



Monitoring the Update of the Voters Registry Process

Code of Conduct for Local Observers and Agents of Political Parties

March 2007

1. Observation:

Observation is defined as the process of gathering information and issuing of evaluations related to the progress of the voters' registry update process based on information gathered by the accredited observers and agents without interference in the process itself.

The Legal Framework:

The law guarantees the right of political parties, local and international observation bodies to observe the updating process. The Law conveyed the responsibility of accrediting agents and observers to the CEC. To this end, the CEC established accreditation system for agents, local and international observers and a code of conduct that regulates their work and defines their rights and duties while performing observation tasks.

2. Principles and Standards of Observation

All agents, local and international observers must adhere to the following standards:

(i) Comprehensiveness: Taking into consideration all the factors that might affect the updating of the voters list during the observation process and clarifying the aspects and the centers that were covered during the observation process.

(ii) Institutionalism: Any statements concerning the progress of the updating process should be made by bodies not individuals. Accredited observation bodies or political parties' agents are entitled to issue reports and make statements regarding the progress of the updating process through delegated spokespersons.



(iii) Transparency: Revealing all methods used in gathering information pertaining to the updating process, including assumptions and methodologies upon which the observation and conclusions were based.

(iv) Accuracy: Relying on accurate and reliable information throughout the observation process.

(v) Professionalism: Observers and agents must observe the standards and principles of objectivity and neutrality and avoid selectivity in the evaluation of the of the updating process. Therefore, the observation bodies and political parties should train their observers and agents on the various aspects of observation.

(vi) Adherence to Palestinian law and maintaining public order: Observation bodies and agents must recognize and abide by the laws of the Palestinian National Authority and the regulations and procedures of the CEC.

3. Rights of observers and agents during the observation process:

- Observe all aspects of the updating process.
- Access all updating and data entry centers,
- Make sure that the centers are correctly named and well- known to all. Any change in the names of these centers without informing people may deprive them from the right to register properly.
- View, from an appropriate distance, the materials related to registry update, process inside updating centers.
- Make sure that no violations or breaches to the law are committed during process.
- Find out the number of the data correction applications submitted to the centers.

3. Obligations of agents and observers during the observation process:

- Only one agent for each party and one observer for each observation body are allowed inside the updating center except in some cases arranged in coordination with the center's manager. The center's manager may regulate the presence of the observers and agents inside the polling center in order to maintain order.
- Wear the accreditation cards issued by the CEC in a clear place and submit an official document to prove their ID if requested by the relevant authorities.



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- Refrain from interfering in the activities of the updating process or those wishing to register except within the limits of established regulations and codes of conduct.
 - Refrain from hindering the progress of the updating process in any way whatsoever.
 - Respond to the instructions of the heads of the updating and data entry centers.
 - Refrain from writing down any personal information related to registrants such as their names.
 - Refrain from causing any chaos or noise which may affect the progress of updating process inside the center.

5. Submitting of Complaints and remarks

Who submits the complaints or remarks?

Only agents may submit written complaints on the progress of the updating process on the forms prepared for this purpose inside the updating centers.

If the agent expresses his desire to press a written complaint, the center manager must:

- a. Give the agent a copy of the complaint or remark protocol to fill in.
- b. Ensure that all information regarding the center is accurate.
- c. Write down how he/she dealt with the complaint in the protocol. The complaint is then submitted to electoral district office he/she is affiliated to.

Observers are not allowed to make remarks or complaints regarding the electoral process in the polling stations. However, they may write down notes and submit them to the observation body they represent. The observation body may submit written notes to the CEC.

When to submit a complaint or remark

Complaints or remarks are presented upon the occurrence of a breach that negatively affects the progress of the updating process and the expected results.



The difference between the agent and the observer:

The observer:

The observer represents a public interest. The role of the observer is to confirm the integrity of the updating process to the public opinion and the audience. The observer is a neutral person who monitors the process without interfering in its progress. However, the observation body which the observer represents may submit written complaints or remarks to the CEC.

The Agent:

Represents a political party and therefore isn't necessarily a neutral person. He is entitled to suggest procedural changes to the CEC on behalf of his party.