



2025- 2026

GEP DEEP DIVES

POLITICAL AND ELECTORAL REFORM

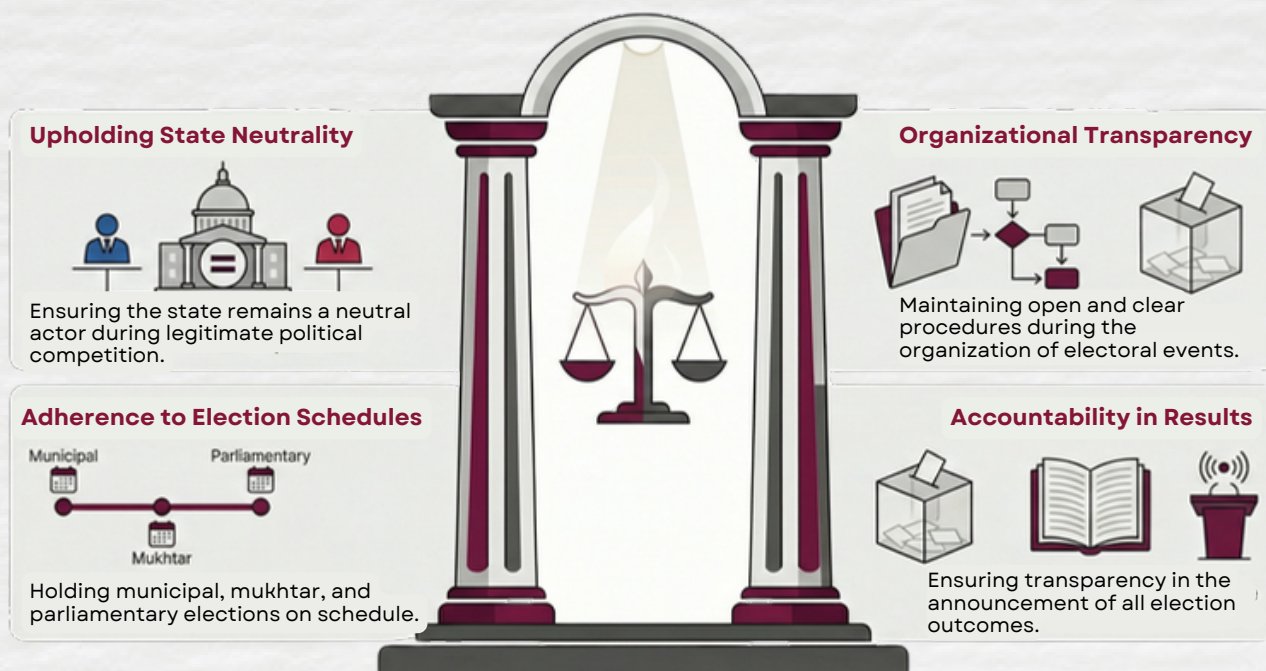


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I. MINISTERIAL STATEMENT PROMISES

The following commitments were made by the Lebanese government in its ministerial statement, forming the baseline against which actual progress is assessed across the Political and Electoral Reform sector.



II. AREAS WHERE PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE



1. Political Reform

- The ministerial statement reaffirmed **full commitment to the Taif National Accord**, particularly its provisions on extending state sovereignty exclusively through its own legitimate forces over all Lebanese territory, marking a decisive return to the Taif framework after years of de facto parallel authority.
- Ongoing **political discussions are underway on how to implement the remaining unexecuted provisions of the Taif Accord**, including the abolition of political sectarianism, administrative decentralization, the establishment of a Senate, and the enactment of a modern electoral law.

II. AREAS WHERE PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE (CONT'D)



2. Municipal & Local Elections

- **Municipal and mukhtar elections were held across four phases between 4 and 24 May 2025**, the first local elections held in nearly a decade after three consecutive postponements.
- The **elections engaged over 4 million registered voters to select representatives for 1,065 municipalities**, including 12,849 municipal council members and 3,196 mukhtars, and were conducted successfully despite ongoing security risks in southern regions, alongside administrative preparations to organize polling and manage logistics nationwide.



3. Parliamentary Elections

- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs launched a **dedicated online platform for Lebanese diaspora voter registration**, open from 2 October to 20 November 2025; approximately 152,050 diaspora members registered to vote by the final deadline.
- The Cabinet **approved and submitted to Parliament a draft law allowing citizens living abroad to vote for any of the 128 parliamentary seats** with their ballots counted in their home districts, with 65 MPs constituting a parliamentary majority backing the amendment, seeking to expand diaspora political participation beyond the restrictive six-seat quota under the current 2017 law.
- The decree convening the **electoral college for the 2026 parliamentary elections**, signed by Interior Minister Ahmad Hajjar, was published in the Official Gazette, setting Lebanese residents to vote on 10 May 2026, diaspora in certain Arab countries on 1 May, remaining expatriates on 3 May, and civil servants working during elections on 5 May.

III. AREAS WHERE EFFORTS CONTINUE TO EVOLVE - AGENDA IN PROGRESS

1 Political and Electoral Reform

DIASPORA VOTING MODALITY UNRESOLVED

DRAFT LAW PENDING
PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL

EXPANDS PARTICIPATION
TO ALL 128 SEATS



AMID POLITICAL OBSTRUCTION

ELECTORAL INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

A MEGA CENTERS
NOT YET IMPLEMENTED



B MEASURES TO ENHANCE
WOMEN'S POLITICAL
PARTICIPATION



YET TO BE IMPLEMENTED

TAIF ACCORD: INCOMPLETE IMPLEMENTATION

ABOLITION OF POLITICAL SECTARIANISM

ADMINISTRATIVE DECENTRALIZATION

ESTABLISHMENT OF A SENATE



BROADER FRAMEWORK FOR
POLITICAL REFORM UNFINISHED

MUNICIPAL & MUKHTAR ELECTION LEGISLATION CONTINUES TO REQUIRE STRUCTURAL ENHANCEMENT



INTRODUCE MEGA CENTERS TO
IMPROVE VOTER ACCESS



REFORM RESIDENCY-BASED
VOTING REQUIREMENT THAT
SUPPRESSES URBAN TURNOUT



STRONGER MECHANISMS FOR
INCLUSIVE & TRANSPARENT
LOCAL GOVERNANCE

IV. OVERALL ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

Commitment	Status	Note
Ensuring full adherence to the Constitution and the Taif National Accord		Ministerial statement reaffirmed full commitment to the Taif Accord; ongoing political discussions on unexecuted provisions including decentralization, abolition of sectarianism, and establishment of a Senate; full implementation remains incomplete
Conducting municipal and mukhtar elections on constitutional schedule		Municipal and mukhtar elections held across four phases in May 2025, the first in nearly a decade; over 4 million voters engaged across 1,065 municipalities despite security challenges
Conducting parliamentary elections on constitutional schedule		The modality of diaspora voting remains unresolved, with the draft law expanding participation to all 128 seats still pending parliamentary approval amid political obstruction.
Expanding diaspora participation in parliamentary elections		Online diaspora registration platform launched; approximately 152,050 diaspora members registered;
Strengthening electoral legislation and infrastructure		Lebanon Electoral Reform Initiative 2026 launched with EU support; post-election UNDP review conducted; however, key reforms including Mega Centers, women's political participation quotas, and residency-based voting requirements remain pending enactment



Note: RED - early ; YELLOW – moderate; GREEN – advanced



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