Joint Training on Effective Electoral Assistance

European Commission
United Nations Development Programme
International IDEA

DAY 1
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EU Electoral Observation Missions

Steffano Gatto
Head of Sector, Election Desk
RELEX B1 EC

Joint Training on Effective Electoral Assistance
Day 1
Election Observation – four questions:

- What is the history of EU EOMs?
- What is the aim of EU EOMs?
- What methodology is used on EU EOMs?
- What is the future for EU EOMs?
History of EU Election Observation

- 1993 in the Russian Federation and 1994 in South Africa

- Until 2000 ad-hoc, case by case approach


- Since 2000, 40+ EU EOMs deployed to Africa, Asia, Central and South America
Genuine elections are an essential step for democracy,

Important element in the full enjoyment of a wide range of human rights

Important impact on the rule of law and the legitimacy of institutional frameworks
Aim of EU Election Observation

Specifically:

- provide independent, neutral and professional assessment of the election process
- enhance public confidence
- deter fraud, irregularities and intimidation
- contribute to conflict prevention and resolution
- recommend possible improvements
Programming / Election priorities

- From 8 to 14 EU EOMs per year;
- From 13M€ in 2004 to €30M€+ in 2006
- Election calendar; “priority” and “to be followed”
- All geographical services consulted
- Consultation of Policy Unit and Working Groups of the Council
- Information of EP Election Coordination Group
- Political decision of Commissioner Ferrero-Waldner
Exploratory Mission

- Relex + Aidco + Desk + Experts + Delegation
- Advisable? Useful? Feasible?
- Minimum conditions
  - franchise is generally universal
  - political parties and candidates are able to take part in election
  - freedom of expression and movement
  - reasonable access to the media for all
- Final decision by Commissioner Ferrero Waldner
Memorandum of Understanding

- Negotiated by Delegation under instructions from Relex (election observation desk)
- Memorandum of Understanding signed between EC Delegation and the Government and/or
- Memorandum of Understanding signed between EC Delegation and election administration
- (+ MOU with the UN where necessary)
Assessment of the election against international standards

2005 Declaration of International Principles for International Election Observation

Observe all aspect of the electoral process:
- legislative framework
- election administration
- campaign
- media coverage
- voting, counting and tabulation of results
- complaints and appeals
Preliminary Statement

- usually issued within 48 hours after an election
- most important document issued by the EOM
- high visibility

STATEMENT OF PRELIMINARY CONCLUSIONS AND FINDINGS

Open and well-run parliamentary elections strengthen Palestinian commitment to democratic institutions.

Jerusalem, 31 January 2006

The European Union Election Observation Mission (EUEOM) has been present in the West Bank and Gaza since 13 December 2005 following an invitation from the Central Election Commission (CEC) of Palestine. The Mission is led by Chief Observer Mr. Richard Graham, Deputy High Representative of the European Union. In total, the EUEOM deployed over 110 observers from 20 member states and five candidate countries. The observers were deployed for election day, observation and monitoring and are present in addition to the Declaration of Observers (DO) for general democratic elections. The EUEOM was joined by a 25-member delegation from the European Parliament, the first electoral parliamentary observer delegation led by Mr. Edward McMillan-Scott, MEP of the United Kingdom, who endorsed this Statement. On election day, the observers visited over 400 polling stations in 17 of the 18 electoral districts in West Bank and Gaza to observe voting and counting. The EUEOM is currently observing the counting and audit validation procedures and will remain in country to observe all aspects of the post-election process.

PRELIMINARY CONCLUSIONS:

- The 31 January elections in the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) have led to much-needed parliamentary elections in the building of democratic institutions. These elections saw impressive voter participation in an open and fairly-contested electoral process that was efficiently administered by a professional and independent Palestinian Central Election Commission (CEC).

- As with the 2005 presidential election, the Palestinian people have demonstrated overwhelming commitment to determine their political future via democratic means. In view of the circumstances in which the election took place - a background of delay, unverifiable levels of pre-campaign violence and an occupation that placed restrictions on the exercise of fundamental freedoms related to elections.

- Voting on 31 January proceeded smoothly and peacefully with an impressive turnout of 77% percent of the total number of registered voters. Procedures were well-done by CEC polling staff and observers and candidate representatives were present in almost all polling stations. The procedures for counting were similarly effective. Campaigning was seen to take place both inside and outside of polling stations, often rigorously and in circumstances of the law. There were numerous confrontations with the election staff in East Jerusalem.

- The CEC conducts a high degree of public confidence. It maintained integrity in the face of intimidation, including attacks on its building and threats against staff, that sought to influence the candidate registration process. These attempts to pressure the election administration, all of which have been misguided, reflect a culture of impunity for all groups that the Palestinian leadership must demonstrate more determination to end.

- Candidates from across the whole political spectrum participated in the elections. The campaign took place in a generally calm and positive atmosphere, with an absence of provocative rhetoric. However, restrictions by Israeli forces on the freedom of movement by candidates and voters reduced the scope for genuine free elections. Authority restrictions on campaigning and the freedom of assembly by candidates in East Jerusalem led to a number of arrests and prevented a proper campaign from taking place in the city.
Final Report

- Issued approx. one to two months after
- Comments on all aspects of the elections
- Includes possible recommendations to improve the process
- Increasingly important document in terms of follow-up
EU EOM: Implementation

* during which:
1. Circulation of regular reports from the Mission to the Commission, Council, EP
2. Regular consultations between CO and Commission’s Services (Del + HQ) and EU M States

** The EU Presidency may also make a Declaration subsequent to the EOM’s statement
Core Team

- Usually between six to ten team members
- Deployed for around two months to assess the election process following standard methodology
- Co-ordinates and manages the deployment of LTOs and STOs
- Led by a Chief Observer, usually MEP, appointed by Commissioner for External Relations
Core Team Members

- Chief Observer
- Deputy Chief Observer
- Legal Expert/Election Analyst
- Country Expert
- Media Expert/Press Officer
- LTO Co-ordinator
- Operations Expert
- Security Expert
- SERVICE PROVIDER
Long Term Observers (LTOs)

- Proposed by Member States via EC Roster
- Deployed for around six weeks in pairs throughout the country
- Between 15-60 LTOs
- Follow electoral process at regional level
- Co-ordinate STOs
Short Term Observers (STOs)

- Proposed by Member States via EC Roster
- Deployed for around ten days over the election day period
- Observe voting, counting and tabulation of results
- Usually between 50-100 STOs
- Can be joined by MEPs or locally recruited observers
Future Developments

- Further development of methodology in areas such as women and national minority participation, electronic voting, etc...
- Increased focus on follow-up
- Mainstream EOM findings and recommendations at various levels including:
  - EU declarations
  - Political dialogue
  - EIDHR programming
  - Co-operation programmes
- Greater involvement in post-conflict elections
Follow-up of EUEOM recommendations: Hurdles

- Negotiation with National Authorities and EMBs
- Involvement of Member States
- Interaction with other actors, especially UN
- Electoral Assistance Scenarios
- Changes of staff at Delegation, HQ, EMBs...
- Recommendations need to be drafted in such a way to be translated in activities
- EUEOM: Limited of knowledge of electoral assistance, development cooperation and Project Cycle Management mechanisms
- PIF, PF, FA, CA, QSG and ISC, EDF Committee...
Follow-up of EUEOM recommendations: solutions

- Mechanisms to institutionalize follow-up
- Better coordination between EC services
- Sierra Leone, Nigeria and DRC case
- Electoral Cycle Approach
- Methodological Guide on Electoral Assistance
- Training on Effective Electoral Assistance for implementing agencies and electoral consultants
- Synergies with NEEDS
- How to: indicated in the Methodological Guide and new manual of EUEOM