

29 April 2010

Original: ENGLISH



United States Mission to the OSCE

**Invitation to Observe U.S. November 2, 2010
Mid-Term Elections**

As delivered by Chargé d' Affaires Carol Fuller
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
April 29, 2010

Millions of Americans will exercise their democratic right to vote in the upcoming elections on November 2, 2010, in the United States for 34 seats in the U.S. Senate and all 435 seats in the U.S House of Representatives, representing the 50 states. Elections also will be held for the delegates from the District of Columbia and four of the five major U.S. territories.

On behalf of the United States Government, I extend an invitation to the OSCE participating States to observe these elections. Letters of invitation are being sent today to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and to the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights. We have invited ODIHR to conduct a needs assessment mission in the United States in preparation for a possible OSCE observation mission.

Within the U.S. federal system, the responsibility for organizing elections rests with state and local governments. The Department of State is committed to facilitating the needs assessment mission and election observation by assisting ODIHR in contacting election officials in those U.S. jurisdictions to which the OSCE would like to send observers.

The United States fully supports the OSCE's important work, in particular its election observation efforts, in promoting free and fair elections from "Vancouver to Vladivostok." We consider this invitation an opportunity to demonstrate, once again, the United States' dedication to fulfilling its OSCE commitments.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.