

**STATEMENT BY MR. TIGRAN MUKUCHYAN,
CHAIRPERSON OF THE CENTRAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION OF
ARMENIA, AT THE SUPPLEMENTARY HUMAN DIMENSION
MEETING ON DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS AND
ELECTION OBSERVATION**

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**Session III: Follow-up to OSCE/ODIHR mission report recommendations
and engagement with participating States**

On 6 May 2012 parliamentary elections were held in the Republic of Armenia. The Central Electoral Commission of the Republic of Armenia accredited more than 31,000 local and 647 international observers, including an observation mission from the OSCE/Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), who were given every opportunity to observe the entire election process, including the voting and ballot counting process.

Considering the fact that the presence in a country of international observers enhances the openness and transparency of the election process and contributes to strengthening national and international confidence in that process, we are submitting below a list of proposals on improving the OSCE/ODHIR observation missions.

1. The maximum number of observers should be determined on the basis of a principle linking it with the number of eligible voters or the number of polling stations.
2. The principle should be established for the recruitment of technical personnel for the mission (interpreters, assistants, etc.) from among the citizens of the host country so as to ensure their impartiality and political neutrality.
3. When drafting the mission report, priority should be given to the following principle: the observer notes, records and draws conclusions exclusively on the basis of what he or she has personally witnessed, especially on election day.
4. When the observation mission report speaks of infringements that took place during the voting, the same report must also indicate the identification number of the polling station or stations where those infringements were noted.
5. Prior to the publication of the report it would be well to discuss it with the host country, which, where necessary, must be given the opportunity to submit to the observation mission within one day its comments or explanations, which will then be published together with the report itself.

6. And a final recommendation, the idea for which arose during this meeting. At the first session we heard a statement calling for the isolation of the population in a particular conflict zone and for limiting its right to participate in elections and in international co-operation in matters of human rights and fundamental freedoms and, in this way, for applying a kind of collective punishment against that population. We categorically reject an approach of that kind.

A population residing within the OSCE area must be involved in co-operation within the framework of the OSCE on matters having to do with the organization and conduct of transparent and democratic elections, regardless of the legal status of the territory on which that population lives.

In that connection, we recommend to the ODIHR that it co-operate with non-governmental organizations throughout the entire OSCE area, regardless of the legal status of the particular territories, by making available best practices for the holding of elections and for election monitoring. This kind of co-operation can take place both in the aforementioned territories as well as in other OSCE participating States.

Thank you, madam moderator.