



IECI CODE OF CONDUCT FOR ELECTORAL OBSERVERS

In order to maintain a high level of professionalism, and to meet recognized international standards, the activities carried out by electoral observers shall be governed at all times by five general principles. **Legality** requires that at all times, and under all circumstances, electoral observers must recognize and respect all prevailing laws in Iraq. **Certainty** requires electoral observers to be truthful and trustworthy. **Objectivity** requires that electoral observers base any conclusions on a comprehensive and accurate review of all relevant circumstances and facts. **Independence** requires that electoral observers be free to reach decisions without interference, being limited only by the rule of law. **Impartiality** requires all electoral observers to acknowledge and protect the interests of the process and the fundamental values of democracy, subordinating to these any personal interests or political preferences.

All electoral observers shall sign and abide by the following code of conduct:

As an electoral observer, I shall act at all times in a manner befitting the principles of legality, certainty, objectivity, independence, and impartiality.

I shall have the right to:

- a. Follow closely the electoral process in any of its stages
- b. Have informational meetings with officers of the IECI and access to information offered by the IECI.
- c. Communicate freely with all the political entities, coalitions of entities, and other social and political forces in the country.
- d. Communicate any concerns I may have to the IECI or other competent authorities.
- e. Have freedom of access to registration, polling and counting centres.
- f. Report my findings to my electoral observer group.

While acting as an electoral observer, I shall always:

- a. Exercise my role peacefully, respecting the role, status, and authority of electoral officials and exhibiting a respectful and courteous attitude to electoral officials, registrants, voters, security officials and all others involved in the electoral process.
- b. Refrain from carrying any weapons, or behaving in an inappropriate or aggressive manner.

- c. Abstain from indicating or expressing any bias or preference with reference to any political entity or coalition of political entities, whether by wearing or displaying electoral material, participating in a partisan function, or any other act
- d. Refrain from accepting any gift or favour from a political entity, organization, or person involved in the electoral process.
- e. Abstain from interfering in any way with the activities of the electoral authorities, political entities, political candidates, or Iraqi citizens, or in any political affair in the country, and, in general, refrain from interfering in the internal jurisdiction or affairs of Iraq.
- f. Comply with the applicable laws in Iraq.
- g. Ensure that my conduct strictly conforms to the regulations issued by the IECI and that I immediately comply with any direction issued by or under the authority of the IECI, including any reasonable request to leave or refrain from entering a particular area or venue or to depart from a registration, polling or counting station or any specified part of it.
- h. Abstain from interfering with or impeding the normal course of the electoral process.
- i. Wear, or otherwise prominently display, the IECI's Electoral Observer identification badge and identify myself to an IECI official when entering a registration, polling or counting centre or other IECI space, structure, or building.
- j. Respect the secrecy of the ballot, including by not entering the voting booth.
- k. Refrain from communication with voters with a view to influencing how they vote or in any other manner interfering on polling day with the secrecy or orderly conduct of the voting.
- l. Refrain from attempting to provide guidance or information to people involved in the electoral process or from providing interpretations of the applicable law.
- m. Refrain from attempting to adjudicate disputes.
- n. Take reasonable steps to ensure that all material information or reports which I receive, and any event, occurrence, or statement of which I may be notified, or which I may have directly experienced or observed, which could indicate the possible commission of an offence or infringement of electoral laws are brought to the attention of the IECI. This includes allegations of dishonesty, corruption, intimidation, or violence.
- o. Ensure that all information that I report is first hand and is verifiable, and that it is collected, compiled, and reported in a way that is systematic, clear, and unambiguous.
- p. Refrain from announcing or commenting on election results before the electoral authorities' official pronouncement and from proclaiming the name of any successful political entity