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Indications of a Critical Electoral Process Path

Election campaigns begin with the signing of the decree calling the electorate bodies and opening the door for legal candidacy, yet the situation is entirely different on the ground. From clientelism, which has become a norm in practice, to sharp and factional political discourse adopted by many political forces and players, especially with elections date approaching, to the economic collapse that has not only affected our daily lives, but transformed to a sharp political alignment and went beyond the use of violence in the street. Lebanon today is among bankrupt countries, mired in poverty due to decades of mismanagement and rampant corruption. In light of the deterioration of social welfare, in addition to the meager public services, the escalation of political violence, and the absence of political will in managing state affairs, especially elections, the path that the elections take seems to be under threat and requires all of us to raise our voices.

The tragic scenes that Beirut experienced on Thursday October 15, including killings, street wars and sectarian chants, put not only the elections, but the entire country in danger. The pace of chaos is accelerating, amid growing sectarian tensions, while the economy is in an unprecedented recession, state institutions are chronically paralyzed, and the Lebanese pound continues its free fall.

Hence, the Lebanese Association for Democratic Elections calls on the concerned parties, political actors and decision-makers to create a suitable environment conducive to holding elections that we hope will be fair, and to respect the deadlines for the electoral entitlement.



Therefore, we stress on the need to provide citizens with the opportunity to exercise their right, whether to vote or run for the 2022 elections, as well as to build confidence in the electoral process through:

- Adopting May to hold parliamentary elections instead of March 27, 2022, to secure the principle of equal opportunities for candidates to run for elections.
- Appointing a new Supervisory Commission of Elections and monitoring and disbursing the necessary funds for it to carry out its work in preparation the electoral process, and at the forefront of which is the media campaign for disseminating electoral culture and guiding voters.
- Establishing Megacenters in order to enable voters to vote in their places of residence, especially after the exorbitant increase in fuel prices, which are likely to rise, which may constitute an obstacle for many in terms of their access to their places of registration and allow the electoral machines to influence the freedom of their choices. These centers require only pre-registration, so that the electoral process proceeds smoothly, orderly and accurately, just as the procedures that were adopted for Lebanese abroad in 2018 to exercise their right to vote.

With the start of the countdown to the upcoming parliamentary elections, the Lebanese Association for Democratic Elections would like to confirm that it is closely following all the procedures related to the electoral process, and stresses the need for the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities and the government to assume their responsibilities in resolving all issues. The association also warns against any attempt to create security, political or technical pretexts that would delay or disrupt the election date.

LADE affirms that it is in the process of developing a comprehensive plan to monitor the elections, and that it will announce in subsequent press conferences the mechanisms for its implementation.





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As usual, the monitoring plan will not be limited to the election day, but will start in several stages before, during and after the elections. It includes the preliminary stage of the electoral process, including electoral campaigns and electoral spending, in addition to electoral media and advertising and the use of social media.

It is finally important to mention that the association stands at the same distance from all candidates, regardless of their political affiliations, whether they are from the parties in power, the opposition, or other political groups, and it will, of course, monitor the electoral campaigns of all candidates without exception.

