

Copenhagen, 27 January 2023

<u>Memorandum on the OSCE PA Observation of the</u> <u>19 March 2023 Early Parliamentary Elections in Kazakhstan</u>

OSCE PA Election Observation Mission

The parliamentary elections are planned to take place in Kazakhstan on 19 March 2023. Following an invitation to observe these elections, the OSCE PA President has decided to deploy an Election Observation Mission to work closely with an expected Election Observation Mission of the OSCE/ODIHR.

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 (<u>eom@oscepa.dk</u>) as soon as possible, but no later than **Friday 24 February 2023** 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,
- 7. A photograph.

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. 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, we may not be able to accommodate those who register after the deadline.

Accommodation

Parliamentary briefings will be held in-person in Astana on 17-18 March 2023. The Temporary OSCE PA Headquarters will be in Astana as well. The International Secretariat of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly will communicate further details on the accommodation arrangements in due time.

Preliminary Programme

Thursday, 16 March 2023 All day	Arrival of observers
Friday, 17 March 2023 All Day	Parliamentary briefings
Saturday, 18 March 2023	
Half Day	Parliamentary briefings (cont.)
	Deployment to Areas of Observation

Sunday, 19 March 2023

All Day	Observation at Polling Stations
Monday, 20 March 2023	
08:00	De-Briefing for PA observers
Afternoon	Press-Conference in Astana
	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. Further details will be communicated to new observers.

Election Day

We kindly ask you to indicate your preference for deployment in the Individual Registration Form while submitting your documents. The International Secretariat will circulate a draft deployment plan taking into consideration wishes by observers, but also the requirements for a meaningful observation mission. The deployment plan will be prepared based on indicated preferences and on the need for balance in our observation mission. This plan will also be prepared in such a way as to complement efforts by the observer teams deployed by the OSCE/ODIHR. Subject to adjustments required by the health situation, on Election Day, Members will generally work in teams of two with the support of an interpreter and a driver.

National parliaments are responsible for their own Members' expenses, including any hotel cancellations, as well as fees for driver, interpreter and fuel. 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

De-Briefing and Departures

Please note while making your travel arrangements that de-briefing via phone or to regional coordinators on the ground may be possible for those observers deployed with overnight stays outside Astana. We kindly ask members not to book their domestic Kazakh flights or departure flights prior to the finalization of the expected deployment plan for observers.

Visa

Observers are advised to contact the Kazakh consulates in their respective countries to verify visa requirements necessary for their travel for the Mission. Please contact the International Secretariat if you need any assistance while arranging your visa documents.

Travel and Health Insurance

Members are requested to consult with the appropriate authorities regarding travel procedures and access to the country, as a result of the COVID-19 response. The International Secretariat will maintain close contact with the authorities in Kazakhstan to ensure compliance with local health regulations.

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 Kazakh authorities or by the mission. All participants are expected to obtain a rapid or PCR test for COVID-19 not older than 48 hours prior to arrival in Kazakhstan. If the test indicates positive for COVID, observers are expected to not travel for the observation mission.

Members are requested to ensure that they have full health insurance coverage valid for the duration of their stay in Kazakhstan.