Approved by the Decision of the Central Elections Commission and the Referendum Commission of the Republic of Tajikistan

dated December 17, 2024, No. 22

PROCEDURE FOR THE PARTICIPATION OF FOREIGN MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES IN THE ELECTIONS OF THE DEPUTIES OF THE MAJLISI NAMOYANDAGON OF THE MAJLISI OLI OF THE REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. The procedure for the participation of foreign media representatives in the elections of the Deputies of the Majlisi Namoyandagon of the Majlisi Oli of the Republic of Tajikistan (hereinafter – this Procedure) is established in accordance with Articles 8 and 12 of the Constitutional Law of the Republic of Tajikistan "On Elections to the Majlisi Oli of the Republic of Tajikistan," the laws of the Republic of Tajikistan "On Print Media and Other Mass Media," and "On Television and Radio Broadcasting," considering the requirements of the Convention "On the Standards of Democratic Elections, Rights, and Freedoms on Elections in the Participating States of the Commonwealth of Independent States," which was approved by the Majlisi Namoyandagon of the Majlisi Oli of the Republic of Tajikistan on October 8, 2003, No. 918, and the Copenhagen Document on Human Factors of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), adopted on June 29, 1990. This Procedure regulates the participation of foreign and local media representatives in the elections of the Deputies of the Majlisi Namoyandagon of the Majlisi Oli of the Republic of Tajikistan.

2. The activity of foreign media representatives is aimed at providing information to the public about the elections of the Deputies of the Majlisi Namoyandagon of the Majlisi Oli of the Republic of Tajikistan within the framework of the Constitution of the Republic of Tajikistan, the legislation of the Republic of Tajikistan, other international legal documents recognized by the Republic of Tajikistan, and this Procedure.

3. Foreign media representatives are required to respect and comply with the Constitution of the Republic of Tajikistan and other legal norms of the Republic of Tajikistan.

II. REGISTRATION OF FOREIGN MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES IN THE ELECTIONS OF THE DEPUTIES OF THE MAJLISI NAMOYANDAGON OF THE SUPREME ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN

4. According to Article 32 of the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan "On Print Media and Other Mass Media," the activity of foreign media is carried out by opening branches, representations, or accrediting journalists in the Republic of Tajikistan.

5. Foreign journalists are accredited by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan according to the established procedure, and their accreditation can be revoked.

6. Foreign media representatives acquire the right to participate in the election process only after receiving accreditation, which is granted by the Central Election Commission and the Referendum Commission.

7. To obtain accreditation, the founder or editor-in-chief (the person in charge of the foreign media editorial office) submits an application to the Central Election Commission and the Referendum Commission. The following documents must be submitted with the application:

• A copy of the passport and identification certificate of the foreign media representative;

• A copy of the document confirming the accreditation of the foreign media in the Republic of Tajikistan and the accreditation of its representatives;

• Information about the duration of the labor relations of the foreign media representative with the editorial office (founder).

8. The submission of documents for registration of foreign media representatives must be completed 20 days before the elections.

9. If the documents are positively evaluated, the foreign media representatives will be issued an accreditation certificate in the format approved by the Central Election Commission and the Referendum Commission.

10. The activity of foreign media representatives begins after receiving the accreditation certificate from the Central Election Commission and the Referendum Commission and ends after the announcement of the preliminary results of the elections of the Deputies of the Majlisi Namoyandagon of the Majlisi Oli of the Republic of Tajikistan.

III. ACTIVITY OF FOREIGN MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES IN THE ELECTIONS OF THE DEPUTIES OF THE MAJLISI NAMOYANDAGON OF THE MAJLISI OLI OF THE REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN

11. When visiting the sessions of the election commissions, foreign media representatives are required to present their accreditation certificate, a document confirming their identity, and their representative status from the foreign media organization.

12. Foreign media representatives have the right to:

• Attend and cover sessions of the Central Election Commission and the Referendum Commission of the Republic of Tajikistan, as well as territorial and precinct election commissions concerning the elections of the Deputies of the Majlisi Namoyandagon, and reflect their activities;

• Be present at polling stations, in the voting rooms, including during voting, counting of voters’ ballots, and determining the results of the elections.

13. Foreign media representatives do not have the right to:

• Be present in the voting booth while voters are marking their ballots;

• Influence voters or distribute any form of propaganda material;

• Express preference for political parties, candidates for the Majlisi Namoyandagon during the voting process;

• Ask voters who they voted for;

• Hand out election ballots to voters;

• Sign ballots on behalf of voters at their request;

• Commit any act that may compromise the secrecy of the vote;

• Directly participate in the counting of ballots carried out by precinct election commission members;

• Interfere with the work of the election commission;

• Participate in the decision-making process of the relevant election commission.

14. Distribution of any propaganda materials and literature by representatives of foreign mass media is prohibited. It is prohibited to publish the results of public opinion polls, forecasts of election results and other election-related studies within five days before the voting, as well as on the voting day.

15. The process of photographing and filming must not violate the secrecy of the vote or interfere with the will of the voters. Therefore, foreign media representatives should conduct photography and filming at the polling station in a pre-designated area, after notifying the voters and other participants in the electoral process. Photography and filming should be conducted without violating constitutional rights and freedoms, or diminishing the honor and dignity of participants in the election process.

16. If a foreign media representative interferes with the work of the election commission, violates the election rights of citizens, or disrupts the secrecy of the vote, the chairman of the precinct election commission has the right to remove the foreign media representative from the voting room.

17. During their participation in the electoral process, abuse of freedom of speech and freedom of mass media is prohibited, including calls for violent seizure of power, violent alteration of the constitutional order, violation of the territorial integrity of the state, advocacy of war, terrorist acts, or violence, and incitement of social, racial, national, ethnic, or religious hatred.

18. If representatives of foreign mass media violate the requirements of the legislation, including one-sided coverage of the electoral process, misleading voters and other subjects of the electoral process, dissemination of false, unfounded or false materials, the Central Commission on Elections and Referendum or the District Election Commission respectively cancels the decision on registration of representatives of foreign mass media and recognizes the issued certificate as invalid. In this case, a proposal to cancel the accreditation of the activities of foreign mass media in the Republic of Tajikistan shall be sent to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan.