

To: Heads of OSCE PA Delegations

## CC: Secretaries of OSCE PA Delegations

29 April 2021

Dear Heads of Delegations,

Early parliamentary elections are scheduled to take place in Armenia on 20 June 2021. In anticipation of an invitation to observe, the OSCE PA President has decided to deploy an Election Observation Mission to these important elections to work closely with an expected team from the OSCE/ODIHR and the PA of the Council of Europe.

In accordance with the attached OSCE PA Election Observation Guidelines, national Delegations wishing to nominate their members to participate in this mission are kindly asked to complete and return to the International Secretariat (<u>eom@oscepa.dk</u>) as soon as possible, but no later than **Friday**, **21 May 2021** the following:

- 1. The Delegation Nomination Form,
- 2. An Individual Observer Nomination Form for each nominated observer,
- 3. A signed Statement of Nominated Election Observer for each nominated observer,
- 4. A signed Code of Conduct for each nominated observer,
- 5. A copy of the photograph page from each nominated observer's passport,
- 6. A photograph.

Please note that in accordance with the Guidelines nominated observers are not part of an observation mission before they have been appointed by the OSCE PA President. The International Secretariat will communicate the list of observers to delegations that have forwarded nominations following appointment by the OSCE PA President. Due to registration procedures, we may not be able to accommodate those who register after the deadline.

As a result of the COVID-19 response, a number of travel restrictions are in place in many countries, and Members are requested to consult with the appropriate authorities regarding travel procedures and access to the country. The International Secretariat will maintain close contact with the authorities in Armenia to ensure compliance with local health regulations. The mission will work to put in place disease mitigation measures including social distancing where possible, however participants should understand that observation is a physical practice requiring interaction with a wide range of people. Observers are expected to comply with all national laws and regulations of the host country, including health regulations; please note that there may be additional costs related to compliance with health measures required by the authorities of Armenia or by the mission.

All participants are expected to obtain a PCR test for COVID-19 not earlier than 72 hours prior to arrival in Armenia. Participants may be requested to demonstrate a negative result to such test; if the test indicates positive for COVID, observers are expected to not travel for the observation mission. Members are requested to ensure that they have full health insurance coverage valid for the duration of their stay in Armenia.

Further information, including a detailed programme, will be distributed to participants in due course. Briefings for the mission are expected to be held in Yerevan in-person during the two days before election day, and Members are reminded that in accordance with the OSCE PA's Astana Declaration of 2008 and the Guidelines, participants are expected to attend the full briefing programme as well as the debriefing on the day following the election.

I wish to remind you that national parliaments are responsible for their Members' expenses and that only interpretation into English will be provided in meetings and briefings.

Yours sincerely, Roberto Montella, Secretary General