

## Statement No. 29

### **Subject: Instability in the Work of the Independent High Electoral Commission: Candidate Replacement as a Case Study**

The Electoral Expertise Center has detected a degree of instability in the performance of the Independent High Electoral Commission, particularly in managing the candidate replacement file, which constitutes one of the most sensitive procedures requiring clarity and consistency in legal and administrative positions to safeguard the principle of equal opportunity and ensure a stable electoral environment. The situation is as follows:

**First:** The Commission previously announced that September 4, 2025, would be the final date for replacing candidates, affirming that no replacement requests would be processed beyond that date. This announcement created a clear legal framework for political actors and candidates, establishing a legal status that must be respected.

**Second:** Despite this, the Commission altered its position when it adopted several replacement decisions under Extraordinary Report No. (71), dated October 9, 2025. This represented a departure from its earlier announcement and contributed to heightened uncertainty among electoral stakeholders.

**Third:** Only a few days later, the Commission reversed those decisions, as indicated in Regular Report No. (40), dated October 12, 2025, which canceled replacement decisions Nos. 3, 4, 5, and 6 contained in Extraordinary Report No. (71). This reinforced the sense of inconsistency and instability in the Commission's administrative decision-making process.

The lack of stability in decisions and procedures undermines institutional work and raises serious questions about the Commission's decision-making mechanisms, its adherence to the principle of legal certainty, and the stability of the legal status of political actors and candidates. Moreover, issuing contradictory decisions within such a short period weakens public trust in the electoral process and creates an impression of administrative inconsistency—at a time when the electoral process demands the highest levels of professionalism and discipline.

The Electoral Expertise Center emphasizes that confidence in the electoral process is built on the clarity of procedures and consistency of institutional decisions. Any reversal or contradiction in decisions—especially those related to candidates' rights—strikes at the core of electoral justice and necessitates serious consideration to prevent recurrence.

**Electoral Expertise Center for Studies and Training**

*2 November 2025*