



Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

INFORMATION SHEET
REQUEST FOR SHORT-TERM OBSERVERS

PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS
GEORGIA
31 October 2020

Following an official invitation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia and in accordance with its mandate, ODIHR has established an Election Observation Mission (EOM) to observe the parliamentary elections scheduled for 31 October 2020. Ambassador Jillian Stirk has been appointed Head of the ODIHR EOM. The mission consists of 13 core team members based in Tbilisi, and 27 long-term observers (LTOs) deployed throughout the country. The core team and LTOs come from a total of 22 OSCE participating States.

ODIHR requests participating States to second 350 short-term observers (STOs) to observe voting, counting, and the tabulation of results. STOs will be deployed in multinational teams of two, under a deployment plan prepared by the ODIHR EOM. In the interest of a broad and balanced representation among participating States, ODIHR requests that individual participating States nominate only up to 15 per cent of the total number of requested STOs.

To ensure a better gender balance in its activities, ODIHR strongly encourages the OSCE participating States to second equal numbers of women and men as short-term observers.

Seconding States should confirm visa requirements for their STOs. If required, visas must be obtained from the nearest embassy or consulate of Georgia prior to arrival. Visas cannot be issued on arrival at the Tbilisi International Airport.

To facilitate accreditation of observers through the Central Election Commission (CEC) and the issuance of visas (if required), the ODIHR online mission registration form must be completed **no later than 14 October 2020**.

STOs are required to arrive in Tbilisi **by Tuesday 27 October** (at the latest) and depart (at the earliest) on **Tuesday 03 November**. The STO schedule is provided below. Please note that the secondment of STOs may be requested again, on short notice, if ODIHR decides to observe a potential second round.

Given the possibility of a potential second round of elections, participating States may expect a second request for short-term observers with a very short deadline for registration. Participating States are therefore encouraged to select observers for the potential second-round elections who already observed the first round on 31 October and thus will already be accredited.

Observers should strictly abide by the [Code of Conduct for ODIHR Election Observers](#) and the deployment plan prepared by the ODIHR EOM. Observers should also familiarize themselves with the [Guide on the OSCE Policy against Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Discrimination](#). The security and safety of observers are of the highest

priority and will take precedence in EOM management, including the deployment plan. The ODIHR EOM prioritizes considerations related to the current COVID-19 pandemic in its planning and management. However, seconding States are required to ensure that their observers adhere to national rules and regulations related to entry, including with regard to potential requirements related to PCR testing and health insurance which covers the treatment of COVID-19 in Georgia. All observers will receive security and Code of Conduct briefings upon arrival and are required to operate in accordance with security guidelines.

The working language of the EOM is English. All briefings, debriefings, and reporting will be in English and all interpreters will work in local languages/English. All STOs must therefore have a good working knowledge of both written and spoken English.

ODIHR strongly encourages all observers to undertake the ODIHR comprehensive e-learning course for observers, available at www.odihrobserver.org.

STOs are requested to familiarize themselves with the ODIHR Election Observation Handbook, available online at www.osce.org/odihr/elections/68439.

STOs are kindly asked to refrain from commenting on mission related issues via social media. In line with the [Code of Conduct for ODIHR Election Observers](#), media communications regarding the electoral process and the substance of observations should be made only by the Head of Mission, ODIHR Spokesperson, or other responsible ODIHR officials.

A COPY OF THIS INFORMATION SHEET IS AVAILABLE ON THE ODIHR WEBSITE AND SHOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO ALL SECONDED STOs.

The ODIHR EOM Office is situated in Tbilisi:

Sheraton Metekhi Grand Palace, 8th floor
20 Telavi Street
0103 Tbilisi, Georgia
tel.: +995 32 2 772 120
E-mail: office@odihr.ge
Website: <https://www.osce.org/odihr/elections/georgia/461776>

1. Deployment Timetable

STOs will be deployed according to the following schedule:

Tuesday 27 October	Last date for arrival in Tbilisi
Wednesday 28 October	STO briefing (day 1)
Thursday 29 October	STO briefing (morning); deployment to the areas of observation for STOs
Friday 30 October	Familiarization with areas of observation
Saturday 31 October	Election day
Sunday 1 November	Continued observation of counting and tabulation of results; Regional debriefing of STOs
Monday 2 November	STOs return to Tbilisi; STO debriefing
Tuesday 3 November	STO departure

STOs are kindly requested to adhere to the deployment timetable. STOs who cannot arrive in time for the briefing or who wish to depart prior to the debriefing will not be accepted by ODIHR.

a) Briefing

Before deployment, STOs will be provided with an in-depth briefing, which will include:

- code of conduct;
- legislative framework;
- overview of the country, campaign and the media situation;
- voting, counting, and tabulation procedures;
- observation forms;
- security situation, including COVID-19 precautions;
- logistical and financial arrangements.

STOs will also be provided with briefing materials which will include all necessary electoral and logistical information, as well as observation forms to complete during the observation of voting, counting, and tabulation.

b) Deployment

The ODIHR EOM will develop a deployment plan. STOs should strictly abide by the deployment plan and security instructions. STOs should not request special treatment with regard to deployment locations.

c) Debriefing

A debriefing for STOs will be organized after the elections. This will provide an opportunity for STOs to discuss their main findings and share their conclusions with other observers and EOM members. The EOM will hold a press conference on the day after the elections to present its preliminary findings and conclusions. A comprehensive final report will be issued by ODIHR approximately two months after the electoral process has been completed, taking into account the findings of all observers.

2. Logistics and Security

a) Contact details

All logistical arrangements for the STOs will be organized by the EOM under the direction of:

Paweł Jurczak, Operations Expert

E-mail: pawel.jurczak@odhr.ge; mobile phone: +995 591 880 529

Zhenya Zamrii, Junior Operations Expert

E-mail: zhenya.zamrii@odhr.ge; mobile phone: +995 591 880 530

b) Transportation/Accommodation

All STOs will be met at the Tbilisi international airport by an ODIHR EOM representative upon their arrival and transported to their accommodation. Transport and accommodation in Tbilisi and in the areas of observation will be arranged by the EOM. **Relatively modest conditions may be expected in some of the observation areas.**

IMPORTANT: Hotels in Tbilisi require all guests arriving/departing early morning to hours to pay the full overnight rate for the nights in question. STOs should be prepared to pay the additional full overnight rate for the night/s in question.

For safety reasons, particularly in the current health environment, and to prevent problems with transportation, observers are expected to use the accommodation arranged for them by the ODIHR EOM. The EOM will also make all arrangements for in-country travel to deployment areas and for on-site drivers, cars, and interpreters.

Should any of the observers choose not to stay in the accommodation arranged by the ODIHR EOM, the seconding States should indicate this while registering online. **If ODIHR is not notified in advance, STOs or the respective OSCE seconding State will be charged for the cost, regardless of whether the accommodation provided is used.** It should be noted that the EOM cannot provide airport transfers and in-city transportation for STOs who choose to stay outside the designated accommodation.

STOs will deploy from Tbilisi to the regions by bus or car. STO deployment will be planned in accordance with national regulations and the EOM's COVID-19 safety guidelines.

The ODIHR EOM will make necessary arrangements for the STOs to return to Tbilisi on Monday 2 November, as well as arrange accommodation in Tbilisi. The EOM will arrange transfers to the airport for all STOs.

c) Security

STOs must adhere to the [Code of Conduct for ODIHR Election Observers](#), as outlined in the ODIHR Election Observation Handbook, and the [Guide on the OSCE Policy against Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Discrimination](#), as well as security instructions and national laws.

A memo on security details for the STOs will be provided to the observers before and upon arrival, including guidelines related to the EOM's Standard Operating Procedures to promote the safe conduct of mission activities during the COVID-19 pandemic. STOs who choose not to stay in accommodation provided by the ODIHR EOM will not be covered by the mission's security arrangements.

d) Luggage/Essential Items

Due to potential modest conditions in the regions, STOs are advised to bring with them the following items:

- appropriate attire for election day observation – business casual is recommended;
- torch/flashlight with spare battery;
- all necessary medication (case-specific);
- warm clothing (including for sleeping);
- electricity converters (if needed) – European style plug;
- hand sanitizer and PPE (face masks) for your trip to Georgia.

The ODIHR EOM strongly recommends that STOs, when travelling by air, put essential items into their hand luggage, in case of late arrival of their luggage in Tbilisi.

e) **Communication**

Each STO will be provided with a mobile phone and a local SIM card with credit, for work-related usage. Please note that using mobile phones for international calls and SMSs should be avoided. Such usage is very expensive and will quickly deplete allocated phone credit.

f) **Time zone/Flight bookings**

The local time in Georgia is GMT/UTC +4 but there is no daylight savings time in the country. Due to the severely limited number of scheduled flights to Tbilisi, the ODIHR EOM strongly encourages seconding States to make early flight bookings. To ensure operational flexibility, (e.g. in case of bad weather conditions), seconding States are advised to book changeable airline tickets.

3. Interpreters and Drivers

All observers will be organized in multinational teams of two people under a deployment plan prepared by the ODIHR EOM. The ODIHR EOM will assist each STO team with finding an interpreter and two drivers/cars in order to adhere to the missions COVID-19 safety guidelines. Even in cases where one team member speaks local languages, it will be necessary for that team to have an interpreter in order that both members of the team can have full access to complete and equal information as they carry out their observation duties.

4. Costs

It is projected that, while in country, **each STO** will incur the following costs, although some STOs may not require the full amount indicated below:

Operational/Transportation Cost	EUR
Airport transfers	30
In-City Transportation (to and from STO briefing/de-briefing)	50
In-Country Transportation (to and from deployment area)	70
Communication (SIM card/mobile phone/e-pen use)	45
Briefing costs (briefing, debriefing, briefing pack, meals)	230
Estimated cost to be incurred by ODIHR on behalf of STOs	425 EUR
2 x Driver/Car (EUR 25 per day @ 5 days per observer)*	250
2 x Fuel (EUR 15 per day @ 5 days per observer)*	150
Interpreter (EUR 25 per day@ 5 days per observer)*	125
Accommodation (7 nights @ maximum EUR 100/per night)	700
Meals & Incidentals (approx. EUR 40 per day @ max 8 days)	320

Accommodation and meals for Interpreter if needed (EUR 30 per night @ 4 nights per observer)*	120
Accommodation and meals for 2 x Drivers if needed (EUR 30 per night @ 4 nights per observer)*	240
Costs paid directly by the observers	1,905 EUR
Total cost per observer:	2,330 EUR

*The two members of each STO team will share equally the cost of drivers and interpreters. The amount above therefore represents half of these costs (i.e. for each STO).

The total cost per observer is estimated at **EUR 2,330** (two thousand three hundred thirty Euro), including **EUR 1,905** (one thousand nine hundred five Euro) which the seconding States should supply to each observer in cash prior to their departure to Tbilisi. **The ODIHR EOM is not able to validate or certify documents related to costs paid directly by the observers (receipts, invoices, contracts, etc.).**

EUR 425 (four hundred twenty-five Euro) is the projected cost per each STO to be incurred by ODIHR. After the closure of the EOM, each seconding State will be billed by ODIHR on the basis of the total actual expenses incurred and the number of seconded STOs. Payment instructions will be provided to the seconding States with the final invoice.

All of the above costs should be paid in local currency or Euro. The Euro and US dollar are widely exchangeable locally, although other currencies can also be exchanged. Cash machines (ATMs) are generally available in Tbilisi and throughout the country, although most do not dispense Euro or US dollars and might not be available in some remote areas of deployment. Hotels in Georgia generally do not accept foreign currency and may not, especially outside Tbilisi, accept credit cards. STOs should be prepared to pay hotel bills outside Tbilisi in cash and upon check-in. Travellers cheques must not be used. The local currency is the Georgian Lari (GEL). The exchange rate is approximately 1 EUR = 3.81 GEL and 1 USD = 3.28 GEL.

5. Visas and Insurance

a) Visa

Seconding States should confirm visa requirements for their STOs. If required, visas must be obtained from the nearest embassy or consulate of Georgia prior to arrival. Visas cannot be issued on arrival at the Tbilisi International Airport.

b) Insurance

STOs should ensure that they arrive with adequate health, accidental/life disability, emergency/medical evacuation, property, theft, and accident insurance, as this will not be provided by ODIHR. **STOs must have a copy of their insurance policy with them, as well as two copies of the data page of their passport and the visa (if applicable).**

c) Entry requirements related to COVID-19

Additional temporary restrictions and obligations currently apply to foreign nationals entering Georgia. International observers will be received at the airport and will enter into the country via a dedicated VIP-room where a special task force of the Richard Lugar Centre for Public Health Research will be deployed. International observers will only be tested once, upon arrival, with a rapid PCR test in the VIP-room. The cost of the procedure will be covered by the Georgian side. Transfer of international observers will be carried out in accordance with the government recommendations on the transportation of passengers during the Covid-19 pandemic. International observers should self-isolate until negative results are provided.

6. Registration and Accreditation Process

After receiving this Information Sheet, all OSCE participating States considering secondment are requested to inform ODIHR on the number of STOs (to the attention of Sylwia Zwolinska or Anna Krzysztofik; e-mail: sylwia.zwolinska@odihr.pl, anna.krzysztofik@odihr.pl no later than 8 October 2020.

To be nominated by the seconding States, STOs are required to create a personal account in the new Election Expert Database, fully complete their profile, and share it with their national focal point. The seconding States are requested to submit the names of proposed STOs using the Election Expert Database as soon as possible and no later than 8 October 2020; 17:00 (Warsaw Time).

The seconding States which have not requested access to the Election Expert Database as a national Focal Point yet (Note Verbale 218/2017, 5 June 2017) or require additional guidance on the observers' registration process should contact Sylwia Zwolinska or Anna Krzysztofik; e-mail: sylwia.zwolinska@odihr.pl, anna.krzysztofik@odihr.pl.

For the purposes of accreditation of STOs with the Central Election Commission of Georgia, the online mission registration form must be completed and supporting documents attached by the end of **14 October 2020**.

An official cover letter from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the seconding State or designated national focal point should be sent together with the list of STO names to the attention of Sylwia Zwolinska or Anna Krzysztofik (e-mail: sylwia.zwolinska@odihr.pl, anna.krzysztofik@odihr.pl) by 14 October 2020.

<p>IN ORDER TO MAKE ALL LOGISTICAL ARRANGEMENTS ON TIME, NO APPLICATIONS WILL BE CONSIDERED BY ODIHR UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES AFTER 14 OCTOBER 2020.</p>
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STOs must not have any concurrent commitments that could produce a conflict of interest with the ODIHR EOM.

ODIHR reserves the right to reject any candidate who is not capable of undertaking his/her activities in an impartial and objective manner, and to withdraw accreditation in case of any serious breach of the [Code of Conduct for ODIHR Election Observers](#).

7. **Other Information**

Please note that all ODIHR election observation interim reports, preliminary statements, final reports, election laws, and reviews of election laws are available at the ODIHR website: www.osce.org/odihr.

Specific information on the EOM is available on the EOM website: <https://www.osce.org/odihr/elections/georgia/461776>

All STOs will receive by email a copy of the ODIHR EOM Observer Guide before their departure to Tbilisi.

Terms of Reference

SHORT-TERM OBSERVER

Background:

ODIHR is the leading agency in Europe in the field of election observation. It co-ordinates and organizes the deployment of numerous observation missions with thousands of observers every year to assess the compliance of elections in OSCE participating States in line with OSCE commitments, other international obligations and standards for democratic elections, as well as national legislation. Its unique methodology provides an in-depth insight into all elements of an electoral process, and permits making concrete recommendations to further improve electoral processes.

Objective:

Under the guidance of the Head of Mission (HoM) and in close co-ordination with the Deputy Head of Mission (DHoM), assigned Long-term Observers (LTOs), and the ODIHR Election Department, the short-term observers (STOs) are deployed in multinational teams of two and are responsible for observing election day procedures in their assigned areas and reporting their findings accurately and efficiently to the mission headquarters.

Main Tasks:

Electoral Expertise

- Acquire detailed knowledge of the election law and procedures concerning election day;
- Acquire detailed knowledge of the electoral and political situation in the country; and
- Become familiar with the ODIHR election observation methodology for observing election day, as reflected in the relevant ODIHR publications; and
- Acquire knowledge of OSCE commitments and other international standards for democratic elections.
- Attend and report on meetings of local election authorities, where requested;
- Attend and report on political rallies and campaign events, where requested;
- Attend and participate in any other relevant meetings with other election stakeholders necessary to cover issues deemed necessary by the HoM, DHoM and LTOs;
- Supervise the local support staff;
- Abide by the [Code of Conduct for ODIHR Election Observers](#), the [Guide on the OSCE Policy against Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Discrimination](#), and security instructions and deployment plan of the OSCE/ODIHR EOM, as well as [data protection responsibilities](#) when processing the personal data of local staff.

Reporting

- Prepare and submit regular reports to assess the close of the campaign, voting, counting and the tabulation of results.

Requirements:

- Experience in public administration, non-governmental organizations, and/or international organizations, preferably involved in observing and/or organizing election processes, is desirable.
- Knowledge of the country and surrounding region is desirable but not essential.
- Command of English language is essential. STOs must be prepared to read briefing materials, attend briefing and de-briefing sessions, understand procedural instructions and complete forms accurately, all in English. Knowledge of local languages is desirable but not essential.
- Willingness and ability to work long hours in conditions which are sometimes difficult.
- Ability to work in a team and deal with difficult situations in a positive manner.

Deliverables:

- Regular reporting on the conduct of the elections in the area of deployment, as well as on any other issues covered during the mission.