



Electoral Assistance Project Update

(2 pages maximum)

For the period: 1-30 November 2020

Country: Libya

Project: Promoting Elections for the People of Libya (PEPOL)

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I. Highlights

Ahead of the start of the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum (LPDF), the Chairperson of the HNEC, Dr. Emad Al-Sayeh, underscored on 7 November that “the Commission is ready to fulfill its mandate and plan and implement national elections in December 2021, and is on standby for a constitutional referendum should the latter be decided. However, the Commission’s readiness is preconditioned by the provision of an enabling security environment and the availability of necessary and timely resources from the government for the required electoral operations”. A key outcome of the first round of the LPDF, convened through UNSMIL with the support of UNDP from 9-15 November in Tunis, calls for national elections on 24 December 2021 and includes the possibility of a constitutional referendum if the relevant institutions would decide so within the next 60 days.

In a press statement on 30 November, the UNDP Resident Representative, Mr. Gerardo Noto, stated that “the UNDP/UNSMIL Electoral Support Team (UNEST), including PEPOL project, will continue supporting the HNEC to conduct democratic national balloting events which are essential building blocks for an inclusive peacebuilding and political process, through ensuring citizens participation to regain the democratic legitimacy of public institutions in Libya”.

II. Project activities during the reporting period

- **Electoral outcome of the High Political Dialogue Forum (LPDF), Tunis, 9-15 November**

The Chairperson of the High National Elections Commission (HNEC) addressed on 7 November through a virtual link the participants of the Political Dialogue Forum (LPDF) ahead of the first round which was convened in-person in Tunis through UNSMIL with support from UNDP from 9 to 15 November. On 15 November, the LPDF adopted a political road map which envisages national elections on 24 December 2021, Libya's Independence Day, and possibly a constitutional track, the restructuring of the executive authority and the unification of institutions. On 16 November, Libya's Prime Minister issued a statement welcoming the outcomes of the LPDF and urging all parties to commit to the elections date of 24 December 2021. The PM announced the allocation of funds to HNEC and promised to make all resources available to enable the commission to perform its mandate.

Concerning the question of the Constitution, including a potential constitutional referendum, relevant institutions including the House of Representatives, the High Council of State and the Constitutional Drafting Assembly (CDA) have been mandated to agree on the way forward within 60 days. The LPDF has been mandated to meet regularly to monitor the implementation of the roadmap, and to act as a last resort mechanism, notably on the constitution and elections.

- **UNEST/PEPOL-HNEC electoral preparations following LPDF statements of elections on 24 December 2021 and potential referendum**

Commissioners of the High National Elections Commission (HNEC) and the UN Electoral Support Team (UNEST) had consecutive high-level meetings in person in Istanbul from 20 to 24 November to discuss in detail strategic planning and preparation for national elections next year on 24 December 2021. To strengthen coordination between electoral assistance providers that support HNEC and realize synergies, the meetings were co-attended by IFES, supported through USAID.

Anticipating the possibility of a referendum in the near future, HNEC and UNEST have drafted preliminary calculations for the procurement of electoral materials for such an electoral operation. These estimates are incorporated in the development of the work plan for the UNDP-managed 'PEPOL' project that covers readiness and assistance to both electoral events.

- **Donor engagement**

With funds from the European Union, Germany, Italy, The Netherlands, France, and the UK contributing to "Promoting Elections for the People of Libya" (PEPOL) project, an integrated UN team of electoral experts of UNDP and UNSMIL have been supporting Libya's High National Elections Commission (HNEC) since 2018 to enhance its institutional capacity to prepare for and deliver credible elections in Libya. Following the statement of the LPDF for national elections on 24 December 2021, UNDP and the HNEC are preparing a PEPOL Project Board meeting in December to inform existing and potentially new donor partners about the HNEC's and PEPOL project plans for elections in 2021 and to initiate resource mobilization. The Government of Italy and the Government of Germany already agreed to contribute still to PEPOL before the

end of 2020 EURO 850,000 and USD 400,000, respectively, to work on electoral preparations; while support for elections in 2021 is also being discussed with the EU, the Netherlands, France, and the UK. UNDP/PEPOL is also engaging in multilateral and bilateral meetings other partners to inform them on electoral updates and required resources for 2021.

On 12 November, the Ambassador of the Netherlands, H.E. Tummers visited the HNEC HQ in Tripoli and discussed with the Board of Commissioners readiness to conduct national elections, related challenges and technical assistance by UNEST/PEPOL. The Ambassador underscored Dutch support to the HNEC and noted that the Netherlands was positively considering a new funding request by the PEPOL project. On 3 December, the Commissioners of the HNEC welcomed the Ambassador of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland, H.E. Nicholas Hopton, at their Headquarters in Tripoli. During the meeting, HNEC's preparations and level of readiness were discussed to implement the upcoming electoral processes scheduled for 2021, as well as the technical and advisory support provided through the "PEPOL" project.

III. Upcoming

- Finalization of PEPOL 2021 Annual Work Plan
- PEPOL Board Meeting on 17 December
- UNEST/PEPOL follow-up meeting the HNEC Commissioners on electoral planning
- Refinement of concept note for procurement of electoral materials for referendum and national elections

IV. ANNEX: Photos

HNEC-UNEST-IFES meeting to prepare planning for national elections and possible referendum in 2021





Photos 1 - 3: HNEC-UNEST-IFES meeting to prepare planning for national elections and possible referendum. Istanbul, 20-24 November 2020. Photo credit: UNDP



Photos 4: Dutch Ambassador, H.E. Tummers, visiting electoral Commissioners at HNEC HQ, Tripoli, 12 November 2020. Photo credit: HNEC.



Photo 6: UNDP Libya team supporting the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum, Tunis, 9-15 November. Photo credit: UNDP