



Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

# SWEDEN

GENERAL ELECTIONS

9 September 2018

ODIHR NEEDS ASSESSMENT MISSION REPORT

15 – 17 May 2018



Warsaw  
8 June 2018

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>I. INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>II. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>III. FINDINGS.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>A. BACKGROUND.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>B. LEGAL FRAMEWORK AND ELECTION SYSTEM .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>C. ELECTION ADMINISTRATION .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>D. VOTER REGISTRATION .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>E. CANDIDATE AND PARTY REGISTRATION.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>F. CAMPAIGN .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>G. PARTY AND CAMPAIGN FINANCE.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>H. THE MEDIA.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>I. CITIZEN AND INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>J. COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>IV. CONCLUSION .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>ANNEX: LIST OF MEETINGS .....</b>	<b>10</b>

**SWEDEN**  
**GENERAL ELECTIONS**  
**9 September 2018**

**ODIHR Needs Assessment Mission Report**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

Following an invitation from the authorities of Sweden to observe the 9 September 2018 general elections and in accordance with its mandate, the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) undertook a Needs Assessment Mission (NAM) from 15 to 17 May 2018. The NAM included Alexander Shlyk, Head of the ODIHR Election Department, and Vladimir Misev, ODIHR Election Adviser.

The purpose of the mission was to assess the pre-election environment and preparations for the forthcoming elections. Based on this assessment, the NAM should 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. Meetings were held with officials from state institutions as well as with representatives of political parties, media and civil society. A list of meetings is annexed to this report.

ODIHR would like to thank the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for its assistance and co-operation in organizing the NAM. ODIHR would also like to thank all of its interlocutors for taking the time to meet with the NAM and to share their views.

**II. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The 9 September general elections will be held concurrently with county and municipal elections. Sweden is a constitutional monarchy with a parliamentary system of governance. The legislative powers are vested with the parliament (*Riksdag*), a unicameral body elected for a four-year term. Executive authority is exercised by the government which is elected and held accountable by *Riksdag*.

The legal framework has not been changed substantially, but was amended on several occasions since the last elections. The most recent changes introduced additional reporting requirements for political parties aimed at enhancing the transparency of political financing. All ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed confidence in the legal framework as conducive for democratic elections.

The Election Authority has overall responsibility for administering the elections and is managed by a director appointed by the government. There is no hierarchy among the levels of election administration, and the Election Authority has no oversight power over the County Administrative Boards and Municipal Election Committees. The law does not contain eligibility criteria for election commission members, but the recent amendments require that only those who have received training may be appointed. Most of the ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed confidence in the efficiency and impartiality of the election administration bodies.

A number of ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed concerns about the delivery and handling of the ballots in the polling stations. Some interlocutors from non-parliamentary political parties noted lack of sufficient resources to deliver or continuously supply ballots to polling stations during the election day, especially in remote areas, which might influence the choice available to voters. In addition, several ODIHR NAM interlocutors raised concerns about the handling of

ballots in the polling stations and noted that the way in which ballots are presented for voters to select them before casting the vote may violate secrecy of vote.

Citizens over 18 years are eligible to vote. Voter list is based on a civil register and is continuously updated. As of May 2018, some 7.5 million voters are registered in the country and 163,450 abroad. The Election Authority sends out a voting card to each voter which contains the voter's name and their number on the voter list, sets out the elections in which the voter may participate, and gives the voter's polling station and its opening hours. None of the ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed concerns with the registration of voters.

All eligible voters have the right to stand as candidates. Parties are not registered but, in line with the recent amendments, are required to declare their intention for contesting the elections 30 days before the election day and provide candidates' statements of consent three days before the election day to the Election Authority. Most of the parties met by ODIHR NAM conduct internal party elections for nomination of candidates and do not have formal quotas to promote representation of women, different disadvantaged groups or national minorities. However, all of them noted that serious consideration is given to achieve balanced representations of these groups in the lists and that internal gender quotas are established voluntarily.

During the campaign, parties intend to have direct meetings with voters and place advertisements in the print and broadcast media. They expect to increase the use of campaigning on social media and other online platforms. The campaign is expected to focus on topics such as migration and integration, housing, social issues and healthcare, education, as well as climate and foreign policy issues. All parties that the ODIHR NAM met with expressed confidence in the freedom to campaign and compete with other contestants on an equitable basis.

There are no limits on donations or spending for parties and candidates. Parties are required to submit financial reports to the Legal, Financial and Administrative Services Agency (*Kammarkollegiet*) which must be made public. Following the introduction of the new disclosure requirements many more parties are expected to report. Most of the ODIHR NAM interlocutors did not express concerns regarding the transparency of the party financing, however, several of them expressed uncertainty over the implementation of the new amendments and some questioned whether the current capacity of the oversight body will be sufficient to deal with the significant increase of reporting entities.

The coverage of election campaigns in the media is largely unregulated, and voluntary rules are implemented by different outlets with the aim to ensure equitable and fair representation of the contestants. During the campaign period, the public radio and television intend to broadcast a number of election-related programs on national and regional level. Contestants are allowed to purchase airtime on private television channels. Although most of the ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed satisfaction with the overall media coverage, including during election period, some raised the issue of potential impact of disinformation on the election process. In response to this, several media outlets, including the public broadcasters, established an online platform for fact-checking in the media.

All of the ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed a high level of confidence in all aspects of the electoral process. Authorities are continuously giving consideration to improve the election process and several legal changes in this respect have taken place. Some measures aimed at addressing OSCE commitments and other international obligations and standards have been introduced ahead of the 2018 general elections. At the same time, some ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed concerns about the legal provisions pertaining to the organization of voting in the polling stations, particularly with regard to ballot management and secrecy of vote,

as well as the implementation of the new financial reporting requirements. Most of the ODIHR NAM interlocutors welcomed a possible external assessment by an observation activity.

Based on this, the ODIHR NAM recommends deploying an Election Expert Team (EET) for the 9 September general elections to assess the election-related legal framework pertaining to the uniform implementation of election procedures, and to review the implementation of the campaign finance reporting and oversight framework. ODIHR stands ready to offer its assistance upon request in a post-election follow-up process.

### III. FINDINGS

#### A. BACKGROUND

Sweden is a constitutional monarchy with a parliamentary system of governance. The head of state is the King who has ceremonial duties and functions and has no right to vote. The legislative powers are vested with the parliament (*Riksdag*), a unicameral body elected for a four-year term. Executive authority is exercised by the government which is elected and held accountable by *Riksdag*.

The 9 September general elections will be held concurrently with county and municipal elections. Eight parties are represented in the outgoing parliament: the Social Democratic Party with 113 seats, the Moderate Party (83), the Sweden Democrats (42), the Green Party (25), the Centre Party (22), the Left Party (21), the Liberal Party (19) and the Christian Democrats (16 seats).<sup>1</sup> Following the last 2014 general elections, a minority government was formed by the Social Democratic Party and the Green Party, with men and women holding an equal number of ministerial positions.

ODIHR has last deployed a NAM for the 2010 general elections which did not recommended election observation activity. Due to the late adoption of the unified budget in 2014, ODIHR did not deploy a NAM for the 2014 general elections.

#### B. LEGAL FRAMEWORK AND ELECTION SYSTEM

The election-related legal framework comprises the Constitution, the 2005 Elections Act and the 2005 Election Ordinance.<sup>2</sup> The Constitution outlines general principles of equal and universal suffrage, free, secret and direct elections of the Parliament, and the electoral system.<sup>3</sup> The Elections Act specifies the division of tasks between the election bodies and contains provisions relating to boundary delimitation, format and distribution of ballots, procedures for voting and counting, allocation of seats, and appeals against election results. The Election Ordinance regulates administrative aspects of the work of the central elections administrative body, the Election Authority.

The legal framework has not been changed substantially, but was amended on several occasions since the last elections. The most recent changes were made with the adoption of the new law Act on Transparency of Party Financing, and implemented from April 2018, with respect to the

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<sup>1</sup> Eight members of the parliament have left their parties and act independently.

<sup>2</sup> Provisions of the 2017 Local Government Act, the 1972 Act of State Financial Support to Political Parties and the 2018 Act on Transparency of Party Financing are also applicable.

<sup>3</sup> The Constitution is composed of four fundamental laws: the 1974 Instrument of Government, the 1810 Act of Succession that provides the rules on succession to the throne, the 1949 Freedom of the Press Act, and the 1991 Fundamental Law on Freedom of Expression.

eligibility for public funding and reporting requirements for parties aimed at enhancing the transparency of political financing.<sup>4</sup> The 2014 changes to the election-related legislation intended to strengthen some of the election procedures, including by requiring secure storage of election materials, and introduced compulsory training for election officials. In addition, in 2013, changes were made to require earlier registration and consent of contestants to participate in the elections and to additionally mandate that polling stations where advance voting is taking place be accessible for all voters, including those with disabilities. All ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed confidence that the legal framework is conducive for democratic elections.

Of the 349 members of parliament, 310 are elected through a proportional system with open lists from 29 multi-member constituencies.<sup>5</sup> The remaining 39 seats are ‘adjustment’ seats.<sup>6</sup> To be awarded a seat, a political party must either obtain 4 per cent of the votes cast nationwide or 12 per cent of the votes cast in at least one constituency. Votes are cast for party lists in which voters may express a preference for individual candidates.<sup>7</sup>

### C. ELECTION ADMINISTRATION

The Election Authority has overall responsibility for administering the elections and is managed by a director appointed by the government. The Election Authority has such competences as constituency delimitation, registration of parties and candidates, delivering voter cards to voters, production of ballot papers and declaring the election results. It also produces handbooks and guidelines, and for these elections has so far produced two handbooks for lower-level election bodies.

At the sub-national level, there are 21 County Administrative Boards (CABs), 290 Municipal Election Committees (MECs) and some 6,000 Polling Boards (PBs).<sup>8</sup> CABs are composed of civil servants, take all decisions concerning their electoral districts and are responsible for the final counts of votes in parliamentary, county and municipal council elections. MECs are elected for four-year terms by the municipal councils and are responsible for recruiting and training of PB members, setting up and equipping polling stations. PBs are responsible for the conduct of the voting on election day. The law does not contain eligibility criteria for election commission members nor for selection of the chairperson, but the recent amendments require that only those who have received training be appointed. There is no hierarchy among the levels of election administration, and the Election Authority has no oversight power over the lower-level election bodies.

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<sup>4</sup> Political parties that receive anonymous donations are no longer eligible for public financing. Among other changes, the new legislation defines and categorizes the amounts of the donations that should be reported. See *Party and Campaign Finance*.

<sup>5</sup> These are called permanent seats. The constituencies generally correspond with counties. Stockholm, Skåne, and Västra Götaland are divided into smaller units due to population size. Each constituency has between 2 and 34 seats and the number of seats is revised prior to each election by the Election Authority, based on the number of eligible voters.

<sup>6</sup> The calculation for these seats is made based on the difference between the permanent seats and the number of seats that the party would have won in a proportional contest held in a single, nationwide constituency. The constituencies to which these seats are allotted depends on the party scores following allocation of the ‘permanent’ seats.

<sup>7</sup> Voters can use three different ballots to indicate both party and candidate preference: (1) with printed party name and rank-ordered list of candidates where the voter can mark the preference next to a single candidate, (2) with printed party name, (3) a blank ballot paper where a voter can write in the party and a candidate’s name. To be elected on a basis of personal votes, a candidate must receive at least eight per cent of the party votes in the respective constituency.

<sup>8</sup> Between 1,000 and 2,000 voters are assigned to each polling station.

Voters can vote in advance in designated polling stations during 18 days before the election day. Voters abroad can vote either in person at diplomatic representations 24 days before election day or by mail 45 days before election day.<sup>9</sup> According to the ODIHR NAM interlocutors from the Election Authority, additional measures have been taken for enhancing participation of the voters with disabilities, such as providing accessible and more suitable layout of the polling stations. Moreover, voters with disabilities or home-bound voters can vote using a special, sealed envelope via a courier. All of the ODIHR NAM interlocutors noted confidence in the efficiency and impartiality of the election administration bodies.

In total some 650 million ballots are printed for the election day, including for all types of elections.<sup>10</sup> A number of ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed concerns about the delivery and handling of the ballots in the polling stations. Some interlocutors from the political parties noted lack of sufficient resources to deliver or continuously supply ballots to polling stations during the election day, especially in remote areas, which might influence the choice available to voters. In addition, several ODIHR NAM interlocutors raised concerns about the handling of ballots in the polling stations, especially highlighting that the ballots are displayed in plain view of those present for voters to select them before casting the vote.<sup>11</sup> They noted that this may violate secrecy of vote.

#### **D. VOTER REGISTRATION**

Citizens over 18 years are eligible to vote. Voter list is based on a civil register compiled by the Tax Agency and is continuously updated.<sup>12</sup> Citizens living abroad are kept on the list for 10 years after their departure.<sup>13</sup> The Tax Agency provides the voter list to the Election Authority that produces separate lists for each polling station 30 days before the elections, allowing the voters to check their data through the local tax office. As of May 2018, some 7.5 million voters are registered in the country and 163,450 abroad.

No later than 18 days before an election, the Election Authority sends out a voting card to each voter. The card contains the voter's name and their number on the voter list, sets out the elections in which the voter may participate, and gives the voter's polling station and its opening hours.<sup>14</sup> Voters not known to the polling board must present a proof of identity at the time of voting. Citizens who have not received voting cards can submit a written request to the county administrative board no later than 12 days before election day. None of the ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed concerns with the registration of voters.

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<sup>9</sup> All votes from diplomatic missions are sent to the Election Authority, where they are sorted and forwarded to the relevant election committee.

<sup>10</sup> Parties that received one per cent of the vote in one of the two last legislative elections have the right to print ballots with the party name at the expense of the state and to request the distribution of these ballots to all polling stations. Other parties contesting the elections are themselves responsible for delivery of the ballots to the polling stations.

<sup>11</sup> Upon entering the polling station on election day, voters choose as many ballots as they wish from among the ballots displayed on a stand. The voters then proceed to the ballot booth where they select a ballot they wish to cast, and may write in a party or a candidate or indicate a candidate name. The ballot is then placed in an envelope which is placed into the ballot box, and the unused ballots are discarded.

<sup>12</sup> According to the Tax Agency, some 1.5 million changes are made annually, most of them due to residence or address changes.

<sup>13</sup> Following this period, they must notify the Tax Agency at least thirty days before an election to be included. If one day prior to the election day the Election Authority receives a vote from a voter who is no longer registered, the voter should be added to the voter list.

<sup>14</sup> For out of country voters, the Election Authority issues an expatriate voting card which is sent no later than 50 days before the election day. The expatriate voting card contains the voter's name, the election in which the voter may participate and information about the voting places where the voter lives.

## E. CANDIDATE AND PARTY REGISTRATION

All eligible voters have the right to stand as candidates, however, they must espouse a party – even if it is a party of one person. In line with recent amendments, parties are required to declare their intention to contest the elections 30 days before the election day and provide candidates’ statement of consent three days before the election day to the Election Authority. Such a statement can also be provided directly from the candidate to the election authority. Parties are not required to register, but can do so to brand the name. Applications to register a name are submitted to the Election Authority by the last day of February of the election year.<sup>15</sup>

Most of the parties met by ODIHR NAM conduct internal party elections for nomination of candidates and do not have formal quotas to promote representation of women, different disadvantaged groups or national minorities.<sup>16</sup> However, all of them noted that serious consideration is given to achieve balanced representations of these groups in the lists and that internal gender quotas are established voluntarily.<sup>17</sup>

## F. CAMPAIGN

There is no official campaign period and the legislation does not contain detailed provisions on the election campaign. Parties intend to have direct meetings with voters and place advertisements in the print and broadcast media. In addition to using printed campaign materials, they expect to increase the use of social media and other online platforms, including by targeting potential voters. The campaign is expected to focus on topics such as migration and integration, housing, social issues and healthcare, education as well as climate and foreign policy issues. All parties that the ODIHR NAM met with expressed confidence in the freedom to campaign and compete with other contestants on an equitable basis.

## G. PARTY AND CAMPAIGN FINANCE

The main laws regulating party and campaign finance framework are the 1972 Act on State Financial Support to Political Parties, and the 2014 Act on Transparency of Party Financing, both most recently amended in 2014 and 2016, respectively.<sup>18</sup> The recent amendments changed eligibility requirements for public funding, banned anonymous donations above SEK 2,275 and introduced further disclosure requirements aimed to increase transparency.<sup>19</sup>

Parties can receive private and public funding. Public funding is allocated according to the number of votes obtained in the previous elections and the share of seats in the *Riksdag*.<sup>20</sup> Public

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<sup>15</sup> A total of 1,500 signatures are required for parties aiming to compete in general elections to brand its name.

<sup>16</sup> Five minorities are officially recognized in Sweden (Roma, Jewish, Sami, Swedish Finns, and Tornedalers).

<sup>17</sup> Parties use [different methods](#) for ensuring balanced representation of women in the parliament. According to the [Inter-Parliamentary Union](#), Sweden has the highest percentage of female parliamentarians among the OSCE participating States with 43.5 per cent of women in the outgoing parliament.

<sup>18</sup> Certain provisions of the Election Act and the 1999 Act concerning Support for the Parliamentary Work of Members of the *Riksdag* and Parliamentary Party Groups regulate aspects of the financing of the parties. The amendments introduced in 2016 have been in force from April 2018.

<sup>19</sup> Anonymous donations below SEK 2,275 (EUR 215) are allowed and parties are required to specify the total amount of these donations. The new reporting requirements provide for the different levels of disclosure of the identity of a donor (individuals, legal entities, and other organizations or associations) based on the amount received, and require to report on the total amount as well as the time and place of the collected cash donations, and to specify the income from lotteries and other incomes.

<sup>20</sup> Eligible for public funding are all parliamentary parties as well as those that received at least 2.5 per cent of the votes in one of the last two general elections.



funding is the dominant source of income for parties.<sup>21</sup> Private financing can be provided by membership fees, donations, including in cash, publications and income from property. There are no limits on donations to parties and individual candidates. Foreign funding is prohibited, and donations from companies and trade unions are allowed.<sup>22</sup> There are no limits on spending for parties and candidates.

Parties are required to submit financial reports annually to the Legal, Financial and Administrative Services Agency (*Kammarkollegiet*) which must be made public. Reporting during the election campaign is not required. Following the introduction of the new disclosure requirements, many more parties are expected to report.<sup>23</sup> *Kammarkollegiet* launched a public information campaign to inform and familiarize all stakeholders with the new provisions and developed an online tool for parties to check whether they are required to submit reports. Most of the ODIHR NAM interlocutors did not express concerns regarding the transparency of the party financing, however, several of them expressed uncertainty over the implementation of the new amendments and some questioned whether the current capacity of the oversight body will be sufficient to deal with the significant increase of reporting entities.

## H. THE MEDIA

Media freedom is constitutionally guaranteed by the 1949 Freedom of the Press Act and further enshrined in the Freedom of Expression Act and the Radio and Television Act. The media environment is open and pluralistic, which is reflected by the variety of media outlets operating in the country. In general, the media legal framework is free of restrictions, including on online media.<sup>24</sup>

The coverage of election campaigns in the media is largely unregulated, and voluntary rules are implemented by different outlets with the aim to ensure equitable and fair representation of the contestants. These rules entail special guides for journalists on how to cover the election period and journalists are bound by ethical and professional codes.<sup>25</sup> During the campaign period, the public Swedish Radio (SR) and Swedish Television (SVT) intend to broadcast a number of election-related programs on national and regional level.<sup>26</sup> The SVT plans to organize one debate with the parliamentary political parties and one with the two leading candidates for prime-ministerial position. Contestants are allowed to purchase airtime on private television channels. Although most of the ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed satisfaction with the overall media coverage, including during election period, some raised the issue of potential impact of

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<sup>21</sup> In addition to the state support based on the election results and the representation in the *Riksdag*, parties represented in the municipal and county councils are also entitled to public financial support. According to the [parliament website](#), annual financial support to parliamentary parties from the state budget and the *Riksdag* amounts to about SEK 466 million (EUR 45.5 million).

<sup>22</sup> The size of the donation from companies or trade unions must be disclosed.

<sup>23</sup> The new reporting measures potentially might impact some 35,000 political parties or associations. Non-governmental and non-profit associations within a party or that are receiving party support are also obliged to report. Entities with annual income below SEK 22,275 (some 2,200 EUR) are exempted from reporting.

<sup>24</sup> According to number reputable media-related organizations, such as [Reporters Without Borders](#), Sweden ranks among the top countries regarding the media freedom.

<sup>25</sup> [Code of Ethics](#) includes: (1) publicity rules (rules of good journalistic practice) regarding fairness of reporting, respect of privacy, the rights of interviewees, the right to reply, etc.; (2) rules of professional journalism concerning the integrity of journalists, humiliating assignments, acquisition of material, relations with news sources, etc.; and (3) guidelines of editorial advertising covering the relationship between advertising and editorial content. See also [rules](#) adopted by the Swedish Union of Journalists. Additionally, journalists are required to distance themselves from any intolerant or xenophobic rhetoric voiced in their media.

<sup>26</sup> The SVR and the SVT have 25 and 26 regional stations, respectively.

disinformation on the election process. In response to this, several media outlets, including the public broadcasters, established an online platform for fact-checking in the media.<sup>27</sup>

All radio and television broadcasts are formally overseen by the Swedish Broadcasting Authority. The Swedish Broadcasting Commission is an independent decision-making body within the Swedish Press and Broadcasting Authority. The Press and Broadcasting Authority is headed by a director with legal experience who is appointed by the government.<sup>28</sup> Complaints can be filed by the general public or by the authority, and the Broadcasting Commission determines whether a specific broadcast has complied with provisions of the Radio and Television Act and with licensing conditions.<sup>29</sup> More comprehensive and strict regulations apply to the public service broadcasters, including requirements of impartiality, accuracy and privacy, and prohibitions on discrimination.

## I. CITIZEN AND INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS

The legal framework does not contain explicit provisions for the access of citizen or international election observers, which is at odds with OSCE commitments. However, the Elections Act provides that the vote counting process is public.<sup>30</sup> During the last 2014 general election, several civil society organizations in co-operation with international partners, conducted visits to polling stations and subsequently published a report in which issues related to the secrecy of the vote as well as organization of voting in the polling stations were outlined.<sup>31</sup>

## J. COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS

Complaints against the election results are submitted to the seven-member Election Review Board (ERB), appointed by the parliament. The chairperson of this board must be a qualified judge and may not be a member of parliament. Decisions made by the Board are final and cannot be appealed.

Decisions of the county administrative board or the Election Authority may also be appealed with the ERB within legally prescribed deadlines.<sup>32</sup> Decisions of the Election Authority determining the outcome of the election can be appealed by any voter or electoral contestant starting from the day after election day and until ten days after the election results have been certified. Appeals received by and decisions of the ERB are publicly available on its website.

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<sup>27</sup> According to the [website](#) of the project, “the purpose of the cooperation is to contribute to an open, inclusive and fact-based public debate... by reviewing the facts behind statements.”

<sup>28</sup> The Broadcasting Authority consists of seven members and two deputies, appointed by the government for three years. The chairperson and vice-chairperson are high-standing presiding judges.

<sup>29</sup> Since 2012, complaints can be submitted online which has resulted in an increase of the number of petitions and complaints from some 1,300 in 2011 to over 3,500 in 2016. However, in 2017, the number of petitions and complaints decreased to some 2,400. Out of 1,568 complaints considered in 2017, the Broadcasting Authority decided that the broadcasting requirements were not respected in 39 cases.

<sup>30</sup> Public access is granted to a preliminary counting at a polling station, counting by MEC, and the final counting by CAB.

<sup>31</sup> The Swedish International Liberal Center (SILC) submitted the findings and the recommendations from the [report](#) on the May 2014 European elections and the [report](#) from the September 2014 general elections to the Election Authority.

<sup>32</sup> For example, appeals regarding voter registration should be submitted not later than on Wednesday prior to the election day, regarding division of electoral districts and the constituency seats allocation not later than within three weeks from when the decision was made public, regarding the registration of party denomination within three weeks from the date when the appellant received the decision.

According to the 2005 Elections Act and the 2017 Administrative Procedure Act, election authorities and other bodies which are involved in the preparation and conduct of elections should provide the ERB with information and statements upon its request. The Board can order a witness hearing at a district court if it considers questioning a witness necessary. Following the 2014 general elections, the court reviewed 19 complaints and ordered repeated elections to be conducted in one municipality.

#### **IV. CONCLUSION**

All of the ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed a high level of confidence in all aspects of the electoral process. Authorities are continuously giving consideration to improve the election process and several legal changes in this respect have taken place. Some measures aimed at addressing OSCE commitments and other international obligations and standards have been introduced ahead of the 2018 general elections. At the same time, some ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed concerns about the legal provisions pertaining to the organization of voting in the polling stations, particularly with regard to ballot management and secrecy of vote, as well as the implementation of the new financial reporting requirements. Most of the ODIHR NAM interlocutors welcomed a possible external assessment by an observation activity

Based on this, the ODIHR NAM recommends deploying an Election Expert Team (EET) for the 9 September general elections to assess the election-related legal framework pertaining to the uniform implementation of election procedures, and to review the implementation of the campaign finance reporting and oversight framework. ODIHR stands ready to offer its assistance upon request in a post-election follow-up process.

## **ANNEX: LIST OF MEETINGS**

### **Ministry for Foreign Affairs**

Ambassador Fredrik Löjdquist, Department for European Security Policy  
Nina Lindvall, Desk Officer, Euro-Atlantic Division, Department for European Security Policy  
Malin Lampio, Intern

### **Ministry of Culture, Division for Democracy and Civil Society**

Paula Blomqvist, Senior Advisor

### **Election Review Board**

Svante O Johansson, Chairperson

### **Ministry of Justice**

Johan Lundqvist, Expert  
Sara Ahmed, Expert

### **Swedish Tax Agency**

Ingegerd Widell, Business Development Officer

### **Swedish Election Authority**

Anna Nyqvist, Director  
Johanna Jansson, Senior Administrative Officer,  
Carl Sjöberg, Head of IT and Communications  
Hans-Ivar Swärd, Expert

### **Legal, Financial and Administrative Services Agency**

Ellen Linde, Desk Officer  
Anne Joki Jakobsson, Communication Officer  
Marika Jonson, Digital Strategist

### **Swedish Broadcasting Commission**

Anna Dingertz Deputy Head and Legal Advisor  
Johannes Wik, Advisor

### **Social Democratic Party**

Johan Hassel, International Secretary

### **Moderates Party**

Diana Janse, International Director

### **Sweden Democrats**

Sven Olof Sällström, Member of Parliament

### **Green Party**

Lova André Nilsson, Team Leader

### **Centre Party**

Karin Carlesten, International secretary

**Left Party**

Aron Etzler, Party Secretary

Mikael von Knorring, International Secretary

**Liberal Party**

Tina Acketoft, Member of Parliament

**Christian Democrats**

Peter Kullgren, Member

**Feminist Initiative Party**

Maria Pettersson, Party Secretary

Rojan Karakaya, Member of the Board

**Citizens' Coalition**

Anna Danieli, Member

Staffan Gunnarson, Member

**Media**

Olle Zachrison, Head of news broadcasting, Swedish Radio

Klas Wolf-Watz Head of News Operations, Swedish Radio

Eva Landahl, Chief Editor, Swedish Television

Charlotta Friborg, Publisher and Head of Program, Swedish Television

Fredric Karén, Svenska Dagbladet, Chief Editor

Peter Wolodarski, Dagens Nyheter, Chief Editor

**Swedish International Liberal Centre (SILC)**

Amanda Valentin, Deputy Director