



Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

## REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

**EARLY PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS**  
**9 December 2018**

**ODIHR NEEDS ASSESSMENT MISSION REPORT**

**23 – 25 October 2018**



Warsaw  
2 November 2018

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**REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA**  
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**9 December 2018**

**ODIHR Needs Assessment Mission Report**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

Following an invitation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia to conduct a Needs Assessment Mission in view of possible early parliamentary elections to take place in the first half of December 2018 and in accordance with its mandate, the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) undertook a Needs Assessment Mission (NAM) from 23 to 25 October 2018. The NAM included Dr. Richard Lappin, Deputy Head of ODIHR Election Department, and Ms. Ana Rusu, ODIHR Senior Election Adviser. The ODIHR NAM was joined by Mr. Tim Knoblaue, OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Executive Assistant.

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

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

**II. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

On 1 November, the president announced early parliamentary elections to take place on 9 December. These elections are the result of a tactical resignation by Prime Minister Nicol Pashinyan on 16 October to dissolve parliament and force early elections. Three days before the call for early elections, the parliament rejected a far-reaching electoral reform package. While many ODIHR NAM interlocutors considered the proposed amendments as a positive means to simplify the electoral system and process and address previous ODIHR and Venice Commission recommendations, others cautioned that there was not sufficient time for an inclusive legislative process and for parties and administrative bodies to prepare for the elections.

The parliament will be elected through a two-tier proportional system, with candidates elected from a single national list and 13 district lists. An additional four seats are reserved for national minorities. If no party or alliance obtains a stable majority to form a government, a second round of elections is envisaged. Although the current government made it a priority to switch to a single nationwide proportional contest ahead of these elections, the change of the electoral system did not enjoy consensus among all political parties and was not backed by the required three-fifths majority in the parliament.

The Central Election Commission (CEC), 38 Territorial Election Commissions, and some 2,000 Precinct Election Commissions will administer the elections. While committed to administering the upcoming elections in a professional manner, the CEC raised concerns over the limited period of time for the organisation of these elections, which may impact the performance of the election administration, including on election day.

Citizens over 18 years of age have the right to vote, except those recognized as incapable by a court decision or imprisoned for serious crimes. Voter registration is passive and the police maintain a nationwide electronic voter register. No ODIHR NAM interlocutors raised concerns regarding the accuracy of voter lists. Most ODIHR NAM interlocutors stated that the recent criminalisation of impersonated voting will have a deterring effect against violations of this kind in these elections.

Eligible voters who have attained the age of 25, have resided in and been a citizen of only Armenia for the preceding four years, and have a command of the Armenian language may be elected. Party lists can contain individuals who are not party members. The law provides for a 25 per cent quota for women in both national and regional candidate lists.

The official campaign period will be reduced to 12 days as per legal provisions for early elections, and will end 24 hours before election day. While no significant concerns were raised about the ability to campaign freely, some ODIHR NAM interlocutors raised concerns about potential abuse of state resources, vote-buying, and pressure on voters, especially in rural areas.

Numerous media outlets operate in Armenia and freedom of expression is guaranteed by the Constitution. Broadcasters are obliged to present impartial coverage of the campaign and the public broadcaster should provide free and paid airtime on an equal basis. Many ODIHR NAM interlocutors welcomed the possibility of televised debates among contestants.

Decisions of election commissions can be challenged at the higher commission and, ultimately, to the Administrative Court. The law imposes restrictions on legal standing for challenging the final election results. While no major concerns were voiced by ODIHR NAM interlocutors regarding the handling of election related complaints, some considered that many of the cases assigned to the Administrative Court under the legislation should be dealt with by the CEC due to significant workload of the court.

The law provides for international and citizen observation, as well as observation by party proxies. Amendments to the Electoral Code in May 2018 removed the limitation on the number of journalists allowed for each media outlet to cover the elections at the polling stations. Several civil society organizations informed the ODIHR NAM that they plan to conduct comprehensive observation of the elections.

All ODIHR NAM interlocutors underscored the need for a large-scale ODIHR election observation mission. While some ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed confidence in the authorities to administer elections impartially, concerns were expressed regarding a number of aspects that would merit further attention by an ODIHR election observation activity, including campaigning and potential abuse of state resources, media coverage, access for citizen observers, the conduct of election day procedures, and resolution of possible complaints and appeals.

Based on the findings of this report, the ODIHR NAM recommends the deployment of an Election Observation Mission for the 9 December early parliamentary elections. In addition to a core team of experts, the ODIHR NAM recommends the secondment of 24 long-term observers from OSCE participating States to follow the electoral process countrywide, and 250 short-term observers to follow election day proceedings. In line with the ODIHR's standard methodology, the mission would include a media monitoring element.

### III. FINDINGS

#### A. BACKGROUND

Armenia is a parliamentary republic with legislative powers vested in a unicameral parliament currently comprised of 104 members elected for a five-year term.<sup>1</sup> Executive power is exercised by a prime minister elected by a majority of votes by the parliament. The last parliamentary elections took place on 2 April 2017 and resulted in four political groups entering the parliament and a government led by a coalition between the Republican Party of Armenia (RPA) and the Armenian Revolutionary Federation (ARF).<sup>2</sup> Women are underrepresented in public office, holding 19 per cent of seats in the current parliament, 2 of the 17 acting ministerial posts, and none of the 10 governor positions.<sup>3</sup>

Anti-government protests in April 2018 led to the resignation of Prime Minister Serzh Sargsyan and parliament's election of the opposition leader Nicol Pashinyan as his replacement.<sup>4</sup> Prime Minister Pashinyan formed a new government that engaged in a series of reforms, including in the electoral field, and committed themselves to holding new parliamentary elections within one year.<sup>5</sup> On 1 November, the President announced early elections to take place on 9 December.<sup>6</sup> These elections are the result of a tactical resignation by Prime Minister Pashinyan on 16 October aimed at dissolving the National Assembly.<sup>7</sup>

ODIHR has previously observed ten elections and one referendum in Armenia, including the 2017 parliamentary elections.<sup>8</sup> The ODIHR Election Observation Mission concluded that the 2017 elections “were well administered and fundamental freedoms were generally respected. Despite welcomed reforms of the legal framework and the introduction of new technologies to reduce the incidents of electoral irregularities, the elections were tainted by credible information about vote-buying and pressure on civil servants and employees of private companies. This contributed to an overall lack of public confidence and trust in the elections. Election day was generally calm and peaceful but marked by organizational problems and undue interference in the process, mostly by party representatives”.

#### B. LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Parliamentary elections are primarily regulated by the Constitution (last amended in 2015) and the 2016 Electoral Code last amended in 2018. The legal framework encompasses a number of other laws, including the Law on Political Parties, Law on Freedom of Assembly, Civil Code, Criminal Code, and Administrative Code, as well as decisions of the Central Election Commission (CEC)

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<sup>1</sup> The country's change from a semi-presidential to a parliamentary system followed the change of the Constitution in December 2015 and parliamentary elections in April 2017.

<sup>2</sup> The RPA (58 seats), Tsarukyan Alliance (31 seats), Way Out Alliance “YELK” (9 seats) and ARF (7 seats).

<sup>3</sup> See also, UN Committee on the Discrimination against Women “[Concluding Observations on Armenia](#)” (18 November 2016), CEDAW/C/ARM/CO/5-6, paragraph 21.

<sup>4</sup> Following two attempts, on 8 May the parliament elected Mr. Pashinyan as prime minister.

<sup>5</sup> Based on the [new Government Programme](#) approved by the parliament in June 2018.

<sup>6</sup> Early elections shall be held not earlier than 30 and not later than 45 days after the parliament dissolution.

<sup>7</sup> According to the law, the parliament is dissolved after a second failed attempt to vote for a prime minister. A majority of MPs agreed, in advance, not to elect a new prime minister so as to allow early elections.

<sup>8</sup> See all [previous ODIHR reports on Armenia](#).

and regulations of the National Council on Television and Radio. Armenia is a party to major international and regional instruments related to the holding of democratic elections.<sup>9</sup>

In May 2018, the parliament made several amendments to the Electoral Code and related legislation, introducing, among others, new measures against abuse of state resources, lifting restrictions on accreditation of media representatives for the elections, setting greater sanctions and penalties for electoral offences, and introducing possibilities for the CEC to pilot the use of new voting technologies.

In addition, two working groups operated in parallel to propose a more far-reaching electoral reform package: one conducted by the Committee on Electoral Legislation Reforms under the auspices of the Prime Minister, another one created within the parliament.<sup>10</sup> A concept paper on electoral legislation reform envisaging short to long-term solutions served as the basis for the drafting of the amendments to the Electoral Code, including proposals to address some prior ODIHR and Venice Commission recommendations.

On 17 October, the government submitted to the parliament proposed amendments to the Electoral Code. The draft amendments included, among others, removing the open district lists, switching to a purely proportional electoral system with a 30 per cent gender quota, lowering thresholds for political parties and alliances to enter the parliament, introducing measures to improve access of persons with disabilities, setting new rules for political advertisements, and introducing mandatory televised debates for candidates.

Most ODIHR NAM interlocutors largely supported the draft amendments as a step towards simplifying the electoral process, ensuring a more level playing field for candidates, and increasing the transparency of the electoral process.<sup>11</sup> However, others cautioned that there was not sufficient time for genuine consultation among all political forces or for the authorities and parties to adequately prepare for the elections.<sup>12</sup> Despite government efforts to consolidate parliamentary support, the electoral amendments did not enjoy consensus among all political parties and was not backed by the required three-fifths majority in the parliament. After a final attempt, the amendments were rejected three days before the announcement of early elections.<sup>13</sup>

### C. ELECTORAL SYSTEM

Despite the government's intention to change the electoral system ahead of these elections, the system remains the same as used in the 2017 elections. A minimum of 101 members of parliament

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<sup>9</sup> Including the 1950 European Convention on Human Rights, 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), 1965 International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, 1979 UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, 2003 UN Convention against Corruption, and 2006 Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). Armenia is also a member of the Council of Europe's Venice Commission and Group of States against Corruption (GRECO).

<sup>10</sup> The Committee on Electoral Legislation Reforms was established by the Prime Minister on 19 June 2018 and reportedly conducted 10 meetings and some 12 public discussions. The Parliamentary working group on electoral reform included three representatives of each of the parliamentary groups.

<sup>11</sup> See also the [statement](#) by the President of the Council of Europe's Venice Commission.

<sup>12</sup> Section II.2.b of the 2002 Venice Commission Code of Good Practice in Electoral Matters recommends that "the fundamental elements of electoral law ... should not be open to amendment less than one year before an election".

<sup>13</sup> The parliament voted down the draft amendments on 22 October (56 votes for and 3 against) and on 29 October (62 votes for and 2 against). The amendments to the Electoral Code require a minimum of 63 votes in support.

(MPs) are to be elected through a two-tier proportional system, with candidates elected from a single national list and 13 district lists. The ballot paper includes one part with the closed national list and one part with the open district list, in which a voter can give a preference vote to one district candidate in addition to choosing a national list. The district candidates have to appear on the national list as well. A voter can, in addition to choosing a national list, also give a preference vote to one district candidate. The use of open district lists has been highly criticised by the former opposition parties and civil society as being conducive to the abuse of state resources and incentivising vote-buying and pressure on voters.

To qualify for the distribution of seats, political parties must pass a threshold of five per cent, while alliances must pass seven per cent. Seats are firstly distributed among the contestants according to the number of votes received nationwide. Then, half of the seats are distributed to the national list according to the order of candidates and half to the district lists according to the number of preferences received.

The system provides for a total of up to four reserved seats, one for each of the four largest national minorities (Yezidis, Russians, Assyrians and Kurds). Each contestant is permitted to include a sub-part on the national list, with a candidate from each of the minorities. If a contestant does not have a minority candidate, the seat passes to the party with the next largest number of votes that does have a minority candidate.

In line with the Constitution, a “stable parliamentary majority” (defined as 54 per cent of the seats) must be achieved to form a government. Should the winning list or coalition obtain a simple majority but less than 54 per cent of seats, it will be assigned additional seats in order to obtain the required stable majority.<sup>14</sup> If a stable majority is not achieved as a result of the elections, or by forming a political coalition within 6 days after the finalization of the results, a second round is held between the top two candidate lists 28 days after election day. These contestants can form new alliances, which may include other parties that ran in the first round.

#### **D. ELECTION ADMINISTRATION**

The elections will be administered by a three-tiered system, comprising the CEC, 38 Territorial Election Commissions (TECs), and some 2,000 Precinct Election Commissions (PECs). The CEC is a permanent and professional body composed of seven members elected by the parliament with at least three fifths of the MPs for a six-year term. All CEC members, including three women, were re-appointed in October 2016.

The CEC is responsible for the overall conduct of elections and has extensive powers and responsibilities, including issuing binding instructions, registering candidate lists, training lower-level commissioners, accrediting observers and media representatives, and monitoring campaign finance. All CEC sessions are public and streamed online. The CEC informed the ODIHR NAM that it contributed with comments to the proposed amendments to the Electoral Code. However, it also raised concerns over the limited period of time for the organisation of the upcoming early elections, which may impact on the performance of the election administration, including on election day due to the short time available for training of PEC staff. In line with a prior ODIHR recommendation, the CEC plans enhanced voter information campaigns, including for national

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<sup>14</sup> Also, should the winning contestant or coalition receive more than two-thirds of the total seats, smaller parties will be assigned additional seats.

minorities, persons with disabilities, and voters living in remote areas.<sup>15</sup> A particular focus will be given to deterring vote-buying. As in previous elections, the CEC plans to equip all polling stations with web cameras.

The TECs were last formed in 2016 and are professional bodies composed of seven members appointed by the CEC for six-year terms. At least two members in each TEC should be women. The TECs supervise PECs, handle complaints against PECs and any recounts, and tabulate and transfer the results to the CEC. The parliamentary parties should submit their nominations of the PEC members to the CEC between 20 and 18 days before the early elections.<sup>16</sup> The chairpersons and secretaries of the PECs are distributed according to the strength of the parties in the parliament. The PECs organise voting, counting, and transfer of results to the TECs. While ODIHR NAM interlocutors did not voice major concerns about the ability of the upper levels of the electoral administration to impartially manage the upcoming elections, many anticipated possible delays in the appointment of PEC members and their subsequent training.

## **E. VOTER REGISTRATION**

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

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

As in previous elections, and to combat potential impersonation, voters at polling stations will be identified through the use of Voter Authentication Devices, which contain an electronic copy of the voter lists. In addition, voter lists disclosing data on those who voted, will be published after election day for public scrutiny. Most ODIHR NAM interlocutors were confident that the recent criminalisation of intentional impersonated voting will have a deterring effect against potential irregularities of this kind in these elections.

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<sup>15</sup> See CRPD Committee [Concluding observations on the initial report of Armenia](#) (8 May 2017), CRPD/C/ARM/CO/1, paragraphs 51 and 52.

<sup>16</sup> Each parliamentary party may appoint one member to each PEC, while the respective TEC appoints two.



## F. CANDIDATE REGISTRATION

Eligible voters who have attained the age of 25, have resided in and been a citizen of (only) Armenia for the preceding four years, and have command of the Armenian language may be elected.<sup>17</sup> Judges, prosecutors, military personnel, police officers, other categories of civil servants, and election commissioners may not stand as candidates. A longstanding recommendation by ODIHR to remove residency restriction and prohibition on dual citizens to stand for election has not been addressed.

Candidate lists can be nominated by political parties and party alliances. While a list may include non-party members, the law does not provide a possibility for candidates to stand individually in parliamentary elections. Contestants must submit a financial deposit, which is returned if the list receives more than four per cent of the valid votes.

The Electoral Code provides for 25 per cent quota for each gender on candidate lists with a requirement for each gender be represented in each group of four candidates in the list. If a candidate from the underrepresented gender does not assume or vacates their seat, it is awarded to the next candidate on the list from the same gender.

## G. ELECTION CAMPAIGN AND CAMPAIGN FINANCE

In accordance with legal provisions for early elections, the official campaign period will be shortened to 12 days, with a silence period 24 hours before election day. Parties, however, are not prevented from campaigning before this period. During the official campaign, contestants are provided with equal access to public resources, including free and paid airtime on television, poster space, and premises for meeting voters.

The campaign is expected to be active and focussed on the performance of the government since the change in power, as well as broader social and economic issues. Traditional campaign methods are expected, including rallies, posters, and media advertisements along with an increased use of social media. Many ODIHR NAM interlocutors expect that the campaign will focus on personalities at the expense of discussion of political parties' programmes. While no significant concerns were raised about the ability to campaign freely, some ODIHR NAM interlocutors raised concerns about potential abuse of state resources, vote-buying, and pressure on voters, especially in rural areas. Others also voiced concerns about possible disinformation and intolerant and inflammatory rhetoric, particularly online.

Contestants are required to open a dedicated bank account for all campaign finance transactions, which may include contributions from voters, as well as from funds of candidates and parties.<sup>18</sup> Contributions from legal entities, as well as from foreign and anonymous sources, are not allowed. The law limits campaign expenses to AMD 500 million per contestant. The CEC's Oversight and Audit Service (OAS) is in charge of campaign finance oversight. Contestants are required to submit regular detailed campaign finance reports to the OAS for audit. Campaign finance and audit reports are then published on the CEC website, including before election day. Some ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed concerns about lack of transparency of financing the campaigns, short

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<sup>17</sup> According to the law, an eligible candidate should have resided in Armenia at least 731 days within the last four years before the nomination. The law establishes reasonable and objective criteria for evaluating language proficiency.

<sup>18</sup> Respectively, up to AMD 500,000, AMD 5 million, and AMD 100 million. EUR 1 is approximately AMD 540 (Armenian *Dram*).

timeframe for conducting meaningful audits of reports and the proportionality of sanctions for campaign finance violations.

## H. MEDIA

Despite a limited advertisement market, numerous media outlets operate in Armenia, including 8 television and 17 radio stations with nationwide coverage, as well as 10 regional television channels. Television remains the most influential news source but the Internet, and especially social media, is increasingly used as an alternative source of political information. Many ODIHR NAM interlocutors welcomed recent initiatives of the Prime Minister to strengthen the freedom of media and noted an improved environment for journalists to operate in, but expressed concern about the lack of regulation of the online media outlets with regard to the conduct of electoral campaign.<sup>19</sup>

Public and private broadcasters are legally obliged to present impartial coverage of the campaign, including in their news programmes.<sup>20</sup> The public broadcaster informed the ODIHR NAM about possible plans to organize campaign debates among contestants, as well as to air voter information materials prepared by the CEC and civil society. Some parties noted concerns about a lack of balanced coverage by the public broadcaster.

The National Commission for Television and Radio (NCTR) is tasked to supervise the implementation of the media-related provisions during the campaign and to monitor the broadcasters. In light of the short campaign period, the NCTR plans publication of two reports: one 10 days before election day and one 10 days after. In case of violations, the NCTR can issue warnings or apply sanctions.

## I. COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS

Under the Electoral Code, decisions, actions, and inactions of election commissions can be appealed to the superior commission, while complaints against the CEC are under the jurisdiction of the Administrative Court. Complaints regarding inaccuracies in the voter lists can be filed to the PVD, the decision of which can be further appealed to a district court. All election-related complaints can also be applied to the courts, but parallel handling of complaints at election commissions and courts is forbidden by the Electoral Code.

Contrary to previous ODIHR recommendations, complaints may only be filed by voters, media representatives, and observers with respect to violations of their individual rights and by proxies and commission members with respect to violations of their rights and those of other parties, candidates, and stakeholders. While no major concerns were voiced by ODIHR NAM interlocutors regarding the handling of election related complaints, some considered that many of the cases assigned by the legislation to Administrative Court should be dealt with by the CEC due to limited human resources to hear such cases and significant workload of the court.

Contestants, candidates, proxies (if they were present during the vote count), and members of the PEC in question may challenge precinct voting results at the TEC and further appeal TEC decisions to the Administrative Court. Only a contestant can appeal the final election results to the Constitutional Court, which has 15 days to decide on it.

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<sup>19</sup> See also the [statement](#) by the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media.

<sup>20</sup> State-funded print media are obliged to ensure non-discriminatory and impartial conditions for electoral contestants during the campaign period.

## **J. ELECTION OBSERVATION**

The legal framework provides for international and citizen observation and entitles party proxies to be present at polling stations. The Electoral Code was amended in May 2018 with a view to removing the limitation on the number of journalists a media outlet may accredit to follow election day developments at polling stations.<sup>21</sup>

Civil society is active and largely able to operate freely. It played an important role in the electoral reform process. Several civil society representatives informed the ODIHR NAM that they plan to conduct comprehensive election observation, including with a focus on potential abuse of state resources and media monitoring, as well as deploying large number of observers for election day.

## **IV. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATION**

All ODIHR NAM interlocutors underscored the need for a large-scale ODIHR election observation mission. While some ODIHR NAM interlocutors expressed confidence in the authorities to administer elections impartially, concerns were expressed regarding a number of aspects that would merit further attention by an ODIHR election observation activity, including campaigning and potential abuse of state resources, media coverage, access for citizen observers, the conduct of election day procedures, and resolution of possible complaints and appeals.

Based on the findings of this report, the ODIHR NAM recommends the deployment of an Election Observation Mission for the 9 December early parliamentary elections. In addition to a core team of experts, the ODIHR NAM recommends the secondment of 24 long-term observers from OSCE participating States to follow the electoral process countrywide, and 250 short-term observers to follow election day proceedings. In line with the ODIHR's standard methodology, the mission would include a media monitoring element.

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<sup>21</sup> Following a [Constitutional Court decision of 26 December 2017](#).

## **ANNEX: LIST OF MEETINGS**

### **Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

Ashot Hovakimyan, Acting Deputy Minister  
Karine Soudjian, Head, Division of Human Rights and Humanitarian Issues  
Maya Martirosyan, Third Secretary, Division of the OSCE and Conventional Arms Control  
Tamara Hovnanyan, Assistant, Division of Human Rights and Humanitarian Issues

### **Prime Minister's Office**

Ararat Mirzoyan, Acting First Deputy Prime Minister  
Syuzanna Avetisyan, Adviser to the First Deputy Prime Minister  
Kristinne Grigoryan, Adviser to the First Deputy Prime Minister  
Anna Karapetyan, Chief of Staff

### **Ministry of Justice**

Artak Zeynalyan, Acting Minister  
Artur Hovannisyan, Acting Deputy Minister  
Lusine Martirosyan, Spokesperson  
Tigran Grigoryan, Head of the Department on International Affairs

### **Police**

Valery Osipyan, Head  
Aghasi Kirakosyan, Deputy Head  
Mnatsakan Bichakhchyan, Head, Passport and Visa Department  
Ashot Aharonyan, Head, Public Relations and International Department  
Armen Ghukasyan, Head, Police Headquarters

### **Central Election Commission**

Tigran Mukuchyan, Chairperson  
Tatev Gevorgyan, Head, Foreign Relations Department

### **Constitutional Court**

Hrayr Tovmasyan, Chairperson  
Armenak Minasyants, Head, External Affairs Department

### **Administrative Court**

Aghasi Darbinyan, Chairperson  
Lusine Matevosyan, Expert

### **National Commission on Television and Radio**

Gagik Buniatyan, Chairperson  
Armen Mkrtchyan, Commission Member  
Tigran Habaleyan, Commission Member  
Davit Margaryan, Head, Legal and Licencing Department  
Alla Tumanyan, Expert, International Affairs, Information, and Development Department

### **Political Parties**

Armen Rustamyan, MP, ARF Faction  
Arpine Hovhannisyan, MP, RPA Faction  
Lena Nazaryan, MP, YELK Faction

### **Media**

Margarita Grigoryan, CEO, Public Television H1  
Vahagn Tevosyan, Director, Informational and Analytical Broadcasts, Public Television H1  
Erik Antaranyan, Head, International Affairs Department, Public Television H1  
Alexander Plato Hakobyan, Director, PR & External Relations, Public Television H1  
Boris Navasardyan, Chairperson, Yerevan Press Club

### **Civil Society**

Avetik Ishkhanyan, Chairperson, Armenian Helsinki Committee  
Vardine Grigoryan, Project Coordinator, Helsinki Citizens Assembly-Vanadzor  
Tatevik Barseghyan, Coordinator, Transparency International Anti-Corruption Centre  
Mariam Hoveyan, Coordinator, Transparency International Anti-Corruption Centre  
Daniel Ioannisyanyan, Program Coordinator, Union of Informed Citizens  
Arevik Simonyan, Union of Informed Citizens

### **International Community**

Luigi Cazzato, Consul, Embassy of Italy, OSCE Chairperson-in-Office  
Gayane Hovhannisyanyan, Senior Project Officer, Council of Europe Office in Yerevan  
Ekaterina Dorodnova, Head of Political, Press and Public Information Department, European Union Delegation to Armenia  
Line Urban, International Aid/Co-operation Officer, European Union Delegation to Armenia  
Ruzanna Baghdasaryan, Local Political Officer, European Union Delegation to Armenia  
Tatsiana Snegova, International Aid/Co-operation Officer, European Union Delegation to Armenia  
Aghasi Yesayan, Senior Election Specialist, IFES  
Steve Schiffman, Director, IRI Armenia  
Lado Razmadze, Analyst, IRI Armenia  
Samanta Smoot, Interim Resident Director, NDI Armenia  
Naira Sultanyan, Peace and Development Analyst, UNDP  
Anzhela Movisyan, Research and Development Analyst, UNDP