ANNEX to the Resolution of the Central Election Commission

 of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated July 13, 2022, №1177

**REGULATIONS**

 **on Observers from Foreign States and International Organizations Participating in the Referendum of the Republic of Uzbekistan**

These Regulations are developed in accordance with Articles 8 and 9 of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On Referendum of the Republic of Uzbekistan”, as well as generally recognized provisions of international law on the organization and holding of the referendum and shall determine the procedure for the activities of observers from foreign states and international organizations in the referendum of the Republic of Uzbekistan (hereinafter referred to as the referendum).

**Chapter I. General Provisions**

1. The activities of observers from foreign states and international organizations (hereinafter referred to as the foreign (international) observers) shall be regulated by the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On Referendum of the Republic of Uzbekistan”, resolutions of the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan (hereinafter referred to as the CEC) and these Regulations, as well as generally accepted standards and documents of international organizations acceded to by the Republic of Uzbekistan.

2. Under the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On Referendum of the Republic of Uzbekistan”, foreign (international) observers shall be entitled to participate in all activities for the preparation and holding of the referendum.

**Chapter II. Procedure for inviting and accrediting foreign (international) observers**

3. The CEC through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan shall send an invitation to the Election Administrations of foreign states and international organizations after the announcement of the decision on the calling of the referendum.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan shall invite foreign (international) observers to the elections on its own initiative or upon the suggestion of public authorities, ministries, departments, research institutes, and other organizations, and institutions.

Foreign states and international organizations may also approach the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan expressing their wish to participate in the referendum as foreign (international) observers.

4. Foreign states, and international organizations invited as foreign (international) observers for participation in the referendum, as well as those who have expressed such a wish, shall submit to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan the list of their observers, copies of their identification documents, electronic photos (jpg format, at least 100KB, 600x600px size) and application forms according to Annex No. 1 to these Regulations.

5. Foreign states and international organizations must submit the relevant documents no later than 10 (ten) days before Election Day.

6. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan shall make a submission to the CEC with the documents of observers from relevant foreign states and international organizations attached. The CEC within 5 (five) days shall adopt a Resolution on the accreditation of foreign (international) observers.

The list of accredited foreign (international) observers shall be published on the official website of the CEC.

7. Accreditation of foreign (international) observers may be denied in the following cases:

inconsistency of the documents submitted for accreditation with the requirements of these Regulations;

submission of documents after the deadline established by these Regulations;

contradiction of the activities of a foreign (international) observer or organizations that submitted their candidacy to the national legislation or a threat to the sovereignty, security, and national interests of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

8. The CEC shall grant a mandate to an accredited foreign (international) observer following the template set forth in Annex No. 2 to these Regulations.

The mandate shall serve as a basis for a foreign (international) observer to perform his/her activities during the preparation and holding of the referendum.

**Chapter III. Powers and procedures for foreign (international) observers**

9. Foreign (international) observers within their competence shall be entitled to the following:

attend meetings of the Referendum Commissions;

be present at the Referendum Precinct, observe the preparatory work, the placement of booths or secret voting rooms and the sealing of ballot boxes, the registration of citizens, and the distribution of ballot papers;

observe the voting process on Election Day;

be informed about the place and time of early voting and observe this process;

observe the process of voting at the place of residence of a citizen with his/her consent, without violating the principle of secret voting;

be present during the vote count and the compilation of the Precinct Referendum Commission Voting Results Protocol;

request and receive copies of the documents on the results of the voting verified by the corresponding Referendum Commission;

observe the voting process accompanied by an interpreter who has been personally hired by the observer;

take photos and make video and audio recordings and not interfere with the work of the Referendum Commission and the voting process and not violate the secrecy of the vote (except in places of detention and imprisonment, military units, and medical institutions) ;

address the representatives of mass media according to the results of the observation;

wear badges that do not contain signs of campaigning, indicating their surname, first name and patronymic, and the name of the organization they represent;

be present when the District Referendum Commissions receive Protocol from the Precinct Commissions on the results of the vote counting and in the process of determining the results of the voting in the district;

notify, as provided for in the established procedure, the relevant Precinct Commission at least 3 (three) days prior to arrival at the Referendum Precincts formed in military units, places of detention and imprisonment;

report their observations to the members of the Precinct Commission without interfering with their work, as well as inform higher Referendum Commissions, when there are reasons to believe that the requirements of national legislation and international referendum standards have been violated in the respective Referendum Precinct;

express their views on referendum legislation, and the preparation and holding of the referendum.

Foreign (international) observers shall also enjoy other rights as prescribed by law.

10. The obligations of foreign (international) observers shall be as follows:

observe with respect for the Constitution, the laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan, including the rules of stay in Uzbekistan, the universally recognized standards and principles of international law on the organization and holding of the referendum;

perform their duties in international referendum observation in line with the principles of impartiality and political neutrality, and refuse to express any preference for Referendum Commissions, public authorities, officials, and referendum participants

present the mandate granted by the CEC, together with an identification document, when visiting Referendum Commissions of all levels, public authorities and administrations, and other organizations;

base their conclusions on observation and factual materials.

 11. Foreign (international) observers shall be prohibited from the following:

be in the voting booth or secret voting room when a voter makes his or her marks on the ballot paper;

influence voters or distribute any campaign materials or literature;

ask voters how they voted or assist them in any way in marking their ballot

interfere with the Referendum Commission activities, including the sealing of ballot boxes, their opening, and the vote-counting process

announce the results of public opinion polls, predictions of referendum results, and other referendum-related research on referendum day and the day before voting begins.

The participation of foreign (international) observers in events and processes not related to the preparation and holding of the referendum shall be subject to prior coordination with the CEC.

12. The term of office of foreign (international) observers shall begin on the date of granting the mandate and end on the day of the official announcement of the referendum results.

**Chapter IV. Guarantees for the activities of foreign (international) observers**

13. Foreign (international) observers shall be under the protection of the Republic of Uzbekistan during their stay in the Republic of Uzbekistan and they shall be guaranteed the rights and freedoms established by law.

14. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the CEC, District, and Precinct Referendum Commissions shall, within the limits of their authority, shall assist the activity of foreign (international) observers.

15. The Referendum Commissions, upon registration of a foreign (international) observer based on his/her mandate and identification document, shall create conditions for the full and free exercise of his/her powers.

16. Foreign (international) observers shall perform their activities independently.

**Chapter V. Liability for violation of referendum legislation and the rights of foreign (international) observers**

17. Foreign (international) observers shall not have the right to perform activities beyond the scope of powers defined by these Regulations, as well as to use their status in carrying out activities not related to the preparation, holding, and observation of the referendum.

18. Should a foreign (international) observer violate the requirements of the legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan, generally accepted rules and standards of international law, the CEC may prematurely terminate the powers of a foreign (international) observer.

19. Persons who have violated the rights of foreign (international) observers shall be held accountable under the established procedure.

ANNEX NO. 1 to the Regulations on Observers from Foreign States and International Organizations Participating in the Referendum of the Republic of Uzbekistan

**АНКЕТА**

**Для аккредитации в качестве иностранного (международного) наблюдателя**

**APPLICATION FORM**

**for registration as a foreign (international) observer**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **1.** | ФамилияFamily nameИмяFirst nameОтчествоPatronymic |  |
| **2.** | Дата рождения (день, месяц, год)Date of birth (day, month, year)Место рожденияPlace of birth |  |
| **3.** | ГражданствоPresent nationality |  |
| **4.** | Документ, удостоверяющий личностьIdentification documentНомерNumberДата выдачиDate of issueДействителен до (день, месяц, год)Date of expiry (day, month, year) |  |
| **5.** | Какими языками владеете?Knowledge of languages |  |
| **6.** | Место работы (полное название, адрес, телефон, факс)Place of work (full name, address, phone, fax of the organization) |  |
| **7.** | Занимаемая должностьPosition/Designation |  |
| **8.** | Название страны (организации), рекомендовавшей вас в качестве иностранного (международного) наблюдателяName of organization/state You represent as foreign (international) observerТелефон (факс)Phone (fax) |  |
| **9.** | Домашний адресPresent home addressТелефонPhoneФаксFaxE-mail |  |
| **10.** | Опыт иностранного (международного) наблюдателя, в том числе в Узбекистане (страна, год, миссия)Experience from election observation, including in Uzbekistan (country, year, mission) |  |
| **11.** | Дата прибытия в Республику УзбекистанDate of arrival to the Republic of Uzbekistan |  |
| **12.** | Дата выезда из Республики УзбекистанDate of departure from the Republic of Uzbekistan |  |
| **13.** | Дата заполнения анкетыDate | ПодписьSignature |

ANNEX NO. 2 to the Regulations on Observers from Foreign States and International Organizations Participating in the Referendum of the Republic of Uzbekistan

**SAMPLE AND DESCRIPTION OF THE MANDATE OF A FOREIGN (INTERNATIONAL) OBSERVER**

**Central Election Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan**

**Referendum of the Republic of Uzbekistan**

*(date)*

MANDATE № \_\_

**OF A FOREIGN (INTERNATIONAL) OBSERVER**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(*surname*)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(*name*)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*(country/organization name)*

**Chairperson of the Central Election Commission**

 *Stamp* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 *(signature)*

This mandate shall be valid upon presentation of an identification document

 and shall remain in effect until the day of the official announcement of the referendum results

The mandate of a foreign (international) observer is a document confirming his/her status.

The mandate shall be issued on a double-sided model form with details of the size 140x100 mm (in Uzbek and Russian or Uzbek and English languages) given in the sample.

National symbols of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the logo of the Central Election Commission, as well as various ornaments and colors, may be used in the design of the mandate.

The mandate shall include its serial number, surname, name of a foreign (international) observer, name of the country (for foreign observers) and (or) organization (for observers from international organizations) that sent him/her as a representative, and shall be certified by the signature of the Chairperson of the Central Election Commission and the round official stamp of the Commission. Subject to the technical feasibility, the mandate can be certified by a QR code.