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**EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW**  
**(VENICE COMMISSION)**

**ARMENIA**

**ELECTORAL CODE**

**AMENDED AS OF 20 OCTOBER 2016**

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## PART ONE

### SECTION 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

#### CHAPTER 1. MAIN PROVISIONS

##### **Article 1. Fundamentals of elections**

1. Elections of the National Assembly, council of elders of communities, heads of communities — except for the heads of communities provided for by this Code — shall be held by secret ballot on the basis of universal, equal, free and direct suffrage.

##### **Article 2. Universal suffrage**

1. Citizens of the Republic of Armenia having attained the age of 18 as of the day of election (hereinafter referred to as “the Election Day”) shall have the right to vote during the elections of the National Assembly.

2. During the elections of local self-government bodies the right to vote shall be reserved to the following persons, having attained the age of 18 as of the Election Day and registered in the Population Register of the community where the elections are being held:

- (1) citizens of the Republic of Armenia registered for at least 6 months before the Election Day;
- (2) citizens of the Republic of Armenia having no registration for at least 6 months before the Election Day who have been registered in that community by virtue of discharge from compulsory fixed-term military service or of release after serving a sentence in the form of imprisonment;
- (3) persons not holding citizenship of the Republic of Armenia but registered for at least one year before the Election Day (hereinafter referred to as “the voter not holding citizenship”).

3. During the elections of local self-government bodies, the rights and responsibilities prescribed by this Code for citizens of the Republic of Armenia shall also extend to persons having the right to vote during the elections of local self-government bodies.

4. Persons lacking active legal capacity as declared by a judgment of a civil court having entered into force, as well as persons sentenced by a criminal judgment having entered into force and serving a sentence for grave and particularly grave offences, committed intentionally, do not have the right to vote.

##### **Article 3. Equal suffrage**

1. Voters shall participate in the elections on equal grounds.

2. Public authorities shall ensure equal conditions for the exercise of the right of suffrage of voters.

3. Voters shall — irrespective of national origin, race, sex, language, religion, political or other views, social origin, property or other status — have the right to vote and to be elected.

##### **Article 4. Free suffrage**

1. Elections shall be held on the basis of the principles of free and voluntary exercise of the right of suffrage. No one shall have the right to force a voter to vote for or against a candidate (a political party) or have the right to force a voter to participate or not to participate in the elections.

##### **Article 5. Direct suffrage**

1. The National Assembly, local self-government bodies — except for the heads of Yerevan, Gyumri, Vanadzor communities — shall be elected directly by voters.

##### **Article 6. Secrecy of voting**

1. Voting shall be held by secret ballot. Secrecy of voting shall not only be the right, but also the responsibility of a voter. Control over the free expression of will of a voter shall be prohibited.

##### **Article 7. Mandatory and periodic nature of elections**

1. Elections of the National Assembly and local self-government bodies shall be held periodically, within the deadlines prescribed by the Constitution and this Code.

2. During martial law or state of emergency, elections of the National Assembly and local self-government bodies shall not be held. No earlier than 50 days and no later than 65 days after the end of the martial law or state of emergency, new regular elections of the National Assembly and local self-government bodies not having taken place due to martial law or state of emergency shall be held. The new regular election shall be called by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Armenia no later than 7 days after the end of the martial law or state of emergency.

### **Article 8. Publicity of elections**

1. Preparations for and holding of elections shall be public.

2. Secondary regulatory legal acts of the Central Election Commission (hereinafter – CEC) shall be published and enter into force as prescribed by the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On legal acts”.

Secondary regulatory legal acts of the CEC shall be posted on the website of the CEC by the end of the day following their state registration and filing with the CEC, and during the period of elections of the National Assembly — on the same day.

Individual legal acts<sup>1</sup> of the CEC shall enter into force in the manner and the deadlines prescribed by the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On legal acts”, except for cases prescribed by this Code. These acts shall be posted on the website of the CEC by the end of the day following the adoption thereof.

The website of the CEC shall be the following: [www.elections.am](http://www.elections.am).

3. For the purpose of ensuring publicity and transparency of organising and holding elections, raising the level of public awareness, ensuring security, protection and smooth operation of the website of the CEC and the “Elections” automated system, and properly exercising the powers vested in election commissions by this Code, relevant election commissions shall be provided with necessary software, hardware and means of communication, equipment and property.

4. Political parties (alliances of political parties) running in the elections of the National Assembly, the Councils of Elders of the city of Yerevan (hereinafter referred to as “Yerevan”), the city of Gyumri (hereinafter referred to as “Gyumri”), the city of Vanadzor (hereinafter referred to as “Vanadzor”) may submit their electoral programmes in the electronic format prescribed by the CEC for the purpose of posting them on the website of the Commission. The CEC shall post these programmes on the website by the end of the next working day following their submission, but no later than the official start of the election campaign.

5. Candidates shall, within 5 days following the expiry of the deadline prescribed by this Code for registration, submit a declaration of their property and income to the relevant election commission. Within 5 days following the expiry of the deadline prescribed by this Code for registration of candidate lists of political parties running in the elections, the political parties (alliances of political parties) running in the elections shall submit a declaration of property and income of the political party (political parties included in the alliance of political parties) to the CEC.

The declaration shall include the composition of property as of 1st of the month of submitting the documents for registration prescribed by this Code, as well as income obtained during 12 calendar months preceding the month of the deadline for submitting the documents for registration.

The forms (electronic forms) of declarations and the procedure for submission thereof shall be prescribed by the CEC.

6. Declarations of political parties (political parties included in the alliances of political parties) running in the elections shall, within a 3-day period after being submitted, be posted on the website of the Commission. Copies of declarations of candidates shall, on the basis of a written application, be provided to proxies, mass media representatives, observers.

7. During elections of the National Assembly, the state administration body authorised by the Government of the Republic of Armenia, maintaining the State Population Register of the Republic

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<sup>1</sup> Individual legal act in the Armenian legislation means act adopted by public or local self-government bodies within their jurisdiction which is temporary in nature, is envisaged for single or multiple use, does not contain legal norm, and defines code of conduct for natural or legal persons or public or local self-government bodies specifically mentioned in it.

of Armenia (hereinafter referred to as “the authorised body”) shall — on the 30th, 20th and 10th day preceding the Election Day — publish the total number of voters included in the Register of Voters of the Republic of Armenia, indicating also the number of voters by place of residence and voters having no registration. During elections of the National Assembly, the authorised body shall, on the day preceding the voting, publish the total number of voters included in the Register of Voters of the Republic of Armenia, indicating also the total number of voters by place of residence, voters having no registration, police officers seconded to electoral precincts, voters in a medical institution providing inpatient treatment.

8. Voters shall, as prescribed by this Code, be informed of composition, locations, working hours of election commissions, the deadlines for submission of applications regarding inaccuracy in the lists of voters, the nomination of candidates and the deadlines for registration, the day, venue, time of voting, as well as the results of voting and election.

9. On the Election Day, by 11:30, 14:30, 17:30 and 20:30, PECs shall be obliged to communicate to the Territorial Election Commission (hereinafter –TEC) the number of voters having participated in the voting at the given electoral precinct as of 11:00, 14:00, 17:00 and 20:00, respectively. TECs shall summarise, publish and communicate such data to the CEC with the same interval. During elections of the National Assembly, the CEC shall, on the Election Day at 9:00, publish information on the progress of elections, and starting from 12:00 to 21:00 it shall publish, every 3 hours, information on the number of voters having participated in the voting as of the previous hour, by electoral districts, Marz centres and communities in the electoral district having more than 10 000 voters and the city of Yerevan. After the information on the number of voters having participated in the voting is published, it shall be posted on the website of the Commission per precincts.

During elections of the National Assembly, the CEC shall publish the data referred to in this paragraph by live broadcasting on public radio and public television, from the seat of the CEC.

10. During elections of the National Assembly, the Council of Elders of Yerevan, the CEC shall — no later than the day following the Election Day, starting at 00:00 — carry out tabulation of voting results by electoral precincts, areas of operation TECs and electoral districts. The CEC shall finalise the tabulation of preliminary voting results and shall post them on the website of the Commission, with the possibility to download, no later than within one hour following the receipt of the latest information from the electoral precinct on the voting results, but no later than within 24 hours following the end of the voting.

During elections of the National Assembly, the Council of Elders of Yerevan, the CEC shall — following the adoption of the decision based on election results, but no later than within one hour after the end of the session —post the final tabulation of voting results by electoral precincts, service areas of TECs and electoral districts on the website of the Commission with the possibility to download.

11. Proxies, observers, visitors, mass media representatives and — upon consent or assignment of the chairperson of the higher level commission — members of the higher level election commission shall have the right, as prescribed by this Code, to be present at the sessions of election commissions, as well as in the polling room during the entire voting process. Proxies, observers, visitors, mass media representatives may photograph and videotape the sessions of election commissions (including the session for summarisation of the voting results), as well as the voting process without violating the right of voters to secrecy of voting.

11.1. During the elections of the National Assembly, the CEC shall allow the specialised organisation — selected as a result of a competition held as prescribed by the Government — to video record, from all electoral precincts, the voting process and the process of summarisation of voting results, as well as to concurrently webcast, in real time, via website (websites) specifically created for that purpose.

The video shall be recorded by fixed cameras. The field of view of cameras must cover the ballot box, the polling station and its entrance, with a radius of up to 50 metres, as well as the processes of registration of voters and allocation of ballot envelopes and ballot papers and of summarisation of the voting results. Video recording and webcast shall be made in observance of the principle of secrecy of voting prescribed by this Code.

The person possessing the premises of a polling station and election commissions shall be obliged to assist the specialised organisation in organising the process of video recording and webcasting; however, they shall not be responsible for the organisation of the process and the quality thereof.

The specialised organisation shall, on the basis of a written application, provide copies of materials video-recorded at an electoral precinct to election commissions, political parties running in the elections and organisations having carried out observation mission, subject to payment of the cost price of copying. The application may be submitted before the expiry of deadlines prescribed for challenging the decision of the CEC on election of the National Assembly, and in case of challenging that decision, before the adoption of a decision by the Constitutional Court. The application must contain the number of the electoral precinct copy from the video-recorded materials whereof is requested, and electronic media, complying with the requirements prescribed by the specialised organisation, must be submitted with the application.

The video-recorded materials shall be archived by the specialised organisation and maintained in the manner prescribed for maintenance of election related documents.

12. Both the general number of voters registered in military units and the number of those registered by electoral precincts, the numbers and locations of the electoral precincts, where the voters included in the lists of voters being drawn up in military units, lists of voters being drawn up in military units shall not be subject to publication, extracts therefrom shall not be made.

## **CHAPTER 2. *LISTS OF VOTERS***

### **Article 9. Maintaining the Register of Voters, drawing up lists of voters**

1. The Register of Voters of the Republic of Armenia shall be a permanently maintained document which is drawn up per electoral districts and communities. Citizens of the Republic of Armenia included in the State Population Register of the Republic of Armenia, registered in any community of the Republic of Armenia and having the right to vote shall be included in the Register of Voters of the Republic of Armenia.

Voters having no registration in the Republic of Armenia, as well as voters not holding citizenship but having the right to vote during elections of local self-government bodies shall not be included in the Register of Voters of the Republic of Armenia, which does not restrict their right to vote.

2. The Register of Voters of the Republic of Armenia shall be maintained, and the list of voters shall be drawn up by the authorised body. The authorised body shall be responsible for maintaining and drawing up the Register of Voters of the Republic of Armenia and the list of voters in accordance with the requirements of this Code.

3. Heads of penitentiary institutions and facilities for holding arrestees, as well as commanders of military units shall also draw up lists of voters in cases and as prescribed by this Code.

4. The authorised body shall, twice a year, in June and November (during the first one week), submit to the CEC the Register of Voters of the Republic of Armenia by communities, and in case of elections of the National Assembly no later than 41 days and 5 days before the Election Day also by electoral precincts, in an electronic format, for posting it on the website of the Commission with search engine. The Register of Voters of the Republic of Armenia shall be a permanent and integral part of the website of the CEC.

5. Everyone shall have the right to submit an application to the authorised body on eliminating inaccurate data (including not related to the applicant) in the Register of Voters of the Republic of Armenia. The application must contain necessary substantiation, and evidence of the factual circumstances must be presented attached thereto. Within 30 days following the receipt of the application, the authorised body shall, in case there are grounds prescribed by the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On state register of population”, eliminate inaccuracy, informing the applicant thereon in writing.

### **Article 10. Including voters in the list**

1. The list of voters of a community shall be drawn up on the basis of the Register of Voters of the Republic of Armenia by electoral precincts, which shall include persons having the right to vote during the relevant election pursuant to Article 2 of this Code.

2. In case of every election, a voter may be included only in one list of voters and only once.



3. In case of elections of the National Assembly, voters having registration in another community shall, no later than 10 days before the Election Day, submit an application to the authorised body or to the head of its relevant subdivision (hereinafter referred to as “the authorised body”) on temporary withdrawal from the list of voters of place of registration, indicating the address of their place of residence on the Election Day. The authorised body shall, within a 3-day period following the receipt of the application, temporarily remove the data of the voter from the list of voters of place of registration and add them in the list of voters of the electoral precinct at the place of residence. In case of submitting an application on behalf of another person, the applicant shall be obliged to submit power of attorney certified by a notary. The authorised body shall provide the applicant with a relevant statement of information thereon. The forms of the application and a certificate shall be established by the CEC.
4. During elections of the National Assembly, members of Precinct Election Commission (hereinafter – PEC) may be included in the list of voters of the electoral precinct per place of location where they are appointed as PEC members, by being temporarily removed from the list of voters of place of registration. The application for including PEC members in the lists of voters of the electoral precinct of place of location may also be submitted to the authorised body by the political party that has appointed him or her, or by the chairperson of the TEC on the basis of the application of the member of the PEC no later than 10 days before the Election Day, by 14:00. The form of the application shall be established by the CEC.
5. For the purpose of participating in the voting, during elections of the National Assembly, voters having no registration in the Republic of Armenia shall, no later than 10 days before the Election Day, submit an application to the authorised body on being temporarily included in the list of voters, indicating the address of their place of residence in the Republic of Armenia on the Election Day. The authorised body shall, within a 3-day period following the receipt of the application, include the voter in the list of voters of the electoral precinct of his or her place of residence in the Republic of Armenia on the Election Day and shall provide him or her with a statement of information thereon. The forms of the application and a certificate shall be established by the CEC.
6. During elections of the National Assembly, the Police under the Government of the Republic of Armenia (hereinafter referred to as “the Police”) shall — no later than 10 days before the Election Day, by 14:00 — draw up a list of police officers seconded to electoral precincts on the Election Day, indicating the surname, name, patronymic, year, month and day of birth (hereinafter referred to as “the date”), the address of the place of registration of police officers and the number of the electoral precinct. Based on these lists, the authorised body shall temporarily remove police officers from the list of voters of their place of registration and shall include them in the list of voters of the precincts they are seconded to.
7. During elections of the National Assembly, the head of the medical institution providing inpatient care shall — no later than 7 days before the Election Day, by 14:00 — submit to the authorised body the list of voters undergoing inpatient treatment and having no possibility to be present on the Election Day in the polling station on their own but willing to participate in the voting in the medical institution providing inpatient care, indicating the surname, name, patronymic, the date of birth and the address of the place of registration of the voter. Based on the submitted lists, the authorised body shall temporarily remove the voters undergoing inpatient treatment from the list of voters of their place of registration and shall — in accordance with the requirements for the lists of voters as prescribed by Article 11 of this Code — draw up a supplementary list of voters participating in the voting in a medical institution providing inpatient care.
8. During elections of the National Assembly, military servicemen undergoing compulsory fixed-term military service, as well as contract military servicemen registered within the territory where the military units are located, members of their families, registered together with them within the same territory, who have the right to vote shall be included in the list of voters of the military unit.
9. During elections of the National Assembly, the Ministry of Defence, the National Security Service and the Police shall — no later than 50 days, 10 days and 6 days before the Election Day — submit to the authorised body and the CEC the number of voters registered in military units, troops of the National Security and the Police respectively, as prescribed by the CEC.

10. Contract military servicemen registered outside the territory of a military unit shall be included in the list of voters under the general procedure.

11. The Governor of the penitentiary institution shall — no later than 10 days, 5 days and 3 days before the Election Day — submit to the CEC the number of voters registered in the penitentiary institution, as prescribed by the CEC.

The list of voters registered in the penitentiary institution shall — 3 days before the Election Day — be drawn up by the Governor of the penitentiary institution.

### **Article 11. Requirements for lists of voters**

1. Lists of voters shall be drawn up by the addresses of places of registration of voters. During elections of the National Assembly, lists of voters by place of residence, voters having no registration, police officers seconded to electoral precincts shall also be included in the list of voters of the precinct, under separate sections by continuing the numbering.

2. The list of voters, being posted in the polling station, shall include the marz name (city of Yerevan), the number of the electoral district, the record number of the electoral precinct, the name of the community (the administrative district), and in separate columns the following data of the voter:

- (1) the record number in the list of voters of the given electoral precinct;
- (2) the surname, name, patronymic (the patronymic, if available in the relevant registration documents);
- (3) the date of birth;
- (4) the address of the place of registration, and in case of voters having no registration in the Republic of Armenia the address of the place of residence in the Republic of Armenia on the Election Day.

3. The numbering referred to in point 1 of part 2 of this Article in the lists of voters, being used by PECs, shall be carried out by electoral precincts; the number of the electoral precinct shall also appear on every sheet of the lists of voters.

In the lists of voters referred to in this part, 4 additional columns shall be provided for:

- (1) the data of the personal identification document of the voter;
- (2) the voter's signature;
- (3) the individual seal of the member of the commission responsible for the registration of voters;
- (4) additional notes. Additional notes in the list of voters shall be made in the manner and cases prescribed by the CEC.

4. The lists of voters shall be drawn up in the form of a register and paginated for up to 1 000 voters, so that every register of the lists of voters allocated to an electoral precinct having more than 1 000 voters includes data of approximately equal number of voters. Every page of the list of voters may contain data on maximum 20 voters.

5. The list of voters and the supplementary list of voters being drawn up by the authorised body in cases prescribed by this Code shall be drawn up, paginated, and every page of the list shall be signed and sealed by the authorised body.

6. The lists of voters shall be drawn up by the authorised body in an electronic format as well, through special software. The electronic lists shall — in the format and the manner prescribed by the CEC — be uploaded beforehand in the technical equipment carrying out registration of voters (hereinafter referred to as “the technical equipment”), being provided to the relevant PEC and shall contain:

- (1) the surname, name, patronymic (patronymic, if available in the relevant registration documents) of the voter;
- (2) the number of the electoral precinct in the list of which the voter is included;
- (3) the record number of the voter in the list of voters of the relevant electoral precinct;
- (4) the date of birth of the voter;
- (5) the address of the place of registration of the voter, and in case of voters having no registration in the Republic of Armenia, the address of the place of residence in the Republic of Armenia on the Election Day;
- (6) the number of the identification card, biometric passport and non-biometric passport of the voter (where the voter has the relevant personal identification documents). During elections of local

self-government bodies, the number of personal identification document —referred to in part 1 of Article 66 of this Code — of the voter not holding citizenship;

(7) for voters of the given district, also the photograph available in the digital database (where the voter has obtained an identification card or a biometric passport, or where a non-biometric passport has been obtained after 1 January 2008).

7. The list of voters, being drawn up in a military unit, penitentiary institution and facility for holding arrestees shall be drawn up, paginated, and every page of the lists shall be signed and sealed by the commander of the military unit, the Governor of the penitentiary institution and the head of the facility for holding arrestees, respectively. The lists of voters referred to in this part shall not be drawn up electronically and shall not be uploaded in the technical equipment being provided to the PECs.

8. Supplementary lists of voters undergoing inpatient treatment shall not be drawn up in an electronic format and shall not be uploaded in the technical equipment being provided to PECs.

### **Article 12. Providing lists of voters to election commissions and to the person possessing the premises of a polling station**

1. The authorised body shall, no later than 40 days before the Election Day, provide the person possessing the premises of the polling station with the list of voters — containing on the last page a statement of information on the deadlines and place of submitting applications on inaccuracy in the lists of voters, on the procedure and deadlines for the consideration thereof — for the purpose of posting it at the polling station. The form of a certificate shall be established by the CEC.

2. The authorised body shall — 10 days and 5 days before the Election Day — provide the CEC with a statement of information on the number of voters by electoral districts and electoral precincts in case of elections of the National Assembly and the Council of Elders of Yerevan. During elections of the Councils of Elders of Gyumri, Vanadzor, Head of the community and member of council of elders, the authorised body shall — 10 days and 5 days before the Election Day — provide the TEC with a statement of information on the number of voters by electoral precincts and communities.

No later than 3 days after calling elections, the authorised body shall — during elections of the National Assembly — provide the CEC with a statement of information on the number of voters by electoral districts, whereas during elections of local self-government bodies — by communities. The mentioned statements of information shall be published on the website of the Commission.

3. The authorised body shall — 3 days before the Election Day — provide the chairpersons of PECs with the lists of voters by electoral precincts (including the supplementary list of voters undergoing inpatient treatment), drawn up in the form of a register, posted at polling stations and used by the PEC, and with the addresses of the residential buildings (houses) included in the electoral precinct, as well as with the forms necessary for drawing up supplementary lists of voters in the electoral precinct on the Election Day, as prescribed by Article 15 of this Code.

4. The lists of voters registered in a military unit shall be provided by the commander of the military unit to the chairperson of the TEC 3 days before the Election Day, in a closed and sealed envelope which shall be opened only on the Election Day by the PEC at the moment when voters included in the list of the military unit visit the electoral precinct.

5. The Governor of the penitentiary institution shall — 2 days before the Election Day — hand over the list of voters to the chairperson of the PEC.

6. On the Election Day, the head of the facility for holding arrestees shall draw up and hand over the list of voters to the member of the PEC organising voting through a mobile ballot box at the facility for holding arrestees.

### **Article 13. Accessibility of lists of voters**

1. The list of voters of the Republic of Armenia, except for the cases provided for by this Code, shall be open to the public.

The lists of voters having participated in the voting, except for the signed lists of voters, being drawn up in a military unit, penitentiary institution and facility for holding arrestees, shall be published as prescribed by this Code.

2. During elections of the National Assembly, the Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri, Vanadzor, the authorised body shall post the list of voters by electoral precincts 40 days and 4 days before the Election Day, on [www.police.am](http://www.police.am) website. The lists of voters posted on the website by electoral precincts must be downloadable.
3. The person possessing the premises of the polling station shall — 40 days before the Election Day — post the list of voters in the polling station, in a place visible to all.
4. The chairperson of a PEC shall — 2 days before the Election Day — post a carbon copy of the list of voters, including the supplementary list of persons undergoing inpatient treatment at the polling station, in a place visible to all. These lists shall remain posted in the polling station until the 7th day following the Election Day.
5. Lists of voters registered in a military unit shall — 10 days before the Election Day — be posted at a military unit in a place visible to military servants.
6. In case of forming more than one electoral precinct in a community, the authorised body shall — no later than 4 days before the Election Day — send notifications to the voters about the Election Day, the number of the electoral precinct, the address of the polling station and the time.

**Article 14. Procedure for submitting applications on elimination of inaccuracy in the lists of voters, considering the applications and for eliminating inaccuracy in the lists of voters**

1. Everyone shall have the right to submit — no later than 10 days before the Election Day — an application to the authorised body on elimination of inaccuracy (including those not relating to the persona of the applicant) in the lists of voters. Within 5 days following the receipt of an application but no later than 7 days before the Election Day, the authorised body shall, in case there are grounds prescribed by this Code, eliminate inaccuracy in the list of voters, informing the applicant thereon in writing. Where the application does not relate to the persona of the applicant, the authorised body shall, in case the application is satisfied, notify thereon through [azdarar.am](http://azdarar.am) website.
2. During 5 days preceding the Election Day, as well as on the Election Day until the end of the voting, the following persons shall have the right to submit an application to the authorised body to include them in the supplementary list of voters being drawn up on the Election Day:
  - (1) persons registered at the address included in the description of the relevant electoral precinct, but who have been left out of the list of voters of that electoral precinct;
  - (2) persons having submitted to the authorised body, in the manner and within the deadlines prescribed by this Code, an application on being temporarily included in the list of the relevant electoral precinct, where the application has not been rejected, however they have not been included in the relevant list.

Decisions concerning applications to be included in the lists of voters shall be delivered within such deadlines which enable the voter to participate in the voting. In case of delivering a decision on including in the supplementary list of voters being drawn up on the Election Day, the authorised body shall provide a statement of information.

The form of a certificate of the authorised body on being included in the supplementary list of voters, being drawn up on the Election Day and to be submitted to the PEC, shall be established by the CEC. Additions to the list of voters — based on a certificate of the authorised body on being included in the supplementary list of voters, being drawn up on the Election Day — shall be made by the PEC on the Election Day, through drawing up a supplementary list as prescribed by Article 15 of this Code.

3. Disputes on eliminating inaccuracy in the lists of voters and making an addition to the list shall be settled by superior authorities or through judicial procedure, as prescribed by the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On fundamentals of administrative action and administrative proceedings” or the Administrative Procedure Code of the Republic of Armenia. The superior authorised body or the court shall deliver the act on eliminating inaccuracy in the lists of voters in the course of 3 days after the receipt of the complaint (application), whereas on the Election Day and within 3 days preceding it — within the deadlines enabling the voter to participate in the voting. In case the complaint (application) is satisfied on the Election Day and within 3 days preceding it, the superior authorised body shall provide the applicant with a statement of information on being included in the supplementary list of voters, being drawn up on the Election Day. The act on eliminating inaccuracy in the lists of voters shall be executed by the authorised body. On the Election Day,

based on the act on being included in the list of voters, the data of the voter shall, as prescribed by Article 15 of this Code, be included by the PEC in the supplementary list of voters, being drawn up on the Election Day.

The courts shall send the carbon copy of the civil act on including voters in the list of voters to the authorised body for making relevant changes to the Register of Voters as well.

4. Election commissions shall not have the right to make, on their own initiative, any change — whether a correction or an addition — to the lists of voters (including to the supplementary lists).

## **CHAPTER 3 *ELECTORAL PRECINCTS AND POLLING STATIONS***

### **Article 16. Electoral precincts**

1. The authorised body shall — no later than 45 days before the Election Day — with the participation of the Head of the community and member of TEC, form electoral precincts, taking into account local and other conditions, with the purpose of creating more favourable conditions for the organisation of voting.

2. Electoral precincts shall be formed by sequential numbering. The procedure for numbering the electoral precincts shall be established by the CEC.

3. Upon the formation, an electoral precinct shall include no more than 2 000 voters. The number prescribed by this paragraph may be changed in case of correcting the lists of voters and in cases provided for by Article 10 of this Code.

4. An electoral precinct may not include different settlements.

### **Article 17. Polling station, polling room**

1. The voting shall be held at a polling station – in a hall, a parlour, a room and other premises equipped for such purpose (hereinafter referred to as “the polling room”).

2. A polling station must be as close as possible to the residential buildings and houses located in the electoral precinct. The polling room in a polling station shall be selected in such a way as to ensure smooth voting process. The Head of the community shall be responsible for designating the location of a polling station and the polling room, as well as for furnishing the polling room in accordance with the requirements prescribed by Article 57 of this Code. This function shall be considered as a mandatory power of the Head of the community.

Where in an electoral precinct there are no relevant buildings and structures belonging to the state or local self-government bodies or other premises that may be used gratuitously, the Head of the community, for the purpose of locating the polling station, shall, by consent of the marz governor, rent appropriate premises. This function shall be considered as a delegated power of the Head of the community.

3. A polling station may not be located within the premises occupied by military educational institutions, military units and health care institutions.

4. During elections of the National Assembly, polling stations shall be formed in penitentiary institutions as well.

5. For ensuring access to the exercise of the right of suffrage by voters with limited physical capacity, local self-government bodies shall undertake necessary measures at polling stations.

### **Article 18. Designating a polling station**

1. The Head of the community (also the Governor of the penitentiary institution in cases provided for by this Code) shall designate a polling station no later than 43 days before the Election Day. The Head of the community shall inform the authorised body, the relevant TEC and the person possessing the premises of the polling station thereon, and the Governor of the penitentiary institution shall inform the TEC.

2. In case of impossibility to organise or to hold the voting properly at a polling station, the Head of the community shall be obliged to change upon request of the chairperson of the TEC — no later than 5 days before the Election Day — the location of the polling station, and, in exceptional cases, also on the Election Day, upon the consent of the chairperson of the TEC.

3. In case the location of a polling station is changed, the Head of the community shall immediately inform the voters thereon.

## **CHAPTER 4. ELECTION CAMPAIGN**

### **Article 19. Main principles of election campaign**

1. Period of the election campaign shall be the period prescribed by this Code, during which the rules prescribed by this Code on making use of public resources, conducting election campaign and ensuring financial transparency are in place for the purpose of ensuring equal opportunities for the political parties running in the elections and candidates.

The fact that the period of election campaign is fixed shall not restrict the conduct of election campaign during other periods not prohibited by this Code.

The period of the election campaign shall start on the 7th day following the last day of the deadline prescribed by this Code for the registration of the candidate lists of political parties running in the elections and of the candidates and shall expire one day before the Election Day. The campaign during that period shall be hereinafter referred to as “the election campaign”.

The campaign — on the Election Day and on the day preceding it — through public speeches, public events, as well as through print media, radio and television companies (including during satellite broadcasting) carrying out terrestrial on-air broadcasting shall be prohibited.

2. The State shall ensure free conduct of election campaign. It shall be ensured by state and local self-government bodies by providing them with halls and other premises for the purpose of organising election assemblies, meetings of voters with candidates and other election related events. These shall be provided to political parties running in the elections of the National Assembly, the Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri, Vanadzor on equal grounds and free of charge, as prescribed by the CEC. Halls of general education institutions may be provided to candidates, political parties running in the elections only after 18:00, or on non-working days, and only in cases where there are no other relevant halls for conducting election campaign in the given community (administrative district of the city of Yerevan).

3. No later than 20 days after calling elections of the National Assembly, the Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri, Vanadzor, the marz governor and, in case of Yerevan, the Mayor of Yerevan shall submit to the CEC the list of halls and other premises that shall be provided free of charge to political parties running in the elections. This list shall be posted on the website of the CEC. Information shall be submitted in accordance with the procedure prescribed by the CEC.

4. After calling elections, election campaign offices may be formed. Election campaign offices may not be located in the buildings occupied by state and local self-government bodies (except for cases where election campaign offices occupy an area not belonging to such bodies), in the buildings of general education institutions, as well as in the buildings where election commissions are functioning. Signboards placed on election campaign offices shall not be regarded as printed campaign materials within the meaning of this Code where they do not contain direct calls to vote for or against a candidate, a political party running in the elections, the number of such posters does not exceed the number of election precincts formed for elections, and where the surface area of every signboard does not exceed 6 square metres.

5. It shall be prohibited to conduct an election campaign and disseminate any type of campaign material by:

(1) state and local self-government bodies, as well as state and community servants (except for the members of the National Assembly), pedagogical staff of education institutions when performing their powers;

(2) judges, prosecutors, officers of the Investigative Committee, officers of the Special Investigation Service, Police, National Security Service, penitentiary institutions, officers of the Judicial Acts Compulsory Enforcement Service and military servants;

(3) members of the election commissions.

6. During the election campaign, as well as on the day preceding the Election Day and on the Election Day, candidates, political parties running in the elections shall be prohibited to provide (promise) — in person or through someone else on their behalf, or in any other manner, gratuitously or on preferential conditions — money, food, securities, goods to voters or to render (promise)

services to them. Charitable organisations, the names of which may resemble (be associated with) the names of political parties running in the elections and the names of candidates, may not carry out during the election campaign charity work in the communities where elections are held in which these candidates, political parties or candidates nominated thereby are running.

7. Election commissions shall exercise control over the observance of the procedure for election campaign established by this Code or legal acts adopted based on the Code. In case this procedure is violated by candidates, political parties running in the elections, the election commission having registered the candidate and the candidate list of a political party running in the elections shall apply to the competent authorities in order to prevent them, or shall impose a warning in respect of the candidate, political party running in the elections, which has committed the violation, by giving a reasonable period for eliminating the violation, which may not exceed 3 days. The candidate, the political party running in the elections shall be obliged to eliminate the violation (consequences of the violation) within the deadline referred to in the decision and shall inform the election commission thereon in writing.

8. Where there is a violation of the established procedure for the election campaign, which is of a continuous nature, and the committed violation may essentially affect the election results, or it is impossible to eliminate the consequences of the committed violation, and the committed violation may essentially affect the election results, the election commission — having registered the candidate, the candidate list of the political party running in the elections — shall apply to court for revoking the registration of the candidate, the candidate list of the political party running in the elections. The court may revoke the registration of the candidate, the candidate list of the political party running in the elections, where it concludes that the violation has been committed or directed to be committed by the candidate or the political party running in the elections.

9. Arrested or detained candidates and candidates included in the candidate list of a political party running in the elections shall conduct election campaign through proxies designated to act in electoral processes. To that end, arrested candidates or candidates kept in detention shall have the right, during the election campaign, to have meetings with up to 3 proxies for up to 2 hours a day at the facilities for holding arrestees or detention facilities, respectively.

## **Article 20. Election campaign through the mass media**

1. Political parties running in the elections of the National Assembly and the Council of Elders of Yerevan shall have the right to use the airtime (including by live broadcasting) of public radio and public television on equal conditions, free of charge and for pay.

2. The procedure and schedule for providing political parties running in the elections of the National Assembly and the Council of Elders of Yerevan free and paid airtime on public radio and public television shall be prescribed by the CEC on the next day following the expiry of the deadline prescribed for registration of the candidate lists of political parties running in the elections. During the second round of election of the National Assembly, election campaign shall start on the 8th day following the adoption of a decision on holding the second round of election.

3. During elections, public radio and public television shall be obliged to ensure non-discriminatory conditions for candidates, political parties running in the elections. News programmes on public radio and public television shall provide impartial and non-judgemental information on election campaigns of candidates, political parties running in the elections.

Failure to organise events by a candidate, political parties running in the elections or lack of information on those activities shall not serve as a ground for the mass media not to publish information on the campaign of the candidate, political parties running in the elections.

Upon revoking or declaring invalid the registration, contracts concluded with candidates, political parties running in the elections by radio companies and television companies for providing airtime for election campaign purposes shall be considered revoked, and the provision of airtime for election campaign purposes shall be terminated.

4. No later than 10 days after calling elections of the National Assembly and the Council of Elders of Yerevan, the National Commission on Television and Radio shall publish the price per minute of the paid airtime of public radio and public television, which may not exceed the market value of the

commercial advertisement for the last 6 months preceding the calling of elections and may not be changed until the end of the election campaign.

5. Provisions prescribed by part 3 of this Article shall also equally extend to other radio companies and television companies carrying out terrestrial on-air broadcasting, which provide airtime to candidates, political parties running in the elections for conducting election campaign, irrespective of the form of ownership.

No later than 10 days after calling elections, radio companies and television companies carrying out terrestrial on-air broadcasting shall publish the price per minute of their paid airtime, which may not exceed the average cost of the commercial advertisement for the last 6 months preceding the calling of elections and may not be changed until the end of the election campaign.

6. It shall be prohibited to interrupt radio programmes and television programmes on election campaign by commercial advertisement.

7. Television companies and radio companies carrying out terrestrial on-air broadcasting shall be obliged to observe the requirements of this Article when carrying out satellite broadcasting.

8. When carrying out terrestrial on-air broadcasting, radio programmes and television programmes on election campaign shall be audio- and video-taped. They shall be kept until the day the elected body assumes its powers.

9. Supervision over the observance by television companies and radio companies carrying out terrestrial on-air broadcasting of the established procedure for election campaigns shall be exercised by the National Commission on Television and Radio.

10. During the election campaign for the elections of the National Assembly and the Council of Elders of Yerevan, the National Commission on Television and Radio shall conduct monitoring for assessment of provision by television companies and radio companies carrying out terrestrial on-air broadcasting of equal conditions for political parties running in the elections. To this end, the National Commission on Television and Radio shall develop and, no later than 20 days after calling elections of the National Assembly and the Council of Elders of Yerevan, publish and submit to the CEC a methodology for assessment of provision by television companies and radio companies carrying out terrestrial on-air broadcasting of equal conditions for political parties running in the elections during the period of the election campaign.

11. During the elections of the National Assembly and the Council of Elders of Yerevan, the National Commission on Television and Radio shall — no later than on the 10th day and the 20th day of the time period established for the election campaign, as well as 2 days before the deadline established for summarising the election results — publish and submit to the CEC the results of the monitoring on fulfilling the requirements of this Article by television companies and radio companies carrying out terrestrial on-air broadcasting during the period of the election campaign, as well as the conclusion of the Commission on compliance by television companies and radio companies carrying out terrestrial on-air broadcasting with the established procedure for election campaigns.

In case the second round of election of the National Assembly is held, the National Commission on Television and Radio shall publish the conclusion referred to in this part and submit it to the CEC 2 days before the deadline prescribed by this Code for summarisation of the results of the second round of election.

12. Newspapers and magazines founded by state or local self-government bodies shall be obliged to ensure non-discriminatory and impartial conditions for candidates, political parties running in the elections during the period of the election campaign.

#### **Article 21. Procedure for using a campaign poster, printed campaign and other materials during election campaign**

1. Candidates, political parties running in the elections shall have the right to disseminate campaign posters, printed campaign and other materials in an unimpeded manner.

2. Campaign posters, printed campaign and other materials visible to the public may only be posted:

(1) at the places designated specifically for this purpose, on paid billboards, on election campaign offices;



(2) on or inside buildings, structures (except for buildings under the ownership of the State and the community, general education schools, block of flats or subdivided buildings, public catering or trading facilities), means of transport (except for public transport and taxi) belonging to or under the possession of natural persons upon their consent. Campaign posters, printed campaign and other materials on block of flats or subdivided buildings may only be posted on premises (including on the balcony, windows, etc.) under the ownership of the natural person or on paid billboards fixed to the external walls thereof.

Campaign posters, printed campaign and other materials may be posted or used without restrictions during holding of campaign assemblies, meetings with voters and other election related events — at the places of holding such events. Campaign posters, printed campaign and other materials posted during such events shall be removed by the relevant candidate, political party running in the elections after the event is over.

Natural persons having the right to carry out electoral campaign may carry campaign materials with them without restrictions.

3. The Head of the community shall be obliged to — 10 days before starting the election campaign — designate free places for posting a campaign poster, printed campaign and other materials in the territory of the community (except for general education schools), establishing such conditions which shall ensure equal opportunities (equal surface area) to candidates for Head of the community and member of council of elders, political parties running in the elections. This power shall be considered as a mandatory power for the Head of the community.

4. In case of a community with 10 000 or more voters, the Head of the community shall submit to the CEC the decision on designating free places for posting campaign posters, printed campaign and other materials within a 3-day period following the adoption of such decision.

5. Organisations disposing outdoor billboards shall — in case of placing campaign posters, other printed campaign materials during the period of the election campaign — ensure non-discriminatory and impartial conditions to candidates for Head of the community and member of council of elders, political parties running in the elections.

6. For the purpose of providing the political parties running in the elections with billboards with the surface area exceeding 5 square metres during the elections of the National Assembly and the Council of Elders of Yerevan, organisations disposing outdoor billboards shall — within a 21-day period after calling elections — submit information to the CEC on the quantity, surface areas, locations and rental charges for billboards being provided during the period of election campaign to political parties running in the elections. Information shall be provided in accordance with the procedure prescribed by the CEC. Billboards not included in the list submitted to the CEC may not later be provided to political parties running in the elections. The CEC shall post this information on the website of the Commission. Political parties running in the elections shall — within the deadlines prescribed by this Code for submitting documents for registration of candidate lists of political parties running in the elections — submit requests to the CEC for placing a campaign poster, other printed campaign materials on these billboards in the form prescribed by the CEC. Based on this information, the right to post a campaign poster, other printed campaign materials on outdoor billboards shall be distributed among political parties running in the elections upon the decision of the CEC. Based on the decision of the CEC, the political party running in the elections shall conclude a contract with an organisation disposing outdoor billboards for posting a campaign poster, other printed campaign material. Where no contract is concluded by the political party running in the elections within a 3-day period after entry into force of the decision of the CEC, the disposer of the billboard shall be free to conclude another contract for using this billboard for other purposes. During elections of the National Assembly and the Council of Elders of Yerevan the campaign poster with a surface area exceeding 5 square metres may only be posted on an outdoor billboard distributed beforehand by the CEC.

Posted campaign posters, printed campaign and other materials may remain in their places on the Election Day and the day preceding it.

7. Tearing off, scratching, as well as making notes on or damaging in any other way campaign posters, printed campaign and other materials shall be prohibited.

8. After receiving the decision of the election commission, the Head of the community, heads of organisations disposing outdoor billboards shall ensure that a campaign poster, printed campaign

and other materials of candidates, political parties running in the elections whose registration has been revoked or declared invalid are removed.

In case of failure to remove within a 3-day period the campaign posters, printed campaign and other materials by candidates, political parties running in the elections whose registration has been revoked or declared invalid, they shall be removed by the Head of the community. The Head of the community may claim from the candidates, political parties running in the elections whose registration has been revoked or declared invalid compensation for the expenses incurred by him or her.

9. A campaign poster, printed campaign and other materials posted in violation of the provisions of this Article shall be removed by the Head of the community, if necessary with the help of the Police. This function shall be considered as a delegated power of the Head of the community.

During the period of conducting election campaign the posters, printed and other materials with a surface area exceeding 5 square metres recognised by the CEC or TEC as being associated with election campaign must be removed in the communities where elections are conducted, and in which these candidates, political parties are running. Posters, printed and other materials with a surface area up to 5 square metres recognised as being associated with the election campaign, as well as posters, printed and other materials with a surface area exceeding 5 square metres deemed as being associated with the election campaign during the elections of the local self-government bodies must be removed, where the expenses of the given posters, printed and other materials are not included in a campaign fund as prescribed.

10. Printed campaign materials must include information on the client, printing organisation and the print run.

11. Dissemination of anonymous printed campaign materials shall be prohibited. In case of detecting printed campaign materials which is anonymous or not prepared by the relevant candidate, political party running in the elections, the informed election commission shall apply to competent authorities to stop the unlawful actions.

## **Article 22. Prohibiting influence on the free expression of will of voters**

1. Employees of radio companies and television companies carrying out terrestrial on-air broadcasting, who are registered as candidates, as well as persons having an employment contract or a contract on provision of paid services shall be prohibited to cover elections, to anchor radio programmes or television programmes except for cases prescribed by Article 20 of this Code.

2. When publishing the results of an opinion poll on ratings of candidates, political parties running in the elections, the organisation carrying out the opinion poll shall be obliged to indicate the deadlines of the poll, the number of respondents and the type of sample, type and place of collection, precise wording of the question, statistical evaluation of a possible error, and the client. It shall be prohibited to publish the results of an opinion poll in relation to candidates, political parties running in the elections, as well as information thereon via television, radio carrying out terrestrial on-air broadcasting, or the print media on the day preceding the voting, as well as on the Election Day by 20:00.

3. Assembling in groups on the territory — with up to 50 metre radius — adjacent to a polling station, as well as cluster of vehicles on the territory adjacent to the entrance of a polling station on the Election Day shall be prohibited. Enforcement of the provisions of this part, as well as maintenance of the public order within that territory shall be ensured by the police officers on duty at the polling station, irrespective of the request of the election commission.

## **Article 23. Restrictions for election campaigns of candidates who are public servants**

1. Candidates who are public servants, candidates included in the candidate list of the political party running in the elections shall carry out the election campaign taking into account the following restrictions:

(1) direct or indirect appeals to vote for or against a candidate, a political party running in the elections while performing official powers or any abuse of the official position to gain advantage during elections shall be prohibited;

(2) use of premises, means of transport and communication, material and human resources provided for performing official responsibilities for election campaign purposes shall be prohibited,

except for security measures applicable in respect of high-ranking officials subject to state protection under the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On ensuring the safety of persons subject to special state protection”.

2. Where coverage of other activities of a candidate referred to in this Article, who is included in the candidate list of the political parties running in the elections is carried out, the mass media carrying out terrestrial on-air broadcasting shall consider this when covering the activities of other candidates, political parties running in the elections, in order to comply with the non-discriminatory principle of equality of coverage prescribed by Article 20 of this Code.

## **CHAPTER 5 FUNDING OF ELECTIONS**

### **Article 24. Funding of organisation and holding of elections**

1. The funding of expenditures for organising and holding elections (including drawing up lists of voters, organising professional courses for holding elections), as well as of expenditures necessary for the activities of election commissions shall be made at the expense of the funds of the State Budget. Such expenditures shall be provided for by the State Budget under a separate item and shall be incorporated under one line in the Public Procurement Plan for state needs.

When making procurement at the expense of financial means allocated for organising and holding elections, the procurement procedure shall be prescribed by the CEC.

2. In case of holding early, new regular, new elections, repeat voting, as well as second round of election of the National Assembly, elections shall be funded from the reserve fund of the State Budget and, if it is impossible, the CEC shall use the funds available on the special account of electoral deposits of the CEC. Where the funds available on the special account of electoral deposits of the CEC are not sufficient, the CEC may, on a competitive basis, obtain a loan from private banks. In this case, it is considered by virtue of law that the Government of the Republic of Armenia has provided the banks — in the amount of that sum, including the sum for service of loan — with a budget guarantee for a term of 3 years without any security. The Government shall — within a 3-year period — reimburse the funds used from the special account of electoral deposits, and the loan.

3. Where budgetary funds are not provided in a timely manner, or no means are available in the reserve of the Central Bank of the Republic of Armenia, or the provided means are insufficient to fund the elections, the CEC shall be entitled to obtain a loan from private banks on a competitive basis or to use the funds available on the special account of electoral deposits of the CEC. The Government shall compensate the loan or the funds used from the special account of electoral deposits within a 3-month period.

4. Financial means intended for organising and holding elections (including those designated for the maintenance of commissions) shall be allocated to the “Staff of the CEC” state administration institution. The “Staff of the CEC” state administration institution shall, as prescribed by this Code and the legislation of the Republic of Armenia, dispose of the financial means and shall be responsible for using such means in accordance with the estimates prescribed by the CEC.

### **Article 25. Electoral deposit**

1. Candidates, political parties running in the elections shall pay an electoral deposit to the account of the CEC.

2. The amount of the electoral deposit shall be returned within a 7-day period in the following cases:

- (1) being elected or participating in the distribution of mandates;
- (2) receiving ballot papers with affirmative vote, which makes 5 or more per cent of the number of ballot papers with affirmative vote cast for all candidates, whereas in case of the political party — receiving ballot papers with affirmative vote, which makes 4 or more per cent of the number of ballot papers with affirmative vote cast for all political parties running in the elections;
- (3) recusal prior to the registration of candidates, candidate lists of political parties running in the elections;
- (4) declaring the election results invalid and calling a new regular or a new election or
- (5) death of candidate — to his or her heirs.

3. In all other cases the amount of the electoral deposit shall not be returned.

## **Article 26. Formation of a campaign fund**

1. In case of elections of the National Assembly, Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri and Vanadzor, the political parties (alliances of political parties) running in the elections, candidates for Head of the community having 10 000 and more voters, as well as candidates for Head of the community and for member of council of elders in cases prescribed by part 1 of Article 115 of this Code shall be obliged to set up a campaign fund within 7 days after the adoption of the decision on registering the candidate, the candidate list of the political party (the alliance of political parties) running in the elections. In case of not setting up a campaign fund — within 3 working days after being subjected to administrative liability for not setting up a campaign fund — the competent election commission shall apply to court for revoking the registration of the candidate, the candidate list of political party running in the elections. Political parties included in an alliance of political parties and candidates nominated through the candidate list of a political party running in the elections shall not be entitled to form a separate campaign fund. Means of the campaign fund of political parties (alliances of political parties) running in the elections of the National Assembly and the Council of Elders of Yerevan shall be collected in the Central Bank of the Republic of Armenia, whereas means of the campaign fund of candidates, political parties running in other elections shall be collected in any commercial bank having a branch in Yerevan and all marzes of the Republic. The Central Bank of the Republic of Armenia shall provide the CEC with the list of such banks. For the purpose of forming a campaign fund, banks shall open temporary special accounts based on the applications of candidates, political parties (alliances of political parties) running in the elections. Revenues shall not be calculated and paid from those accounts.

2. The campaign fund of a candidate shall be formed from:

- (1) his or her personal funds;
- (2) funds provided by the political party that has nominated him or her;
- (3) voluntary contributions by persons having the right to vote.

3. The campaign fund of a political party (alliance of political parties) running in the elections shall be formed from:

- (1) funds of that political party (member political parties of the alliance);
- (2) personal funds of a candidate included in the candidate list of the political party (alliance of political parties) running in the elections;
- (3) voluntary contributions by persons having the right to vote.

4. Amounts paid to accounts of campaign funds by natural and legal persons not referred to in parts 2 and 3 of this Article shall be transferred to the State Budget. Anonymous contributions made to the account of campaign funds shall also be transferred to the State Budget.

5. The procedure for record keeping of contributions made to campaign funds, and expenditures made from such funds shall be prescribed by the CEC.

6. The maximum amounts of contributions made to campaign funds shall be prescribed by this Code. Campaign fund contribution parts, which are in excess of the maximum amount of contributions prescribed by this Code, shall be transferred to the State Budget.

7. Banks where temporary special accounts are opened shall — once every 3 working days after the expiry of the deadline prescribed by this Code for the registration of candidates, candidate lists of political parties running in the elections — submit to the Oversight and Audit Service of the CEC a statement of information on financial receipts and expenditure of campaign funds of candidates, political parties (alliances of political parties) running in the elections. The Oversight and Audit Service shall summarise such data, draw up a brief statement of information and post it on the website of the CEC.

8. Attachment may not be imposed on means of the campaign fund, such means may not be subject to levy in execution due to personal obligations not related to the election campaign of a candidate, political party (alliance of political parties) running in the elections.

## **Article 27. Use of means of campaign fund**

1. For the purpose of funding the conduct of an election campaign through the mass media, renting of halls, premises for organising election gatherings and meetings with voters (except for election campaign offices), preparing (placing), acquiring a campaign poster, printed campaign and other

materials, preparing all types of campaign materials (including printed materials) to be provided to voters, the candidates, political parties running in the elections shall only use means of the campaign fund. The maximum amount of expenditures made from a campaign fund for this purpose shall be prescribed by this Code.

2. Where the goods and services described in part 1 of this Article were provided gratuitously or at a price lower than the market value or acquired prior to formation of the campaign fund, they shall be included in the expenditures of the campaign fund at their market value.

3. Where it is specified in the conclusion of the Oversight and Audit Service that the good or service rendered for the purposes prescribed by part 1 of this Article for an election campaign has not been included in the expenditures of the campaign fund at its market value, the CEC shall institute administrative proceedings. Where the results of the instituted proceedings confirm the information specified in the conclusion of the Oversight and Audit Service, it shall impose an administrative penalty on the candidate, political party running in the elections in the amount of 3-fold of the expenditures not included in the fund expenditures.

4. Where it is substantiated that the expenditures made for the election campaign of a candidate, political party running in the elections have exceeded the maximum amount of expenditures prescribed by this Code, incurred for the purposes prescribed by part 1 of this Article, the CEC shall institute administrative proceedings, and where the results of the instituted proceedings confirm the information specified in the conclusion of the Oversight and Audit Service, it shall impose a fine on the candidate, political party running in the elections in the amount of 3-fold of the sum exceeding the maximum amount of the fund prescribed by this Code.

5. Where the difference between the amount spent for the purposes prescribed by part 1 of this Article for an election campaign and the amount of the fine paid to the State Budget prescribed by parts 3 and 4 of this Article, and the maximum amount of the campaign fund prescribed by this Code exceeds 20 per cent of the maximum amount of the campaign fund prescribed by this Code, the court shall, on the basis of the application of the election commission, revoke the registration of the candidate, the candidate list of the political party running in the elections.

6. In case of failure to transfer the amounts prescribed by this Article to the State Budget within a 5-day period after the decision of the election commission or failure to appeal against the decision of the election commission through judicial procedure within the same deadline, the election commission shall levy the mentioned amount through judicial procedure.

7. All operations with the accounts of campaign funds shall be terminated as of the Election Day.

8. Based on the application of candidates, political parties running in the elections, the CEC shall allow making payments from the fund after the Election Day as well, but only for transactions carried out before the Election Day.

9. After the election, the means remaining in the campaign fund shall — within a 3-month period following the official announcement of election results — be used for charitable purposes at the discretion of the candidate, political party running in the elections. After the expiry of the 3-month period, the means remaining in the campaign fund shall be transferred to the State Budget.

10. In the cases of declaring elections not having taken place or declaring elections invalid or calling new regular or new elections, the means remaining in the campaign fund shall be frozen until candidates, candidate lists of political parties running in the elections are registered for the new regular or new elections. In case of new regular or new elections, candidates, political parties running in the elections may use the means remaining in their campaign funds.

11. The means remaining in campaign funds of the candidates, political parties running in the elections which do not run in the new regular or new elections shall — within a 3-month period — be used for charitable purposes at the discretion of the candidate, the political party running in the elections. After the expiry of the 3-month period, the means remaining in the campaign fund shall be transferred to the State Budget.

12. Provisions of this Article shall also apply during the second round of election of the National Assembly.

## **Article 28. Declaration on the contributions made to campaign funds and on the use thereof**

1. Candidates, political parties running in the elections shall submit to the Oversight and Audit Service a declaration on the contributions made to their campaign funds and on the use thereof on

the 10th day following the commencement of the election campaign, also on the 20th day in case of the regular elections of the National Assembly, Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri and Vanadzor, as well as no later than 3 days before the period for summarising election results prescribed by this Code. Contracts of a candidate, political party running in the elections concluded for funding the conduct of election campaign through the mass media, renting of halls, premises for the purpose of organising election gatherings and meetings with voters (except for election campaign offices), preparing (placing), acquiring a campaign poster, printed campaign and other materials, preparing all types of campaign materials (including printed materials) to be provided to voters, as well as documents certifying the payments made shall be attached to the declaration.

In case of holding second round of election of the National Assembly, the political party running in the second round shall — no later than 3 days before the deadline prescribed by this Code for summarisation of election results— submit to the Oversight and Audit Service a declaration on the contributions made to campaign funds and on the use thereof.

2. The electronic form of the declaration shall be established by the CEC. The form of the declaration shall also include guidelines on the procedure and deadlines for drawing up and submitting the declaration.

3. The following shall be specified in the declaration:

(1) the timeline of all contributions made to the campaign fund and the amount of contributions;

(2) the expenses made for the acquisition of every service, property, good prescribed by part 1 of Article 27 of this Code, the deadline for making such expenses, the details of documents certifying such expenses;

(3) the amount remaining in the campaign fund.

4. Within a 3-day period following the submission of declarations, they shall be posted on the website of the CEC.

#### **Article 29. Oversight and Audit Service**

1. The Audit and Oversight Service shall carry out oversight of the contributions made to campaign funds, expenditures and their calculation, as well as of the daily financial activities of political parties. The Audit and Oversight Service shall act independently from election commissions and shall not be accountable to them.

2. The position of the Head of the Oversight and Audit Service shall be a civil position, the other 2 employees of the Service shall be civil servants. The Head of the Oversight and Audit Service shall be appointed by the decision of the CEC for a term of 7 years. The official pay rates for the Head of the Oversight and Audit Service shall be prescribed by the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On remuneration for persons holding state positions”. The Head of the Service may not be a member of any political party.

3. For the purpose of ensuring the transparency and publicity of contributions made to campaign funds, expenditures and their calculation, every faction of the National Assembly may — within a 10-day period after calling elections of the National Assembly — appoint one auditor to the Oversight and Audit Service, qualified as an auditor in the Republic of Armenia and having the right of suffrage. The auditors of factions of the National Assembly appointed to the Oversight and Audit Service shall be remunerated for 2 months in the amount of 3-fold of the nominal amount of the minimum monthly salary prescribed by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia for every month. Their activities shall terminate on the 5th day following the announcement of election results.

4. During the regular elections of the National Assembly, Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri, Vanadzor, and elections of local self-government bodies, up to 5 specialists may be involved in the Oversight and Audit Service on a contractual basis for a period of up to 1 month.

5. The Oversight and Audit Service shall — within 7 days after receiving the declarations on the use of means available in campaign funds of candidates, political parties running in the elections, but no later than 1 day before the deadline prescribed for summarisation of election results — carry out inspection, draw up a conclusion on inspection results and submit it to the CEC. The CEC shall be obliged to immediately publish it on the website of the CEC. In case violations are recorded in the conclusion, the CEC shall be obliged to examine them. A representative of the Oversight and Audit Service shall be invited to that session of the CEC.

6. Powers of the Oversight and Audit Service shall be as follows:

- (1) receive from banks — where temporary special accounts are opened for the formation of campaign funds — relevant information, statements, copies of documents on financial inflows and outflows of campaign funds of candidates, political parties running in the elections;
- (2) receive from banks, political parties and other organisations providing goods, services or carrying out works relevant information, statements, copies of documents on membership fees paid to the political party, donations to the political party, budget financing, proceeds from civil transactions as well as other proceeds and expenditures not prohibited by the legislation;
- (3) prepare draft decisions on issues related to its activities and submit them to the CEC for consideration.

7. The rules of procedure of the Oversight and Audit Service shall be prescribed by the CEC in compliance with the requirements of this Code and the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On political parties”.

## **CHAPTER 6 *OBSERVERS, PROXIES, MASS MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES, AUTHORISED REPRESENTATIVES***

### **Article 30. Right of observation mission**

1. The following shall have the right to act as observation mission during elections:

- (1) international organisations and those foreign non-governmental organisations whose charter objectives include issues of democracy and protection of human rights;
- (2) those non-governmental organisations of the Republic of Armenia whose charter objectives include — for minimum 1 years preceding the day of calling elections — issues related to democracy and protection of human rights and which do not support candidates or political parties running in the elections.

2. International organisations, foreign non-governmental organisations referred to in part 1 of this Article may carry out observation mission upon invitation. Citizens of the Republic of Armenia may not be included as an observer in the observation missions of international organisations, foreign non-governmental organisations.

The following shall be entitled to invite the organisations referred to in this part to carry out observation mission:

- (1) the President of the Republic;
- (2) the President of the National Assembly;
- (3) the Prime Minister;
- (4) the CEC.

3. Election related reports submitted by observation missions of the organisations referred to in points 1 and 2 of part 1 of this Article shall be posted on the website of the Commission.

4. Upon invitation, representatives of diplomatic and consular representations accredited to the Republic of Armenia may, during elections, carry out monitoring of the election process with the status of a visitor. The invitation shall be sent by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia.

5. Upon invitation, representatives of electoral bodies of other states may, during elections, carry out with a status of a visitor monitoring of the electoral process. The invitation shall be sent by the Chairperson of the CEC of the Republic of Armenia.

### **Article 31. Accreditation of observers and mass media representatives, issuance of certificates for observers, mass media representatives and visitors**

1. Observers of the organisations referred to in part 1 of Article 30 of this Code shall carry out their mission after being accredited to the CEC.

2. Applications for accreditation or for making amendments (supplements) to the list of accredited observers shall be submitted to the CEC after the date of calling elections, but no later than 15 days before the Election Day.

Before submitting an application for accreditation, non-governmental organisations registered in the Republic of Armenia shall be obliged to adopt code of conduct for their observers, which must be in line with the international principles for election observation and the regulations of this Code. Non-governmental organisations referred to in this part shall organise and hold for their observers trainings on electoral legislation and on code of conduct for observers of the organisation. The application for accreditation must contain an indication on the adoption of and training on the code of conduct for observers of the organisation.

3. The CEC shall deliver to those organisations the certificates to be issued for observers during 12 days after receiving the application.
4. The CEC shall reject the application on accreditation of observers, where the charter objectives of the organisation do not meet the requirements of points 1 and 2 of part 1 of Article 30 of this Code, or the application has been submitted in violation of the deadlines prescribed by part 2 of this Article, or where the submitted documents do not comply with the requirements of the decision of the CEC prescribed by part 9 of this Article, or the application does not contain an indication on the adoption of or training on the code of conduct for observers of the organisation.
5. In case an observer supports any candidate, political party running in the elections, as well as violates the requirements of this Code in such a way that essentially hinders the smooth operation of the election commission or the smooth voting process, the chairperson of the election commission may remove the observer from the session of the commission, and from the polling station on the Election Day, upon a decision adopted by at least 2/3 of the votes of the total number of members of the election commission.
6. Powers of observers shall terminate on the 8th day following the official announcement of election results, unless an appeal has been lodged with the court against the election results. In case of lodging an appeal with the court against the election results, the powers of observers shall cease on the day following the date of announcement of the judicial act, unless second round of the election or repeat voting is called. In case of the second round of the election or repeat voting, accreditation of observers shall not be required again.
7. Certificates for visitors shall be issued by the CEC on the basis of applications submitted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia.
8. Representatives of a legal person or a natural person being an individual entrepreneur carrying out media activities (hereinafter referred to as “the mass media representatives”) may, on the Election Day, conduct coverage of elections and voting after being accredited to the CEC. The entity carrying out media activities may accredit its representatives, if it has been disseminating on its behalf mass media for at least one year. A 1-year limitation shall not apply where the entity carrying out media activities disseminates mass media through terrestrial on-air broadcasting. The application for being accredited and the list of mass media representatives shall be submitted to the CEC after the day of calling elections, but no later than 15 days before the Election Day. Every entity carrying out media activities may accredit to the CEC only one mass media disseminated on its behalf and no more than 50 representatives of that mass media. The CEC shall hand over to the given mass media the certificates being issued for the mass media representatives during 12 days after receiving the application. The CEC shall reject the application on accreditation of the mass media representatives, where it does not meet the requirements of this Article, or the submitted documents do not comply with the requirements of the decision of the CEC as prescribed by part 9 of this Article. In case the mass media representative violates the requirements of this Code in such a way that essentially hinders the smooth operation of the election commission or the smooth voting process, such representative may be removed from the session of the commission, and from the polling station on the Election Day, upon a decision adopted by at least 2/3 of the votes of the total number of members of the election commission.
9. The procedure for accreditation of observers, mass media representatives, the list of documents and information necessary for accreditation, electronic forms of documents submitted for accreditation and the procedure for the submission thereof, forms of certificates for observers, mass media representatives and visitors, and the procedure for completing them shall be prescribed by the CEC.



### **Article 32. Rights, responsibilities and guarantees for activities of an observer, mass media representative, visitor**

1. An observer, mass media representative, visitor shall have the right to:

- (1) be present at the sessions of election commission and, during the voting, in the polling room as well;
- (2) observe, as prescribed by the CEC, the processes of printing, transportation, keeping and counting of ballot papers and sticker;
- (3) get familiar with election related documents under the disposal of the CEC, TEC, and independently make extracts, receive copies of the documents which are not posted on the website of the CEC;
- (4) get familiar — in the presence of the chairperson, secretary of the PEC or one of the members of the commission as assigned by the chairperson of the commission — with election related documents under the disposal of the PEC (except for lists of voters having participated in the voting, during the voting), relevant court judgments, the relevant statement of information provided to the voter by the authorised body. Not intervening in the activities of the election commission and not hindering the voting process, independently make extracts and notes from election related documents (except for lists of voters having participated in the voting, voting slips). During the voting, it shall be prohibited to make extracts and notes from lists of voters having participated in the voting and from voting slips;
- (5) freely move in the polling room for observing the ballot papers, ballot envelopes, lists of voters and the ballot box;
- (6) publicly, including through the mass media, express an opinion, make a statement on organising and holding of elections;
- (7) enjoy other rights provided for by this Code.

2. When exercising their rights, an observer, visitor shall be obliged to be unbiased, neutral, not to express a prejudiced position publicly nor display a preferential attitude towards any issue related to the authorities or opposition, candidates, political parties running in the elections. Observers may submit their personal observations to election commissions through the report of the observation mission. Observers shall base all their findings on their personal observations.

3. An observer, visitor, mass media representative shall not have the right to intervene in the activities of an election commission and in the process of voting, to conduct a campaign, to give instructions, make claims to members of the election commission.

4. An observer, mass media representative, visitor shall be obliged to register in the registration book of the election commission for being present at the sessions of the election commission, as well as during the voting, in the polling room.

An observer, mass media representative, visitor shall be obliged to — for being present at the election commission and, during the voting, also in the polling room — mandatorily carry, in a visible manner, the certificate of the established sample issued by the CEC.

5. No limitation of the rights of observer, mass media representative, visitor, prescribed by this Code, shall be allowed. No one (including election commissions) shall have the right to remove an observer, mass media representative, visitor from the polling station or otherwise exclude them from the activities of the commission, except for the cases provided for by parts 5 and 8 of Article 31 and part 7 of Article 65 of this Code.

In case an observer, mass media representative, visitor is asked to leave the polling station or the sessions of the election commission, a relevant entry shall be made in the registration book of the election commission together with an indication of the reasons.

### **Article 33. Status of proxy**

1. Political parties running in the elections — after registering the candidate lists, and candidates, after having registered — may have proxies for the purpose of protecting their interests in election commissions, in their relations with state and local self-government bodies, organisations, mass media. Only persons having the right of suffrage may act as a proxy.

2. After registration of candidates for Head of the community and member of council of elders (except for members of the Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri and Vanadzor), candidate lists of political parties running in the elections, the election commission making the registration shall

within a 5-day period provide the candidate, authorised representative of the political party running in the elections with proxy certificates equal to the 3-fold of the number of the formed electoral precincts. The relevant commission shall indicate in the certificate the name of the political party running in the elections, the name, patronymic, surname of the candidate for Head of the community, member of council of elders. The candidate or his or her authorised representative or the authorised representative of the political party running in the elections shall complete the certificates and provide them to proxies.

3. Judges, prosecutors, officers of the Investigative Committee, the Special Investigation Service, officers of the Police, National Security Service, Judicial Acts Compulsory Enforcement Service, officers of Penitentiary Service, military servants, observers, candidates, members of election commissions may not act as a proxy.

#### **Article 34. Rights, responsibilities and guarantees for activities of a proxy**

1. A proxy shall have the right to:

(1) participate, in an advisory capacity, in the sessions of a commission, be present in the polling room during the voting;

(2) get familiar with election related documents under the disposal of the CEC, TEC and independently make extracts, receive copies of the documents which are not posted on the website of the CEC;

(3) get familiar — in the presence of the chairperson, secretary of the PEC or one of the members of the commission as assigned by the chairperson of the commission — with election related documents under the disposal of the PEC (except for lists of persons having participated in the voting, during the voting), relevant court judgments, the relevant statement of information provided to the voter by the authorised body, as well as ballot papers voted on and marks made thereon. Not intervening in the activities of the election commission and not hindering the voting process, independently make extracts and notes from election related documents (except for lists of voters having participated in the voting, voting slips), during the recount of voting results, independently make extracts from lists of voters having participated in the voting. During the voting, it shall be prohibited to make extracts and notes from lists of voters having participated in the voting and from voting slips;

(4) in the manner and cases prescribed by this Code, appeal against the decisions, actions, inaction of the election commissions;

(5) observe, as prescribed by the CEC, the processes of printing, transportation, keeping and counting of ballot papers and sticker;

(6) be present — without intervening in the activities of the member of commission and the person maintaining the technical equipment (hereinafter referred to as “the specialist”) — near the commission members, identifying the voters, providing a ballot paper and a ballot envelope, and the specialist, the member controlling the ballot box, as well as observe their activities;

(7) submit observations and recommendations to the chairperson of the commission with regard to activities of the election commission;

(8) exercise other rights reserved thereto by this Code.

2. A proxy shall exercise his or her rights as prescribed by this Code.

Proxies shall not have the right to intervene in the activities of an election commission, to give instructions to members of the election commission, to intervene in the process of voting.

3. One proxy of every candidate for Head of the community and member of council of elders and one proxy of every political party running in the elections may be present at the session of the election commission and in a polling room during the voting. During elections of the National Assembly up to 2 proxies of every political party running in the elections may be present at the session of the election commission and in a polling room during the voting.

Candidates included in the candidate list of political parties, running in the elections of the National Assembly, Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri, Vanadzor may not have proxies.

Proxies shall be obliged to register in the registration book of the election commission for being present at the sessions of the election commission, as well as during the voting, in the polling room.

4. No limitation of the rights of proxy prescribed by this Code shall be allowed. No one (including election commissions) shall have the right to remove the proxy from the polling room or otherwise

exclude him or her from the activities of the commission, except for cases where he or she violates the requirements of this Code in such a way that essentially hinders the smooth operation of the election commission or the smooth voting process. The chairperson of the election commission may remove the proxy from the session of the commission and from the polling station on the Election Day, upon a decision adopted by at least 2/3 of the votes of the total number of members of the election commission. Where the chairperson of the commission asks a proxy to leave the polling station or the sessions of the commission, a relevant entry shall be made in the registration book of the election commission, indicating the reasons.

**Article 35. Status of authorised representatives of a political party running in the elections**

1. Political parties running in the elections shall have the right to appoint up to 3 authorised representatives to the election commission having registered the candidate list of the political party.
2. Only persons having the right of suffrage may act as an authorised representative.
3. An authorised representative shall be provided with a certificate of the form established by the CEC.
4. An authorised representative shall have the right to:
  - (1) get familiar with the election related documents under the disposal of the relevant election commission;
  - (2) participate, in an advisory capacity, in the sessions of the relevant election commission.
5. Powers of an authorised representative may be terminated at any point by the person having appointed him or her.
6. Powers of an authorised representative shall terminate 7 days after the publication of the final decision based on the results of elections.
7. In case an appeal is lodged with a court against the election results, the powers of an authorised representative shall terminate on the day following the date of announcement of the judicial act.
8. The provisions prescribed by this Article shall also apply to the authorised representative of a candidate for Head of the community or member of council of elders.

## SECTION 2. ELECTION COMMISSIONS

### CHAPTER 7 SYSTEM, FUNCTIONS OF ELECTION COMMISSIONS. STATUS OF MEMBERS OF ELECTION COMMISSIONS

#### **Article 36. System, status and procedure for activities of election commissions**

1. For the purpose of organising and holding elections, a 3-level system of election commissions — consisting of the CEC, TECs and PECs — shall be formed.
2. One or more TECs shall be formed for every electoral district. The total number of TECs may not exceed 41. More than one TEC in an electoral district shall be formed, numbered, the boundaries of service areas and the seats of TECs shall be prescribed by the decision of the CEC.
3. Where a community is included in the service areas of more than one TEC, the CEC shall — no later than 65 days before the Election Day — designate the TEC which shall be vested with the power to organise and hold elections of local self-government bodies in the community concerned.
4. Election commissions shall be independent in exercising their powers. Any intervention in their activities shall be prohibited.
5. Election commissions shall exercise their powers based on the principles of lawfulness, collegiality and publicity.
6. State and local self-government bodies shall gratuitously provide TECs with necessary office space and facilities, shall support the commissions for ensuring their smooth activities.

#### **Article 37. Functions of election commissions**

1. Election commissions shall ensure the exercise and protection of the right of suffrage of voters.

#### **Article 38. Acts of election commissions**

1. The CEC shall adopt secondary regulatory legal acts and individual legal acts, whereas TECs and PECs shall adopt individual legal acts.  
Chairpersons of the CEC and TEC may adopt individual legal acts.
2. Legal acts of election commissions shall be binding.

#### **Article 39. Status of members of election commissions**

1. Member of election commission shall act in the election commission independently and shall not represent the person having appointed him or her.
2. Members of election commissions shall be exempt from drills or military trainings. During the period of elections of the National Assembly, members of election commissions shall be subject to draft for compulsory military service after the end of the election. Members of the CEC shall also be exempt from mobilisation.
3. Criminal prosecution may be initiated against a member of the CEC only upon the consent of the CEC. Without the consent of the CEC, member of commission may not be deprived of liberty, except where he or she has been caught at the time of or immediately after committing a criminal offence. The CEC shall adopt a decision on the mentioned issue by majority of votes of the total number of members of the commission.
4. Member of the CEC shall work on a permanent basis. He or she may not act as member of any political party or otherwise engage in political activities, hold a position not related to his or her status in state or local self-government bodies or any position in commercial organisations, engage in entrepreneurial activities, perform other paid work except for scientific, educational and creative activities. In public speeches, they must show political restraint.
5. Member of TEC may not act as a member of any political party, nor engage in political activities during his or her term of office. In public speeches, they must show political restraint.
6. Members of election commission shall have the right to get familiar in advance with issues and documents submitted to the commission for consideration, make speeches at the commission sessions, submit recommendations and require holding a voting on that issue, ask questions to participants of the session and receive answers.

7. Members of election commission shall be obliged to perform tasks assigned by the chairperson of the commission within the scope of his or her competence.
8. Members of higher level election commission — upon the assignment or the consent of the chairperson of that commission — shall be obliged to or may respectively participate in sessions of a lower election commission, in an advisory capacity, and be present in the polling room on the Election Day.
9. Members of TECs and PECs may, on their own initiative, be exempt from performing their official (work) responsibilities for the purpose of exercising their powers.
10. Member of election commission shall be obliged to participate in the activities of the commission and perform his or her powers, as well as participate in professional courses being organised for members of election commission, and this shall not be deemed an invalid absence from his or her work.
11. PEC member shall, at the 1st session of the commission, sign the text of the rights and responsibilities of the PEC member.

#### **Article 40. Funding of election commissions, remuneration of members of election commissions**

1. Election commissions shall be funded, and members of election commissions shall be remunerated at the expense of the funds of the State Budget as prescribed by the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On remuneration for persons holding state positions” and this Article. The CEC may also have an extra-budgetary account for implementing programmes aimed at improving the quality of electoral administration and technical re-equipment of election commissions.
2. The official pay rates for members of the CEC shall be prescribed by the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On remuneration for persons holding state positions”.
3. The chairperson of PEC, secretary or members of PEC shall not be remunerated where they failed to sign the PEC results protocol, or their powers have terminated early.
4. Up to 30 per cent of the funds available on the special account of electoral deposits of the CEC may — in accordance with the budget approved by the decision of the CEC for every year — be used for studying the practice of election administration, implementation of programmes aimed at improving the quality of election administration, for technical re-equipment of election commissions, and for preparation and publishing of materials with regard to electoral legislation. The funds remaining on the special account of electoral deposits of the CEC may — upon the decision of the CEC — be used for technical re-equipment of election commissions and for preparation and publishing of materials with regard to electoral legislation.

### **CHAPTER 8 FORMATION OF ELECTION COMMISSIONS**

#### **Article 41. Fundamentals for formation of election commissions**

1. Citizens, having the right of suffrage and meeting the requirements of Articles 42 and 43 of this Code, may respectively be included in the composition of the CEC and TECs.
2. Persons convicted of crimes, as well as intentionally committed crimes of medium gravity, grave or particularly grave crimes provided for by Articles 149-154.6 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Armenia may not act as member of election commission. Deputies of the National Assembly, ministers and their deputies, heads of communities, marz governors and their deputies, judges, prosecutors, officers of the Investigation Committee, of the Special Investigation Service, officers of the Police, National Security Service, Judicial Acts Compulsory Enforcement Service, officers of the Penitentiary Service, military servants, proxies, authorised representatives of a political party running in the elections, a candidate for Head of the community and member of council of elders, observers, candidates may not act as member of TEC and PEC. Members of councils of elders may not also act as members of TECs. The CEC may prescribe higher qualification criteria for chairperson and secretary of PEC than for PEC members.
3. Persons having the right of suffrage and having a qualification certificate for being included in an election commission may be included in the composition of PEC.
4. Following the formation of TECs, the CEC shall carry out training of members of those commissions.

5. The CEC shall — in the manner it has prescribed — organise and conduct professional courses on holding elections for candidates for members of election commissions. The courses shall be organised in the city of Yerevan and in marzes, at least once a year, based on the applications of citizens, the lists submitted by political parties. Persons included in the submitted lists, as well as persons having submitted an application shall participate in the professional courses in compliance with the schedule (date, time, venue) published by the CEC in advance. The persons referred to may participate in a test, irrespective of the fact of participating in the course, in compliance with the published schedule. Qualification certificates shall be issued based on the test. The test shall be carried out through computer-based or standard testing method. Representatives of mass media, non-governmental organisations may follow the process of the courses and the test.
6. A citizen may simultaneously be included in the composition of only one election commission, except for the case prescribed by this part for a PEC member.  
A citizen may simultaneously be member of more than one PECs where different Election Days for elections are prescribed.
7. Information on the composition of election commissions shall be published as prescribed by the CEC.

#### **Article 42. Procedure for formation of the CEC**

1. The CEC shall comprise of 7 members.
2. The chairperson and other members of the CEC shall, upon recommendation of the competent standing committee of the National Assembly, be elected by the National Assembly upon at least 3/5 of votes of the total number of Deputies, for a term of 6 years. The same person may not be elected as a member of the CEC, including as chairperson of the commission for more than 2 consecutive terms.  
The number of representatives of every sex in the CEC shall not be less than 2.
3. Everyone, meeting the requirements for Deputies, shall be eligible for being elected as member of the CEC provided that he or she has:
  - (1) higher legal education and at least 3 years of professional work record within the last 5 years;
  - (2) scientific degree in law and at least 2 years of professional work record within the last 5 years;
  - (3) higher education and at least 5 years of work record of public service in state bodies within the last 10 years; or
  - (4) higher education and at least 3 years of professional experience in a standing election commission within the last 5 years or at least 3 years of work record in the staff of the commission.
4. The chairperson of the CEC shall — no later than 60 days before termination of powers of a member of the CEC — notify the President of the National Assembly on the term of termination of powers of the member of the CEC.
5. The chairperson and members of the CEC shall be elected as prescribed by the Law of the Republic of Armenia “Rules of Procedure of the National Assembly”.  
Elections shall be held:
  - (1) no earlier than 3 months and no later than 1 day before termination of powers of the chairperson or member of the CEC. In this case, newly-elected chairperson or member of the CEC shall assume his or her powers on the day of termination of powers of the chairperson or member of the CEC, respectively;
  - (2) within a 3-month period after the relevant position remains vacant, in case of early termination or termination of powers of the chairperson or member of the CEC.
6. In case the chairperson or member of the CEC is not elected by the National Assembly within the deadline prescribed by part 5 of this Article, the President of the Republic, in consultation with parliamentary factions, shall — within a 5-day period — appoint acting chairperson or member of the CEC. The acting chairperson or member shall hold his or her office until the chairperson or member of the CEC is elected as prescribed by the Law of the Republic of Armenia “Rules of Procedure of the National Assembly”.
7. In case the chairperson or a member of the CEC submits a letter of resignation, the vacant position shall be filled no later than within a 30-day period as prescribed by the Law on “Rules of Procedure of the National Assembly”. In case of early termination of powers of a member of the CEC, the new member of the CEC shall be elected for a term of 6 years.

8. The powers of a member of the CEC shall be terminated as prescribed by the Law of the Republic of Armenia “Rules of Procedure of the National Assembly” upon at least 3/5 of votes of the total number of Deputies of the National Assembly, in case of violating the incompatibility requirements, joining a political party, otherwise engaging in political activities, failing to show political restraint in public speeches.

9. The right to nominate candidates for the deputy chairperson and secretary of the CEC shall be vested in the members of the CEC.

10. The deputy chairperson and secretary of the CEC shall be elected by open vote.

Where one candidate has been voted for the position of the deputy chairperson or secretary of the CEC, he or she shall be elected in case of receiving more than half of the votes of the voting participants. Where more than one candidate is voted for the position of the deputy chairperson and secretary of the CEC, the candidate having received the greatest number of affirmative votes shall be elected. In the event of a tie, the candidates having received the greatest number of affirmative votes shall be elected by drawing of lots.

#### **Article 43. Procedure for formation of TEC**

1. TEC shall comprise of 7 members. TEC shall be formed for a 6-year period. The CEC shall appoint the members of TEC until the termination of the powers of the TEC.

2. The number of representatives of every sex in a TEC shall not be less than 2.

3. A citizen of the Republic of Armenia having the right of suffrage may apply for being included in the composition of TECs, if he or she does not carry out public political activities and has:

- (1) higher legal education and at least 2 years of professional work record within the last 5 years;
- (2) scientific degree in law and at least 1 year of professional work record within the last 4 years;
- (3) higher education and at least 3 years of work record within the last 6 years in state or local self-government bodies or state non-commercial organisations within public service or community service respectively, or in a managerial position; or
- (4) higher education, and at least 2 years of professional experience within the last 5 years in a standing election commission or at least 2 years of work record in the staff of the commission.

4. For selecting candidates for members of TECs, the CEC shall disseminate, through the mass media, an announcement on the deadlines for submission of applications by citizens and the requirements pertaining to the member of TEC. The form of the application and the list of required documents shall be established by the CEC.

5. Citizens who submit, within the prescribed deadline, an application to the CEC for being included in the composition of TECs and who meet the requirements prescribed by part 3 of this Article, may be appointed as member of TECs.

6. Where the gender equality standard prescribed by part 2 of this Article is not violated, the CEC, being unanimous, may:

- (1) appoint the entire composition of a TEC;
- (2) appoint the composition of a TEC partly; or
- (3) cut down the list of the candidates under consideration.

7. In the cases provided for by points 2 and 3 of part 6 of this Article, the CEC shall elect the non-formed part of the composition of TEC in preferential voting as prescribed by Article 143 of this Code.

8. Where the number of citizens having submitted applications for being included in the composition of TEC is not sufficient for the formation of the commission, and for complying with the gender equality standard, vacant positions for members of commission shall be filled by the CEC from among the persons having completed the professional courses on holding elections and having been awarded qualification certificates.

9. Where powers of a member of TEC are early terminated or terminate, the vacant position shall be filled by the CEC within a 21-day period in accordance with the procedure prescribed by this Article for the formation of TEC.

10. The decision of the CEC on appointing members of TECs shall be adopted no later than 14 days before the date of termination of powers of the TEC.

11. The day and time of the 1st session of TEC shall be prescribed by the CEC. The 1st session of TEC shall — until the chairperson of the commission is elected — be held by an elder member of

the commission. The formed TEC shall assume its powers at 12:00 on the day of termination of powers of the operating TEC.

12. Chairpersons of TECs, deputy chairpersons of commissions and secretaries of commissions shall be elected by the relevant commissions from among their members in accordance with the procedure prescribed for election of the deputy chairperson and secretary of the CEC.

**Article 44. Procedure for formation of PEC**

- 1. PEC shall be comprised of at least 7 members.
- 2. PEC members shall be appointed by:
  - (1) political parties (alliances of political parties) having a faction in the National Assembly — 1 member every where the number of factions is more than 4, and 2 members every where the number of factions is less than 5;
  - (2) the relevant TEC — 2 members.

To appoint a member to every PEC, every member of the TEC (except for the chairperson of the commission) may nominate 1 candidate. Where the number of nominated candidates is more than 2, the TEC shall select the 2 members of the PEC by drawing of lots in accordance with the procedure prescribed by the CEC.

3. Where no member of the commission is appointed by any political party (alliance of political parties) — in the manner and within the deadlines prescribed by this Code for formation of PEC — or the number of candidates nominated by the members of the TEC is less than 2, the vacant positions of the commission shall be filled instead of them by the chairperson of the relevant TEC, within a 3-day period after the expiry of deadlines prescribed for formation of the commission. In case of filling vacant positions of the PEC in the manner prescribed by this part, the decision of the CEC on distribution by precincts of chairpersons and secretaries of PECs shall not be changed even where the filling of vacant position resulted in violation of proportionality prescribed by the decision.

4. Chairperson and secretary of the PEC shall be appointed upon the decision of the relevant TEC from among the members appointed to the commission by political parties (alliance of political parties) — in accordance with the distribution prescribed by part 5 of this Article — except for the case prescribed by part 3 of this Article. Where a political party (alliance of political parties) has appointed 2 members to the PEC, it shall indicate, while appointing, which of them will occupy the position of the chairperson or the secretary of the commission.

5. The positions of chairpersons and secretaries in PECs shall be distributed among political parties (alliances of political parties) having a faction in the National Assembly. The number of positions of chairpersons and secretaries of PEC available for every political party (alliance of political parties) shall be determined by the following formula:

$$NCS = \frac{NMP}{ND} \times NP \text{ — taken as integer numbers,}$$

where:

NCS is the number of chairpersons and secretaries of a commission respectively available for a political party (alliance of political parties);

NMP is the number of mandates obtained by a political party (alliance of political parties) of the National Assembly;

NP is the number of electoral precincts formed;

ND is the number of mandates of Deputies of the National Assembly. The remaining positions of chairperson and secretary of a commission in PECs shall be distributed as per the value of remainders. Where NCS for any political party (alliance of political parties) turns out larger than the half of NP in case the number of factions of the National Assembly is more than 4, the portion exceeding half of NP shall be distributed among other political parties (alliance of political parties) under the principle of proportionality prescribed by this Article, as prescribed by the CEC.

In case the remainders are equal, the distribution of other positions shall be carried out by drawing of lots in accordance with the procedure prescribed by the CEC.

Where during local self-government elections, the number of electoral precincts formed is less than 3, the distribution of positions of a chairperson and a secretary of the PEC among the bodies having



formed a commission shall be carried out by drawing of lots — as prescribed by the CEC — taking into account that those 2 positions within the same commission may not be filled simultaneously by the representatives of political parties (alliances of political parties) participating in the formation of the government.

The distribution of chairpersons and secretaries of PECs by electoral precincts shall be carried out prior to the beginning of the deadline for submission of requests for appointing members to PEC as prescribed by the CEC.

6. Requests for appointing members to PEC shall be submitted to the CEC no earlier than 30 days and no later than 25 days before the Election Day, by 18:00, whereas in case of early elections — no earlier than 20 days and no later than 18 days before the Election Day, by 18:00. The request for appointing members to PECs shall be signed by the head of the political party or, upon his or her assignment, by the deputy head (secretary) of a political party, in case of an alliance of political parties — by the head of faction, in his or her absence — by the secretary of faction.

Procedure for appointing members to PEC, the form of the request, the list of necessary documents and information shall be prescribed by the CEC.

7. The 1st session of a PEC shall be convened at the polling station at 12:00 on the 3rd day following the formation of the commission.

8. In case the powers of a PEC member are early terminated or terminate, the vacant position shall be filled within a 7-day period — in accordance with the procedure for formation of PEC prescribed by this Code — but no later than 3 days before the Election Day.

9. Where no member has been appointed to a PEC within the deadline and in the manner prescribed by part 8 of this Article, the vacant positions of members of commission shall be filled by the chairperson of TEC from among the persons having the right to be included in PECs. In this case, where the person appointed within the deadline and in the manner prescribed by part 8 of this Article was to occupy the position of the chairperson or secretary of commission, the person appointed by the chairperson of the election commission shall be appointed to that position.

10. Where on the Election Day, at 8:00, the number of PEC members having appeared is less than 5 — in case of an electoral precinct with up to 1 000 voters — the powers of the members not having appeared shall terminate early, and the number of the members shall be supplemented with up to 5 members respectively by the chairperson of the TEC from among the persons having the right to be included in PECs. Where on the Election Day, at 8:00, the number of PEC members having appeared is less than 7 — in case of an electoral precinct with more than 1 000 voters — the powers of the members not having appeared shall terminate early, and the number of the members shall be supplemented with up to 7 members respectively by the chairperson of the TEC from among the persons having the right to be included in PECs. Where on the Election Day, as of 9:00, the number of members present at the PEC is less than  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the total number of members of the commission, the composition of the commission shall be replenished as prescribed by this part, so as to ensure  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the total number of members of the commission.

11. The powers of PEC shall terminate upon the end of elections — after 7 days following the summarisation of election results — by the relevant election commission except for the case where the second round of the election of the National Assembly are held.

12. In case of appealing against the election results before a court, the powers of PEC shall terminate on the next day following the publication of the judicial act.

13. In case of adopting a decision on declaring the voting results invalid in particular electoral precincts, or in case of calling a repeat voting in those electoral precincts, the powers of the members of the PEC concerned shall be deemed early terminated, and they may not be included in the compositions of PECs holding a repeat voting.

In case of calling a repeat voting at electoral precincts or declaring the elections invalid and holding a repeat voting, the distribution of the positions of the chairperson or the secretary of PEC previously made shall be maintained and the requests for new appointments to PECs shall be submitted to the CEC within a 3-day period from the day of adoption of the decision on calling a repeat voting, by 18:00. In that case the 1st sessions of PECs shall take place on the day following the expiry of the deadline for formation, at 12:00.

**Article 45. Procedure for removal of the chairperson, deputy chairperson of the election commission, secretary of the commission from their positions, and for early termination of powers of member of the commission**

1. The powers of the chairperson, deputy chairperson of the CEC or the secretary of the Commission shall be deemed terminated, where he or she has submitted an application for recusal from that position.

In case of recusal from the position of the chairperson of the CEC the membership to the Commission thereof shall be terminated, and in case of recusal from the positions of the deputy chairperson of the CEC or the secretary of the Commission, the membership of the deputy chairperson or the secretary to the Commission shall not be terminated.

Application for recusal of the chairperson of the CEC shall be submitted to the President of the National Assembly, and the application for recusal from the positions of the deputy chairperson of the CEC or the secretary of the Commission shall be submitted to the chairperson of the CEC.

2. The fact of early termination of powers of the chairperson of the CEC shall be stated by the President of the National Assembly no later than within 3 days after the receipt of the application, the announcement thereon shall be made at the upcoming session of the National Assembly. The powers of the chairperson of the CEC shall be deemed early terminated upon statement of the fact by the President of the National Assembly.

The fact of withdrawal from the positions of the deputy chairperson of the CEC or the secretary of the Commission shall be stated by the chairperson of the CEC no later than within 3 days after the receipt of the application.

3. Deputy chairperson of the CEC and secretary of the Commission may be removed from the positions thereof upon a decision adopted by at least 2/3 of the votes of the total number of members of the Commission.

In cases referred to in this part, the membership of the deputy chairperson of the CEC or the secretary of the Commission to the Commission shall not be terminated.

4. The powers of the chairperson, deputy chairperson of the TEC or the secretary of the commission shall be deemed terminated, if he or she has submitted an application for recusal from that position.

Chairperson, deputy chairperson of TEC and secretary of the commission may be removed from the positions thereof upon a decision adopted by at least 2/3 of the votes of the total number of members of commission.

In cases referred to in this part, the commission membership of the chairperson, deputy chairperson of the TEC or the secretary of the commission shall not be terminated.

5. Chairperson and secretary of PEC may be removed from their positions upon a decision adopted by at least 2/3 of the votes of the total number of members of commission, only as a result of such an obvious inaction on the day preceding the Election Day or on the Election Day, which may jeopardise the preparation of the voting, the smooth process of voting or the summarising of voting results. In that case the chairperson or the secretary of PEC shall be appointed by the chairperson of TEC from the composition of PEC.

6. Powers of a member of election commission shall terminate early:

- (1) where he or she is not eligible for appointment to the election commission;
- (2) where a member of the CEC or TEC has submitted an application for recusal from the position of member of commission;
- (3) where the chairperson, secretary of PEC or member of the commission has submitted an application for recusal from that position. Such application may be submitted to the chairperson of TEC on the 5th day preceding the Election Day, by 18:00;
- (4) where he has been drafted.
- (5) where he or she is convicted of crimes, as well as intentionally committed crimes of medium gravity, grave or particularly grave crimes provided for by Articles 149-154.6 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Armenia, or detention as a measure of restraint has been imposed on him or her, or he or she has been sentenced to detention or imprisonment.

In cases provided for by points 1-5 of this part, the fact of early termination of powers in case of members of TECs and PECs shall be stated by the chairperson of a higher level commission.

The fact of early termination of powers of member of the CEC shall be stated by the President of the National Assembly no later than within 3 days after the receipt of the application, the announcement thereon shall be made at the forthcoming session of the National Assembly. The powers of a member of the CEC shall be deemed early terminated upon statement of the fact by the President of the National Assembly.

7. Where the member of TEC has grossly violated provisions of this Code or has had 3 or more unexcused absences from the regular sessions of the TEC within 3 calendar months, his or her powers may be terminated upon a decision adopted by at least 2/3 of the votes of the total number of members of the CEC.

8. TEC may early terminate the powers of the PEC member upon a decision adopted by at least 2/3 of the votes of the total number of members of commission, if he or she has grossly violated the provisions of this Code (except for the case of unexcused absence from the regular sessions of the PEC). Such a request may be submitted to a TEC by the chairperson of TEC, by the political party having appointed him or her to the PEC or the member of TEC having nominated him or her.

#### **Article 46. Organising the activities of election commission**

1. Activities of election commission shall be managed by the chairperson of the commission or — upon the assignment of or in the absence thereof — by the deputy chairperson of the commission, and in case of a PEC — by the secretary of the commission.

2. The chairpersons of the CEC and TECs shall prescribe the schedule for holding regular sessions. PECs shall convene regular sessions within the deadlines prescribed by this Code.

3. Extraordinary sessions of the CEC and the TEC shall be convened by the chairperson of the commission — on his or her own initiative or upon written request of at least 1/3 of members of the commission — within the deadlines indicated thereby, notifying the members of the commission through available means of communication. An extraordinary session of the PEC shall be convened by the chairperson of the commission upon request of the chairperson of TEC.

4. The session of the election commission shall have quorum if attended by more than half of members of commission. Members of commission shall be obliged to participate in the voting. A decision shall be adopted if more than half of the number of attending members of the commission vote for that decision, except for cases prescribed by this Code.

Besides the members of the Commission, the head of Oversight and Audit Service may also put forward items on the agenda of a session of the CEC, within the scope of the competence reserved to the Service, as well as the head of staff of the Commission — as regards the financial and economic issues.

5. In the event of a tie during adoption of a decision on the election results, the chairperson of the commission shall have the casting vote.

6. Election commissions receive a registration book with numbered pages, sealed by a higher level commission.

The requirements with regard to the registration book, as well as the procedure for filling it in shall be prescribed by the CEC.

7. The registration book shall be used to record information on participation of the members of the commission in the sessions, as well as on presence of persons having the right to attend the sessions. The records shall be signed by the members of commission attending the session.

8. Members of election commissions, persons, the specialist having the right to attend the session of the commission (including on the Election Day, in the polling room) (except for the voters and the police officers on duty at the polling station) shall be obliged to mandatorily carry visible identification badges on their outer clothing, certifying their right to be present. The chairperson of commission shall prohibit the presence of persons not having the right to be present at election commissions and during the voting also in the polling rooms, as well as of persons without a relevant identification on their outer clothing at the election commission (in the polling room).

9. Members of election commission shall be obliged to participate in the sessions of the commission.

10. Copies of the decisions, protocols and records of registration books, as well as extracts therefrom (except for extracts from the lists of voters having participated in the voting, during the recount) shall be sealed and signed by the chairperson and the secretary of commission. Documents received from PEC shall be sealed only on the Election Day or on the day following the Election Day prior to handing the seal over to the TEC.

#### **Article 47. Specifics of administrative proceedings in the CEC and TEC**

1. Administrative proceedings in the CEC and the TEC shall be carried out in accordance with the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On fundamentals of administrative action and administrative proceedings”, and according to the specifics and deadlines prescribed by this Code.

2. The applicant or the complainant (hereinafter referred to as “the applicant”) shall be notified of the consideration of his or her application or complaint (hereinafter referred to as “the application”) at the CEC through placing information on the date and time of the consideration of the application on the website of the Commission. Where there are any means of electronic communication indicated in the application — i.e. phone number, electronic mail (hereinafter referred to as “electronic means of communications”) — the applicant shall be notified through such means as well, also where possible by sending a short text message.

An applicant shall be deemed notified of the consideration of the application at the TEC, where a notice on the date and time of the consideration of application is posted at a place visible to all in the commission, and where a phone number is indicated in the application, the applicant shall be notified also through that means, also where possible by sending a short text message.

3. Participants of the proceedings may not challenge the composition or a member of the election commission carrying the administrative proceedings, neither the member of the election commission carrying out the administrative proceedings shall have the right to recuse himself or herself.

4. During the election period, taking into consideration the workload, the participants of administrative proceedings shall be introduced to the materials of the proceedings — before the session convened within the scope of the proceedings concerned — at the election commission carrying out the proceedings. Brief minutes of the session shall be taken.

5. The administrative act adopted by the CEC shall enter into force upon publication thereof at the session. The administrative act adopted by the CEC shall be posted on the website of the Commission within the deadlines prescribed by part 2 of Article 8 of this Code.

6. The administrative act adopted by TEC shall enter into force upon publication thereof at the session. The administrative act adopted by TEC shall be posted at a place visible to all in the commission within 24 hours after adoption of the act.

7. Within a 3-day period after adoption of the administrative act of the election commission, it shall be forwarded to the participants of the administrative proceedings attaching the delivery receipt to the case, where the participants of the proceedings have not received that act in the commission. Where the application is submitted jointly by more than one applicant, the adopted administrative act shall be forwarded to the 1st applicant indicated in the application.

8. The administrative proceedings shall not be suspended during the period of elections.

#### **Article 48. Appealing against decisions, actions and inaction of election commissions, filing an application for declaring the voting results in an electoral precinct invalid or for declaring the election results invalid**

1. Decisions and actions (inaction) of the election commission may be appealed against through administrative or judicial procedure. Where the decisions, action (inaction) of the election commission have been appealed against through both administrative and judicial procedure, the administrative proceedings shall be terminated.

2. The procedure for appealing against decisions, actions (inaction) of the election commission through judicial procedure shall be prescribed by the Administrative Procedure Code and the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On the Constitutional Court”.

3. The decision, action (inaction) of the election commission may be appealed against by:

- (1) any person, if he or she finds that the subjective right of suffrage thereof prescribed by this Code has been violated or may be violated;
  - (2) a proxy, if he or she finds that the rights of proxy or the principal thereof prescribed by this Code have been violated;
  - (3) an observer or a visitor, if he or she finds that the right thereof prescribed by this Code has been violated;
  - (4) a mass media representative, if he or she finds that the right thereof prescribed by this Code has been violated;
  - (5) an authorised representative of the political party running in the elections, if he or she finds that the right thereof or the principal political party thereof or the candidate included in the candidate list of the political party, prescribed by this Code, has been violated.
4. Complaints against decisions adopted by, actions or inaction of the PEC, except for the case prescribed by the second paragraph of this part, shall be submitted to the relevant TEC within 2 days starting from the day when the applicant has known or should have reasonably known about the violation. Complaints referred to in this paragraph may be submitted to the relevant TEC on working days, from 9:00 to 18:00, whereas on the Election Day, from 9:00 to 19:00. Complaints against the decisions adopted by actions or inaction of the PEC during the Election Day or the day following the Election Day shall be submitted to the relevant TEC, from 8:00 to 22:00 on the Election Day or, from 12:00 to 18:00, on the day following the Election Day or, from 9:00 to 11:00, on the second day following the Election Day.
5. Decisions adopted by the TEC on election results may be appealed against before the administrative court. Other decisions, as well as actions (inaction) of the TEC may be appealed against before the CEC within 3 calendar days starting from the day when the applicant has known or should have reasonably known about the violation. Complaints referred to in this part may be submitted to the CEC on working days, from 9:00 to 18:00, whereas on the day preceding the voting, from 9:00 to 19:00, on the Election Day, from 8:00 to 22:00, on the day following the Election Day, from 12:00 to 18:00. Where the 3rd calendar day expires on a non-working day, except for the day preceding the voting, the Election Day or the day following the Election Day, the complaint may be submitted the next working day, from 9:00 to 18:00.
6. Decisions of the CEC adopted on the results of elections of the National Assembly may be appealed against before the Constitutional Court. Other decisions adopted by, as well as actions (inaction) of the CEC may be appealed against before the administrative court.
7. The TECs and the CEC shall respond to the applications received in the period between the scheduling the Elections and by the day preceding the Election Day, and in cases prescribed by this Code adopt decisions thereon within a 5-day period but no later than before the start of the voting. The TECs and the CEC shall respond to the applications received starting from the Election Day until two days before the deadline prescribed for summarisation of the results, by 18:00, and adopt decisions thereon in cases prescribed by this Code until the summarisation of election results, whereas during elections of the National Assembly the TEC shall do so 1 day before the deadline prescribed for summarisation of the election results.
8. Parts 9-18 of this Article define exceptions from the norms defined in parts 1-7 of this Article.
9. An application on declaring invalid or revoked the registration of the candidate list of the political party running in the elections and the candidate included in the candidate list of the political party may be submitted only by the political party running in the elections.
10. An application on declaring invalid or revoked the registration of the candidate for Head of the community or member of council of elders may only be submitted respectively by the candidate for Head of the community or member of council of elders.
11. An application on declaring invalid or revoked the registration of the candidate list of the political party running in the elections, the candidate included in the candidate list of the political party, the candidate for Head of the community or member of council of elders may only be submitted to the election commission that carried out the registration. The application must be submitted no later than 2 days before the Election Day, by 18:00. The application on declaring invalid or revoked the registration shall be considered and a decision thereon shall be adopted by the election commission within a 5-day period following the receipt of the application, but no later than the day before the voting, by 12:00.

The decision referred to in the first paragraph of this part may be appealed against before the administrative court within 3 calendar days starting from the day, when the applicant has known or should have reasonably known about the violation, but no later than the day before the voting, by 18:00. The administrative court shall adopt a decision within 5 days, but no later than the day before the voting.

12. Only the following shall have the right to submit an application on declaring invalid the voting results in electoral precinct:

(1) the political party running in the elections, the candidate included in the candidate list of the political party running in the elections, the candidate for Head of the community or member of council of elders;

(2) the proxy, where he or she has been present in the polling room or at the session of the PEC for summarisation of the results;

(3) member of the relevant PEC, where a record on having a special opinion has been made in the protocol by him/her.

13. The political party, the candidate for Head of the community or member of council of elders shall have the right to submit an application on declaring invalid the election results.

14. An application on declaring invalid the voting results in the electoral precinct may be submitted only to the relevant TEC by a competent person on the day following the Election Day, from 12:00 to 18:00 or on the second day following the Election Day, from 9:00 to 11:00.

Where based on the result of consideration of application, the TEC draws at a conclusion that violations of the requirements of this Code have taken place during the voting, which could have significantly affected the voting results, and where it is impossible to reveal the real results of the voting, the TEC shall declare the voting results in electoral precinct concerned invalid. In that case the materials shall be forwarded to the Prosecutor's Office.

15. An application for declaring invalid the election results may be submitted to the election commission summarising election results at least 2 days before the deadline prescribed by this Code for summarisation of election results, by 18:00. Consideration of applications on declaring invalid the election results shall be carried out within the period for summarising the election results, and a separate decision thereon shall not be adopted.

16. The following shall have the right to submit an application regarding impersonation:

(1) authorised representative of the political party running in the elections, the candidate for Head of the community or member of council of elders;

(2) proxy;

(3) member of the relevant PEC;

(4) voter not having participated in the voting, next to whose data there is a signature, according to which he or she has participated in the voting.

The competent person shall submit the application regarding impersonation to the relevant TEC from 12:00 on the day following the Election Day, to 11:00 of the third day following the Election Day.

Applications regarding impersonation must be submitted separately, accordingly about the persons being absent from the Republic of Armenia and not having participated in the voting, and those being in the Republic of Armenia and not having participated in the voting.

The Election commission shall reject the institution of administrative proceedings based on the application regarding impersonation and shall not examine the application on the merits where the application has been submitted in violation of the provisions of this paragraph.

17. The application regarding impersonation shall be examined in observance of the fundamental principles of administration prescribed by the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On fundamentals of administration and administrative proceedings".

When examining applications regarding voting instead of a person being absent from the Republic of Armenia, the TEC shall:

(1) verify — through Electronic Border Management Information System (hereinafter referred to as "EBMIS") used by Border Guard Troops of the National Security Service of the Republic of Armenia adjunct to the Government of the Republic of Armenia — information on the fact of being absent from the Republic of Armenia of the person referred to in the application.

Where the data available in the EBMS reveal that the person, with regard to whom the application has been submitted, has crossed the border of the Republic of Armenia after the start of the voting, the application for this person shall be deemed groundless, and the administrative proceedings with respect to that part shall be terminated.

Where the data available in the EBMS reveal that the person, with regard to whom the application has been submitted, has not crossed the border of the Republic of Armenia or has last crossed the border when entering the territory of the Republic of Armenia, the application for this person shall be deemed groundless, and the administrative proceedings with respect to that part shall be terminated;

(2) establish whether the person, with regard to whom the application has been submitted, has been registered by means of technical equipment;

(3) verify also, in case of a voter registered by means of technical equipment and having an identification card, whether the fingerprint provided in the course of registration matches the fingerprint of that voter available in the electronic database of identification cards maintained by the Police.

Upon the request of the TEC, the Police, the National Security Service and, where necessary, other bodies may be engaged in the process of organising examination of applications regarding impersonation.

Where there is no sufficient evidence proving the participation in the voting by the given person, solely for rendering a decision based on the election results, it shall be deemed, applying the principle of presumption of reliability, that impersonation has taken place.

All the applications shall also be referred to the relevant law enforcement body, regardless of the process of examination of the application in the TEC.

18. The unambiguous statement of any person, according to which the voter has not participated in the voting and another person has voted instead of that elector, must be attached to the application regarding impersonation.

The person making the statement must also confirm in writing and sign that he or she is aware of the criminal liability provided for making a false statement regarding impersonation.

The statement must include the name, patronymic, surname, personal identification document number (in case of a passport, the serial number), address of the place of registration, address of the place of residence, where the latter differs from the address of the place of registration, the telephone number or electronic mail address of the person making the statement, the date of making the statement. The name, patronymic, surname of the person not having participated in the voting, the number of the electoral precinct, the list in which the voter is included, the number of the voter in the relevant list must also be mentioned in the statement. The statement shall be submitted in the original, signed solely by the person making the statement.

The person submitting the application must also confirm in writing and sign that he or she is aware of the criminal liability provided for submitting, attached to the application, a statement with false signature regarding impersonation. The statement shall be considered a statement with false signature where it has been signed not by the person on behalf of which the statement is made, or it has been signed on behalf of a fake person. The requirement prescribed by this paragraph shall not extend to the case where the person submitting the application and the person making the statement are the same person.

The application regarding impersonation shall be submitted in the original, signed solely by the applicant. The application must contain the name, patronymic, surname, address of the place of registration, address of the place of residence, where the latter differs from the address of the place of registration, the phone number or electronic mail address of the applicant, the list of the documents attached, the date of submission of the application. A copy of the document certifying the status of the applicant must be attached to applications submitted by the persons prescribed by points 1-3 of part 16 of this Article.

Forms of application, statement regarding impersonation, as well as forms on being informed of the criminal liability provided for making a false statement regarding impersonation and submitting a statement with false signature attached to the application regarding impersonation shall be approved by the CEC and posted on the CEC website with the possibility to download.

In case required documents to be attached to the application are lacking or in case of inconformity with the prerequisites prescribed by this paragraph for the application or the statement, the initiation of administrative proceedings shall be rejected. Where the same person has submitted more than one application regarding impersonation, or data of more than one person on impersonation are indicated in one application, and the check reveals that at least one false statement regarding impersonation or at least one statement with false signature regarding impersonation is attached to the application, further consideration of applications submitted by that person shall be terminated, the administrative proceedings shall be terminated, and all the materials shall be submitted to the relevant law enforcement body. Previously checked and verified information regarding impersonation shall be taken into account for rendering a decision based on the election results.

#### **Article 49. Requirements for applications. Procedure for consideration of applications at election commissions. Burden of proof**

1. Application submitted to election commissions must be signed by the applicant, contain his or her name, surname, address of the applicant, date of submission. Application may contain also the telephone number, electronic mail of the applicant. Application must contain the statement of request of the applicant, substantiations provided thereby. The available evidence must be attached to the application.

Where an application is submitted through a representative, a power of attorney issued as prescribed by law must also be submitted.

A copy of the document (badge of the established sample) certifying the status of the applicant must be attached to applications submitted by the candidate, proxy, observer, mass media representative, member of election commission, authorised representative.

Applications not containing any data or containing false data concerning the applicant, applications submitted in the abuse of a right, applications submitted by a non-authorised person, as well as applications submitted in violation of requirements prescribed by paragraph 2 of this part shall not be considered, administrative proceedings shall not be initiated based thereon and election commissions shall render decisions on rejecting the initiation of administrative proceedings. In this case, the election commission shall have the right to conduct administrative proceedings on its own initiative.

2. Where an application contains formal mistakes that can be corrected, the election commission shall correct them itself and notify the applicant thereon before or after taking the action or shall give an opportunity to the applicant to correct those mistakes, prescribing a reasonable deadline. Where the list of documents attached to the application is not complete, the election commission shall prescribe a reasonable deadline to complete it. Where the mistakes are not eliminated or the documents are not completed within the specified deadline, the applications shall not be considered; administrative proceedings based thereon shall not be instituted, and the election commission shall adopt a decision on rejecting the institution of administrative proceedings. In this case, the election commission shall have the right to conduct administrative proceedings on its own initiative.

3. The applicant shall address the application to the election commission, which has jurisdiction to resolve the issue raised. Where a deadline for submitting the application is provided for by this Code, the application shall be deemed submitted by the due date, if it has been submitted to the relevant election commission prior to the deadline. Applications submitted to the non-competent election commission or late applications shall not be considered and shall be returned to the applicant with a letter, indicating the cause thereof.

4. The chairperson of commission shall address the application submitted within a due deadline to the member of commission and shall distribute copies of the application among other members of commission. Issues raised in the application shall be examined by the members of commission. Every member of commission shall have the right to submit a draft decision on the application to be considered at the session of the commission. If a member of commission does not submit a draft decision on rejecting the initiation of administrative proceedings, the administrative proceedings shall be deemed initiated. In case of rejecting the initiation of administrative proceedings, the response to the application shall be sent to the applicant with the signature of the chairperson of the commission.



5. In case of initiation of administrative proceedings, the applicant shall have the right to participate in the consideration of his or her application at the session of the commission, provide substantiations, and deliver a speech.
6. In case decisions, actions inaction) of election commissions are appealed against before higher level election commissions, the party having brought the complaint shall bear the burden of proof of the factual circumstances that it has submitted, and the election commission – the burden of proof of the factual circumstances that underlie the decision thereof. The election commission considering the complaint may ex officio seek evidence. The rules prescribed by this part shall also refer to applications on declaring invalid the voting results in electoral precinct or declaring invalid the election results.
7. The response to the application for obtaining information shall be sent to the applicant with the signature of the chairperson of the commission. Where the required information or the document copy is posted on the website of the Commission, the applicant shall be informed thereon and shall not be provided with photocopies or extracts therefrom.
8. Election commissions shall take appropriate measures with regard to issues requiring urgent solution. In such cases adopting decisions in the form of a separate act shall not be mandatory.

### **Article 50. Recount of voting results**

1. The candidate included in the list of the political party running in the elections or the candidate for Head of the community or member of council of elders or the proxy, where they have been present at the process of summarising the voting results in the electoral precinct, as well as the PEC member — in case of making a record in the PEC results protocol on having a special opinion concerning the procedure of summarising the voting results — shall have the right to appeal against the voting results in the electoral precinct concerned in the manner and within the deadlines specified by this Code, filing an application for recount of the voting results at the electoral precinct (hereinafter referred to as “the recount”) to the TEC.

Application for recount of the voting results in the electoral precinct may be submitted only to the relevant TEC on the day following the Election Day, from 12:00 to 18:00 or on the second day following the Election Day, from 9:00 to 11:00.

2. Application for recount shall contain the name, surname, address of the applicant, and the number of the electoral precinct where the recount is requested, as well as the voting results (if several voting processes have been held simultaneously) for which the recount is requested. Evidence on erroneous summarisation of the voting results may be attached to the application. The application for recount must be signed by the applicant.

3. Where several voting processes have been held simultaneously, a PEC member may submit an application for recount only with regard to the voting results, in the protocol of which he or she has made a record on having a special opinion.

4. Where several voting processes are held simultaneously, a separate application for recount of results of every voting shall be submitted.

5. TEC shall record the submitted applications for recount in the registration book, indicating the date of receipt.

6. Recount process shall start at 14:00 on the day of the deadline prescribed for the receipt of recount applications and shall be completed at 14:00 of the 5th day following the Election Day (hereinafter referred to as “the deadline for recount”). While carrying out the recount, the election commission shall work every day without days off, from 9:00 (except for the case prescribed by this part) to 18:00. The election commission shall continue the recount after 18:00 if it has failed to complete the already started recount for the electoral precinct, as well as in cases where it is not possible to complete the recount of the first priority of the voting results at the electoral precinct by working till 18:00, prescribed by paragraph 7 of this Article before the deadline for recount.

7. TEC shall recount under first priority the voting results of all those electoral precincts, concerning which the TEC believes that sound evidence on erroneous summarisation of the voting results has been submitted, as well as it shall recount the voting results of all those electoral precincts, the examination of protocols whereof (including examination of inaccuracy) has made the TEC to have doubts concerning the erroneous summarisation of the results. TEC shall as second priority recount the voting results of all those electoral precincts concerning which a recount

application has been submitted and there is a record in the registration book of that PEC on impossibility to print a statement prescribed by point 3 of part 2 of Article 68 of this Code. For every turn, the TEC shall decide, by drawing of lots, upon the order of the recount of the voting results in electoral precinct.

8. Where the recount of voting results prescribed by part 7 of this Article has been completed before the deadline for recount, or no such results have been recorded, the TEC shall — based on the available applications for recount — decide, by drawing of lots, upon the order of the recount of the voting results in the electoral precinct.

9. Withdrawal by the applicant of the application for recount of the voting results in the electoral precinct shall not serve as a basis for not carrying out the recount.

10. The recount shall be carried out in accordance with the requirements prescribed by this Code for summarising the voting results in an electoral precinct, except for the number of stickers and numbered slips, and a protocol on the recount of voting results in the electoral precinct shall be drawn up, the lines indicating the “number of sticker allocated to the PEC” and the “number of numbered passes allocated to the PEC” shall be filled in with figures recorded by the PEC unless there are obvious mechanical mistakes found therein.

When carrying out recount, the validity of ballot paper shall be determined in accordance with the requirements of this Code.

Persons having the right to be present at the session of the commission shall, upon their request, be provided with copies of protocols on the recount of voting results in the electoral precinct.

11. Depending on the workload, the TEC may carry out recount of voting results of the electoral precinct with at least 3 members of the commission simultaneously. When carrying out recount of voting results with at least 3 members of the commission, the responsibilities of the chairperson of PEC prescribed by this Code for summarising the voting results shall be carried out by the deputy chairperson of TEC or the secretary of commission, and where they are not included in that composition — by the member appointed by the chairperson of TEC.

12. Duration of the recount of voting results of one electoral precinct may not exceed 4 hours.

13. Members of respective PEC, persons having the right to be present the sessions of the election commission, the candidate may be present during the recount process of voting results of the electoral precinct.

14. During the recount of voting results of the electoral precinct, the candidate, the proxy and the person having submitted an application for recount shall have the right to get familiar with the lists of voters having participated in the voting, along with other documents, to independently make extracts. Proxies, observers, mass media representatives may photograph, videotape the recount activities.

15. The absence of the applicant for recount shall not serve as a basis for not carrying out or terminating the recount.

16. The TEC shall reject the application for recount of voting results of the electoral precinct, and the recount shall not be carried out where the recount has been requested in violation of the provisions of this Article.

## **CHAPTER 9 *FUNCTIONS AND POWERS OF ELECTION COMMISSIONS***

### **Article 51. Functions and powers of the CEC**

1. The CEC is an independent state authority which shall organise the elections of the National Assembly and local self-government bodies, referenda, as well as exercise supervision over the lawfulness thereof.

2. The CEC shall:

- (1) exercise supervision over using state budget funds allocated for preparing and holding elections;
- (2) adopt the rules of procedure thereof and the rules of procedure of lower election commissions;
- (3) organise and conduct professional courses for holding elections, establish the procedure for organising courses and issuing qualification certificates;
- (4) exercise supervision over the uniform application of this Code;

- (5) prescribe the forms and samples of ballot papers, ballot envelopes, protocols and other election related documents, the procedure for filling in and keeping thereof, provide the election commissions with necessary election related documents;
  - (6) prescribe the standard forms of documents necessary for registration of candidates, candidate lists of political parties running in the elections;
  - (7) adopt decisions — within the scope of powers thereof — that are binding throughout the Republic;
  - (8) abolish, declare repealed, invalid, or revoke the decisions of election commissions, which are in conflict with this Code, except for the decisions of TECs on being elected as members of the Councils of Elders of Gyumri and Vanadzor, on being elected as Head of the community or members of the council of elders;
  - (9) hear the communications of election commissions and state authorities on preparing and holding elections;
  - (10) accredit mass media representatives, the observers;
  - (11) register the elected Deputies of the National Assembly, the elected members of the Council of Elders of Yerevan, issue a relevant certificate for them;
  - (12) call new elections of the Council of Elders of Yerevan;
  - (13) adopt decisions provided for by this Code, provide clarifications concerning every issue related to the electoral processes in cases where the relevant function is not reserved to other responsible authorities, as well as adopt decisions which are not in conflict with this Code, with the view of regulation of electoral processes;
  - (14) develop and publish training materials for the members of election commissions, specialists, candidates, proxies, observers and voters;
  - (15) prescribe the procedure for drawing of lots at the election commissions;
  - (16) approve the sample ballot box and the technical specifications;
  - (17) exercise supervision over financial activities of political parties;
  - (18) register the candidate lists of political parties running in the elections of the National Assembly and the Council of Elders of Yerevan, issue a certificate in the form established by the CEC for the candidates included in the lists;
  - (19) may establish institutions as prescribed by law;
  - (20) give binding instructions ensuring the implementation of this Code;
  - (21) revoke the qualification certificate for being included in an election commission, where the person having received the relevant certificate has violated the requirements of this Code;
  - (22) prescribe the procedure for the service and operation of the technical equipment, as well as for the usage and maintenance of memories of that equipment;
  - (23) prescribe types of identification documents of voters not holding citizenship, which may be used during elections of local self-government bodies;
  - (24) prescribe types of identification documents of voters who are in a penitentiary institution;
  - (25) perform other powers provided for by this Code.
3. The Chairperson of the CEC or any member of the CEC, upon his or her assignment, shall submit a communication in accordance with the procedure prescribed by the Rules of Procedure of the National Assembly on activities thereof.  
This communication shall be posted on the website of the CEC.
4. The CEC may apply to the Government of the Republic of Armenia, to the National Assembly proposing legislative amendments aimed at the improvement of the election process.

## **Article 52. Powers of TEC**

1. TEC is a standing state authority. TEC shall:
  - (1) exercise supervision over fulfilment of the requirements of this Code at a district under the service thereof;
  - (2) approve the samples of ballot papers for elections of the Councils of Elders of Gyumri, Vanadzor, Head of the community and member of council of elders;
  - (3) prescribe the sequential numbers of electoral precincts in compliance with the procedure prescribed by the CEC and submit such data to the CEC within a 2-day period;
  - (4) provide information on its own activities and the activities of PECs to the CEC;

- (5) consider the applications with regard to the decisions, actions and inaction of PECs, review or abolish the decisions of PECs which are in conflict with this Code;
- (6) publish, in cases prescribed by this Code, preliminary voting results by electoral precinct, based on the data in protocols of PECs;
- (7) organise and hold elections of the Councils of Elders of Gyumri, Vanadzor, as well as local self-government bodies at communities included in the district under the service thereof and summarise their results;
- (8) monitor the process of posting the lists of voters for public information purposes at electoral precincts;
- (9) supervise the process of relevant furnishing of the polling rooms in accordance with the requirements of this Code;
- (10) register candidate lists of political parties running in the elections of the Councils of Elders of Gyumri, Vanadzor, as well as candidates for Head of the community and member of council of elders; issue a certificate, in the form established by the CEC, to candidates included in the candidate list of political parties running in the elections of the Councils of Elders of Gyumri, Vanadzor and to candidates for member of council of elders;
- (11) register members of the elected Councils of Elders of Gyumri, Vanadzor and issue a certificate in the form established by the CEC;
- (12) declare the voting results at the electoral precinct as invalid;
- (13) perform other powers provided for by this Code.

#### **Article 53. Powers of PEC**

1. PEC shall:

- (1) organise the voting, summarise the voting results at the electoral precinct;
- (2) prepare a protocol on voting results at the electoral precinct;
- (3) submit the seal of the commission, the registration book, 2 copies of the protocol on voting results, the technical equipment, the disposable sack for election related documents (hereinafter referred to as “the sack”) and the ballot box to the TEC.

#### **Article 54. Transfer and acceptance of election related documents and other supplies at election commissions**

1. Election related documents and other supplies shall be transferred at the election commissions through signing by the persons who have transferred and accepted them, and by providing a receipt.
2. Chairpersons of election commissions shall be responsible for the storage of election related documents, technical equipment, stationery and other supplies allocated to election commissions.
3. After summarising the voting results, the election related documents of a PEC shall be deposited in the State Archive of the Republic of Armenia for maintenance in the manner prescribed.

#### **Article 55. Co-operation of election commissions and the Police**

1. Central and regional bodies of the Police, their services and subdivisions shall be obliged to ensure the smooth process of elections, the unimpeded activities of election commissions and the members thereof. The police shall maintain due order during election related events, provide support to the commissions upon request of the chairperson of election commission, ensure safe transportation and maintenance of election related documents at election commissions.

### **SECTION 3 VOTING. SUMMARISATION OF VOTING RESULTS**

#### **CHAPTER 10 ORGANISATION OF VOTING**

#### **Article 56. Place and time of voting**

1. Voting shall be held only at the polling stations formed within the territory of the Republic of Armenia, from 8:00 to 20:00, except for the cases prescribed by this Code. Voters who are present in the polling room at 20:00, but who have not yet voted, shall have the right to vote.

2. During elections of the National Assembly, the voting for voters undergoing inpatient treatment in medical institutions providing inpatient care, voters unable to visit the polling stations on the Election Day on their own and military servant voters undergoing inpatient treatment in military medical institutions, shall be organised through a mobile ballot box in a medical institution providing inpatient care and in a military medical institution.

The voting in a medical institution providing inpatient care and in a military medical institution shall be held ensuring the principle of secrecy of voting, as prescribed by the CEC. Proxies, observers, visitors, mass media representatives may also be present during the organisation of voting in a medical institution providing inpatient care and in a military medical institution. The voting in a medical institution providing inpatient care and in a military medical institution shall be organised so that it is completed by 18:00.

#### **Article 57. Polling room**

1. Voting shall be held in a room specially furnished for that purpose, with one room for every electoral precinct.

2. The polling room shall be — to the maximum extent possible — spacious and meet the following requirements:

(1) shall provide opportunity to ensure, during the entire voting process, the smooth work of PEC members, specialist and persons having the right to be present in the polling room;

(2) shall provide opportunity to members of the PEC, as well as persons having the right to be present in the polling room to keep within eyeshot the technical equipment, ballot box, the voting booths (provided that the secrecy of voting is not violated), and the space between the voting booths and the ballot box.

3. Furnishing of the polling room must be completed by 24:00 of the day preceding the Election Day.

#### **Article 58. Voting booths**

1. Booths shall be provided for voting, the number of booths being determined upon the following ratio — at least 1 booth for 750 voters.

2. The voting booth shall be assembled in such a way that the voter is able to vote privately from the persons present in the polling room, and that there is sufficient lighting, a pen, and a box for unused ballot papers.

3. Voting booths shall be placed within at least 1 metre distance from every other and they shall be placed in such a position that the voter has his or her face turned to the commission and his or her back turned to the wall during the voting.

#### **Article 59. Ballot paper, ballot envelope, stickers**

1. The sample of the ballot paper shall be defined by the relevant election commission in such a way as to ensure secrecy of voting. The ballot paper must contain a notice on the procedure for filling in the ballot paper.

2. The ballot envelope shall be made from opaque paper. The sample and sizes of the ballot envelope shall be established by the CEC in such a way as it allows the sticker to be posted on the ballot paper in the envelope.

3. A sticker shall be a typographically printed stamp with protective layers, which bears the abbreviation of the name of the election, the date of the voting and the number of the electoral precinct. The sticker shall be subject to special registration.

4. The printing of ballot papers, ballot envelopes and stickers shall be ensured by the CEC.

5. The ballot papers shall be printed no earlier than 10 days and no later than 3 days before the Election Day, on the basis of statement of information on the number of voters, provided by the authorised body 10 days before the Election Day.

Sticker shall be printed for every precinct by rounding the number of voters in the electoral precinct up to the nearest hundred.

6. During elections, ballot papers, ballot envelopes shall be allocated to PECs on the day preceding the Election Day, in a quantity exceeding the number of voters by up to 5 per cent, but no less than 10 more than the number of voters in the electoral precinct. The whole run of sticker

printed for the given electoral precinct shall be allocated on the day preceding the Election Day to the relevant PEC.

7. During elections of the National Assembly, in case the registration of the candidate list of the political party running in the elections is declared invalid or revoked after the ballot papers have been printed, the ballot papers of that political party shall be removed from the voting and cancelled, whereas in case the registration of a candidate included in the district candidate list of the political party running in the elections is declared invalid or revoked, the name of that candidate shall be removed from the ballot papers as prescribed by the CEC.

8. During elections of the Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri, Vanadzor, in case the registration of the candidate list of the political party running in the elections is declared invalid or revoked after the ballot papers have been printed, whereas during elections of the Head of the community and member of the council of elders, in case the registration of a candidate is declared invalid or revoked, the name of that political party or the name of the candidate shall be removed from the ballot papers as prescribed by the CEC.

#### **Article 60. Seal, individual seal of the PEC member, ballot box, technical equipment**

1. Samples of the seals of election commissions and of the individual seals of PEC members shall be approved by the CEC. They shall be prepared upon the order by the CEC.

2. The seal of a PEC must bear a 4-digit number.

3. The PEC shall be provided with technical equipment for registration of voters.

The technical equipment must contain the electronic list of voters. The technical equipment must be furnished with software for registering the voting participants, precluding their double registration and other type of software prescribed by the CEC. At least 30 days before the voting for elections of the National Assembly, the technical equipment software must be accessible to representatives of political parties running in the elections for conducting technical audit. Preparation of the electronic list of voters for instalment in the technical equipment shall be subject to oversight by representatives of political parties running in the elections of the National Assembly. Technical audit and oversight over the preparation of the electronic list shall be organised as prescribed by the CEC.

For the purpose of ensuring maintenance of the technical equipment in PECs, the CEC shall — for every PEC — engage up to 4 specialists, on a contractual basis.

A person who meets the requirements prescribed by the CEC for professional knowledge and job skills, has command of the Armenian language, has attained the age of 18 may be a specialist ensuring maintenance of the technical equipment. Public servants may be engaged as specialists as well. The procedure for the selection, training and testing of professional knowledge and job skills of specialist maintaining the technical equipment shall be prescribed by the CEC.

Remuneration of the specialist shall be established in the amount of 120 per cent of the nominal amount of the minimum monthly salary prescribed by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia. Remuneration shall be made after the summarisation of election results.

4. The CEC shall transfer seals of PECs to TECs no earlier than 5 days and no later than 3 days before the Election Day in such a way that every electoral precinct is provided with one seal, and carries out solely quantitative counting of the transferred seals.

5. The TEC shall transfer the seal to chairpersons of PECs on the day preceding the voting, every chairperson shall get one seal. The TEC shall, in the quantity established by the CEC, transfer technical equipment (with uploaded voter lists) to chairpersons of PECs on the day preceding the voting. The procedure for using more than one technical device in the PEC shall be prescribed by the CEC.

6. The seals of PECs shall be submitted to the CEC within a 3-day period after the end of voting. In case of holding a second round of election, re-voting or a new regular or a new election, new seals shall be provided to PECs.

7. PEC members shall be provided with distinctive individual seals on the day preceding the voting, by drawing of lots. After the end of voting, individual seals shall be packed and placed in the sack.

8. At least one ballot box shall be allocated to every PEC. More than one ballot box may be used in a PEC as prescribed by the CEC.

### **Article 61. Preparation for voting**

1. Preparation for voting shall be carried out by PECs.
2. Ballot papers, ballot envelopes, stickers, the seal shall be stored in a fire-resistant safe located in the polling room. The procedure for storing election related documents, technical equipment and other supplies shall be established by the CEC.
3. During the voting, the chairperson of the PEC shall be obliged to ensure compliance with the requirements of this Code and maintain necessary order in the polling station.
4. The ballot box, the technical equipment, the desks of commission members shall be located in places visible to persons having the right to be present in the polling room.
5. The lists of the political parties running in the elections shall be posted in the polling room or at its entrance. During elections of the National Assembly, the national lists of the political parties running in the elections and district candidate lists for the given district shall be posted.

### **Article 62. Organisation of voting in diplomatic and consular representations**

1. Voters who are on diplomatic service in diplomatic or consular representations of the Republic of Armenia, as well as members of their families residing abroad with them and having the right to vote, in case of being outside of the territory of the Republic of Armenia, on the Election Day, may participate in the elections of the National Assembly by voting electronically in the manner and within the deadlines prescribed by the CEC. The CEC shall be obliged to establish such terms for electronic voting that would ensure free expression of will of voters and secrecy of voting. Voters voting electronically shall give their votes only to political parties running in the elections.
2. Electronic voting may be held after the end of the deadline established for registration of the candidate lists for the political parties running in the elections of the National Assembly, but no later than 5 days before the Election Day.
3. The provisions of this Article shall also extend to military servants seconded for a long period of time to or those studying in foreign states, as well as to persons employed at representations of legal persons registered in the Republic of Armenia, which are located abroad (irrespective of the form of ownership), and their family members residing with them abroad and having the right to vote.

### **Article 63. Organisation of voting in facilities for holding arrestees and penitentiary institutions**

1. Arrested voters shall participate in the voting as prescribed by the CEC, through a mobile ballot box. The voting of arrested voters shall be organised so that it ends by 18:00.
2. Voting in penitentiary institutions shall be prepared and organised by the Governor of the penitentiary institution, as prescribed by this Code and by the CEC. Voting in penitentiary institutions shall be held after 9:00, depending on the number of persons having the right to vote. The CEC shall establish, for every penitentiary institution, the time for beginning of voting so that it ends at 20:00.
3. The PECs operating in penitentiary institutions shall not be provided with technical equipment. Voting in these institutions shall be held as prescribed by the CEC.

## **CHAPTER 11 VOTING PROCEDURE**

### **Article 64. Actions of PEC before the voting**

1. On the Election Day, at 7:00, at the session held at the polling station, the PEC shall, by drawing of lots, decide upon:
  - (1) members of the commission carrying out registration of voters — at least 1 member per up to 1 000 voters;
  - (2) members of the commission allocating ballot papers and ballot envelopes — at least 1 member per up to 1 000 voters;
  - (3) at least 1 member posting stickers and responsible for the ballot box;

(4) at least 1 member who holds voting through a mobile ballot box, in case the given PEC must organise voting through a mobile ballot box;

(5) the rotation of functions, every 2 hours, of members of the PEC.

The chairperson and the secretary of the commission shall not participate in drawing of lots.

2. Upon the assignment of chairperson of the PEC, the specialist, in the presence of members of the PEC and persons having the right to be present at the voting, check the operating condition of the technical equipment as prescribed by the CEC, enter the identification data of the electoral precinct and print a certificate stating about the absence of voters registered by means of that technical equipment. A certificate shall be glued to the registration book of the PEC.

The chairperson of the PEC shall — in the presence of members of commission and persons having the right to be present in the polling room — open the fire-resistant safe, take out the individual seals of members of commission and, based on drawing of lots, hand the individual seals to them, take out ballot papers, ballot envelopes, the seal and, by putting a seal in the registration book, announce the seal number, checks that the ballot box is empty, close and seal the ballot box. [The chairperson] shall provide ballot papers and ballot envelopes, in piles of one hundred units, to the members allocating ballot papers and ballot envelopes. Hundred stickers shall be allocated to the member posting sticker and responsible for the ballot box. Where voting for Head of the community and member of the council of elders are held simultaneously, hundred stickers each shall be allocated to every election. Relevant entries with regard to the above-mentioned actions shall be made in the registration book of the PEC.

### **Article 65. Commencement of and procedure for voting**

1. On the Election Day, at 8:00, the chairperson of the PEC shall announce the commencement of voting and authorise the entry of voters into the polling room.

2. The chairperson of the commission shall organise and supervise the holding of the voting, support members exercising functions, when necessary, substitute them and the specialist in case of their temporary absence. Upon the assignment of the chairperson of the commission, the secretary of the commission shall make entries in the registration book, support the members exercising functions, substitute them and the specialist in case of their temporary absence. Upon the assignment of the chairperson of the commission, the commission member not exercising any function at that moment shall substitute the specialist in case of temporary absence thereof.

3. It shall be prohibited to enter a polling station with arms and ammunition.

4. Military servants, officers serving in national security and police troops shall not enter the polling station in a marching order and with arms and ammunition. In cases where the smooth voting process is under threat, only police officers, with the permission of the chairperson of the PEC, may enter the polling station with arms.

5. Where the number of voters present in the polling room is such that it obviously hinders the smooth voting process, the chairperson of the election commission shall have the right to limit the total number of voters present in the polling room at the same time — but no less than 15 voters — admitting voters to the polling room in turns, one by one. In case of impossibility to ensure implementation of this part by the election commission, it shall be ensured with the support of the police, upon request of the chairperson of the election commission.

6. One journalist and one photographer or one videotape operator representing every mass media shall have the right to be present in the polling room at the same time. Up to 2 observers from every international organisation accompanied by an interpreter may be present at the sessions of the election commission and, during the voting, also in the polling station (in the polling room), whereas in case of local observers — 1 observer from every organisation.

7. Where the number of observers, mass media representatives present in the polling room is such that it obviously hinders the smooth voting process, the PEC shall be entitled to prescribe the maximum number of observers and mass media representatives having the right to be present in the polling room at the same time, upon a decision adopted by at least 2/3 of the votes of the total number of members of the commission. The decision must be in line with the principle of proportionality, but in any case the number prescribed by that decision may not be less than 15. This limitation shall not extend to visitors, international observers and representatives of television and radio companies carrying out terrestrial on-air broadcasting. In case of impossibility to ensure



the execution of this part by the election commission, it shall be carried out with the support of the police, upon request of the chairperson of the election commission.

8. The CEC shall be obliged to create additional opportunities for the purpose of providing voters, facing difficulties with participation in the voting process, with access to voting, ensuring the opportunity for the free expression of will of the voter and secrecy of voting.

### **Article 66. Verifying the identity of a voter, registration of voters**

1. Identification document for a voter shall be considered to be an identification card, a biometric passport, a non-biometric passport, a temporary document, replacing the passport or the identification card, issued by the authorised body, an identification document of the voter who is in a penitentiary institution, whereas for military servants — the military service ID or the military service record book, where they register (vote) in the list of voters drawn up by the military unit. During elections of local self-government bodies, the identification document for the voter not holding citizenship shall be considered to be one of the documents established by the decision of the CEC as prescribed by Article 51 of this Code.

2. A voter shall participate in voting in person; proxy voting shall be prohibited.

Every voter shall approach the specialist and present an identification document.

Where a voter has presented a passport, or an identification card, the specialist shall verify the identity of the voter through the image available in the presented document and shall insert the presented document in the technical equipment.

Where a voter has presented a temporary document replacing the passport or the identification card, or the equipment fails to read the presented identification document, or during elections of local self-government bodies the voter has presented an identification document established for the voter not holding citizenship, the specialist shall insert, through keyboard, in the technical equipment the number of the passport, or the identification card, or the identification document of the voter not holding citizenship, indicated in the presented document.

Where a voter has presented an identification document of another person, the specialist shall inform thereon the chairperson of the commission. In such a case, the chairperson of the commission shall invite to the polling room police officers, who undertake measures prescribed by law.

Expiry of the validity period of the identification document of a voter shall not be a ground for not admitting him or her to voting, except for the case where it becomes clear from the information available in the technical equipment that the voter has another valid identification document.

3. Where a voter is registered in the list of voters of the given precinct and has presented, as an identification document, an identification card, a biometric passport or a non-biometric passport issued after 1 January 2008 and has not participated in the voting up to that moment with any identification document, the image of that elector, the record number of the voter in the list of electoral precinct and a green sign shall appear on the screen.

4. Where a voter is registered in the list of voters of the given precinct and has presented, as an identification document, a non-biometric passport issued after 1 January 2008 and has not participated in the voting up to that moment with any identification document, the record number of the voter in the list of the electoral precinct and a green sign shall appear on the screen without the image of the elector. Where during elections of local self-government bodies a voter is registered in the list of voters of the given precinct and has presented, as an identification document, an identification document for a voter not holding citizenship and has not participated in the voting up to that moment with an identification document, the record number of a voter in the list of the electoral precinct and a green light shall appear on the screen without the image of the elector.

5. Where a voter is not registered in the list of voters of the given electoral precinct, a yellow sign shall appear, and where relevant information is available in the technical equipment, also the number of the electoral precinct in the list whereof the given voter is included.

In the case referred to in this paragraph the voter shall be asked to leave the polling room.

6. Where a voter has already participated in the voting with any of his or her identification document, a red sign shall appear on the screen, the specialist shall inform thereon to the chairperson of the commission. In such a case, the chairperson of the commission shall invite to the polling room police officers, who undertake measures prescribed by law.

7. In case when a green sign appears on the screen, the voter shall insert the fingerprint of forefinger of his or her right hand. In case of impossibility thereof, the fingerprint shall be inserted by the following order: forefinger of the left hand, middle finger of the right hand, middle finger of the left hand, ring finger of the right hand, ring finger of the left hand, little figure of the right hand, little figure of the left hand, thumb of the right hand, thumb of the left hand. In case of impossibility to insert the fingerprint the step to insert fingerprint is omitted. Thereafter, the technical equipment shall print the record number of a voter in the list of voters, surname, name, the number of the identification document, the record number of the voting slip, whereas, if available in the digital database, also the voting slip containing the photograph of the elector. The CEC may prescribe requirements for additional data to appear on the screen and additional data to be printed on the voting slip.

8. The specialist shall return the printed voting slip together with the identification document of the voter to the elector, after which the voter shall approach to the relevant member of the commission carrying out registration of voters. The member of the commission carrying out registration of voters shall take from the voter the voting slip, find in the list of voters the line of the elector, the voter shall sign next to his or her data in the column envisaged for the signature of the elector, and shall put his or her individual seal in the relevant column, after which put his or her individual seal on the voting slip and pass it on to the elector.

9. Registration of voters shall be carried out without technical equipment in the following cases:

- (1) voting with the list of voters registered in the military unit;
- (2) voting in a penitentiary institution;
- (3) voting through a mobile ballot box;
- (4) voting with a supplementary list being drawn up on the Election Day;
- (5) voting in case the technical equipment fails or is not available.

10. In case of registering voters without the use of technical equipment, the relevant member of the commission shall verify the identity of the elector, find the data of the voter in the list of voters (in case of voting with the supplementary list of voters being drawn up on the Election Day — shall fill in the name, patronymic, surname), fill in the number of the identification document of the elector, after which the voter shall sign next to his or her name, the member of the commission shall put his or her own individual seal next to the signature. Where the voter is not able to sign the list of voters on his or her own, he or she shall have the right to seek the help of another citizen, except for members of the election commission.

After being registered as prescribed by part 10 of this Article in cases provided for by points 1 and 4 of part 9 of this Article, the specialist shall insert in the technical equipment the list in which the voter is included, the number of the voter in the relevant list, after which the voter shall insert his or her fingerprint. After these actions, the technical equipment prints a voting slip which contains the list in which the voter is included, the number of the voter in the relevant list and the record number of the voting slip. The specialist shall transfer the pass to the elector.

In the cases provided for by points 2, 3 and 5 of part 9 of this Article, the relevant member of the commission shall fill in the numbered slip, indicating thereon the list in which the voter is included, the record number of the voter in the list, seal the voting slip with his or her individual seal and pass it to the elector.

11. Form of a numbered slip shall be defined by the CEC.

## **Article 67. Voting**

1. Immediately after having received the voting slip, the voter shall approach the commission member responsible for handing out ballot papers and ballot envelopes and present the voting slip.

2. During elections of the National Assembly, a commission member responsible for handing out ballot papers and ballot envelopes shall hand out to the voter one ballot paper for every political party running in the elections and one ballot envelope. The voter may not refuse to accept all the ballot papers.

During elections of Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri, Vanadzor, as well as Head of the community and member of council of elders, a commission member responsible for handing out ballot papers and ballot envelopes shall hand out to the voter one ballot paper and one ballot envelope (and in case several votes are held simultaneously — ballot papers and ballot envelopes).

The voter shall proceed to the voting booth to vote.

3. During elections of the National Assembly, the voter shall choose one of the political parties running in the elections through placing the ballot paper of that political party in the ballot envelope. In case of electing any of the candidates in the district candidate list, the voter shall put — on the 2nd page of the ballot paper of the political party he or she has chosen — a uniform mark, as prescribed by the CEC, in the tick box next to the name of the candidate he or she is voting for. The ballot paper shall be placed in the ballot envelope without folding. Unused ballot papers shall be dropped in a separate box installed in the voting booth.

4. During elections of Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri, Vanadzor, the voter shall, as prescribed by the CEC, put a uniform mark in the tick box next to the name of the political party he or she is voting for and shall place the ballot paper in the voting envelope.

5. During the election of Head of the community and member of council of elders, the voter shall, as prescribed by the CEC, put a uniform mark in the tick box next to the name of the candidate he or she is voting for. In case 1 candidate is voted on, the voter shall mark next to the word “for” if he or she will vote for the candidate: next to the word “against” if he or she will vote against the candidate. In case several voting processes are held simultaneously, the voter shall place every ballot paper in the relevant envelope.

6. It shall be prohibited to enquire, in any manner, how he or she has voted.

7. Immediately after voting, the voter shall approach the member posting sticker at the ballot box and responsible for the ballot box and shall hand over the voting slip thereto. The commission member shall check the pass, may also, on his or her own initiative or upon request of another member of the commission or a proxy, verify the identification document of the elector. The commission member shall, without taking the ballot envelope from the elector, post a sticker on the ballot paper through the cut of the ballot envelope, after which shall open the slot of the ballot box and enable the voter to drop the ballot envelope in the ballot box.

Where the voter fails to present a voting slip, the member posting sticker and responsible for the ballot box shall inform the chairperson of the PEC, who shall take the ballot envelope from the elector, immediately cancel it, without verifying the content of the envelope.

8. Where during the voting, sticker allocated to the member posting sticker and responsible for the ballot box have run out, the chairperson of the PEC shall hand over to him or her the next set of new sticker, after receiving the voting slips therefrom. Voting slips shall be counted, and the number shall be recorded in the registration book of the PEC.

The member posting sticker and responsible for the ballot box — at the end of his or her shift as well as at the end of the voting — shall hand over the unused sticker and the voting slips received from voters to the chairperson of the commission. Voting slips and the unused sticker shall be counted, and the numbers shall be recorded in the registration book of the PEC.

9. The voter who is unable to fill in the ballot paper on his or her own, shall have the right to invite, after having notified the chairperson of the election commission, another person into the voting booth, who must not be a member of election commission, proxy, observer, mass media representatives, visitor. The person shall have the right to assist only one voter who is unable to fill in the ballot paper on his or her own. Except for the mentioned case, the presence of another person in the voting booth while filling in the ballot paper shall be prohibited. The data of the person assisting the voter unable to fill in the ballot paper on his or her own shall be entered in the registration book of the PEC.

10. If the voter finds that he or she has filled in the ballot paper incorrectly or has damaged it, he or she may apply to the chairperson of the commission to receive a new ballot paper. Upon the assignment of the chairperson of commission, a new ballot paper shall be allocated to the voter (in case of elections of the National Assembly — one ballot paper of every political party running in the elections). Incorrectly filled-in (damaged) ballot paper (ballot papers) shall be immediately cancelled.

11. The voter shall not have the right to announce in the polling station how he or she has voted.

12. After the voting, the voter shall immediately leave the polling room.

13. During the voting, the candidate, the candidate included in the candidate list of a political party running in the elections shall be prohibited from staying at the polling station or in the area up to 50 metres radius adjacent to a polling station, except for the case of participation in the voting.

14. Where the commission member, the proxy or the observer finds that cases of violations of the voting procedure have taken place in the voting process as provided for by this Code, he or she shall have the right to demand that his or her position be recorded in the registration book of the PEC.

## **CHAPTER 12 PROCEDURE FOR SUMMARISATION AND TABULATION OF VOTING RESULTS, DETERMINATION OF MARGIN OF ERROR AND SUMMARISATION OF ELECTION RESULTS**

### **Article 68. Procedure for summarisation of voting results in electoral precinct**

1. On the Election Day, at 20:00, the chairperson of the PEC shall announce about the end of the voting and prohibit the entry of voters into the polling room. The commission shall permit the voters present in the polling room to vote, after which the chairperson of the commission shall close the slot of the ballot box.

2. The PEC shall start the session for summarisation of voting results. Besides the persons having the right to be present at the session of the election commission, the candidate shall also have the right to be present at that session.

The PEC shall:

(1) pack the individual seals of the commission members, and the package shall be sealed and placed in the sack;

(2) count the total number of voting participants, based on the signatures of voters in the list of voters.

If available, the following shall also be counted separately:

- number of signatures available in the supplementary lists drawn up in the electoral precinct on the Election Day;
- number of signatures available in the supplementary lists of voters having participated in the voting through the mobile ballot box.

These figures shall be published and recorded in the registration book of the PEC.

The chairperson of the commission shall immediately inform, through available means of communication, the TEC on the total number of voting participants in the electoral precinct.

(3) where during the voting the technical equipment has worked without failures, a statement of information shall be printed by means of technical equipment during elections of the National Assembly, which includes the numbers of the TEC and the electoral precinct, the record number of voters registered by means of technical equipment in the list of voters of the relevant electoral precinct. A statement must contain an indication on the voters whose registration was carried out by inputting, using keyboard, the data on the identification document into the technical equipment.

In case of impossibility to print the statement of information, a relevant record thereon shall be made in the registration book.

One copy of the statement of information, signed by the chairperson of the PEC and sealed with the seal of the commission, shall be placed in the sack.

One copy of the statement of information, signed by the chairperson of the PEC and sealed with the seal of the commission, shall, upon request, be provided to the candidates, the observers and one proxy of every political party running in the elections, present at the session for summarisation.

The lists of voters (except for the signed lists of voters, being drawn up in a military unit, penitentiary institution and facility for holding arrestees) shall be packed, the package shall be sealed and signed by the chairperson and the secretary of the PEC and be submitted to the TEC as prescribed by part 9 of Article 71 of this Code. The signed lists of voters, being drawn up in a military unit, penitentiary institution and facility for holding arrestees, shall be packed separately, the package shall be sealed and placed in the sack.

(4) one by one count voting slips, received from voters, printed by means of technical equipment and numbered, pack, seal the package and place in the sack;

(5) count the unused sticker, pack, seal the package and place in the sack.

(6) count the unused numbered voting slips, pack, seal the package and place in the sack. In case numbered voting slips are not used, they shall not be counted and the number of voting slips allocated by the TEC shall be indicated;

(7) without counting, pack the unused ballot papers, submit to the TEC, as prescribed by the CEC.

The results of these actions shall be published and recorded in the registration book of the PEC.

3. The chairperson of the commission shall open the ballot box, take one ballot envelope out of the ballot box, demonstrate it in such a way that it is visible to those present and shall take the ballot paper out of the ballot envelope.

During elections of the National Assembly, the chairperson of the commission shall announce the ballot paper being of the established or non-established sample, valid or invalid (at this stage validity assessment of the ballot paper as regards the candidate included in the district candidate list shall not be carried out), in case of a valid ballot paper [he or she] shall announce the name of the political party running in the elections in favour of which the ballot paper has been cast. It shall be demonstrated in such a way that it is visible to those present. Upon request, the ballot paper shall be transferred to other members of the commission. In case the member of the commission disagrees with the statement of the chairperson of the commission, he or she shall raise an objection. In case the objection is raised, the proposal of the member of the commission shall be put to voting in accordance with the decision on accepting the objection, and where the objection is not adopted or where there is no objection, the ballot paper shall, pursuant to the statement of the chairperson of the commission, be put in the pile of ballot papers cast in favour of the political party. This action shall be repeated with all the envelopes available in the ballot box.

The ballot papers with affirmative vote cast in favour of the political party running in the elections and the invalid ballot papers shall be sorted separately.

After the ballot papers with affirmative vote have been sorted and counted according to ballot papers cast in favour of every political party running in the elections, the results shall be announced out loud and recorded in the registration book of the PEC.

After having all the valid ballot papers of every political party running in the elections sorted, the PEC shall (according to the political parties having received the highest number of ballot papers with affirmative vote) count the number of ballot papers cast in favour of every candidate included in the district candidate list of the political party running in the elections. To that end, the chairperson of the PEC shall, according to the mark put on the 2nd page of the ballot paper, announce the candidate in the district candidate list of the political party running in the elections in favour of whom it has been cast. Where the ballot paper on its 2nd page contains marks in favour of more than one candidates or contains no marks or the established form of putting a mark has been obviously violated, the ballot paper shall remain only in the pile of ballot papers cast in favour of the political party running in the elections. It shall be demonstrated in such a way that it is visible to those present. Upon request, the ballot paper shall be transferred to other members of the commission. In case the member of the commission disagrees with the statement of the chairperson of the commission, he or she shall raise an objection. Where an objection is raised, the proposal of the member of the commission is put to voting in accordance with the decision on accepting the objection, and where the objection is not adopted or where there is no objection, the ballot paper shall, pursuant to the statement of the chairperson of the commission, be put in the pile of ballot papers cast in favour of the relevant candidate for Deputies.

This action shall be repeated with all the ballot papers with affirmative vote cast in favour of every political party running in the elections. After having ballot papers cast in favour of every political party running in the elections sorted as prescribed, the number of ballot papers cast in favour of every candidate in the district candidate list of the political party running in the elections shall be counted, announced out loud and recorded in the registration book of the PEC.

After having ballot papers cast in favour of all political parties running in the elections sorted, ballot papers with affirmative vote cast in favour of every political parties running in the elections shall be packed together.

4. During elections of Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri, Vanadzor, as well as of Head of the community and member of the council of elders, the chairperson of the commission shall take one ballot envelope out of the ballot box, demonstrate it in such a way that it is visible to those present, take the ballot paper out of the ballot envelope and announce if the ballot paper is valid, invalid, or of non-established sample.

In case the ballot paper is valid, [he or she] shall also announce the candidate or the political party running in the elections in favour of whom or which a vote has been cast.

Upon request, the ballot paper shall be transferred to other members of the commission. In case the member of the commission disagrees with the statement of the chairperson of the commission, he or she shall raise an objection. Where the objection is raised, the proposal of the member of the commission is put to voting in accordance with the decision on accepting the objection, and where the objection is not adopted or where there is no objection, the ballot paper shall, pursuant to the statement of the chairperson of the commission, be put in the pile of ballot papers cast in favour of the political party running in the elections or of the candidate, in case one candidate is voted on — in the pile of the ballot papers cast for or against the candidate, or in the pile of invalid ballot papers, after which the next envelope shall be taken out of the ballot box. This action shall be repeated in relation to all the envelopes in the ballot box.

The ballot papers cast in favour of political parties running in the elections, candidates, and the invalid ballot papers shall be sorted separately.

After the ballot papers voted on have been sorted and counted, the results shall be announced out loud and recorded in the registration book of the PEC.

5. During the sorting of ballot papers, commission members shall be prohibited from making any notes, as well as having with them any pens, pencils or other items for making notes.

6. In case more than one ballot paper is found in a ballot envelope, only the one of the established sample ballot paper shall be considered in the counting.

In case the ballot envelope contains an additional writing, the ballot paper shall not be taken out of the envelope, the ballot envelope together with the ballot paper therein shall be immediately cancelled.

7. The non-established sample ballot papers shall not be considered and counted when summarising the results.

8. The counted and sorted ballot papers shall be packed as prescribed by the CEC, and the packages shall be sealed and placed in the sack.

The packages must bear the signature of the chairperson of the commission. The other commission members and proxies shall also have the right to sign the packages. The names and surnames of the signatories shall be entered, and samples of the signature shall be put in the registration book.

9. In case elections for Head of the community and member of the council of elders are held simultaneously, the voting results of the community council of elders shall be summarised first.

#### **Article 69. Invalid and valid ballot papers**

1. An established sample ballot paper in case of elections of the National Assembly, shall be invalid where it contains an additional writing;

2. An established sample ballot paper in case of elections of Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri, Vanadzor, Head of the community and member of the council of elders shall be invalid, where:

(1) it contains marks in favour of more than one candidate, political party;

(2) it contains marks both next to the words “for” and “against” where one candidate is voted on;

(3) it contains an additional writing, apart from the mark established by the CEC for voting or the resembling one;

(4) it does not contain any mark;

(5) the form prescribed for putting a mark in the ballot paper is obviously violated.

3. An insignificant violation of the established form may not be considered as a basis for invalidity of the ballot paper if the elector’s intention is clear and unambiguous.

4. An established sample ballot paper shall be valid if it is not invalid.

#### **Article 70. Established sample ballot papers**

1. An established sample ballot paper shall be the ballot paper of the sample approved by the CEC which has been taken out of the envelope and which bears a sticker of that electoral precinct.

#### **Article 71. Protocol of PEC on voting results**

1. Based on counting carried out as prescribed by Article 68 of this Code, the PEC shall draw up a PEC results protocol, which shall include the following:

- (1) the total number of voters in the electoral precinct, which shall be equal to the sum of the number of voters included in the list of voters and the number of voters included in supplementary lists. The number of voters included in the list of voters shall be filled in by the TEC;
- (2) the total number of voting participants;
- (3) the number of stickers allocated to the PEC (shall be filled in by the TEC);
- (4) the number of numbered slips allocated to the PEC (shall be filled in by the TEC);
- (5) the number of slips printed by means of technical equipment, received from voters;
- (6) the number of numbered voting slips received from voters;
- (7) the total number of numbered voting slips received from voters (the sum of the figures referred to in points 5 and 6 of this part);
- (8) the number of unused numbered slips;
- (9) the number of unused stickers;
- (10) the number of invalid ballot papers;
- (11) the number of ballot papers with affirmative vote cast in favour of every candidate, political party running in the elections. The number of ballot papers with affirmative vote cast in favour of every candidate included in the district candidate list during elections of the National Assembly;
- (12) the number of ballot papers cast against a candidate (the line shall be indicated when one candidate is voted on).

2. The protocol shall be signed by the chairperson, the secretary and the members of the commission, it shall be sealed by the chairperson of the commission.

3. The commission member shall be obliged to sign the protocol. In case of having an objection (special opinion) with regard to the data in the protocol, he or she shall make a relevant entry in the protocol in the special place provided for that purpose.

4. The session of the PEC may not be interrupted from the moment the voting is over until drawing up of the PEC results protocol.

5. The commission shall complete the protocol at the end of the session but no later than 12 hours after the end of voting, and the commission chairperson shall publish the PEC results protocol.

6. The protocol shall be drawn up in 4 copies, 1 copy shall be posted at the polling station next to the list of voters, and 1 copy shall be placed in the sack.

7. The sack must bear the signature of the chairperson of the commission. The other commission members and proxies shall also have the right to sign the sack. The names and surnames of the signatories shall be entered, and samples of the signature shall be recorded in the registration book. The sack of election related documents at the PEC must be closed. The chairperson of the commission shall be responsible for closing the sack, in the prescribed manner, at the PEC.

8. During elections of the National Assembly, persons having the right to be present at the session for summarisation of the voting results in the precinct may photograph or videotape the PEC results protocol.

During elections of the National Assembly, persons having the right to be present at the session for summarisation of voting results in the precinct shall, upon their request, be provided with an extract from the PEC results protocol (without the data of candidates included in the district candidate lists), which shall be certified by the signatures of the commission chairperson and the secretary, and by the seal of the commission.

During elections of the Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri, Vanadzor, as well as Head of the community and member of council of elder, persons having the right to be present at the session for summarisation of the voting results in the precinct shall, upon their request, be provided with an extract from the PEC results protocol, which shall be certified by the signatures of the commission chairperson and the secretary, and by the seal of the commission.

9. No later than within 14 hours after the end of voting, the chairperson and the secretary of the PEC shall submit the sack, the package of the lists of voters, the pile of the unused ballot envelopes, unused ballot papers, 2 copies of the protocol on the voting results, the registration book, the individual seals and the commission seal, the technical equipment to the TEC as prescribed by the CEC.

## **Article 72. Procedure for determining inaccuracy**

1. The 1st margin of error shall be calculated based on comparison of the sum of the number of voting slips received from voters and the number of unused stickers with the number of stickers allocated to the PEC. The difference, in the absolute value of the number, shall be indicated as the scale of the first margin of error.
2. The 2nd margin of error shall be calculated based on comparison of the total number of voting participants with the sum of the numbers of valid and invalid ballot papers in the ballot box. If the sum of the numbers of valid and invalid ballot papers in the ballot box is higher than the total number of voting participants, the difference in the absolute value of the number shall be indicated as the scale of the 2nd margin of error. Otherwise, the amount of the second margin of error shall be indicated as “0”.
3. The level of margin of error in the electoral precinct shall be equal to the sum of the 1st and 2nd margins of error.
4. The level of margin of error in the electoral precinct shall be calculated and recorded by the election commission responsible for summarisation of the election results, by using the “Elections” automated system.
5. In case of declaring the voting results in the electoral precinct as invalid, the number of voting participants in that precinct shall be recorded as the total level of margin of error in the precinct.
6. While drawing up the protocol on the voting results, the total number of voting participants of the precinct where the voting results are declared as invalid shall be correspondingly added to the voting results of the remaining precincts. The other results (numbers) of the protocol of the electoral precinct where the voting results are declared as invalid, except for the level of margin of error, shall be recorded as “0”.

## **Article 73. Actions of TEC after receiving the protocols of PECs**

1. The TEC shall check the validity of drawing up the PEC results protocols, in case of arithmetic errors, the chairperson or the secretary of the PEC shall correct them and certify the corrections with their signatures. The baseline data shall not be modified. Data produced by the PEC by way of counting one by one shall be deemed baseline data.
  2. The TEC shall enter, as prescribed by the CEC, the data of protocols on the voting results in the electoral precinct into a computer by means of special software. The software shall ensure reasonable guarantees against errors generated by the incorrect data input. The TEC shall regularly but no less than every 3 hours, print the tabulation of the voting results. The tabulation certified by the signatures of the TEC chairperson (deputy chairperson) and the secretary, and by the seal of the commission shall be immediately posted at the commission, in a place visible to all. The TEC shall complete the entry into a computer of data of PEC results protocols no later than within 20 hours after the end of voting. The TEC shall tabulate the voting results according to electoral precincts, as well as total results.
  3. The TEC shall immediately post at the commission the final copy of the tabulated voting results, certified by signatures of the chairperson (deputy chairperson) and the secretary of the commission, and by the commission seal, in a place visible to all. Upon their request, persons having the right to be present at the session of the election commission shall receive 1 copy of the tabulated voting results within the service area of the TEC, certified by signatures of the chairperson (deputy chairperson) and the secretary of the commission, and by the commission seal.  
During elections of the National Assembly, Councils of Elders of Yerevan, the TEC shall submit — 24 hours after the end of voting — 1 copy of the PEC results protocol, to the CEC.
- 3.1. During the elections of the National Assembly, the TEC shall — on the day following the Election Day, from 12:00 — carry out scanning of the lists of voters, which may be followed by the PEC members, candidates, proxies, observers and mass media representatives.  
The lists of voters shall be scanned in accordance with the procedure and standards prescribed by the CEC, so that the ordinal number in the list of voters of the given electoral precinct, surname, name, patronymic, date of birth, address of the place of registration of the elector, as well as the columns envisaged for the signature of the elector, the individual seal of the member of the commission responsible for the registration of the voter are visible.



The scanned lists of voters shall, no later than 24 hours after the launch of scanning activities, be officially published and posted on the website of the CEC, with the possibility to download and to search by electoral precincts.

4. During elections of the National Assembly, the obtaining, as prescribed by the CEC, from technical equipment information on participation in the elections and containing fingerprints of voters and entering it into the computer, shall be organised by means of special software.

5. During elections of the National Assembly, Councils of Elders of Yerevan, the TEC shall not draw up a protocol on summarisation of the voting results, for recounting of the voting results, it shall investigate, within the deadlines established by this Code, the violations recorded in the registration books of PECs on the Election Day, summarise the investigation results at the session of the commission, and submit the decision adopted thereon to the CEC.

**Article 74. Procedure for summarising at TEC the results of elections of Councils of Elders of Gyumri, Vanadzor, Head of the community and member of the council of elders**

1. No later than within 18 hours after the end of voting, based on the PEC results protocols, the TEC shall, in accordance with the requirements of this Article, summarise the preliminary voting results on elections of the Councils of Elders of Gyumri, Vanadzor, as well as Head of the community and member of the council of elders and endorse them by a protocol.

2. On the 5th day after the Election Day, and on the 7th day in case of elections of the Councils of Elders of Gyumri, Vanadzor, based on the PEC results protocols, the recounting results, the decisions adopted on the voting results, the TEC shall draw up a protocol on the voting results in the community.

3. The following shall be indicated in the protocol on the voting results in the community:

(1) the total number of voters in the community, which shall be equal to the sum of the number of voters included in the list of voters and the number of voters in the supplementary list being drawn up on the Election Day;

(2) the total number of voting participants;

(3) the total number of sticker allocated to the PEC;

(4) the total number of numbered passes allocated to the PEC;

(5) the total number of passes printed by means of technical equipment, received from voters;

(6) the total number of numbered voting slips received from voters;

(7) the total number of numbered passes received from voters (the sum of the figures referred to in points 5 and 6 of this part);

(8) the total number of unused numbered passes;

(9) the total number of unused sticker;

(10) the total number of invalid ballot papers;

(11) the number of ballot papers with affirmative vote cast in favour of every political party running in the elections, in case of elections of the Councils of Elders of Gyumri, Vanadzor;

(12) the total number of ballot papers cast in favour of a candidate, in case of elections of Head of the community and member of council of elders;

(13) the number of ballot papers cast against a candidate (the line shall be indicated when one candidate is voted on).

(14) the total level of error.

The total level of error in a community shall be equal to the sum of the total inaccuracy amounts in electoral precincts included in the community.

4. The protocol shall be signed by the commission members; it shall be sealed by the commission chairperson.

5. The chairperson of the TEC shall publish the drawn up protocol.

6. On the 5th day after the Election Day, and on the 7th day in case of elections of the Councils of Elders of Gyumri, Vanadzor, based on the protocol on the voting results in the community, court judgments, decisions adopted due to consideration of applications (complaints) received by the commission, and the adopted decision on the violations recorded on the Election Day in the registration books of PECs, the TEC shall summarise the voting results in the community and adopt a decision on the election results.

Where the number of voting slips in the precinct is less than the number of sticker handed over to the member posting sticker and responsible for the ballot box and of those used, the chairperson of the TEC shall provide the law-enforcement bodies with the data on the member of the commission (the chairperson of the commission) having handed over less sticker and the carbon copy of the relevant page of the registration book, as a report on potential infringement.

7. One copy of the protocol shall be posted at the commission in a visible place immediately after the actions provided for by this Article are completed.

8. A carbon copy of the protocol on the voting results of elections, certified by the signatures of the commission chairperson and the secretary, and by the commission seal, shall be provided to persons having the right to attend the session of the election commission, upon their request.

9. The TEC shall submit copies of the protocol and the decision on the results of elections to the CEC within a 5-day period.

#### **Article 75. Procedure for summarisation of the results of elections of the National Assembly, Councils of Elders of Yerevan in the CEC**

1. No later than 24 hours after the end of voting, based on the election results in the electoral precincts, received from TECs, the CEC shall, in accordance with the requirements of this Article, summarise the preliminary results of voting on election of the National Assembly, Council of Elders of Yerevan, and endorse them by a protocol.

The preliminary results of voting for elections of the National Assembly shall be officially published during live broadcasting of public radio and public television. While publishing the preliminary results during live broadcasting, the number of ballot papers cast for political parties running in the elections by electoral districts and the votes received by candidates included in the district candidate lists, shall not be published.

After having been signed, the protocol on preliminary voting results on election of the National Assembly, Councils of Elders of Yerevan shall be published on the website of the CEC.

2. During the election of the National Assembly, no later than 72 hours after the publication of the preliminary results, the data obtained from the technical equipment shall be summarised by means of special software, and the following shall be published on the website of the CEC:

- (1) the total number of voting slips printed by means of technical equipment;
- (2) the total number of voting slips printed through inserting an identification document into the technical equipment;
- (3) the total number of voting slips printed through inputting by the specialist, using the keyboard, the data of the identification document into the technical equipment;
- (4) the total number of voting slips printed through the technical equipment for voters registered in the military unit;
- (5) the total number of voting slips printed through the technical equipment for voters included in the supplementary list of voters being drawn up on the Election Day.

3. On the 7th day after the Election Day, based on the PEC results protocols, the recounting results, the decisions adopted on the voting results, the CEC shall draw up a protocol on the voting results.

4. The following shall be indicated in the protocol on the voting results:

- (1) the total number of voters, which shall be equal to the sum of the number of voters included in the list and the number of voters in the supplementary list;
- (2) the total number of voting participants;
- (3) the total number of sticker allocated to the PEC;
- (4) the total number of numbered passes allocated to the PEC;
- (5) the total number of passes printed by means of technical equipment, received from voters;
- (6) the total number of numbered voting slips received from voters;
- (7) the total number of passes received from voters;
- (8) the total number of unused numbered passes;
- (9) the total number of unused sticker;
- (10) the total number of invalid ballot papers;
- (11) the number of ballot papers with affirmative vote cast in favour of every political party running in the elections, in case of elections of the National Assembly also by electoral districts;

(12) the number of ballot papers with affirmative vote cast in favour of every candidate included in the district candidate list of political parties running in the elections, by electoral districts, in case of elections of the National Assembly;

(13) the total level of error.

The total level of error shall be equal to the sum of the total level of error in all the formed electoral precincts.

5. The protocol shall be signed by the commission members; it shall be sealed by the chairperson of the commission.

6. A carbon copy of the protocol on the voting results, certified by the signatures of the commission chairperson and the secretary, and by the commission seal, shall be provided to persons having the right to be present at the session of the election commission, upon their request.

7. On the 7th day after the Election Day, based on the protocol on the voting results, court judgments, decisions adopted due to consideration of applications (complaints) received from commissions, decisions of TECs adopted on the violations recorded on the Election Day in the registration books of PECs, and decisions adopted on the voting results, the CEC shall summarise the election results and adopt a decision on the election results.

## **PART TWO**

### **SECTION 4 ELECTIONS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

#### **CHAPTER 13 GENERAL PROVISIONS**

##### **Article 76. Composition of the National Assembly**

1. The minimum number of Deputies of the National Assembly shall be 101.

##### **Article 77. Electoral system**

1. Elections of the National Assembly shall be held under the proportional electoral system, from one multi-mandate constituency covering the whole territory of the Republic from among candidates for Deputies nominated in the national and district candidate lists of political parties.

##### **Article 78. Electoral districts**

1. During elections of the National Assembly, 13 electoral districts shall be constituted in the Republic of Armenia — 4 in Yerevan, 9 in marzes.

2. In the territory of the city of Yerevan 4 electoral districts shall be constituted — Avan, Nor Nork, Kanaker-Zeytun administrative districts shall be included in the 1st electoral district, Arabkir, Ajapnyak, Davitashen administrative districts — in the 2nd electoral district, Malatia-Sebastia, Shengavit administrative districts — in the 3rd electoral district, Kentron, Nork-Marash, Erebuni, Nubarashen administrative districts — in the 4th electoral district.

3. In marzes 9 electoral districts shall be constituted — Ararat Marz, Armavir Marz, Aragatsotn Marz, Gegharkunik Marz, Lori Marz, Kotayk Marz, Shirak Marz, Syunik and Vayots Dzor Marzes, Tavush Marz.

##### **Article 79. Right to vote**

1. During elections of the National Assembly every voter shall have 1 vote.

##### **Article 80. Right to be elected**

1. Everyone who has attained the age of 25, has been a citizen of the Republic of Armenia only, for the preceding 4 years, has been permanently residing in the Republic of Armenia for the preceding 4 years, has the right of suffrage and has command of the Armenian language may be elected as Deputy of the National Assembly.

2. A citizen shall not be considered as permanently residing in the Republic of Armenia for the preceding 4 years where he or she has been absent from the Republic of Armenia for at least 731 days out of 1 461 days preceding the day of submitting an application to the authorised body for the purpose of obtaining a statement of information, in the manner prescribed, on having permanent

residence for the registration of a candidate, except for cases when the absence has been conditioned by circumstances related to the secondment for service purposes of a person who is a public servant of the Republic Armenia, or to his or her study at higher educational institutions abroad.

3. The command of the Armenian language shall be certified by a graduation document (education certificate, academic certificate, diploma) issued by educational institutions on having received education in the Armenian language in educational institutions or having completed studies of the Armenian language provided by educational programmes and having passed final attestation. In case of absence of a graduation document certifying the command of the Armenian language, the command of the Armenian language shall be tested as prescribed by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia which must provide for reasonable, objective criteria for testing the command of the Armenian language, as well as process supervision procedures. The results of the testing may be appealed against before a court within a 3-day period.

## **CHAPTER 14 NOMINATION AND REGISTRATION OF CANDIDATES FOR DEPUTY**

### **Article 81. Right to nominate a candidate for Deputy**

1. The right to nominate candidates for Deputy of the National Assembly shall be vested in political parties and alliances of political parties.

A candidate for Deputy may be nominated within a candidate list of only one political party.

2. Alliances of political parties may be formed by at least 2 political parties. A political party may be included in the composition of only 1 alliance.

3. The political party included in an alliance of political parties may not run in the elections on its own.

4. The decision on joining an alliance of political parties shall be adopted by the decision of the permanently functioning governing body of the political party.

### **Article 82. Restrictions for nomination**

1. Judges, prosecutors, officers of the Investigative Committee, Special Investigation Service, Police, National Security, Judicial Acts Compulsory Enforcement Service, rescue, tax, customs authorities, penitentiary service, military servants, members of election commissions may not be nominated as a candidate for Deputy of the National Assembly.

### **Article 83. National and district candidate lists of a political party (alliances of political parties)**

1. Every political party (alliance of political parties) running in the elections shall nominate 1 national candidate list of candidates, which may consist of 2 parts, and 1 district candidate list for every electoral district.

2. The national candidate list of an alliance of political parties shall be made up from a national candidate list presented by every political party included in the alliance.

3. A political party (alliance of political parties) shall make up district candidate lists from the candidates included in the first part of the national candidate list thereof. A citizen may be included only in 1 district candidate list.

4. In the first part of the national candidate list of a political party, alliance of political parties and every of the political parties included in the alliance, the number of representatives of every sex, starting from the 1st place on the list, must not exceed 70 per cent in every integer group of 3 (1-3, 1-6, 1-9 and subsequently up to the end of the list). The first part of the national candidate list of a political party (alliance of political parties) shall include no less than 80 and no more than 300 candidates. The first part of the national candidate list of a political party (alliance of political parties) may include persons that are not members of that political party (any of member political parties to the alliance) the number of which may not exceed 30 per cent of the total number of the candidates included in the first part of the national candidate list.

5. The national candidate list may have a second part, wherein representatives of the first 4 national minorities with the largest number of resident population — according to the data of the latest census preceding the elections — may be included, in accordance with part 6 of this Article.

A candidate for Deputy, who is a representative of national minority, included in the second part of the national candidate list may also be included in the first part of the national candidate list.

6. The second part of the national candidate list of a political party (alliance of political parties) shall have 4 sections. Every section may include up to 4 representatives from the respective national minority. In case of not including a representative of a national minority in any section, the respective section shall not be filled in.

In the second part of the national candidate list the data of candidates for Deputy who are representatives of national minority with the largest number of resident population shall be listed in section 1 under consecutive numbers starting from “1”; data of candidates for Deputy who are representatives of national minority with the second largest number of resident population shall be listed in section 2 under consecutive numbers starting from “1”; data of candidates for Deputy who are representatives of national minority with the third largest number of resident population shall be listed in section 3 under consecutive numbers starting from “1”; data of candidates for Deputy who are representatives of national minority with the fourth largest number of resident population shall be listed in section 4 under consecutive numbers starting from “1”.

7. The first and second parts of the national candidate list of a political party (alliance of political parties) shall include — under consecutive numbers — the surname, name, patronymic, date of birth, sex, political affiliation, personal identification document number, place of registration, place of employment and position (occupation) of candidates for Deputy.

8. The national and district candidate lists of a political party (alliance of political parties) shall be approved and nominated by the decision of the permanently functioning governing body of the political party (by the decisions of permanently functioning governing bodies of member political parties to the alliance). All the pages of national and district candidate lists shall be sealed and signed by the competent person of a political party (member political parties to the alliance).

9. The district candidate list of a political party (alliance of political parties) may include maximum 1 candidate per 15 000 voters included in that electoral district according to the Register of Voters. The maximum number of candidates included in the district candidate list of a political party (alliance of political parties) in every electoral district shall be prescribed by the CEC based on the rule prescribed by this part, within 10 days after calling elections. The mentioned number for every electoral district shall be calculated based on the number in the Register of Voters.

10. The number of representatives of every sex must not exceed 70 per cent in the district candidate list of a political party (alliance of political parties) running in the elections.

11. The district candidate list of a political party (alliance of political parties) running in the elections shall include the surnames, names and patronymics of candidates for Deputy according to their surnames, and where they coincide — according to the names and surnames in alphabetical order. Where surnames, names and patronymics coincide, the date of birth shall be stated.

12. In case any political party leaves the alliance of political parties, the candidates for Deputy nominated in the national candidate list of that political party shall be removed — as prescribed by the CEC — from the national and district candidate lists of the alliance of political parties.

#### **Article 84. Nominating a candidate for Deputy**

1. Political parties shall submit to the CEC the application on running in the elections of the National Assembly, upon the decision of their permanently functioning governing body, and the application shall be signed by the head of the political party. Alliances of political parties shall submit to the CEC the application on running in the elections of the National Assembly upon decisions of permanently functioning governing bodies of member political parties to the alliance, and the application shall be signed by the heads of member political parties to the alliance.

2. The following shall be attached to the application of a political party (alliance of political parties) on running in the elections of the National Assembly:

- (1) the charter of the political party (the charters of the political parties included in the alliance);
- (2) the decision of the permanently functioning governing body of the political party (decisions of permanently functioning governing bodies of member political parties to the alliance) on approving and nominating national and district candidate lists;
- (3) the national and district candidate lists;

- (4) the written statements of candidates for Deputy included in candidate lists on their consent for being registered as candidate for Deputy;
- (5) the national list presented by every of the political parties included in the alliance of political parties;
- (6) the receipt on payment of the electoral deposit in the amount of 10 000-fold of the minimum salary;
- (7) a statement of information proving that candidates for Deputy included in the candidate lists have been citizens of the Republic of Armenia only, for the last 4 years, and have been permanently residing in the Republic of Armenia for the last 4 years;
- (8) carbon copy of the document, or a statement of information issued by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia, certifying the command of the Armenian language;
- (9) copies of personal identification documents of candidates for Deputy included in the candidate lists.

3. The form of a certificate prescribed by point 7 of part 2 of this Article shall be approved by the CEC. The mentioned statement of information shall be issued by the authorised body within a 3-day period following the request but no earlier than the calling of elections.

The authorised body shall upon its decision refuse to issue a statement of information of the specified form to the applicant, if the data thereon do not meet the requirements of Article 80 of this Code.

4. A certificate prescribed by point 8 of part 2 of this Article shall be issued by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia within a 1-week period following the request.

5. The application on running in the elections of the National Assembly shall also contain data on up to 3 authorised representatives (surname, name, patronymic, date of birth, personal identification document number, place of employment and position (occupation)).

6. Documents necessary for registering the candidate lists of a political party running in the elections shall be submitted to the CEC only personally by the authorised representative of the political party (alliance of political parties) within the deadlines prescribed by this Code.

7. Where errors, deletions, erasures, misprints are found in the documents submitted for registration of the candidate lists of a political party (alliance of political parties) running in the elections, the CEC shall be obliged to bring them to the attention of persons having submitted the documents so as to correct them, as well as correct itself, in their presence, the evident errors and misprints existing in the submitted documents.

The Commission shall have no right not to accept the submitted documents only for the reason that they contain such errors, deletions, erasures, or misprints. The provisions of this part shall not apply to correction of such errors, deletions, erasures, misprints or elimination of other deficiencies found in the documents, the right whereof is reserved by law to the bodies having adopted or issued such documents.

In case the submitted documents contain inaccuracy referred to in the second paragraph of this part or in case of incompleteness of documents attached to the application, the CEC shall give 48 hours for the elimination of the mentioned inaccuracy, completion of the attached documents. In case of failure to eliminate, within that period of time, the inaccuracy regarding the candidate list of a political party (alliance of political parties) running in the elections, regarding a candidate included in the candidate list, or in case of failure to complete the documents, the registration of the candidate list of a political party (alliance of political parties) running in the elections, a candidate included in the candidate list shall be rejected, and his or her name shall be removed from the candidate list of the political party (alliance of political parties) running in the elections as prescribed by the CEC.

#### **Article 85. Registering the candidate list of a political party**

1. In case no objection is raised by the members of the CEC with respect to the registration of the candidate list of a political party, the candidate list shall be registered without voting.

In case of registration of the candidate list of a political party the district candidate lists shall also be considered as registered.

2. After the registration of the candidate list of a political party, at the same session, the CEC shall, by drawing of lots, provide record numbers to the political parties running in the elections. The mentioned numbers shall not be subject to change. In case of holding a second round of election, no numbers shall be indicated in the ballot paper for the political party running in the elections and the newly formed alliance.

3. Within a 3-day period following the expiry of the deadline for registration, the CEC shall publish on its website the national and district candidate lists of political parties.

4. An authorised representative of the political party shall have the right to be present at the session of the CEC held for the discussion of the issue of registering the candidate lists of the political party.

#### **Article 86. Rejecting the registration of the candidate list of a political party (alliance of political parties) or the candidate included in the candidate lists**

1. In case there are grounds for rejecting the registration of the national candidate list or any district candidate list of a political party (alliance of political parties), the registration of the candidate list of the given political party (alliance of political parties) shall be rejected.

2. The CEC shall reject the registration of the candidate list of a political party (alliance of political parties), where:

(1) not all the documents have been submitted or the submitted documents are incomplete or falsified;

(2) district candidate lists have not been submitted for all electoral districts in the manner prescribed;

(3) the national candidate list or any district candidate list does not comply with the requirements prescribed by Article 83 of this Code. The registration of the candidate list shall not be rejected on the ground of non-compliance with the requirements prescribed by Article 83 of this Code, when non-compliance is conditioned by a circumstance having emerged after the nomination with the exception of cases when the number of candidates in every of at least 5 district candidate lists presented by a political party (alliance of political parties) falls below 2;

(4) the political party has been dissolved;

(5) the number of political parties included in the alliance of political parties has fallen below 2;

(6) the activities of the political party have been suspended or prohibited.

3. In case objection is raised by a member of the CEC regarding registration of the candidate list of a political party (alliance of political parties), the objection shall be put to vote. The registration of the candidate list of a political party (alliance of political parties) shall be rejected upon the decision adopted by at least 2/3 of votes of the total number of members of the Commission.

4. The CEC shall reject the registration of a candidate included in the candidate lists, where:

(1) he or she does not have the right to be elected;

(2) not all the documents thereon have been submitted, or the submitted documents are incomplete or falsified.

In case the registration of a candidate is rejected, the candidate shall be removed from the national and district candidate lists as prescribed by the CEC.

5. In case an objection is raised by a member of the CEC regarding registration of a candidate included in the candidate lists of a political party (alliance of political parties), the objection shall be put to vote. The registration of a candidate shall be rejected upon the decision adopted by at least 2/3 of votes of the total number of members of the CEC.

#### **Article 87. Declaring invalid the registration of the candidate list of a political party or the candidate included in the candidate list**

1. The CEC shall declare invalid the registration of an candidate list of a political party, where after the registration some facts emerge evidencing that the submitted documents concerning the political party are falsified.

2. The registration of the candidate list of a political party shall not be declared invalid as a consequence of revoking or declaring invalid the registration of the candidate included in the candidate lists of a political party, even if the requirements prescribed by parts 4 and 10 of Article 83 of this Code are violated.

3. The registration of a candidate included in the candidate lists of a political party shall be declared invalid, where by virtue of facts having emerged after the registration:

- (1) he or she does not have the right to be elected;
- (2) the submitted documents thereon are falsified.

In case the registration of a candidate included in the candidate lists is declared invalid, the candidate shall be removed from the national and district candidate lists as prescribed by the CEC.

4. The registration of candidate lists of a political party or a candidate included in the candidate lists shall be declared invalid upon a decision adopted by at least 2/3 of votes of the total number of members of the CEC.

### **Article 88. Revoking the registration of the candidate list of a political party (alliance of political parties) or the candidate included in the candidate lists**

1. The registration of the candidate list of a political party (alliance of political parties) shall be revoked by the decision of the CEC, where:

- (1) an application for recusal has been submitted;
- (2) the political party has been dissolved;
- (3) the activities of the political party have been suspended or prohibited.
- (4) the number of political parties included in the alliance of political parties has fallen below 2;
- (5) the number of candidates in every of at least 5 district candidate lists presented by a political party (alliance of political parties) falls below 2.

2. The registration of the candidate list of a political party (alliance of political parties) shall be revoked by a judicial act in cases prescribed by part 8 of Article 19 or part 1 of Article 26 or part 5 of Article 27 of this Code.

3. The registration of a candidate included in the candidate lists of a political party (alliance of political parties) shall be revoked upon the decision of the CEC, where he or she has submitted an application for recusal.

4. The registration of a candidate included in the candidate lists of a political party, alliance of political parties shall be revoked by a judicial act in the case prescribed by part 8 of Article 19 or Article 27 of this Code.

In case the registration of a candidate included in the candidate lists is revoked, the candidate shall be removed from the national and district candidate lists as prescribed by the CEC.

### **Article 89. Procedure for appealing against the decisions on rejecting, declaring invalid or revoking the registration of the candidate list of a political party or the candidate included in the candidate lists**

1. The decision of the CEC on rejecting, declaring invalid or revoking the registration of the candidate list of a political party or the candidate included in the candidate lists may be appealed against before the Administrative Court.

2. The candidate list of a political party or a candidate included in the candidate lists shall be deemed registered or re-registered by a judicial act on declaring invalid the decision of the CEC on rejecting the registration, declaring invalid or revoking the registration of the candidate list of a political party, alliance of political parties or the candidate included in the candidate lists.

## **CHAPTER 15 STATUS OF A CANDIDATE FOR DEPUTY**

### **Article 90. Rights, responsibilities and guarantees of activities of candidates for Deputy**

1. Candidates for Deputy shall have equal rights and shall bear equal responsibilities, except for the cases prescribed by this Code.

2. A person registered as a candidate for Deputy, for the period of having the status of a candidate for Deputy, as well as an elected Deputy, before assuming the powers of a Deputy, shall not be subject to be called for drills or military trainings or to be drafted for compulsory military service.

3. Candidates for Deputy shall have the right to withdraw their candidacy in case of submitting an application no later than 10 days before the Election Day, by 18:00, as well as after the Election



Day. An application for recusal shall be certified by a notary, or the candidate shall confirm his or her application for recusal at the session of the CEC.

In case a candidate for Deputy submits an application for recusal, the candidate shall be removed from the national and district lists of a political party (alliance of political parties).

The name, surname of a candidate included in the candidate lists of a political party (alliance of political parties) shall be removed from the candidate lists as prescribed by the CEC.

4. No later than 10 days before the Election Day, by 18:00, political parties (alliances of political parties) or member political parties to the alliance shall have the right to submit an application for recusal by attaching the decision of the permanently functioning governing body of a political party (all member political parties to the alliance), respectively.

5. Criminal prosecution of a candidate for Deputy, an elected Deputy, before assuming his or her powers as a Deputy, may be conducted only upon the consent of the CEC. Without the consent of the CEC, he or she may not be deprived of liberty, except when he or she has been caught at the time of or immediately after committing a criminal offence. The CEC shall adopt a decision on the mentioned issue by at least 2/3 of votes of the total number of members of the Commission. The provision prescribed by this part does not apply to the citizens arrested or detained before being registered as candidates, as well as cases of imposing detention as a measure of restraint upon the arrested person and extending the term of detention of the mentioned persons.

### **Article 91. Status of candidates for Deputy**

1. A candidate for Deputy shall acquire his or her status upon registration of the candidate list of the political party running in the elections.

Rights and responsibilities prescribed by this Code shall extend to the candidate for Deputy until the expiry of deadline prescribed for challenging the decision of the CEC on the National Assembly being elected, and in case of challenging that decision, until the Constitutional Court adopts a decision.

The candidate for Deputy shall lose his or her rights pertaining to the status of a candidate and shall be exempt from the responsibilities also in cases prescribed by Articles 87 or 88 of this Code, upon revoking or declaring invalid the registration of the candidate list of a political party or the candidate included in the candidate lists, respectively. In case of appealing through judicial procedure against the decision of the CEC on declaring invalid or revoking the registration of the candidate list of a political party or the candidate included in the candidate lists, the candidate shall lose his or her rights pertaining to the status of a candidate for Deputy and shall be exempt from responsibilities upon the entry into force of the judicial act.

2. Candidates for Deputy who are public servants shall have no right to use the advantages of their official or work related capacity.

Candidates for Deputy who are public servants (except for the President of the Republic, Deputies of the National Assembly and members of the Government) shall be exempt from fulfilling their official responsibilities from the day of the official start of the election campaign by virtue of law until the Election Day. The absence from work of the mentioned candidates within that period of time shall be considered valid without preservation of the remuneration.

3. Instituting criminal prosecution against a candidate for Deputy may not serve as a basis for prohibiting the exercise of his or her right to be elected.

## **CHAPTER 16 *ELECTION CAMPAIGN DURING ELECTIONS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY***

### **Article 92. Campaign fund of a political party (alliance of political parties) running in the elections of the National Assembly**

1. For the purpose of conducting an election campaign, a political party (alliance of political parties) running in the elections shall set up a campaign fund, which shall be formed by voluntary contributions specified in Article 26 of this Code.

2. The political party (political parties included in the alliance of political parties jointly) running in the elections shall have the right to make contributions to the fund of the political party (alliance of political parties) in the amount of up to 100 000-fold of the minimum salary, and the candidate

included in the candidate list of a political party (alliance of political parties) running in the elections — in the amount of up to 5 000-fold of the minimum salary.

3. Every natural person may make a contribution to the campaign fund of a political party (alliance of political parties) in the amount of up to 500-fold of the minimum salary.

4. During the election campaign, for the purpose of funding the conduct of the election campaign through the mass media, renting halls, premises (except for election campaign offices) for the purpose of organising election gatherings and meetings with voters, preparing (placing), acquiring a campaign poster, printed campaign and other materials, preparing any kind of campaign materials (including printed materials) to be provided to voters, a political party (alliance of political parties) running in the elections shall have the right to spend an amount not exceeding the 500 000-fold of the minimum salary. In case of holding second round of election the political party (alliance of political parties, new alliance) shall have the right to spend the funds remaining in the campaign fund thereof (of member political parties to the new alliance), as well as attract new funds as prescribed by Article 26 of this Code.

5. In case of holding second round of election the political party (alliance of political parties, new alliance) shall have the right to spend an amount not exceeding 200 000-fold of the minimum salary for the purposes prescribed by this part.

### **Article 93. Election campaign**

1. During elections of the National Assembly the airtime for conducting election campaign of a political party running in the elections through free and paid use of airtime on public radio and public television shall be provided as prescribed by the CEC.

2. A political party running in the elections shall have the right to use free of charge no more than 60 minutes of airtime on public television, and no more than 120 minutes of airtime on public radio.

3. A political party running in the elections shall have the right to use for pay no more than 120 minutes of airtime on public television, and no more than 180 minutes of airtime on public radio at the account of its campaign fund.

4. In case of early elections or declaring elections of the National Assembly invalid and holding repeat voting, a political party running in the elections shall have the right to use free of charge no more than 30 minutes of airtime on public television, and no more than 60 minutes of airtime on public radio, and — at the account of the campaign fund — no more than 60 minutes of paid airtime on public television and no more than 90 minutes of paid airtime on public radio.

During the second round of election of the National Assembly a political party running in the elections shall have the right to use free of charge no more than 20 minutes of airtime on public television, and no more than 40 minutes of airtime on public radio, and — at the account of the campaign fund — no more than 40 minutes of paid airtime on public television and no more than 60 minutes of paid airtime on public radio.

The CEC shall distribute the airtime no later than within 5 days after adopting the decision on holding a second round of elections of the National Assembly, as well as declaring the elections invalid and holding repeat voting.

## **CHAPTER 17 *BALLOT PAPERS - SUMMARISATION OF ELECTION RESULTS***

### **Article 94. Ballot papers**

1. Individual ballot papers of same sizes shall be printed for every political party running in the elections of the National Assembly. The ballot paper of every political party running in the elections must, on its left and right sides, have a marking in black, symmetrical to the vertical axis aligned with the number of that political party so that it enables to identify from the side view of the bundle the availability of a ballot paper of another political party in that bundle.

The name of the political party running in the elections, the number issued to the political party, as well as the surnames, names and patronymics of the first 3 candidates in the national candidate list shall be specified on the 1st page of the ballot paper of elections of the National Assembly. The surnames, names and patronymics of candidates included in the respective district candidate list of the political party running in the elections shall be specified on the 2nd page of the ballot paper in alphabetical order. Where surnames of candidates coincide, their names in the ballot paper shall be

specified in alphabetical order of their names and patronymics. Where surnames, names and patronymics coincide, the date of birth of the candidate shall be specified. In this case the data on the eldest candidate shall be specified first. Empty tick boxes shall be placed to the right of the names of candidates for the voter to make a note.

2. The name of the political party, new alliance of political parties running in the elections shall be specified in the ballot paper for the second round of elections of the National Assembly.

### **Article 95. Summarisation of the results of elections of the National Assembly**

1. The CEC shall, in the manner and within the deadline prescribed by Article 75 of this Code, summarise the election results and adopt any of the following decisions:

- (1) on the National Assembly being elected and distribution of mandates;
- (2) on preliminary distribution of mandates of Deputies of the National Assembly;
- (3) on calling a repeat voting in separate electoral precincts;
- (4) on declaring the elections of the National Assembly invalid and calling repeat voting for elections;
- (5) on declaring the repeat voting for elections of the National Assembly invalid. In that case the President of the Republic shall call a new regular election of the National Assembly.

2. The CEC shall adopt the decisions provided for in points 3, 4 and 5 of part 1 of this Article in cases provided for in Article 101.

3. Where the CEC has not adopted any of the decisions provided for in points 3, 4 and 5 of part 1 of this Article:

- (1) a decision on the National Assembly being elected and distribution of mandates shall be adopted where as a result of the election one of the political parties (alliance of political parties) running in the elections has received — as a result of due application of parts 4-9 of this Article — the majority of the total number of mandates distributed under parts 4-9 of this Article;
- (2) a decision on preliminary distribution of mandates of Deputies of the National Assembly shall be adopted where — as a result of due application of parts 4-9 of this Article — none of the political parties (alliance of political parties) running in the elections has received the majority of the total number of mandates distributed under parts 4-9 of this Article. In case of distribution of additional mandates to some political parties (alliances of political parties) in accordance with Articles 96-98 of this Code, other political parties (alliances of political parties) shall preserve the mandates available for them as a result of the preliminary distribution.

4. Mandates of the National Assembly shall be distributed among the candidate lists of those political parties (alliances of political parties) which have received 5 per cent, in case of a political party, and 7 per cent, in case of an alliance of political parties, of ballot papers with affirmative vote out of the sum of the total number of ballot papers with affirmative vote and the number of inaccuracy. Where less than 3 political parties (alliances of political parties) have received at least 5 (7) per cent of ballot papers with affirmative vote out of the sum of the total number of ballot papers with affirmative vote and the number of inaccuracy, 3 political parties and alliances of political parties having received the maximum number of ballot papers with affirmative vote shall participate in the distribution of mandates.

5. Mandates of the National Assembly shall be distributed among political parties (alliances of political parties) in proportion with the number of ballot papers with affirmative vote cast in favour of every of them. The calculation of the number of mandates available for every political party (alliance of political parties) shall be carried out as follows: the number of ballot papers with affirmative vote cast in favour of every political party (alliance of political parties) shall be multiplied by 101, the product shall be divided by the total number of ballot papers with affirmative vote cast in favour of political parties (alliance of political parties) having passed the threshold, and integer numbers shall be parted, which shall be the numbers of mandates available for every political party (alliance of political parties).

6. The mandates remaining from 101 mandates shall be distributed among political parties (alliances of political parties) by the sequence of value of remainders, by the principle of one mandate to each. In case the values of remainders are equal, the contested mandate shall be given to the political party (alliance of political parties) with the highest number of ballot papers with

affirmative vote cast in favour, and in the event of a tie, the mandate shall be given by drawing of lots.

7. Where the number of mandates received by a political party (alliance of political parties) is even, mandates equal to 50 per cent of the number of mandates shall be given to candidates in the national candidate list of a political party (alliance of political parties). Where the number of mandates received by a political party (alliance of political parties) is odd, mandates equal to the integer part of 50 per cent of the number of mandates shall be distributed among the electoral districts. The remaining part of the mandates received by a political party (alliance of political parties) shall be given to candidates in the national candidate list of the political party (alliance of political parties).

8. The number of mandates available for every electoral district shall be determined by the coefficient received for every electoral district, which is calculated by the following formula:

$$Cd = \frac{Fd}{Md + 1}$$

where:

Cd — coefficient of the electoral district;

Fd — the number of ballot papers with affirmative vote cast in favour of the political party (alliance of political parties) in the given electoral district;

Md — the total number of mandates already received by that electoral district, in calculating the coefficient of the electoral district for the next mandate.

The district having the highest coefficient at the beginning of calculation of coefficients shall receive one mandate. The next vacant mandate shall be received by the district having a relatively higher coefficient as compared to other districts. Calculation of coefficients shall be repeated until all mandates are distributed. In case of equal highest coefficients, the mandate shall be distributed by drawing of lots.

9. Four mandates of Deputies shall be distributed among national minority representatives by the principle of 1 mandate to every of the first 4 national minorities with the largest number of resident population according to the data of the latest census preceding the elections. To this end, mandates shall be distributed among the political parties (alliances of political parties) having passed the threshold, by the coefficient received for every mandate, which shall be calculated by the following formula:

$$Cp = \frac{Fm}{Mm + 1}$$

where:

Cp — coefficient of a political party (alliance of political parties);

Fm — the number of mandates received from the first part of the list of the political party (alliance of political parties);

Mm — the total number of mandates already received by the political party (alliance of political parties) out of the 4 mandates for national minority representatives, in calculating the coefficient of the political party (alliance of political parties) for the next mandate.

Mandates of national minority representatives shall be distributed among political parties (alliances of political parties) by the sequence of reduction of coefficients. In case of equal coefficients, the mandate shall be distributed by drawing of lots.

When distributing mandates of national minority representatives a political party (alliance of political parties) shall provide the mandate to the national minority under the smallest record number in its list not yet having a mandate. Where there is not any in the second part of the candidate list of the political party (alliance of political parties), the turn for the distribution shall be passed on to the political party (alliance of political parties) having the next coefficient by value. Where in the course of such a process it is impossible to distribute mandates of national minority representatives any more, the respective mandate shall remain vacant.

#### **Article 96. Minority and majority additional mandates**

1. Where as a result of due application of parts 4-9 of Article 95 of this Code any political party receives the majority but less than 54 per cent of the total number of mandates distributed under parts 4-9 of Article 95, that political party shall receive as many minimum additional mandates as

necessary for the number of mandates of that political party, expressed in per cents, to result in no less than 54 per cent.

2. Where as a result of due application of parts 4-9 of Article 95 of this Code any political party receives more than  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the total number of mandates distributed under parts 4-9 of Article 95, other political parties shall receive as many minimum additional mandates (AM) as necessary for the total number of their mandates to result in no less than  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the total number of mandates of the National Assembly. The number of additional mandates available for every political party shall be determined as follows: the number of mandates received by that political party shall be multiplied by the number of AM, the product shall be divided by the total number of mandates received — before providing additional mandates — by political parties receiving additional mandates, and the integer numbers shall be parted which shall be the numbers of additional mandates available for the given political party. The remaining mandates shall be distributed among political parties by the sequence of value of remainders, by the principle of one mandate to each. In case the values of remainders are equal, the contested mandate shall be given to the political party with the highest number of mandates, and in the event of a tie, the mandate shall be given by drawing of lots.

3. Distribution of additional mandates, prescribed by this Article, among the national and district candidate lists, as well as among electoral districts, shall be carried out in such a manner so as to observe the rules of part 7 of Article 95 of this Code for the distribution of mandates available for a political party.

#### **Article 97. Formation of political coalitions**

1. Within 6 days after adoption of the decision provided for in point 2 of part 1 of Article 95 of this Code, any political party (alliance of political parties) having passed the electoral thresholds may form a political coalition with maximum 2 other political parties (alliances of political parties) having passed the electoral thresholds, where the sum of the votes cast in favour of them is sufficient for receiving the majority of the total number of mandates distributed under parts 4-9 of Article 95 of this Code, and they have come to an agreement as to the candidate for Prime Minister.

2. Coalition member political parties (alliances of political parties) must — by 18:00 of the day of deadline for forming a coalition — submit to the CEC the decisions on forming a coalition of permanently functioning governing bodies of coalition member political parties (all member political parties to alliances of political parties). The decision on forming a coalition must contain the surname, name, patronymic of the candidate for Prime Minister. In case of failure to submit or incomplete submission of the mentioned decisions within the prescribed deadline the coalition shall be considered as not having formed.

3. Where the formed coalition has received the majority but less than 54 per cent of the total number of mandates distributed under parts 4-9 of Article 95 of this Code, the coalition shall receive as many minimum additional mandates as necessary for the total number of mandates of the coalition, expressed in per cents, to result in no less than 54 per cent.

Additional mandates shall be distributed among coalition member political parties (alliances of political parties) in proportion with the number of ballot papers with affirmative vote cast in favour of every of them. The calculation of the number of mandates available for every political party (alliance of political parties) shall be carried out as follows: the number of ballot papers with affirmative vote cast in favour of every political party (alliance of political parties) shall be multiplied by the number of additional mandates, the product shall be divided by the total number of ballot papers with affirmative vote cast in favour of the coalition member political parties (alliances of political parties), and integer numbers shall be parted which shall be the numbers of additional mandates available for every political party (alliance of political parties). The remaining mandates shall be distributed among political parties (alliances of political parties) by the sequence of value of remainders, by the principle of one mandate to each. In case the values of remainders are equal, the contested mandate shall be given to the political party (alliance of political parties) with the highest number of ballot papers with affirmative vote cast in favour, and in the event of a tie, the mandate shall be given by drawing of lots. Distribution of additional mandates — available for coalition member political parties (alliance of political parties) — among national and district candidate lists, as well as among electoral districts shall be carried out in such a manner so as to

observe the rules of part 7 of Article 95 of this Code for the distribution of mandates available for a political party (alliance of political parties). In the case provided for in this part, the CEC shall also adopt a decision on allocation of additional mandates.

4. The CEC shall — on the day following the expiry of the deadline provided for in part 2 of this Article — adopt a decision on holding a second round of election or on the National Assembly being elected.

#### **Article 98. Second round of election of the National Assembly**

1. The second round of election of the National Assembly shall be held on the 28th day after the Election Day. Two political parties (alliances of political parties) having received the maximum number of affirmative votes of voters shall run in the second round of election, with the exception of the case prescribed by part 3 of this Article.

2. New alliances — comprised of political parties (alliances of political parties) having passed the thresholds — may be formed with political parties (alliances of political parties) running in the second round of election, where they have come to an agreement as to the candidate for Prime Minister.

The application on forming a new alliance — signed by heads of all member political parties to the new alliance (all member political parties to the alliance of political parties) — shall be submitted to the CEC — till the 5th day following the adoption of the decision on holding a second round, by 18:00, as prescribed by the CEC. The mentioned application must contain the surname, name, patronymic of the candidate for Prime Minister. In case of failure to submit the application on forming a new alliance within the prescribed deadline or in case of submitting it incompletely, the new alliance shall be considered as not formed.

3. Where 2 political parties (alliances of political parties), having received the maximum number of ballot papers with affirmative vote, form a new alliance together, the next political party (alliance of political parties) with the maximum number of ballot papers with affirmative vote, having received the maximum number of ballot papers with affirmative vote and not included in the new alliance, shall run in the second round of election with which a new alliance may be formed as well. The application on forming that new alliance, signed by heads of member political parties to the alliance (all member political parties to the alliances of political parties) shall be submitted to the CEC till the 7th day, by 18:00, following the decision of the CEC on holding a second round of election, as prescribed by the CEC.

4. Where the new alliance — the member political parties (alliances of political parties) to which by the results of the first round have together received 54 per cent or more of the total number of mandates distributed under parts 4-9 of Article 95 of this Code — wins in the second round of election, they shall preserve the received mandates.

5. Where the new alliance — the member political parties (alliances of political parties) to which by the results of the first round have together received more than  $\frac{2}{3}$  of mandates distributed under parts 4-9 of Article 95 of this Code — wins in the second round of election, the other political parties (alliances of political parties) shall receive additional mandates as prescribed by part 2 of Article 96 of this Code.

6. The political party (alliance of political parties) or the new alliance having won in the second round of election which (whose member political parties together) by the results of the first round has received less than 54 per cent of mandates distributed under parts 4-9 of Article 95, shall receive additional mandates as prescribed by parts 1 and 3 of Article 96 of this Code.

#### **Article 99. Summarisation of the results of the second round of election of the National Assembly**

1. The CEC shall, as prescribed by Article 75 of this Code and on the 7th day following the Election Day of the second round of election, summarise the results of elections of the National Assembly and adopt any of the following decisions:

- (1) on the National Assembly being elected;
- (2) on calling repeat voting in separate electoral precincts;
- (3) on declaring elections of the National Assembly invalid. In that case the President of the Republic shall call a new regular election of the National Assembly.

2. In cases prescribed by parts 1 and 2 of Article 96 of this Code, the CEC shall also adopt a decision on distribution of additional mandates.

### **Article 100. Provision of mandates to Deputies**

1. Provision of mandates to candidates included in the candidate list of a political party shall be carried out upon the protocol of the CEC, by registering the Deputies of the National Assembly elected from the national candidate list and the district candidate list.

The candidate having received a mandate from the first and second parts of the national candidate list shall be removed from the district candidate list, and the candidate having received the mandate from the district candidate list shall be removed from the first and second parts of the national candidate list as prescribed by the CEC.

2. Firstly, mandates shall be provided to Deputies having been elected under the district candidate list. Mandates available for a political party at an electoral district shall — in the quantity equal to the number of mandates available for the given electoral district — be received by the candidates having received the maximum number of ballot papers with affirmative vote. In case of a tie of ballot papers with affirmative vote, the mandate shall be given by drawing of lots. Where there are no sufficient candidates in the given electoral district list of the political party, the vacant mandates shall be passed on to the first part of the national candidate list.

Secondly, mandates shall be provided to the representatives of national minorities as prescribed by part 9 of Article 95 of this Code.

Thirdly, mandates shall be provided to the candidates in the first part of the national candidate list of the political party in the sequential order. Where as a result of it, the mandates of the political party are distributed among representatives of the same sex, the last candidate shall give up his or her mandate to the candidate under the smallest number from the unrepresented sex within the first part of the national list, if any. If the number of candidates included in the first part of the national candidate list of a political party is smaller than the number of mandates available, these mandates shall remain vacant.

3. The mandate of a Deputy — who has waived the mandate under the district candidate list or who has been elected therefrom and whose powers have been early terminated — shall be given to the next candidate having received maximum votes from the given district candidate list of that political party upon a protocol of the CEC, within a 1-week period after notifying the Commission. In case of a tie, the mandate shall be given by drawing of lots. Where there is no other candidate in the given district candidate list, the mandate shall be passed on to the first part of the national list. Where there is no other candidate in the first part of the national candidate list, the mandate shall remain vacant.

The mandate of a Deputy — who has waived the mandate under the first part of the national candidate list or who has been elected as Deputy therefrom and whose powers have been early terminated — shall be given to the next candidate in sequence in the first part of the national candidate list of that political party upon a protocol of the CEC, within a 1-week period after notifying the Commission, and where as a result of it, the number of representatives of any sex in the given faction falls below and results in less than 25 per cent, it shall be given to the next candidate of less represented sex in the first part of the national candidate list of that political party, if any.

Where there is no other candidate in the first part of the national candidate list, the mandate shall remain vacant.

The mandate of a Deputy — who has waived the mandate under the second part of the national candidate list or who has been elected as Deputy therefrom and whose powers have been early terminated — shall be given to the candidate under the smallest number in the list of the same national minority of the second part of the national candidate list of that political party upon a protocol of the CEC, within a 1-week period after notifying the Commission, in case there are no any, the mandate shall remain vacant.

4. Applications for recusal or waiver of the mandate submitted by persons included in the candidate list of a political party shall be certified by a notary, or the person shall confirm such application at the session of the CEC.

In case of submitting an application for recusal, the name, surname of the citizen shall be removed from the first and second parts of the national candidate list as well as from the district candidate list as prescribed by the CEC.

#### **Article 101. Calling a repeat voting for elections of the National Assembly, declaring election results as invalid**

1. Where in the course of elections, such violations of this Code have taken place that might have affected the election results, the CEC shall adopt a decision on holding a repeat voting in separate electoral precincts, where it is possible to remedy the consequences of those violations by such measure. Where it is not possible to remedy these violations by such measure, elections of the National Assembly shall be declared invalid, and a repeat voting for the elections of the National Assembly shall be called.

2. Where in the course of repeat voting for elections of the National Assembly or in the course of holding a repeat voting in separate electoral precincts, such violations of this Code have taken place that might have affected the election results, the CEC shall adopt a decision on declaring the elections of the National Assembly invalid and shall call a repeat voting for elections of the National Assembly.

3. Where the CEC adopts a decision on holding a repeat voting in separate electoral precincts, the repeat voting shall be held on the 7th day following the adoption of this decision. In this case, the deadlines prescribed by this Code for summarisation of the results of elections of the National Assembly shall be calculated from the day of repeat voting.

4. No earlier than 15 and no later than 30 days after the entry into force of the decision on declaring the elections of the National Assembly invalid, a repeat voting shall be held as prescribed by this Code and with the same composition of political parties.

5. In case the results of repeat voting for elections of the National Assembly are declared invalid, a new regular election shall be held no later than 70 days after the entry into force of that decision. In the event of a new regular election, the President of the Republic shall — on the 7th day after the adoption of the decision on declaring the election of the National Assembly invalid — adopt a decree on setting the Election Day.

6. New regular election shall be held by new nomination and in the manner and within the deadlines prescribed for early elections.

#### **Article 102. Appealing against the results of elections of the National Assembly**

1. Applications for challenging the decisions, adopted under part 1 of Article 95, part 4 of Article 97, Article 99 of this Code based on the result of elections of the National Assembly, may be submitted to the Constitutional Court on the 5th day following the publication of the relevant decision, by 18:00.

### ***CHAPTER 18 CALLING AND HOLDING ELECTIONS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY***

#### **Article 103. Deadlines for calling, holding regular elections of the National Assembly, and for nominating and registering candidates for Deputy**

1. A regular election of the National Assembly shall be held no earlier than 60 and no later than 50 days before the expiry of powers of the National Assembly.

2. No later than 90 days before the Election Day, the President of the Republic shall promulgate a decree on calling regular elections of the National Assembly.

3. The political parties running in the elections of the National Assembly shall submit the documents for registration to the CEC no earlier than 55 and no later than 45 days before the Election Day, by 18:00.

4. Registration of candidate lists of political parties running in the elections shall be carried out no earlier than 45 and no later than 35 days before the Election Day, by 18:00.

#### **Article 104. Calling and holding early elections of the National Assembly**

1. Early elections of the National Assembly shall be held no earlier than 30 and no later than 45 days after dissolving the National Assembly.



2. Together with the decree on dissolving the National Assembly, the President of the Republic shall promulgate a decree on calling early elections of the National Assembly.
3. Documents required for registration of the political parties running in the elections of the National Assembly shall be submitted to the CEC no later than 25 days before the Election Day, by 18:00.
4. Registration of candidate lists of political parties running in the elections shall be carried out no earlier than 25 and no later than 20 days before the Election Day, by 18:00.
5. Electoral precincts shall be formed and polling stations shall be designated no later than 25 days before the Election Day. No later than 20 days before the Election Day, the authorised body shall hand over the lists of voters to the person possessing the premises of the polling station, who shall post them at the polling station, in a place visible to all.

## **SECTION 5**

### **ELECTIONS OF HEAD OF COMMUNITY AND MEMBER OF COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF ELDERS**

#### **CHAPTER 19 GENERAL PROVISIONS**

##### **Article 105. Electoral system**

1. During elections of head of community, a single-mandate majoritarian constituency shall be formed in the territory of the community.
  2. During elections of community council of elders, one multi-mandate majoritarian constituency shall be formed in the territory of the community.
  3. A community council of elders shall consist of:
    - (1) 5 members in a community having up to 1 000 electors;
    - (2) 7 members in a community having from 1 000 to 2 000 electors;
    - (3) 9 members in a community having from 2 000 to 4 000 electors;
    - (4) 11 members in a community having from 4 000 to 10 000 electors;
    - (5) 15 members in a community having from 10 000 to 70 000 electors;
    - (6) 33 members in a community having more than 70 000 electors.
- The number of electors, referred to in this part, for each community shall be calculated based on the number in the Register of Electors.

##### **Article 106. Right to elect**

1. Every elector shall have one vote:
  - (1) during the election of head of community;
  - (2) during the election of member of council of elders.

##### **Article 107. Requirements set for candidates for head of community and member of council of elders**

1. Persons, having the right to elect during elections of local self-government bodies pursuant to Article 2 of this Code, may be elected as head of community and member of council of elders.
2. Judges, prosecutors, officers of the Investigative Committee, the Special Investigation Service, the Judicial Acts Compulsory Enforcement Service, officers of the Police, the National Security, rescue, tax, customs authorities, penitentiary service, military servants, members of electoral commissions may not be nominated as a candidate for head of community and member of council of elders.

#### **CHAPTER 20**

***NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES FOR HEAD OF COMMUNITY AND MEMBER OF  
COUNCIL OF ELDERS***

**Article 108. Nomination of candidates for head of community and member of council of elders**

1. Candidates for head of community and member of council of elders may be nominated by political parties based on the decision of their respective district (primary, local) units, as well as by persons having the right to be elected, by way of self-nomination through submitting an application thereon.

A political party may also nominate a person, who is not its member, as a candidate for head of community and member of council of elders.

2. The decision of the respective district (primary, local) unit of a political party on nominating a candidate for head of community and member of council of elders and the application, in case of self-nomination, shall contain the name of the community and the following information about the candidate:

- (1) surname, name, patronymic;
- (2) date of birth;
- (3) place of registration;
- (4) place of employment and position (occupation);
- (5) party affiliation, as well as it may contain data on up to 2 authorised representatives of the candidate (their surname, name, patronymic, date of birth, number of the personal identification document, place of employment and position (occupation)).

3. The candidates for head of community and for member of council of elders shall — attached to the decision of the respective district (primary, local) unit of the political party or the application for self-nomination — submit to the district electoral commission:

- (1) the receipt for payment of the electoral deposit.

In case of a community having up to 500 electors no electoral deposit shall be paid by a candidate for head of community and member of council of elders. The electoral deposit shall — in a community having up to 1 000 electors — be paid in the amount of 50-fold of the minimum salary by a candidate for head of community, in the amount of 10-fold of the minimum salary by a candidate for member of council of elders, in a community having from 1 000 to 2 000 electors — in the amount of 100-fold of the minimum salary by a candidate for head of community, in the amount of 15-fold of the minimum salary by a candidate for member of council of elders; in a community having from 2 000 to 4 000 electors — in the amount of 150-fold of the minimum salary by a candidate for head of community, in the amount of 20-fold of the minimum salary by a candidate for member of council elders; in a community having from 4 000 to 10 000 electors — in the amount of 300-fold of the minimum salary by a candidate for head of community, in the amount of 30-fold of the minimum salary by a candidate for member of council of elders; in a community having from 10 000 to 70 000 electors — in the amount of 500-fold of the minimum salary by a candidate for head of community, in the amount of 70-fold of the minimum salary by a candidate for member of council of elders, and in a community having more than 70 000 electors — in the amount of 1 000-fold of the minimum salary by a candidate for head of community, in the amount of 100-fold of the minimum salary by a candidate for member of council of elders.

The number of electors, referred to in this point, for each community shall be calculated based on the number in the Register of Electors;

- (2) a statement of information on being registered in the population register of the community concerned for the last 6 months;
- (3) carbon copy of the personal identification document.

4. The form of the statement of information prescribed by point 2 of part 3 of this Article shall be defined by the Central Electoral Commission. The mentioned statement of information shall be issued by the authorised body within a 3-day period following the request but no earlier than before calling elections.

The authorised body shall, upon its decision, refuse to provide the statement of information of the specified form to an applicant, where the data concerning him or her do not meet the requirements provided for by part 1 of Article 107 of this Code.

5. Registration documents shall be submitted only personally by a candidate or an authorised representative within the time limits prescribed by this Code.

6. Where errors, deletions, erasures, misprints are found in documents submitted for the registration of a candidate for head of community and member of council of elders, the district electoral commission shall be obliged to bring them to the attention of persons submitting such documents so as to correct them, as well as correct itself, in their presence, the evident errors, misprints existing in the submitted documents.

The Commission shall not have the right not to accept the submitted documents only for the reason that they contain such errors, deletions, erasures, or misprints. The provisions of this part shall not apply to correction of errors, deletions, erasures, misprints or elimination of other deficiencies found in the documents, the right whereof is reserved by law to the bodies having adopted or issued such documents.

In case the submitted documents contain inaccuracies referred to in the second paragraph of this part or in case of incompleteness of documents attached to the application, the district electoral commission shall give 48 hours for eliminating the mentioned inaccuracies, completing the attached documents. In case of failure to eliminate inaccuracies or to complete the documents within that time limit, the registration of the candidate shall be rejected.

#### **Article 109. Registration of candidates for head of community and member of council of elders**

1. Candidates for head of community and member of council of elders shall be registered by the decision of the district electoral commission.

In case no objection is raised by the members of the district electoral commission with regard to the registration, the candidate shall be registered without voting.

2. The candidate and the authorised representative thereof shall have the right be present at the sitting of the district electoral commission when the issue of registration of the candidate is considered.

#### **Article 110. Rejecting the registration of a candidate for head of community and member of council of elders**

1. The district electoral commission shall reject the registration of a candidate for head of community and member of council of elders, where:

(1) he or she does not have the right to be elected;

(2) not all the documents thereon have been submitted or the submitted documents are incomplete or falsified.

2. In case objection is raised by a member of the commission with regard to the registration of a candidate for head of community and member of council of elders, the objection shall be put to vote. The registration shall be rejected upon a decision adopted by at least 2/3 of the total number of votes of members of district electoral commission.

#### **Article 111. Declaring invalid the registration of a candidate for head of community and member of council of elders**

1. The district electoral commission shall declare invalid the registration of a candidate for head of community and member of council of elders, where by virtue of facts having emerged after the registration:

(1) he or she does not have the right to be elected;

(2) the documents submitted thereon are falsified.

The registration of a candidate shall be declared invalid upon a decision adopted by at least 2/3 of the total number of votes of members of district electoral commission.

**Article 112. Procedure for appealing against decisions on rejecting, declaring invalid the registration of a candidate for head of community and member of council of elders**

1. The decision of the district electoral commission on rejecting or declaring invalid the registration of a candidate for head of community or member of council of elders may be appealed against before the Administrative Court.

2. A candidate shall be deemed registered or re-registered upon a judicial act on declaring invalid the decision of the district electoral commission on rejecting or declaring invalid the registration of a candidate for head of community or member of council of elders.

**Article 113. Revoking the registration of a candidate for head of community or member of council of elders**

1. The registration of a candidate for head of community or member of council of elders shall be revoked:

(1) by the decision of the district electoral commission, where he or she has submitted an application for recusal;

(2) upon a judicial act, in cases prescribed by part 8 of Article 19 or part 1 of Article 26 or Article 27 of this Code.

**CHAPTER 21**

***STATUS OF CANDIDATES FOR HEAD OF COMMUNITY AND MEMBER OF COUNCIL OF ELDERS***

**Article 114. Status, legal equality of candidates for head of community and member of council of elders**

1. Candidates for head of community and member of council of elders shall acquire their status upon registration. Rights and responsibilities prescribed by this Code shall extend to candidates for head of community and member of council of elders until the expiry of the time limit prescribed for appealing against the decision of the district electoral commission on head of community and members of council of elders being elected, and in case this decision is appealed against — until the Administrative Court adopts a decision.

Candidates shall have equal rights and responsibilities arising from the status of a candidate for head of community and member of council of elders.

2. A candidate for head of community or member of council of elders may submit an application for recusal no later than 10 days before the voting day, by 18:00. An application for recusal shall be certified by a notary, or the candidate shall confirm his or her application for recusal at the sitting of the district electoral commission.

**CHAPTER 22**

***ELECTION CAMPAIGN OF CANDIDATES FOR HEAD OF COMMUNITY AND MEMBER OF COUNCIL OF ELDERS***

**Article 115. Campaign fund of candidates for head of community and member of council of elders**

1. Candidate for member of council of elders and for head of community having up to 10 000 electors shall set up a campaign fund provided that he or she will use or has already used an amount exceeding the 500-fold of the minimum salary for funding the conduct of the election campaign through the mass media, renting halls, premises (except for election campaign offices), preparing (placing), acquiring a campaign poster, printed campaign and other materials, preparing all types of campaign materials (including printed materials) to be provided to electors.

2. The campaign fund shall be formed by the voluntary contributions referred to in Article 26 of this Code.

In case of a community having up to 10 000 electors, a candidate for head of community and member of council of elders shall have the right to make contribution to his or her fund in the amount of up to 150-fold, and the political party having nominated him or her — in the amount of up to 200-fold of the minimum salary.

In case of a community having 10 000 and more electors, a candidate for head of community and member of council of elders shall have the right to make contribution to his or her fund in the amount of up to 500-fold, and the political party having nominated him or her — in the amount of up to 1 000-fold of the minimum salary.

3. Any natural person may make a voluntary contribution to the campaign fund of a candidate in the amount of up to, respectively:

- (1) 50-fold of the minimum salary in case of a community having up to 10 000 electors;
- (2) 100-fold of the minimum salary in case of a community having more than 10 000 electors.

4. During the election campaign, for the purpose of funding the conduct of the election campaign through the mass media, renting halls, premises (except for election campaign offices), preparing (placing), acquiring a campaign poster, printed campaign and other materials, preparing any types of campaign materials (including printed materials) to be provided to electors, the candidate for head of community shall have the right to spend:

- (1) a sum in the amount of 3 000-fold of the minimum salary in case of a community having up to 4 000 electors;
- (2) a sum in the amount of 7 000-fold of the minimum salary in case of a community having from 4 000 to 10 000 electors;
- (3) a sum in the amount of 15 000-fold of the minimum salary in case of a community having from 10 000 to 70 000 electors;
- (4) a sum in the amount of 25 000-fold of the minimum salary in case of a community having more than 70 000 electors;

while a candidate for member of council of elders:

- (5) a sum in the amount of 500-fold of the minimum salary in case of a community having up to 4 000 electors;
- (6) a sum in the amount of 1 000-fold of the minimum salary in case of a community having from 4 000 to 10 000 electors;
- (7) a sum in the amount of 3 000-fold of the minimum salary in case of a community having from 10 000 to 70 000 electors;
- (8) a sum in the amount of 5 000-fold of the minimum salary in case of a community having more than 70 000 electors.

5. The number of electors, referred to in this Article, for each community shall be calculated based on the number in the Register of Electors.

**Article 116. Election campaign**

1. During elections of head of community and member of council of elders the election campaign shall be conducted in the manner and within the time limits prescribed by this Code.

**CHAPTER 23**

***SUMMARISATION OF RESULTS OF ELECTIONS OF HEAD OF COMMUNITY AND  
MEMBER OF COUNCIL OF ELDERS***

**Article 117.           Ballot papers**

1. The surnames, names, patronymics of candidates, in alphabetical order, the name of the nominating political party, and in case of self-nomination — the word "self-nomination" shall be specified on the left side of the ballot paper, and empty tick boxes shall be placed on the right for the elector to make a note.

In case 1 candidate is voted on, the words "for" and "against" shall be indicated below the line where the surname of the candidate is specified with an empty tick box next to each of them on the right side for making a note.

Where surnames of candidates coincide, their names shall be specified in alphabetical order of their names and patronymics. Where surnames, names and patronymics of candidates coincide, the date of birth of the candidate shall be specified. In this case the data on the eldest candidate shall be specified first.

In case of holding voting for head of community and member of council of elders, individual ballot papers shall be prepared for each voting which obviously differ from each other in colour. The envelopes must match the colour of ballot papers.

**Article 118.           Summarisation of results of election of head of community**

1. The district electoral commission shall, in the manner and within the time limits prescribed by Article 74 of this Code, summarise the election results and adopt any of the following decisions:

- (1) on head of community being elected;
- (2) on calling a repeat voting in separate electoral precincts;
- (3) on declaring the election of head of community invalid;
- (4) on declaring the election of head of community as not having taken place.

2. The candidate having received the maximum number of ballot papers with affirmative vote shall be elected as head of community. Where one candidate is voted on, he or she shall be elected where more than half of those participating in the voting have cast affirmative votes in favour of him or her. Where 2 and more candidates have received an equal number of ballot papers with maximum affirmative votes, the elected candidate shall be determined by drawing of lots among them.

3. Where in the course of election such violations of this Code have taken place that might have affected the election results, the district electoral commission shall adopt a decision on holding a repeat voting in separate electoral precincts, where it is possible to remedy these violations by such measure. Where it is impossible to remedy these violations by such measure, elections shall be declared invalid, and a repeat voting shall be called.

4. Where in the course of repeat voting for elections or in the course of holding a repeat voting in separate electoral precincts, such violations of this Code have taken place that might have affected the election results, the district electoral commission shall adopt a decision on declaring the elections invalid and shall call a repeat voting.

5. Where the district electoral commission adopts a decision on holding a repeat voting in separate electoral precincts, the repeat voting shall be held on the 9th day following the adoption of this decision. In this case, the time limits prescribed by this Code for summarisation of results of elections of head of community shall be calculated from the day of repeat voting.

6. The election of a head of community shall be declared as not having taken place:

- (1) where the only candidate voted on has failed to receive the required number of affirmative votes of electors;
- (2) where no candidate has been registered within the time limit and in the manner prescribed by this Code for registration of candidates, or the number of candidates registered within the same time limit is less than 2;
- (3) in case of death of one of the candidates before the end of the voting;

- (4) in case of death of a candidate having received the maximum number of ballot papers with affirmative vote before the summarization of election results;
  - (5) in cases of death of the elected head of community or refusal to assume powers after the election, before assuming powers;
  - (6) where based on the results of repeat voting, elections have been declared invalid.
7. The chairperson of the district electoral commission shall — within a 5-day period after adopting a decision on the results of the elections of head of community — submit it to the marz governor.
8. In case elections of head of community are declared invalid, a repeat voting shall be held with the same composition of candidates, after 21 days following the voting day. Repeat voting with the same composition of candidates may be held only once.
9. The decision adopted by the district electoral commission based on the results of elections of head of community may be appealed against before the Administrative Court.

#### **Article 119. Summarisation of results of election of members of council of elders**

1. The district electoral commission shall, in the manner and within the time limit prescribed by Article 74 of this Code, summarise the election results and adopt any of the following decisions:
  - (1) on members of community council of elders being elected;
  - (2) on calling a repeat voting in separate electoral precincts;
  - (3) on declaring the election of a community council of elders as invalid;
  - (4) on declaring the election of a community council of elders as not having taken place.
2. A respective number of candidates for member of council of elders, referred to in part 3 of Article 105 of this Code, who have received the maximum number of ballot papers with affirmative vote, shall be elected in the community. In the event of a tie of ballot papers with affirmative vote, the elected candidate shall be determined by drawing of lots between them.
3. Where in the course of election such violations of this Code have taken place that might have affected the election results, the district electoral commission shall adopt a decision on holding a repeat voting in separate electoral precincts, if it is possible to remedy these violations by such measure. Where it is impossible to remedy these violations by such measure, elections shall be declared invalid, and a repeat voting shall be called.
4. Where in the course of repeat voting for elections or in the course of holding a repeat voting in separate electoral precincts, such violations of this Code have taken place that might have affected the elections results, the district electoral commission shall adopt a decision on declaring the elections as invalid and shall call a repeat voting.
5. Where the district electoral commission adopts a decision on holding a repeat voting in separate electoral precincts, the repeat voting shall be held on the 9th day following the adoption of this decision. In this case, the time limits prescribed by this Code for summarisation of the results of elections of a community council of elders shall be calculated from the day of repeat voting.
6. In case of declaring elections of members of a community council of elders as invalid, a repeat voting shall be held with the same composition of candidates after 21 days following the voting day. Repeat voting with the same composition of candidates may be held only once.
7. Election of members of a community council of elders shall be considered as not having taken place where the number of candidates, registered within the time limit and in the manner prescribed by this Code for registration of candidates, is less than or equal to the number of members of a community council of elders referred to in part 3 of Article 105 of this Code, or where after registration the number of candidates falls below the half of the number of members of a community council of elders referred to in part 3 of Article 105 of this Code, or, based on the results of the repeat voting, elections of the community council of elders have been declared as invalid.
8. The chairperson of the district electoral commission shall — within a 5-day period after adopting a decision on the results of the elections of members of a community council of elders — submit it to the marz governor.
9. The decision adopted by the district electoral commission based on the results of election of members of a community council of elders may be appealed against before the Administrative Court.

#### **CHAPTER 24**

**TIME LIMITS AND PROCEDURE FOR CALLING AND HOLDING ELECTIONS OF HEAD  
OF COMMUNITY AND MEMBER OF COUNCIL OF ELDERS**

**Article 120. Time limits for calling, holding a regular election, and for nominating and registering candidates**

1. Regular elections of head of community and member of council of elders may be held up to 4 times a year. The voting days of regular elections of head of community and member of council of elders shall be prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission for each year.
2. The voting day must be the day nearest to the day of expiry of powers from among the days prescribed, prior to the expiry of powers, by the Central Electoral Commission. Regular elections of head of community and member of council of elders shall be called by the marz governor no later than 70 days before the voting day.
3. Documents necessary for the registration of candidates shall be submitted to the district electoral commission no earlier than 35 and no later than 30 days before the voting day, by 18:00.
4. Registration of candidates shall be carried out no earlier than 30 and no later than 25 days before the voting day, by 18:00.
5. Where the voting day for election of head of community and member of council of elders coincides with the voting day for elections of the National Assembly, the day for election of head of community and member of council of elders shall be postponed for 1 week.

**Article 121. Calling and holding a new election**

1. A new election of head of community shall be called in the case of declaring the election of head of community as not having taken place as prescribed by part 6 of Article 118 of this Code.
2. A new election of a community council of elders shall be called in the case of declaring the election of a community council of elders as not having taken place as prescribed by part 7 of Article 119 of this Code.
3. A new election shall be held on the last Sunday of the 40-day period following the day of adoption by the district electoral commission of a decision on declaring the elections of head of community or members of council of elders as not having taken place, or following the day of entry into legal force of the judicial act.

The new election shall be held by new nomination of candidates under the procedure prescribed by this Code for early election of head of community, members of council of elders. The new election shall be called by marz governor.

**Article 122. Calling and holding early election**

1. Early election of head of community shall be held on the day from among the days prescribed by part 1 of Article 120 of this Code so that the time limits prescribed by this Article for the organisation and holding of elections are observed.
2. Early election of head of community shall be called by the decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.
3. In case the total number of members of council of elders reduces by half, an early election shall be called by the decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia in the manner and within the time limits prescribed by part 1 of this Article.
4. Documents necessary for registration of candidates shall be submitted to the district electoral commission no earlier than 25 and no later than 21 days before the voting day, by 18:00.
5. Registration of candidates shall be carried out no earlier than 21 and no later than 19 days before the voting day, by 18:00.



6. Electoral precincts shall be formed and polling stations shall be designated no later than 20 days before the voting day, the lists of electors — no later than 17 days before the voting day — shall be posted at a polling station, in a place visible to all.

## **SECTION 6**

### **ELECTION OF THE COUNCILS OF ELDERS OF YEREVAN, GYUMRI, VANADZOR**

#### **CHAPTER 25**

#### ***PROCEDURE FOR ELECTION OF THE COUNCILS OF ELDERS OF YEREVAN, GYUMRI, VANADZOR***

##### **Article 123. Composition of the Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri, Vanadzor**

1. The Council of Elders of Yerevan shall consist of 65 members.
2. The Council of Elders of Gyumri shall consist of 33 members.  
The Council of Elders of Vanadzor shall consist of 33 members.

##### **Article 124. Electoral system**

1. Elections of the Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri and Vanadzor shall be held under the proportional electoral system.
2. During elections of the Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri and Vanadzor the entire territory of Yerevan, Gyumri, Vanadzor respectively shall be one multi-mandate constituency.

##### **Article 125. Right to elect**

1. Every elector shall have one vote during election of the Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri, Vanadzor.

##### **Article 126. Right to be elected**

1. Persons, having the right to elect during elections of local self-government bodies pursuant to Article 2 of this Code, shall have the right to be elected as member of the Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri and Vanadzor.
2. Judges, prosecutors, officers of the Investigative Committee, the Special Investigation Service, the Judicial Acts Compulsory Enforcement Service, officers of the Police, the National Security, rescue, tax, customs authorities, penitentiary service, military servants, members of an electoral commission may not be nominated as candidate for member of the Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri and Vanadzor.

## **CHAPTER 26**

#### ***CALLING AND HOLDING ELECTIONS OF THE COUNCILS OF ELDERS OF YEREVAN, GYUMRI, VANADZOR***

##### **Article 127. Time limits for calling, holding regular elections of the Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri, Vanadzor, for nominating and registering the electoral list of a political party running in elections**

1. Regular election of the Council of Elders of Yerevan shall be held no earlier than 30 and no later than 20 days before the expiry of powers of the council of elders.
2. Regular election of the Council of Elders of Yerevan shall be called by a decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia so that the decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia on calling election enters into force no later than 60 days before the voting day. Regular election of the Councils of Elders of Gyumri, Vanadzor shall be called by the decision of the respective marz governor on a day from among the days prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission as prescribed by Article 120 of this Code so that the decision of the marz governor on calling election enters into force no later than 60 days before the voting day.  
Where the voting day for election of the Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri Vanadzor coincides with the voting day for elections of the National Assembly, the day for election of the council of elders shall be postponed for 1 week.
3. Documents necessary for the registration of electoral lists of political parties running in elections of the Council of Elders of Yerevan shall be submitted to the Central Electoral Commission no earlier than 45 and no later than 35 days before the voting day, by 18:00.
4. Documents necessary for the registration of electoral lists of political parties running in elections of the Councils of Elders of Gyumri, Vanadzor shall be submitted to the relevant district electoral commission no earlier than 45 and no later than 35 days before the voting day, by 18:00.
5. Registration of electoral lists of political parties running in elections shall be carried out no earlier than 35 and no later than 30 days before the voting day.

**Article 128. Calling and holding early elections of the Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri and Vanadzor**

1. Early elections of the Council of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri and Vanadzor shall be called by the Government within a 1-week period after the dissolution of the Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri, Vanadzor, respectively.
2. Early elections shall be held on the farthest Sunday after no earlier than 30 and no later than 40 days following the entry into force of the decision on calling early election of the Councils of Elders. Where the voting day for early election of the Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri Vanadzor coincides with the voting day for elections of the National Assembly, the day for election of the council of elders shall be postponed for 1 week.
3. The day of holding early elections of the Council of Elders of Yerevan shall be announced by the Central Electoral Commission, and the day of holding early elections of the Councils of Elders of Gyumri and Vanadzor shall be announced by the district electoral commission within a 1-week period after the entry into force of the decision on calling early elections of the Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri, Vanadzor, respectively.
4. In case of early elections, documents necessary for the registration of electoral lists of political parties running in elections shall be submitted to the relevant electoral commission no later than 25 days before the voting day, by 18:00.
5. In case of early elections, registration of electoral lists of political parties running in elections shall be carried out no earlier than 25 and no later than 20 days before the voting day, by 18:00.
6. In case of early elections, electoral precincts shall be formed, and polling stations shall be designated, no later than 25 days before the voting day. The authorised body shall — no later than 20 days before the voting day — hand over the lists of electors to the person possessing the premises of the polling station who shall post them at the polling station, in a place visible to all.

**CHAPTER 27**

***NOMINATION AND REGISTRATION OF CANDIDATES FOR MEMBER OF THE  
COUNCILS OF ELDERS OF YEREVAN, GYUMRI, VANADZOR***

**Article 129. Right to nominate candidates for member of the Councils of Elders of**

## **Yerevan, Gyumri, Vanadzor**

1. The right to nominate candidates for member of the Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri and Vanadzor shall be reserved to political parties and alliances of political parties.

A candidate may be nominated by the electoral list of only one political party.

2. Alliances of political parties may be formed by at least 2 political parties. A political party may be included in the composition of only one alliance of political parties.

3. The political party included in an alliance of political parties may not run in elections on its own.

4. The decision on joining an alliance of political parties shall be adopted by the decision of the permanently functioning governing body of the political party.

5. The electoral list of an alliance of political parties shall be formed based on separate lists submitted by each political party included in the alliance.

The electoral lists of a political party (alliance of political parties) shall be approved and nominated by the decision of the permanently functioning governing body of the political party (by the decisions of permanently functioning governing bodies of member political parties to the alliance). All the pages of electoral lists shall be sealed and signed by the competent person of the political party (member political parties to the alliance).

6. Where any political party leaves the alliance of political parties, candidates of that political party for member of council of elders shall be removed from the electoral list of the alliance of political parties as prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission.

### **Article 130. Nomination of candidates for member of the Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri and Vanadzor**

1. Political parties shall submit the application for running in elections of the Council of Elders of Yerevan to the Central Electoral Commission based on the decision of their permanently functioning governing body. The application shall be signed by the head of the political party. Alliances of political parties shall submit the application for running in elections of the Council of Elders of Yerevan to the Central Electoral Commission based on the decisions of the permanently functioning governing bodies of member political parties to the alliance, and the application shall be signed by the heads of all member political parties to the alliance.

Political parties shall submit the application for running in elections of the Councils of Elders of Gyumri, Vanadzor to the district electoral commission based on the decision of their permanently functioning governing body. The application shall be signed by the head of the political party. Alliances of political parties shall submit the application for running in elections of the Councils of Elders of Gyumri, Vanadzor to the district electoral commission based on the decisions of the permanently functioning governing bodies of member political parties to the alliance, and the application shall be signed by heads of all member political parties to the alliance.

2. Each political party (alliance of political parties) shall have the right to nominate only 1 electoral list. A political party included in an alliance of political parties shall have no right to nominate a separate list of candidates on its own behalf. In case of election of the Council of Elders of Yerevan the electoral list of a political party (alliance of political parties) running in elections shall include at least 25 candidates, whereas in case of elections of the Councils of Elders of Gyumri, Vanadzor — at least 15 candidates. The number of candidates included in the electoral list of a political party (alliance of political parties) running in elections may not exceed the 3-fold of the number prescribed by this Code for mandates of members of the Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri and Vanadzor, respectively.

In the electoral list of a political party (alliance of political parties) and each of the political parties included in the alliance, the number of representatives of each sex, starting from the 1st place on the list, must not exceed 70 per cent in each integer group of 3 (1-3, 1-6, 1-9 and subsequently up to the end of the list).

The electoral list of a political party (alliance of political parties) may include also persons that are not members of that political party (any of the member political parties to the alliance), the number of which may not exceed 30 per cent of the total number of candidates included in that electoral list.

3. The following shall be attached to the application of a political party (alliance of political parties) for running in elections of the Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri and Vanadzor:

- (1) the statute of the political party (statutes of political parties included in the alliance of political parties);
- (2) the decision of the permanently functioning governing body of the political party (decisions of permanently functioning governing bodies of the member political parties to the alliance) on approving and nominating the electoral lists for the elections of the Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri and Vanadzor;
- (3) the electoral list, which under consecutive numbers shall include the surname, name, patronymic, date of birth, sex, party affiliation of candidates, personal identification document number, place of registration, place of employment and position (occupation);
- (4) a statement of information proving that the candidate has been registered for the last 6 months in the population register of Yerevan, Gyumri, Vanadzor, respectively. The statement of information referred to in this point shall be issued by the authorised body within a 3-day period following the request but no earlier than before calling elections. The form of the statement of information shall be prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission. The authorised body shall, upon its decision, reject the issuing of the statement of information of the specified form to the applicant, if the data thereon do not meet the requirements provided for by part 1 of Article 126 of this Code;
- (5) written statement of the candidate regarding the consent to be registered as a candidate for member of the Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri, Vanadzor;
- (6) separate electoral list submitted by each of the political parties included in the alliance of political parties;
- (7) the receipt for payment of an electoral deposit in the amount of 3 000-fold of the minimum salary in case of the Council of Elders of Yerevan, the receipt for payment of an electoral deposit in the amount of 2 000-fold of the minimum salary in case of the Councils of Elders of Gyumri and Vanadzor;
- (8) carbon copies of personal identification documents of the candidates.

4. Data on up to 3 authorised representatives (surname, name, patronymic, date of birth, personal identification document number, place of employment, position) shall be specified in the application for running in elections submitted by the political party (alliance of political parties) running in elections.

Documents necessary for the registration of the electoral list of a political party (alliance of political parties) running in elections shall be submitted to the relevant electoral commission only personally by the authorised representative of the political party (alliance of political parties) within the time limits prescribed by this Code.

5. Where errors, deletions, erasures, misprints are found in documents submitted for registration of the electoral list of the political party (alliance of political parties) running in elections, the electoral commission shall be obliged to bring them to the attention of persons submitting such documents so as to correct them, as well as correct itself, in their presence, evident errors, misprints existing in the submitted documents.

The electoral commission shall not have the right not to accept the submitted documents only for the reason that they contain such errors, deletions, erasures, or misprints. The provisions of this part shall not apply to correction of errors, deletions, erasures, misprints or elimination of other deficiencies found in the documents, the right whereof is reserved by law to the bodies having adopted or issued such documents.

In case the submitted documents contain inaccuracies referred to in the second paragraph of this part or in case of incompleteness of documents attached to the application, the electoral commission shall give 48 hours for eliminating the mentioned inaccuracies, completing the attached documents.

In case of failure to eliminate inaccuracies in the electoral list of a political party (alliance of political parties), regarding a candidate included in the electoral list, or in case of failure to complete the documents, the registration of the electoral list shall be rejected, and, if a candidate is included in the

electoral list, his or her name shall be removed from the electoral list as prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission.

**Article 131. Registering electoral lists of a political party**

1. Electoral lists of a political party running in elections of the Council of Elders of Yerevan shall be registered by the Central Electoral Commission.

Electoral lists of a political party running in elections of the Councils of Elders of Gyumri and Vanadzor shall be registered by the relevant district electoral commission.

2. In case no objection is raised by the members of the electoral commission with regard to registration of the electoral list of the political party, the electoral list shall be registered without voting.

Within a 3-day period after the expiry of the time limit prescribed for registration of electoral lists, the electoral lists shall be posted on the website of the Central Electoral Commission.

3. The authorised representative of a political party shall have the right to be present at the sitting of the Commission when the issue of registering the electoral list is considered.

**Article 132. Rejecting the registration of an electoral list of a political party or a candidate included in the electoral list**

1. The electoral commission shall reject the registration of the electoral list of a political party (alliance of political parties), where:

(1) not all the documents have been submitted or the submitted documents are incomplete or falsified;

(2) the electoral list does not comply with the requirements prescribed by part 2 of Article 130 of this Code (except for cases where non-compliance is conditioned by a circumstance which has emerged after the nomination);

(3) the political party has been dissolved;

(4) the number of political parties included in the alliance of political parties has fallen below 2;

(5) the activities of the political party have been suspended or prohibited.

2. In case an objection is raised by a member of the electoral commission regarding the registration of the electoral list of a political party (alliance of political parties), the objection shall be put to vote. The registration of the electoral list shall be rejected upon the decision adopted by at least 2/3 of votes of the total number of members of the Commission.

3. The electoral commission shall reject the registration of a candidate included in the electoral list of a political party (alliance of political parties), where:

(1) he or she does not have the right to be elected;

(2) not all the documents thereon have been submitted or the submitted documents are incomplete or falsified.

4. In case an objection is raised by a member of the electoral commission regarding the registration of a candidate included in the electoral list of a political party (alliance of political parties), the objection shall be put to vote. The registration of a candidate included in the electoral list of a political party (alliance of political parties) shall be rejected upon the decision adopted by at least 2/3 of votes of the total number of members of the Commission.

5. In case the registration of a candidate included in the electoral list is rejected, the candidate shall be removed from the list as prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission.

**Article 133. Declaring invalid the registration of an electoral list of a political party or a candidate included in the list**

1. The electoral commission shall declare the registration of an electoral list of a political party as invalid, where by virtue of facts having emerged after the registration:

(1) the number of candidates included in the electoral list has fallen below the number prescribed by Article 130 of this Code as a result of revoking or declaring the registration of candidates included in the electoral list as invalid;

(2) the submitted documents are falsified.

2. The registration of a candidate included in the electoral list shall be declared invalid, where by virtue of facts having emerged after the registration:

(1) he or she does not have the right to be elected;

(2) the documents submitted thereon are falsified.

In case the registration of a candidate included in the electoral list is declared as invalid, the name of the candidate shall be removed from the list as prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission.

3. The registration of an electoral list of a political party or a candidate included therein shall be declared invalid upon a decision adopted by at least  $2/3$  of votes of the total number of members of the electoral commission.

**Article 134. Procedure for appealing against the decisions on rejecting, declaring invalid or revoking the registration of an electoral list of a political party or a candidate included in the electoral list**

1. The decision of the relevant electoral commission on rejecting the registration, declaring invalid or revoking the registration of the electoral list of a political party or a candidate included in the electoral list may be appealed against before the Administrative Court.

2. The electoral list or the candidate included in the electoral list shall be deemed registered or re-registered upon a judicial act on declaring invalid the decision of the electoral commission on rejecting the registration, declaring invalid or revoking the registration of an electoral list of a political party or a candidate included in the electoral list.

**Article 135. Revoking the registration of the electoral list of a political party or a candidate included in the electoral list**

1. The registration of the electoral list of a political party (alliance of political parties) shall be revoked upon the decision of the electoral commission, where:

(1) an application for recusal has been submitted;

(2) the political party has been dissolved;

(3) the activities of the political party have been suspended or prohibited;

(4) the number of political parties included in the alliance of political parties has fallen below 2.

2. The registration of the electoral list of a political party (alliance of political parties) shall be revoked upon a judicial act in cases prescribed by part 8 of Article 19 or part 1 of Article 26 or Article 27 of this Code.

3. The registration of a candidate included in the electoral list shall be revoked upon the decision of the electoral commission, where he or she has submitted an application for recusal.

In case the registration of a candidate included in the electoral list is revoked, the name of the candidate shall be removed from the list as prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission.

4. The registration of a candidate included in the electoral list shall be revoked upon a judicial act in the case prescribed by part 8 of Article 19 of this Code.

**CHAPTER 28**

***STATUS OF A CANDIDATE FOR MEMBER OF THE COUNCILS OF ELDERS OF  
YEREVAN, GYUMRI, VANADZOR***

**Article 136. Status, competencies of candidates for member of the Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri, Vanadzor**

1. Candidate for member of the Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri and Vanadzor shall acquire his or her status upon registration of the electoral list of a political party running in elections. The rights and responsibilities prescribed by this Code shall extend to a candidate for member of the Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri and Vanadzor until the expiry of the time limit prescribed for challenging the decision of the electoral commission on members of the Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri and Vanadzor being elected, and in case this decision is challenged — until the adoption of a judicial act.

The registered candidate for member of the council of elders shall lose his or her rights pertaining to the status of a candidate and shall be exempt from the responsibilities also in cases prescribed by Articles 133 or 135 of this Code upon revoking or declaring invalid the registration of the electoral list of a political party or a candidate included in the electoral list, respectively. In case of appealing, through judicial procedure, against the decision of the electoral commission on declaring invalid the registration of the electoral list of a political party or a candidate included in the electoral list, the candidate shall lose his or her rights pertaining to the status of a candidate and shall be exempt from responsibilities upon the entry into force of the judicial act.

Where a mandate of member of the council of elders becomes vacant, the applications for recusal of persons included in the electoral list of a political party shall be certified by a notary, or the person shall approve the application for recusal at the sitting of the electoral commission.

2. Candidates shall have equal rights and responsibilities arising from the status of a candidate for member of the Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri and Vanadzor.

**Article 137. Rights, responsibilities, guarantees for activities of candidates for member of the Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri and Vanadzor**

1. Employees of state and local self-government bodies and state officials, who are candidates, except for the officials holding political and discretionary positions, shall be exempt by virtue of law from fulfilling their official responsibilities from the day the election campaign officially starts until the voting day, as prescribed by this Code. The absence from work of such candidates within this period of time shall be considered valid without preservation of remuneration.

2. A political party shall have the right to submit an application for recusal no later than 10 days before the voting day, by 18:00.

A candidate shall have the right to withdraw his or her candidacy no later than 10 days before the voting day, by 18:00, as well as after the voting day. The name, surname of a citizen included in the electoral list of a political party shall be removed from the list as prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission. The application for recusal of a candidate shall be certified by a notary, or the candidate shall approve his or her application for recusal at the sitting of the electoral commission.

## CHAPTER 29

### ***ELECTION CAMPAIGN DURING ELECTIONS OF THE COUNCILS OF ELDERS OF YEREVAN, GYUMRI AND VANADZOR***

#### **Article 138. Election campaign**

1. During elections of the Council of Elders of Yerevan, a political party shall have the right to use free of charge the airtime on public television for no more than 30 minutes, the airtime on public radio for no more than 50 minutes, and in case of early elections — for 15 and 25 minutes, respectively.
2. During elections of the Council of Elders of Yerevan, a political party running in elections shall have the right to use for pay the airtime on public television for no more than 50 minutes, the airtime on public radio for no more than 80 minutes, whereas in case of early elections — for 25 and 40 minutes, respectively.
3. The airtime for conducting election campaign through free and paid use of airtime on public radio and public television, prescribed by parts 1 and 2 of this Article, shall be provided as prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission.

#### **Article 139. Campaign fund of a political party during elections of the Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri, Vanadzor**

1. For the purpose of conducting an election campaign, a political party (alliance of political parties) running in elections shall set up an election fund which shall be formed by the voluntary contributions referred to in Article 26 of this Code.
2. A political party (political parties included in an alliance of political parties jointly) running in elections of the Council of Elders of Yerevan may make a contribution in the amount of up to 10 000-fold of the minimum salary to the fund of the political party (alliance of political parties), and during the elections of the Councils of Elders of Gyumri and Vanadzor — in the amount of up to 3 000-fold of the minimum salary.
3. Each natural person may make a voluntary contribution in the amount of up to 100-fold of the minimum salary in campaign funds of a political party (alliance of political parties).  
A candidate included in the electoral list of the political party (alliance of political parties) running in elections of the Council of Elders of Yerevan may make a voluntary contribution in the amount of up to 1 000-fold of the minimum salary to the campaign funds of the political party (alliance of political parties), and during the elections of the Councils of Elders of Gyumri and Vanadzor — in the amount of up to 500-fold of the minimum salary.
4. During the election campaign for the Council of Elders of Yerevan, for the purpose of funding the conduct of the election campaign through the mass media, renting of halls, premises (except for election campaign offices) for the purpose of organising election gatherings and meetings with electors, preparing (placing), acquiring a campaign poster, printed campaign and other materials, preparing any types of campaign materials (including printed materials) to be provided to electors, a political party (alliance of political parties) running in elections shall have the right to spend an amount not exceeding the 100 000-fold of the minimum salary, and during the elections of the Councils of Elders of Gyumri and Vanadzor — an amount not exceeding the 30 000-fold of the minimum salary.



## CHAPTER 30

### *SUMMARISATION OF ELECTION RESULTS*

#### **Article 140. Ballot papers**

1. The names of the political parties, in alphabetical order, and the surnames, names and patronymics of the first 3 candidates in the electoral list shall be specified on the left side of the ballot paper, and empty tick boxes shall be placed on the right for the elector to make a note.

#### **Article 141. Summarisation of results of elections of the Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri, Vanadzor**

1. The Central Electoral Commission shall, in the manner and within the time limit prescribed by Article 75 of this Code, summarise the results of election of the Council of Elders of Yerevan and adopt any of the following decisions:

- (1) on the Council of Elders of Yerevan being elected;
- (2) on calling a repeat voting in separate electoral precincts;
- (3) on declaring elections of the Council of Elders of Yerevan invalid and on calling a repeat voting for the elections of the Council of Elders;
- (4) on declaring elections of the Council of Elders of Yerevan invalid and on calling new election.

2. The district electoral commission shall, as prescribed by Article 74 of this Code, summarise the results of elections of the Councils of Elders of Gyumri, Vanadzor on the 7th day after the voting day and adopt any of the following decisions:

- (1) on the Councils of Elders of Gyumri, Vanadzor being elected;
- (2) on calling a repeat voting in separate electoral precincts;
- (3) on declaring elections of the Councils of Elders of Gyumri, Vanadzor invalid and on calling a repeat voting for the elections of the councils of elders;
- (4) on declaring elections of the Councils of Elders of Gyumri, Vanadzor invalid and on calling new election.

3. Mandates of the members of council of elders shall be distributed among the electoral lists of those political parties (alliances of political parties) that have received 6 per cent, in case of a political party, and 8 per cent, in case of an alliance of political parties, of ballot papers with affirmative vote out of the sum of the total number of ballot papers with affirmative vote and the number of inaccuracies.

Where less than 3 political parties (alliances of political parties) have received at least 6 (8) percent of ballot papers with affirmative vote out of the sum of the total number of ballot papers with affirmative vote and the number of inaccuracies, 3 the political parties and alliances of political parties having received the maximum number of ballot papers with affirmative vote shall participate in the distribution of mandates.

4. Mandates of the members of the council of elders shall be distributed among the electoral lists of political parties (alliances of political parties) in proportion with the number of ballot papers cast in favour of each of them. The number of mandates available for each electoral list shall be calculated as follows: the number of ballot papers with affirmative vote cast in favour of each electoral list shall be multiplied by the number of mandates available for electoral lists, the product shall be divided by the total number of ballot papers with affirmative vote cast in favour of the electoral lists participating in the distribution of mandates, and the integer numbers shall be parted which shall be the numbers of mandates available for the electoral list of each political party (alliance of political parties).

The remaining mandates shall be distributed among electoral lists by the sequence of value of remainders, by the principle of one mandate to each. In case the values of remainders are equal, the contested mandate shall be given to the electoral list with the highest number of ballot papers with

affirmative vote cast in favour, whereas in the event of a tie the mandate shall be given by drawing of lots.

5. Where, as a result of the distribution of mandates as prescribed by part 4 of this Article, any of the political parties (alliances of political parties) receives more than 40 per cent of the seats but not the absolute majority, the absolute majority of the seats shall be provided to that political party (alliance of political parties). Where 2 political parties (alliance of political parties) receive more than 40 per cent of the seats but not the absolute majority, the absolute majority of the seats shall be provided to the political party (alliance of political parties) having received the highest number of mandates. The remaining mandates shall be distributed among the electoral lists of other political parties (alliances of political parties) having obtained the right to participate in the distribution of mandates.

6. A candidate, whose record number in the electoral list is smaller than or equal to the number of mandates available for that electoral list, shall be elected from the electoral list.

Where as a result of it, the mandates of the political party (alliance of political parties) are distributed among representatives of the same sex, the mandate of the last one elected by the sequential order in the list shall be given to the candidate under the smallest number from the unrepresented sex in the electoral list, if any.

The Central Electoral Commission shall draw up a protocol on candidates elected as members of the Council of Elders of Yerevan, whereas the protocol on candidates elected as members of the Councils of Elders in Gyumri, Vanadzor shall be drawn up by the relevant district electoral commission.

The protocol on candidates elected as members of the Council of Elders of Yerevan shall, within a 5-day period, be forwarded to the Prime Minister, and the protocol on candidates elected as members of the Councils of Elders of Gyumri and Vanadzor — to the relevant marz governors.

7. Where the number of candidates included in the electoral list of a political party (alliance of political parties) is smaller than the number of mandates available as a result of distribution of mandates, these mandates shall remain vacant.

8. The mandate of a member of council of elders — who has waived the mandate or who has been elected and whose powers have been early terminated — shall be given to the next candidate in sequence of the electoral list of that political party (alliance of political parties) upon a protocol of the relevant electoral commission, within a 1-week period after notifying the commission thereon, and where as a result of it, the number of representatives of any sex in the given faction falls below and results in less than 25 per cent, it shall be given to the next candidate of less represented sex in the electoral list of that political party (alliance of political parties), if any.

Where there is no other candidate in the electoral list, the mandate shall remain vacant.

9. Applications for recusal or waiver of the mandate submitted by persons included in the electoral list of a political party (alliance of political parties) shall be certified by a notary, or the person shall confirm such application at the sitting of the electoral commission.

In case of submitting an application for recusal, the name, surname of the citizen shall be removed from the electoral list as prescribed by the Central Electoral Commission.

#### **Article 142. Calling a repeat voting for elections of the Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri, Vanadzor, declaring the election results as invalid**

1. Where in the course of elections, such violations of this Code have taken place that might have affected the election results, the relevant electoral commission shall adopt a decision on holding a repeat voting in separate electoral precincts, if it is possible to remedy these violations by such measure. Where it is impossible to remedy these violations by such measure, the elections of the council of elders shall be declared invalid, and a repeat voting for the elections of the council of elders shall be called.

2. Where in the course of repeat voting for elections of the council of elders or in the course of holding a repeat voting in separate electoral precincts, such violations of this Code have taken place that might have affected the election results, the relevant electoral commission shall adopt a decision on declaring invalid the elections of the council of elders and shall call a repeat voting for the elections of the council of elders.

3. Where the electoral commission adopts a decision on holding a repeat voting in separate electoral precincts, the repeat voting shall be held on the 7th day following the adoption of this decision. In this case, the time limits prescribed by this Code for summarisation of the results of elections of the council of elders shall be calculated from the day of repeat voting.
4. The decision adopted based on the results of elections of the council of elders may be appealed against before the Administrative Court.
5. In case of declaring invalid the elections of the council of elders, no earlier than 14 days and no later than 21 days following the entry into force of the decision thereon, a repeat voting shall be held as prescribed by this Code and with the same composition of political parties.
6. Repeat voting shall be held once. In case the elections are declared invalid after the repeat voting, the relevant electoral commission shall call a new election within a 21-day period. New election shall be held by new nomination of candidates in the manner and within the time limits prescribed by this Code for early elections.

## PART THREE

### CHAPTER 31 *ADDITIONAL, TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS*

#### **Article 143. Procedure for preferential voting**

1. In preferential voting, surnames, names, patronymics of all candidates shall be specified on the left side of the ballot paper, and empty tick boxes shall be placed to the right of every candidate for the voter to make a note. The order of names of candidates shall be determined by drawing of lots. The ballot paper may be substituted by an electronic data file expressing the preferences.

2. In the ballot paper the voter shall enter the figure “1” in the tick box next to the name of the candidate to whom the voter gives his or her first preference. Subsequent integer numbers, starting from “2”, shall then be respectively entered in the tick boxes next to the names of other candidates in the order of preference given thereto. No number shall be entered in the tick boxes against those candidates to whom the voter gives no preference, but in any case, preference for candidates must be expressed at least for the number of vacant seats. At a particular stage of summarisation of voting results, a ballot paper shall be considered as given in favour of the continuing candidate who has the highest level of preference votes in that ballot paper.

3. The following main concepts are used in this Article:

(1) **continuing candidate** — candidate who is neither excluded from the counting nor declared as elected at a certain stage of summarisation of voting results;

(2) **value of ballot paper** — numerical value given to the ballot paper as prescribed by this Article at a certain stage of summarisation of voting results;

(3) **total value of ballot papers** — the total sum of values of all ballot papers not excluded from the counting at a certain stage of summarisation of voting results;

(4) **value of votes for the candidate** — the total sum of values of ballot papers cast in favour of the candidate, which are not excluded from the counting;

(5) **passing quota** — the minimum number of votes necessary for being deemed to be elected at a certain stage of summarisation of voting results;

(6) **value of surplus votes for the candidate** — the difference between the passing quota and the value of votes for the candidate, who is deemed to be elected by the result of a certain stage;

(7) **gender equality standard** — a quantitative standard ensuring gender equality between the elected candidates (for example, the number of representatives of every sex among the elected candidates must not be more than 6).

4. The voting results shall be summarised electronically. For the summarisation of voting results, the following steps shall be taken in turn until the summarisation of voting results is completed. All the arithmetical actions shall be done with 2-digit accuracy after the decimal point.

**Step 1.** Invalid ballot papers shall be excluded from the counting. A ballot paper shall be deemed invalid if it contains no preference given to candidates, at least equal to the number of vacant positions, or more than one candidate has received the same level of preference votes. All valid ballot papers shall be deemed not excluded from the counting, and the value of those ballot papers shall be considered as “1”.

**Step 2.** Ballot papers cast in favour of candidates not excluded from the counting shall be sorted as per the candidates. All candidates shall be deemed to be continuing candidates.

**Step 3.** Where the election of a representative of one of the sexes violates the gender equality standard:

- a. all the representatives of that gender shall be excluded from the counting;
- b. their ballot papers shall be distributed in the following manner: the ballot paper with the same value shall be added to the ballot papers of the continuing candidates in favour of whom it is cast.

**Step 4.** Where the number of all the elected candidates equals to the number of vacant seats, the summarisation of the voting results shall be completed.

Where the number of all the elected candidates is smaller than the number of vacant seats, but the compliance with gender equality standard unequivocally predetermines the candidates who are to fill the vacant seats, these respective candidates shall also be announced as elected, and the summarisation of the voting results shall be completed.

**Step 5.** The value of votes for the candidate shall be calculated for every continuing candidate. Based on these calculations, the total value of ballot papers shall be calculated, which shall be the total sum of votes of all continuing candidates.

The passing quota shall be calculated in accordance with the following formula:

Passing quota = Total value of ballot papers / (Number of vacant seats +1) + 0.01

**Step 6.** Where there is no continuing candidate whose total value of votes is higher than or equal to the passing quota, the process of summarisation of voting results shall continue from Step 10.

**Step 7.** The continuing candidate, whose total value of votes is the highest, shall be deemed as elected.

**Step 8.** For the elected candidate the value of surplus votes for the candidate, equalling to the difference of the value of the votes for the candidate and the passing quota, shall be counted. A new value of vote shall be given to every ballot paper cast in favour of that candidate. For the purpose of counting it, the value of vote of the ballot paper shall be multiplied by the value of surplus votes for the candidate and divided by the value of votes for the candidate.

**Step 9.** All ballot papers of an elected candidate shall be re-distributed in the following manner: the ballot paper shall be added to ballot papers of the candidate in favour of whom it is cast. Where there is no such continuing candidate, the ballot paper shall be excluded from the counting and shall never be used during the following summarisation steps. The summarisation of the voting results shall continue from Step 3.

**Step 10.** A continuing candidate with the lowest value of votes shall be excluded from the counting unless it violates the gender equality standard. In case it violates the gender equality standard, the candidate having received the minimum votes, whose exclusion will not violate the gender equality standard, shall be excluded from the counting. Where due to the tie of votes it is impossible to determine the candidate having received the minimum votes, the candidate to be excluded shall be determined by drawing of lots.

Ballot papers of the candidate excluded from the counting shall be distributed in the following manner: the ballot paper with the same value shall be added to ballot papers of the continuing candidate in favour of whom it is cast. The summarisation of the voting results shall continue from Step 3.

#### **Article 144. Transitional and final provisions**

1. This Code shall enter into force from 1 June 2016.

2. The Electoral Code of the Republic of Armenia adopted on 26 May 2011 shall be repealed upon the entry into force of this Code, except for cases prescribed by part 3 of this Article.

3. The elections of Head of the community and members of council of elders called before 1 September 2017 shall be organised and held in accordance with the regulations of the Electoral Code of 26 May 2011", except for the provisions restricting the right to vote and to be elected during elections of Head of the community and member of council of elders, which is regulated in accordance with the provisions prescribed by this Code.

After the entry into force of this Code elections of council of elders shall be held in Gyumri and Vanadzor communities under the proportional electoral system provided for by this Code, while elections of Head of the community and member of council of elders shall not be held. The voting for the elections of councils of elders called in Gyumri and Vanadzor communities before 1 September 2017 shall be organised and held, and the election results shall be summarised by TECs in accordance with the regulations of the Electoral Code of 26 May 2011 prescribed for the election of the Council of Elders of Yerevan.

Before 1 September 2017, during elections of the Councils of Elders of Gyumri, Vanadzor, as well as of Head of the community and member of council of elders, the lists of voters shall be drawn up in accordance with the requirements of the Electoral Code of 26 May 2011 for lists of voters, which includes persons, prescribed by this Code, having the right to vote during elections of local self-government bodies.

Accreditation of non-governmental organisations carrying out observation missions during elections of the Councils of Elders of Gyumri, Vanadzor, Head of the community and members of council of elders shall be carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Electoral Code of 26 May 2011. Qualification certificates shall not be required from observers of organisations carrying out

observation mission, and the requirement prescribed by part 8 of Article 31 of this Code shall be effective from 1 January 2017.

The CEC may, before 1 September 2017, adopt a decision on organising and holding, as a pilot project, voting for the elections of local self-government bodies in separate communities in accordance with the regulations of this Code. Subject to the implementation of the pilot project, the CEC shall be entitled to change the day of voting for self-government body by setting a new day.

4. The Central and constituency election commissions functioning before the entry into force of this Code shall exercise their powers until the day of convening the first session after formation of the Central and TECs, respectively, as provided for by this Code.

Where the term of powers of any member of the CEC expires before the entry into force of this Code before formation of the new CEC, those members shall continue to hold office until the formation of the new CEC.

5. The CEC must be formed before 1 November 2016.

The first session of the CEC shall be convened on the 3rd working day following the formation of the CEC, at 12:00. The CEC shall be considered as formed upon the election of the 2/3 of the composition of the Commission.

6. The CEC shall — before 1 December 2016 — designate the service areas of TECs, the seats and numbers of TECs. TECs shall be formed within a 21-day period after designating the service areas of TECs and the seats of TECs. The 1st sessions of TECs shall be called by the CEC.

7. Part 6 of Article 42 of this Code shall enter into force from the moment of assuming of powers by the newly-elected President of the Republic.

8. After the entry into force of this Code, before the elections of the new National Assembly, in part 5 of Article 44 of this Code number 90 shall be taken as the number of mandates of Deputies of the National Assembly, whereas the number of mandates received by a political party under the proportional electoral system of the National Assembly shall be taken as the number of mandates received by a political party of the National Assembly.

9. The requirement prescribed by Article 97 and Article 98 of this Code on coming to an agreement as to and recommending a candidate for Prime Minister shall enter into force from the moment of assuming of powers by the newly-elected President of the Republic.

10. After the entry into force of this Code before the election of the new National Assembly, the mandate of the Deputy — who has been elected under the proportional electoral system of the National Assembly and whose powers have early terminated — shall be given to the next candidate in sequence in the candidate list of that political party upon a protocol of the CEC within a 1-week period after notifying the Commission. Where there is no other candidate in the candidate list, the mandate shall remain vacant.

11. After the entry into force of this Code, before the election of the new National Assembly, the mandate of the Deputy — who has been elected under the majoritarian electoral system of the National Assembly and whose powers have early terminated — shall remain vacant.

12. After the entry into force of this Code, regulatory decisions of the CEC shall be effective to the extent they are not in conflict with this Code.

13. Qualification certificates for being included in an election commission and certificates for carrying out observation mission received based on a test in accordance with the Electoral Code of the Republic of Armenia adopted on 26 May 2011, shall be considered as invalid from 31 December 2016.

14. Before 1 January 2021 during elections of the National Assembly, the Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri, Vanadzor, in the first part of the national candidate list of a political party, alliance of political parties and every of the political parties included in the alliance, the number of representatives of every sex, starting from the 1st place on the list, must not exceed 75 per cent in every integer group of 4 (1-4, 1-8, 1-12 and subsequently up to the end of the list), and the number of representatives of every sex in the district candidate list of a political party (alliance of political parties) running in the elections must not exceed 75 per cent.

15. Before 1 January 2021 during elections of the National Assembly, the mandate of a Deputy — who has waived the mandate under the first part of the national candidate list or who has been elected as Deputy therefrom and whose powers have been early terminated — shall be given to the next candidate in sequence in the first part of the national candidate list of that political party upon a

protocol of the CEC, within a 1-week period after notifying the Commission thereon, and where as a result of it, the number of representatives of any sex in the given faction falls below and results in less than 20 per cent, it shall be given to the next candidate of less represented sex in the first part of the national candidate list of that political party, if any.

16. Before 1 January 2021 during elections of the Councils of Elders of Yerevan, Gyumri, Vanadzor, the mandate of a member of council of elders — who has waived the mandate or who has been elected and whose powers have been early terminated — shall be given to the next candidate in sequence of the candidate list of that political party (alliance of political parties) upon a protocol of the relevant election commission, within a 1-week period after notifying the commission thereon, and where as a result of it, the number of representatives of any sex in the given faction falls below and results in less than 20 per cent, it shall be given to the next candidate of less represented sex in the candidate list of that political party (alliance of political parties), if any.

17. Norms prescribed by his Code for a judge shall apply also to members of the Constitutional Court.

#### **Article 145. Additional provisions**

1. All the norms in this Code concerning a political party, with the exception of norms in Articles 8, 26, 44, 81, 83, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 95, 97, 98, 129, 130, 132, 135, 139 and 141, shall be applicable also to an alliance of political parties.

2. All the norms in this Code concerning a candidate, with the exception of norms in Articles 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 33, 34, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, shall be applicable also to a candidate included in the candidate list of a political party running in the elections.

**International Conference**  
**«The Role of Constitutional Review Bodies in Ensuring the Rule of Law  
in Rule-Making and Law-Enforcement»**  
*(Minsk, Victoria Hotel)*

**DRAFT PROGRAMME**

**26 April (Wednesday)**

Meeting of foreign participants according to the scheduled arrival times and transfer to the Victoria Hotel

19.00 Dinner at the Victoria Hotel

**27 April (Thursday)**

9.00 Registration of the participants (conference hall at the Victoria Hotel)

9.30 Opening of the Conference

10.00–14.00 Plenary session

14.00–15.00 Lunch

15.00–18.00 Plenary session

19.00–21.00 Reception hosted by the Chairman of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Belarus

**28 April (Friday)**

9.00–11.00 Plenary session. Concluding remarks

11.00–13.00 Social programme

14.00–15.00 Lunch

Departure of foreign participants (according to the scheduled departure times)