



Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

# REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

## EARLY PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

4 December 2016

### OSCE/ODIHR NEEDS ASSESSMENT MISSION REPORT

11 – 13 October 2016



Warsaw  
21 October 2016

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**REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN  
PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION  
4 December 2016**

**OSCE/ODIHR Needs Assessment Mission Report  
11-14 October 2016**

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

Following an invitation from the Central Election Commission of Uzbekistan (CEC) to observe the 4 December 2016 early presidential election and in accordance with its mandate, the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) undertook a Needs Assessment Mission (NAM) from 11 to 13 October 2016. The NAM included Alexander Shlyk, Head of the OSCE/ODIHR Election Department, and Ulvi Akhundlu, OSCE/ODIHR Election Adviser.

The purpose of the mission was to assess the pre-election environment and the preparations for the early presidential election. Based on this assessment, the NAM should recommend whether to deploy an OSCE/ODIHR election-related activity for the forthcoming election, and if so, what type of activity best meets the identified needs. Meetings were held with officials from state institutions and the election administration, as well as with representatives of political parties, civil society, and media. A list of meetings is annexed to this report.

OSCE/ODIHR would like to thank the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Central Election Commission for their assistance and co-operation in organizing the NAM. OSCE/ODIHR is grateful to all of its interlocutors for taking the time to meet with the NAM and to share their views.

## **II. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

On 2 September, the first president of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov passed away after a serious illness. In line with the constitutional requirement to hold early presidential election within three months, the CEC set 4 December as election day and announced the start of election campaign from 9 September.

In 2015, the Presidential Election Law (PEL) and other laws regulating various aspects of the election process were subject to changes. Most notably, the PEL was amended to explicitly prescribe permissible campaigning methods, to lower the number of supporting signatures required for candidate registration from five to one per cent of voters, and to clarify the provisions for early voting. Other changes detailed electoral dispute resolution process and provided for Precinct Election Commissions (PECs) in places of pre-trial detention. Some OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors noted that the implementation of introduced amendments would benefit from an external scrutiny.

The election is administered by the CEC, 14 District Election Commissions (DECs) and 9,377 PECs. The CEC is planning an extensive cascade training for all PEC members throughout the country and a comprehensive voter awareness campaign on various aspects of the electoral process. Most OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors acknowledged that proxy voting on behalf of several voters was practiced throughout the country, especially in rural areas, and welcomed the efforts to tackle this phenomenon.

There is no unified voter register. PECs are responsible for creating voter lists for each election based on local residency data provided by the district and town administrations. Following recent legal amendments, voters will be able to register at the address of their temporary residence. There is no

rigorous mechanism to cross-check for multiple entries. According to the CEC, the preliminary number of voters stands at 21,435,009.

A political party may nominate a presidential candidate provided it is registered with the Ministry of Justice at least six months prior to the announcement of the election. Citizens cannot run as independent candidates. Despite a previous OSCE/ODIHR recommendation, voters can sign in support of only one candidate. On 23 September, the CEC accepted the applications of four existing political parties to participate in the election.

The election campaign commences upon completion of candidate registration and ends one day prior to the election. The law contains provisions aimed at ensuring equal campaign opportunities for all contestants, including in terms of holding meetings and access to the media. Political parties informed the OSCE/ODIHR NAM that they expect the campaign to be vibrant with candidates using a combination of campaign strategies, including the use of social media.

The Constitution provides for freedom of expression, while the PEL and relevant CEC regulations govern the media's conduct throughout the electoral period. The media are held accountable for the trustworthiness of the disseminated information and defamation remains criminalized. The legal framework requires equal allocation of time and space among the candidates within the media.

Legislation provides for international election observation but, despite previous recommendations of the OSCE/ODIHR, does not contain provisions for citizen election observation. The four political parties informed the OSCE/ODIHR NAM that they will deploy a large number of their representatives on election day.

All OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors underscored the need for an OSCE/ODIHR election observation activity for the early presidential election, recognizing that an external assessment and recommendations would be of added value. Representatives of state institutions stressed the intention to conduct the electoral process transparently and in line with international standards for democratic elections. In considering an observation activity, the OSCE/ODIHR NAM has taken into account the various findings outlined in this report. These include issues related to the implementation of the amended legal framework, the work of election administration at all levels, including the on-going efforts of the authorities to prevent proxy voting, voter registration and the accuracy of voter lists, campaign environment, media coverage, and the conduct of election day procedures.

On this basis, and despite outstanding issues with regards to the respect of fundamental freedoms, the OSCE/ODIHR NAM recommends the deployment of an election observation mission for the 4 December early presidential election. In addition to a core team of experts, the OSCE/ODIHR will request the secondment by OSCE participating States of 28 long-term observers to follow the election process countrywide, as well as 250 short-term observers to follow election day procedures.

### **III. FINDINGS**

#### **A. BACKGROUND AND POLITICAL CONTEXT**

On 2 September, the first president of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov passed away after a serious illness. On 8 September, *Oliy Majlis* (parliament) appointed Prime Minister Shavkat Mirziyoyev as acting president during a joint meeting of the legislative chamber and the Senate. Mr. Mirziyoyev's candidacy had been proposed by the Senate's Chairman, who had earlier recused himself from assuming the interim presidential functions as envisaged by the Constitution. In line with the

constitutional requirement to hold early presidential election within three months, the CEC set 4 December as election day and announced the start of election campaign from 9 September.

The upcoming election will mark the end of an era in Uzbekistan, with the departure from the political scene of President Karimov after twenty five years in office.<sup>1</sup> The transition will be particularly significant since Uzbekistan has a strong presidential system in which the executive exercises wide authority relative to the parliament.<sup>2</sup>

The OSCE/ODIHR has observed six elections in Uzbekistan since 1999, most recently in 2015, when it deployed a Limited Election Observation Mission (LEOM) for the presidential election. The LEOM concluded that the 2015 election was marked by lack of genuine political alternatives and persistent legal and organizational shortcomings of the electoral process.<sup>3</sup> To date, the OSCE/ODIHR has not deployed a full election observation mission to Uzbekistan.

## **B. ELECTORAL SYSTEM AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK**

The president is directly elected by popular vote for a five-year term. If no candidate receives more than 50 per cent of the valid votes cast, a second round between the two leading candidates takes place within one month. There is a turnout requirement of 33 per cent for the first round to be valid, but no such requirement is in place for the second round. There is a constitutional limit of two consecutive presidential terms.

The presidential election is primarily regulated by the Constitution (last amended in 2014), the Law on Elections of the President (Presidential Election Law, PEL, last amended in 2015), the Law on Guarantees of Suffrage to Citizens (Law on Suffrage), as well as a multitude of other applicable legal acts, including CEC regulations.<sup>4</sup> The schedule of electoral activities and samples of key election-related materials were established by the CEC decision on 9 September. In addition, the CEC passed instructions and regulations on candidate nomination and signature verification processes, campaign activities and campaign finance, and observer rights.

In 2015, the PEL and other laws regulating aspects of the election process were subject to changes. Most notably, the law was amended to explicitly prescribe permissible campaigning methods and to lower the number of supporting signatures required for candidate registration from five to one per cent of voters nationwide. Other changes include detailing of early voting procedures and establishment of Precinct Election Commissions (PECs) in places of pre-trial detention. In a positive step, some of these amendments took into account previous OSCE/ODIHR recommendations. However, most recommendations, and specifically those relating to limitations of fundamental freedoms, remain unaddressed. Some OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors noted that the actual practical implementation of the introduced amendments would benefit from an external scrutiny.

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<sup>1</sup> President Karimov was first elected in 1991, and the current Constitution came into force in 1992. A 1995 referendum extended his term until 2000, when he won the presidential election with 96 per cent of support. Another referendum in 2000 extended the presidential term from five to seven years. Under the terms of the revised constitution, President Karimov won a new mandate in the December 2007 election. In 2011, the seven-year term was changed back to a five-year term by the parliament. President Karimov was re-elected for a new term in the 2015 presidential election.

<sup>2</sup> The president nominates the prime minister, the chairpersons of the Senate, the general prosecutor, the Board of the Central Bank and the CEC, approves the Cabinet of Ministers, and appoints and dismisses all judges and local executive authorities as well as the chairperson of the National Security Service.

<sup>3</sup> [See all previous OSCE/ODIHR reports on Uzbekistan.](#)

<sup>4</sup> Other applicable legislation includes the Law on CEC (last amended in 2015); the Law on Political Parties (last amended in 2014); the Law on Financing of Political Parties (last amended in 2015); relevant provisions of the Criminal Code (last amended in 2015), the Code of Administrative Offences (last amended in 2015).

## C. ELECTION ADMINISTRATION

The election is organized by a three-tiered election administration, headed by the CEC. There are 14 District Election Commissions (DECs) and 9,377 PECs, including 44 that have been established for out-of-country voting in diplomatic missions in 36 countries.

The CEC is a permanent body, while the DECs and PECs are set up for each election. Members of the CEC are appointed for indefinite terms by the parliament, based on proposals from the regional councils. The CEC is currently comprised of 16 members, two of whom are women. Members of the CEC elect a chairperson from amongst themselves, based on president's nomination. Decisions are passed with a majority of the members present and, in case of a tie, the chairperson's vote is decisive.

Each DEC has between 9 and 11 members. The CEC appointed 153 DEC members for this election upon the recommendations of the regional councils. DECs form the precincts and appoint between 5 and 19 members to each PEC, depending on the precinct size.<sup>5</sup> Chairpersons, deputies and secretaries are chosen by DEC and PEC members from amongst themselves. According to the CEC, nearly 40 per cent of DEC members are women and it is expected that women will be well represented at PEC level as well. Sessions of the CEC and all lower-level election commissions are open to representatives of the media, political parties, and international observers. The CEC informed the OSCE/ODIHR NAM that, in line with previous OSCE/ODIHR recommendation, all decisions will be made public through the media and its website.

The law provides for early voting for those who will be away from their polling station on election day.<sup>6</sup> To take part, a voter must complete an application indicating the reason why s/he will be absent on election day, although no proof is required.

The CEC trained DECs and is planning to launch an extensive training programme for all PEC members throughout the country. Currently, television spots and billboards that highlight the date of the election and explain voting procedures are prominent. The CEC informed the OSCE/ODIHR NAM that it plans a comprehensive voter awareness campaign on various aspects of the electoral process and to increase the participation of youth and vulnerable groups.<sup>7</sup> Most OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors acknowledged that proxy voting on behalf of several voters was practiced throughout the country, especially in rural areas, and welcomed the continuous efforts of the authorities to tackle this phenomenon.

## D. VOTER REGISTRATION

All citizens over 18 years of age have the right to vote, except for those who have been declared incapacitated by a court decision or are serving a prison sentence, regardless of the severity of the crime committed. Positively, amendments were introduced to the PEL to facilitate voting by those in pre-trial detention.

Voter registration is passive, and there is no unified voter register. PECs are responsible for creating voter lists for each election based on local residency data provided by the district and town

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<sup>5</sup> The law provides for a general rule that precincts are to have between 20 and 3,000 registered voters.

<sup>6</sup> Early voting starts ten days before election day. DECs decide on working schedule of PECs during early voting.

<sup>7</sup> The CEC programme identifies several civil society organizations as "responsible implementers" and requires weekly progress reports to be submitted to the Ministry of Justice.

administrations.<sup>8</sup> Following recent legal amendments, voters will be able to register at the address of their temporary residence. Voter lists are displayed by PECs for public scrutiny 15 days before election day.

Voters who are not on the lists for any reason may be added to the supplementary voter list, including on election day, upon proof of identity and permanent or temporary residence. Legally, a voter may only be included in one list, however, in the absence of a unified voter register, no rigorous mechanism exists to cross-check for multiple entries, including between temporary and permanent places of residence. Once established, PECs will conduct door-to-door verification of voter lists with assistance from the *mahallas* and non-governmental organizations.<sup>9</sup>

According to the CEC, the preliminary number of voters stands at 21,435,009. While all eligible voters living abroad have the right to vote in diplomatic missions without prior registration, a total of 20,000 ballots will be sent to PECs abroad.<sup>10</sup> Most OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors recognized that several million citizens might live abroad.

## E. CANDIDATE REGISTRATION

Uzbek citizens who are at least 35 years old, have resided in the country for at least 10 years before election day and have an excellent command of the Uzbek language, are eligible to stand.<sup>11</sup> Individuals convicted of intentional crimes, prosecuted for a criminal case or professional clergy of religious organizations are not eligible.

A political party may nominate a single presidential candidate provided it is registered with the Ministry of Justice at least six months prior to the announcement of the election and is registered by the CEC at least 70 days before the polls.<sup>12</sup> The electoral framework requires each party to hold a national congress to nominate its candidate.<sup>13</sup> Citizens cannot run as independent candidates.

According to the law, application of a political party to register its presidential candidate must include supporting signatures of at least 1 per cent of the total number of voters in the country, from at least 8 territorial units.<sup>14</sup> In addition, no more than 8 per cent of the signatures may come from any one territorial unit. Despite previous OSCE/ODIHR recommendation, voters can sign in support of only one candidate.

On 23 September, the CEC accepted the applications of four existing political parties to participate in the election and provided them with signature collection forms.<sup>15</sup> On 3 October, the CEC established

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<sup>8</sup> Special voter lists are compiled for military units, pre-trial detention centres, diplomatic missions, sanatoriums and other health establishments by the heads for these institutions.

<sup>9</sup> *Mahallas* are traditional Uzbek community structures that regulate everyday life of a settlement and serve to link the state and the community. Their role was formalized in the 1993 Law on the Institutions of Self-Government of the Citizens (*Mahalla Law*). Violations of *mahalla* committee decisions are legally punishable.

<sup>10</sup> All votes cast abroad will be counted towards DEC 14 in Tashkent.

<sup>11</sup> There are no legal provisions on how language proficiency is to be verified.

<sup>12</sup> The Ministry of Justice received no application to register a political party since 2003.

<sup>13</sup> Party congresses to nominate candidates were held in mid-October after the signature collection processes began.

<sup>14</sup> Around 214,000 signatures.

<sup>15</sup> Democratic Party of Uzbekistan *Milliy Tiklanish*, Liberal-Democratic Party of Uzbekistan, People's Democratic Party of Uzbekistan, and the Social Democratic Party of Uzbekistan *Adolat*.

two working groups to inspect the supporting signatures.<sup>16</sup> Within the seven-day period prescribed by the law, the working groups inspect a sample of 15 per cent of the signatures based on criteria listed in the relevant regulation.<sup>17</sup> The four political parties informed the OSCE/ODIHR NAM that attaining the required number of signatures was significantly easier due to lowered number of required signatures.

## F. ELECTION CAMPAIGN AND CAMPAIGN FINANCE

The election campaign commences upon completion of candidate registration by the CEC and ends one day prior to the election. The law contains provisions aimed at ensuring equal campaign opportunities for all contestants, including for holding meetings and access to the media. Amendments introduced to the PEL in 2015 further detail the list of permissible campaign activities, such as public debates, discussions, press conferences, interviews, presentations, meetings with electorate, broadcasting of audio-visual materials through electronic media and the Internet.

All four political parties that the OSCE/ODIHR NAM met with stated their intention to actively participate in the election. It is expected that candidates and their proxies will campaign on the basis of the general election programmes of their respective parties.<sup>18</sup> Political parties informed the OSCE/ODIHR NAM that they expect the campaign to be vibrant with candidates using a combination of campaign strategies, including the use of social media. They attributed this to the new political situation surrounding the upcoming election, increased interest of the voters and the unpredictability of the results.

Political and campaign finance is primarily regulated by the Political Finance Law and the CEC regulations.<sup>19</sup> The Ministry of Finance and the Chamber of Accounts monitor compliance with political and campaign finance regulations. Political parties are required to publish detailed financial reports on income and expenditures in the party newspaper and official website within one month after election day.

Political parties receive funding from the state budget, amounting in total to 2 per cent of the minimum wage multiplied by the number of voters during the last parliamentary elections. This amount is divided between political parties that have obtained parliamentary seats in proportion to the valid votes obtained in the corresponding elections. In election years, parties receive additional state funding for campaign-related expenses.

The OSCE/ODIHR NAM was informed that the amount of public funding that will be allocated to each political party contesting the election has increased compared to the previous elections and is set at some UZS 1 billion.<sup>20</sup> In addition, the candidates receive indirect benefits in the form of free-of-charge use of meeting premises, free-of-charge airtime in the public media, and generic candidate posters prepared by the CEC. Other sources of financing or other material support for candidates are prohibited. While the law allows for voluntary contributions from political parties, organizations and citizens, all political parties stated that the allocated state funding is sufficient. If such voluntary contributions occur, they are to be channelled through the CEC and divided equally between all contestants.

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<sup>16</sup> The working groups consist of representatives of the CEC, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior, Women's Committee, Tashkent State Law University, Youth movement "*Kamolot*", Independent Institute on Monitoring of Formation of Civil Society, and the Trade Union of ICT specialists.

<sup>17</sup> CEC regulation No. 740 of 23 September 2016 provides elaborate instructions on inspecting the signatures.

<sup>18</sup> Each candidate is entitled to have up to 15 officially registered proxies.

<sup>19</sup> Regulation No. 733 of 15 September 2016.

<sup>20</sup> Approx. EUR 300,000



## G. MEDIA

Television is the primary source of political information, followed by radio, which is more popular in rural areas. Internet and social media, such as Facebook and YouTube, are increasingly used as a source of political information in urban areas. To date, 1,472 media outlets are registered with the Press and Information Agency (PIA), according to which 60 per cent of media outlets are privately owned.<sup>21</sup> However, the state-owned National Television and Radio Company (NTRC), the sole outlet with nation-wide reach, dominates the market with its 26 television and radio channels.<sup>22</sup>

The Constitution provides for freedom of expression, yet it also holds the media, and journalists in particular, liable for the “trustworthiness” of the disseminated information. Furthermore, the primary legislation sets stringent limits to the freedom of reporting and obliges owners of news websites to register with the PIA. Defamation, libel and dissemination of false information during elections are criminal offenses.<sup>23</sup> Access to numerous local and international news websites is blocked. Detentions, imprisonments and other forms of pressure on journalists affect the freedom of the media and create an atmosphere that is not favourable to the free expression of ideas.<sup>24</sup>

The PEL and CEC regulations govern media’s conduct throughout the electoral period and provide for equal allocation of time and space to the candidates. The exact amount of free airtime and space will be determined by the CEC. In addition, electoral contestants will be able to purchase airtime for political advertisement, and a number of them informed the OSCE/ODIHR NAM that they plan to do so. Private media are required to offer equal opportunity for paid advertisement to all candidates. The publication of opinion polls, including on the Internet, is prohibited during the last five days before the election.

The authority to oversee the media’s compliance rests with the CEC at the central level and the DEC’s in the regions. The daily monitoring of campaign coverage and allocation of free airtime is conducted by the Ministry for Development of Information Technologies and Communications, which submits the monitoring results to the CEC on a daily basis.

The OSCE/ODIHR NAM was informed by representatives of the media that both the state broadcaster and private channels plan to organize topical talk-shows and debates between the presidential candidates and their proxies, as well as a variety of election-related programmes.

## H. COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS

The legal framework spells out, through the CEC instructions rather than in the law, various elements of the electoral dispute resolution process. Overall, the legal framework provides for a hierarchical structure of electoral dispute resolution, as decisions of lower-level commissions can be appealed to the higher-level ones or courts. Complaints against CEC decisions can be filed to the Supreme Court which has three days to make a decision.

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<sup>21</sup> 994 print outlets, 64 television and 31 radio channels, 4 information agencies and 350 websites.

<sup>22</sup> The NTRC has 13 television and radio channels with nation-wide reach, 12 regional broadcasters, offering both a television channel and a radio programme, and 1 satellite channel.

<sup>23</sup> Article 7 of the PEL prohibits “distribution of false information that defames honour and dignity of the candidate.” Article 146 of the Criminal Code holds a person responsible for breaking the electoral legislation, which is punishable by up to 3 years of imprisonment. Moreover, Articles 139 (libel) and 140 (insult) of the Criminal Code can also be applied to journalists.

<sup>24</sup> See RFOM statements on [10 October 2016](#), [29 April 2016](#) and [8 September 2014](#)

Positively, the resolutions adopted by the CEC for this election reduce the time for adjudication of complaints and appeals during election periods. PECs and DECAs have three days to take a decision or must do so immediately should a case be submitted within six days of the election. Decisions of election commissions on complaints may be appealed with the courts within the same timeframes. Complaints submitted on election day are to be considered immediately.

Complaints concerning voter lists can be lodged with the relevant PECs, which are obliged to review them within 24 hours or immediately should they be submitted on election day or one day before it. Upon appeal, the court has to decide within 24 hours. The court's decision is final. Complaints regarding campaign violations can be filed with the CEC, DECAs or the police.

The CEC may invalidate the election in whole or in part if violations committed during the election are deemed to have affected the results. Only candidates may appeal decisions on invalidation to the Supreme Court. This must be done within ten days of the publication of the results.

## **I. CITIZEN AND INTERNATIONAL OBSERVATION**

Legislation provides for international election observation but, despite previous recommendations of the OSCE/ODIHR does not contain provisions for citizen election observation. According to the law, political parties may nominate their representatives who, like international observers, may be present at sessions of all election commissions, as well as at polling stations during voting and counting. Such representatives must be accredited by the DECAs five days before the election. The four political parties informed the OSCE/ODIHR NAM that they will deploy a large number of their representatives both as party agents and candidate proxies on election day.

International observers are to be accredited by the CEC and are obliged to adhere to the regulations specified in the PEL. International observers are entitled to be present at the sessions of the DECAs and PECs, as well as to receive certified copies of election results protocols. In addition to the OSCE/ODIHR, the CEC invited observers from the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation, and the Association of World Election Bodies.

## **IV. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

All OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors underscored the need for an OSCE/ODIHR election observation activity for the early presidential election recognizing that an external assessment and recommendations would be of added value. Representatives of state institutions stressed the intention to conduct the electoral process transparently and in line with international standards for democratic elections. In considering an observation activity, the OSCE/ODIHR NAM has taken into account the various findings outlined in this report. These include issues related to the implementation of the amended legal framework, the work of election administration at all levels, including the on-going efforts of the authorities to prevent proxy voting, voter registration and the accuracy of voter lists, campaign environment, media coverage, and the conduct of election day procedures.

On this basis, and despite outstanding issues with regards to the respect of fundamental freedoms, the OSCE/ODIHR NAM recommends the deployment of an election observation mission for the 4 December early presidential election. In addition to a core team of experts, the OSCE/ODIHR will request the secondment by OSCE participating States of 28 long-term observers to follow the election process countrywide, as well as 250 short-term observers to follow election day procedures.

## **ANNEX: LIST OF MEETINGS**

### **Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

Dilyod Khakimov, First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs

Timur Rahmanov, Head of Division, Department for UN and International Organizations

Aziz Aliyev, Head of Division, Department for UN and International Organizations

### **Central Election Commission**

Mirza-Ulugbek Abdusalomov, Chairperson

Komiljon Adilov, Deputy Chairperson

Temur Shirinov, Member

### **Senate of the Oliy Majlis**

Svetlana Artikova, Deputy Chairperson

Sodik Safoyev, Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee

### **Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis**

Avazbek Jalilov, Chairperson, Committee on International Affairs and Inter-parliamentary Relations

Zakir Umarov, Deputy Chairperson, Committee on International Affairs and Inter-parliamentary Relations

Rakhimjon Khakimov, Member of Parliament

### **Supreme Court**

Kholmumin Yodgorov, Chief of Judicial Branch

Gulnora Parpieva, Judge

Surayakhon Khojamkulova, Head of Department

Aziz Mirzayev, Adviser to the Chairman

### **Ministry of Justice**

Jamshidhon Nuritdinov, Head, International Law Department

Hudavor Meliyev, Head, Department on non-governmental, non-profit and religious organizations

Davron Kalandarov, Head, Department on Criminal, administrative and social legislation

### **National Human Rights Center of Uzbekistan**

Akmal Saidov, Director

### **Ombudsperson's Office**

Ulugbek Mukhammadiyev, Ombudsman

### **Press and Information Agency**

Kamil Mansurov, Deputy Director

Khoshimjon Murodov, Head, Department on co-ordination of mass-media and printing houses

Artur Kan, Head, Department on Licensing

D. Turayev, Chief Specialist, Legal Department

### **Women's Committee of Uzbekistan**

Elmira Basitkhanova, Deputy Prime Minister, Chairperson of the Committee

Gulnora Marufova, Deputy Chairperson

### **Political Parties (in alphabetical order)**

#### **Democratic Party “Milliy Tiklanish”**

Jaloliddin Safoev, Deputy Chairman of Central Council

#### **Liberal Democratic Party of Uzbekistan UzLiDeP**

Bakhtiyor Yakubov, Deputy Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Political Council

Azamat Seitov, Head of Department for international co-operation

Alisher Makhamov, Head of section on ideological work

#### **People’s Democratic Party**

Rustam Kamilov, Deputy Chairman of Central Council, People’s Democratic Party

#### **Social Democratic Party of Uzbekistan “Adolat”**

Abdukamol Rakhmonov, Deputy Chairman of the Political Council

### **Civil Society**

#### **Independent Institute on Monitoring of Formation of Civil Society**

Etibor Kholova, Executive Secretary

Azizjon Yuldashev, Project Co-ordinator

Gulrukhsor Khatamova, Project Co-ordinator

#### **Charity Foundation “Mahalla”**

Jovdatkhon Inogamov, Chairperson

### **Media**

#### **State Television and Radio Company**

Nusratulla Khikmatullayev, First Deputy Chairperson

Abdurozik Khalimov, First Deputy Director Coordinator for election related coverage

#### **National Association of Electronic Mass Media**

Firdavs Abdukhalikov, Chairperson

Jamila Nurjanova, Deputy Chairperson