

**Code of Ethical Conduct
of Political Parties in Elections
in the Kyrgyz Republic**

BISHKEK 2010

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Preamble

We, the undersigned political parties of the Kyrgyz Republic, speaking for holding free and fair elections, in keeping with the laws, voluntarily accept this ethical code of conduct for political parties during elections (the Code).

The objectives of the Code

The Code was adopted in order to:

- Prevent and avoid the destabilization of the situation during the elections and the violations of the law;
- Ensure compliance with basic voting principles;
- Recognize voting as a free and credible electoral choice, the result of which to be acceptable to all;
- Enable voters to receive information about politics and the details of all political parties and their candidates, and to make their choice based on this information.

Applicability

The Code applies to political parties that have adopted the Code (the Party), including their leaders, candidates, members, authorized representatives, proxies and observers.

Basic rules of conduct

Parties undertake:

- To comply with the requirements of the Constitution and laws of the Kyrgyz Republic;
- To respect the inviolability of private life, honour, dignity and business reputation;
- To assist in preventing violence or the threat of violence, any acts of vandalism or public disorder committed or threatened by party officials, candidates, members or supporters;
- To not resort to violence or not to allow violence to illustrate the strength of a party or

demonstrate superiority;

- To avoid any acts that may lead to loss of statehood and territorial integrity;
- To renounce all activities liable to damage the economic interests and investment attractiveness of the country;
- Not to harm the state, municipal, public or private property;
- To avoid any form of blackmail; issuing instructions and orders explicitly prohibiting leaders, candidates, authorized representatives, proxies, observers, members and supporters of the party to blackmail any person;
- To not allow the leaders, candidates, authorized representatives, proxies, observers, members and supporters of the party to carry out acts prohibited by the Code;
- To take resolute measures to prevent a violation of the Code by political leaders, candidates, authorized representatives, proxies, observers, members and supporters of the party, or to prevent any action contrary to the Code;
- To require the leaders, candidates, authorized representatives, proxies, observers, members and supporters of compliance with the Code and take all necessary measures to ensure compliance.

Rules of conduct with regard to voters

Parties undertake:

- To conduct free and fair elections based on the principles of openness and respect for all voters and other participants of the electoral process;
- To allow voters to vote freely, without intimidation and harassment, undue influence or bribery;
- Not to interfere with the free will of citizens, and their right to express their opinion;
- To be honest and open with the voters and not to induce voter confusion;
- To seek to ensure that potential voters wishing to participate in related political activities have the freedom to do so.

Rules of conduct in relation to other parties

Parties undertake:

- To respect the rights and freedoms of other parties in the electoral campaign and to disseminate their political ideas and principles;

- To organize and conduct their election campaign so that it contributes to a favourable and peaceful atmosphere during the election period, election day and following the elections;
- To make every effort to ensure freedom of access of all parties to all voters;
- To liaise with other parties who have accepted the Code.

Rules of conduct for members of election commissions

Parties undertake:

- Not to secure votes by forcible seizure of polling stations or through illegal actions at the polling stations;
- To collaborate with members of the Electoral Commission, observers, representatives of other parties and civil society to ensure peaceful, free and transparent elections and a fair result and to refrain from creating any obstacles to achieve these;
- Not to interfere in the duties of members of electoral commissions or to disrupt the vote counting process;
- To promote the safety and security of members of the election commissions during the vote and thereafter;
- To seek to ensure secrecy of the ballot

Rules of conduct during the events

Parties undertake:

- To prohibit persons participating in mass gatherings from conducting speeches provoking, threatening or inciting violence in any form against another person or group of persons;
- To prevent the distribution and the drinking of alcoholic beverages, narcotics, psychotropic drugs, as well as the carrying of weapons at rallies, pickets, meetings, marches, demonstrations and other events.

Rules of conduct during the campaign period

Parties undertake:

- Not to disturb or disrupt the election campaign of other parties;
- Not to hinder the spreading of party lines and information material of other parties;
- Not to emulate the symbols of other parties;

- Not to damage or destroy the campaign and information materials of other parties;
- Not to prevent or disturb rallies, pickets, meetings, meetings, marches, demonstrations and other mass events of other parties;
- Not to interfere with people wishing to participate in mass actions of other parties;
- Not to use ethnic and religious issues for political struggle;
- To avoid activities which might arouse social, racial, religious or ethnic hatred and animosity; that call for the seizure of power, violent change of constitutional order or violate the integrity of the state; that spread war propaganda or abuse media freedom in any other form prohibited by the laws of the Kyrgyz Republic;
- Not to issue officially or anonymously, or distribute via the Internet, disks, other methods and sources of information dissemination, advocacy and information materials that contain threats of violence or incite violence, slander or insult honour or dignity.

Rules of Conduct in respect of administrative resource

Parties undertake:

- Not to use the administrative resource in elections;
- Not to use the official state, municipal or other public resources for electoral campaigns;
- To ensure that all public officials running in the elections will resign from their official posts for the duration of the election process.

Rules of conduct for media and journalists

Parties undertake:

- To respect the freedom of speech and press;
- Not to prosecute journalists or hinder their work;
- In a dispute with the opponents, not to use illegal, immoral and adverse publicity;
- Not to spread false information and knowingly false statements, not to resort to deception and falsification, but rather to criticize politely and reasonably.

Rules of conduct with respect to corruption and bribery

Parties undertake:

- Not to bribe, pay cash or give gifts and other tangible assets; provide preferential treatment

during the sale of goods, or distribute free of charge any goods; not to provide services free of charge or on preferential terms;

- To prevent breaches in the financing of elections;
- Not to coerce or offer money or other incentives to influence the vote for or against a party or candidate, or to encourage a voter not to cast a vote;
- Not to coerce or offer money or other incentives to force people to nominate or not nominate their candidates to withdraw or not withdraw their candidacy;
- Not to coerce or offer money or other incentives to receive support or assistance from any officer, state or municipal employee, with the aim to support or impede the election of any candidate;
- To not abuse the authority of the patriarchal, state, law enforcement, military or other power, privilege or influence for political purposes in the form of an offer of remuneration, the threat of punishment or any other means.

Rules of conduct after the elections

Parties undertake:

- To accept the outcome of an election that has been certified;
- To prevent unrest, unlawful seizure of buildings, property, road closures and other illegal actions; to set higher requirements of the law over political, group and personal interests;
- If challenging the election results based on evidence, not to launch personal insults at opponents and members of election commissions;
- To not allow interference or pressuring of the commission by the judiciary;
- Not to abuse the right to appeal and not to file frivolous complaints.

We encourage members of the electoral commissions to be impartial and open to cooperation with political parties, leaders of authorized parties, candidates, proxies, observers, members and supporters of the party, as well as media representatives, not to violate the law themselves and prevent violations of laws of the Kyrgyz Republic by others.

We encourage journalists to be fair and objective and not resort to deception.

We pledge to hold elections with honour and dignity and to the best of our ability, acknowledging that this will ensure that we can continue to respect one another in the future and

can focus on working openly and honestly for the benefit of our constituents and the whole of the Kyrgyz Republic.