ANNEX

 to the Resolution of the Central Election Commission

of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated July 13, 2022, №1179

**Regulations on Observers from Political Parties, Citizens' Self-Governing Bodies, and Citizens’ Action Groups Participating in the Referendum of the Republic of Uzbekistan**

These Regulations have been developed in accordance with Articles 8 and 9 of the Republic of Uzbekistan Law “On Referendum of the Republic of Uzbekistan”, the Republic of Uzbekistan Law “On Political Parties”, “On citizens' self-governing bodies” and shall define the legal status, rights, and obligations of observers from political parties, citizens' self-governing bodies and citizens' action groups (hereinafter referred to as the observers) during preparation and holding of the referendum of the Republic of Uzbekistan (hereinafter referred to as the referendum) and procedures for the execution of their documents.

**Chapter I. General Provisions**

1. The observer shall have the right to participate in all activities related to the preparation and holding of the referendum, as well as in the voting and vote-counting processes on referendum day at each Referendum Precinct.

2. The purpose of the observation shall be exercising public control over the respect of the referendum legislation during all activities related to the preparation and holding of the referendum, including the voting and vote counting on referendum day.

3. The Referendum Commissions shall allow the observer to exercise his/her powers fully and without hindrance upon his/her registration by mandate and identification document.

4. The observer from a political party may be a member or supporter of a political party or any citizen of the Republic of Uzbekistan who has reached the age of 18 and is sympathetic to the political party.

The observer from citizens' self-governing bodies may be the Chairperson of a citizens' gathering (aksakal), the Deputy Advisor, as well as other officials with the exception of the Inspector for Prevention.

The observer from a citizens' action group may be a member or supporter of the citizens' action group or any citizen of the Republic of Uzbekistan who has reached the age of 18 and is sympathetic to the citizens' action group.

**Chapter II. Execution of Observer Documents**

5. A district (city) organization of a political party, citizens' self-governing bodies, and citizens' action group after the establishment of a District Referendum Commission (hereinafter referred to as the District Commission) shall apply to the respective District Commission with an application for their observers.

The application must be accompanied by a list of observers (with their surname, first name, patronymic, position, residential address and telephone number), copies of their identification documents, and two 3x4 cm photographs.

6. Political parties, citizens' self-governing bodies, and citizens' action groups shall inform the relevant District Commission about their observers at least ten days prior to the referendum.

7. The relevant District Commission shall make a decision within five days following receipt of an application from a political party organization and a citizens' self-governing body, as well as from a citizens' action group, and shall issue a mandate for an observer.

8. The template of the mandate shall be determined by the Regulations approved by the Resolution of the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 1171 dated June 28, 2022.

The mandate may reflect certain attributes (color of the mandate or other) distinguishing one political party from another and from citizens' self-governing bodies and citizens' action groups.

9. The organization of a political party, citizens' self-governing bodies, citizens' action group after receiving mandates from the corresponding District Commission shall ensure that they are brought to the observers.

10. An observer may be refused a mandate in the following cases:

The candidate for observer has not reached the age of 18 or is not a citizen of the Republic of Uzbekistan;

The application is submitted less than ten days prior to the referendum;

The candidate is not an official of the citizens' self-governing body (for observers of the citizens' self-governing body) ;

In case of incomplete submission of the documents specified in paragraph 5 of these Regulations.

11. The observer shall be obliged to carry his/her mandate at all events for the preparation and holding of the referendum, as well as on the day of voting.

12. The term of the observer's mandate shall start from the day the mandate is issued and end on the day of the official announcement of the referendum results.

**Chapter III. Rights and obligations of an observer**

13. The observer shall have the right to:

be present at meetings of Referendum Commissions;

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

observe the process of voting at a citizen's place of stay with his or her consent, without violating the principle of secret voting;

present at the counting of votes and drafting the Protocol of the District Referendum Commission (hereinafter referred to as the Precinct Commission) on the results of voting;

request and receive documents certified by the relevant Referendum Commission on the results of voting;

take photographs, and make video and audio recordings without interfering with the activities of the Referendum Commission or the voting process and without violating the secrecy of voting (except in places of detention and imprisonment, military units, and medical institutions);

contact the media representatives about the results of the observation;

be present when District Commissions receive protocols from Precinct Commissions on the results of vote counting and determination of the voting results for the district;

notify the relevant Precinct Commission at least three days in advance of arriving at the Referendum Precincts established in military units, places of detention and imprisonment, in accordance with the established procedure;

report their observations to the Precinct Commission members of that precinct without interfering with their work, and also inform the higher Referendum Commissions if there are grounds to believe that the referendum law requirements have been violated at the respective precinct;

state their opinion on the referendum legislation, as well as on the preparation for and holding of the referendum.

The observer shall also enjoy other rights in accordance with the law.

14. The observer shall have the following obligations:

be guided in their activities by the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On Referendum of the Republic of Uzbekistan”, and resolutions of the Central Election Commission;

carry a mandate, as well as an identification document, when visiting Referendum Commissions of all levels, public authorities, and other organizations, and present them at the request of officials;

substantiate their findings with observation and factual materials.

15. The observer shall be prohibited from the following:

being in the voting booth or room when the voter makes his/her marks on the ballot paper;

influencing voters, distributing any campaign materials or literature;

asking voters how they voted, or providing them with any assistance in making marks on the ballot papers;

interfering in the activities of the Precinct Referendum Commission, including when sealing ballot boxes, opening them, and counting votes.

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

16. The relevant District Commission may prematurely terminate the powers of the observer in case of non-compliance with the requirements of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On Referendum of the Republic of Uzbekistan” and the provisions of these Regulations.

**Chapter IV. Final Provisions**

17. The observer may appeal the actions and decisions of Referendum Commissions in court in accordance with the procedure established by law.

The observer may participate directly in the consideration of the complaint.