



Copenhagen, 9 September 2020

## **Memorandum on the OSCE PA Observation of the 31 October Parliamentary Elections in GEORGIA**

### **OSCE PA Election Observation Mission**

Parliamentary elections are planned to take place in Georgia on 31 October 2020, and following an invitation to observe these elections, the OSCE PA President, following appropriate communication with the OSCE PA Standing Committee, has decided to deploy a Election Observation Mission to these important elections to work closely with the expected teams of the OSCE/ODIHR and the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly.

### **Nomination and Appointment of Parliamentary Observers**

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 **Friday 2 October 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 signed Accreditation Form for each nominated observer,
6. A copy of the photograph page from each nominated observer's passport.

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. For this particular observation mission taking place in the home country of the OSCE PA President, Lord Peter Bowness, as the longest-serving OSCE PA Vice-President, has been asked to undertake all relevant responsibilities related to OSCE PA observation, including the appointment and oversight of this work. In appointing Members to this Election Observation Mission, the Vice-President Bowness 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 this appointment. Due to registration procedures, we may not be able to accommodate those who register after the deadline.

As a result of the COVID-19 response, the International Secretariat maintains close contact with the authorities of Georgia to ensure compliance with local health regulations and guidelines, and observers can expect some adjustments to mission procedures. The mission will work to put in place disease mitigation, however participants should understand that observation is a physical practice requiring close 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 Georgia or by the mission. Members are requested to ensure that they have full health insurance coverage valid for the duration of their stay in Georgia.

### **Accommodation**

Parliamentary briefings will be held in Tbilisi on 29-30 October 2020. The Temporary OSCE PA Headquarters will be located in Tbilisi as well. The International Secretariat of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly will distribute the details on the recommended hotel for accommodation in Tbilisi as soon as possible.

## **Preliminary Programme**

### **Wednesday, 28 October 2020**

All day Arrival of observers

### **Thursday, 29 October 2020**

Half Day Parliamentary briefings

### **Friday, 30 October 2020**

Half Day Parliamentary briefings (*cont.*)  
Deployment to Regions//Meeting with Drivers and Interpreters

### **Saturday, 31 October 2020**

All Day Observation at Polling Stations

### **Sunday, 1 November 2020**

08:00 De-Briefing for PA observers  
Afternoon Press-Conference in Tbilisi  
Suggested departures of observers

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.

## **Briefing on Mission for new OSCE PA observers**

We kindly invite new members to attend the Briefing on the Mission aimed at providing useful information on the general framework of PA observation missions. The briefing is open to all OSCE PA observers, but participation is expected for new observers.

## **Election Day**

The International Secretariat will circulate a draft deployment plan taking into consideration wishes by the observers, but also the requirements for a meaningful observation mission. Subject to adjustments required by the health situation, on Election Day, Members will generally work in teams of two.

Further information on arrangements for Election Day including related to costs for any cars/drivers and interpreters for Election Day will be communicated in due time.

## **Travel Regime**

The International Secretariat is in close contact with the Georgian authorities regarding the application of existing travel restrictions for those travelling specifically for the observation mission, and further information on travel regime can be found in the attached Protocol for entry to and work in the country of international observers for 31 October 2020 Parliamentary elections in Georgia.

## **Travel and Health Insurance**

We would like to remind you that national parliaments are responsible for their own Member's expenses, including any hotel cancellations, as well as fees for driver, interpreter and fuel. Please note that due to the COVID-19 pandemic there may be additional costs related to compliance with health measures required by the authorities of Georgia or by the mission. **Members are requested to ensure that they have full health insurance coverage valid for the duration of their stay in Georgia.**