The electoral law of the Iraqi Kurdistan national assembly (KNA)

According to the beneficial needs of the Kurdish people of Iraq, the political leadership of Iraqi Kurdistan issued the following law:

Law number (1) for the year of 1992
The Iraqi Kurdistan national assembly (KNA)

Chapter one
The formation of the assembly

Article one:
The Iraqi Kurdistan national assembly (KNA) constitutes of members that are no less than (100) members, meaning one representative for every 30 thousand people.

Article two:
Elections take place through direct secret voting.

Article three:
The member of the assembly represents the people of Iraqi Kurdistan.

Article four:
1- It is prohibited to combine between the membership of the assembly and a general occupation, and that the employee is considered resigned from the day he gives oath in front of the assembly.
2- It is prohibited to combine between the membership of this assembly and the other elected assemblies.
3- It is prohibited for the heads of administrative units and the officers of the internal security forces to nominate themselves as members of the assembly unless they resign from their posts.
4- It is prohibited for the member of the assembly to have contracts with the government on his own or through some one else during his membership, and he does not have the right to use his membership for personal benefit.

Article five:
All the members of the assembly must be totally committed to this.
Chapter two
E lecting the assembly
Section one
Electoral commissions

Article six:
Establishing a higher commission by a resolution from the Kurdistan front to supervise the elections in Iraqi Kurdistan which will be lead by a first or second grade judge and the membership of an attorney general in the appellate or his deputy, in addition to representatives of the front and a representative of the administrates, that has the following responsibilities:
1- Specifying the electoral areas.
2- Establishing supervisory committees for the electoral areas to supervise elections.
3- Issuing regulations that simplify the electoral process and to assign the time and the manner of electing the chairmen and members of the electoral committees.

Article seven:
Establishing committees for the electoral area lead by a judge and representatives of the front and administrates, which will establish the committees for the electoral centers.

Article eight:
The committee of the electoral center is made up of a chairman judge or an attorney general or a juror and a representative of each electoral roster.

Section two
Electoral areas

Article nine:
Iraqi Kurdistan is divided into electoral areas and no less than four areas.

Article ten:
Each electoral area is divided into several electoral centers which are determined by a memorandum from the area’s committee.

Article eleven:
Supplementary elections for assembly membership are conducted according to the regulations stated in this law in Iraqi Kurdistan which are difficult to conduct elections in at the moment, after lifting the obstacles.
Section three
Time of elections

Article twelve:
The time of elections is determined by a decision from the Kurdish front and it will be published in the media for the public before the determined time of elections by no less than a month.

Article thirteen:
Voting takes place on one day in all parts of Iraqi Kurdistan.

Article fourteen:
When the time limit of the assembly is up or the assembly is dismantled, a resolution will be put by the chief executive within fifteen days of the end of that time limit or dismantlement which will include the determined time for the elections of the new assembly in accordance to the regulations in article twelve of this law.

Section four:
Voter’s rosters

Article fifteen:
Each electoral area must have rosters that contain the names of the voters according to its electoral centers and these rosters must be arranged alphabetically and must mention their occupations, addresses and dates of birth in addition to the place of birth which will be sent in many copies to the area’s committee, and if that is not possible then the higher commission must find another way to accomplish this goal.

Article sixteen:
The area committee is responsible for distributing the rosters to its centers so that they will be announced to the public on special boards put for that reason at least fifteen days before the determined voting day after stamping it with the area committee stamp and the fixation of the announcement date, taking into consideration what was mentioned in article fifteen.

Article seventeen:
Civil identification certificate issuance center will provide each person who is over eighteen years old with a voter’s card according to a process put by the higher commission that regulates its form and characteristics through a document, and the voter must provide proof of identification when voting.

Article eighteen:
1- Anyone who is eligible to vote but is not listed in the voter’s rosters can request adding their name, and any voter can request adding any person’s name that was not rightly added or delete any person’s name that was added in a wrongful manner within ten days of announcing the voter’s rosters.

2- The request will be submitted to the area’s committee so it can give a verdict on it within three days of submitting the request and this verdict will be final.
Section five
Conditions regarding voters and nominees

Article nineteen:
Any citizen from Iraqi Kurdistan, male or female can be a voter or a nominee if they meet the conditions mentioned in this law.

Article twenty:
The voter must be a citizen of Iraqi Kurdistan and has completed eighteen years of age.

Article twenty one:
Nominees for assembly membership must be:
1- A citizen and living in Iraqi Kurdistan.
2- Must have completed thirty years of age and fully able.
3- Must be able to read and write.
4- Must not be convicted of any crime concerning general behavior and integrity.
5- Must not be convicted or imprisoned because of murder or theft.
6- Must not have participated in the crimes that were planned and executed by the suppressive authorities in Kurdistan.

Section six
Nomination

Article twenty two:
1- Every party, group or an ethnic minority group (Turkmen, Arab, Ashore or others) have the right to forward its own roster that includes the names of their nominees for the Iraqi Kurdistan region.
2- The rosters will be submitted within ten days of the announcement of the elections to the chairman of the higher commission with the needed documents that are mentioned in article twenty one of this law.

Article twenty three:
1- The higher commission must give its verdict on the request within twenty-four hours of submitting the request and it will inform the requester and the representative of their roster of its decision within two days.
2- The nominee can appeal the higher commission’s decision in the Kurdish appellate court within two days of being informed of the decision.
3- The appellate court gives its final verdict concerning the appeal within two days.
4- The concerned entities are considered informed of the decisions mentioned above from the date of announcement on the announcement board by announcers.
5- The higher commission announces the rosters of nominees through the different types of media and on a special notice board made for that purpose which are put in every voting center within the voting area at least twelve days before voting day.
Section seven
Electoral publicity

Article twenty four:
Electoral publicity is free within the limits of the law, general system and ethics and that the Kurdish front must provide equal opportunity between the competing rosters.

Article twenty five:
Electoral publicity starts the next day of the announcement of the rosters of nominees and ends forty eight hours before the start of the voting process.

Section eight
Voting

Article twenty six:
The chairman of the electoral center committee and its members with the exception of the judges and the attorney generals take an oath before performing their duties for the area’s committee, and that the oath should be as follows:
(I swear by the holy God to do my job with truthfulness, sincerity and neutrality)

Article twenty seven:
The higher commission gives out instructions that specify the form and size of the ballot boxes and the way they are opened and closed.

Article twenty eight:
The area committee will print out the voting cards and prepare the boxes according to the regulations of the higher commission.

Article twenty nine:
1. Choosing one of the rosters must be done by writing on the voting cards, and that the characteristics of the card and the way it is filled is determined by a memorandum issued by the higher commission.
2. Voters that cannot read or write can get help from someone else to help them fill out the voting cards.
3. Substitution is not allowed in voting.

Article thirty:
The committee’s chairman of the electoral center is responsible for maintaining order in his center and that he has the right to take any suitable action to ensure the continuation of the voting procedures and that internal security forces and any armed personnel are not allowed to enter the voting centers but can enter upon a request from the chairman of the committee.

Article thirty one:
The central committee gives a verdict for every complaint forwarded to it regarding the voting procedures which will be fixed in a special journal.

Article thirty two:
The voting process starts at eight in the morning and ends at eight in the evening and that the higher commission can set other times that do not exceed the specified voting hours.
Article thirty three:
When the specified voting time is up, the center’s chairman of the committee announces the end of the voting process and then he puts that down in the voting journal then the boxes are opened and the ballots are openly counted with the presence of the representatives of the competing rosters.

Article thirty four:
The following voting cards are considered invalid:
1- The voting card that does not have the stamp of the center’s committee.
2- The voting card that does not have a sign indicating to one of the competing rosters or that causes contradiction in choosing one of the rosters.

Article thirty five:
1- The center’s committee prepares signed statements regarding the voting results which will be placed inside an enclosed envelope and stamped by its stamp and then put away at the area’s committee.
2- The area’s committee prepares a signed statement with its signature and stamp and then put at the higher commission after collecting the results and documents from the centers.

Article thirty six:
1- The total amount of votes is divided on the number of seats to obtain the voting average.
2- The votes obtained by each roster is divided on the voting average to calculate the number of seats won by the intended roster while taking into consideration what is mentioned in the two points below.
3- Any roster that did not have 7% vote or more will not be represented in the council and its votes will be distributed among the winning rosters according to their percentages.
4- The empty seats will be construed because of some remaining seats that do not reach the voting average and given to the rosters that have the biggest remainders successively.

Article thirty seven:
1- The higher commission will announce the percentage each roster got and the number of seats awarded.
2- The entity of the winning roster will have the right to choose the winners between their candidates by following one of these methods:
   A- In order.
   B- Selectively.
   C- By lot.
3- The higher commission announces the names of the winners that will be members of the Iraqi Kurdistan national assembly.

Article thirty eight:
The higher commission has the authority to the annulment of the votes in any voting center if there was proof of fraud or deception that can affect the outcome of the elections.
Chapter three
Membership in the assembly

Section one
Immunity and incentives

Article thirty nine:
The member is not asked about his personal point of view or any facts that he may state during his work in the council.

Article forty:
1- It is not permitted to pursue or detain any of the members because of a crime during session periods without the approval of the assembly with the exception of being caught while performing a criminal act.
2- It is not permitted to pursue or detain any of the members because of a crime not during session without the approval of the chairman of the assembly with the exception of being caught while performing a criminal act.

Article forty one:
The chairman of the assembly, his deputy, the secretary and members receive monthly incentives which are determined by the assembly.

Article forty two:
1- The member's service in the assembly is accounted for in allowances, promotion and retirement.
2- If one of the assembly members deceases because of serving the assembly or because of working in it then a pension will be awarded for the family of the deceased which will be determined by the assembly.

Section two
End of membership

Article forty three:
Membership in the assembly ends in one of the following circumstances:
1- The assembly has reached the end of its term or is dismantled.
2- The resignation of a member, and is approved from the date it is accepted by the majority of the assembly.
3- The absence of one of the conditions to nominate for the assembly, here the assembly gives a decision by the majority of three quarters of the attendees.
4- The absence of a member for three continues sessions with no suitable justifications.
5- The decease of a member.

Article forty four:
If one of the seats of the assembly is vacant then it will be filled with another candidate of the same roster who will be chosen by the entity of that roster according to what was mentioned in number (2) of article thirty seven of this law "1".

"1"- this law was corrected according to (the first correctional law of the Kurdish national assembly No.1 of1992) decision number 34 of 14/12/1994.
Chapter four

Work procedures in the assembly

Article forty five:
The assembly is held in Erbil and it is possible to hold it anywhere else chosen by the assembly if needed.

Article forty six:
The council holds its first session at 10 o'clock of the tenth day of announcing the voting results.

Article forty seven:
The assembly holds its first session which will be headed by the oldest members and then the members will take the following vow:
(I swear by the holy God to safeguard the unity of the people and land of Iraqi Kurdistan and its higher interests)

Article forty eight:
The assembly votes in its first session and through secret ballots a chairman, a deputy and a secretary and they must have the majority votes of the assembly members.

Article forty nine:
1- The assembly determines in its first session the dates of holding its meetings which should not be less than twice a year.
2- The chairman of the assembly or a quarter of its members can call for the assembly to meet in a special session and that they will discuss that specific matter in that session.
3- The chairman of the assembly can call for a meeting in a special session according to a request from the chairman of the executive authority when necessary.

Article fifty:
1- The assembly session is not considered acceptable unless the majority of members are attending the session and that the assembly makes its decisions with the total majority of the attendees which is different from a special majority, and when the opinions are equal the chairman has the right to give a vote to one side to outweigh another.
2- Voting takes place on legislating laws subject after subject.

Article fifty one:
The assembly's period is three years that starts from the first session and ends with the last session on the third year.

Article fifty two:
The assembly's sessions are public and can be secret upon a request from the chairman of the assembly or a request from a quarter of its members and the approval of the assembly with the majority of the attendees.

Article fifty three:
The executive authority of the assembly or ten of the members can suggest legislating laws, and that no law legislation can be discussed before being looked at by the specialized committee, and every legislation that is denied by the assembly will not be forwarded to the assembly during the same session.
Article fifty four:
1- Every member of the assembly can ask questions according to their internal system to the executive authority members regarding the subjects that are within their duties and authority and that they must answer the questions within seven days of being informed of them, and discussing the issues of these questions in the assembly as done when needed.
2- Quarter of the number of the assembly members can forward a justified request to have a vote of no confidence on the executive authority or on one of its members, and that the assembly will not discuss this request until seven days have passed on its submission, and then they will vote on it after two days of discussing the matter.
3- If the assembly decides to have a vote of no confidence on the executive authority or its chairman then the executive authority must submit its resignation immediately.

Article fifty five:
The chairman of the assembly or his deputy will take charge of keeping order in the assembly.

Chapter five
The duties and authorities of the assembly

Article fifty six:
The assembly practices the following duties and authorities:
1- Legislating laws.
2- Making agreements and resolutions concerning decisive issues for the people of Iraqi Kurdistan.
3- Designating a chairman for the executive authority who has the authority to choose the members of the executive authority from the members of the assembly or others.
4- Awarding confidence or taking it away from the executive authority.
5- Assigning a general budget and development strategies.
6- Overlooking the work of the executive authority.
7- Establishing committees to investigate any aspects that need to be investigated.
8- Laying the internal system, specifying its staff, putting its budget and employing employees.
9- Establishing full-time and part-time committees from its members in accordance to the internal system.
10- Putting regulations for accusing and prosecuting its members in cases where the oath they took.
11- Giving verdicts in matters concerning appeals regarding the accuracy of electing its members and the membership will not be terminated unless there is a decision from the majority of two thirds of the attendees.
Chapter six:
Electoral crimes

Article fifty seven:
The punishment of imprisonment for the following:
1- Who ever used money to allure voters or used any methods of fraud or violence to elect someone or to deprive any one from getting elected.
2- Stealing of the voting box or forcing it open or destroying it and doing similar acts to the voting cards or performing any criminal act regarding this will be dealt with according to the penalty law.
3- Registered their name twice in the voting rosters intentionally.
4- Gave their vote twice.
5- Writing a roster other than the meant one.
6- Preventing a voter from voting in any manner.
7- Preventing the elections or disturbing it.
8- Forgery while sorting the votes.
9- Breaking the regulation regarding the electoral publicity.

Chapter seven
Other regulations

Article fifty eight:
It is prohibited for any armed man or armed force to enter the assembly or to establish a fixed location near its gates, only if requested by its chairman.

Article fifty nine:
No appeals of the time of the elections are heard after three months of its end.

Article sixty:
The decrees issued by the assembly are published in a special newspaper put by the assembly and it will be affective from the first day of publication if no other date is determined for that purpose.

Article sixty one:
This decree is considered affective from the day it is published in the Kurdish Front newspaper.

Issued on Wednesday of
8/4/1992 – 19/ Norooz/2692 Kurdish
The political leadership of the Kurdistan front

Jalal Al-Talabani  (PUK)
Masoud Al-Barzani  (KDP)
Abdullah Akreem  (Kurdish Socialist party)
Rasool Vlamend  (The Iraqi Kurdistan Socialist Party)
Azeer Mohammed  (The Iraqi Communist Party)
Sami Abdul-Rahman  (The people's Democratic Party of Kurdistan)
Quadir Azeer  (The Kurdish Workers Party)
Yaqub Yousif  (The Ashour Democratic Party)

Obliging reasons
The Iraqi government has lately performed procedures like never before, for it has withdrawn (all governmental establishments and executives) from the Kurdistan area and with that creating a governmental and legislative vacuum that is unique, which put the negotiating Kurdish front in a complicated situation and in front of a difficult test because any society filled with people needs to organize its affairs to ensure law enforcement, justice and to provide food and medicine and to protect the security, rights, wealth, freedom, lives and dignity of the people and this cannot be ensured by a solitary effort which promotes conflict and chaos, meaning that it needs a group effort to organize the community and to manage its affairs and enforce the law and justice through its representatives.

Humans have acknowledged along time a go democracy as a way of expressing the hopes, wishes and prospects of the society and in choosing a representative to take charge of governing and managing. This aspect proved to be suitable for these types of issues and that no principle has maintained its worthiness through out the ages like democracy has until it became the means and way of this age, a time where dictator regimes are folded and a new foundation for a new system is built on two main pillars which are:

Democracy and the respecting of human rights and freedoms.
The Kurdish front is determined to face that difficult test which the Iraqi government put it in, so it decided to do the best there is at this period of time and to deal with that and to turn it into a way of life in Iraqi Kurdistan, and that is done by taking the first step in joining this community with the civilized world to ensure the support of the Kurdish society structure on democracy and on the respect of human rights and freedoms according to international laws and agreements and to prove to the whole world that the people of Iraqi Kurdistan are capable of running their own issues in accordance with international fundamentals. The Kurdistan front had decided in 1988 according to its internal law to establish a Kurdish national assembly that represents the opinion of the people of Kurdistan, but the situation was not suitable to interpret that decision and to turn it into a reality especially not in the two previous years that preceded the uprising of our glorious people in the summer of 1991 and not even after that because of a chain of events that took place very quickly, and the historical mass migration and what preceded that of negotiations with the Iraqi government, those negotiations that did not achieve what the Kurdish front wanted to achieve until know because the Iraqi government continued to stall and decline of its promises even the ones that were given at the
beginning of the negotiations in addition to practicing different types of military, economical, financial, executive and psychological pressures and with that disregarding the simplest human values acknowledged by the modern world. For those reasons and because democracy means governing the people through representatives that were chosen with complete freedom and have all the rights to establish law enforcement through a series of actions that lead to establishing organized and specialized systems that work according to the principle of the separating of the three authorities which are the legislative, executive and legal to fill up the legal void and to establish a unit for the Iraqi Kurdistan affairs and to determine the kind of relationship with the central government, because that can be done through direct, free and democratic elections in all the meaning of this word. For this reason this law was legislated.

The political leadership for the Kurdistan front.
1992/4/8
(19/Noruz/2692 Kurdish)