



F. No. 4(2)/2021-MC (I-Vol-I)
ELECTION COMMISSION OF PAKISTAN

"Secretariat"
Constitution Avenue, G-5 2,
Islamabad,
Dated 6th November 2023

Subject: **INVITATION TO INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS & MEDIA IN RESPECT OF OBSERVING UPCOMING GENERAL ELECTIONS UNDER SECTION 238 OF THE ELECTIONS ACT, 2017.**

Election Commission of Pakistan cordially invites all international observers to observe the upcoming general elections in Pakistan. We would take this opportunity to welcome international observers to observe the polling process neutrally, impartially with their very well-articulated feedback and reports. The Election Commission has announced General Election scheduled on 8th February 2024. The Election Commission of Pakistan has an Open Door Policy for accreditation of any national and international Observer subject to the fulfillment of codal formalities (**Section 238** of the Elections Act 2017) required as follows:

“(1) The Commission, at its own motion or upon an application made in this behalf may allow any domestic or international election observation organization to observe the process of conduct of election, having an access to polling station, counting of votes and consolidation of results.

(2) No person shall be allowed to observe the process of conduct of

Election, if he—

- a) *is not accredited as an observer by the Commission or its authorized officer;*
- b) *is affiliated with any political party;*
- c) *fails to provide his full particulars and documents, including photographs, which may be required by the Commission;*
- d) *has been involved in activities prejudicial to the peace and tranquility of the people of a constituency;*
- e) *fails to provide an authorization from the organization of which he is a member; and*
- f) *has not obtained security clearance from the Government.*

(3) Every observer while observing the process of conduct of election shall display prominently a card of his identification issued to him by the Commission or an officer authorized by it.

(4) Every observer or, as the case may be, organization may submit a report to the Commission highlighting the electoral irregularities which were noticed during observation relating to conduct of election, with recommendations, if any”

2. All observer or media organizations are requested to follow the laid out procedure in this regard by floating their applications through Ministry of Foreign Affairs by following these steps:

- a) Apply on "Pakistan Online Portal" of Ministry of Foreign Affairs for processing application for issuance of visa
- b) Download static Accreditation Application Form from ECP website www.ecp.gov.pk. After filling and attaching the required documents, the accreditation form shall also be uploaded along with Visa application on Pakistan Online Portal
- c) The observers shall also submit the duly filled accreditation Application Form with required documents in hard form later on when they arrive in Pakistan and apply for accreditation card at ECP Secretariat, Islamabad. The requirements for issuance of Accreditation Card are as under:
 - i. 02 Passport size pictures
 - ii. Copy of Passport/CNIC
 - iii. NOC from Foreign office of Pakistan / Security Clearance form
 - iv. Nomination letter of accreditation by representing organization
 - v. Signed declaration /pledge with all basic information as required in Pledge (attached in Accreditation Application Form)
- d) The Code of Conduct for International Observers/Media is available at Election Commission of Pakistan's official website: www.ecp.gov.pk

3. After completion of codal formalities as per law, ECP will issue accreditation cards to security cleared international observers/media and arrange briefings for observers in ECP Secretariat. Of course for the safety and security of the guest observers, they are required to follow the Advisories issued by Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry to Interior of Pakistan.

4. We believe that the presence of international observers will add a valuable dimension to the electoral process, ensuring its transparency and impartiality while lending credibility to our electoral process. In this connection, all necessary arrangements will be made available for international observers to carry out their duties effectively and independently. We look forward to a positive and valuable output from international observers during this important event in our nation's democratic history and hope that their stay here in Pakistan will be pleasant and instrumental in furthering the principles of fairness, transparency and impartiality in elections. The ECP shall remain available for any assistance and facilitation 24/7.



Mr. Haroon Khan Shinwari
Addl. Director General (Media Coordination & Outreach Wing)
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Copy forwarded for further necessary action on their end:

1. Foreign Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pakistan
2. Secretary, Ministry of Interior
3. Chairman FBR

Copy forwarded for information.

1. Director to the Hon. S.O.A. EC

ELECTION COMMISSION OF PAKISTAN

Islamabad, dated 13th October 2023

NOTIFICATION

No.F.4 (2)2021-MCO-Vol-I(3) In exercise of the powers conferred upon it under Article 218(3) of the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, read with Section 233 of the Elections Act 2017, and all other powers enabling it in that behalf, the Election Commission hereby issues the Code of Conduct for International Observers/ Media. International observers/ media shall follow this Code of Conduct during the upcoming General Elections, local government elections and subsequent bye-elections in letter and spirit.

Code of Conduct for International Observers / Media

1. Any person observing and reporting the electoral process as a member of an International Election Observation Mission must read and understand this Code of Conduct and shall sign **a pledge annexed to this Code.**
2. The International Observers and Media persons intending to visit Pakistan shall submit their visa applications well in time, according to the rules laid down by relevant authorities of the Government of Pakistan. No observer or media person shall stay in Pakistan beyond the prescribed duration of granted visa.
3. International Observers and Media persons shall respect the sovereignty of Pakistan as well as the fundamental rights and freedom of its people.
4. International Observers and Media persons shall adhere to the Constitution and laws of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and respect the authority of the Election Commission and its election officials.
5. International Observers and Media persons shall ensure that their observations and reporting is impartial, objective and depict the highest standards of accuracy.
6. International Observers and Media persons shall follow instructions issued from time to time by the Election Commission and State authorities and maintain a respectful attitude towards them.
7. International observers and media shall comply with Advisories that may be issued by the government or security agencies to ensure their safety during their stay in Pakistan.
8. Observers and Media persons shall respect the culture and customs of the country and observe the highest level of professionalism.
9. International Observers and Media persons shall display their official identification badges /accreditation cards issued by the Election Commission of Pakistan, at all times and shall present it to electoral officials and other relevant authorities as and when requested.
10. International Observers and Media persons at all times during election process shall maintain strict political impartiality. They shall not exhibit any bias or preference with regard to political parties and candidates.
11. International Observers and media persons shall obey rules concerning photography and restrictions on taking pictures as per laws/local culture.
12. International Observer and Media persons shall have right to ask any question and to clear any query but they will not obstruct directly or indirectly any pre-election, election and post-election process.

13. International Observers and media persons shall work harmoniously with other observers, media persons and election officials.
14. International Observers and Media persons shall select areas for election observation and reporting in consultation with Election Commission of Pakistan for their security and safety. However, International Observers and media persons shall choose the area to ensure balanced observation /reporting.
15. International Election Observers and media persons may hire services of Pakistani interpreters if so required. However, they shall provide all necessary details of these interpreters while applying for accreditation card. These interpreters shall also remain non-partisan and unbiased.
16. International Observers and media persons may observe and report all aspects of management and conduct of elections including actual polling day without interfering in electoral proceedings.
17. International Observers and media persons shall not interfere in the internal process at any polling station.
18. International Observers and Media International Observers and media persons shall not maintain their personal and professional relationships with individuals / organizations in a way that could lead to conflict of interest with duties as observers and reporters.
19. International Observers and media persons shall not accept any gift or favors from political parties, organizations or persons involved in the electoral process.
20. International Observers and media persons shall not wear, carry or display any party symbols or colours of a partisan nature.
21. Observer shall not make any personal comments about his/her observation or conclusion on the election process to the media.
22. International Observers and Media persons shall not conduct or participate in any activity that may generate an impression of favouring or opposing any political party or a candidate.
23. The content on international print & electronic media and any international media persons, newspaper and channel on digital media and other social media influencers shall not reflect any aspect which might create parochialism or threatens peace and security of the country or threatens or incite hatred/violence against any particular person or group in Pakistan.
24. The content on international print & electronic media and any international media person, newspaper and channel on digital media and and other International social media influencers shall not include any aspect which might be construed as personal attacks on candidates, political parties of Pakistan on the basis of gender, religion, sect, caste, baradari etc.
25. No International radio or television channel shall broadcast/telecast or print media shall publish anything that adversely affects the public opinion against a particular political party or a candidate in Pakistan. This code of conduct is also applicable to official social media accounts of international newspapers, channels, media persons and other social media influencers.
26. International print, electronic media and International digital media persons /influencers on their official accounts on digital media shall refrain from entrance and exit polls or conducting any kind of surveys at any polling station or constituency that may influence the voters' free choice of casting votes.
27. International print, electronic media and International digital media persons /influencers shall broadcast telecast or publish only authentic election results officially issued by the Returning Officer or the Election Commission of Pakistan.

28. Observer Organizations shall share their findings, methodology, recommendations and reports with the Election Commission of Pakistan.
29. The government and law enforcing agencies of Pakistan shall provide protection to International Observers and media persons to maintain their security.
30. In case of violation of this Code of Conduct, the Election Commission of Pakistan reserves the right to withdraw observer accreditation of an individual Observer/Observer Mission and Individual Journalist/Media Organization. The authority to determine the violation also rests with the Election Commission of Pakistan.

By orders of the Election Commission of Pakistan.



(Haroon Khan Shinwari)
Addl. Director General
(Media Coordination & Outreach Wing)
13 -10-2023

To.

The Manager,
Printing Corporation of Pakistan Press,
Islamabad.

(For publication in the Gazette of Pakistan,
Extraordinary (Part-III) of today's date)



Election Commission of Pakistan

General Elections 2024

PHOTO

Application Form for the International Media

Representing			
Country:			
Media House:			
Category: Print/Electronic/Web			
Address		Phone	(including country and area codes)
Email		Mobile	(including country code)
Web Address			
Has the Media House already an office in Pakistan? Yes/No. If yes			
Address		Phone No.	
Name of Head of Pakistan Office		Designation	
Email		Mobile	
Participant Information			
Name	Mr./Ms.(Full Name)		
Designation			
Date of Birth	DD/MM/YYYY	Gender	<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F
Passport No.		Passport Expiry Date	DD/MM/YYYY
Visa Issuance Date	DD/MM/YYYY	Visa Expiry Date	DD/MM/YYYY
Present Nationality		Place of Birth	
Do You have citizenship of another country (if «yes», which country?)			
Address		Phone	(including country and area codes)
Email		Mobile	(including country code)
Emergency Contact Person		Relation	
Email		Mobile	(including country code)
Experience of Election Observation			
Country	Year	Organization	
Have you Observed the Pakistan General Elections 2018? If yes, please write specific as follows:			
Title:	Represented Organization and Country:		
Period: from DD/MM/YYYY to DD/MM/YYYY	Location:		

Travel Information			
	Flight No.	Date	Time
Arrival:			
Departure:			
Applicants are requested to submit documents:			
1. <input type="checkbox"/> Color scan of Passport, which has at least 6 months of validity (in pdf format) along with valid visa. 2. <input type="checkbox"/> A recent Passport size picture which has been taken not more than 3 months ago, (in JPEG format, with the resolution not lesser than 600 dpi) 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Color scan of the applicant's valid Press Card issued by the concerned Media House 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Color scan of Nomination Letter by the representing Media House			
PLEDGE/DECLARATION			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I hereby declare that the information provided in this application form is true and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. • I hereby accept the code of conduct for international media/election observers issued by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) and agree to abide by it at all times while observing the election process. • I hereby declare that I have no conflict of interest, political, economic, or other, that will interfere with my ability to be an impartial election observer and to follow the Code of Conduct. • I hereby understand that the ECP has the right to reject any application that does not meet the requirements or that provides false or incomplete information. • I hereby understand that the ECP has the right to revoke or suspend the accreditation of any observer who violates the code of conduct or who interferes with the election process in any way. 			
Signature: _____		Date: _____	