

## CODE of conduct for Promo-LEX election observers

**Respect Constitutional Rights and International Human Rights.** Elections are the expression of the constitutional rights of a people, whose freely expressed will provides the basis for the authority and legitimacy of government. The rights of individuals to vote and to be elected in genuinely democratic elections taking place periodically are internationally recognized human rights, and they require the exercise of a number of other fundamental rights and freedoms.

**Respect the Laws and the Authority of Electoral Bodies.** Observers are obliged to respect the laws as well as the authority of the bodies charged with administering the electoral process. Observers are obliged to follow any lawful instruction from the governmental, security and electoral authorities. Observers are also obliged to have a respectful attitude towards the officials from these bodies.

**Respect the Integrity of the Election Observation Mission.** Observers are obliged to respect and protect the integrity of the election observation mission. Observers are obliged to attend all of the observation mission's briefings, trainings and debriefings; become familiar with the election law, regulations and other relevant laws as directed by the observation mission; and carefully adhere to the methodologies employed by the observation mission. Observers are also obliged to report to the leadership of the observation mission any conflicts of interest they may have and any improper behavior they see conducted by other observers that are part of the mission.

**Maintain Political Impartiality.** Observers are obliged to maintain strict political impartiality during the elections, including leisure time. They must not express or exhibit any bias or preference in relation to national authorities, political parties, candidates, referenda issues or in relation to any contentious issues in the election process. Observers also must not conduct any activity that could be reasonably perceived as favoring or providing partisan gain for any political competitor, such as wearing or displaying any partisan symbols, colors, banners or accepting anything of value from political competitors.

**Do Not Obstruct Election Processes.** Observers are obliged not to obstruct the election process at any stage, including pre-election processes, voting, counting and tabulation of results and processes transpiring after election day. Observers may bring irregularities, fraud or significant problems to the attention of election officials on the spot, and must do so in a non-obstructive manner. Observers may ask questions of election officials, political party representatives and other observers inside polling stations and may answer questions about their own activities, as long as observers do not obstruct the election process. In answering questions observers should not seek to direct the election process. Observers may ask and answer questions of voters but may not ask them to tell for whom or what party they voted.

**Provide Appropriate Identification.** Observers must display identification provided by the election observation mission, as well as identification required by national authorities, and must present it to electoral officials and other interested national authorities when requested.

**Maintain Accuracy of Observations and Professionalism in Drawing Conclusions.** Observers must ensure that all of their observations are accurate. Observations must be comprehensive, noting positive as well as negative factors and identifying significant factors that could have an important impact on the integrity of the election process. In formulating conclusions, observers shall adhere to the highest standards for accuracy of information and impartiality of analysis, distinguishing subjective factors from objective evidence. Observers must base all conclusions on factual and verifiable evidence and not draw conclusions prematurely. Observers are also obliged to keep a well documented record of where they observed, the observations made and other relevant information as required by the election observation mission and must turn in such

documentation to the mission.

**Refrain from Making Comments to the Public or the Media before the Mission Statement's Publishing.** Observers must refrain from making any personal comments about their observations or conclusions to the media or the public before the election observation mission makes a statement, unless specifically instructed otherwise by the observation mission. Observers may explain the nature of the observation mission, its activities and other matters deemed appropriate by the observation mission and should refer the media or other.

**Cooperate with Other Election Observers.** Observers must be aware of other election observation missions, both international and domestic, and cooperate with them as instructed by the leadership of the election observation mission.

**Maintain Proper Personal Behavior.** Observers are obliged to maintain proper personal behavior and respect others, exercise sound judgment in personal interactions at all times, including leisure time, and observe the highest level of professional conduct.

**Violations of This Code of Conduct.** In a case of concern about the violation of this Code of Conduct, the election observation mission shall conduct an inquiry into the matter. If a serious violation is found to have occurred, the observer concerned may have their observer accreditation withdrawn or be dismissed from the election observation mission.

**Pledge to Follow This Code of Conduct**

Every person who participates in this election observation mission has the obligation to read and understand this Code of Conduct and must sign a pledge to follow it.

**PLEDGE ACCOMPANYING THE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PROMO-LEX ELECTION OBSERVERS**

**I have read and understand the Code of Conduct for Promo-LEX Election Observers** that was provided to me by the election observation mission. I hereby pledge that I will follow the Code of Conduct and that all of my activities as an election observer will be conducted in accordance with it. I have no conflicts of interest, political, economic nor other, that will interfere with my ability to be an impartial election observer and to follow the Code of Conduct.

**I will maintain political impartiality.** I will make my judgments based on the highest standards for accuracy of information and impartiality of analysis, distinguishing subjective factors from objective evidence, and I will base all of my conclusions on factual and verifiable evidence.

**I will not obstruct the election process.** I will respect national laws and the authority of election officials and will maintain a respectful attitude toward electoral and other national authorities. I will respect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms. I will maintain proper personal behavior and respect others, exercise sound judgment in personal interaction at all times, including leisure times, and observe the highest level of professional conduct.

**I will protect the integrity of the international election observation mission and will follow the instructions of the observation mission.** I will attend all briefings, trainings and debriefings required by the election observation mission and will cooperate in the production of its statements and reports as requested. I will refrain from making personal comments, observations or conclusions to the news media or the public before the election observation mission makes a statement, unless specifically instructed otherwise by the observation mission.

**Signature**\_\_\_\_\_

**Name and forename**\_\_\_\_\_

**Date**\_\_\_\_\_