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RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE OSCE CHAIRMANSHIP EXPERT
SEMINAR ON ELECTORAL MANAGEMENT BODIES**

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Working Session I: Structure of electoral management bodies

President Dmitry Medvedev said: “Democracy is a historical notion and at the same time entirely supranational. That is why democracy does not require rehabilitation anywhere”.

President Barack Obama said: “No system of government can or should be imposed upon one nation by any other. Each nation gives life to this principle in its own way, grounded in the traditions of its own people”.

Democracy is the universally recognized and best form of government. The principles of democracy are supranational and even global. These principles are sovereign when State authorities or State structures are formed through democratic elections, except in very rare cases.

In all countries, the organization of elections is based on the same principles but is carried out by different structures with common objectives, above all that of ensuring that national electoral laws and rules are enforced as strictly and consistently as possible. The most important thing is the voter; his interests and constitutional rights must primarily be ensured by the electoral systems. Hence our common concern regarding the improvement of electoral rolls, the facilities and security of polling stations, information provided to the voters, work with particular groups of voters, such as the disabled, students, travellers and expatriates, and the development of remote and electronic means of voting.

International co-operation among professionals involved in organizing elections, including the institution of international observation, may help to resolve these issues. International observation as just one aspect of international co-operation can be developed only on the basis of four basic principles – non-interference in national election processes, transparency in the formation of a mission, transparency in the mission’s work and transparency in reviewing the mission’s work.

This kind of international co-operation may even help to improve the organization of the European Parliament elections.