

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Political Analyst, Election Support Team (EST)

Background

The Afghan Independent Election Commission (IEC) has called Presidential and Provincial Council elections for 20 August 2009. On 2 April, following an invitation by Afghan Foreign Minister to support Afghanistan's election process, the Permanent Council passed Decision 891 which tasks the OSCE/ODIHR to deploy an Election Support Team (EST) to Afghanistan. The OSCE/ODIHR EST will *"assist government and international efforts"* for the upcoming elections and prepare a report *"on the electoral process, based on its findings, including a set of recommendations to the Government of Afghanistan for implementation as appropriate in the post-election period, with a view to enhancing the conduct of future elections and improving Afghanistan's legal framework and procedure."*

Objective

Under the guidance of the Head of the ODIHR EST and in close coordination with the Deputy Head, the Political Analyst of the ODIHR EST monitors and assesses the election campaign and the general political situation in Afghanistan. He or she could also be tasked to follow other aspects of the election, such as participation of national minorities and women, as relevant.

Main tasks

The main tasks will include:

- Acquire detailed knowledge of the political and electoral situation in the country;
- Establish contacts with political parties, civil society groups, and non-governmental organizations relevant to the political process;
- Follow the pre-election campaign, including rallies and other relevant campaign activities;
- Follow overall human-rights issues relevant to the political process, including respect for fundamental freedoms;
- Act as the main point of contact with domestic election observers as required.
- Provide advice to the Head of EST on political, national minority or gender issues as required.
- Analyze women's participation in the elections in your area of responsibilities;
- Analyze national minorities' participation in the elections in your area of responsibilities;
- Contribute to the overall EST reporting.

Education and Experience

- Advanced university degree in international relations, political science, social science, or related field;
- At least five years of relevant professional domestic or international experience, with some experience in election processes;
- Excellent analytical and drafting skills;
- Sound political judgment;
- Strong background in electoral technical assistance;
- Experience conflict or post-conflict situations are highly desirable;
- Demonstrated ability to work under pressure in sensitive political environment;
- Excellent health conditions;
- Demonstrated ability to work as a member of a team composed of individuals of different cultural and political backgrounds, while maintaining impartiality and objectivity;
- Excellent written and oral communication skills in English.

Remuneration

Remuneration will depend on qualifications and experience, and will be in accordance with established OSCE rates. Travel expenses will be covered in accordance with OSCE travel policy.