

Beirut, June 23, 2022

**Press Statement by the Lebanese Transparency Association – No Corruption
on the Initial Findings of Monitoring the 2022 Parliamentary Elections**

In continuation of monitoring the 2022 parliamentary elections, the Lebanese Transparency Association – No Corruption (Transparency International's National Chapter), represented by its Executive Director Julien Courson, met with the Supervisory Commission for Elections' (SCE) president Judge Nadim Abd Al-Malek and its Treasurer Mr. Atallah Ghasham, to provide them with the initial findings of the monitoring process of campaign finance and the transparency of the relevant competent authorities concerned with the management and supervision of the electoral process.

LTA monitored the electoral expenditure through the monitoring of the activities of candidates and lists to identify the specific activities that fall under campaign finance, to then be used by the SCE in its auditing of the Monthly Financial Reports (MFR) and the Comprehensive Financial Report (CFR) that each candidate and list are obliged to submit to the SCE in accordance with Law No. 44/2017; Elections of the Members of Parliament Law.

The monitoring process was executed by the Unit responsible for monitoring the activities of candidates and lists at LTA, through the through monitoring electoral campaigns on social media, which included the advertisement of gatherings, rallies and dinners feasts underdone for electoral purposes; specifically, the paid advertisements that were available on the "Facebook Ad Library".

The Unit also mapped billboards and advertisements across Beirut District 1 and 2 used for electoral advertisement, as well as billboards on primary international highways in all nine Lebanese governorates to identify the electoral expenditure on billboard advertisement. In Beirut 1, 485 advertisements were mapped; 37% of those advertisements were placed in dedicated spaces and 63% were in non-dedicated spaces which constitutes a breach of the laws and regulations that organize advertisement. In Beirut 2, 1778 advertisements were mapped; 14% of those advertisements were placed in dedicated spaces while 86% were placed in non-dedicated places.

Concerning the transparency of the electoral process, the association applied the "Access to Information Index" which relies on Chapter II – Proactive Disclosure – of the Right to Access Information Law that obliges all administrations that are subject to the law to proactively publish information without being requested such as: decisions, circulars, and memorandums, and financial transactions that exceed 50,000,000 LBP with its legal basis such as the contracts, in addition to publishing reports. The index was applied on the relevant competent authorities who received their results as shown below:

- Supervisory Commission for Elections: 16.6%
- Ministry of Interior and Municipalities: 33.33%
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs: 16.6%
- Ministry of Justice: 33.33%
- Ministry of Finance: 16.6%

LTA also established an Index to monitor the commitment to campaign finance regulations, where a model methodology was adopted to assess the commitment of candidates and lists with the relevant legal provisions stipulated in Chapter V of Law No. No. 44/2017; Elections of the Members of Parliament Law, which will facilitate the identification of those who violate the law. In addition, LTA will publish a comprehensive report on the detailed results of what was previously discussed, as well as information regarding the distribution of electoral advertisements on dedicated and non-dedicated locations that constitute a breach to the laws and regulations that manage those advertisements in both Beirut 1 and 2, and on primary international highways in different Lebanese governorate; the report will also present the findings on the electoral expenditure of candidates on social media.

The report relies on a model methodology that could be deployed by public authorities, specifically the SCE, to audit the expenditure of candidates and lists and compare it with the MFR and CFR and decide on the actual spending.

LTA emphasizes on the importance of transparency in the electoral process and calls on competent authorities to collaborate to push for the required reform, and pave the way for more transparency and integrity in the current and future parliamentary elections, as well as enhancing the electoral expenditure mechanisms, and to support the concerned parties.