



Guide to International and National Standards on the Right to Vote

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Introduction

The right to vote is at the core of human rights and an expression of the will of society in determining its priorities through participation in choosing representatives in elections at all levels. The right to vote is likewise the essence and substance of the right of peoples to self-determination, namely the freedom to choose and determine their political, economic, social and cultural future. The extent to which citizens enjoy and exercise this right, in accordance with international standards for free and fair elections, reflects the capacity of the State to adopt the democratic approach, in addition to the impact that the enjoyment of this right has on all other human rights.

Accordingly, numerous international and regional human rights instruments protect this right through express provisions, beginning with the International Bill of Human Rights and extending to the declarations, resolutions and recommendations issued by United Nations bodies, which affirm and urge States to adopt a range of judicial, executive, administrative and legislative measures to give effect to and guarantee this right and other human rights.

Whereas Jordan is a party to the core human rights conventions, having ratified them, and whereas those conventions have entered into force at the international level and, through their publication in the Official Gazette, at the national level; and whereas the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has, since late 2011, witnessed numerous reforms at all political and economic levels, the most important of which was the amendment of the Jordanian Constitution, Article 67 of which now provides for the establishment of an independent election commission to supervise and administer the electoral process in all its stages, followed by the enactment of the legislation necessary for its work, the National Center for Human Rights, as a national institution seeking to protect and promote human rights in the Kingdom, has prepared this Guide.

This Guide forms part of the efforts of the National Center for Human Rights to promote the right of citizens to free and fair elections, and is one of the activities of the Project on Enhancing Citizens' Participation in the Electoral Process implemented by the Center during 2013. It is intended to place at the disposal of all official and academic bodies, civil society organizations, all parties concerned with following the electoral process, and individuals alike.

In preparing the Guide, care was taken to compile all the relevant articles of the international and regional conventions ratified by Jordan, as well as the declarations relating to the right to vote and to political participation in general, together with the constitutional provisions and national legislation, namely the Election Law in force, the Independent Election Commission Law and the executive instructions issued by the Board of Commissioners of the Independent Election Commission, arranged in the chronological order of their issuance.

The Center hopes that this Guide will contribute to raising citizens' awareness of the constitutional and international standards governing their right to vote, and to the development of national legislation in conformity with international standards, and that it will thereby serve as an accessible reference for consulting any legal or international provision relating to the electoral process.

Part One: The Jordanian Constitution

Articles of the Jordanian Constitution¹ relating to the right to vote:

Article (1)

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is an independent sovereign Arab State. It is indivisible and inalienable, and no part of it may be ceded. The people of Jordan form a part of the Arab Nation, and its system of government is parliamentary with a hereditary monarchy.

Article (6)

1. Jordanians shall be equal before the law. There shall be no discrimination between them as regards their rights and duties, even if they differ in race, language or religion.
2. The defence of the homeland and its territory, the unity of its people and the preservation of social peace are a sacred duty of every Jordanian.
3. The State shall guarantee work and education within the limits of its capabilities, and shall guarantee tranquillity and equal opportunities to all Jordanians.
4. The family is the foundation of society; its pillars are religion, morals and love of the homeland. The law shall preserve its legitimate entity and strengthen its bonds and values.
5. The law shall protect motherhood, childhood and old age, shall care for young people and persons with disabilities, and shall protect them from abuse and exploitation.

Article (24)

1. The Nation is the source of all powers.
2. The Nation shall exercise its powers in the manner prescribed by this Constitution.

Article (67)

1. The House of Representatives shall consist of members elected by general, secret and direct ballot in accordance with an election law that guarantees the following matters and principles:
 - a. The right of candidates to monitor the electoral proceedings.
 - b. The punishment of those who tamper with the will of the voters.
 - c. The integrity of the electoral process in all its stages.
2. An independent commission shall be established by law to supervise and administer the parliamentary electoral process in all its stages, and to supervise any other elections as decided by the Council of Ministers.

Article (68)

1. The term of the House of Representatives shall be four solar years commencing from the date of the announcement of the results of the general election in the Official Gazette. The King may, by Royal Decree, extend the term of the House for a period of not less than one year and not more than two years.

¹In accordance with the latest amendments published on page 4452 of Official Gazette Issue No. 5117 dated 1/10/2011.

2. The election shall be held within the four months preceding the expiry of the term of the House. If the election has not taken place by the expiry of the term of the House, or is delayed for any reason, the House shall remain in office until the new House is elected.

Article (71)

1. The judiciary shall have jurisdiction to decide on the validity of the membership of members of the House of Representatives. Any voter of an electoral district may file an appeal with the Court of Appeal within whose jurisdiction the electoral district of the member whose membership is challenged falls, within fifteen days from the date of publication of the election results in the Official Gazette, stating the grounds of the appeal. The decisions of the Court shall be final and not subject to any form of appeal, and the Court shall render its judgments within thirty days from the date on which the appeal is registered with it.

2. The Court shall either dismiss the appeal or accept it on the merits, in which case it shall announce the name of the winning candidate.

3. The House of Representatives shall declare the nullity of the membership of the member whose membership was annulled by the Court, and the name of the winning candidate, with effect from the date of the judgment.

4. Acts performed by a member whose membership was annulled by the Court, prior to such annulment, shall be deemed valid.

5. If, as a result of examining the appeal submitted to it, it becomes apparent to the Court that the electoral procedures in the district concerned by the appeal were not in conformity with the provisions of the law, it shall issue a decision annulling the election in that district.

Article (73)

1. If the House of Representatives is dissolved, a general election shall be held so that the new House convenes in an extraordinary session not later than four months after the date of dissolution. Such session shall be deemed an ordinary session in accordance with the provisions of Article (78) of this Constitution and shall be subject to the conditions of extension and adjournment.

2. If the election has not been held by the end of the four months, the dissolved House shall regain its full constitutional authority and shall convene immediately as if it had not been dissolved, and shall continue its work until the new House is elected.

3. Such extraordinary session shall in no case extend beyond 30 September and shall be prorogued on that date so that the House may hold its first ordinary session on the first day of October. If the extraordinary session is held during the months of October and November, it shall then be deemed the first ordinary session of the House of Representatives.

Article (74)

1. If the House of Representatives is dissolved for any reason, the new House may not be dissolved for the same reason.

2. A Government during whose term the House of Representatives is dissolved shall resign within one week from the date of dissolution, and its Prime Minister may not be designated to form the succeeding Government.

3. A Minister who intends to stand as a candidate in the elections shall resign at least sixty days before the date of the election.

Part Two: Regional and International Conventions and Instruments

Articles relating to the right to vote

1. Universal Declaration of Human Rights²

Article (21)

1. Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives.
2. Everyone has the right of equal access to public service in his country.
3. The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures.

2. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights³

Article (25)

Every citizen shall have the right and the opportunity, without any of the distinctions mentioned in article 2 and without unreasonable restrictions:

- (a) To take part in the conduct of public affairs, directly or through freely chosen representatives;
- (b) To vote and to be elected at genuine periodic elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret ballot, guaranteeing the free expression of the will of the electors;
- (c) To have access, on general terms of equality, to public service in his country.

3. International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination⁴

Article (5)

In compliance with the fundamental obligations laid down in article 2 of this Convention, States Parties undertake to prohibit and to eliminate racial discrimination in all its forms and to guarantee the right of everyone, without distinction as to race, colour, or national or ethnic origin, to equality before the law, notably in the enjoyment of the following rights:

- (a) The right to equal treatment before the tribunals and all other organs administering justice;
- (b) The right to security of person and protection by the State against violence or bodily harm, whether inflicted by government officials or by any individual group or institution;

²Adopted and proclaimed by United Nations General Assembly resolution 217 A (III) of 10 December 1948.

³Adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession by United Nations General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI) of 16 December 1966; entry into force: 23 March 1976, in accordance with article 49. Ratified by Jordan on 28/5/1975 and published in Official Gazette Issue No. 4764 dated 15/6/2006.

⁴Adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession by United Nations General Assembly resolution 2106 A (XX) of 21 December 1965; entry into force: 4 January 1969, in accordance with article 19. Ratified by Jordan on 30/5/1974 and published in Official Gazette Issue No. 4764 dated 15/6/2006.

(c) Political rights, in particular the right to participate in elections — to vote and to stand for election — on the basis of universal and equal suffrage, to take part in the Government as well as in the conduct of public affairs at any level and to have equal access to public service.

4. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women⁵

Article (7)

States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the political and public life of the country and, in particular, shall ensure to women, on equal terms with men, the right:

- (a) To vote in all elections and public referenda and to be eligible for election to all publicly elected bodies;
- (b) To participate in the formulation of government policy and the implementation thereof and to hold public office and perform all public functions at all levels of government;
- (c) To participate in non-governmental organizations and associations concerned with the public and political life of the country.

5. Convention on the Political Rights of Women⁶

Article (1)

Women shall be entitled to vote in all elections on equal terms with men, without any discrimination.

Article (2)

Women shall be eligible for election to all publicly elected bodies, established by national law, on equal terms with men, without any discrimination.

6. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities⁷

Article (29)

States Parties shall guarantee to persons with disabilities political rights and the opportunity to enjoy them on an equal basis with others, and shall undertake:

- (a) To ensure that persons with disabilities can effectively and fully participate in political and public life on an equal basis with others, directly or through freely chosen representatives, including the right and opportunity for persons with disabilities to vote and be elected, inter alia, by:
 - (i) Ensuring that voting procedures, facilities and materials are appropriate, accessible and easy to understand and use;

⁵ Adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession by United Nations General Assembly resolution 34/180 of 18 December 1979; entry into force: 3 September 1981, in accordance with article 27. Ratified by Jordan on 1/7/1992 and published in Official Gazette Issue No. 4839 dated 1/8/2007.

⁶ Adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession by United Nations General Assembly resolution 640 (VII) of 20 December 1952; entry into force: 7 July 1954, in accordance with article 6. Published on page 1006 of Official Gazette Issue No. 3829 dated 1/6/1992.

⁷ Adopted, proclaimed and opened for signature, ratification and accession by United Nations General Assembly resolution 61/106 of 13 December 2006. Ratified by Jordan on 31/3/2008 and published in Official Gazette Issue No. 4895 dated 25/3/2008.

- (ii) Protecting the right of persons with disabilities to vote by secret ballot in elections and public referendums without intimidation, and to stand for elections, to effectively hold office and perform all public functions at all levels of government, facilitating the use of assistive and new technologies where appropriate;
 - (iii) Guaranteeing the free expression of the will of persons with disabilities as electors and to this end, where necessary, at their request, allowing assistance in voting by a person of their own choice;
- (b) To promote actively an environment in which persons with disabilities can effectively and fully participate in the conduct of public affairs, without discrimination and on an equal basis with others, and encourage their participation in public affairs, including:
- (i) Participation in non-governmental organizations and associations concerned with the public and political life of the country, and in the activities and administration of political parties;
 - (ii) Forming and joining organizations of persons with disabilities to represent persons with disabilities at international, national, regional and local levels.

7. General Comment No. 25 of the Human Rights Committee⁸

“The right to participate in public affairs, voting rights and the right of equal access to public service”

1. Article 25 of the Covenant recognizes and protects the right of every citizen to take part in the conduct of public affairs, the right to vote and to be elected and the right to have access to public service. Whatever form of constitution or government is in force, the Covenant requires States to adopt such legislative and other measures as may be necessary to ensure that citizens have an effective opportunity to enjoy the rights it protects. Article 25 lies at the core of democratic government based on the consent of the people and in conformity with the principles of the Covenant.

2. The rights under article 25 are related to, but distinct from, the right of peoples to self-determination. By virtue of the rights covered by article 1 (1), peoples have the right to freely determine their political status and to enjoy the right to choose the form of their constitution or government. Article 25 deals with the right of individuals to participate in those processes which constitute the conduct of public affairs. Those rights, as individual rights, can give rise to claims under the first Optional Protocol.

3. In contrast with other rights and freedoms recognized by the Covenant (which are ensured to all individuals within the territory and subject to the jurisdiction of the State), article 25 protects the rights of “every citizen”. State reports should outline the legal provisions which define citizenship in the context of the rights protected by article 25. No distinctions are permitted between citizens in the enjoyment of these rights on the grounds of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Distinctions between those who are entitled to citizenship by birth and those who acquire it by naturalization may raise questions of compatibility with article 25. State reports should indicate whether any groups, such as permanent residents, enjoy these rights on a limited basis, for example, by having the right to vote in local elections or to hold particular public service positions.

4. Any conditions which apply to the exercise of the rights protected by article 25 should be based on objective and reasonable criteria. For example, it may be reasonable to require a higher age for election or appointment to particular offices than for exercising the right to vote, which should be available to every adult citizen. The exercise of these rights by citizens may not be suspended or excluded except on grounds which are established by law and which are objective and reasonable. For example, established mental incapacity may be a ground for denying a person the right to vote or to hold office.

5. The conduct of public affairs, referred to in paragraph (a), is a broad concept which relates to the exercise of political power, in particular the exercise of legislative, executive and administrative powers. It covers all aspects of public administration, and the formulation and implementation of policy at international, national, regional and local levels. The allocation of powers and the means by which individual citizens exercise the right to participate in the conduct of public affairs protected by article 25 should be established by the constitution and other laws.

6. Citizens participate directly in the conduct of public affairs when they exercise power as members of legislative bodies or by holding executive office. This right of direct participation is supported by paragraph (b). Citizens also participate directly in the conduct of public affairs

⁸Human Rights Committee, fifty-seventh session (1996), United Nations document A/51/40, annex V.

when they choose or change their constitution or decide public issues through a referendum or other electoral process conducted in accordance with paragraph (b). Citizens may participate directly by taking part in popular assemblies which have the power to make decisions about local issues or about the affairs of a particular community and in bodies established to represent citizens in consultation with government. Where a mode of direct participation by citizens is established, no distinction should be made between citizens as regards their participation on the grounds mentioned in article 2, paragraph 1, and no unreasonable restrictions should be imposed.

7. Where citizens participate in the conduct of public affairs through freely chosen representatives, it is implicit in article 25 that those representatives do in fact exercise governmental power and that they are accountable through the electoral process for their exercise of that power. It is also implicit that the representatives exercise only those powers which are allocated to them in accordance with constitutional provisions. Participation through freely chosen representatives is exercised through voting processes which must be established by laws that are in accordance with paragraph (b).

8. Citizens also take part in the conduct of public affairs by exerting influence through public debate and dialogue with their representatives or through their capacity to organize themselves. This participation is supported by ensuring freedom of expression, assembly and association.

9. Paragraph (b) of article 25 sets out specific provisions dealing with the right of citizens to take part in the conduct of public affairs as voters or as candidates for election. Genuine periodic elections in accordance with paragraph (b) are essential to ensure the accountability of representatives for the exercise of the legislative or executive powers vested in them. Such elections must be held at intervals which are not unduly long and which ensure that the authority of government continues to be based on the free expression of the will of electors. The rights and obligations provided for in paragraph (b) should be guaranteed by law.

10. The right to vote at elections and referenda must be established by law and may be subject only to reasonable restrictions, such as setting a minimum age limit for the right to vote. It is unreasonable to restrict the right to vote on the ground of physical disability or to impose literacy, educational or property requirements. Party membership should not be a condition of eligibility to vote, nor a ground of disqualification.

11. States must take effective measures to ensure that all persons entitled to vote are able to exercise that right. Where registration of voters is required, it should be facilitated and obstacles to such registration should not be imposed. If residence requirements apply to registration, they must be reasonable, and should not be imposed in such a way as to exclude the homeless from the right to vote. Any abusive interference with registration or voting as well as intimidation or coercion of voters should be prohibited by penal laws and those laws should be strictly enforced. Voter education and registration campaigns are necessary to ensure the effective exercise of article 25 rights by an informed community.

12. Freedom of expression, assembly and association are essential conditions for the effective exercise of the right to vote and must be fully protected. Positive measures should be taken to overcome specific difficulties, such as illiteracy, language barriers, poverty, or impediments to freedom of movement which prevent persons entitled to vote from exercising their rights effectively. Information and materials about voting should be available in minority languages. Specific methods, such as photographs and symbols, should be adopted to ensure that illiterate voters have adequate information on which to base their choice. States parties should indicate in their reports the manner in which the difficulties highlighted in this paragraph are dealt with.

13. State reports should describe the rules governing the right to vote, and the application of those rules in the period covered by the report. State reports should also describe factors which impede citizens from exercising the right to vote and the positive measures which have been adopted to overcome these factors.

14. In their reports, States parties should indicate and explain the legislative provisions which would deprive citizens of their right to vote. The grounds for such deprivation should be objective and reasonable. If conviction for an offence is a basis for suspending the right to vote, the period of such suspension should be proportionate to the offence and the sentence. Persons who are deprived of liberty but who have not been convicted should not be excluded from exercising the right to vote.

15. The effective implementation of the right and the opportunity to stand for elective office ensures that persons entitled to vote have a free choice of candidates. Any restrictions on the right to stand for election, such as minimum age, must be justifiable on objective and reasonable criteria. Persons who are otherwise eligible to stand for election should not be excluded by unreasonable or discriminatory requirements such as education, residence or descent, or by reason of political affiliation. No person should suffer discrimination or disadvantage of any kind because of that person's candidacy. States parties should indicate and explain the legislative provisions which exclude any group or category of persons from elective office.

16. Conditions relating to nomination dates, fees or deposits should be reasonable and not discriminatory. If there are reasonable grounds for regarding certain elective offices as incompatible with tenure of specific positions (e.g. the judiciary, high-ranking military office, public service), measures to avoid any conflicts of interest should not unduly limit the rights protected by paragraph (b). The grounds for the removal of elected office holders should be established by laws based on objective and reasonable criteria and incorporating fair procedures.

17. The right of persons to stand for election should not be limited unreasonably by requiring candidates to be members of parties or of specific parties. If a candidate is required to have a minimum number of supporters for nomination this requirement should be reasonable and not act as a barrier to candidacy. Without prejudice to paragraph (1) of article 5 of the Covenant, political opinion may not be used as a ground to deprive any person of the right to stand for election.

18. State reports should describe the legal provisions which establish the conditions for holding elective public office, and any limitations and qualifications which apply to particular offices. Reports should describe conditions for nomination, e.g. age limits, and any other qualifications or restrictions. State reports should indicate whether there are restrictions which preclude persons in public service positions (including positions in the police or armed services) from being elected to particular public offices. The legal grounds and procedures for the removal of elected office holders should be described.

19. In conformity with paragraph (b), elections must be conducted fairly and freely on a periodic basis within a framework of laws guaranteeing the effective exercise of voting rights. Persons entitled to vote must be free to vote for any candidate for election and for or against any proposal submitted to referendum or plebiscite, and free to support or to oppose government, without undue influence or coercion of any kind which may distort or inhibit the free expression of the elector's will. Voters should be able to form opinions independently, free of violence or threat of violence, compulsion, inducement or manipulative interference of any kind. Reasonable limitations on campaign expenditure may be justified where this is necessary

to ensure that the free choice of voters is not undermined or the democratic process distorted by the disproportionate expenditure on behalf of any candidate or party. The results of genuine elections should be respected and implemented.

20. An independent electoral authority should be established to supervise the electoral process and to ensure that it is conducted fairly, impartially and in accordance with established laws which are compatible with the Covenant. States should take measures to guarantee the requirement of the secrecy of the vote during elections including absentee voting, where such a system exists. This implies that voters should be protected from any form of coercion or compulsion to disclose how they intend to vote or how they voted, and from any unlawful or arbitrary interference with the voting process. Waiver of these rights is incompatible with article 25 of the Covenant. The security of ballot boxes must be guaranteed and votes should be counted in the presence of the candidates or their agents. There should be independent scrutiny of the voting and counting process and access to judicial review or other equivalent process so that electors have confidence in the security of the ballot and the counting of the votes. Assistance provided to the disabled, blind or illiterate should be independent. Electors should be fully informed of these guarantees.

21. Although the Covenant does not impose any particular electoral system, any system operating in a State party must be compatible with the rights protected by article 25 and must guarantee and give effect to the free expression of the will of the electors. The principle of one person, one vote, must apply, and within the framework of each State's electoral system, the vote of one elector should be equal to the vote of another. The drawing of electoral boundaries and the method of allocating votes should not distort the distribution of voters or discriminate against any group and should not exclude or restrict unreasonably the right of citizens to choose their representatives freely.

22. State reports should indicate what measures they have adopted to guarantee genuine, free and periodic elections and how their electoral system or systems guarantee and give effect to the free expression of the will of the electors. Reports should describe the electoral system and explain how the different political views in the community are represented in elected bodies. Reports should also describe the laws and procedures which ensure that the right to vote can in fact be freely exercised by all citizens and indicate how the secrecy, security and validity of the voting process are guaranteed by law. The practical implementation of these guarantees in the period covered by the report should be explained.

23. Subparagraph (c) of article 25 deals with the right and the opportunity of citizens to have access on general terms of equality to public service positions. To ensure access on general terms of equality, the criteria and processes for appointment, promotion, suspension and dismissal must be objective and reasonable. Affirmative measures may be taken in appropriate cases to ensure that there is equal access to public service for all citizens. Basing access to public service on equal opportunity and general principles of merit, and providing secured tenure, ensures that persons holding public service positions are free from political interference or pressures. It is of particular importance to ensure that persons do not suffer discrimination in the exercise of their rights under article 25, subparagraph (c), on any of the grounds set out in article 2, paragraph 1.

24. State reports should describe the conditions for access to public service positions, any restrictions which apply and the processes for appointment, promotion, suspension and dismissal or removal from office as well as the judicial or other review mechanisms which apply to these processes. Reports should also indicate how the requirement for equal access is met, and whether affirmative measures have been introduced and, if so, to what extent.

25. In order to ensure the full enjoyment of rights protected by article 25, the free communication of information and ideas about public and political issues between citizens, candidates and elected representatives is essential. This implies a free press and other media able to comment on public issues without censorship or restraint and to inform public opinion. It requires the full enjoyment and respect for the rights guaranteed in articles 19, 21 and 22 of the Covenant, including freedom to engage in political activity individually or through political parties and other organizations, freedom to debate public affairs, to hold peaceful demonstrations and meetings, to criticize and oppose, to publish political material, to campaign for election and to advertise political ideas.

26. The right to freedom of association, including the right to form and join organizations and associations concerned with political and public affairs, is an essential adjunct to the rights protected by article 25. Political parties and membership in parties play a significant role in the conduct of public affairs and the election process. States should ensure that, in their internal management, political parties respect the applicable provisions of article 25 in order to enable citizens to exercise their rights thereunder.

27. Having regard to the provision of article 5, paragraph 1, of the Covenant, any rights recognized and protected by article 25 may not be interpreted as implying a right to act or as validating any act aimed at the destruction or limitation of the rights and freedoms protected by the Covenant to a greater extent than what is provided for in the present Covenant.

8. Draft General Principles on Freedom and Non-Discrimination in the Matter of Political Rights⁹

Preamble

Whereas the peoples of the world have in the Charter of the United Nations proclaimed their determination to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, and to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom;

Whereas the Charter sets forth, as one of the purposes of the United Nations, the promotion and encouragement of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion;

Whereas the Universal Declaration of Human Rights further elaborates the principle of non-discrimination by proclaiming that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth therein without distinction of any kind, including political opinion, and provides that no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs;

Whereas the interests of many persons are frequently neglected when political power is in the hands of the few, and the right of everyone to take part in the government of his country is therefore an indispensable condition for the effective enjoyment by all of all other human rights, including economic, social and cultural rights;

Whereas the exercise of political rights is directly linked with the existence of freedom of opinion and expression and freedom of peaceful assembly and association;

⁹ Adopted by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities at its fourteenth session in 1962. The Draft General Principles are annexed to resolution 1 (XIV) adopted by the Sub-Commission at its fourteenth session in 1962; see the report of the fourteenth session, para. 159, E/CN.4/830 – E/CN.4/Sub.2/218.

Whereas these rights can be effectively guaranteed only in a world in which the principles of the Charter are fully applied, in particular the principle of self-determination and the principles enshrined in the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960;

Now, therefore, the following general principles are proclaimed in order to secure recognition of the right of everyone to take part in the government of his country and of other related political rights, and to prevent discrimination in the enjoyment of these rights:

I. Right of all peoples to self-determination

All peoples have the right of self-determination; by virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.

II. Political rights of citizens

(a) Every citizen of any country shall be entitled to full and equal political rights in that country, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

(b) No one shall be deprived of his nationality, nor shall nationality be withdrawn from anyone, as a means of depriving or divesting him of his political rights.

(c) Requirements of age, length of residence and other conditions prescribed by law for the exercise of any particular political right shall be the same for all citizens of a country or all residents of a political unit, as the case may be.

III. Freedom of opinion and association

Freedom of opinion and expression and freedom of peaceful assembly and association are essential to the enjoyment of political rights. These freedoms, as well as access to the facilities and means for exercising them, shall be guaranteed to all persons at all times.

IV. Universality of suffrage

Every citizen shall be entitled to vote in any national election, referendum or plebiscite held in his country, and in any public consultation held in the political or administrative unit in which he resides. The right to vote shall not depend upon literacy or upon any other educational qualification.

V. Equality of suffrage

(a) Every citizen entitled to vote in any election, or in any other public consultation, shall be entitled to cast his vote on equal terms, and each vote shall have the same weight;

(b) Where voting takes place on the basis of electoral districts, the electoral districts shall be determined on a fair basis, so that the results reflect as accurately and fully as possible the will of all the voters;

(c) For any election or public consultation conducted by direct ballot, a general electoral register shall be established in which the name of every eligible citizen shall be entered.

VI. Secrecy of the ballot

(a) Every voter shall be able to cast his vote in such a manner that there is no means of disclosing how he has voted or intends to vote;

(b) No voter shall be compelled to state, in any legal proceeding or in any other proceeding, how he has voted or intends to vote, nor shall anyone attempt to obtain from any voter, directly or otherwise, information as to how he has voted or intends to vote.

VII. Periodicity of elections

Elections to all elective public offices shall be held at reasonable intervals, with a view to ensuring that the will of the people shall at all times be the basis of the authority of government.

VIII. Genuine character of elections and other public consultations

- (a) Every voter shall be free to vote for the candidate or list of candidates of his choice in any election to public office, and shall not be compelled to vote for a particular candidate or list of candidates;
- (b) Every voter shall be free to vote for or against any proposal submitted to a referendum, plebiscite or any other public consultation;
- (c) Elections and other public consultations, including the preparation and periodic revision of the electoral register, shall be supervised by authorities whose independence and impartiality are guaranteed and whose decisions are subject to challenge before the judicial authorities or other independent and impartial bodies;
- (d) Full freedom shall be ensured for the peaceful expression of political opposition, as well as for the organization and free functioning of political parties and the right to present candidates for election.

IX. Access to elective public office

- (a) Every citizen shall be eligible, on equal terms, for election to any elective public office in his country or in any political or administrative unit thereof in which he resides;
- (b) The law shall determine the extent to which this principle applies to those whose election may give rise to a conflict between their duties or personal interests and the interests of the community as a whole.

X. Access to non-elective public office

- (a) Every citizen shall be eligible, on equal terms, for appointment to any non-elective public office in his country or in any political or administrative unit thereof in which he resides;
- (b) The law shall determine the extent to which this principle applies to those whose appointment or designation to a non-elective public office may give rise to a conflict between their duties or personal interests and the interests of the community as a whole;
- (c) All appointments to the career civil service of any country shall be made on an objective and impartial basis.

XI. Measures not to be considered discriminatory

The following measures, when prescribed by law or regulation, shall not be considered discriminatory:

- (a) Reasonable conditions for the exercise of the right to vote or of the right to hold elective public office;
- (b) Reasonable qualifications for appointment to public office arising from the nature of the duties of the office;
- (c) Measures prescribing a reasonable period of time which must elapse before naturalized persons may exercise their political rights, provided that such measures are accompanied by a liberal naturalization policy;
- (d) Special measures taken to ensure:

(i) Adequate representation of a section of the population of a country whose members are in fact prevented by political, economic, religious, social, historical or cultural conditions from enjoying equality with the rest of the population in the matter of political rights;

(ii) Balanced representation of the various elements composing the population of a country;

provided that such measures shall be maintained only as long as they are necessary, and only to the extent necessary.

XII. Limitations

The rights and freedoms proclaimed above shall in no case be exercised contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations. They shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and of meeting the requirements of public order, morality and the general welfare in a democratic society. Any limitations imposed shall be consistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

XIII. Constitutional guarantee

The rights and freedoms proclaimed above can best be guaranteed by embodying them in constitutions or other fundamental laws, none of which should be subject to repeal or amendment by ordinary legislative procedure.

XIV. Recourse to independent tribunals

Any deprivation or violation of these rights and freedoms shall entitle the aggrieved person or persons to recourse to independent and impartial tribunals.

XV. Application of the principles

These principles shall apply to all independent countries and to countries under foreign control.

9. Commission on Human Rights Resolution of 1989¹⁰

“Enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections”

Framework for future efforts

I. The will of the people, expressed through periodic and genuine elections, as the basis of the authority of government

- A. Universal and equal suffrage.
- B. The right of everyone to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives.
- C. The right of everyone to equal access to public service in his country.
- D. The need for secret ballot or equivalent free voting procedures guaranteeing the free expression of the will of the electors.
- E. The importance of the right to freedom of peaceful assembly.
- F. The importance of the right to freedom of association.

¹⁰Commission on Human Rights resolution 1989/51 of 7 March 1989.

G. The importance of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, including freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media.

H. The right of citizens of a State to change their governmental system through appropriate constitutional means.

II. Activities of candidates for public office

A. Equal opportunity for all citizens to become candidates.

B. The right of candidates to put forward their political views, individually or in association with others.

III. Operational aspects: national institutions

National institutions should ensure universal and equal suffrage, as well as the genuine character of elections. There is a particular need for independent supervision, appropriate voter registration, reliable balloting procedures, and methods for preventing electoral fraud and for resolving disputes.

IV. Cooperative activities of the international community

The host country may wish to invite observers or to request advisory services. Either or both may be provided by regional organizations or by the United Nations system.

10. United Nations General Assembly Resolution on Enhancing the Effectiveness of the Principle of Periodic and Genuine Elections¹¹

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 44/146 of 15 December 1989 and 45/150 of 18 December 1990, as well as Commission on Human Rights resolution 1989/51 of 7 March 1989,

Mindful of its commitment under the Charter of the United Nations to develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, and to promote and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all,

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which provides that everyone has the right to take part in the government of his or her country, directly or through freely chosen representatives, that everyone has the equal right of access to public service in his or her country, that the will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government and that this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures,

Noting that the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights provides that every citizen shall have the right and the opportunity, without any distinction as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status, to take part in the conduct of public affairs, directly or through freely chosen representatives, to vote and to be elected at genuine periodic elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret ballot, guaranteeing the free expression of the will of the electors, and to have access, on general terms of equality, to public service in his or her country,

¹¹United Nations General Assembly resolution 46/137 of 17 December 1991, 75th plenary meeting.

Condemning apartheid and any other denial or abridgement of the right to vote on the basis of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status,

Recalling that all States enjoy sovereign equality under the Charter and that each State has the right, in accordance with the will of its people, freely to choose and develop its political, social, economic and cultural systems,

Recognizing that there is no single political system or electoral method that is equally suited to all nations and their peoples, and that the efforts of the international community to enhance the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections should not call into question each State's sovereign right, in accordance with the will of its people, freely to choose and develop its political, social, economic and cultural systems, whether or not they conform to the preferences of other States,

Noting with appreciation the advisory services and technical assistance provided by the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat, as well as the technical assistance provided by the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development of the Secretariat and the United Nations Development Programme, to certain Member States, including States in transition to democracy, at their request, and inviting those bodies to continue and intensify those efforts, as appropriate,

Noting the electoral assistance provided by the Organization to Member States at their request,

Stressing that United Nations verification of elections should remain an exceptional activity of the Organization, to be undertaken in well-defined circumstances, primarily in situations with a clear international dimension,

Taking note of the criteria set out in paragraph 97 of the report of the Secretary-General, which must be met before the Organization agrees to requests for the verification of elections,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General;
2. Stresses the importance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which establish that the authority to govern shall be based on the will of the people, as expressed in periodic and genuine elections;
3. Reiterates its conviction that periodic and genuine elections are a necessary and indispensable element of sustained efforts to protect the rights and interests of the governed and that, as a matter of practical experience, the right of everyone to take part in the government of his or her country is a crucial factor in the effective enjoyment by all of a wide range of other human rights and fundamental freedoms, embracing political, economic, social and cultural rights;
4. Declares that determining the will of the people requires an electoral process that provides an equal opportunity for all citizens to become candidates and put forward their political views, individually and in cooperation with others, as provided in national constitutions and laws;
5. Stresses that it is the duty of each Member State, in accordance with the provisions of the Charter, to respect the decisions taken by other States, in accordance with the will of their peoples, in freely choosing and establishing their electoral institutions;
6. Reaffirms the necessity of eliminating apartheid, and that the denial or abridgement of the right to vote on the basis of race or colour is a gross violation of human rights, an affront to the conscience and dignity of mankind, and that the right to participate in a political system based

on common and equal citizenship and universal franchise is essential for the exercise of the principle of periodic and genuine elections;

7. Affirms the value of the electoral assistance that the United Nations has provided at the request of certain Member States in the context of full respect for their sovereignty;

8. Believes that the international community should continue to give serious consideration to ways in which the United Nations can respond to the requests of Member States as they seek to promote and strengthen their electoral institutions and procedures;

9. Endorses the view of the Secretary-General that he should designate a senior official in the Offices of the Secretary-General to act as a focal point, in addition to his current duties, in order to ensure consistency in the handling of requests of Member States organizing elections, to assist the Secretary-General in coordinating and considering requests for electoral verification and in channelling requests to the appropriate office or programme, to ensure careful consideration of requests for electoral verification, to build on experience gained in order to develop an institutional memory, to develop and maintain a roster of international experts who could provide technical assistance as well as assistance in the verification of electoral processes, and to maintain contact with regional and other intergovernmental organizations in order to ensure appropriate working arrangements with them and to avoid duplication of effort, and requests the Secretary-General to appoint that official to carry out these functions;

10. Decides that the designation of that senior official will not prejudice or supersede existing arrangements for electoral assistance and will not affect the operational arrangements of missions that the Organization decides to undertake;

11. Requests the Secretary-General to allocate, as appropriate and within existing resources, a small number of staff and other resources to support the designated senior official in carrying out his or her functions;

12. Commends the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat, as well as the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development of the Secretariat and the United Nations Development Programme, for the advisory services and technical assistance they have provided and continue to provide to requesting Member States, and requests them to cooperate closely with the senior official designated by the Secretary-General and to inform him or her of the assistance they provide and the activities they undertake in the field of electoral assistance;

13. Requests the Secretary-General, upon receipt of formal requests from Member States for electoral verification, to inform the competent organ of the United Nations and, at the direction of that organ, to provide appropriate assistance;

14. Requests the Secretary-General to establish, in accordance with the financial rules of the United Nations, a voluntary trust fund for cases in which the requesting Member State is unable to finance, in whole or in part, an electoral verification mission, and to propose guidelines for expenditure from the fund;

15. Affirms the effectiveness and necessity of coordination with intergovernmental organizations, including regional organizations, that have international experience in the field of electoral assistance;

16. Commends the efforts of non-governmental organizations that have provided electoral assistance at the request of Member States;

17. Invites Member States that have not responded to the request of the Secretary-General, pursuant to paragraph 10 of resolution 45/150, to submit their views on appropriate approaches that would enable the Organization to respond to requests of Member States for electoral assistance, to do so, so that the Secretary-General may include those views in his next report to the General Assembly;

18. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, on the experience of the Organization in providing electoral assistance to requesting Member States and its recommendations on the provision of such assistance, on the detailed guidelines and terms of reference being developed for United Nations involvement in elections, and on the nature of the requests of Member States and the action taken thereon, under the item entitled “Human rights questions”.

11. Arab Charter on Human Rights¹²

Article (24)

Every citizen has the right:

1. To freely pursue a political activity.
2. To take part in the conduct of public affairs, directly or through freely chosen representatives.
3. To stand for election or choose his representatives in free and impartial elections, in conditions of equality among all citizens, that guarantee the free expression of the will of the citizen.
4. To the opportunity to gain access, on an equal footing with others, to public office in his country in accordance with the principle of equality of opportunity.
5. To freely form and join associations with others.
6. To freedom of assembly and freedom of peaceful gathering.
7. No restrictions may be placed on the exercise of these rights other than those which are prescribed by law and which are necessary in a democratic society that respects human rights and freedoms, in the interests of national security or public order, public safety, public health or the protection of public morals or the rights and freedoms of others.

¹²Adopted by the Sixteenth Arab Summit hosted by Tunisia on 23 May 2004; ratified by Jordan and published on page 4478 of Official Gazette Issue No. 4675 dated 16/9/2004.

Part Three: National Legislation Relating to Elections

First: The Election Law

Second: The Independent Election Commission Law

Third: Executive Instructions Issued by the Board of Commissioners of the Independent Election Commission

1. Executive Instructions No. (1) of 2012 on the Voter Card and the Preparation of the Preliminary Voter Lists
2. Executive Instructions No. (2) of 2012 on the Accreditation of Local Observers
3. Executive Instructions No. (3) of 2012 on the Accreditation of International Observers
4. Executive Instructions No. (4) of 2012 Amending Executive Instructions No. (1) of 2012
5. Executive Instructions No. (5) of 2012 on Objections to the Preliminary Voter Lists
6. Executive Instructions No. (6) of 2012 on the Formation of Committees
7. Executive Instructions No. (7) of 2012 on the Rules of Conduct and Disclosure at the Independent Election Commission
8. Executive Instructions No. (8) of 2012 on Candidacy for Local Electoral Districts
9. Executive Instructions No. (9) of 2012 on Lists for the General (National) Electoral District
10. Executive Instructions No. (10) of 2012 on Polling, Counting and Tabulation of Votes
11. Executive Instructions No. (11) of 2012 on the Rules of Electoral Campaigns
12. Executive Instructions No. (12) of 2012 on the Accreditation of Agents of Candidates and Lists in the Local and General Electoral Districts
13. Executive Instructions No. (13) of 2012 on the Accreditation of Local and International Journalists, Media Professionals and Staff of Audiovisual and Print Media Outlets to Cover the Electoral Process

First: The Election Law

Official Gazette of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Amman, Wednesday, 6 Ramadan 1433 AH, corresponding to 25 July 2012 AD — Issue No. 5169

Issued by the Prime Ministry – Official Gazette Directorate

Index of Issue No. (5169) dated 25/7/2012

Law No. (28) of 2012 — Law Amending the Law on the Election of the House of Representatives of 2012

Law No. (28) of 2012 — Law Amending the Law on the Election of the House of Representatives

[Official Gazette, page 3442]

We, Abdullah II Ibn Al-Hussein, King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, by virtue of Article (31) of the Constitution and on the basis of what has been decided by the Senate and the House of Representatives, ratify the following Law and order its promulgation and its addition to the Laws of the State:

Law No. (28) of 2012

Law Amending the Law on the Election of the House of Representatives

Article (1)

This Law shall be cited as the “Law Amending the Law on the Election of the House of Representatives of 2012” and shall be read together with Law No. (25) of 2012, hereinafter referred to as the “Original Law”, as one law, and shall enter into force as of the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

Article (2)

The definition of “General Electoral District” contained in Article (2) of the Original Law shall be amended by deleting the words “seventeen” contained therein and substituting therefor the words “twenty-seven”.

Article (3)

Paragraph (c) of Article (8) of the Original Law shall be amended as follows:

First: By deleting the words “seventeen” contained therein and substituting therefor the words “twenty-seven”.

Second: By deleting the words “and the regulation” contained therein.

Article (4)

Article (16) of the Original Law shall be amended as follows:

First: By deleting the words “and the regulations” contained in paragraph (a) thereof.

[Official Gazette, page 3443]

Second: By deleting the words “seventeen candidates” contained in paragraph (b) thereof and substituting therefor the words “twenty-seven candidates”.

12/7/2012

Abdullah II Ibn Al-Hussein

Prime Minister and Minister of Defence: Dr. Fayez Al-Tarawneh	Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs and Holy Places: Dr. Abdul Salam Al-Abbadi	Minister of Finance: Suleiman Al-Hafez	Minister of Foreign Affairs: Nasser Judeh
Minister of Parliamentary Affairs: Sharari Kassab Al-Shakhanbeh	Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources: Alaa Al-Batayneh	Minister of Interior: Ghaleb Al-Zu'bi	Minister of Planning and International Cooperation: Dr. Jafar Hassan
Minister of Water and Irrigation: Eng. Mohammad Mohammad Al-Najjar	Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research: Dr. Wajih Owais	Minister of Public Works and Housing: Eng. Yahya Al-Kisbi	Minister of Communications and Information Technology: Dr. Atef Al-Tal
Minister of Social Development: Wajih Azaizeh	Minister of Health: Dr. Abdul Latif Wraikat	Minister of Culture: Dr. Salah Jarrar	Minister of Environment: Yassin Al-Khayyat

Minister of Public Sector Development: Dr. Khleif Al-Khawaldeh	Minister of Tourism and Antiquities: Nayef Hmeidi Al-Fayez	Minister of Agriculture: Ahmad Al-Khattab	Minister of Municipal Affairs: Eng. Maher Abu Al-Samen
Minister of Labour: Dr. Atef Odeibat	Minister of Industry and Trade: Dr. Shabib Farah Ammari		Minister of Justice: Khalifeh Khaled Al-Suleiman
Minister of Education: Dr. Fayez Mohammad Al-Saudi	Minister of State for Prime Ministry and Legislative Affairs: Dr. Kamel Hamed Al-Saeed		Minister of Political Development: Dr. Nofan Al-Aqeel Al-Ajarmeh
Minister of Transport: Hashem Al-Masaeed	Minister of State for Media Affairs and Communication: Samih Al-Maaytah	Minister of State: Yousef Kasseb Al-Jazi	Minister of State for Women's Affairs: Nadia Mohammad Hashem

Second: The Independent Election Commission Law

Official Gazette of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Amman, Monday, 17 Jumada al-Ula 1433 AH, corresponding to 9 April 2012 AD — Issue No. 5152

Index of Issue No. (5152) dated 9/4/2012

Law No. (11) of 2012 — The Independent Election Commission Law

Law No. (11) of 2012 — The Independent Election Commission Law

[Official Gazette, page 1588]

We, Abdullah II Ibn Al-Hussein, King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, by virtue of Article (31) of the Constitution and on the basis of what has been decided by the Senate and the House of Representatives, ratify the following Law and order its promulgation and its addition to the Laws of the State:

Law No. (11) of 2012

The Independent Election Commission Law

Article (1)

This Law shall be cited as the “Independent Election Commission Law of 2012” and shall enter into force as of the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

Article (2)

The following words and expressions, wherever they appear in this Law, shall have the meanings assigned to them hereunder, unless the context indicates otherwise:

The Commission: The Independent Election Commission established under the provisions of this Law.

The Board: The Board of Commissioners of the Commission.

The Chairman: The Chairman of the Board.

Commissioner: The Chairman or any of the members of the Board.

The Secretary-General: The Secretary-General of the Commission.

The Election Law: The Law on the Election of the House of Representatives.

Voter: Every Jordanian who has the right to elect the members of the House of Representatives in accordance with the provisions of the Election Law.

[Official Gazette, page 1589]

Candidate: Every Jordanian whose application for candidacy for the parliamentary elections has been accepted in accordance with the provisions of the Election Law.

Executive instructions: The instructions issued by the Board under the provisions of this Law and of any regulations issued thereunder, which shall be published in the Official Gazette.

Article (3)

a. An independent commission called the “Independent Election Commission” shall be established in the Kingdom, having legal personality and financial and administrative independence. In this capacity, it may own movable and immovable property and carry out all legal acts necessary to achieve its objectives, and it may sue and be sued, and be represented in judicial proceedings by the Civil Attorney General or any lawyer it appoints for this purpose.

b. The headquarters of the Commission shall be in the capital, and it may open branches or offices in the governorates of the Kingdom.

Article (4)

a. The Commission shall supervise the parliamentary electoral process and administer it in all its stages, and shall supervise any other elections decided by the Council of Ministers in accordance with the provisions of the legislation in force.

b. The Commission shall take the decisions and measures necessary to enable it to perform its functions with integrity, transparency and impartiality.

Article (5)

a. Ministries, government departments and official and public institutions shall provide all forms of support and assistance requested by the Commission to enable it to perform the functions and responsibilities entrusted to it under the provisions of this Law and the other legislation in force, including providing it with any information and documents it deems necessary.

b. The Commission, in coordination with the Ministry of Interior, shall adopt a security plan to ensure the proper conduct of the electoral process and the security of electoral premises and polling and counting centres, and to preserve the safety and security of voters, candidates, observers and all those in charge of the process.

[Official Gazette, page 1590]

Article (6)

a. The Commission shall have a Board of Commissioners composed of a Chairman and four members, appointed by Royal Decree for a non-renewable term of six years.

b. 1. For the purposes of paragraph (a) of this Article, a list of the names proposed for appointment to the Board shall be submitted to the King; the list shall be prepared by a committee chaired by the Prime Minister and composed of the Speaker of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Judicial Council.

2. Where the office of Speaker of the House of Representatives is vacant, the Speaker shall be replaced by the last Speaker of the House of Representatives, and if this is not possible, by the last Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives.

c. The Board shall elect from among its members a Deputy Chairman, who shall act in the Chairman’s stead in his absence.

Article (7)

a. The Chairman shall receive the salary and allowances prescribed for the President of the Court of Cassation under the provisions of the legislation in force.

b. A member of the Board shall receive the salary and allowances prescribed for the Vice-President of the Court of Cassation under the provisions of the legislation in force.

Article (8)

The Commission shall have a Secretary-General, who shall be appointed, and whose services shall be terminated, by a decision of the Board in the same manner, and whose salary and other financial entitlements shall be determined in the decision of appointment, provided that the decision of appointment is accompanied by a Royal Decree.

Article (9)

a. A Commissioner or the Secretary-General shall:

1. Have been a Jordanian national for a period of not less than ten years and enjoy full civil capacity;
2. Not hold the nationality of another State;
3. Hold at least a first university degree;
4. Not be a member of the National Assembly;
5. Be not less than forty years of age;
6. Be a person of competence and experience;
7. Be of good conduct and reputation and known for his or her integrity.

[Official Gazette, page 1591]

8. Not have been convicted of any crime involving a breach of morals and public decency, honour or trust, or of any felony whatsoever, even if rehabilitated or pardoned;

9. Not be a member of any political party.

b. A Commissioner and the Secretary-General shall devote themselves full-time to the work and activities of the Commission, and neither of them may be an employee in the public or private sector, a merchant, or a member of the board of directors or management of any company, or a chairperson or member of the council of any public or private institution, nor may either of them perform any paid work for the benefit of any party whatsoever.

c. Upon appointment and before assuming office, a Commissioner shall take the following oath before the King:

“I swear by Almighty God to be loyal to the King and the homeland, to uphold the Constitution and respect the laws, and to perform the duties entrusted to me with all honesty, integrity and impartiality.”

d. The Secretary-General shall take the oath set out in paragraph (c) of this Article before the Board.

Article (10)

a. The service of a Commissioner shall end by resignation, which shall take effect upon the issuance of the Royal Decree accepting it.

b. The service of a Commissioner may not be terminated except by Royal Decree upon the recommendation of three other Commissioners, in any of the following cases:

1. Absence from three consecutive meetings of the Board without an excuse accepted by the Board;
2. Loss of any of the conditions of membership set out in paragraph (a) of Article (9) of this Law, or violation of the provisions of paragraph (b) of that Article;

3. Standing as a candidate in any elections of any kind whatsoever;
4. The issuance of permission by the Judicial Council to prosecute the Commissioner in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (b) of Article (11) of this Law, unless the offence subject of the prosecution is an unintentional misdemeanour or a contravention;
5. Health incapacity preventing the Commissioner from exercising his or her functions.

[Official Gazette, page 1592]

c. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (a) of Article (6) of this Law, a substitute Commissioner shall be appointed for a Commissioner whose membership has ended, for the remainder of his or her predecessor's term; if the remaining term is less than three years, it may be renewed for a term of six years.

Article (11)

- a. A Commissioner shall not, during his or her term of service with the Commission, be prosecuted in any criminal complaint, or in any criminal complaint relating to the functions and work entrusted to him or her under the provisions of the legislation in force, or arising therefrom or by reason thereof, except with the permission of the Judicial Council.
- b. The Judicial Council may, after hearing the statements of the complainant and of the Commissioner complained against, reviewing the submission of the Public Prosecutor and examining any evidence, decide to dismiss the complaint or grant permission to prosecute the Commissioner and to take the necessary criminal proceedings against him or her in accordance with the provisions of the legislation in force.
- c. In the case of a flagrant offence, a Commissioner may be arrested or detained, provided that the President of the Judicial Council is informed thereof immediately, and the Judicial Council shall issue its decision under the provisions of paragraph (b) of this Article within a period not exceeding twenty-four hours from the time of the arrest or detention of the Commissioner.
- d. If the Judicial Council decides to dismiss a complaint relating to the functions and work entrusted to a Commissioner, the Commissioner may not be prosecuted for that complaint after the end of his or her service with the Commission.

Article (12)

The Board shall exercise the following functions and powers:

- a. Setting the general policy of the Commission;
- b. Setting the polling date after the King issues his order to hold elections for the House of Representatives;
- c. Approving the timetable, plans and programmes necessary to implement the electoral process with integrity, transparency and impartiality;

[Official Gazette, page 1593]

- d. Taking the measures necessary for the registration of voters and candidates in accordance with the provisions of the Election Law, including the procedures for auditing and updating voter registers and regulating objections thereto;

- e. Publishing the voter lists and the names of candidates on the Commission's website and by any other means of publication specified by the Election Law;
- f. Setting the rules for electoral campaigns and campaigning, and their procedures and monitoring, by means of executive instructions;
- g. Raising voters' awareness of the importance of participation in political life, including electoral processes;
- h. Appointing the chairpersons and members of any committees necessary to implement the parliamentary electoral process, as required by the Election Law;
- i. Approving the specifications of the ballot box, the ballot papers and the official stamps of the polling committee;
- j. Setting the rules for the accreditation of candidates' agents at polling and counting centres;
- k. Accrediting representatives of civil society organizations, media professionals and any local and international observers to follow the conduct of the parliamentary electoral process and monitor it, by means of executive instructions;
- l. Extending the polling period in accordance with the provisions of the Election Law;
- m. Setting executive instructions for the publication of preliminary results and regulating objections thereto in accordance with the provisions of the Election Law;
- n. Announcing the final results of the elections;
- o. Issuing a detailed final report on each parliamentary electoral process in all its stages and submitting it to the King, provided that it is published in the Official Gazette;
- p. Approving the annual report on the activities and work of the Commission and sending a copy thereof to the Council of Ministers and the National Assembly;
- q. Approving contracts and agreements to which the Commission is a party;
- r. Forming temporary committees for specific tasks to assist it in carrying out its functions and powers;
- s. Proposing the draft legislation necessary for the work of the Commission;
- t. Any functions or powers provided for in this Law or in any other legislation.

[Official Gazette, page 1594]

Article (13)

- a. The Board shall meet at the invitation of its Chairman or of two-thirds of the members of the Commission once every month and whenever necessary, and its meeting shall be quorate in the presence of at least four Commissioners.
- b. The Board shall take its decisions by a majority of at least three votes, and no member may abstain from voting. A dissenting member shall record his or her dissent in writing in the minutes of the meeting and sign them.
- c. The procedures for the meetings of the Board and their organization shall be determined by executive instructions.

Article (14)

- a. The Chairman shall exercise the following functions and powers:
 - 1. Implementing the decisions of the Board;

2. General supervision of the executive apparatus of the Commission;
 3. Representing the Commission before official, judicial and private bodies;
 4. Signing the contracts and agreements approved by the Board;
 5. Coordinating with the official and private bodies and parties concerned with the work of the Commission;
 6. Any other functions assigned to him or her by the Board.
- b. The Chairman may delegate any of his or her powers set out in this Law and in the regulations and instructions issued thereunder to any of the Commissioners, provided that the delegation is specific and in writing.

Article (15)

- a. The Secretary-General shall exercise the following functions and powers:
1. Managing the administrative and financial apparatus of the Commission in accordance with the regulations and instructions issued for this purpose;
 2. Preparing the organizational structure of the executive apparatus of the Commission, the staffing table of its posts and the job descriptions thereof;
 3. Preparing the draft annual budget of the Commission;
 4. Preparing the annual report on the activities of the Commission;
 5. Any other powers vested in him or her under the provisions of this Law and the regulations and instructions issued thereunder.
- b. The Secretary-General may delegate any of his or her powers set out in this Law and in the regulations and instructions issued thereunder to any director in the Commission, provided that the delegation is specific and in writing.

[Official Gazette, page 1595]

Article (16)

- a. The Commission shall have an executive apparatus, which shall carry out the permanent functions therein; the appointment of its employees and staff shall be made under a regulation issued for this purpose.
- b. Ministries, government departments and official and public institutions shall assign employees working therein to work at the Commission, on a full-time or part-time basis, as requested by the Commission to enable it to carry out its functions.
- c. Administrative responsibility for employees assigned in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (b) of this Article shall pass to the Commission during the period of assignment.

Article (17)

A person working at the Commission is prohibited from:

- a. Anything prohibited to a public employee under the provisions of the Civil Service Regulation;
- b. Standing as a candidate in any elections supervised or administered by the Commission;
- c. Participating, directly or indirectly, in the electoral campaigning of any candidate.

Article (18)

a. A Commissioner, the Secretary-General or any person working at the Commission shall disclose to the Board in writing any relationship between him or her and any candidate in elections supervised or administered by the Commission, in any of the cases determined by the Board by means of executive instructions.

b. For the purposes of paragraph (a) of this Article, the Board shall set instructions on the rules of conduct and disclosure with which Commissioners, the Secretary-General and persons working at the Commission shall comply.

Article (19)

The Commission may express its opinion on any proposed draft law or regulation relating to any electoral process and submit it to the Council of Ministers.

Article (20)

If the Commission supervises any non-parliamentary elections pursuant to the provisions of paragraph (2) of Article (67) of the Constitution, the provisions of the legislation relating to those elections shall be observed.

[Official Gazette, page 1596]

Article (21)

a. The Commission shall have an independent budget, approved by the Board and submitted to the Prime Minister for the necessary measures to be taken and for its inclusion in the draft Law on the Budgets of Government Units.

b. Each annual budget shall allocate to the Commission the appropriations necessary to enable it to administer and supervise the parliamentary electoral process.

Article (22)

Without prejudice to any more severe penalty provided for in any other law, any person who violates the provisions of Article (5), paragraph (b) of Article (16), Article (17) or Article (18) of this Law shall be punished by imprisonment for a period not exceeding six months, or by a fine of not less than one hundred dinars and not more than five hundred dinars, or by both penalties.

Article (23)

The decisions of the Commission concerning the parliamentary electoral process shall be subject to appeal before the competent court in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and the Election Law.

Article (24)

The Commission shall enjoy the exemptions and facilities prescribed for ministries and government departments.

Article (25)

a. The Commission shall be subject to the oversight of the Audit Bureau.

b. Commissioners and the Secretary-General shall be subject to the provisions of the Financial Disclosure Law in force.

Article (26)

The Council of Ministers shall issue the regulations governing the affairs of employees and staff, supplies and works, and financial and administrative matters at the Commission.

Article (27)

The Board shall issue the executive instructions necessary to implement the provisions of this Law and of any regulations issued thereunder, provided that such instructions take effect from the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

[Official Gazette, page 1597]

Article (28)

The Prime Minister and the Ministers shall be charged with the implementation of the provisions of this Law.

4/4/2012

Abdullah II Ibn Al-Hussein

Prime Minister and Minister of Defence: Awn Al-Khasawneh	Minister of Education: Dr. Eid Al-Dahiyat	Minister of Industry and Trade: Sami Qammouh	Minister of Foreign Affairs: Nasser Judeh	Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research: Dr. Rowaida Al-Maaytah
Minister of Communications and Information Technology and Acting Minister of Finance: Eng. Basem Al-Rousan		Minister of Transport: Eng. Alaa Al-Batayneh		Minister of State for Prime Ministry and Legislative Affairs: Ayman Odeh
Minister of Social Development, Minister of Planning and International Cooperation and Acting Minister of Labour: Eng. Nesreen Barakat		Minister of Public Works and Housing: Eng. Yahya Al-Kisbi		Minister of Health: Dr. Abdul Latif Wraikat
Minister of Culture and Acting Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs and Holy Places: Dr. Salah Jarrar		Minister of Environment and Acting Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources: Dr. Yassin Al-Khayyat		Minister of Public Sector Development: Dr. Khleif Al-Khawaldeh
Minister of Tourism and Antiquities: Nayef Hmeidi Al-Fayez	Minister of Water and Irrigation: Eng. Mousa Al-Jamani	Minister of Interior: Mohammad Al-Raoud	Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs: Kleib Al-Fawwaz	Minister of Agriculture: Ahmad Al-Khattab
Minister of Political Development and Parliamentary Affairs: Haya Al-Qaralleh	Minister of Municipal Affairs: Eng. Maher Abu Al-Samen	Minister of State for Media Affairs and Communication: Rakan Al-Majali		Minister of State for Legal Affairs, Minister of Justice and Acting Minister of Youth and Sports: Dr. Ibrahim Al-Jazi

Third: Executive Instructions Issued by the Board of Commissioners of the Independent Election Commission

1. Executive Instructions No. (1) of 2012 on the Voter Card and the Preparation of the Preliminary Voter Lists

Issued pursuant to the provisions of Articles (4) and (69) of the Law on the Election of the House of Representatives No. (25) of 2012

[Official Gazette, page 3429]

Article (1)

These Instructions shall be cited as “Executive Instructions No. (1) of 2012 on the Voter Card and the Preparation of the Preliminary Voter Lists” and shall enter into force as of the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

Article (2)

For the purposes of these Instructions, the definitions set out in the Law on the Election of the House of Representatives No. (25) of 2012 shall apply.

Article (3)

- a. The specifications of the voter card shall be as follows:
 1. Dimensions: 7.5 cm × 12 cm;
 2. It shall be printed on special paper and shall contain specified security features.
- b. The voter card shall contain the following:
 1. The words “The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan” and its emblem;
 2. The Independent Election Commission;
 3. The voter’s national number;
 4. The voter’s name in four parts;
 5. The voter’s personal photograph;
 6. The local electoral district / governorate;
 7. The polling and counting centre;
 8. The serial number of the voter card;
 9. The card shall be enclosed in a transparent laminate sealed on all sides.
- c. The expiry of the identity card shall not preclude the issuance of the voter card.
- d. The Department shall prepare a voter card for every person who has the right to vote and holds an identity card bearing the national number, without the need to refer to any department other than the Civil Status and Passports Department.

[Official Gazette, page 3430]

- e. The Commission shall announce on its website and in two daily newspapers the completion by the Department of the preparation of the voter cards, provided that the announcement includes the following:
 1. The places where voter cards are issued and delivered;

2. An invitation to voters to collect their voter cards within one month from the date of the announcement;
 3. The polling and counting centres in all electoral districts.
- f. No fee shall be charged for the issuance of the voter card.

Article (4)

The voter shall choose the polling and counting centre at which he or she wishes to cast his or her vote within his or her local electoral district, and the Department shall record the name of that centre on the voter card upon its delivery.

Article (5)

- a. The voter card shall be delivered to the voter himself or herself, or to his or her spouse, or to any adult member of his or her family registered with him or her in the family book, or to any of his or her first-degree ascendants or descendants, namely the father, mother, son and daughter.
- b. The person collecting the voter card for himself or herself or for another person shall sign a form prepared for this purpose for the receipt of the card, which shall include, in the case of a person collecting the card on behalf of another in accordance with paragraph (a) of this Article, an undertaking to deliver the card to its holder.

Article (6)

The date of 1/12/2012 shall be adopted for calculating the age of voters for the purposes of the forthcoming parliamentary elections.

Article (7)

Any member of a local electoral district residing outside it may, within the period specified in the Law on the Election of the House of Representatives in force, submit a written request to the Civil Status and Passports Department to register his or her name in the preliminary list of the members of that local electoral district, through the entries and records held by the Department or the place of birth of the father or grandfather.

Article (8)

A Circassian, Chechen or Christian voter may submit a written request to the Department to register his or her name in the list of any local electoral district within the governorate in which he or she resides, where a seat for any of them exists in that district, or in any governorate if the governorate does not have a seat for any of them, in implementation of the provisions of items (2) and (3) of paragraph (g) of Article (4) of the Election Law, and the Department shall verify the validity of the request in accordance with its records.

[Official Gazette, page 3431]

Article (9)

If the Department rejects requests submitted in accordance with the provisions of Articles (7) and (8) of these Instructions, the Commission shall decide on them in light of the data and documents received by it from the Department.

Article (10)

Any voter who finds an error in the data and contents of the voter card prepared for him or her, or whose place of residence has changed, and any person for whom a voter card has not been prepared for any reason, may submit a written request to the Department to correct the error,

to take account of the change or to prepare a voter card, and the Department shall decide on the request within the period specified in the Law on the Election of the House of Representatives in force, as follows:

- a. Clerical errors in the contents of voter cards shall be corrected by the Department in accordance with its records.
- b. A change of place of residence requires the submission of a physical inspection report from the competent security centre establishing that the person resides in the local electoral district to which he or she wishes to transfer, and that the members of his or her family registered with him or her in the civil register have resided there for a period of not less than six months.
- c. The Department shall verify, in accordance with its records, the entitlement of a person for whom a voter card has not been prepared for any reason before issuing it.

Article (11)

- a. The Department shall record on the voter card the name of the Badia electoral district to which the voter belongs, if the voter is a member of the Badia residing outside the Badia areas, according to the entries and records of the Department; the Department may seek the opinion of the Tribal Advisory Office.
- b. If a voter who is not a member of the Badia resides in a district (liwa') located within any of the three Badia areas, and that district has a local electoral district other than the Badia districts, he or she shall be registered in the voter lists of the local electoral district in which he or she resides.

Article (12)

- a. If a voter who has collected his or her voter card submits a request or objection in accordance with the provisions of the Law on the Election of the House of Representatives in force, the request or objection shall not be accepted in form unless the card is returned to the Department.
- b. The voter card shall be returned to the voter if the Department, the Commission or the court rejects the request or objection, as the case may be, and for the purposes of delivery such card shall be treated as a voter card conforming to the final lists.

Article (13)

If any of the contents of the voter card is corrected, a new card containing the correct contents shall be issued to the voter, and the previous card shall be cancelled after its delivery to the Department for safekeeping and archiving.

[Official Gazette, page 3432]

Article (14)

The Department shall record the name of each voter who has collected a voter card in the preliminary voter list, together with his or her national number and the serial number of the voter card issued in his or her name.

Article (15)

- a. If a voter card is damaged, the Department shall issue a replacement voter card, provided that the damaged card is delivered to the Department for safekeeping and archiving.

b. The voter shall bear responsibility for safeguarding his or her voter card, and the Department shall not issue a replacement for a card claimed to have been lost.

Article (16)

The Department shall not issue a voter card to any member of the Armed Forces, the General Intelligence Department, the Public Security Directorate, the Gendarmerie Forces or the Civil Defence while in active service.

Article (17)

The Department shall provide the Commission with a detailed report containing the numbers of voters in the preliminary lists, the number of voters in the lists of objectors, the numbers of voter cards delivered, the numbers of voter cards recovered from voters due to a change of their electoral districts or to the correction of an error in the contents of the voter card or to a change of their place of residence, and the number of voter cards issued to voters as replacements for damaged cards.

Article (18)

The Commission may take such mechanisms and procedures as it deems appropriate to monitor the implementation of these Instructions and to ensure the integrity of the process of issuing cards and delivering them to voters.

Article (19)

The forms and tables determined by the Commission shall be adopted for the implementation of the provisions of these Instructions.

Board of Commissioners of the Independent Election Commission

Executive Instructions No. (2) of 2012 on the Accreditation of Local Observers of the Electoral Process

Issued pursuant to Article (12), Paragraph (k), of the Independent Election Commission Law No. (11) of 2012

Article (1)

These Instructions shall be cited as the “Instructions for the Accreditation of Local Observers of the Electoral Process No. (2) of 2012” and shall enter into force as of the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

Article (2)

The following words and expressions shall have the meanings assigned to them hereunder, unless the context indicates otherwise:

The Commission: The Independent Election Commission.

Observation of the electoral process: Following up, monitoring and evaluating the various proceedings and the conduct of the electoral process by civil society organizations, beginning with the voter registration stages, through candidate registration, the electoral campaigns and Election Day (polling and counting), up to the stage of the announcement of results.

Organization: A civil society organization established under the provisions of the law, or registered with a Jordanian official authority under the legislation in force, which wishes

to observe the electoral process individually or by forming or joining a coalition or team for this purpose.

Coalition: A group of organizations wishing to work jointly to observe the electoral process.

Local observer: A person nominated by an organization or coalition wishing to observe the electoral process to represent it in the observation process, who is accredited by the Independent Election Commission and granted an accreditation card.

Accreditation card: The card issued by the Independent Election Commission under the provisions of its law and these Instructions, which grants the observer the right to observe the electoral process on the basis of the accreditation application submitted to the Commission.

Article (3)

Organizations or coalitions wishing to observe the electoral process shall meet the following criteria:

- a. The organization shall be established under the provisions of the law or registered with a Jordanian official authority under the legislation in force.
- b. It shall have no financial, organizational or administrative link with any of the parties participating in the electoral process.
- c. Where the organization is to observe the electoral process on its own, none of the members of its administrative board or any of its employees may be a candidate in the elections or a first-degree relative of a candidate. In the case of coalitions, this criterion shall apply to the organization leading or representing the coalition.
- d. In the case of a coalition, the two conditions set out in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this Article shall be met by all the organizations in the coalition.

Article (4)

A person to be accredited as a local observer shall:

- a. Be of Jordanian nationality;
- b. Have completed eighteen years of age in accordance with the date specified for calculating the age of voters in Executive Instructions No. (1) of 2012;
- c. Abide by the code of conduct for the observation process that conforms to the global principles for non-partisan election observation by organizations or coalitions;
- d. Not have his or her name appear on more than one of the lists submitted by civil society organizations.

Article (5)

The mechanism for the accreditation of observers of the electoral process shall be as follows:

- a. The organization or coalition wishing to observe the elections shall submit an application to the Commission for the accreditation of its nominees to participate in observing the electoral process.
- b. The organization or coalition shall designate a liaison officer to follow up on the procedures for the accreditation of observers of the electoral process.
- c. An organization may submit more than one accreditation list during the various stages of the electoral process.

- d. The Commission shall cease receiving accreditation applications fifteen days before the date set for polling.
- e. Accreditation applications shall be delivered to the Commission by the liaison officer, either directly at the Commission's headquarters or by registered mail or e-mail.
- f. The liaison officer shall be given a preliminary notice from the Commission acknowledging receipt of the accreditation applications.
- g. The applications and their fulfilment of all the foregoing requirements shall be verified within a period not exceeding five working days, and the Commission shall send the organization, through the liaison officer, a notice by fax or e-mail confirming that the application meets the above conditions or indicating any deficiency in the required documents.
- h. The Commission shall examine the accreditation applications submitted to it and their conformity with the above criteria, and may accept or reject the applications in whole or in part. In the event of rejection, the liaison officer or the organization shall be informed in writing of the reasons for the rejection.
- i. The Independent Election Commission shall issue accreditation cards to the accredited observers in accordance with the form prepared for this purpose.
- j. Accreditation cards shall be handed over to the liaison officer, who shall sign an acknowledgement of their receipt.
- k. The Commission shall establish a database of all observers, the names of the organizations to which they belong and the serial numbers of their accreditation cards.

Article (6)

The Commission may terminate the accreditation of any observer who violates the provisions of the laws and legislation in force, the executive instructions on the accreditation of observers or the code of conduct applicable to them. The Commission shall notify the decision to terminate accreditation to the liaison officer of the organization or coalition to which the observer belongs, or to the organization itself, and the organization shall return the accreditation card to the Commission immediately.

Article (7)

An organization may terminate the accreditation of one or more of its local observers for the same reasons set out in Article (6) of these Instructions, and shall inform the Commission of this decision in writing and return the accreditation card or cards to the Commission.

Article (8)

The Commission shall have the right to request to examine the official registration certificate or the names of the members of the administrative board of the organization, or of any of the member organizations of the coalition, during the various stages of the electoral process.

Article (9)

National organizations and coalitions accredited to observe the electoral process shall abide by the following principles:

- a. Respect for the Constitution, the Jordanian laws in force and the international conventions and instruments relating to the right to stand for election and to vote, and the encouragement and promotion of the protection of these rights.

- b. Observers shall remain impartial in the performance of their duties and shall refrain from any form of expression of favouritism or preference for lists, candidates or parties.
- c. Cooperation with the Independent Election Commission, respect for the instructions issued by it and coordination with it for the purpose of ensuring the proper conduct of the electoral process and of the observation process, and achieving the common objectives of ensuring the integrity and transparency of the electoral process.
- d. Training observers on the legislation and procedures relating to the electoral process.
- e. Organizing the observation process in terms of selecting observers, developing work plans and observer deployment plans, preparing observation forms and training materials, and providing observers with the information necessary to perform their assigned tasks efficiently.
- f. Acquainting observers with the code of conduct (charter of honour) and its contents, provided that each observer signs an undertaking to abide by it.
- g. Supervising the work of observers, ensuring their compliance with the code of conduct, and informing the Independent Election Commission of any information warranting the suspension of the accreditation of any of them.
- h. Objectivity and accuracy in preparing reports on positive and negative observations and conclusions, and reporting to the Independent Election Commission any incidents or violations likely to affect the conduct of the electoral process or the observation process.

Article (10)

Local observers accredited by the Commission shall abide by the following principles and rules:

- a. Respect for the rule of law, the authority of the State and the body supervising the elections, and compliance with its decisions.
- b. Not carrying, wearing or displaying any electoral material relating to a particular candidate or list that would indicate bias towards that candidate or list.
- c. The observer shall identify himself or herself to any party or person concerned and shall carry and display his or her accreditation card.
- d. Observers are prohibited from carrying any weapons during the observation process, and shall refrain from violence and take all possible practical steps to reduce the likelihood of violence breaking out.
- e. Respect for the election committees and non-interference in the conduct of the electoral process or in the decisions of the committees formed (registration, polling and counting).
- f. Cooperation with other observers, local and international, and refraining from obstructing them.

Article (11)

The Commission shall undertake the following:

- a. Creating favourable conditions and taking the necessary measures to facilitate the accreditation of local observers of the electoral process, by:
 - 1. Making all forms relating to the accreditation of local observers available to all organizations by publishing them on the Commission's website and providing hard copies where necessary;

2. Examining accreditation applications and taking the necessary measures within a timeframe that allows organizations to observe the various stages of the electoral process;
 3. Raising the awareness of the election committees and all those working in the administration of the electoral process of the mechanism for dealing with local observers.
- b. Coordinating with the organizations and coalitions observing the elections and maintaining communication with them.
 - c. Adhering to the principle of transparency and respecting the right of access to information of organizations observing the electoral process, by publishing all legislation relating to the conduct of the electoral process on the Commission's website.
 - d. Respecting international standards for the integrity of the electoral process and guaranteeing the rights of all parties to it.
 - e. Facilitating the work of observers and contributing to building citizens' confidence in the electoral process.

Article (12)

The forms determined by the Commission shall be adopted for the implementation of the provisions of these Instructions.

3. Executive Instructions No. (3) of 2012 on the Accreditation of International Observers of the Electoral Process

Issued pursuant to the provisions of Paragraph (k) of Article (12) of the Independent Election Commission Law No. (11) of 2012

[Official Gazette, page 4343]

Article (1)

These Instructions shall be cited as the "Executive Instructions on the Accreditation of International Observers of the Electoral Process of 2012" and shall enter into force as of the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

Article (2)

The following words and expressions, wherever they appear in these Instructions, shall have the meanings assigned to them hereunder, unless the context indicates otherwise:

The Commission: The Independent Election Commission.

International observation: Following up, monitoring and evaluating the various stages of the electoral process by governmental and non-governmental international organizations accredited by the Commission, with the aim of becoming acquainted with the conduct of the electoral process, monitoring it, and assessing its compliance with international standards and best practices.

International organization: Any international body, whether governmental or non-governmental, accredited by the Commission to form an international mission to observe the electoral process.

International observation mission: A group of international observers formed by the international organization for the purposes of international observation, who have been accredited by the Commission and have obtained accreditation cards.

International observer: A person nominated by the international organization to represent it in the observation process, who has been accredited by the Commission and has obtained an accreditation card.

Guest international observer: A person invited by the Commission in his or her personal capacity, without being a member of any international observation mission, who has obtained a guest international observer card.

Accreditation card: The card issued by the Commission under the provisions of its law and these Instructions, which grants the observer the right to observe the electoral process on the basis of the accreditation application submitted to the Commission.

[Official Gazette, page 4344]

Article (3)

- a. A governmental or non-governmental international organization wishing to observe the electoral process shall have experience in the field of election observation and the promotion of democracy, human rights and good governance.
- b. The Commission shall accredit international observation missions; international observers shall not be accredited as individuals not belonging to such missions, and international observers not belonging to an international observation mission shall not be permitted to observe the electoral process.
- c. Notwithstanding paragraph (b) of this Article, the Commission may issue accreditation cards to specific individuals invited by the Commission to participate in observing the electoral process in accordance with the provisions of Article (9) of these Instructions.

Article (4)

A person to be accredited as an international observer shall:

- a. Have completed eighteen years of age on the day on which the application for his or her accreditation is submitted;
- b. Not be a member of more than one international observation mission.

Article (5)

The mechanism for the accreditation of international observation missions for the electoral process shall be as follows:

- a. The international organization wishing to observe the electoral process shall submit an application to the Commission for its accreditation to organize an international observation mission.
- b. The international organization shall designate a liaison officer to submit the accreditation application on its behalf and to coordinate with the Commission to complete the accreditation procedures.
- c. International organizations shall submit accreditation applications twenty-one days before the date set for polling; the Commission may, at its discretion, consider applications received after the date set for their submission.
- d. Accreditation applications shall be delivered directly, by registered mail, express mail or e-mail.

e. The Commission shall send a preliminary notice acknowledging receipt of the accreditation applications to the liaison officer directly, by e-mail or by fax, as the case may be.

[Official Gazette, page 4345]

f. The Commission shall examine the accreditation applications within a period not exceeding five working days from the date of receipt of the application, and shall send to the international organization, through the liaison officer, a second notice, directly or by e-mail or fax, confirming that the application meets the condition set out in paragraph (a) of Article (3) of these Instructions and the approval of accreditation, or indicating any deficiencies in the required documents or data.

g. The Commission may approve or reject the applications; in the event of rejection, the liaison officer or the international organization shall be informed in writing of the reasons for the rejection, directly or by e-mail or fax, as the case may be.

h. If the Commission approves the accreditation application, the international organization shall, through the liaison officer, nominate its candidates to participate in the international observation mission in accordance with the conditions set out in Article (4) of these Instructions, using the form adopted by the Commission for this purpose.

i. Applications for the accreditation of nominated international observers shall be delivered by the liaison officer of the accredited international organization to the Commission directly, by registered mail, express mail or e-mail, no later than fourteen days before the date set for polling; the Commission may, at its discretion, consider applications received after the date set for their submission.

j. The liaison officer shall be given a preliminary notice from the Commission acknowledging receipt of the applications for the accreditation of the nominated international observers.

k. The Commission shall examine the applications for the accreditation of the nominated international observers and verify that they meet the conditions set out in Article (4) of these Instructions within a period not exceeding five working days from the date of receipt of the applications, and shall send to the international organization, through the liaison officer, a notice, directly or by e-mail or fax, confirming that the application meets the conditions or indicating any deficiency therein.

l. The Commission may reject applications for the accreditation of nominated international observers if they do not meet the requirements of these Instructions; in the event of rejection, the liaison officer or the organization shall be informed in writing of the reasons for the rejection, directly or by e-mail or fax, as the case may be.

m. The Commission shall issue accreditation cards to the accredited international observers in accordance with the form adopted by the Commission for this purpose.

n. Upon the arrival of the international observation mission, the accreditation cards of the international observers shall be handed over to the liaison officer, who shall sign an acknowledgement of their receipt.

[Official Gazette, page 4346]

o. The Commission shall establish a database of all international observers, the names of the international organizations to which they belong and the serial numbers of their accreditation cards.

p. The Commission shall coordinate with the relevant government authorities to facilitate the entry and work of international observation missions for the electoral process, in accordance with the mechanism established by the Commission for this purpose.

Article (6)

The international organization undertakes that its international observers shall abide by the Code of Conduct for International Election Observers endorsed by the United Nations in New York on 27 October 2005.

Article (7)

The Commission may terminate the accreditation of any international observer who violates the provisions of the legislation in force, these Instructions or the Code of Conduct for International Observers. The Commission shall notify the decision to terminate accreditation to the liaison officer of the international organization to which the observer belongs, or to the international organization itself, which shall return the accreditation card to the Commission immediately.

Article (8)

An international organization may terminate the accreditation of any of its international observers for the same reasons set out in Article (7) of these Instructions, and the organization shall, directly or through the liaison officer, inform the Commission of this decision in writing and return the accreditation card or cards to the Commission immediately.

Article (9)

The Commission may issue accreditation cards to guest international observers, such as foreign government officials invited by the Commission to observe specific stages of the electoral process.

[Official Gazette, page 4347]

Article (10)

Guest international observers shall be invited as follows:

- a. The Commission shall send an invitation to the guest international observer, through the body to which he or she belongs, to observe specific stages of the electoral process.
- b. If the body to which the invited guest international observer belongs approves his or her attendance, the Commission shall issue a guest international observer accreditation card in accordance with the form adopted by the Commission for this purpose.
- c. Accreditation cards shall be handed to guest international observers in person.
- d. The Commission shall prepare a database of guest international observers, the names of the bodies to which they belong and the serial numbers of their accreditation cards.

Article (11)

International observation missions and guest international observers shall, while observing the electoral process, abide by the following principles:

- a. Respect for the sovereignty of the State and compliance with the Constitution, the Jordanian legislation in force and the instructions issued by the Commission;
- b. Cooperation with the Commission and other relevant government institutions;

- c. Non-interference in the electoral process or in the work of those in charge of administering the elections, and refraining from directing them;
- d. Refraining from any act likely to obstruct the conduct of the electoral process;
- e. Complete impartiality and adherence to the standards of fairness, integrity and professionalism during observation and when expressing their observations and conclusions and issuing their oral and written reports, statements and releases;
- f. Adherence to the principles contained in the Code of Conduct for International Observers;
- g. Carrying and displaying the accreditation card issued by the Commission.

[Official Gazette, page 4348]

Article (12)

Subject to the provisions of Article (11) of these Instructions, international observation missions and guest international observers of the electoral process shall have the right to:

- a. Observe all stages of the electoral process without any obstruction of their work;
- b. Communicate with the various persons concerned with the electoral process, including those working in the electoral process at all levels, security personnel and government officials, representatives of political parties, lists and candidates, voters, media representatives, members of local observation teams and other organizations, and persons interested or participating in the electoral process;
- c. Obtain accreditation cards enabling them to carry out their tasks of observing the electoral process and granting them freedom of movement throughout the country without any geographical restrictions;
- d. Issue and publish statements and reports on their observations, conclusions and recommendations concerning the electoral process without any interference;
- e. Take decisions relating to the nature, size and timetable of their observation tasks, within the limits set out in these Instructions and without any unjustified interference;
- f. Carry out international observation activities in a manner not inconsistent with the Jordanian legislation in force and the instructions issued by the Commission, and without any unjustified interference.

Article (13)

The international organization shall abide by the forms adopted by the Commission for the implementation of the provisions of these Instructions.

Board of Commissioners of the Independent Election Commission

4. Instructions No. (4) of 2012 Amending Executive Instructions No. (1) of 2012

Issued by the Independent Election Commission pursuant to the provisions of Article (69/b) of the Election Law No. (25) of 2012

[Official Gazette, page 3760]

Article (1)

These Instructions shall be cited as the “Instructions Amending Executive Instructions No. (1) of 2012”, published in Official Gazette Issue No. (5167) dated 18/7/2012, and shall be read together therewith as one set of instructions, and shall enter into force as of the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

Article (2)

The text of paragraph (a) of Article (5) of Executive Instructions No. (1) of 2012 shall be amended by adding the words “and their spouses and children, and the brother and sister” after the words “and the daughter” appearing at the end thereof.

Board of Commissioners of the Independent Election Commission

5. Instructions No. (5) of 2012 — Executive Instructions on Objections to the Preliminary Voter Lists

Issued pursuant to the provisions of Articles (5) and (6) of the Law on the Election of the House of Representatives No. (25) of 2012, as amended

[Official Gazette, page 4349]

Article (1)

These Instructions shall be cited as the “Executive Instructions on Objections to the Preliminary Voter Lists of 2012” and shall enter into force as of the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

Article (2)

For the purposes of these Instructions, the definitions set out in the Law on the Election of the House of Representatives No. (25) of 2012, as amended, shall apply.

Article (3)

The Department shall prepare a preliminary voter list for each local electoral district, in which the following data shall be recorded:

- The name of the voter to whom a voter card has been issued;
- The voter’s national number;
- The serial number of the voter card;
- The name of the local electoral district in which the voter’s name is registered;
- The name of the governorate to which the local electoral district belongs;
- The name of the polling and counting centre chosen by the voter to cast his or her vote;
- The place of residence.

[Official Gazette, page 4350]

Article (4)

a. The Commission shall display the preliminary voter lists and the lists of objectors submitted to it by the Department on its website and by any means the Commission deems appropriate for the inspection of the general public of voters.

b. The head of elections shall display the preliminary voter lists and the lists of objectors within his or her electoral district for a period of seven days in the places he or she deems appropriate for inspection by the general public of voters, or in any of the following places:

1. The headquarters of the election committee;
2. The seat of the governorate, district (liwa’) or sub-district (qada’);
3. The municipal centre or one of the areas of the Greater Amman Municipality, as the case may be;
4. The Civil Status and Passports directorate or office in the centre of each local electoral district.

c. The head of elections shall announce the places where the preliminary voter lists and the lists of objectors are displayed in at least two local daily newspapers.

Article (5)

Any voter or person whose name appears in the lists of objectors may appeal the decision of the Commission rejecting his or her request before the Court of First Instance within whose jurisdiction the electoral district falls, within a period not exceeding ten days from the date on which the head of elections displays the lists referred to in Article (4) of these Instructions.

Article (6)

a. Any voter whose name appears in the preliminary voter lists may submit a written objection to the Commission, through the chairperson of the election committee of his or her electoral district, against the registration of another person in the preliminary voter lists of his or her district, within a period not exceeding seven days from the date on which the chairpersons of the election committees display the lists, accompanied by the documents and evidence supporting the objection.

b. 1. The objection shall be submitted on a form prepared for this purpose, containing the following data:

- a. The name of the objector;
- b. The name of the person objected to;
- c. The date of submission of the objection.

[Official Gazette, page 4351]

- d. The name of the local electoral district;
 - e. The name of the governorate;
 - f. The objector's voter card number;
 - g. The grounds of the objection;
 - h. The papers, documentary evidence and proof supporting the objection.
2. The objector shall be given a written notice from the head of elections acknowledging receipt of the objection form referred to in item (1) of this paragraph.

Article (7)

Objections shall be forwarded by the chairperson of the election committee to the Commission on a daily basis, as follows:

- a. By a written letter to the Commission;
- b. The chairperson of the election committee shall prepare a special statement containing the number of objections, the names of the objectors and the documents attached to each objection;
- c. The mechanism for the receipt and delivery of objections shall be regulated by a letter signed in due form, stating the date of receipt and delivery.

Article (8)

- a. The Board shall form one or more committees to examine the objections received by it, and the Board shall decide on them within seven days from the date of their receipt.
- b. Objections received by the Commission shall be recorded in a special register prepared for this purpose, and the serial incoming number shall be entered in that register.
- c. The committee shall exercise the following functions and powers:

1. Verifying and ascertaining that all the papers, documents and evidence supporting the objector's objection are attached to the objection form;
2. Requesting from the Department or from the objector any documentary evidence or data it deems necessary for deciding on the objection, if it deems appropriate;
3. Requesting the objector to clarify any ambiguity in his or her objection, if it deems appropriate.

[Official Gazette, page 4352]

- d. The objection shall be rejected in form in any of the following cases:
 1. If the objector's name does not appear in the preliminary voter lists;
 2. If the objection was submitted after the expiry of the legal period.
- e. The committee shall submit its recommendations concerning the acceptance or rejection of the objection to the Board.
- f.
 1. If the Board decides to accept the objection, the decision taken thereon shall be referred, together with all papers and documents, to the Department to make the necessary amendment electronically in accordance with the established procedures.
 2. If the Board decides to reject the objection, the decision taken thereon shall be referred, together with all papers and documents, to the Department for information on the content of the Commission's decision.
- g. The Department shall retain all the papers and documents it has received from the Commission, whether the objection is accepted or rejected.

Article (9)

- a. The Commission shall display the lists of the results of the objections submitted to it for a period of seven days through the heads of elections, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (b) of Article (4) of these Instructions.
- b. The decisions of the Commission accepting or rejecting an objection shall be subject to appeal by the objector or the person objected to before the Court of First Instance within whose jurisdiction the local electoral district falls, within a period not exceeding seven days from the date of their display.

Article (10)

- a. The competent Court of First Instance shall provide the Commission with the judgments it issues on the appeals submitted to it concerning objections within three days from the date of their issuance.
- b. The Commission shall immediately send copies of the judgments to the Department to take the necessary measures and to correct the preliminary voter lists, the lists of objectors and the voter cards within seven days from the date of their receipt.

[Official Gazette, page 4353]

- c. The judgments referred to in paragraph (a) of this Article shall be sent by the Commission to the Department on a daily basis, as follows:
 1. By a written letter to the Department;
 2. The Commission shall prepare a special statement for each local electoral district containing the number of judgments received, their numbers, the name of the appellant and a summary of the judicial ruling;

3. The mechanism for the receipt and delivery of the judgments referred to in this paragraph shall be regulated by a written letter signed in due form, stating the date of receipt and delivery.

Article (11)

- a. The Commission shall publish the final voter lists on its website and in any other place the Commission deems appropriate for the inspection of the general public of voters.
- b. The Commission shall provide each head of elections with the final voter lists of his or her district, and each of them shall display these lists in any of the places specified in paragraph (b) of Article (4) of these Instructions.

Board of Commissioners of the Independent Election Commission

6. Instructions No. (6) of 2012 — Executive Instructions on the Formation of Committees

Issued pursuant to the provisions of Articles (28), (31), (50) and (69) of the Law on the Election of the House of Representatives No. (25) of 2012, as amended

[Official Gazette, page 4781]

Article (1)

These Instructions shall be cited as the “Executive Instructions on the Formation of Committees of 2012” and shall enter into force as of the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

Article (2)

For the purposes of these Instructions, the definitions set out in the Law on the Election of the House of Representatives No. (25) of 2012, as amended, shall apply.

Election Committees

Article (3)

- a. An election committee shall be formed by a decision of the Board for each local electoral district, composed of a chairperson and at least two members, provided that the educational attainment of each of them is not less than a first university degree, wherever possible.
- b. If circumstances prevent any of the members of the original election committee from carrying out their duties, or for reasons that make their continuation in these duties impossible, the Board may appoint a replacement.
- c. The chairpersons and members of the original election committees, and those appointed to replace them, shall not be ascendants or descendants of a candidate in the local or general electoral district, or any of his or her other relatives up to the second degree.
- d. Before assuming their duties, the chairperson and members of the original election committees, or those appointed to replace them, shall take the following oath before the Chairman or any of the members of the Board:

“I swear by Almighty God to perform the duties entrusted to me with honesty, integrity and impartiality.”
- e. Without prejudice to the functions and powers provided for in the Law and the executive instructions issued thereunder, the election committee shall:

1. Administer and follow up all stages of the electoral process within the scope of the local electoral district;
2. Supervise the work of the polling and counting committees in the local electoral district;

[Official Gazette, page 4782]

3. Receive, store and keep records of the supplies for the polling and counting process;
4. Deliver the polling and counting supplies to the chairpersons of the polling and counting committees by means of approved delivery forms;
5. Receive the minutes of the polling and counting committees and the envelopes referred to in Article (47) of the Law, and deliver them to the Commission;

6. Implement the training plans prepared by the Commission for all participants in the electoral process;
7. Carry out any other functions assigned to it by the Commission.

Polling and Counting Committees

Article (4)

- a. Each polling and counting room shall have a polling and counting committee composed of a chairperson and two members, appointed by a decision of the competent election committee, which shall submit its decision to the Board for approval.
- b. The election committee in the local electoral district shall appoint for each polling and counting committee a number of data entry clerks and staff to assist it in performing its functions, as the case may require.
- c. If circumstances prevent any of the members of the original polling and counting committee from carrying out their duties, or for reasons that make their continuation in these duties impossible, the election committee may appoint a replacement.
- d. The chairpersons and members of the polling and counting committees, the data entry clerks and any of the staff working with the committee shall:
 1. Be employees of the Government or of official and public institutions;
 2. Not be ascendants or descendants of a candidate in the local or general electoral district, or any of his or her other relatives up to the second degree.
- e. Before assuming their duties, the chairperson and members of the polling and counting committees, whether original or appointed as replacements, shall take the following oath before the election committee:

“I swear by Almighty God to perform the duties entrusted to me with honesty, integrity and impartiality.”
- f. Without prejudice to the functions and powers provided for in the Law and the executive instructions issued thereunder, the polling and counting committee shall:
 1. Receive the supplies for the polling and counting process, ensure their validity and safeguard them, and return them to the election committees after completing its work;
 2. Administer the polling and counting process for the two polling and counting boxes designated for the local electoral district and the general electoral district;
 3. Explain the method of voting to the voter in a manner that does not influence his or her choice when voting;
 4. Ensure that the polling procedures have been carried out in due form.

[Official Gazette, page 4783]

 5. Deliver the polling and counting minutes and the envelopes referred to in Article (47) of the Law to the election committees;
 6. Carry out any other functions assigned to it by the competent election committee.

The Special Committee

Article (5)

a. The Board of the Commission shall form a special committee to carry out the following functions:

1. Auditing the preliminary results of the elections of the local electoral districts and submitting them to the Chairman for presentation to the Board;

2. Determining the names of the winners of the seats allocated to women in each governorate and in each of the Badia districts, announcing these preliminary results before those present, and submitting them to the Chairman for presentation to the Board;

3. Allocating the seats allocated to lists in the general electoral district according to the proportion of votes obtained by each list; these shall be deemed preliminary results of the elections for the seats of the general electoral district and shall be submitted to the Chairman for presentation to the Board.

b. The special committee may, according to its needs, seek the assistance of whomever it deems appropriate to assist it in carrying out its functions.

c. If any reason prevents any of the members of the special committee from carrying out their functions, a replacement shall be appointed by the Board.

Article (6)

The Commission shall adopt the forms necessary for the application of these Instructions.

Board of Commissioners of the Independent Election Commission

7. Executive Instructions No. (7) of 2012 on the Rules of Conduct and Disclosure at the Independent Election Commission

Issued pursuant to the provisions of Articles (18) and (27) of the Independent Election Commission Law No. (11) of 2012

[Official Gazette, page 4997]

Article (1)

These Instructions shall be cited as the “Instructions on the Rules of Conduct and Disclosure at the Independent Election Commission” and shall enter into force as of the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

Article (2)

1. For the purposes of these Instructions, the definitions set out in the Independent Election Commission Law and the Law on the Election of the House of Representatives in force shall apply.

2. The following words and expressions, wherever they appear in these Instructions, shall have the meanings assigned to them hereunder, unless the context indicates otherwise:

Employee: A person appointed by a decision of the competent authority to a post included in the staffing table of the posts of the Commission, and an employee appointed under a contract; it does not include a person receiving a daily wage.

Permanent employee: An employee appointed to a permanent post, or under a contract, included in the staffing table of the posts of the Commission.

Temporary employee: Any person working at the Commission on a temporary basis, charged to projects or remunerations, or by way of assignment, secondment or loan, or in posts temporarily vacated by employees on secondment or on leave without salary and allowances, to whom the conditions set out in their contracts of employment apply.

Person working at the Commission: Any of the permanent or temporary employees working at the Commission.

[Official Gazette, page 4998]

Partners in the electoral process: Representatives of civil society organizations, media professionals, local and international observers and supervisors, and representatives of official and non-official institutions concerned with elections.

Article (3)

The provisions of these Instructions shall apply to Commissioners, the Secretary-General, every person working at the Commission and any person to whom the Commission considers it appropriate to apply the provisions of these Instructions. Each of them shall sign an undertaking to abide by the provisions of these Instructions, to adopt them and to disseminate them among those concerned, and a copy of this undertaking shall be kept in the file of each of them.

Article (4)

These Instructions are based on the principles of transparency, accountability, integrity, impartiality, professionalism, fairness, equal opportunity and loyalty to the homeland.

Article (5)

These Instructions aim to:

- a. Create an appropriate environment for holding fair, just and impartial elections in accordance with the legislation in force, and ensure that elections are implemented with high efficiency and according to the specified dates;
- b. Promote adherence to the principles of electoral administration, including integrity, impartiality, independence, transparency, efficiency and good service, and ensure that those working in supervising and administering the electoral process possess the required professional attributes;
- c. Establish the principles of democracy and the rule of law and guarantee the equal rights of citizens to participate in elections as voters and candidates;
- d. Ensure that elections are held in an orderly, independent and credible manner;
- e. Contribute to strengthening efforts aimed at building confidence in the electoral process;
- f. Define the professional ethics and behavioural practices expected of those working at the Commission in performing their functions, and the disciplinary measures to be taken against those who violate these Instructions.

[Official Gazette, page 4999]

Article (6)

1. A Commissioner and the Secretary-General shall not be members of, or cooperate with, any political party or organization throughout the period of their work at the Commission.
2. In addition to the prohibitions set out in Article (17) of the Independent Election Commission Law, Commissioners, the Secretary-General and persons working at the Commission are prohibited from:
 - a. Direct or indirect interference to influence the electoral process, including the electoral campaigns, the registration process or the voting process in favour of any candidate or list, or organizing or participating in the financing of the electoral campaigns of, or the collection of donations for, any candidate or list;
 - b. Using any of the powers, materials or supplies granted to them by the Commission for any personal interest or to exert illegitimate influence on candidates, voters or partners in the electoral process during the period of their work at the Commission;
 - c. Illegitimate interference in any stage of the electoral process;
 - d. Making statements or expressing any political or ideological viewpoint, writing articles, or participating in seminars or specific programmes that may be understood as political or ideological bias;
 - e. Carrying or wearing any badge or item bearing connotations relating to political parties, candidates or lists, or affixing any posters or advertisements symbolizing or indicating a political or ideological orientation;
 - f. Frequenting the headquarters of candidates, lists or political parties, or being present therein, except when assigned by the Commission.

Article (7)

A person working at the Commission shall:

- a. Comply with the legislation, instructions and directives, including:

1. Compliance with the provisions of the Code of Professional Conduct and Public Service Ethics prescribed for civil service and public sector employees;
 2. Compliance with the provisions of the laws, regulations, instructions and procedures in force governing the electoral process;
 3. Respect for the orders and directives of superiors and commitment to performing the functions entrusted to him or her in the electoral process with integrity, credibility, fairness, efficiency and accuracy.
- b. Adopt the principles of integrity, transparency, impartiality and fairness, including:

[Official Gazette, page 5000]

1. Promoting the conditions conducive to holding free and fair elections and refraining from any practices likely to undermine the integrity of the electoral process or obstruct it in any form whatsoever;
 2. Displaying a high degree of detachment, impartiality and objectivity in administering the electoral process and resolving the problems arising therefrom, and in deciding complaints and objections, standing at equal distance from all parties to the dispute;
 3. Adhering to the principles of equality and equal opportunity and not favouring any party to the electoral process;
 4. Refraining from any act in the electoral process that may be considered a form of discrimination on the basis of race, gender, religious belief, political belief or social status, or any other form of discrimination;
 5. Respecting all candidates, voters and persons casting their vote and any of the partners in the electoral process, treating them with fairness, equality and impartiality, and providing them with assistance to ensure the freedom of movement of all participants in the elections, within the limits of his or her responsibilities, functional duties and the limits set out in the legal frameworks of the electoral process;
 6. Striving for transparency in the conduct of the electoral process and adopting clear, documented, declared work policies and procedures accessible to all parties, and adopting accuracy and credibility in collecting and publishing all data and information relating to the elections;
 7. Disclosing any shortcoming, violation or abuse of authority in the administration of the electoral process at all levels, if any, and informing the direct superior thereof immediately;
 8. Treating illiterate voters, or those unable to write, in accordance with the executive instructions issued in this regard, and providing the assistance necessary to enable persons with disabilities and the elderly to exercise their right to vote, in a manner not inconsistent with the legislation and the principles of electoral administration.
- c. Refrain from accepting or soliciting any gifts, services or promises of remuneration, or any privileges of any kind, from any of the candidates or lists, their agents or supporters, or from any of the partners in the electoral process, that may affect his or her objectivity in the performance of his or her work, or in return for preferential treatment or for obtaining confidential documents or information or otherwise.

[Official Gazette, page 5001]

d. Adhere to honesty and confidentiality, including:

1. Preserving the security and confidentiality of the documents, materials, equipment and outputs of the electoral process, including ballot boxes, voter lists and lists of persons who have voted, forms, stamps, polling and counting papers and minutes, and the results of the audit of the electoral process, and not transferring, publishing, altering or using any of them to achieve personal benefits for himself or herself or for others;
2. Respecting the confidentiality of voters, candidates and persons casting their vote, and preserving it at all times.

e. Adopt best administrative practices, including:

1. Subject to the provisions of the Code of Professional Conduct and Public Service Ethics, adhering to merit, competence and competitiveness in the selection of any permanent or temporary staff member of the Commission, whether in the General Secretariat, the election committees in the districts, or the polling and counting committees;
2. Striving to follow the principles of transparency, competitiveness and integrity in all contracting, tendering, solicitation of offers and procurement of supplies and services;
3. Providing the electoral services and supplies required by the electoral districts and polling and counting centres without discrimination between them;
4. Undertaking to serve candidates, voters and persons casting their vote by receiving them well, guiding them and protecting their rights at all stages of the electoral process, and providing assistance to partners in the electoral process in a manner not inconsistent with the objectives of the Commission;
5. Wearing the official attire prescribed by the Commission and displaying the Commission's emblem, the identification card and any materials or tools prescribed by the Commission.

Article (8)

A Commissioner, the Secretary-General and any person working at the Commission shall disclose to the Board in writing, in accordance with a form prepared for this purpose, any relationship between him or her and any candidate in elections supervised or administered by the Commission, in any of the following cases:

- a. If any of the candidates in the elections supervised by the Commission is one of his or her relatives of the first or second degree;
- b. If he or she has partisan or political affiliations, or any actual, apparent or potential conflict between his or her responsibilities and functional duties and any of the candidates, lists or partners in the electoral process.

[Official Gazette, page 5002]

- c. If he or she works, or has worked, for the candidate in any previous employment during any of the five years preceding the year of the elections;
- d. If any of the candidates attempts to exert illegitimate influence on him or her or to communicate with him or her on any of the electoral matters dealt with by the Commission.

Article (9)

- a. Any violation of the provisions of these Instructions shall entail accountability and the taking of disciplinary measures and penalties in accordance with the provisions of the Law or any other penalty provided for in any other law.
- b. The Chairman shall, upon the recommendation of the Secretary-General, form an investigation committee to consider the violations referred to in paragraph (a) of this Article. This committee shall submit to the Chairman a detailed report on its findings and recommendations for the appropriate decision to be taken, including the imposition of the appropriate penalty or the referral of the violator to the disciplinary board, as the case may be.

Board of Commissioners of the Independent Election Commission

8. Instructions No. (8) of 2012 — Executive Instructions on Candidacy for the Local Electoral District

Issued pursuant to the provisions of Article (69) of the Law on the Election of the House of Representatives No. (25) of 2012, as amended

[Official Gazette, page 5173]

Article (1)

These Instructions shall be cited as the “Executive Instructions on Candidacy for the Local Electoral District of 2012” and shall enter into force as of the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

Article (2)

For the purposes of these Instructions, the definitions set out in the Law on the Election of the House of Representatives No. (25) of 2012, as amended, shall apply.

Article (3)

a. A person standing as a candidate for membership of the House of Representatives in the local electoral district shall:

1. Have been a Jordanian for at least ten years;
2. Not hold the nationality of another State;
3. Have completed thirty solar years of age on polling day;
4. Not have been declared bankrupt without having been legally rehabilitated;
5. Not be interdicted without the interdiction having been lifted;

[Official Gazette, page 5174]

6. Not have been sentenced to imprisonment for a period exceeding one year for a non-political offence without having been pardoned;
7. Not be insane or mentally incompetent;
8. Not be a relative of the King within the degree specified by a special law;
9. Not be a party to a contract with the Government, official or public institutions, or companies owned or controlled by the Government or any official or public institution, whether such contracting is direct or indirect, with the exception of land and property lease contracts and of persons holding shares in a company with more than ten members.

b. A Minister who intends to stand as a candidate in the elections for the House of Representatives shall resign at least sixty days before the date of the election.

c. None of the following persons may stand as a candidate for membership of the House of Representatives unless he or she has submitted his or her resignation at least sixty days before the date set for the submission of candidacy applications:

1. Employees of ministries, government departments, and official and public institutions and bodies;
2. Employees of Arab, regional and international bodies, and the like;
3. The Mayor of Amman, the members of the Greater Amman Municipality Council and the employees of the Municipality;

4. The heads and members of municipal councils and the employees of municipalities.
- d. In addition to the conditions set out in paragraph (a) of this Article, a candidate for membership of the House of Representatives shall:
 1. Be registered in one of the final voter lists;
 2. Pay a non-refundable amount of five hundred dinars, to be recorded as revenue to the Treasury.

[Official Gazette, page 5175]

Article (4)

- a. Candidacy for membership of the House of Representatives shall open on the date set by the Board.
- b. Candidacy for membership of the House of Representatives shall continue for a period of three days during official working hours, and no candidacy application submitted after the expiry of this period shall be accepted.
- c. No person may stand as a candidate in both the local electoral district and the general electoral district.
- d. No person may stand as a candidate in more than one local electoral district.

Article (5)

The candidacy application in the local electoral district shall be submitted by the applicant in person to the head of elections therein, on the form adopted by the Board, accompanied by the following documents and data:

1. A signed written declaration by the applicant, on the form adopted by the Board, including the following:
 - a. That he or she has held Jordanian nationality for at least ten years;
 - b. That he or she does not hold the nationality of another State;
 - c. That he or she is not a party to a contract with the Government, official or public institutions, or companies owned or controlled by the Government or any official or public institution, whether such contracting is direct or indirect;
 - d. That he or she has not been declared bankrupt without having been legally rehabilitated.
2. A certificate of no criminal record, issued not more than thirty days before the date of submission of the candidacy application, establishing that the applicant has not been sentenced to imprisonment for a period exceeding one year for a non-political offence without having been pardoned.
3. A copy of the identity card and a copy of the voter card of the applicant.

[Official Gazette, page 5176]

4. A financial receipt establishing that the applicant has paid to the State Treasury an amount of five hundred dinars for the purposes of candidacy.
5. a. If the applicant is one of the persons referred to in paragraph (b) of Article (3) of these Instructions, he or she shall attach proof of having submitted his or her resignation at least sixty days before the date of the election and of its acceptance before submitting the candidacy application.

b. If the applicant is one of the persons referred to in paragraph (c) of Article (3) of these Instructions, he or she shall attach proof of having submitted his or her resignation sixty days before the date set for the submission of candidacy applications and of its acceptance before submitting the candidacy application.

6. One recent personal photograph of each applicant, which shall be original, in colour, showing the person's features and the full face and shoulders, with a white background, measuring 30 to 40 mm in width and 40 to 50 mm in height.

Article (6)

The candidacy applicant shall be given a written notice, signed by the head of elections, acknowledging receipt of his or her application.

Article (7)

The candidacy form for the local electoral district may be obtained from the following places:

- a. The headquarters of the Commission;
- b. The headquarters of the election committee;
- c. The Commission's website.

[Official Gazette, page 5177]

Article (8)

a. Candidacy applications in the local electoral district, together with the documents and data attached thereto, shall be referred by the head of elections to the Board on a daily basis under a statement, and shall all be placed in a special envelope bearing the name of the local electoral district and the governorate.

b. The procedures for the receipt and delivery of applications shall be regulated in accordance with the form prepared for this purpose.

Article (9)

The Board shall decide to accept or reject the candidacy application within seven days from the day following the date of receipt of the application, and the head of elections in the local electoral district shall notify the Board's decision in writing to the candidacy applicant; the decision shall be published on the Commission's website.

Article (10)

A candidacy application in the local electoral district shall be rejected in any of the following cases:

- a. Failure to meet any of the conditions required for candidacy under the provisions of the Law and these Instructions;
- b. Failure to submit any of the documentary evidence and data required under the provisions of the Law and these Instructions;
- c. Proof of the submission of false data or declarations.

Article (11)

a. The Commission shall display the names of the candidates for the local electoral districts whose applications have been accepted on the Commission's website, at the seat of the governorate and at the headquarters of the election committee of the local electoral district.

b. The Commission shall publish those names in two local daily newspapers.

[Official Gazette, page 5178]

Article (12)

Every voter shall have the right to appeal the Board's decision accepting the candidacy application of any of the candidates in his or her local electoral district before the competent Court of Appeal within three days from the date on which the names of the candidates are displayed, in accordance with the provisions of Article (17) of the Election Law.

Article (13)

An application for withdrawal in the local electoral district shall be submitted ten days before the date set for polling, and the Commission shall announce the withdrawal on its website and in two local daily newspapers.

Board of Commissioners of the Independent Election Commission

9. Instructions No. (9) of 2012 — Executive Instructions on Lists for the General Electoral District

Issued pursuant to the provisions of Article (69) of the Law on the Election of the House of Representatives No. (25) of 2012, as amended

[Official Gazette, page 5179]

Article (1)

These Instructions shall be cited as the “Executive Instructions on Lists for the General Electoral District of 2012” and shall enter into force as of the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

Article (2)

For the purposes of these Instructions, the definitions set out in the Law on the Election of the House of Representatives No. (25) of 2012, as amended, shall apply.

Article (3)

Twenty-seven parliamentary seats shall be allocated to the general electoral district, in the form of closed proportional lists.

Article (4)

a. A person standing as a candidate for membership of the House of Representatives in the general electoral district shall:

1. Have been a Jordanian for at least ten years;
2. Not hold the nationality of another State;
3. Have completed thirty solar years of age on polling day;

[Official Gazette, page 5180]

4. Not have been declared bankrupt without having been legally rehabilitated;
5. Not be interdicted without the interdiction having been lifted;
6. Not have been sentenced to imprisonment for a period exceeding one year for a non-political offence without having been pardoned;
7. Not be insane or mentally incompetent;
8. Not be a relative of the King within the degree specified by a special law;
9. Not be a party to a contract with the Government, official or public institutions, or companies owned or controlled by the Government or any official or public institution, whether such contracting is direct or indirect, with the exception of land and property lease contracts and of persons holding shares in a company with more than ten members.

b. A Minister who intends to stand as a candidate in the elections for the House of Representatives shall resign at least sixty days before the date of the election.

c. None of the following persons may stand as a candidate for membership of the House of Representatives unless he or she has submitted his or her resignation at least sixty days before the date set for the submission of candidacy applications:

1. Employees of ministries, government departments, and official and public institutions and bodies;

2. Employees of Arab, regional and international bodies, and the like;
 3. The Mayor of Amman, the members of the Greater Amman Municipality Council and the employees of the Municipality;
 4. The heads and members of municipal councils and the employees of municipalities.
- d. In addition to the conditions set out in paragraph (a) of this Article, a candidate for membership of the House of Representatives shall:
1. Be registered in one of the final voter lists;
 2. Pay a non-refundable amount of five hundred dinars, to be recorded as revenue to the Treasury.

Article (5)

- a. Candidacy for membership of the House of Representatives shall open on the date set by the Board.
- b. Candidacy for membership of the House of Representatives shall continue for a period of three days during official working hours, and no candidacy application submitted after the expiry of this period shall be accepted.

[Official Gazette, page 5181]

- c. No person may stand as a candidate in both the local electoral district and the general electoral district.
- d. No person may stand as a candidate on more than one list at the level of the general electoral district.

Article (6)

- a. The Board shall form a committee whose function shall be to receive candidacy applications and refer them to the Board, so that the Board may exercise its powers to examine them and decide on them, whether by acceptance or rejection.
- b. The candidacy application in the general electoral district shall be submitted by the list's commissioner in person to the committee referred to in paragraph (a) of this Article, on the form adopted by the Board, accompanied by a list of the names of the candidacy applicants, not exceeding twenty-seven persons and not fewer than nine persons, in the order of priority chosen by the list's commissioner, and containing the following data:
 1. The name of the electoral list, provided that it does not contravene the provisions of the Constitution, the law or public order;
 2. The name and address of the list's commissioner;
 3. The address of the list's headquarters;
 4. A signed written declaration by each of the candidates on the list, on the form adopted by the Board, including the following:
 - a. That he or she has been a Jordanian for at least ten years;
 - b. That he or she does not hold the nationality of another State;
 - c. That he or she is not a party to a contract with the Government, official or public institutions, or companies owned or controlled by the Government or any official or public institution, whether such contracting is direct or indirect;

d. That he or she has not been declared bankrupt without having been legally rehabilitated.

[Official Gazette, page 5182]

5. A certificate of no criminal record, issued not more than thirty days before the date of submission of the candidacy application, establishing that the applicant has not been sentenced to imprisonment for a period exceeding one year for a non-political offence without having been pardoned;

6. A copy of the identity card and voter card of the candidacy applicant;

7. A financial receipt establishing that each candidacy applicant on the list has paid to the State Treasury an amount of five hundred dinars for the purposes of candidacy;

8. a. If the candidacy applicant on the list is one of the persons referred to in paragraph (b) of Article (4) of these Instructions, he or she shall attach proof of having submitted his or her resignation at least sixty days before the date of the election and of its acceptance before submitting the candidacy application;

b. If the candidacy applicant on the list is one of the persons referred to in paragraph (c) of Article (4) of these Instructions, he or she shall attach proof of having submitted his or her resignation sixty days before the date set for the submission of candidacy applications and of its acceptance before submitting the candidacy application;

9. One recent personal photograph of each candidacy applicant on the list, which shall be original, in colour, showing the person's features and the full face and shoulders, with a white background, measuring 30 to 40 mm in width and 40 to 50 mm in height.

Article (7)

The application shall include a written authorization naming the list's commissioner, signed by all the candidacy applicants on the list, on the form adopted by the Board for this purpose. The signature of each candidate opposite his or her name on the list shall constitute evidence of his or her consent to his or her ranking therein and of his or her commitment to that ranking, and the list's commissioner shall bear legal responsibility if the signature of any of the candidates proves to be invalid.

[Official Gazette, page 5183]

Article (8)

The chairperson of the committee formed under the provisions of paragraph (a) of Article (6) of these Instructions shall give the list's commissioner a written notice acknowledging receipt of the list's candidacy application together with its attachments.

Article (9)

The candidacy form for the general electoral district may be obtained from the following places:

- a. The headquarters of the Commission;
- b. The headquarters of the election committee;
- c. The Commission's website.

Article (10)

The candidacy application of any electoral list, or the candidacy of any of the persons whose names appear on it, shall be rejected in any of the following cases:

- a. Violation of any of the conditions of candidacy for the general electoral district under the provisions of the Law and these Instructions;
- b. Failure to meet any of the conditions required for candidacy;
- c. Failure to submit any of the documentary evidence and data required under the provisions of the Law and these Instructions;
- d. Proof of the submission of false data or declarations.

[Official Gazette, page 5184]

Article (11)

- a. The Board shall decide on the list's candidacy application, by acceptance or rejection, in whole or in part, within seven days from the day following the date of its receipt, and the Chairman, or the person authorized by him, shall notify the list's commissioner in writing of the Board's decision accepting or rejecting the application in full, or accepting or rejecting the name of one or more of the candidates registered on the list attached thereto, stating the reasons for the rejection, at the address specified by the commissioner for notification.
- b. The mere dispatch of the notification by mail to this address shall be deemed to produce its legal effects, and a summary of the decision shall be published on the Commission's website.
- c. The list's commissioner, or any of its candidates, shall have the right to appeal the Board's decision rejecting the candidacy application of the list or of any of its candidates before the Amman Court of Appeal within three days from the date of notification of the Board's decision.

Article (12)

- a. The Commission shall display the lists for the general electoral district whose applications have been accepted on the Commission's website, at the seat of the governorate and at the headquarters of the election committee of the local electoral district.
- b. The Commission shall publish those lists in two local daily newspapers.

Article (13)

Every voter shall have the right to appeal the Board's decision accepting the candidacy application submitted by the list's commissioner, or accepting the candidacy of any of the candidates on the list attached to the application, before the Amman Court of Appeal within three days from the date on which the lists of candidates are displayed.

[Official Gazette, page 5185]

Article (14)

- a. If, as a result of appeals in accordance with the provisions of the Law and these Instructions, it is decided to reject one or more of the names of the candidates on the list attached to the candidacy application, the list's commissioner may submit to the Board one or more names in place of those names.

b. 1. If any of the candidates on the list attached to the candidacy application withdraws, at the request of the candidate himself or herself or of the list's commissioner, the list's commissioner may submit to the Commission a name to replace the withdrawing candidate.

2. If such withdrawal results in the number of the list's candidates falling below the minimum provided for in paragraph (b) of Article (6) of these Instructions, the withdrawal shall not be accepted unless the commissioner submits a replacement name and the Commission accepts its registration fifteen (15) days before the date of polling.

3. No withdrawal of any electoral list, or of any of its candidates, shall be recognized after that date.

Article (15)

If any of the list's candidates dies or loses his or her eligibility after the lists have become final, and this results in the number of the list's candidates falling below the minimum provided for in paragraph (b) of Article (6) of these Instructions, the decision approving the candidacy application shall remain in force, and the death of that candidate or the loss of his or her eligibility shall not affect the decision.

Article (16)

The seats allocated to lists in the general electoral district shall be distributed in accordance with Article (52) of the Law, adopting the internationally recognized largest remainder method, as follows:

a. The number of valid votes obtained by each list shall be converted into a percentage of the total number of valid votes obtained by all lists in the general electoral district.

[Official Gazette, page 5186]

b. The percentage obtained by each list in the general electoral district shall be multiplied by the number of seats allocated to the general electoral district, namely twenty-seven (27), to calculate the fractional number used to determine the number of seats obtained by each list.

c. The whole number of the fractional number referred to in paragraph (b) of this Article shall be the initial number of seats obtained by each list, allocated according to the ranking of the names of the candidates on it.

d. If the distribution of the twenty-seven seats is not completed, the final number of distributed seats shall be reached by adding one seat to the list with the largest remainder, then to the list with the next largest remainder, and so on until the distribution of the twenty-seven seats is completed.

e. If the number of seats won by a list or lists exceeds the number of its candidates, all of its candidates shall be deemed elected; the number of votes obtained by that list (or those lists) shall then be deducted from the total number of valid votes, and the remaining number of votes, together with the remaining number of seats, shall be used to recalculate the seats won by the other lists in the same manner.

f. If two or more fractions are equal, the matter shall be decided by drawing lots between the two or more lists with equal fractions, in the presence of the commissioners of those lists and in the manner agreed upon between the chairperson of the special committee and the commissioners of those lists.

Board of Commissioners of the Independent Election Commission

Executive Instructions No. (10) of 2012 on Polling, Counting and Tabulation of Votes

Issued pursuant to Article (69/b) of the Law on the Election of the House of Representatives No. (25) of 2012, as amended

Article (1)

These Instructions shall be cited as the “Executive Instructions on Polling and Counting of 2012” and shall enter into force as of the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

Article (2)

For the purposes of these Instructions, the definitions set out in the Law on the Election of the House of Representatives No. (25) of 2012, as amended, shall apply.

Duties of the Polling and Counting Committee, Data Entry Clerks and Assistant Staff

Article (3)

Without prejudice to the duties and obligations set out in the Law on the Election of the House of Representatives in force and the instructions issued thereunder, the duties of the chairperson and members of the polling and counting committee, the data entry clerks and the assistant staff shall be as follows:

- a. The chairperson of the polling and counting committee shall:
 1. Manage and supervise the polling and counting process inside the polling room;
 2. Sign and stamp the ballot papers;
 3. Return the voter’s identity card and retain the voter card, marked as used;
 4. Prevent any act inside the polling room that may affect the proper conduct of the electoral process, and may request any person committing such an act to leave the polling and counting room and request the security personnel to remove that person if he or she refuses.
- b. The first member shall:
 1. Verify the identity of the voter and of the companion, if any, by means of the identity card;
 2. Verify that the voter’s identity card matches his or her voter card;
 3. Verify that the voter’s name appears on the paper voter list and record the voter’s name by marking it in the register of voters of the electoral district;
 4. Ensure that there is no ink or insulating substance on the index finger of the voter’s left hand, or on the little finger of the left hand of the companion, if any.
- c. The second member shall:
 1. Hand the voter the two ballot papers after ensuring that they bear the stamp of the local electoral district and the signature of the chairperson of the polling and counting committee;
 2. Explain the voting method to the voter and to his or her companion, if any.
- d. The data entry clerk shall:
 1. Ensure that the voter’s name appears in the electronic electoral information system;

2. Mark electronically that the voter has exercised his or her right to vote;
 3. Enter the results of the two ballot boxes into the electronic electoral information system.
- e. The first assistant staff member shall:
1. Organize the entry of voters into the polling and counting room;
 2. Request the voter to present his or her identity card and voter card.
- f. The second assistant staff member shall:
1. Observe the voter placing the two ballot papers in the box designated for each;
 2. Supervise the voter, and the companion if any, in dipping a finger into the ink designated for that purpose, as the case may be.

Regulating Presence Inside the Polling and Counting Centre

Article (4)

- a. The list's commissioner may, at least ten days before polling day, submit an application to the Board for the admission of the list's agents to the polling and counting centres to observe them, using the form adopted by the Board for this purpose.
- b. A candidate in a local electoral district may, at least ten days before polling day, submit an application to the chairperson of the election committee for the admission of his or her agents to the polling and counting centres to observe them, using the form adopted by the Board for this purpose.
- c. Every candidate may attend and observe the polling and counting process in the local electoral district, and each list shall be treated as a candidate for this purpose.
- d. 1. A candidate on a list may personally attend and observe the polling and counting process, and may not delegate another person to do so other than the list's agent.
 2. No candidate in a local electoral district and no list may have more than one agent at the same time at each polling or counting box.

Article (5)

- a. On the day set for polling, the polling and counting committee, the data entry clerks and its assistant staff shall:
 1. Be present at the polling and counting centre at six o'clock in the morning;
 2. Ensure that all polling and counting supplies are available and arranged in the proper manner;
 3. The data entry clerk shall ensure that the electronic electoral information system is technically ready.
- b. The chairperson of the committee shall invite those present among the candidates and their agents, the agents of lists, and the accredited local and international observers and media representatives authorized to enter the polling and counting room, and shall show them that the two ballot boxes are empty and then lock them.
- c. If none of the persons referred to in paragraph (b) of this Article is present, the committee shall commence the polling procedures with those present, and this shall be recorded in the minutes.
- d. Before polling begins, the chairperson of the polling and counting committee shall draw up minutes for each box, signed by him or her, by the two members of the committee and

by any of the candidates or their agents and the agents of lists present who so wish, in accordance with the form adopted by the Board for this purpose, which shall include:

1. The governorate;
2. The local electoral district;
3. The name of the polling and counting centre;
4. The box number;
5. The numbers of the box seals;
6. The time and date;
7. Confirmation that the box is empty;
8. The number of ballot papers for each district (local and general).

Polling Procedures

Article (6)

At seven o'clock in the morning, the chairperson of the polling and counting committee shall invite voters to begin entering the polling and counting room.

Article (7)

Upon the voter's entry into the polling room, the following steps and procedures shall be followed in sequence:

- a. Verification of the voter's identity by means of his or her identity card and voter card and that the two match (where the voter is a woman wearing a face veil, her identity shall be verified by a woman on the polling and counting committee).
- b. Verification that the voter's name is registered on the voter list of the box inside the polling and counting room.
- c. Verification that there is no ink approved by the Commission for election purposes on the index finger of the voter's left hand, and that there is no insulating substance on it.
- d. Handing the voter the two ballot papers, stamped and signed.
- e. Marking on the paper and electronic voter lists that the voter has exercised his or her right to vote.
- f. The voter shall proceed to the voting booth and shall write on the ballot paper of the local electoral district the name of the candidate for whom he or she wishes to vote, opposite the printed name of that candidate; if the voter is illiterate, he or she shall mark opposite the photograph of the candidate for whom he or she wishes to vote.
- g. The voter shall mark, on the ballot paper of the general electoral district, opposite the name, number and symbol of the list for which he or she wishes to vote.
- h. The voter shall fold each of the two ballot papers separately so that the name of the candidate of the local electoral district or of the list is not visible.
- i. The voter shall place the ballot paper of the local electoral district in the box designated for it, and the ballot paper of the general electoral district in the box designated for it.
- j. The voter shall return to the polling and counting committee and dip the index finger of his or her left hand in the ink designated for that purpose.
- k. The chairperson of the polling and counting committee shall return the voter's identity card.

- l. The chairperson of the polling and counting committee shall retain the voter card, marked as used by cutting off its lower left corner in a manner that does not affect its contents and data.

Procedures for Voting by Persons with Disabilities

Article (8)

- a. Voters with disabilities shall be given priority in voting.
- b. Persons with disabilities shall exercise their right to vote themselves, where they are able to do so, in accordance with the same steps and procedures set out in Article (7) of these Instructions.
- c. Persons with disabilities who are unable to exercise their right to vote themselves may exercise this right through companions of their choice, provided that the companion is not less than eighteen (18) years of age on Election Day, in accordance with the provisions of Article (7) of these Instructions and subject to the following special procedures:
 1. The polling and counting committee shall verify the identity of the companion by examining his or her identity card, verify that there is no election ink on the little finger of his or her left hand, and record his or her name in a register kept for that purpose.
 2. The two ballot papers shall be handed to the voter himself or herself, or to the companion if the voter is unable to receive them.
 3. It shall be explained to the companion and to the voter with a disability that the companion will write the name of the candidate on the ballot paper of the local electoral district and mark opposite the name, number and symbol of the list.
 4. The companion shall write the name of the candidate chosen by the voter on the ballot paper of the local electoral district, and mark opposite the name, number and symbol of the list chosen by the voter on the ballot paper of the general electoral district.
 5. The voter or the companion shall fold each of the two ballot papers separately, and they shall proceed to the two boxes to place each ballot paper in the box designated for it.
 6. The voter and the companion shall return to the polling and counting committee, where the voter with a disability shall dip the index finger of his or her left hand in the election ink, and the companion shall dip the little finger of his or her left hand in the same ink.
- d. If a voter with a disability who is unable to vote himself or herself comes to the polling and counting room without a companion to assist him or her, the chairperson of the polling and counting committee shall assist the voter in the booth, in secret, in writing the name of the candidate he or she wishes to elect on the ballot paper of the local electoral district and marking opposite the name, number and symbol of the list for which he or she wishes to vote on the ballot paper of the general electoral district, and the name of the chairperson shall be recorded in the relevant register as having assisted the voter in voting.
- e. No companion may assist more than one voter with a disability in voting.

Adjudication of Objections During Polling

Article (9)

- a. The polling and counting committee shall adjudicate objections submitted by candidates, their agents or the agents of lists concerning the application of the polling rules in accordance with the provisions of the Election Law and the instructions issued thereunder, and its decisions shall be enforceable immediately upon their issuance.
- b. The objections referred to in paragraph (a) of this Article shall be submitted, in duplicate, on the form adopted by the Board, and one copy shall be returned to the objector after the committee has taken its decision thereon.
- c. The objections, decisions and procedures taken in accordance with the provisions of this Article shall be recorded in special minutes.

Article (10)

- a. If it becomes apparent to the polling and counting committee that a person has impersonated another person or used another person's name for the purpose of voting, that person shall be prevented from voting, and the chairperson of the polling and counting committee shall refer him or her, together with the two cards, to the competent Public Prosecutor, in accordance with the form adopted for this purpose, and the procedures taken shall be recorded in special minutes.
- b. Voters are prohibited from using mobile telephones or any means of photography or recording inside the polling room in any manner whatsoever.

Article (11)

- a. Polling shall close at seven o'clock in the evening.
- b. If polling is extended by the Board of the Commission in any electoral district, polling shall close at the end of the extension period, which shall not exceed two hours.
- c. The polling room shall be closed at the end of the polling period and voters shall not be allowed to enter it, unless voters are present in the polling and counting centre at the time polling closes, in which case their voting procedures shall be completed.
- d. Subject to paragraph (c) of this Article, the chairperson of the polling and counting committee shall request the Public Security personnel not to allow any voter or any unauthorized person to enter the polling and counting room.

Article (12)

Upon completion of polling and before the counting of votes begins, the polling and counting committee shall draw up minutes, in duplicate, for each of the two ballot boxes, in accordance with the form adopted by the Board, signed by the chairperson of the polling and counting committee and its two members and by any of the candidates, their agents and the agents of lists present who so wish, which shall include:

- a. The governorate;
- b. The local electoral district;
- c. The name of the polling and counting centre;
- d. The box number;
- e. The numbers of the box seals;
- f. The number of ballot papers received by the committee;
- g. The number of voters who exercised their right to vote according to the paper register of voters;

- h. The number of ballot papers used in voting;
- i. The number of unused ballot papers;
- j. The number of ballot papers cancelled or spoiled and the reason therefor.

Tabulation and Counting of Votes

Article (13)

- a. Votes shall be counted in the same room in which polling took place, in the presence of any of the candidates, their agents, the agents of lists and the accredited local and international observers and media representatives who so wish.
- b. The chairperson of the polling and counting committee shall assign one of the assistant staff members to record the votes obtained by each candidate or list on the board designated for that purpose, which shall be visible to those present.

Article (14)

- a. The polling and counting committee shall first open the box designated for the general electoral district, count the number of papers inside it and verify that it matches the number of voters according to the paper register of voters.
- b. The chairperson of the polling and counting committee, or the member of the committee designated by him or her, shall read out each ballot paper in a clear voice and display it clearly to those present, and the vote for the list marked on the paper shall be recorded on the designated board opposite the name of the list.
- c. The ballot papers obtained by each list shall be placed separately, counted and compared with the figures recorded on the board for each list.
- d. Upon completion of the counting of the votes of the general electoral district box, the polling and counting committee shall draw up minutes in five copies in accordance with the form adopted by the Board, signed by the chairperson of the committee, its two members and any of the candidates, their agents or the agents of lists present who so wish, which shall include:
 - 1. The governorate;
 - 2. The local electoral district;
 - 3. The name of the polling and counting centre;
 - 4. The box number;
 - 5. The numbers of the box seals;
 - 6. The number of general electoral district ballot papers received by the committee;
 - 7. The number of papers found in the box;
 - 8. The number of voters for the box according to the paper register of voters;
 - 9. The number of ballot papers not counted, including: (a) the number of papers other than the approved ballot papers, if any; (b) the number of ballot papers not bearing the stamp of the local electoral district or not signed by the chairperson of the polling and counting committee, if any; (c) the number of blank, invalid and cancelled ballot papers and the reason therefor;
 - 10. The names and numbers of the lists in the general electoral district and the number of votes obtained by each list;

11. The names of the candidates, their agents or the agents of lists, and the names of the observers present in the polling and counting room.
- e. The data entry clerk shall enter the counting minutes referred to in paragraph (d) of this Article into the electronic electoral information system under the supervision of the chairperson of the polling and counting committee.
- f. The chairperson of the polling and counting committee or one of its two members shall post a copy of the minutes referred to in paragraph (c)¹³ of this Article at the entrance of the polling and counting room.

Article (15)

- a. Upon completion of the counting of the votes of the general electoral district box in accordance with the provisions of Article (14) of these Instructions, the polling and counting committee shall open the box designated for the local electoral district, count the number of papers inside it and verify that it matches the number of voters according to the paper register of voters.
- b. The chairperson of the committee, or the member designated by him or her, shall read out each ballot paper in a clear voice and display it clearly to those present, and the vote for the candidate whose name is written on the paper, or opposite whose photograph a mark is made, shall be recorded on the designated board opposite the name of that candidate.
- c. The ballot papers obtained by each candidate shall be placed separately, counted and compared with the figure recorded on the board for each candidate.
- d. Upon completion of the counting of the votes of the local electoral district box, the polling and counting committee shall draw up minutes in five copies in accordance with the form adopted by the Board, signed by the chairperson of the committee, its two members and any of the candidates, their agents or the agents of lists present who so wish, which shall include:
1. The governorate;
 2. The local electoral district;
 3. The name of the polling and counting centre;
 4. The box number;
 5. The numbers of the box seals;
 6. The number of local electoral district ballot papers received by the committee;
 7. The number of papers found in the box;
 8. The number of voters for the box according to the paper register of voters;
 9. The number of ballot papers not counted, including: (a) the number of papers other than the approved ballot papers, if any; (b) the number of ballot papers not bearing the stamp of the local electoral district or not signed by the chairperson of the polling and counting committee, if any; (c) the number of blank, invalid and cancelled ballot papers and the reason therefor;
 10. The names of the candidates in the local electoral district and the number of votes obtained by each candidate;

¹³Thus in the Arabic original; the reference appears to be intended to paragraph (d), which sets out the counting minutes.

11. The names of the candidates, their agents or the agents of lists, and the names of the observers present in the polling and counting room.
- e. The data entry clerk shall enter the counting minutes referred to in paragraph (d) of this Article into the electronic electoral information system under the supervision of the chairperson of the polling and counting committee.
- f. The chairperson of the polling and counting committee or one of its two members shall post a copy of the minutes referred to in paragraph (c)¹⁴ of this Article at the entrance of the polling and counting room.

Article (16)

If, during the counting of the two ballot boxes in accordance with the provisions of Articles (14) and (15) of these Instructions, a ballot paper is found to have been placed by mistake in a box other than the one designated for it, it shall be counted among the ballot papers of the box designated for it, and this fact shall be reflected in the counting minutes of both boxes.

Invalid Ballot Papers

Article (17)

- a. A ballot paper shall be deemed invalid in any of the following cases:
1. If it does not bear the stamp of the local electoral district or is not signed by the chairperson of the polling and counting committee;
 2. If the paper contains words or additions indicating the name of the voter;
 3. If the name of the candidate written on it is illegible, or if it is impossible to determine the list that has been marked;
 4. If more than one list has been marked on the ballot paper of the general electoral district.
- b. If the ballot paper contains more than one name, whether written or marked, the first name shall be taken.
- c. If the name of the same candidate is repeated on the ballot paper, it shall be counted once.

Article (18)

If, after the counting of the votes in any box, it becomes apparent that the number of papers stamped and signed by the chairperson of the polling and counting committee exceeds or falls short of the number of voters for that box, the following procedures shall be followed:

- a. The polling and counting committee shall recount the number of ballot papers and the number of voters more than once for the purpose of reconciliation and to confirm whether or not there is an excess or shortfall.
- b. The chairperson of the polling and counting committee shall immediately notify the head of elections, who shall in turn notify the Chairman.
- c. The polling and counting committee shall continue its procedures.
- d. The Board may assign the competent election committee to verify the matter.
- e. If it becomes apparent to the competent election committee that there is an excess or shortfall in ballot papers exceeding 2% of the number of voters, it shall inform the

¹⁴Thus in the Arabic original; the reference appears to be intended to paragraph (d).

Chairman of the Board thereof, and the Board may decide as it deems appropriate in light of the effect of this on the final result of the election in the electoral district.

Adjudication of Objections Submitted During Counting

Article (19)

- a. The polling and counting committee shall adjudicate objections submitted by candidates, their agents or the agents of lists during the counting of votes, and its decisions thereon shall be enforceable immediately upon their issuance, provided that they are recorded in special minutes.
- b. The objections referred to in paragraph (a) of this Article shall be submitted, in duplicate, on the form adopted by the Board, and one copy shall be returned to the objector after the committee has taken its decision thereon.

Procedures for Delivering the Minutes to the Election Committees

Article (20)

- a. Upon completion of the counting of the two ballot boxes and the preparation of the counting minutes, the polling and counting committee shall:
 1. Place the first copy of the counting minutes of the two boxes in two envelopes, which shall be sealed, one for the local electoral district box and the other for the general electoral district box;
 2. Bundle the remaining polling and counting minutes, the special minutes, the registers of voters, the voter lists, and the used, unused, invalid and cancelled ballot papers relating to the two boxes, and place each bundle in its designated envelope.
- b. The chairperson of the polling and counting committee shall immediately deliver the envelopes referred to in paragraph (a) of this Article to the competent head of elections.
- c. The delivery and receipt of the envelopes referred to in this Article shall be effected by means of special minutes.

Article (21)

- a. The election committee shall tabulate the votes obtained by the candidates of the local electoral district from all the counting minutes of the polling and counting committees and shall draw up minutes of these results in five copies. The chairperson of the election committee shall announce the preliminary results for the winner or winners of the seats of the local electoral district and shall send to the Commission a copy of the minutes and of all the decisions of the committee, together with the envelopes and papers relating to the electoral process in that district.
- b. The election committee shall tabulate the votes obtained by the electoral lists from all the counting minutes of the polling and counting committees for the general electoral district boxes and shall draw up minutes in five copies of the results of these lists in the local electoral district, and the chairperson of the election committee shall send to the Commission a copy of the minutes and of all the decisions of the committee, together with the envelopes and papers relating to the electoral process for the general electoral district.
- c. The delivery and receipt of the envelopes referred to in this Article shall be effected by means of special minutes.

Article (22)

The administrative liaison officer at the polling and counting centre shall safeguard, collect and arrange the transport of the following materials to the headquarters of the competent election committee:

- Empty ballot boxes;
- Voting booths;
- The special ink;
- Any other polling and counting materials and supplies.

Article (23)

The Board shall adopt the forms necessary for the implementation of these Instructions.

Board of Commissioners of the Commission

28/11/2012

Executive Instructions No. (11) of 2012 on the Rules of Electoral Campaigns

Issued pursuant to Paragraph (f) of Article (12) of the Independent Election Commission Law No. (11) of 2012

Article (1)

These Instructions shall be cited as the “Executive Instructions on the Rules of Electoral Campaigns of 2012” and shall enter into force as of the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

Article (2)

For the purposes of these Instructions, the definitions set out in the Independent Election Commission Law No. (11) of 2012 and the Law on the Election of the House of Representatives No. (25) of 2012, as amended, shall apply.

Article (3)

Electoral campaigning by candidates shall begin on the date on which candidacy opens and shall end at the end of the day preceding polling day.

Article (4)

Electoral campaigning shall be free in accordance with the provisions of the law.

Article (5)

Advertisements and statements setting out the objectives, plans and programmes of action of candidates in the local electoral districts and of lists in the general electoral district shall be exempt from licensing and fees, provided that they bear the names of the candidates or of their electoral lists.

Article (6)

The Commission and the election committees shall monitor the compliance of candidates with the provisions of the law and these Instructions in carrying out campaign and electoral campaigning activities. The Commission or the chairpersons of the election committees may request the relevant government institutions, the municipalities, the Greater Amman Municipality Council, municipal councils and the like, the candidates themselves, the commissioners of lists or any of the candidates on them, to remove or stop any form of campaigning in violation, at the expense of the candidate or list concerned.

Article (7)

Subject to the provisions of Articles (23) and (25) of the Law on the Election of the House of Representatives, candidates in the local electoral district and lists in the general electoral district shall, in their electoral campaigns:

- a. Abide by the provisions of the Constitution and the legislation in force;
- b. Respect the freedom of opinion and thought of others;
- c. Preserve national unity and the security and stability of the homeland, and refrain from discrimination between citizens;
- d. Refrain from using the official emblem of the State in electoral meetings, advertisements and leaflets and in all types of writings, drawings and images used in campaigning and electoral campaigns;

- e. Refrain from campaigning in ministries, government departments, official and public institutions, educational institutions and places of worship;
- f. Refrain from using any property or equipment owned by government and public departments and institutions in electoral campaigning;
- g. Refrain from interfering with, or encouraging interference with, the electoral campaign material of other candidates or lists by defacing, tearing or other means, whether personally or through their assistants and supporters in the electoral campaign;
- h. Refrain from using loudspeakers on vehicles for campaign purposes;
- i. Refrain from affixing or placing any electoral advertisement or statement, including pictures, drawings and writings, on walls, telephone and electricity poles, traffic signs and public property, or placing them in a manner that endangers public safety, and abide by the instructions of the competent authorities regarding campaign locations;
- j. Refrain from using defamation or slander against any candidate or list or any other supporter of candidates or lists, directly or indirectly, in electoral campaigning;
- k. Refrain from exercising any form of pressure, intimidation, accusations of treason, or dangling inducements or promises of material or moral gains for the purpose of influencing voters' choices and inducing them to elect, or preventing them from electing, a particular candidate or list;
- l. Refrain from holding rallies and gatherings at a distance of less than two hundred metres from polling and counting centres;
- m. Refrain from including in statements, speeches or advertisements any expressions or drawings that incite sectarian, tribal, regional, local or racial strife among citizens, or that encourage citizens to obstruct the conduct of the electoral process for any reason whatsoever;
- n. Refrain from carrying out any type of electoral campaigning inside polling and counting centres throughout the electoral process;
- o. Refrain from exploiting children or employing them in work likely to endanger their safety.

Article (8)

- a. Holders of senior positions in official and public institutions are prohibited from interfering or exploiting their positions in the service of any candidate or list.
- b. Employees of the Government and of official and public institutions, the Mayor of Amman, the members and employees of the Greater Amman Municipality Council, and the heads, members and employees of municipal councils are prohibited from campaigning for any of the candidates at their places of work; the use of any means or assets owned by these institutions in the electoral campaigning of any candidate is likewise prohibited.

Article (9)

- a. Candidates shall remove all campaign materials within a period not exceeding seven days from the day following polling day.
- b. In the event of a court decision rejecting a candidacy, the candidate or the list's commissioner shall remove all campaign materials within a period not exceeding seven days from the day following the issuance of the court decision.

c. In the event of a violation of paragraphs (a) and (b) of this Article, the Commission may request the competent governmental and non-governmental authorities to remove such materials at the expense of the candidate or list concerned, without the need to serve notice on either of them.

d. The Ministry of Public Works, the municipalities, the Greater Amman Municipality Council and the like shall take the necessary measures, in accordance with the provisions of the laws and instructions in force, to ensure the application of paragraph (c) of this Article.

Article (10)

a. Official media outlets shall observe the following principles:

1. Complete neutrality and no bias towards any candidate or electoral list when holding debates between candidates;
2. Respect for the freedom of voters to express their opinions and choose their candidates;
3. Equal treatment of all candidates and electoral lists;
4. Independence and objectivity, and refraining from implying support by the Government or any party for any of the candidates or lists.

b. When providing paid electoral advertising services, private media outlets shall observe the principles of equality and equal opportunity among candidates and among electoral lists.

c. Media outlets shall not publish any advertising material likely to offend any candidate or list.

Article (11)

Subject to the provisions of Articles (63) and (65) of the Law on the Election of the House of Representatives, candidates in the local electoral districts and lists in the general electoral district shall:

- a. Not accept any donations or material or financial contributions from foreign States and governments, official or non-governmental international organizations, foreign companies or foreign nationals, whether in cash or in kind or in any other form of support;
- b. Not accept any donations or contributions in cash or in kind from funds that the candidate or list knows to have been collected from illegitimate sources, such as stolen funds, donations from organizations operating in violation of the law, or funds of persons wanted by justice;
- c. Not offer, or promise to offer, any donations, gifts or assistance in cash or in kind, or any other benefits, to any natural or legal person, directly or indirectly, in return for obtaining voter cards, obtaining their votes or preventing them from voting for a particular candidate or list.

Article (12)

The Commission may request any candidate and the commissioner of any list to disclose the sources of funding of the electoral campaign of that candidate or list and the manner in which those resources were spent, in a manner not inconsistent with the law and these Instructions.

Article (13)

a. Candidates in the local electoral districts and lists in the general electoral district, their agents and their supporters in their electoral campaigns shall abide by the provisions of the law and these Instructions, under penalty of legal liability.

b. The Chairman and members of the Board, the chairpersons and members of the election committees and the chairpersons of the polling and counting committees shall exercise the powers of judicial police officers in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure in force.

Article (14)

The Board shall adopt the forms necessary for the implementation of these Instructions.

Board of Commissioners of the Commission

18/12/2012

Executive Instructions No. (12) of 2012 on the Accreditation of Agents of Candidates and Lists in the Local and General Electoral Districts

Issued pursuant to Article (12) of the Independent Election Commission Law No. (11) of 2012

Article (1)

These Instructions shall be cited as the “Executive Instructions on the Accreditation of Agents of Candidates and Lists in the Local and General Electoral Districts of 2012” and shall enter into force as of the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

Article (2)

For the purposes of these Instructions, the definitions set out in the Law on the Election of the House of Representatives No. (25) of 2012, as amended, shall apply.

Article (3)

A person to be accredited as an agent of candidates in the local and general electoral districts shall:

1. Be of Jordanian nationality;
2. Have completed eighteen years of age on the date of issuance of the decision accrediting him or her;
3. Not be accredited as a local observer of the electoral process;
4. Not be an agent for more than one candidate or list.

Article (4)

The mechanism for the accreditation of agents of lists in the general electoral district shall be as follows:

- a. The list’s commissioner shall, at least ten days before polling day, submit an application to the Board for the accreditation of the list’s agents to enter and observe the polling and counting centres, in accordance with the form adopted by the Board for this purpose.
- b. Accreditation applications shall be delivered to the Board by the list’s commissioner in person at the Commission’s headquarters, accompanied by the following documents:
 1. A list of the names and photographs of the list’s agents, in accordance with the form adopted by the Board;
 2. A copy of the identity card of each of the agents named in the list referred to in item (1) above.
- c. The Commission shall verify the applications and their fulfilment of all the foregoing requirements, and may accept the accreditation of the list’s agents or reject it in whole or in part.
- d. The Commission shall issue accreditation cards to the agents of lists whose accreditation applications have been accepted, in accordance with the form adopted by the Commission for this purpose.
- e. The Commission shall publish the names of the accredited agents of lists on its website.

Article (5)

The mechanism for the accreditation of agents of candidates in the local electoral district shall be as follows:

- a. The candidate shall, at least ten days before polling day, submit an application to the chairperson of the election committee for the accreditation of his or her agents to enter and observe the polling and counting centres, in accordance with the form adopted by the Board for this purpose.
- b. Accreditation applications shall be delivered to the chairperson of the committee by the candidate in person at the headquarters of the election committee, accompanied by the following documents:
 - 1. A list of the names and photographs of the candidate's agents, in accordance with the form adopted by the Board for this purpose;
 - 2. A copy of the identity card of each of the agents named in the list referred to in item (1) above.
- c. The election committee shall verify the applications and their fulfilment of all the foregoing requirements, and may accept the accreditation of the candidate's agents or reject it in whole or in part.
- d. The election committee shall issue accreditation cards to the candidate's agents whose accreditation applications have been accepted, in accordance with the form adopted by the Commission for this purpose.
- e. The Commission shall publish the names of the accredited agents of candidates on its website.

Article (6)

A candidate or a list's commissioner may apply to the Commission or to the election committee, as the case may be, to terminate the accreditation of any of their agents, and shall return to the Commission the accreditation card of the agent whose accreditation has been terminated.

Article (7)

The Commission shall publish on its website the names of the agents of candidates and lists whose accreditation has been terminated and shall notify the election committees concerned thereof.

Article (8)

No candidate or list may have more than one agent in the polling and counting room.

Article (9)

Agents of candidates and lists shall:

- a. Respect the Constitution, the laws and legislation in force and the executive instructions issued by the Commission;
- b. Carry and display the accreditation card throughout their presence in the polling and counting centres; any person not carrying this card shall be denied entry to the polling and counting centres;
- c. Not carry weapons of any kind, or commit or encourage acts of violence, on polling day;
- d. Cooperate with the agents of other candidates and lists and refrain from obstructing them;

- e. Comply with the instructions and orders of the chairpersons and members of the polling and counting committees, and refrain from influencing or attempting to influence the freedom of the elections or obstructing the electoral process in any manner whatsoever;
- f. Refrain from any form of electoral campaigning, and from any word or act likely to affect the freedom of voters, inside the polling and counting centres on polling day;
- g. Refrain from using mobile telephones or any means of photography or recording inside the polling and counting room in any manner whatsoever.

Article (10)

During polling and counting day, agents of candidates and lists shall be entitled to:

- a. Be present inside the polling and counting room to observe the proceedings of polling and counting, and sign all minutes drawn up by the polling and counting committee;
- b. Verify that the two ballot boxes are empty and observe their locking;
- c. Submit objections, in duplicate, concerning the application of the polling and counting rules in accordance with the law and the executive instructions, on the form adopted for this purpose, and receive one of the two copies after the committee has taken its decision thereon;
- d. Observe the tabulation of the votes obtained by each candidate and each list and the announcement of the preliminary results by the election committee in the electoral district.

Article (11)

The Board shall adopt the forms necessary for the implementation of the provisions of these Instructions.

Board of Commissioners of the Commission

11/12/2012

Executive Instructions No. (13) of 2012 on the Accreditation of Local and International Journalists, Media Professionals and Staff of Audiovisual and Print Media Outlets to Cover the Electoral Process

Issued pursuant to Paragraph (k) of Article (12) of the Independent Election Commission Law No. (11) of 2012

Article (1)

These Instructions shall be cited as the “Executive Instructions on the Accreditation of Local and International Journalists, Media Professionals and Staff of Audiovisual and Print Media Outlets to Cover the Electoral Process of 2012” and shall enter into force as of the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

Article (2)

Journalists and media professionals wishing to cover the electoral process shall be accredited as follows:

- a. The accreditation application shall be submitted on the form prepared for this purpose, together with the names of the journalists, media professionals, photographers and technicians and a recent personal photograph of each of them.
- b. Accreditation applications shall be delivered to the Commission directly or by e-mail.
- c. The Commission may accept or reject the accreditation application, and the persons concerned shall be notified of the gist of this decision. Where applications are rejected in whole or in part, the press or media organization shall be informed in writing of the reasons for the rejection.
- d. The Commission shall issue accreditation cards to the journalists and media professionals whose applications have been accepted.
- e. The accreditation cards shall be handed over to the journalists and media professionals, who shall sign an acknowledgement of their receipt.
- f. The Commission shall cease receiving accreditation applications no later than 10/1/2013.

Article (3)

Journalists and media professionals wishing to cover the proceedings of the electoral process independently shall meet the following requirements:

1. Jordanian journalists and media professionals shall:
 - a. Have completed eighteen years of age;
 - b. Be currently working in the field of journalism and media;
 - c. Submit documents proving their affiliation with a media organization;
 - d. Abide by the rules of the code of conduct for media representatives and the decisions issued by the Commission;
 - e. Undertake not to use the card issued by the Commission for purposes other than those for which it is intended, and not to allow its use by any other person.
2. Foreign journalists and media professionals shall:
 - a. Belong to press and media organizations accredited to carry out media activity inside Jordan;

- b. Carry a press or media card, in the case of those not accredited with the official authorities;
- c. Undertake to respect the code of conduct and the decisions of the Commission.

Article (4)

Every person accredited to cover the electoral process shall have the right to:

- a. Obtain from the Commission the publishable data relating to the conduct of the various stages of the electoral process;
- b. Enter polling and counting centres;
- c. Benefit from the services provided by the Commission's media centre;
- d. Conduct interviews with the authorized officials of the election committees;
- e. Submit a complaint directly to the Commission's liaison officer at polling and counting centres if he or she encounters anything that obstructs his or her work.

Article (5)

The Commission may terminate the accreditation of any journalist or media professional who violates the provisions of the legislation in force, these Instructions on the accreditation of journalists and media professionals or the code of conduct applicable to them. The Commission shall notify the decision to terminate accreditation to the organization to which the person belongs, and the organization shall return the accreditation card to the Commission immediately.

Article (6)

A press or media organization may terminate the accreditation of any of its journalists and media professionals for the same reasons set out in Article (5) of these Instructions, and shall inform the Commission of this decision in writing and return the accreditation card or cards to the Commission.

Article (7)

Accredited press and media organizations, journalists and media professionals shall abide by the following:

- a. Respect for the laws in force, the rules and ethics of the profession, the legislation regulating the profession of journalism and the media, and the code of conduct;
- b. Cooperation with the Commission, compliance with the instructions issued by it and coordination with it for the purpose of ensuring the proper conduct of the electoral process and of the media coverage;
- c. Ensuring objective, balanced and neutral media coverage of the electoral process;
- d. The rules and controls contained in the executive instructions on electoral campaigning;
- e. Respect for the principle of neutrality, and refraining from publishing to the public any media material likely to harm the electoral process or to incite violence;
- f. Not accepting money in return for publishing incorrect information or withholding correct information.

Article (8)

All accredited press and media organizations, journalists and media professionals shall abide by the following on polling day:

- a. Carrying the accreditation card issued by the Commission and displaying it inside and outside the polling and counting centre; no coverage shall be accepted without it;
- b. Not wearing or carrying any logo, pictures or symbols of any candidate or list, and not calling for votes for any candidate or list;
- c. Not causing disorder or disturbance inside the polling and counting centre;
- d.¹⁵ Refraining from any conduct that would disrupt the work of the polling and counting committee, obstruct the electoral process or influence voters;
- e. Not entering the voting booth inside the polling room or taking photographs that may violate the principle of the secrecy of the ballot;
- f. Complying fully with the requests of the chairperson of the polling and counting committee.

Article (9)

The Commission shall undertake the following:

- a. Creating favourable conditions and taking the necessary measures to facilitate the accreditation of journalists, media professionals and press and media organizations, by:
 - 1. Making all forms relating to the accreditation of local and foreign journalists and media professionals available by publishing them on the Commission's website and providing hard copies where necessary;
 - 2. Examining accreditation applications and taking the necessary measures thereon within a timeframe that allows press and media organizations to cover the electoral process;
 - 3. Raising the awareness of the election committees, the polling and counting committees and all those working in the administration of the electoral process of the mechanism for dealing with media representatives.
- b. Coordinating with press and media organizations and providing them with the necessary information whenever possible.
- c. Adhering to the principle of transparency and respecting the right of access to information of organizations providing media coverage of the electoral process, by publishing all legislation relating to the conduct of the electoral process, as well as media materials, on the Commission's website.

Article (10)

The Board shall adopt the forms necessary for the implementation of the provisions of these Instructions.

Board of Commissioners

17/12/2012

¹⁵The Arabic original numbers the paragraphs of this Article (a), (b), (c), (e), (f), (g), omitting (d); the paragraphs have been lettered consecutively in this translation.