



To: Heads of OSCE PA Delegations  
CC: Secretaries of OSCE PA Delegations

28 August 2020

Dear Heads of Delegations,

General Elections are planned to take place in the United States of America on 3 November 2020. Following an invitation to observe this election, and after appropriate communication to the Bureau, the President has decided to deploy an Election Observation Mission to this important election to work closely with an expected team from the OSCE/ODIHR.

I note that the uncertainty caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and responses to it, including to Members' abilities to travel, could present some challenges to the deployment of the mission. The International Secretariat is in close contact with authorities of the United States Government regarding the application of existing travel restrictions for those travelling specifically for the observation mission, and further information will be provided as it is available.

In accordance with the attached OSCE PA Election Observation Guidelines, national Delegations wishing to nominate their members to participate in this mission are kindly asked to complete and return to the International Secretariat at ([eom@oscepa.dk](mailto:eom@oscepa.dk)) as soon as possible, but no later than **Monday, 21 September 2020** the following:

1. The Delegation Nomination Form,
2. An Individual Observer Nomination Form for each nominated observer,
3. A signed Statement of Nominated Election Observer for each nominated observer,
4. A signed Code of Conduct for each nominated observer,
5. A copy of the photograph page from each nominated observer's passport.
6. A digital photograph from each observer.

Please note that in accordance with the Guidelines nominated observers are not part of an observation mission before they have been appointed by the OSCE PA President. In appointing Members to this Election Observation Mission, the President can take appropriate steps to balance the composition and to preserve a political and geographical balance of Members within the mission. The International Secretariat will communicate the list of observers to delegations that have forwarded nominations following appointment by the OSCE PA President. Due to registration procedures and travel restrictions, we may not be able to accommodate those who register after the deadline.

The International Secretariat will maintain close contact with the United States authorities to ensure compliance with local health regulations and guidelines, and observers can expect some significant adjustments to mission procedures. The mission will work to put in place disease mitigation measures including social distancing where possible, however participants should understand that observation is a physical practice requiring interaction with a wide range of people. Observers are expected to comply with all national laws and regulations of the host country, including health regulations; please note that there may be additional costs related to compliance with health measures required by the authorities of the USA or by the mission. Participants will be expected to demonstrate a negative result to a COVID-19 test within 72 hours of their departure for the United States. Members are requested to ensure that they have

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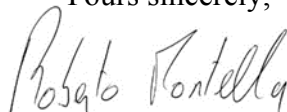
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full health insurance coverage valid for the duration of their stay in the United States of America.

Further information, including a detailed programme, will be distributed to participants in due course. Briefings for the mission are expected to be held on 31 October-1 November. Taking into consideration the special circumstances of the pandemic, the International Secretariat is working to arrange remote participation by video link in these briefings, which would enable Members to arrive in the United States on 2 November for election-day observation. Members are kindly asked to indicate in the registration form whether they will attend the briefings online or in-person. Members are reminded that in accordance with the OSCE PA's Astana Declaration of 2008 and the Guidelines, participants are expected to participate in the full briefing programme as well as the debriefing on the day following the election.

I wish to remind you that national parliaments are responsible for their Members' expenses.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Roberto Montella". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R'.

Roberto Montella,  
Secretary General