



Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

ICELAND

PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS

25 September 2021

ODIHR NEEDS ASSESSMENT MISSION REPORT

17-20 May 2021



Warsaw
20 August 2021

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ODIHR Needs Assessment Mission Report

I. INTRODUCTION

Following an invitation from the Permanent Mission of Iceland to the OSCE to observe the 25 September 2021 parliamentary elections, and in accordance with its mandate, the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) undertook a Needs Assessment Mission (NAM) from 17 to 20 May. The NAM included Alexey Gromov, ODIHR Senior Election Adviser, and Martina Barker-Ciganikova, ODIHR Election Adviser.

The purpose of the mission was to assess the pre-election environment and the preparations for the elections. Based on this assessment, the NAM recommends 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 representatives of state institutions, election administration, political parties, media, and civil society. A list of meetings is annexed to this report.

ODIHR would like to thank the Ministry for Foreign Affairs (MFA) for its 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 unicameral Icelandic parliament is composed of 63 deputies directly elected for four-year terms. The parliamentary elections scheduled for 25 September 2021 are primarily regulated by the Constitution and the Parliamentary Elections Law. Constitutional and electoral reform processes, viewed by all ODIHR NAM interlocutors as consultative and inclusive, have been ongoing for several years. Overall, ODIHR NAM interlocutors assessed the electoral legislation as providing a comprehensive basis for the conduct of democratic elections.

Several state bodies, including the Ministry of Justice, election commissions, and municipalities jointly share the responsibility for organizing the elections. All ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed full confidence in the professionalism and impartiality of the election administration.

Citizens over 18 years of age are eligible to vote, and there are some 255,000 registered voters. Voter registration is passive, and voter lists are extracted from a nationwide population register; lists are available for scrutiny ten days prior to the elections. No concerns were expressed regarding the accuracy of the voter lists.

Eligible voters can stand for the elections, except the Supreme Court Justices, the ombudsperson of the parliament and those serving criminal sentence of at least four years in prison or detention in psychiatric care. Candidate lists can be put forward only by “political organizations”, and individual candidates are not provided for by law. A voter can sign in support of only one candidate list. Support signatures may be collected in paper and also electronically. Candidate registration ends on 10 September. No ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed concerns with the candidate registration process. There is no gender quota applied for candidate lists and civil society representatives expressed concerns over significant drop of women parliamentarians.

The Constitution protects fundamental freedoms, and no ODIHR NAM interlocutors raised concerns about the ability to campaign freely. Election campaigning is largely unregulated. Post-pandemic economic recovery and high unemployment are expected to dominate as campaign topics. ODIHR NAM interlocutors anticipate campaigning via social networks and broadcast media as well as during traditional personal meetings; some raised concerns with respect to spread of fake news and misinformation.

Party finance legal framework was amended in 2018 reflecting a number of ODIHR recommendations, including on publication of annual accounts and clear definition of third parties. Political parties and candidates may receive funds from both public and private sources. There are no specific provisions for campaign finance reporting, and parties' annual financial reports are to be submitted to the oversight body by 1 November of the next year. All ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed general satisfaction with the transparency of campaign finance.

ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed general satisfaction with media freedom, campaign coverage and access to media. Nevertheless some raised the issues of concentration of media ownership and shrinking diversity of opinions in the mainstream media available to the electorate. The media are legally obliged to ensure objective and impartial news and plan to cover the campaign with a variety of formats, including debates. The Media Commission, the regulatory authority, ensures media's compliance with the law and decides on complaints. The government initiative to financially subsidize private media was mostly welcomed by ODIHR NAM interlocutors, albeit many expressed reservations regarding its potential efficiency and impact.

Voter registration related complaints are filed with the municipal authorities, and those pertaining to election administration, including on election day, with respective election commissions. While the law does not provide for a judicial review of election disputes, all ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed full trust in the complaints mechanism. The newly elected parliament certifies the legality of elections and the eligibility of its elected members, with no judicial review envisaged.

All ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed full confidence in the integrity of the electoral process and the ability of the election administration to professionally conduct transparent elections. Most interlocutors welcomed a potential election observation activity, noting the value of previous ODIHR assessments and recommendations. Some isolated concerns were raised regarding the regulatory framework and conduct of campaign, media and its oversight. Nevertheless, these were not identified by electoral stakeholders as significantly impacting the upcoming elections.

On this basis, the ODIHR NAM does not recommend the deployment of an election observation activity for the 25 September parliamentary elections. ODIHR, however, reiterates that a number of its previous election related recommendations remain valid and reaffirms its readiness to support the authorities in ongoing electoral reform.

III. FINDINGS

A. BACKGROUND AND POLITICAL CONTEXT

Iceland is a parliamentary republic with a directly-elected president serving as head of state. Legislative power is vested with the unicameral parliament (*Althingi*). Executive power is exercised by the government led by the prime minister.

The last 2017 early parliamentary elections resulted in the formation of a left-right grand coalition composed of the Independence Party, the Left-Green Movement, and the Progressive Party, with Katrín Jakobsdóttir (Left-Green Movement) as the Prime Minister. The current parliament consists of eight political parties.¹ Women are well represented in political life, currently holding 38 per cent of parliamentary seats and 5 out of 10 ministerial positions, including the Prime Minister.

The legislation provides that the president can formally set the date of the elections only after parliament has been dissolved. On 12 August, the president announced both the dissolution of the parliament and the election date for 25 September.

ODIHR previously deployed Election Assessment Missions for the 2009 and 2013 parliamentary elections and Election Expert Team for the 2017 parliamentary elections.² The final report on the 2017 elections concluded that “the elections were administered efficiently and professionally with respect for fundamental principles of democratic elections. They were characterized by a high level of public confidence in the election administration and active voter participation”. The final report contains 15 recommendations for the authorities to bring electoral process closer in line with OSCE commitments.³

B. LEGAL FRAMEWORK AND ELECTORAL SYSTEM

The parliamentary elections are primarily regulated by the 1994 Constitution (last amended in 2013) and the 2000 Parliamentary Elections Law (PEL, last amended in 2020). Other laws pertinent to the conduct of the parliamentary elections include the 2006 Law on the Finances of Political Organisations and Candidates (Campaign Finance Law), the 2011 Media Law, and the 2013 Law on Icelandic National Broadcaster. Iceland is a party to major international and regional instruments related to the democratic elections.⁴

Several ODIHR NAM interlocutors noted a longstanding public request for modernization of the Icelandic Constitution but explained the protraction of the constitutional reform process over the decade with the lack of political support to some proposed changes.⁵ In 2020, the government submitted to the parliament four draft constitutional bills, one devoted mainly to the status of the executive and functions of the president and the government, one concerning the mechanisms for initiating referenda, and two devoted to the protection of environment and the status of natural resources.⁶

The electoral legal framework has been amended since the last parliamentary elections, including with regard to campaign finance and candidate registration. Several of the 2018 campaign finance related legal amendments reflected prior ODIHR recommendations.

¹ Independence Party (16 seats), Left-Green Movement (10 seats), Progressive Party (8 seats), Centre Party (9 seats), Social Democratic Alliance (7 seats), Pirate Party (6 seats), Liberal Reform Party (4 seats), and People’s Party (2 seats). One member of parliament is independent.

² See previous [ODIHR election-related reports on Iceland](#).

³ 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”. See ODIHR Electoral Recommendations Database [Paragraph25.odihhr.pl](#).

⁴ Including the 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1965 International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, 2003 UN Convention against Corruption, 2006 Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and 1950 European Convention on Human Rights. Iceland is also a member of the Council of Europe’s Venice Commission and Group of States against Corruption (GRECO).

⁵ The approach alternated between attempts to draft a brand new Constitution and a step-by-step way of redrafting the current Constitution.

⁶ See the [Venice Commission 2020 Opinion](#) on the four constitutional draft bills. According to the Constitution, any constitutional amendments should be followed by dissolution of the parliament and require repeated voting by the next legislature.

A bill proposed by a parliamentary electoral reform working group envisages significant amendments of the legal framework addressing many prior ODIHR recommendations.⁷ These include unification of different electoral acts into one codified piece, harmonization of deadlines between candidate registration and the start of early voting, and provision for citizen and international observers. Other important amendments pertain to introduction of electronic voter lists and transfer of the main coordination and oversight role for the elections from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) to the National Election Commission (NEC).

The bill awaits its approval by the Constitutional and Supervisory Committee of the parliament, and most of ODIHR NAM interlocutors expect the changes to become applicable only after the 2021 parliamentary elections. According to all ODIHR NAM interlocutors, the reform process has been inclusive and encompassed a great variety of public consultation mechanisms. In general, all interlocutors welcomed the expected amendments as a significant improvement but some raised reservations with respect to introduction of postal voting, elimination of Senior Election Commissions (SECs), new provisions for assisted voting and counting ballots at polling stations.

The parliament is composed of 63 deputies elected for a four-year term through a closed list proportional representation with the possibility of a preferential vote.⁸ For the purpose of parliamentary elections, the country is divided into six multi-member constituencies. Iceland uses the d'Hondt method for seat allocation, whereby 54 seats are allocated at the constituency level with no electoral threshold applied, and the remaining 9 seats distributed at the national level among parties that passed the 5 per cent nationwide threshold. These nine 'adjustment seats' are intended as a measure to ensure proportional representation of parties at the national level. Notwithstanding this provision, some ODIHR NAM interlocutors opined that proportional distribution of seats is not sufficiently respected to the detriment of smaller political parties.

One of the long-standing issues raised by most of ODIHR NAM interlocutors relates to the equality of vote. The law provides that if the number of voters per parliamentary seat in one constituency is more than half of the number of voters per seat in another constituency, the NEC should reallocate seats after the elections to reduce that difference. As a result, the NEC reallocated seats between the smallest constituency of Northwest and the Southwest in 2003 and 2009. Nevertheless, following the last 2017 elections, the imbalance between votes in constituencies increased again, potentially challenging equality of the vote.⁹

C. ELECTION ADMINISTRATION

The administration of elections is performed jointly by a number of institutions, including several tiers of election commissions, MoJ, the Registers Iceland and local authorities. The MFA co-ordinates voting

⁷ Electoral legal reform has been ongoing since after 2013 elections.

⁸ Voters can change the order of candidates by renumbering them or crossing out the names that they do not like. For the preferential vote to have an effect on the ranking of candidates, a significant proportion of the voters should make the same of the above mentioned changes in the candidate list. In past elections, voters' preferences had no impact on the results.

⁹ In 2017 elections, the number of voters per parliamentary seat dropped below the nationwide average by 24 and 31 per cent in Northwest and Northeast, respectively, and exceeded the average by 35 per cent in Southwest. Paragraph 7.3 of the 1990 OSCE Copenhagen Document states that "to ensure that the will of the people serves as the basis of the authority of government, the participating States will guarantee universal and equal suffrage to adult citizens". Section I.2.2.vi of the 2002 Venice Commission Code of Good Practice in Electoral Matters states that "The permissible departure from the norm should not be more than 10%, and should certainly not exceed 15% except in special circumstances (protection of a concentrated minority, sparsely populated administrative entity)".

abroad. All ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed full confidence in the work of the election administration at all levels.

The MoJ has an overall co-ordination role and is in charge of the technical preparations for elections but it does not have direct authority over the election commissions. The MoJ registers political parties, develops and distributes election materials, including ballots. According to the MoJ, voter information will be available on the ministry's website in different formats, including easy-to-read format and videos with sign language interpretation, closer to election day.

All five members of the NEC and of the six SECs, one per constituency, are nominated by the parliamentary political parties and appointed after each parliamentary elections by the parliament for a four-year term.

The NEC determines the constituency boundaries, allocates parliamentary seats between constituencies, and acts as an appeal body for SEC decisions. The NEC does not serve as a centralized decision-making body.

The SECs oversee the electoral process at the constituency level. Their primary responsibility is the receipt and verification of contestants' supporting signatures, training of the subordinate Local Elections Commissions (LECs), counting of votes and tabulation of results. The LECs, composed of three members appointed by municipalities, organize and conduct voting at polling stations.

District Commissioners administer early voting which starts eight weeks before election day.¹⁰ Early voting has a long tradition in Iceland, and it is expected that a significant share of votes will be cast before election day. At the same time, many ODIHR NAM interlocutors noted that the early start of voting is in conflict with the deadline for registration of candidate lists. Most commonly, early voting takes place at the offices of District Commissioners, but also in hospitals and prisons as well as abroad, and on ships-at-sea.

The legislation also provides for mobile voting for a limited category of voters. The MoJ submitted a bill aiming to facilitate participation of voters in quarantine or self-isolation due to the COVID-19 by providing for special drive-through polling facilities and mobile voting at home.

Voters with special needs can be assisted at polling stations by a person of their choice. Interlocutors informed the ODIHR NAM that all polling stations would be accessible for voters with physical disabilities, and that all polling staff receives training to accommodate needs of voters with special needs. The election administration and some political parties informed the ODIHR NAM on their plans to additionally prepare the voter and campaign materials in English and Polish for citizens of foreign origin.

D. VOTER REGISTRATION

All citizens who are 18 years of age or older on election day and have a permanent residence in Iceland are eligible to vote.¹¹ Voter registration is passive but voters who have resided abroad for more than eight years must actively register.¹² So far, 254,888 voters were registered for these elections, including 10,449 voters living abroad.

¹⁰ District Commissioners are appointed by the MoJ and have wide administrative responsibilities.

¹¹ In addition, a small group of Danish citizens retain their right to vote based on having been resident in Iceland on 6 March 1946 or at any point in the 10 years before that.

¹² Voters residing abroad remain in the voter register for eight years following their departure.

Registers Iceland maintains a central database of voters based on the population register. The Department of Digital Communication under the Ministry of Transport is ensuring cyber/ICT security of systems used. Following the announcement of the elections, the Registers Iceland provides extracts of the register to the municipalities, which in turn divide them by polling stations. The lists are made available for public scrutiny ten days before election day, and voters can check their registration data either online or in-person at the municipal offices.¹³ ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed no concerns regarding the accuracy of the voter lists.

E. CANDIDATE REGISTRATION

Eligible voters can stand as candidates for these elections; by law excluded are the Supreme Court Justices, the ombudsperson of the parliament and those serving criminal sentence of at least four years in prison or detention in psychiatric care. Contrary to international standards and OSCE commitments, independent candidates may not run, and only “political organizations” can nominate candidates.¹⁴ Nevertheless, individuals can join and present joint lists.

In order to contest the elections, the MoJ assigns to each political organization a distinguishing letter of the alphabet as an identifier on the ballot. The MoJ keeps a record of assigned letters from the last parliamentary elections and publishes them no later than eight weeks before the elections. Political organizations without assigned letters should apply to the MoJ no later than three days before the candidate nomination deadline, presenting 300 supporting signatures of voters.

Candidate lists should be submitted to the relevant SECs no later than 15 days before election day (10 September for these elections). Each candidate list must contain exactly double the number of candidates as there are seats in the relevant constituency, and be supported by signatures of voters from that constituency. The number of supporting signatures should be between 30 and 40 times the number of seats in the constituency. A voter can sign in support of only one candidate list.¹⁵ Registers Iceland has developed software that the SECs may use to check for duplicate signatures and confirm the eligibility of supporters. No ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed concerns with the candidate registration process.

The 2020 amendments to the electoral legal framework allowed voters to submit support signatures also in an electronic form by using ID authentication process due to restrictions on assembly and movement imposed amid the COVID-19 pandemic. This temporary measure, originally applicable only for the 2020 presidential election was welcomed by all ODIHR NAM interlocutors and was extended for these elections. Relevant regulation, as adopted on 16 July, also offers contestants to apply for the identifying letter as well as to submit registration documents to the relevant SECs electronically.

There are no gender representation requirements when forming candidate lists, and not all political parties have internal mechanisms in place to contribute to gender-equal representation. Civil society representatives expressed concerns over the significant drop of women parliamentarians (from 47 per cent in 2016 to 38 per cent in the outgoing parliament) and informed the ODIHR NAM that they had urged the parliament to introduce legal provisions enhancing gender equality.

¹³ Changes with respect to a new domicile may take place at the latest five weeks prior to election day. Changes related to removal of a voter from the register due to death or related to acquiring citizenship can be introduced up to and on election day.

¹⁴ “Political organizations” are those who put forward candidates or have done so in previous elections. Paragraph 7.5 of the 1990 OSCE Copenhagen Document provides for “the right of citizens to seek political or public office, individually or as representatives of political parties or organizations, without discrimination”.

¹⁵ Paragraph 96 of the ODIHR and Venice Commission [Guidelines on Political Party Regulation](#) states that: “It should be possible to support the registration of more than one party, and legislation should not limit a citizen or other individual to signing a supporting list for only one party”.

F. ELECTION CAMPAIGN AND CAMPAIGN FINANCE

The election campaign is largely unregulated, with no official campaign period defined. Campaigning can take place up to and including on election day. The Constitution guarantees freedoms of association, assembly and expression, and no ODIHR NAM interlocutors raised any concern about their ability to campaign freely.

The rising unemployment and economic recovery following the COVID-19 pandemic are anticipated by most of ODIHR NAM interlocutors to overwhelmingly dominate the campaign discourse. Poverty, climate change, fairer wealth distribution and the ongoing constitutional reform might also feature as important topics. ODIHR NAM interlocutors expect the campaign to take place via broadcast and print media as well as social networks, such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube. Political parties informed the ODIHR NAM that they also envisage to revert back to traditional campaign outreach methods, including personal meetings with voters, once COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

Several ODIHR NAM interlocutors raised concerns about use of personal data and microtargeting voters by some political parties without their prior consent, as well as spread of fake news and misinformation on social networks. To counter anonymous election propaganda, identification of issue-based advertisement by political parties was introduced into the legislation in 2018. Nevertheless, some ODIHR NAM interlocutors opined that a legal loophole pertains as anonymous political advertising by private individuals remains out of the scope of the amendment.

Political party and campaign finance are regulated by the 2006 Campaign Finance Law (last amended in 2018). The National Audit Office (NAO), the oversight body responsible for party finance monitoring, has prepared updated guidelines reflecting the amendments. Some previous ODIHR recommendations, such as publication of annual accounts in full detail and clear definition of third parties, were implemented. The 2018 amendments further increased the annual ceiling for private donations, postponed the deadline for submission of financial reports and amended requirements for publishing sources of donations. According to most ODIHR NAM interlocutors, the legal framework provides a sound basis for sufficient transparency of campaign finance, and in practice stakeholders adhere to the financial rules.

Political parties that obtained at least one seat in parliament or received at least 2.5 per cent of the vote in the last parliamentary elections are entitled to public funding. Following a 2018 amendment, each parliamentary party receives a so-called basic operating contribution of ISK 12 million (some EUR 80,000), equal for all parties, on an annual basis.¹⁶ Those parties which fielded candidates in at least three constituencies are entitled to claim back their expenses incurred for the campaign for up to ISK 750,000 for each constituency.

Candidates may also receive bank loans, private donations from legal entities and individuals, including in-kind donations, not exceeding ISK 400,000 per year per individual donor. Contributions from anonymous, state and foreign donors are not allowed. There is no expenditure ceiling for parties.

Political parties are obliged to submit annual financial reports to the NAO by 1 November of the following year.¹⁷ There are no specific provisions regarding reporting on party campaign incomes and expenditures, and this year's campaign turnovers will thus be published earliest in November 2022. The

¹⁶ EUR 1 is some ISK 149 (Icelandic *Krona*).

¹⁷ The party financial reports are subject to obligatory audit before submitting to the NAO unless the party does not receive public funds or overall annual income does not exceed ISK 550,000.

NAO publishes the annual reports, including the sources and amounts of donations by all legal entities and by individuals if donations exceed ISK 550,000.

Although the law provides for fines and criminal sanctions for campaign finance violations, the NAO does not have the authority to impose sanctions, but may turn to the police for investigation. The NAO informed the ODIHR NAM that any discrepancies in the parties' annual accounts are solved amicably, and the parties are given a chance to adjust the accounts.

G. MEDIA

All ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed general satisfaction with media freedom being guaranteed. Several interlocutors raised the issue of concentration of private media ownership and a potential conflict of interest due to a degree of political and private business affiliation of, in particular, print media. The interlocutors equally opined that the diversity of opinions traditionally offered to the electorate in the mainstream media has shrunk recently. On the other hand, all ODIHR NAM interlocutors acknowledged that social networks provide ample opportunities to voice opinions.

Television is the main source of political information, followed by online media, social networks and daily newspapers. The public broadcaster *RÚV* and the privately owned *Channel 2* are the main news-oriented TV channels profiting from the highest viewership. The print media still enjoy a strong position in society, despite declining circulation.

Many ODIHR NAM interlocutors welcomed the government's proposed initiative to financially support private media outlets, in particular due to negative consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic. At the same time, concerns were raised regarding the proposed mechanism for allocation of funds favouring a few bigger companies as well as a potential impact on the independence of the private media.

The Media Law and the Law on Icelandic National Broadcaster regulate the activities of media and oblige them to ensure objective, reliable and impartial news. The *RÚV* is further legally obliged to provide equal coverage of all parties represented in the parliament and may allocate limited time to other parties contesting elections, proportionally to the number of constituencies where they registered candidates. In addition, each candidate may purchase unlimited airtime for advertisements on both public and private broadcasters and label them accordingly as paid for.

The Media Commission has an obligation to ensure that media comply with the law. Albeit the Commission can initiate procedures *ex officio* and apply sanctions, its representatives informed the ODIHR NAM that the Commission only reacts to media related complaints. No media monitoring by the Media Commission is envisaged for these elections due to shortage of resources. Many ODIHR NAM interlocutors confirmed an effective self-regulation among major media.

Both public and private broadcasters in addition to regular campaign coverage in the news plan to air political programmes and organize TV debates among leaders of the parties. Expecting a high number of contestants and aiming to ensure an interesting format for the viewers, the participants might be split into two groups based on opinion polling. Most ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed overall satisfaction with media access and coverage during elections.

H. COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS

Jurisdiction over election-related disputes is shared among the election administration (the NEC and SECs) and the parliament. Administrative complaints pertaining to voter registration are lodged with the municipal authorities that must react upon them immediately. Complaints related to election

administration, including on election day, can be filed with respective election commissions. Registration of candidate lists can be appealed to the NEC within 24 hours from the issuing of the relevant SEC decision. In both cases, the law does not provide deadlines for the authorities to rule on complaints. Although the Constitution provides the right of recourse to a court of law within a reasonable time, the PEL does not clearly prescribe any judicial appeal against election dispute decisions.¹⁸

Within four weeks of the announcement of the results, voters can submit complaints on eligibility of candidates and correctness of party lists to the MoJ which then forwards the complaint to the parliament for consideration. The newly elected parliament also certifies the legality of elections and eligibility of the new deputies. The parliament's decision is final, and there is no possibility of appeal to a judicial authority.¹⁹ All ODIHR NAM interlocutors voiced full trust in the efficiency of election dispute resolution.

IV. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATION

All ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed full confidence in the integrity of the electoral process and the ability of the election administration to organize elections professionally and transparently. Most ODIHR NAM interlocutors welcomed a potential election observation activity, noting the value of previous ODIHR assessments and recommendations. Some isolated concerns were raised regarding the regulatory framework and conduct of campaign, media and its oversight. Nevertheless, these were not identified by electoral stakeholders as significantly impacting the upcoming elections.

On this basis, the ODIHR NAM does not recommend the deployment of an election observation activity for the 25 September parliamentary elections. ODIHR, however, reiterates that a number of its previous election related recommendations remain valid and reaffirms its readiness to support the authorities in ongoing electoral reform.

¹⁸ Paragraph 18.4 of the 1991 OSCE Moscow Document states that “the participating States will endeavour to provide for judicial review of such [administrative] regulations and decisions”.

¹⁹ Section II.3.3.a of the 2002 Venice Commission Code of Good Practice in Electoral Matters recommends that “Appeal to parliament, as the judge of its own election, is sometimes provided for but could result in political decisions. It is acceptable as a first instance in places where it is long established, but a judicial appeal should then be possible”.

ANNEX: LIST OF MEETINGS

Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Svanhvít Aðalsteinsdóttir, Head, Consular Affairs Department

Ministry of Justice

Bryndís Helgadóttir, Director, Department of Legal Affairs

Hjördís Stefánsdóttir, Senior Legal Advisor, Department of Legal Affairs

Constitutional and Supervisory Committee of the Parliament

Líneik Anna Sævarsdóttir, MP, Progressive Party

Hjálmar Bogi Hafliðason, Progressive Party

Þorsteinn Sæmundsson, MP, Centre Party

Óli Björn Káráson, MP, Independence Party

Brynjar Nielsson, MP, Independence Party

Kolbeinn Óttarsson Proppé, MP, Left-Green Movement

Andrés Ingi Jónsson, MP, Pirate Party

Þorbjörg Sigríður Gunnlaugsdóttir, Liberal Reform Party

Guðjón S. Brjánsón, MP, Social Democratic Alliance

Supreme Court

Benedikt Bogason, President

Election Commissions

Kristín Edwald, President, National Election Commission

Þórhallur Vilhjálmsson, Member, National Election Commission

Laufey Helga Guðmundsdóttir, Secretary, National Election Commission

Björn Þór Jóhannesson, Member, National Election Commission

Erla S. Árnadóttir, Reykjavik North Senior Election Commission

Heimir Örn Herbertsson, Reykjavik South Senior Election Commission

Registers Iceland

Guðni Rúnar Gíslason, Manager, Information and Communication Department

Indriði Björn Ármannsson, Legal Department

National Audit Office

Guðrún Jenný Jónsdóttir, Deputy Auditor General

Birgitta Arngrímsdóttir, Head of Human Resources

Media Commission

Elfa Ýr Gylfadóttir, General Secretary

Heiðís Lilja Magnúsdóttir, Senior Legal Advisor

Reykjavik City Council

Helga Björk Laxdal, Director of the Office

Hildur Lilliendahl Viggósdóttir, Electoral Project Manager

Bjarni Þóroddsson, Election Manager

Páll Hilmarsson, Data Specialist

Political Parties

Sigmundur Davíð Gunnlaugsson, MP, Centre Party

Gunnar Bragi Sveinsson, MP, Centre Party
Jon Petursson, Centre Party
Birgir Ármannsson, MP, Independence Party
Olafur Thor Gunnarsson, MP, Left-Green Movement
Bjarkey Olsen Gunnarsdóttir, Left-Green Movement
Leifur Gunnarsson, Left-Green Movement
Daði Már Kristófersson, Liberal Reform Party
Hreiðar Ingi Eðvarsson, People's Party
Sigurjón Arnórsson, People's Party
Magnus Thor, People's Party
Thorhildur Sunna Ævarsdóttir, MP, Pirate Party
Andrés Ingi Jónsson, MP, Pirate Party
Eiríkur Rafn Rafnsson, Pirate Party
Rósa Björk, MP, Social-Democratic Alliance
Gudmundur Thorsson, Social-Democratic Alliance

Media

Heidar Örn Sigurfinnsson, Deputy Head of News, RÚV
Valgeir Örn Ragnarsson, Electoral Editorial Board, RÚV
Þórir Guðmundsson, Editor-in-Chief, Channel 2

Civil Society

Tatjana Latinovic, President, Icelandic Women's Rights Association
Brynhildur Heiðar-og Ómarsdóttir, Secretary General, Icelandic Women's Rights Association
Ólafur Þórður Harðarson, Professor of School of Social Sciences, University of Iceland
Gústaf Adolf Skúlason, Director, Institute of Public Administration and Politics, University of Iceland