



Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

MONGOLIA

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

26 June 2017

OSCE/ODIHR NEEDS ASSESSMENT MISSION REPORT

21-24 February 2017



Warsaw
25 April 2017

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MONGOLIA
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OSCE/ODIHR Needs Assessment Mission Report

I. INTRODUCTION

Following an invitation from the authorities of Mongolia to observe the 26 June 2017 presidential election, and in accordance with its mandate, the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODIHR) undertook a Needs Assessment Mission (NAM) to Mongolia from 21 to 24 February. The NAM included Steven Martin, OSCE/ODIHR Senior Adviser on New Voting Technologies, and Ulvi Akhundlu, OSCE/ODIHR Election Adviser.

The purpose of the mission was to assess the pre-election environment and the preparations for the presidential election. Based on this assessment, the NAM should recommend whether to deploy an OSCE/ODIHR election-related activity for the forthcoming election, and if so, what type of activity best meets the identified needs. Meetings were held with officials from state institutions as well as representatives of political parties, media, and civil society. A list of meetings is annexed to this report.

The OSCE/ODIHR would like to thank the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including its Permanent Mission to the OSCE, and the General Election Commission for their assistance and co-operation in organizing the visit. The OSCE/ODIHR is grateful to all of its interlocutors for taking the time to meet with the NAM.

II. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Mongolian voters will directly elect their president on 26 June through a nationwide two round majoritarian system. If no candidate receives an absolute majority of votes in the first round, a second round will be held within 14 days between the two candidates who receive the most votes.

The upcoming election will be the first presidential race conducted under the 2015 Law on Elections that consolidates various election laws. While acknowledging certain improvements in the legal framework, some OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors raised concerns over provisions that regulate candidate registration, aspects of the campaign, and media access. Authorities informed the OSCE/ODIHR NAM that some previous OSCE/ODIHR recommendations were considered within a package of amendments presented to parliament in December 2016; however, its adoption was postponed due to the limited time before the election.

The election will be managed by a four-tiered administration led by the General Election Commission (GEC). The GEC has published its electoral calendar and commenced preparations, including approving instructions and logistical arrangements, as well as initiating training and voter education activities. While most OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed general confidence in the work of the GEC, some stated their concerns over the impartiality of the lower-level election commissions, citing previous political affiliation of some members.

This will be the sixth election to use electronic vote counting machines in polling stations. In contrast to previous elections, most OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed confidence in the reliability, integrity and accuracy of the technology.

Citizens that have full legal capacity and attained the age of 18 years have the right to vote, except for persons serving a prison sentence irrespective of the gravity of the crime committed. Voter registration is passive and periodic and based on biometric identification. Voter lists are extracted from the national civil registration database. Overall, stakeholders expressed general confidence in the accuracy and inclusiveness of the voter registration process. According to the authorities, there are some 2,052,000 registered voters, including some 130,000 abroad.

Presidential candidates may only be nominated by parliamentary parties or coalitions of parliamentary parties. Despite a previous OSCE/ODIHR recommendation, the law does not permit independent candidates. Notwithstanding these restrictions, OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors generally did not express significant concerns on the inclusiveness and transparency of the registration process.

The legislation extensively regulates campaign activities and methods. While parties confirmed their ability to campaign freely, many stakeholders raised concerns to the OSCE/ODIHR NAM regarding biased coverage by private media, potential pressure on voters as well as a possible misuse of administrative resources. Parties noted the importance of social media and the challenge of campaigning in rural constituencies given their large size and the short duration of the campaign.

Campaign finance is extensively regulated and is primarily overseen by the State Audit Office. Interlocutors noted to the OSCE/ODIHR NAM that effective oversight and sanctioning could be more efficient and opined that the framework regulating campaign finance for presidential elections could benefit from external scrutiny.

Despite a limited advertising market, some 500 media outlets operate across the country. While noting media diversity and a certain level of pluralism, all OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors noted political segmentation of the media market and expressed concern over the opaqueness of media ownership. Libel and defamation during elections remain criminal offences. OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors generally considered newly adopted administrative fines for defamation as excessive.

The adjudication of electoral complaints is governed by various laws. The process of lodging a complaint or appeal depends on the type of dispute and some overlapping jurisdiction exists among the courts and election bodies on handling complaints. Most OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed confidence in the fairness of the electoral dispute resolution process, but noted that it may benefit from an external review with the aim to harmonize various deadlines and streamline judicial procedures.

OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors highlighted the positive role played by the OSCE/ODIHR's election observation in bringing election legislation and practices in closer conformity with OSCE commitments and other international standards. They underscored the need to observe the upcoming election with a large and long-term presence, recognizing that improvements could be made and that an OSCE/ODIHR assessment along with recommendations could contribute to and further build confidence in the electoral process.

While the majority of OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed a certain level of confidence in the electoral administration, they raised particular concerns with regard to the implementation of the

legal framework, aspects of the campaign, and the effectiveness of the complaints and appeals process. OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors acknowledged that while isolated mistakes by polling staff may occur on election day, they did not raise serious concerns regarding the conduct of election day proceedings, including with the electronic vote counting equipment.

Based on the findings of this report, the OSCE/ODIHR NAM recommends the deployment of a Limited Election Observation Mission (LEOM) to assess the 26 June presidential election. In addition to a core team of experts, the OSCE/ODIHR NAM will request the secondment of 24 long-term observers from OSCE participating States to follow the electoral process countrywide. While the mission would visit a limited number of polling stations on election day, comprehensive and systematic observation of election day proceedings is not envisaged. In line with OSCE/ODIHR's standard methodology, the LEOM would include a media-monitoring element.

III. FINDINGS

A. BACKGROUND AND POLITICAL CONTEXT

Mongolia is a semi-presidential republic with executive power shared between the president and government and legislative power vested in the unicameral State Great Hural (parliament). The president exercises considerable power over foreign and defence policies. The prime minister and government are responsible for economic and budgetary policies, social development, and the daily administration of state affairs.

The June 2016 parliamentary elections resulted in the Mongolia People's Party (MPP) defeating the Democratic Party (DP) and returning to power after a four-year gap.¹ In October 2016, the MPP also won local elections in the majority of provinces and the capital city. Following elections in 2016, a range of issues have emerged that impact the current political environment, including ongoing investigations of alleged corruption involving state officials, a rising national debt along with projected mining revenue shortfalls.

The OSCE/ODIHR has observed two previous elections in Mongolia since 2013, most recently in 2016, when the OSCE/ODIHR deployed an Election Observation Mission (EOM) for the parliamentary elections.² The EOM concluded that "election day was orderly, following a competitive campaign. This, however, did not offset the impact of late fundamental changes in the electoral legislation on Mongolia's democratic development. The elections were highly contested and the freedoms of assembly and association were respected. Restrictive campaign provisions coupled with the media's subservience to political interests limited impartial and comprehensive information available for voters."

B. LEGAL FRAMEWORK AND ELECTORAL SYSTEM

The legal framework for presidential elections primarily comprises the 1992 Constitution (last amended in 2001), the 2006 Law on the Central Election Body, the 2011 Law on the Automated

¹ The MPP won 65 of 76 seats in parliament, and the DP 9 seats. The remaining two seats were won by the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party and an independent candidate.

² See [previous OSCE/ODIHR election reports on Mongolia](#).

Election System, and the 2015 Law on Elections (amended in 2016).³ The legal framework is supplemented by regulations and instructions of the General Election Commission (GEC), the scope of which is specifically set out in the legislation.⁴

The upcoming election will be the first presidential race conducted under the 2015 Law on Elections that consolidated various election laws. While acknowledging certain improvements in the legal framework, some OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors raised concern over provisions that regulate candidate registration, aspects of the campaign, and media access. Authorities informed the OSCE/ODIHR NAM that some previous OSCE/ODIHR recommendations were considered within a package of amendments presented to parliament in December 2016.⁵ However, its adoption was postponed due to the limited time ahead of the presidential election.

The president is elected for four years through a nationwide majoritarian system and can serve a total of up to two terms. A candidate needs to receive a majority of votes cast to win in the first round. If no candidate receives the majority of votes, a second round takes place within 14 days between the two candidates receiving the most votes in the first round. For the election to be valid at the polling station level, at least 50 per cent of registered voters need to participate. If the turnout falls below this threshold, re-polling takes place at the respective polling station within a week for voters who did not participate on the first occasion. The turnout during re-polling is added to the initial turnout figure.

C. ELECTION ADMINISTRATION

The election will be managed by a four-tiered administration comprising the GEC, 22 Territorial Election Commissions (TECs), one for each of the 21 provinces (*aimags*) and the capital Ulaanbaatar, 339 District Election Commissions (DECs), and some 2,000 Precinct Election Commissions (PECs). The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in co-operation with the GEC, will facilitate voting abroad in 40 diplomatic and consular representations on 10 and 11 June.

The GEC is composed of nine permanent members; the chairperson and secretary are full-time and seven others are part-time members.⁶ One GEC member is a woman. Members of all election commissions are drawn from civil servants with prior electoral experience, who are included in the official database of election personnel and who possess a valid training certificate issued by the GEC. GEC members are protected by law from arbitrary dismissal. TECs have nine members (seven in Ulaanbaatar), appointed by the GEC, while DECs and PECs have seven members each, appointed by the respective TECs. The law does not provide for any gender requirement on staffing.

The GEC has already published its electoral calendar and commenced preparations, including approving instructions and logistical arrangements, as well as initiating training and voter education

³ The legal framework also includes the Political Parties Law, the Anti-corruption Law, the Law on the Right to Information and Information Transparency, the Law on State Audit, the Criminal Code, the Administrative Procedure Law, the Law on Petitions, and a number of other laws, including those that govern the media and judiciary.

⁴ The legislation does not confer broad powers to the GEC to adopt regulations to supplement the election legislation to ensure the effective implementation of elections and consistent application of the law.

⁵ The OSCE/ODIHR NAM was informed that among the potential changes included splitting the election law to separately regulate various elections, as was the case before the 2015 reform.

⁶ GEC members are appointed by the parliament from among civil servants based on nominations by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on State Structure (five members), the president (two members), and the Supreme Court (two members). The chairperson and the secretary are appointed from among the GEC members based on the nomination by the speaker.

activities. Efforts will again be made to facilitate voting for persons with disabilities, including ensuring accessible polling stations and wheelchair-friendly voting booths, equipping polling stations with Braille ballot covers and magnifying lenses, and offering mobile voting.⁷ Most OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed general confidence in the work of the GEC; however, some concerns were expressed over the impartiality of the lower-level election administration, citing the previous political affiliation of some commission members.

This will be the sixth election to use electronic vote counting equipment in polling stations.⁸ The law provides for a manual recount of cast ballots in up to 50 per cent of PECs, selected randomly by DEC. Overall, authorities noted that the results of manual recounts after the 2016 parliamentary elections did not differ from machine results. In contrast to previous elections, most OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed confidence in the reliability, integrity and accuracy of the technology. Ahead of the election, one civil society organization plans to hold a series of tests on the equipment's hardware and software in co-ordination with the GEC.

D. VOTER REGISTRATION

Citizens that have full legal capacity and attained the age of 18 years have the right to vote, except persons serving a prison sentence irrespective of the gravity of the crime committed. Voter registration is passive and periodic. Voter lists are extracted from the National Civil Registration and Information Database and managed by the National Registration and Statistics Office (NRSO), which prepares the voter register for each election. The database identifies voters based on personal and biometric data, which eliminates the possibility of multiple entries.

A voter can only be registered in one polling station. Voters can temporarily transfer to another location outside of their province of residence up to 14 days before election day. A written request must be submitted to the polling station of his/her permanent residence, which notifies the corresponding registration office. Transfers within a province and the capital city are not permitted. Requests for permanent transfers are possible until 60 days before the election.

According to the authorities, the voter register contains some 2,052,000 voters, including some 130,000 abroad. Until 55 days before the election, respective government agencies are to notify the NRSO about voters who are legally incapacitated and imprisoned, have left the country for more than 60 days, as well as military personnel serving outside their area of permanent registration. These voters are marked as "temporarily removed" in voter lists. Military personnel are to be added to the lists in the areas where they are deployed.

As required, the NRSO prepared and posted the voter register on its website by 1 March. Voters can verify their records online with their personal identification number and request to be added or to have their information corrected. TECs are to receive voter lists from the NRSO no later than 25 days before election day and forward them to DEC within 5 days. DEC will display the lists until

⁷ The GEC is allocated a dedicated budget to ensure participation of voters with disabilities and acts upon requests from lower-level commissions and suggestions from civil society organizations.

⁸ The machines scan and save a complete image of the ballot and tally and print the results. The ImageCast Precinct Optimal Scanner is the main component of the ballot counting system, which mounts onto a ballot box with two compartments. The first is the main compartment for storing scanned ballots and the second is an auxiliary compartment in case the machine is temporarily inoperative.

14 days before the election.⁹ Stakeholders expressed general confidence in the accuracy and inclusiveness of the voter registration process.

E. CANDIDATE REGISTRATION

A presidential candidate must be eligible to vote, at least 45 years old, not have continuously resided abroad for more than six months within the last five years, and able to prove Mongolian citizenship of both parents. The legislation sets additional conditions for candidacy, disqualifying a person for having a criminal record regardless of the crime committed, and for outstanding debts or taxes. Only parliamentary parties or coalitions of parliamentary parties may nominate candidates. Despite a previous OSCE/ODIHR recommendation, independent candidates are not permitted. One OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutor raised concern on the vagueness of the residency requirement and how restrictively it could be interpreted. Public servants nominated as candidates must resign from their position by 1 January of the election year.

Candidate nomination begins 55 days before the election and lasts for 5 days.¹⁰ Registered candidates are listed on the ballot in descending order based on the number of parliamentary seats held by the nominating party. Notwithstanding the noted restrictions on candidacy requirements, OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors did not express significant concerns regarding the inclusiveness and transparency of the registration process. Three candidates are expected to contest the election.

F. CAMPAIGN

The official campaign period lasts 20 days.¹¹ Campaign activities and methods of campaigning are extensively regulated. Prior to campaigning, candidate platforms must be approved by the State Audit Office (SAO) for compliance with the country's economic and development policies. Engaging in campaign activities in public institutions and prior to the official start date of campaign period is prohibited. OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors noted the relatively long period between the end of candidate registration and the start of the campaign, during which time informal negative campaigning was likely to be conducted.

The establishment and management of campaign offices by contestants are strictly regulated, including limitations on the number of offices and staff and that all campaign staff work voluntarily. Campaign posters can only be displayed on vehicles registered with election commissions and in public places designated by local municipalities. The use of paid space for campaign material is prohibited. Some OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors raised concern on the unfairness of provisions that exempt material promoting the achievements of incumbent candidates while in office from being considered as campaign material.

The law prohibits enticing voters through the distribution or promise of money or free goods, promise of employment, organization of mass entertainment events, and distribution of false news and information. A citizen who reports vote buying and in case the perpetrator is found liable, is entitled to a financial reward by the GEC, equal to 20 times the value of the cash or goods offered, to be paid by the perpetrator. The law regulates some aspects of online campaigning and contains

⁹ Voters residing abroad are able to request registration with the corresponding diplomatic mission between 40 and 20 days before election day.

¹⁰ In case of a candidate's death or criminal conviction, an eligible party may propose a replacement candidate until 30 days before the election.

¹¹ The official campaign period will start on 6 June and end on 24 June at midnight; the campaign silence period starts on 25 June.

provisions enabling the State Communications Regulatory Commission (CRC) to deny access to webpages found to be in violation of the law.

While parties confirmed their ability to campaign freely, many stakeholders raised concerns with the OSCE/ODIHR NAM regarding biased coverage by private media, potential pressure on voters as well as a possible misuse of administrative resources. Parties noted the importance of social media and the challenge of campaigning in rural constituencies given their large size and the short duration of campaign. The campaign is expected to be intense and focus on issues related to economic development, corruption, debt, and wealth distribution.

G. CAMPAIGN FINANCE

Campaign finance is extensively regulated and the SAO is mandated with the primary responsibility for oversight. Limits on campaign expenditure are established ahead of each election. Following formal consultations with the three parliamentary parties eligible to nominate presidential candidates, the SAO set the maximum expenditure amount at MNT 3.9 billion (some EUR 1.5 million) per candidate and 6.8 billion (some EUR 2.6 million) per political party/coalition.¹² Donations can be made only in the election year and only once per individual and legal entity, and are limited to MNT 3 million (some EUR 1,100) per individual and MNT 15 million (some EUR 5,500) per legal entity.

Contestants are obliged to open dedicated bank accounts for all campaign expenses, to which their own funds and all donations are to be transferred. Individuals can donate in cash provided the donor's information is recorded and the cash is deposited into the dedicated bank account. All in-kind donations should be appraised and counted towards the expenditure limit. Donations from foreigners, labour unions, religious groups, non-governmental organizations, and state-owned legal or foreign entities are prohibited. Anonymous donations are not permitted. Parliamentary parties receive annual state funding that is not to be used for campaigning.¹³

Nominating parties are required to submit general financial reports for the previous calendar year in order to register their candidate with the GEC. Campaign finance reporting prior to election day is not required. The deadline for submitting detailed audited campaign income and expenditure reports to the SAO is 45 days after election day. The GEC forwards the reports to the SAO for review, which must be completed and made public within 90 days, along with the campaign finance reports. The names of citizens who donate MNT 1 million (some EUR 380) or more, and legal entities that donate MNT 2 million (some EUR 760) or more, are also published.

The law establishes administrative offences with corresponding fines for violations of various campaign finance provisions, with amounts of possible fines relatively small. However, in contrast, a candidate who receives a donation from a prohibited source is subject to de-registration. Interlocutors noted to the OSCE/ODIHR NAM that effective oversight and sanctioning could be more efficient and opined that the framework regulating campaign finance for presidential elections could benefit from external scrutiny.

¹² 1 EUR is approximately 2,600 Mongolian Tughrig (MNT).

¹³ Under the Law on Political Parties, following parliamentary elections, parliamentary parties receive a lump sum equal to MNT 1,000 (approx. EUR 0.38) per valid vote received and every four months the parties receive a lump sum equal to MNT 10 million (approx. EUR 3,800) per member of parliament.

H. MEDIA

The Constitution guarantees freedom of expression and the right to seek and receive information, and a number of supplemental laws, which have not been amended since the last elections, govern the media sector.¹⁴ Several OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors mentioned that existing legislation generally does not adequately regulate the media.¹⁵

Despite a limited advertising market, some 500 media outlets operate across the country. While noting media diversity and a certain level of pluralism, all OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors noted the political segmentation of the media market and expressed concern over the opaqueness of media ownership. OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors noted that the majority of media outlets are directly or indirectly owned by political actors, which in some cases may endanger editorial independence. Libel and defamation during elections remain criminal offences, with punishment up to one year in prison. Moreover, OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors generally considered newly adopted administrative fines for defamation as excessive.¹⁶ The OSCE Representative of Freedom of the Media (RFOM) has repeatedly advocated for the decriminalization of libel as a precondition for media pluralism to develop.¹⁷

The Mongolian National Broadcaster (MNB) has the widest reach, particularly in rural areas. Private broadcasters with nationwide coverage include *C1 TV*, *Eagle TV*, *Mongol HD*, *SBN TV*, *TV5*, *TV9*, and *UBS TV*. There are many newspapers and magazines, yet their circulation is limited. Internet usage is rapidly growing, and many OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors attributed an increasing significance to online and social media. There are no restrictions to access the Internet; however, a regulation adopted in 2013 by the CRC requires service providers of news and information to register their websites. Moreover, websites using social media or other user-generated content are to use software to filter and delete comments containing slander or threats.

The legal framework grants all candidates a right to access the media, but limits news programmes to five minutes per political party per day on each broadcaster. Legislation provides for free airtime and paid ads, prohibits hidden advertising and the publication of opinion polls seven days prior to the election. The GEC and CRC jointly approve regulations on election-related broadcast coverage. The law states that candidate debates must include at least four representatives of different political entities, although only three parties are eligible to nominate candidates for this election. Media representatives noted to the OSCE/ODIHR NAM the ongoing challenge of separating the news coverage of government activities and candidates and their campaigns.

The public broadcaster is required to offer free airtime to candidates on an equal basis. By law, the MNB can allocate 15 minutes per day to each candidate. Paid ads on private broadcasters cannot exceed 60 minutes per day.¹⁸ The MNB is planning to broadcast election-related programmes in Mongolian, Kazakh, Korean and Buryat languages as well as in sign language.

¹⁴ State censorship is prohibited under the 1998 Law on Freedom of the Media. Other laws governing the media are the 1995 Law on Telecommunications, the 2005 Law on Public Radio and Television, and the 2001 Law on Information Transparency and Right to Access Information.

¹⁵ Despite several attempts made by the government and civil society groups, draft laws on media freedom and on broadcasting have not been adopted.

¹⁶ The Criminal Code and the Law on Violations provide for fines up to 1,000 minimal monthly salaries for individuals and up to 10,000 minimal salaries for legal entities. A minimum salary is set at MNT 240,000 (some EUR 90).

¹⁷ See OSCE RFOM statements from [22 July 2015](#) and [26 August 2014](#).

¹⁸ Broadcasters are required to notify the GEC about their intention to air paid ads.

The CRC and the Authority for Fair Competition and Consumer Protection (AFCCP) are responsible to monitor media compliance with legal provisions. As per its previous practice, the CRC intends to outsource media monitoring of all national and regional broadcasters during the campaign, the results of which are summarily published. The AFCCP monitors paid campaign ads and due to its limited financial resources cannot initiate investigations on its own, only upon receipt of a complaint.¹⁹ In addition, the GEC is to establish a media council to oversee the media's conduct. OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors noted there to be apparent overlap in the jurisdiction of the various authorities in overseeing media compliance during the campaign.

I. COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS

The adjudication of electoral complaints is governed by various laws.²⁰ Any person or legal entity has the right to dispute decisions and activities concerning the electoral process. The process of lodging a complaint or appeal depends on the type of dispute or offense. Some overlapping jurisdiction exists among the courts and election bodies on handling complaints.

Complaints against decisions or (in)actions of an election commission should first be lodged with the respective commission. Appeals against decisions of election commissions can be submitted to the superior election body (or in the case of the GEC to the Supreme Court) within 10 days of the decision being made or, if the decision is not issued, within 10 days of the legal deadline for the decision. GEC decisions can be appealed to the Administrative Court of Appeal and further to the Supreme Court, whose decision is final. Matters concerning the constitutionality of GEC decisions are to be lodged with the Constitutional Court. Election commissions have up to three days to issue decisions, and the Supreme Court must decide within 40 days in the first instance and within 21 days on appeal. The Constitutional Court does not have any deadline for the adjudication of petitions.

Voters can appeals against errors in voter lists with the respective civil registration bodies and NSRO decisions can be appealed to the Administrative Court. Media complaints are overseen by the CRC and the media council under the auspices of the GEC. Other complaints and violations must be first investigated by the police and, on recommendation, adjudicated by local courts. The law does not include specific procedures to lodge complaints related to election day. Most OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed confidence in the fairness of the electoral dispute resolution process, but noted that it may benefit from an external review concerning harmonizing various deadlines and streamlining judicial procedures.

J. ELECTION OBSERVATION

The law provides for citizen and international election observation as well as authorized representatives of electoral contestants. Observer organizations are accredited by the GEC and PECs issue accreditation to individual observers. Applications should be submitted to the respective PEC no later than three days before election day. The law limits the number of citizen observers to one per organization per polling station and prohibits public servants from observing elections.

¹⁹ The AFCCP, CRC, GEC and public broadcaster have all outsourced their media monitoring activities to the same agency.

²⁰ This includes the Law on Elections, the Law on Petitions, the Law on Administrative Procedure, and the Law on Constitutional Court Procedure.

Several non-governmental organizations informed the OSCE/ODIHR NAM of plans to implement a range of election-related activities, including voter education, media monitoring, and election day observation. All political parties met with by the OSCE/ODIHR NAM noted that they intended to deploy their representatives throughout the country on election day. OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors noted the positive role played by civil society, and no concerns were raised regarding observer accreditation and deployments.

IV. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors highlighted the positive role played by the OSCE/ODIHR's election observation in bringing election legislation and practices in closer conformity with OSCE commitments and other international standards. They underscored the need to observe the upcoming election with a large and long-term presence, recognizing that improvements could be made and that an OSCE/ODIHR assessment along with recommendations could contribute to and further build confidence in the electoral process.

While the majority of OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed a certain level of confidence in the electoral administration, they raised particular concerns with regard to the implementation of the legal framework, aspects of the campaign, and the effectiveness of the complaints and appeals process. OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors acknowledged that while isolated mistakes by polling staff may occur on election day, they did not raise serious concerns regarding the conduct of election day proceedings, including with the electronic vote counting equipment.

Based on the findings of this report, the OSCE/ODIHR NAM recommends the deployment of a Limited Election Observation Mission (LEOM) to assess the 26 June presidential election. In addition to a core team of experts, the OSCE/ODIHR NAM will request the secondment of 24 long-term observers from OSCE participating States to follow the electoral process countrywide. While the mission would visit a limited number of polling stations on election day, comprehensive and systematic observation of election day proceedings is not envisaged. In line with OSCE/ODIHR's standard methodology, the LEOM would include a media-monitoring element.

ANNEX: LIST OF MEETINGS

State and Electoral Authorities

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Gerelma Davaasuren, Deputy Director, Department of Multilateral Co-operation
Enerel B, Department of Multilateral Co-operation

General Election Commission

Sodnomtseren Choinzon, Chairman
Bayanduuren Dugardorj, Head, Administration Office
Uyanga Batzorigt, International Relations Department

Supreme Court

Batsuuri Mishig, Presiding Justice, Chamber for Administrative Cases
Naranpurev Janlav, Head of Administrative Offices

Administrative Court of Appeals

Tsogt Tsend, Judge

General Authority for Intellectual Property and State Registration

Sondkhuu Rentsen, Chairman

Communications Regulatory Commission

Sereedorj Dashzeveg, Vice-Chairman
Myagmarnaran Bavuujav, Head of Division

Authority for Fair Competition and Consumer Protection

Tsogtgerel Sukhbaatar, Vice-Chairman, Commissioner
Tserendulan Shagdarsuren, Head of Co-operation Department

National Audit Office

Battuya Buyandelger, Deputy Auditor General, Principal Auditor
Altanzul Baasanjav, Director, Compliance Audit Department
S. Tumurkhuu, Head of the Strategic Management Department

Political Parties (in alphabetical order)

Civil Will-Green Party

Khurelsukh Mangvansuren, Secretary General
Munkh-Erdene Olonbayar, Member of the Political Council

Democratic Party

Erdene Sodnomzundui, Chairman, MP
Tsedenjav Sukhbaatar, Head, International Relations and Co-operation Department

Mongolian People's Party

Bayarbaatar Bayarmagnai, Head of Political Party and Party Organization Department
Munkhjin Batsumber, Head, International Relations and Co-operation Department

Bilegsaikhan Togmid, Political Officer, Office for International Co-operation

Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party

Enkhbayar Nambaryn, Chairman
Tulga Buya, Secretary General

Media

Eagle TV

Khulan Jugder, Editor-in-Chief

Maxima Media

Enkhtungalag Togtokh, Managing Director
Khishigsuren Yadamsuren, Director of Research and Data Management

Mongolian National Public Radio and Television

Ninjamts Luvsandah, General Director

TV5

O. Otgonbaatar, Editor-in-Chief
Boldsaikhan Amarbat, Head of Politics and News Department

Civil Society

Media Council of Mongolia

Gunjidmaa.G, Member of Board

MIDAS – Mongolian Information Development Association

Enkhjargal Sukhbaatar, Chairman

Sant Maral Foundation

Sumati Luvsandende, Director