



Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

EARLY PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS 2021

OSCE/ODIHR NEEDS ASSESSMENT MISSION REPORT

28 – 30 April 2021



Warsaw
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**REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA
EARLY PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS
2021**

ODIHR Needs Assessment Mission Report

I. INTRODUCTION

In anticipation of the formal declaration and an invitation from the authorities of the Republic of Armenia to observe early parliamentary elections to take place on in June 2021, and in accordance with its mandate, the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) undertook a Needs Assessment Mission (NAM) from 28 to 30 April 2021. The NAM included Ana Rusu, ODIHR Senior Election Adviser and Hamadziripi Munyikwa, ODIHR Election Adviser. The ODIHR NAM was joined by Tim Knoblaue, OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Programme and Administrative Officer.

The purpose of the mission was to assess the pre-election environment and the preparations for the early elections. Based on this assessment, the NAM will recommend whether to deploy an ODIHR election-related activity for the forthcoming elections and, if so, what type of activity best meets the identified needs. Due to the global health emergency and consecutive introduction of restrictions on cross-border travel throughout the OSCE region, the NAM was conducted remotely, using the means of information and communication technologies. This approach was chosen due to the current extraordinary situation and in view of the need to ensure sufficient time for the preparation of the possible deployment of an election-related activity for the anticipated early parliamentary elections. Online meetings were held with officials from state institutions and the election administration, as well as representatives of political parties, media, civil society, and the international community. A list of meetings is annexed to this report.

ODIHR would like to thank the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including its Delegation to the OSCE for their assistance in organizing the visit. ODIHR would also like to thank all of its interlocutors for taking the time to meet with the NAM and for sharing their views.

II. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The anticipated early elections follow months of political protest leading to the resignation by Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan on 25 April. Changes from a two tiered proportional electoral system with open territorial lists to a single national constituency with closed lists were passed by the National Assembly following an inclusive public outreach process which began in early 2020. The President of the Republic did not sign the amendments into law which, following the expiration of the constitutionally mandated deadline for signature, were signed by the Speaker of Parliament.

While many ODIHR NAM interlocutors considered the adopted amendments as a positive step towards simplifying the electoral system and process and addressing one of the previous ODIHR and Venice Commission recommendations, some ODIHR NAM interlocutors noted disappointment with the failure to adopt more far-reaching amendments aimed particularly at combatting the misuse of administrative resources, introducing penalties for campaign finance and other electoral violations as well as limiting of campaign finance legislation to official campaign periods.

The parliament will be elected through closed lists in a single national constituency. An additional four seats are reserved for national minorities. If a stable majority is not achieved as a result of the elections, or by forming a political coalition within 6 days after the finalization of the results, a second round is held between the top two candidate lists 28 days after election day. These contestants can form new

alliances, which may include other parties that ran in the first round.

Elections are administered by a seven member Central Election Commission (CEC), 38 Territorial Election Commissions, and approximately 2,000 Precinct Election Commissions (PECs). The CEC emphasized to the ODIHR NAM that it would not face any significant challenges in the performance of election administration despite the short time frame. While many ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed confidence in the CEC abilities to technically administer elections, some concerns were raised about the impartiality of PECs for election day and counting procedures.

Citizens over 18 years of age have the right to vote, except those recognized as incapable by a court decision or imprisoned for serious crimes. Voter registration is passive and the Passport and Visa Department of the Police maintains a nationwide electronic voter register. No ODIHR NAM interlocutors raised major concerns regarding the accuracy of voter lists. Most ODIHR NAM interlocutors stated that the recent criminalisation of voter impersonation and the publishing of signed voter's lists will have a deterrent effect on possible violations of this kind in these elections.

Citizens who have been resident in Armenia for the previous 4 years, who do not possess citizenship of any other state and are fluent in the Armenian language, are at least 25 years of age and are eligible to vote have the right to stand for election. The law provides for a 30 per cent quota for women in the candidate lists. Some ODIHR NAM interlocutors anticipated that political parties may face difficulties in complying with the 30 per cent gender quota on the list.

The official campaign period for early elections is limited to 12 days as provided for by the electoral code, and ends 24 hours before election day. While no significant concerns were raised about the ability to campaign freely, some ODIHR NAM interlocutors raised concerns about potential abuse of state resources, vote-buying, and pressure on voters, especially in rural areas as well as major concerns over possible inflammatory speech.

Freedom of expression is guaranteed by the Constitution and a variety of media outlets operate in Armenia. While both public and private broadcasters are obliged to present impartial coverage of the campaign, the public broadcaster is required to provide free airtime on an equal basis. Many ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed concerns about the political affiliation of broadcasters and the lack of regulation of the online media outlets and social media platforms with regard to the conduct of electoral campaign, which could contribute to misinformation.

Decisions of the lower level election commissions can be challenged at the higher tier commission and, in the final instance, at the Administrative Court. The law imposes restrictions on legal standing for challenging the final election results with the Constitutional Court. While no major concerns were voiced by ODIHR NAM interlocutors regarding the handling of election related complaints, some expressed concerns over the independence of the judiciary in general.

The law provides for international and citizen observation, as well as observation by party proxies. There are no limitations on the number of journalists allowed for each media outlet to cover the elections at the polling stations. Several civil society organizations informed the ODIHR NAM that they plan to conduct comprehensive observation of the elections.

All ODIHR NAM interlocutors emphasized the need for an ODIHR election observation mission to observe the pre-election period as well as activities at the polling station level. While most ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed confidence in the authorities' ability to technically administer elections, concerns were raised about the impartiality of lower-level commissions as well as a number of other aspects that would merit further attention by an ODIHR election observation activity, including the timeframes for

campaign periods and the use of state resources, the impartiality of media coverage, the conduct of election day procedures, and resolution of possible complaints and appeals.

Based on the findings of this report, the ODIHR NAM recommends the deployment of an Election Observation Mission should the early elections take place on 20 June, as anticipated. In addition to a core team of experts, the ODIHR NAM recommends the secondment of 24 long-term observers from OSCE participating States to follow the electoral processes countrywide, and 250 short-term observers to follow election day proceedings. In line with the ODIHR's standard methodology, the mission would include a media monitoring element.

III. FINDINGS

A. BACKGROUND

Armenia is a parliamentary republic with legislative powers vested in a unicameral parliament currently comprised of 132 members elected for a five-year term. Executive power is exercised by a prime minister elected by a majority of votes by the parliament. The last parliamentary elections were the country's first ever early elections and took place on 9 December 2018.¹ Women are underrepresented in public office with 32 women holding seats in the outgoing parliament, only one minister in the outgoing cabinet and none of the regional governors being women.

The call for early elections came about following months of protests, which begun after the Prime Minister signed a ceasefire statement in November 2020 following six weeks war in and around Nagorno-Karabakh. The protests against the Prime Minister's handling of the recent developments culminated on 25 February with the chief of the Army's General Staff and many high-ranking officers demanding that the Prime Minister and his government resign. This led to protracted protests which only abated once the Prime Minister agreed to hold early elections following discussions with the leader of the main parliamentary opposition and announced on 18 March 2021 that early elections would be held on 20 June, officially resigning on 25 April thereby triggering the constitutional process that would lead to the holding of early elections.²

ODIHR has observed eleven previous elections and one referendum in Armenia, most recently the 2018 early parliamentary elections.³ The final report for the 2018 early parliamentary elections was issued on 7 March 2019, and made twenty recommendations of which seven were considered a priority, for the authorities to improve the electoral process and bring it closer in line with OSCE commitments.⁴ The ODIHR Election Observation Mission concluded that the 2018 elections "were held with respect for fundamental freedoms and enjoyed broad public trust that needs to be preserved through further electoral reforms. Open political debate, including in the media, contributed to a vibrant campaign, although cases of inflammatory rhetoric online were of concern. The general absence of electoral malfeasance, including of vote-buying and pressure on voters, allowed for genuine competition. The integrity of campaign finance was undermined by a lack of regulation, accountability and transparency. Despite the shortened timeframe, the elections were well administered. Election day proceeded calmly

¹ The My Step Alliance led by Nikol Pashinyan received 70% of the vote and won 88 of the 132 seats in the National Assembly while the Prosperous Armenia Party and Bright Armenia Party garnered 26 and 18 seats respectively.

² Early elections of the National Assembly shall be held no earlier than 30 and no later than 45 days after dissolving the National Assembly. The call for early elections should be done by the President of the country, following two failed attempts to nominate a Prime-Minister.

³ See all [previous ODIHR election-related reports on Armenia](#).

⁴ In paragraph 25 of the 1999 OSCE Istanbul Document, OSCE participating States committed themselves "to follow up promptly the ODIHR's election assessment and recommendations."

and peacefully with all stages assessed positively by almost all International Election Observation Mission observers, indicating general adherence to the procedures.”

B. LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Parliamentary elections are primarily regulated by the Constitution (last amended in respect to elections in 2015) and the 2016 Electoral Code, last amended in April 2021. Recent amendments to the Electoral Code concern changes from a two tiered proportional system with open territorial lists to a single national constituency with closed lists. The change has been largely supported as the previous open district list system had been highly perceived by many ODIHR NAM interlocutors as incentivising the abuse of state resources and encouraging vote-buying and coercive pressure on voters. The President of the Republic did not sign the amendments into law which, following the expiration of the constitutionally mandated deadline for signature, were signed by the Speaker of Parliament.

Public outreach on a wider package of electoral reforms began in early 2020. Among the important changes in the proposed reforms are the extension of the time limits for the formation of coalitions and the removal of the restriction in the number of parties permitted to form a coalition, the reduction of the electoral deposits for political parties and an expansion of the mandatory information publically available on Central Electoral Commission’s website. If these changes are promulgated, they would enter into force within six months and as such will not be applicable for the upcoming elections.

While many ODIHR NAM interlocutors considered the adopted amendments as a positive step towards simplifying the electoral system and process and addressing one of the previous ODIHR and Venice Commission recommendations, some ODIHR NAM interlocutors noted disappointment with the failure to adopt more far-reaching amendments aimed at combating the misuse of administrative resources, introducing penalties for campaign finance and other electoral violations as well as extending campaign finance legislation beyond official campaign periods.

The legal framework encompasses a number of other laws, including the Law on Political Parties, Law on Freedom of Assembly, Civil Code, Criminal Code, and Administrative Code, as well as decisions of the Central Election Commission (CEC) and regulations of the National Council on Television and Radio. Armenia is a party to major international and regional instruments related to the holding of democratic elections.⁵

C. ELECTORAL SYSTEM

For the upcoming early elections a minimum of 101 members of parliament (MPs) are to be elected through a closed list national proportional system. In order to qualify for a portion of the seats to be distributed, political parties must pass a threshold of five per cent, while alliances are required to exceed a threshold of seven per cent. The system provides for a total of up to four reserved seats, one for each of the four largest national minorities (Yezidis, Russians, Assyrians and Kurds). Each contestant is permitted to include a sub-part on the national list, with a candidate from each of the minorities. If a contestant does not have a minority candidate, the seat passes to the party with the next largest number of votes that does have a minority candidate.

The Constitution requires that a “stable parliamentary majority” (defined as 54 per cent of the seats) be

⁵ Including the 1950 European Convention on Human Rights, 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), 1965 International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, 1979 UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, 2003 UN Convention against Corruption, and 2006 Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). Armenia is also a member of the Council of Europe’s Venice Commission and Group of States against Corruption (GRECO).

achieved, in order to form a government. In the event that the winning list or coalition obtains a simple majority but falls short of 54 per cent of seats, it is assigned additional seats in order to obtain the required stable majority.⁶ If a stable majority is not achieved as a result of the elections, or by forming a political coalition within 6 days after the finalization of the results, a second round is held between the top two candidate lists 28 days after election day. These contestants can form new alliances, which may include other parties that ran in the first round.

D. ELECTION ADMINISTRATION

Elections are administered through a three-tiered system, comprising the CEC, 38 Territorial Election Commissions (TECs), and approximately 2,000 Precinct Election Commissions (PECs). The CEC is a permanent and professional body composed of seven members elected for six year terms by at least three fifths of the parliament. All CEC members, including three women, were re-appointed in October 2016 and managed the elections in 2017 and the 2018 early elections.

The CEC is responsible for the overall conduct of elections and has extensive powers and responsibilities, including issuing binding instructions, registering candidate lists, training lower-level commissioners, accrediting observers and media representatives, and monitoring campaign finance. All CEC sessions are public and streamed online. The CEC informed the ODIHR NAM that it contributed with comments to the various iterations of proposed amendments to the Electoral Code. The CEC also noted that it does not envisage any challenges with implementing the proposed changes in the electoral system for these elections. It, however, stressed that had the more substantive package of changes been applicable to these early elections the changes would have posed a significant burden given the extremely limited timeframe for implementation.

The CEC plans to conduct civic and voter information campaigns focusing on the new electoral system as well as on the impact of the Covid-19 safety measures, with an emphasis on national minorities, persons with disabilities, with particular focus on voters living in remote areas.⁷ As in previous elections and in keeping with the electoral law, the CEC plans to equip all polling stations with web cameras. Many ODIHR NAM interlocutors were of the opinion that the use of web cameras will contribute to preventing violations on election day.

TECs are professional bodies appointed by the CEC for six-year terms and composed of seven members, at least two of whom must be women. TECs were formed in 2016 and have remained unchanged since the 2018 early elections. They supervise PECs, handle complaints against PECs and any recounts, and tabulate and transfer the results to the CEC. The parliamentary parties are required to submit their nominations of the PEC members to the CEC between 20 and 18 days before the early elections.⁸ The CEC informed the ODIHR NAM of certification training for PEC potential members which took place in late 2020 and early 2021. The chairpersons and secretaries of the PECs are distributed according to the strength of the parties in the parliament. PECs organise voting, counting, and transfer of results to the TECs. While many ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed confidence in the CEC abilities to technically administer elections, some concerns were raised about the impartiality of PECs for polling day and counting procedures.

⁶ Where the winning party or coalition receives more than two-thirds of the total seats, smaller parties will be assigned additional seats.

⁷ See CRPD Committee [Concluding observations on the initial report of Armenia](#) (8 May 2017), CRPD/C/ARM/CO/1, paragraphs 51 and 52.

⁸ Each parliamentary party may appoint one member to each PEC, while the respective TEC appoints two.

E. VOTER REGISTRATION

All citizens over the age of 18 on election day are eligible to vote, except those recognized as incapable by a court decision or imprisoned for serious crimes. Voter registration is passive, based on the state population register maintained by the Police Passport and Visa Department (PVD). The PVD is tasked with extracting and compiling the voter lists for each electoral precinct. For early elections, preliminary voter lists are posted for public scrutiny at the polling stations and on the PVD and CEC websites no later than 20 days before election day. Special voter lists are prepared and submitted to the CEC by heads of prisons and pre-trial detention facilities, commanders of police and military units, and heads of in-patient healthcare facilities. Voters who expect to be away from their polling station on election day can request inclusion in a voter list according to their place of temporary stay. Diplomatic and military staff posted abroad, and their family members, may register to vote by Internet.

Voters can file applications with the PVD to correct inaccuracies in the voter lists (including those relating to other individuals) until 10 days before election day. The PECs are provided with the final voter lists no later than three days before elections. In case of an omission, and following a PVD or court decision, a PEC may add voters to supplementary voter lists before and on election day. The PVD informed the ODIHR NAM about continuous efforts to update the voter lists, including by means of nationwide crosschecks of data with all Civil Status Registry Offices where registration of births and deaths takes place. No ODIHR NAM interlocutors raised major concerns regarding the accuracy of voter lists.

As in previous elections, and to combat potential impersonation, voters at polling stations will be identified through the use of Voter Authentication Devices, which contain an electronic copy of the voter lists. Additionally signed voter lists disclosing data on those who voted, will be published after election day for public scrutiny. It is a criminal offence to impersonate another person and vote on their behalf. Most ODIHR NAM interlocutors stated that the recent criminalisation of voter impersonation and the publishing of signed voter's lists will have a deterrent effect on possible violations of this kind in these elections.

F. CANDIDATE REGISTRATION

Citizens holding citizenship of no other state, who are of at least 25 years of age and are eligible to vote, have been resident in the country for the four preceding years, do not possess citizenship of another states and are fluent in the Armenian language have the right to stand for election.⁹ Judges, prosecutors, military personnel, police officers, other categories of civil servants, and election commissioners may not stand as candidates. A longstanding recommendation by ODIHR to remove residency restriction and prohibition on dual citizens to stand for election remains unaddressed.

Candidate lists can be nominated by political parties and party alliances. The electoral list of a political party (alliance of political parties) may include persons that are not members of that political party. The law provides for a 30 per cent quota for women in the candidate lists. Contestants must submit a financial deposit, which is returned if the list receives more than four per cent of the valid votes. Some ODIHR NAM interlocutors anticipated that most political parties would fail to comply with the legally mandated 30 per cent gender quota.

⁹ According to the law, an eligible candidate should have resided in Armenia at least 731 days within the last four years before the nomination. The law establishes reasonable and objective criteria for evaluating language proficiency.

G. ELECTION CAMPAIGN AND CAMPAIGN FINANCE

In accordance with legal provisions on the timelines for early elections, the official campaign period will be shortened to 12 days, with a silence period 24 hours before election day. Parties, however, are not prevented from campaigning before this period or from conducting election related transactions which is perceived as a cause for concern by some ODIHR NAM interlocutors. During the official campaign, contestants are provided with equal access to public resources, including free and paid airtime on television, poster space, and premises for meeting voters.

The campaign for these early elections is expected to be active despite the COVID-19 pandemic. Relationships with the neighbours, the Nagorno-Karabakh context and the aftermath of the recent war as well as the government's management of the COVID-19 pandemic are expected to be the central campaign issues. Traditional campaign methods are expected, including rallies, posters, and media advertisements along with an increased use of social media. ODIHR NAM interlocutors noted that, given the change to a closed list system, the campaign will focus more on personalities of the party leadership than the discussion of political parties' programmes. There has been no legislative restrictions to assembly and movement related to the COVID-19 pandemic. While no significant concerns were raised about the ability to campaign freely, some ODIHR NAM interlocutors raised concerns about potential misuse of state resources, vote-buying, and pressure on voters, especially in rural areas. Disinformation and intolerant and inflammatory rhetoric, particularly online were key concerns of many ODIHR NAM interlocutors.

Contestants are required to open a dedicated bank account for all campaign finance transactions, which may include contributions from voters, as well as from funds of candidates and parties.¹⁰ Contributions from legal entities, as well as from foreign and anonymous sources, are not permitted. The law limits campaign expenses to AMD 500 million per contestant. The CEC's Oversight and Audit Service (OAS) is in charge of campaign finance oversight. Contestants are required to submit regular detailed campaign finance reports to the OAS for audit. In the context of early elections parties are required to submit their financial reports at two deadlines, one to be submitted ten days prior to election day and a second three days after the election. Campaign finance and audit reports are then published on the CEC website. Some ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed concerns about lack of transparency of financing the campaigns, short timeframe for conducting meaningful audits of reports and the proportionality of sanctions for campaign finance violations which may have been addressed in the wider package of electoral reforms.

H. MEDIA

Numerous media outlets operate in Armenia, including 8 television and 17 radio stations with nationwide coverage, as well as 10 regional television channels. Television remains the most influential news source but the Internet, and especially social media, is increasingly used as an alternative source of political information. Many ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed concerns about political affiliation of broadcasters and the lack of regulation of the online media outlets and social media platforms with regard to the conduct of electoral campaign, which could contribute to misinformation.

¹⁰ Respectively, up to AMD 500,000, AMD 5 million, and AMD 100 million. EUR 1 is approximately AMD 620 (Armenian *Dram*).

Public and private broadcasters are legally obliged to present impartial coverage of the campaign, including in their news programmes.¹¹ The Council of Public Broadcasting informed the ODIHR NAM about its plans to organize four televised campaign debates among an expected 15 contestants, as well as to air voter information materials prepared by the CEC and civil society. The Council of Public Broadcasting noted some concern with the ability to accommodate a larger number of political parties on both the free and paid advertisement. As a contingency the broadcaster may be required to air campaign material through a second public channel. Some parties that the ODIHR NAM interlocutors met with perceived the political coverage by the public broadcaster as imbalanced.

The National Commission for Television and Radio (NCTR) is tasked with supervising the implementation of the media-related provisions during the campaign and to monitor the broadcasters. In light of the short campaign period, the NCTR plans publication of two reports: one to be submitted ten days before election day and a second ten days after. In case of violations, the NCTR can issue warnings or apply sanctions.

I. COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS

Complaints may be filed by voters, media representatives, and observers with respect to violations of their individual rights and by proxies and commission members with respect to violations of their rights and those of other parties, candidates, and stakeholders. Under the Electoral Code, decisions, actions, and inactions of election commissions can be appealed to the superior commission, while complaints against the CEC are under the jurisdiction of the Administrative Court. Complaints regarding inaccuracies in the voter lists can be filed to the PVD, the decision of which can be further appealed to a district court. All election-related complaints can also be applied to the courts, but parallel handling of complaints at election commissions and courts is forbidden by the Electoral Code.

Contestants, candidates, proxies (if they were present during the vote count), and members of the PEC in question may challenge precinct voting results at the TEC and further appeal TEC decisions to the Administrative Court. Only political parties or alliances of political parties of alliances can appeal the final election results to the Constitutional Court, which has 15 days to decide on the application. The Constitutional Court clarified the interpretation that parties not participating in a second round election would be permitted to file complaints related to the run-off.

J. ELECTION OBSERVATION

The legal framework provides for international and citizen observation and entitles party proxies to be present at polling stations. The Electoral Code was amended in May 2018 with a view to removing the limitation on the number of journalists a media outlet may accredit to follow election day developments at polling stations.

Civil society is active and largely able to operate freely, however some ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed concern that the heightened tension of the electoral period following recent events may place more civil society actors at great risk. Several civil society representatives highlighted their active participation in the electoral reform process. Furthermore, a number of civil society organizations indicated to the ODIHR NAM that they plan to conduct comprehensive election observation, including with a focus on potential abuse of state resources and media monitoring, as well as deploying large number of observers for election day.

¹¹ State-funded print media are obliged to ensure non-discriminatory and impartial conditions for electoral contestants during the campaign period.

IV. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATION

All ODIHR NAM interlocutors underscored the need for a large-scale ODIHR election observation mission. While most ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed confidence in the authorities' abilities to technically administer elections, concerns were raised about the impartiality of lower-level commissions as well as a number of other aspects that would merit further attention by an ODIHR election observation activity, including the windows for campaigning and potential misuse of state resources, the impartiality of media coverage, the conduct of election day procedures, and resolution of possible complaints and appeals.

Based on the findings of this report, the ODIHR NAM recommends the deployment of an Election Observation Mission should the early parliamentary elections take place on 20 June, as anticipated. In addition to a core team of experts, the ODIHR NAM recommends the secondment of 24 long-term observers from OSCE participating States to follow the electoral process countrywide, and 250 short-term observers to follow election day proceedings. In line with the ODIHR's standard methodology, the mission would include a media monitoring element.

ANNEX: LIST OF MEETINGS

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Artak Apitonyan, Deputy Minister
Tamara Hovnanyan, Assistant, Division of Human Rights and Humanitarian Issues

Ministry of Justice

Kristinne Grigoryan, Deputy Minister

National Assembly Standing Committee on State and Legal Affairs

Vladimir Vardanyan, President of the Committee

Police

Ara Fidanyan, Deputy Head of Police
Ara Mkrtchyan, Head of Passport and Visa Department

Central Election Commission

Tigran Mukuchyan, Chairperson

Constitutional Court

Arman Dilanyan, President
Armenak Minasyants, Assistant to the President
Alina Pkhrikyan, Advisor to the President

Administrative Court

Aghasi Darbinyan, Chairperson
Artsrun Mirzoyan, Judge
Mher Petrosyan, Judge
Rafik Khandanyan, Judge
Ruzanna Azroyan, Judge

National Commission on Television and Radio

Tigran Hakobyan, Commission President
Davit Margaryan, Head of Legal and Licensing Department
Hasmik Petrosyan, Head of International, Public Relations and Development Programmes
Alla Tumanyan, Senior Specialist

Political Parties

Karen Simonyan, MP, Bright Armenia Faction
Levon Zurabyan, Vice-President, Armenian National Congress Party
Arman Abovyan, Secretary, Prosperous Armenia faction
Narine Dilbaryan, Former President of Heritage party

Council of Public Broadcasting

Ara Shirinyan, President of the Council
Ani Khachatryan, Public Relations Manager

Civil Society

Sona Ayyvazyan, President, Executive Director of Transparency International Anticorruption Center
Artur Sakunts, President
Vardine Grigoryan, Project Coordinator, Helsinki Citizens Assembly-Vanadzor
Daniel Ioannisyantsyan, Program Coordinator, Union of Informed Citizens

International Community

H.E. Michael Banzhaf, Ambassador of Germany
Rika Onodera, Embassy of Japan
H.E. Inga Stanytė-Toločkienė, Ambassador of Lithuania
H.E. Nico Schermers, Ambassador of the Netherlands
H.E. Patrik Svensson, Ambassador of Sweden
H.E. John Gallagher, Ambassador of UK
H.E. Andrea Wiktorin, Head of EU Delegation
Silja Kasmann, EU Deputy Head of Co-operation
Jérôme Leyraud, Country Director of IFES Armenia
Shombi Sharp, UN Resident Coordinator