:

* ensuring transparency in financial contributions and expenditures and their consistency with international standards;
* expanding the register data to include individual addresses; and
* locating all logistical responsibilities, when feasible, inside Iraq.

The report addresses nine target assessment areas:

* legal framework
* voter registration
* certification of political parties, coalitions and candidates
* voter education and information
* electoral preparations
* equitable access to media
* polling
* vote counting and compilation of results
* pre-election and post-election complaint procedures

Main recommendations to the IECI for the future:

* Maintain current register, but use the coming months to evaluate and improve the existing records.
* Include procedures for election day registration in the regulation, including conditions under which it is permitted.
* Clarify rules to determine voter eligibility and define documents necessary to register or amend registration.
* Extend registration and revision periods and address data quality.
* Consider the right of political entities to lodge challenges and define documents allowable to support or oppose a challenge.
* Develop a mechanism to collect, record and standardize information that also ensures access to this information.

Main recommendations to the IECI for the future:

* Develop broader civic education materials in addition to voter education materials.
* Strengthen collaboration with Iraqi civil society groups to develop and disseminate materials, particularly at the regional level.
* Balance the use of different media to disseminate information.
* Consider the broadcast of political debates and forums on television.
* Devote greater resources to ensuring ethnic and gender balance in materials and consider adopting regional communications strategies.

Main recommendations to the IECI for the future:

* Begin training earlier to ensure greater staff familiarity with all rules and procedures for registration and voting, and inform staff about the roles and rights of electoral observers.
* Reconsider the provision for armed forces and health officials to vote at any poll, in light of the potential for abuse.
* Strengthen and improve communications infrastructure.
* Examine accessibility measures to ensure that sick voters, voters with disabilities, and those speaking minority languages can vote easily

Main recommendations to the IECI for the future:

* Ensure that ballot counting starts on time, that there are few or no disruptions, and that the presiding officers always stay until the end. More filters and controls should be put in place at polling stations to detect performance inconsistencies.
* Improve communication channels between governorate officers and IECI headquarters to ensure that staff have an accurate picture of what is occurring. This would help verify allegations of fraud and assist in the transmission of results.
* Review and strengthen training procedures for all officials involved in the counting and compilation process, with a particular focus on: reconciling ballots, granting access to observers, preventing third-party intimidation and disruption, and announcing publicly the preliminary results. The "cascade" training technique in general should be reviewed. Reducing the number of tiers to three from four might ensure better consistency.
* Improve observer access to the national Tally Center by providing additional cameras to cover additional areas in the Tally Center.