



Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
Independent Election Commission

**Regulation Relevant to Special Guests' Attendance at Voter
Registration, Voting and Vote Counting Centers**

This regulation has been approved under the authority of Article 56 of the Electoral Law to regulate the attendance of special guests at Voter Registration, Voting and Vote Counting Centers.

Terms

Article One:

In this regulation, the following coming terms have the meanings shown:

1. **Commission:** The Independent Election Commission established under Article 156 of the Constitution of Afghanistan.
2. **Electoral Complaints Commission:** The Electoral Complaints Commission established under Article 52 of the Electoral Law.
3. **Special guests:** High ranking diplomats, scholarly figures, cultural, political, national, international and UN staff whose presence at the Voter Registration, Voting and Vote Counting Centers is not to monitor or prepare an official report.
(Candidates, candidates' agents, and political parties, regardless of their political and social standing, are not considered the special guests.)
4. **Entourage:** Associates accompanying special guests.
5. **Security guards:** Individuals assigned to ensure the security of the special guests and their entourage.

Attendance Requirements

Article Two:

1. Subject to this regulation, the External Relations Department of the Commission's Secretariat shall arrange the attendance of special guests at the Voter Registration, Voting and Vote Counting Centers.
2. Written applications for this purpose shall be delivered to the External Relations Department at least a week ahead of the intended visit.

The application must contain the following information:

- a) Information on the date and time of the attendance;
- b) Information on the polling station which the special guest is interested in attending.
- c) The names of the entourage and its number.

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- d) The exact number of security guards.
3. After checking the completeness of the information in the application, the External Relations Department of the Commission Secretariat shall refer the application to the Commission for ratification. The Commission may either refuse or confirm the application or, may make a decision to change the date, time, number of the entourage members and security guards.
 4. The External Relations Department of the Commission's Secretariat shall inform the applicant promptly of the Commission's decision.
 5. If the Commission approves, based on the information given by the applicant, the External Relations Department of the Commission Secretariat shall prepare special cards for this and issue them to the applicants.
 6. The External Relations Department of the Commission's Secretariat shall arrange the participation of at least one representative of the Commission during the attendance of special guests at Voter Registration, Voting and Vote Counting Centers.

Entourage and Special Guests' Security Guards

Article Three:

The entourage and special guests' security guards may only enter Voter Registration, Voting and Vote Counting Centers while accompanying the special guests.

Rights and Responsibilities of Special Guests

Article Four:

1. Providing that they wear the issued cards, special guests may attend the established Voter Registration, Voting and Vote Counting Centers in accordance with the relevant procedures.
2. Special guests, their entourage and the security guards must have the identity cards issued to them by the Commission at all times publicly visible while they are in a Voter Registration, Voting or Vote Counting Centers.
3. Special guests may ask the electoral officials for explanations about the process.
4. Female special guests may attend the centers reserved for females.
5. Special guests must not interfere in any way in the electoral process or disrupt the procedure.

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6. Special guests must respect voting secrecy and the information put on the ballot paper.
7. Special guests, during their presence at Voter Registration, Voting or Vote Counting Centers, must not, in any way take a stand for a political party or a candidate.
8. Special guests are responsible for their entourage and appointed security guards' behavior. In case of a violation, the Commission may restrict the presence of the special guests at Voter Registration, Voting and Vote Counting Centers.

Entry into Force

Article Five:

This regulation enters into force on its approval and shall be published.

