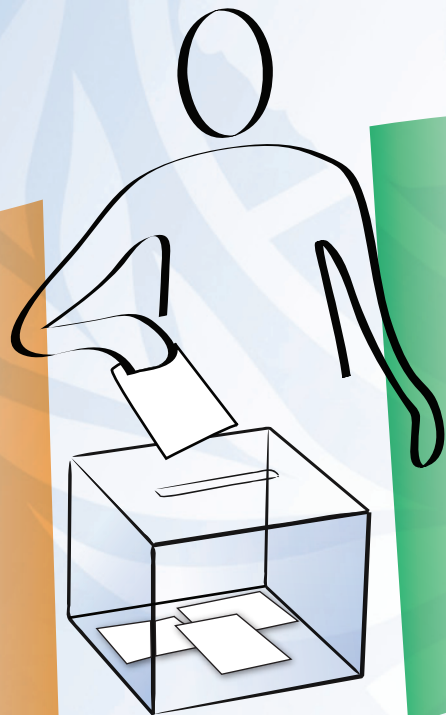


## 8. Has the UN already certified elections in other countries?

The UN has accomplished certification missions in other countries such as East Timor, in 2007, and Nepal, in 2008. In these cases, the UN had a key role in organizing the elections.

Côte d'Ivoire will be a different case of certification, one in which the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations has to certify the elections without having organized them. This is a challenge.



*The certification mandate is a tool intended to serve the Ivorian people to organize elections of which they will be proud.*

## 9. What are the available means to ensure that the elections are transparent, which is essential for certification?

The Ivorian electoral process, in a post-crisis context, has a sound four-tiered mechanism to ensure transparency:

- 1) The cooperation of two electoral technical operators (INS and SAGEM);
- 2) The pluralist composition of the Independent Electoral Commission;
- 3) The presence of the Impartial Forces and UNOCI;
- 4) A significant presence of national and international observers.

This four-tiered mechanism is a formidable tool for a successful certification of elections in Côte d'Ivoire.

## 10. Is the safeguarding of results part of the certification mandate?

The Certifier intends to safeguard the legitimate results of the elections with commitment, honour and determination. He will ensure that the results are respected, the winner being in fact the person who won the election, and that the results will not be the subject of non-democratic contestations or compromised.

In the improbable event that the legitimate results are contested through non-democratic means, the Certifier, who as Head of UNOCI has also the mandate of maintaining peace and stability in Côte d'Ivoire, has to safeguard the results by all means at his disposal to serve the Ivorian people.

# 10 Questions on the certification of Elections in Côte d'Ivoire



*The Special Representative of the Secretary General shall certify that all stages of the electoral process provide all the necessary guarantees for the holding of open, free, fair and transparent presidential and legislative elections in accordance with international standards. (Resolution 1765, adopted by the Security Council of the United Nations, on 16 July 2007)*



## 1. Why certify the elections in Côte d'Ivoire?

The certification of elections in Côte d'Ivoire came in response to a request made by the signatories to the 2005 Pretoria Agreement for the United Nations to accompany the electoral process in a post-crisis context, towards open, free, fair and transparent elections.

Resolution 1765, adopted in July 2007 by the Security Council of the United Nations, in its 6th paragraph, has entrusted the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) with the certification mandate. Under this mandate, the SRSG acts on an exclusive and personal basis.

## 2. What is the certification of elections? What does the certification of elections mean?

The Certifier has received a mandate from the Security Council to *certify that all stages of the electoral process provide all the necessary guarantees for the holding of open, free, fair and transparent presidential and legislative elections in accordance with international standards.*

The Certifier therefore has to ensure that all the necessary guarantees are met for the holding of successful elections in Côte d'Ivoire. This means safeguarding both the process and the results of the elections. The certification mandate is a tool intended to serve the Ivorian people to organize elections of which they will be proud.

## 3. What certification is not?

The purpose of certification is not, a priori, to identify deficiencies in the electoral process, and to sanction them. Nor is it neither intended to *certify all the stages* of the elections, contrary to some misconceptions. It is rather meant to ensure that all stages of the electoral process are carried out in accordance with recognized standards.

## 4. Which stages are to be certified?

Resolution 1826 - adopted on 29 of July 2008 by the United Nations Security Council recalls *“that the publication of the electoral list is a crucial step in the electoral process” and “requests the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to certify it explicitly”.*

It is understood that the results shall also be certified explicitly as this stage of the electoral process is as crucial as the electoral list.

The three other criteria framework, as well as the components of the electoral list criteria framework, such as the mobile courts, voters' registration, etc. will be certified implicitly given their dynamic nature.

## 5. What are the criteria for certification?

Five criteria framework have been identified in consultation with the Ivorian political protagonists and the Facilitator, i.e.: peace, inclusion, state media, the electoral list and the results:

- **Peace** : the process as well as the results have to take place in a peaceful environment.
- **Inclusion** : the electoral process must include all citizens who meet the conditions for voter eligibility, and for the candidacy, any eligible person.
- **State media** : the impartiality of state media as well as equitable access for all candidates, parties and political groupings to state media must be guaranteed.
- **Electoral list** : a partial and non-inclusive list will not be certified. Once the electoral list is explicitly certified, the Certifier will not accept that it be retroactively questioned.
- **Results** : the results of the elections will be certified explicitly. Once certified, the Certifier will not allow the results to be contested in a non-democratic way or to be compromised.

## 6. What is the modus operandi for certification?

A Cell of experts established within UNOCI assists the Certifier. On the basis of the five criteria framework for certification, the Cell monitors on a daily basis all stages of the electoral process; it identifies, develops and regularly updates elements required to evaluate the process.

The Cell highlights the progress made and notes the irregularities or risk factors, in conformity with its monitoring role; it informs the Certifier accordingly thus enabling him to take appropriate action to correct the irregularities so as to bring the process back in line with the relevant criteria framework.

## 7. What are its means of action?

In case of any dysfunction brought to his attention, the Certifier has four levels of action at his disposal:

- 1) He discusses with the players involved and/or the concerned authorities so as to bring the risk factors to their attention; he encourages them to undertake all the necessary corrective measures.
- 2) Should this consultation prove unsuccessful, the Certifier engages in discussion with the Ivorian protagonists in order to find a solution at the national level.
- 3) Should this step also prove unsuccessful, the Certifier may appeal to the Facilitator for his arbitration.
- 4) If arbitration fails, the Certifier reports to the Security Council for appropriate measures.