

INFORMATION ON THE RULES

OF PROCEDURE, STATUS AND
AUTHORITIES OF INTERNATIONAL
(FOREIGN) OBSERVERS AT ELECTIONS
AND REFERENDA IN THE
KYRGYZ REPUBLIC



THE CENTRAL COMMISSION ON
ELECTIONS AND REFERENDA
OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

Information on the Rules of Procedure, Status and Authorities of International (Foreign) Observers at Elections and Referenda in the Kyrgyz Republic

The procedure of inviting and accrediting international observers is regulated by the Article 10 of the Constitutional Law "On Elections of President of the Kyrgyz Republic and Deputies of the Djogorku Kenesh (Parliament) of the Kyrgyz Republic", as well as by the Regulation "On the Rules of Procedure, Status and Authorities of International (Foreign) Observers at Elections and Referenda of the Kyrgyz Republic" approved by the CEC.

According to the definition given in the Constitutional Law, **an international observer** is a person representing a foreign or international organization, who acquires the right to observe preparation to and holding elections in the Kyrgyz Republic in accordance with the procedure established by law.

In order to observe the preparation to and holding elections to the Djogorku Kenesh on November 28th, 2021, the CEC has forwarded invitations to a number of international organizations: CIS Executive Committee, SCO, OSCE ODIHR, OIC, Turkic Council (CCTSS), World, Asian and European Associations of election bodies, as well as to a number of election commissions of foreign states.

The Djogorku Kenesh has forwarded invitations to inter-parliamentary associations, in particular the IPA CIS, PA CSTO, OSCE PA, PACE, European Parliament and TURKPA.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs forwards invitations to the diplomatic missions and consular posts accredited to the Kyrgyz Republic, including those residing in other states. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well sends invitations to foreign media representatives to cover the election process in the media.

As far as applications for accreditation of international observers for the elections of deputies of the Djogorku Kenesh are received and considered, the CEC will take appropriate decisions and timely post information in the section "International Observers" on the official website of the CEC <https://shailoo.gov.kg/>



The Regulation "On the Rules of Procedure, Status and Authorities of International (Foreign) Observers at Elections and Referenda of the Kyrgyz Republic"

(approved by the CEC Decree dated 9th November 2016 № 197)

1. General Provisions

1.1 The present Regulation "On the Rules of Procedure, Status and Authorities of International (Foreign) Observers at Elections and Referenda of the Kyrgyz Republic" (hereinafter, the Regulation) defines the operating procedures, status and authorities of international observers in the course of elections and referenda, who observe individually or as a part of a group of observers, as well as a part of an international observation mission.

1.2 The Regulation has been developed on the basis of the Constitution of the Kyrgyz Republic, other laws and legal acts of the Kyrgyz Republic, international treaties of the Kyrgyz Republic, taking into account the universally recognized principles and norms of the international law in the field of organization and holding elections and referenda, international electoral standards.

1.3. An international observer is a person representing a foreign or international organization, who acquires the right to observe the preparation to and holding elections in the Kyrgyz Republic in accordance with the established by legislation procedure.

1.4. An international observer may be a representative of a foreign or international organization, who is not a citizen of the Kyrgyz Republic, entitled to observe preparation to and holding elections and referenda in the Kyrgyz Republic in the manner established by law.

2. Procedure for inviting international observers

2.1. International observers shall receive permission to enter the territory of the Kyrgyz Republic in compliance of the procedure established by the Constitutional Laws "On Elections of President and Deputies of the Djogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic", "On Referendum of the Kyrgyz Republic", "On Elections of Deputies of Local Keneshes (Councils) of the Kyrgyz Republic" and shall be accredited by the Central Commission on Elections and Referenda of the Kyrgyz Republic (hereinafter Central Election Commission, CEC) upon the invitation and documents indicated in the paragraph 3 of this Regulation.

2.2. Invitations may be sent by the President of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Djogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Central Election Commission after official publication of decision on calling elections and referenda in the Kyrgyz Republic.

2.3. Proposals for invitations may be submitted by international and national non-commercial organizations specializing in the issues of electoral legislation and elections, as well as in the field of human rights protection.

2.4. The Central Election Commission shall send invitations to central electoral bodies of foreign states, as well as international organizations specializing in the issues of electoral legislation and elections, protection of citizens' rights to participate in elections and referenda, including international associations of election officials.

2.5. Invitations shall be sent by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic in compliance of the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic "On Interaction of State Bodies in the Field of Foreign Policy of the Kyrgyz Republic".

3. Accreditation Procedure

3.1. Foreign and international organizations that received invitation from the President, the Djogorku Kenesh, the Cabinet of Ministers, submit to the Central Election Commission an application for accreditation as international observer, a list of their representatives, as well as copies of their identity documents.

3.2. In case of receipt of documents for accreditation as international observer, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic shall submit them to the Central Election Commission after review for compliance with the requirements of this Regulation.

3.4. Representatives of foreign and international organizations shall be accredited by a decree of the Central Election Commission. The list of accredited international observers shall be posted on the official website.

3.5. The Central Election Commission shall issue to an accredited person an international observer's certificate as per standard form or a reasoned refusal in accreditation.

3.6. The certificate entitles an international observer to carry out his/her activities during the period specified in the paragraph 3.8. of this Section.

3.7. The accreditation procedure for international observers starts after setting official date of elections and referenda and ends 3 days before the election day.

3.8. The term of authorities of an international observer starts from the date of accreditation at the Central Election Commission and ends on the day of official publication of results of elections and referenda.

In case of repeat voting, new accreditation for an accredited international observer is not required, their authorities cease on the day of official publication of results of repeat voting.

3.9. Samples of certificates and applications for accreditation of an international (foreign) observer at elections and referenda of

the Kyrgyz Republic shall be approved by the Central Election Commission.

3.10. The Central Election Commission has the right to deny accreditation to an international observer in the following cases:

- absence of legal capacity of a foreign or international organization that sent an observer to carry out observation;
- failure to submit the documents stipulated herein (the Regulation) for accreditation or submission of incomplete or unreliable information;
- if statutory objectives of a foreign or international organization or purposes of stay and activities on the territory of the Kyrgyz Republic contradict the Constitution and the legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic or pose a threat to sovereignty, security, territorial integrity and national interests;
- if an international observer has previously been deprived of accreditation due to gross violations of the Constitution and laws of the Kyrgyz Republic, international legal acts or international observation principles.

4. Authorities and operating procedures of international observers

4.1 The activity of international observers for elections and referenda is regulated by the electoral legislation.

4.2. Material and financial support of an international observer's activity shall be carried out at the expense of a sending party or at the own expense of an observer.

4.3. When visiting election commissions of all levels and state bodies of the Kyrgyz Republic, other state bodies, local self-government bodies, an international observer shall be obliged to carry an international observer's certificate, issued by the Central Election Commission, an identity document and to present it at the request of the organizers of elections and referenda.

4.4. International observers shall have the right:

- 1) to move freely and be present at any polling stations;
- 2) to provide themselves with an interpreter who will accompany him/her at any polling stations during the observation of elections and referenda;
- 3) to enounce publicly his/her opinion on preparation to and holding elections and referenda;
- 4) to hold press conferences and address representatives of mass media;
- 5) to take photos, make video and audio recordings without violating the secrecy of voting;
- 6) to wear badges not containing signs of election campaigning; indicating their status, surname, name and patronymic, name of an organization they represent;
- 7) to observe establishing of election commission's compositions of any level;
- 8) to observe the process of voter lists' compilation;
- 9) to observe the process of voters' registration;
- 10) to carry out observation of information support of elections and referenda;

11) to carry out other actions in accordance with the legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic.

International observers shall have the right to meet with voters, candidates included to list of candidates, political parties and other participants of elections and referenda, to attend meetings of election commissions and acquaint themselves with election documents, to attend polling stations, to observe voting including through the use of technical means, vote counting, determination of elections' out-turns and results, to acquaint themselves with results of considering applications and complaints, to receive copies of election documents, to give opinions on results of elections and referenda.

4.5 International observers shall be obliged:

- to comply with the Constitution and laws of the Kyrgyz Republic, the provisions of the "Convention on the standards of democratic elections, electoral rights and freedoms in the member states of the Commonwealth of Independent States", other international documents;

- to perform their functions guided by the principles of political neutrality, impartiality, respect for national sovereignty of the Kyrgyz Republic, refraining from expressing any preferences or assessments with respect to the electoral bodies, state and other bodies, officials, participants of elections and referenda;

- not to interfere in the process at all stages of elections, including after voting;

- to base all their conclusions on observation and factual material;

- to refrain from making any assessments, comments, suggestions and recommendations to representatives of mass media and public in connection with their observation until the end of voting.

4.6. In accordance with the Regulation, international observers do not have the right to use their status to carry out

activities not related to observing preparation to and holding elections and referenda.

4.7. The Central Election Commission has the right to revoke accreditation of an international observer in case of violation of the Regulation, legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic, generally recognized principles and norms of international law, as well as upon a written application of an organization that has sent the observer or the international observer.

4.8. An international observer shall be under the auspices of the Kyrgyz Republic on the territory of the Kyrgyz Republic. Election commissions, public authorities and local self-government bodies shall be obliged to provide necessary assistance to him/her within their competence.

4.9. Persons violating the rights of international observers shall bear responsibility in accordance with the legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic.

The excerpts from the constitutional Law of the Kyrgyz Republic “On the Elections of President of the Kyrgyz Republic and Deputies of the Djogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic” dated 2nd July, 2011, № 68

(as amended by the Constitutional Laws of the Kyrgyz Republic dated 25th November, 2011, № 221; 23rd April, 2015, № 88; 5th June, 2017, № 96; 8th August, 2019, № 116; 30th June 30, 2020, № 68; 11th November, 2020, № 2; 15th July 15, 2021, № 84; 26th August 26, 2021, № 103)

Article 8: Publicity in the electoral process

1. Organization and holding elections shall be transparent and open.

2. Members of superior election commissions, candidates, representatives of candidates, representatives of political parties, as well as observers, **international observers**, representatives of mass media shall be entitled to attend meetings of a relevant election commission.

Article 10. International observers

1. International observers are accredited by the Central Election Commission upon the invitation sent by the President, the Djogorku Kenesh, the Cabinet of Ministers and the Central Election Commission after official publication of decision on calling elections. Proposals for invitations can be submitted by international and national non-commercial organizations specializing in the issues of electoral legislation and elections, as well as in the field of human rights protection.

Citizens of the Kyrgyz Republic can not be accredited as international observers.

2. Term of office of an international observer starts from the date of his/her accreditation by the Central Election Commission and ends on the day of official publication of election results.

3. International observers have the right of freedom of movement and to attend any polling stations and election commissions.

4. International observers have the right:

1) to enounce publicly his/her opinion on preparation to and holding elections;

2) to hold press conferences and address representatives of mass media;

3) to make photo, video and audio recordings without violating the secrecy of voting;

4) to wear badges not containing signs of election campaigning, indicating their status, surname, name and patronymic, the name of an organization they represent;

5) to observe establishing of election commission's compositions of any level;

6) to observe the process of voter lists' compilation;

7) to observe the process of voters' registration;

8) to carry out observation of information support of elections.

5. International observers shall not have the right to use their status to carry out activities not related to observation of preparation to and holding elections.

6. The Central Election Commission has the right to revoke accreditation of an international observer if he/she violates the Constitutional Law and the legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic.

7. The activity of international observers shall be regulated by the electoral legislation.

Article 22: Informing voters and election campaigning

15. State civil and municipal servants, persons occupying state political offices, except deputies of the Djogorku Kenesh, special state and political municipal offices, except deputies of local Keneshes (Councils), members of election commissions, observers, **international observers**, religious figures, founders and members of organizations engaged in charitable activity, persons under 18 years old, foreign citizens and organizations, stateless persons, employees of territorial public associations, and persons with no citizenship **shall not have the right to hold pre-election campaigning, produce and distribute any campaign materials.**

Article 39. Publication of voting results and election out-turns

1. **The results of voting at each polling station, territory,** covered by an election commission, the results of elections at an electoral district **shall be provided for review** to voters, candidates, representatives of candidates, representatives of political parties, observers, **international observers**, representatives of mass media upon their request in the volume of data, contained in protocols of the Central Election Commission and direct lower-level election commissions.

Information resources of the Central Election Commission



The CEC official web-site <http://shailoo.gov.kg>
The web-portal provides information on current events, the electoral process, meetings, regulations, the composition of the CEC of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Voter Information System – <http://ess.shailoo.gov.kg/>
The resource provides information on results of voting of the past and current elections.



The graphical display web-site containing the manual vote counting protocol and the final report of identification – <http://protocol.shailoo.gov.kg/>
The web-site allows to obtain scanned Polling Station Count Optional Scanner (PCOS) protocols and manual vote counting protocols of the past and current elections.

The “Tizme” web-portal – <https://tizme.gov.kg/>
The CEC of the Kyrgyz Republic resource containing information on voter lists by region, gender and age groups.





The map of polling stations
– <https://shailoo.gov.kg/kg/map/>

Complaints and appeals web-portal
– <https://shailoo.gov.kg/kg/registry/>
The CEC web-portal for reviewing
complaints and petitions submitted to
election commissions (CEC, TEC, DEC),
decisions and judicial acts taken on them.



The “Talapker” web-portal
– <http://talapker.shailoo.gov.kg/>
The resource contains information on candidates.



Telegram



Instagram



Youtube



Facebook



CEC contacts

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CEC Working Groups' Contacts

#	Working Group	Heads and Working Groups' Secretaries	Contacts
1.	On considering applications and complaints of voters and other participants of the electoral process in the course of elections and referenda	<p>Mr. Mamatov Kairat Adamkalievich – a CEC Member, Head of the Working Group, HWG</p> <p>Ms. Kutberdieva Medina Mirlanovna – Head of the CEC Executive Office Division for Legal Affairs, the Working Group Secretary, WGS</p>	<p>(0312) 66-02-86</p> <p>(0312) 66-01-43 (0312) 62-01-84</p>
2.	On informing voters, other electoral subjects and the rules of campaigning	<p>Mr. Djylkybaev Uzarbek Kazievich – a CEC Member, Head of the Working Group, HWG</p> <p>Ms. Kadyrbek kzy Nurgul – Expert of the CEC Executive Office Information Division, the Working Group Secretary, WGS</p>	<p>(0312) 62-63-38</p> <p>(0312) 66-54-52</p>
3.	The CEC Prompt Response Coordination Team (PRCT)	<p>Mr. Shainazarov Tynchtyk Uraimovich – the CEC Deputy Head, PRCT Head</p> <p>Ms. Kobukeeva Ayzada Makhmutovna – Senior Expert of the CEC Executive Office Records Management Division, PRCT Secretary</p>	<p>(0312) 66-03-19</p> <p>(0312) 62-63-24</p>

4.	The Control and Audit Group	<p>Mr. Gaypkulov Iskender Torobaevich – a CEC Member, Head of the Working Group, HWG</p> <p>Ms. Djumaeva Milana Baktybekovna – Outside Expert, the Working Group Secretary, WGS</p>	<p>(0312) 66-01-09</p> <p>(0312) 66-01-18</p>
5.	On ensuring the electoral rights of citizens of the Kyrgyz Republic temporarily residing or staying abroad	<p>Ms. Dubanbaeva Anar Sartbaevna – a CEC Member, Head of the Working Group, HWG</p> <p>Mr. Umetaliyev Arslanbek Taalaibekovich – Head of the CEC International Cooperation Division, the Working Group Secretary, WGS</p>	<p>(0312) 62-01-51</p> <p>(0312) 62-08-28</p>
6.	On improving the implementation of voting rights of citizens of the Kyrgyz Republic with disabilities	<p>Ms. Djumalieva Akbalyk Kalyevna – a CEC Member, Head of the Working Group, HWG</p> <p>Ms. Sheralieva Aynagul Rysbaevna – Information Technology Systems Administrator, Division of the CEC Voter Information System Department, the Working Group Secretary, WGS</p>	<p>(0312) 62-01-51</p> <p>(0552) 45-15-21</p> <p>(0777) 45-15-21</p>
7.	On the Polling Station Count Optional Scanner (PCOS) and Voter Information System (VIS) software enhancements	<p>Mr. Naspekov Mars Damirovich – a CEC Member, Head of the Working Group, HWG</p> <p>Mr. Akimbaev Askar Djusupbaevich – Head of the CEC Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) Division, the Working Group Secretary, WGS</p>	<p>(0312) 66-02-86</p> <p>(0312) 62-08-25</p>

8.	On voter list's compilation for single electoral districts and single-mandate constituencies	<p>Mr. Shainazarov Tynchtyk Uraimovich – the CEC Deputy Head, Head of the Working Group, HWG</p> <p>Mr. Akimbaev Askar Djusupbaevich – Head of the CEC Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) Division, the Working Group Secretary, WGS</p>	<p>(0312) 66-03-19</p> <p>(0312) 62-08-25</p>
9.	Interagency Working Group on establishing electoral constituencies on the elections of deputies of the Djogorku Kenesh	<p>Mr. Bekmatov Abdydjar Gapyrovich – a CEC Member, Head of the Working Group, HWG</p> <p>Ms. Kojokeeva Makhabat Duishenbekovna – Head of the CEC Executive Office Elections Organization Division, the Working Group Secretary, WGS</p>	<p>(0312) 62-62-90</p> <p>(0312) 62-08-29</p>
10.	On acceptance and verification of electoral documents submitted by candidates and political parties on elections of deputies of the Djogorku Kenesh	<p>Mr. Koychukeev Nurlan Chokoevich – a CEC Member, Head of the Working Group, HWG</p> <p>Ms. Kojokeeva Makhabat Duishenbekovna – Head of the CEC Executive Office Elections Organization Division, the Working Group Secretary, WGS</p>	<p>(0312) 66-01-91</p> <p>(0312) 62-08-29</p>