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GUARANTEES OF TRANSPARENCY AND CREDIBILITY OF ELECTORAL OPERATIONS

Participation of representatives of political parties taking part in the elections as well as independent candidates in the monitoring of all phases of the electoral process.

Neutrality of administration officers:

The elections are conducted under the responsibility of the Administration whose officers must be strictly neutral.

Members and surrogate members of polling stations take the following oath (translated from Arabic):

"I swear by God Almighty that I will faithfully execute my missions with strict neutrality, and I pledge to ensure the fairness of the vote."

Checking of voters lists:

Voter's lists are prepared and revised in each municipality under the supervision of an electoral commission chaired by a magistrate.

Any elector may have access to the list concerning him / her.

Besides, **duly authorized representatives of political parties taking part in the elections and independent candidates** may have access to the municipal voters list and obtain a copy of it.

Any citizen who does not find his name on the voters list may submit a claim to the magistrate who chairs the electoral commission.

Any citizen registered on a voters list may request in writing the delisting of a person wrongfully registered or the registration of a person missing from the voters list.

In the event the citizen's claim is not accepted, he may lodge an appeal to the competent court.

Checking of the list of members of polling stations:

The list of members and surrogates of polling stations is displayed in the chief towns of the wilaya and municipalities. It is also displayed in polling stations on election day.

At the same time, it is handed over to the representatives of political parties and taking part in the elections as well as to independent candidates.

The list of members and surrogates of each polling station may be contested and appealed in court.

The list of members of polling stations may be modified in case the appeal is accepted.

Monitoring of electoral operations and counting of votes:

Voting is universal, direct, and secret.

The president of a polling station has power to maintain security inside the polling station and, in this respect, may expel any person who disrupts the normal voting process.

No person may enter the voting room carrying an apparent or concealed weapon, with the exception of law enforcement officers required by law.

Each polling station is equipped with one or more booths.

Booths must be designed to ensure the secrecy of the vote of each voter, but must not hide the voting process from the public.

The vote of each voter is evidenced by his signature. If the voter cannot sign the voting register, he may affix his fingerprint next to his name and before the members of the polling station.

Presence of candidates' representatives in polling stations and centres

Each candidate may be represented by a duly authorized representative to attend the voting operations at each polling station.

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An additive list may be submitted in order to ensure the presence of representatives' candidates in case one of them is absent from a polling station or centre.

Candidates' representatives may attend electoral operations of itinerant polling stations until the completion of the voting process and the arrival at the polling centre to which such polling stations are attached.

Candidates' representatives attend all operations carried out at the polling centres to which the itinerant polling stations are attached and take part in the custody of ballot boxes and election material until the completion of the counting of votes and the delivery of a true copy of the vote counting record.

The author of a claim may immediately refer to the Constitutional Council by telegram.

As soon as the poll is closed, the voting register is signed by all members of the polling station.

Counting of votes

The counting of votes immediately follows the closing of the poll and is conducted as follows:

- it goes on uninterrupted until completion;
- it is public and is carried out in the polling station by tellers chosen among voters registered on the voters list.

Systematic issue of a true copy of the vote counting record:

As soon as the vote counting record is established, a true copy of it is handed over **by the president of the polling station** before leaving this latter **to each one of the duly authorized representatives of candidates.**

A true copy of the vote counting record is also handed over to the coordinator of the municipal commission that monitors presidential elections.

Systematic issue of a true copy of the official addition of votes

As soon as the record of the official municipal addition of votes is established, a true copy of it is handed over against acknowledgement of receipt by the president of the municipal electoral commission to the duly authorized representative of each candidate.

Issue of a true copy of the record of centralization of results

A true copy the record of centralization of results is handed over against acknowledgement of receipt by the president of the wilaya electoral commission to the duly authorized representative of each candidate.

Custody of ballot papers

With the exception of invalid or disputed ballots, which must be appended to the vote counting record, the ballot papers of each polling station must be kept in sealed sufficiently strong ballot boxes.

Penal sanctions:

Twenty-seven (27) articles of the electoral law are devoted to the penal sanctions incurred by those who disturb the normal conduct of all the phases of the electoral process.

By way of illustration, whoever refuses to hand over the municipal voters list, the vote counting record, the municipal addition of votes, or the record of centralisation of votes (established by the wilaya electoral commission) incurs a prison sentence of one (1) to three (3) years.

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