



Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Independent Election Commission

Code of Conduct for Candidate Agents of the Run-off Elections for the Audit of the 2014 Run off Presidential Election Ballot Boxes

On 12 July 2014, both presidential candidates agreed to a Technical Framework for the conduct of a credible and comprehensive audit of 100 percent ballots of all the polling stations. This audit will be conducted at the IEC Headquarters in Kabul in the presence of the candidate agents, Media, national and international observers, UN advisors, as well as representatives of the Independent Electoral Complaints Commission (IECC).

The presence of candidate agents is an important contribution to enhance transparency, credibility and acceptance of the audit / recount process. The work of the candidate agents will be guided by the following Code of Conduct for candidate agents.

Both campaign teams (Reform and Partnership and Transformation and Continuation) will take all necessary efforts to ensure that their respective agents are fully familiarized with the text of this Code of Conduct (CoC) and strictly adhere to its provisions.

A) RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF CANDIDATE AGENTS: Candidate agents have the following rights and obligations:

1) RIGHTS OF CANDIDATE AGENTS

Agents can attend all steps of the audit / recount process (including Commission's open sessions) provided that they do not disrupt the process. At every step of the audit process, agents may seek clarifications. The candidate agents have to visibly display their identification badges and have to comply with the Election law, all other relevant laws, procedures and decisions of the Commission and need to act in accordance with the relevant code of conduct and regulations.

During the audit / recount process candidate agents will have the right to:

1. Receive monitoring cards;
2. Observe all the steps of the audit and recount process;
3. In accordance to the procedures of the Commission, shall have access to the audit process and elections related information;

4. Ask questions and seek clarifications;
5. Raise their concerns in regard to the relevant procedures;
6. Request to be shown the electoral material (in particular the ballot box, seals, voter list, polling station journal, result form, ballots; audit check list) in a way that they are able to form an opinion on the integrity of this electoral material.
7. Take pictures of all relevant electoral material (in particular ballot boxes, seals, voter list, polling station journal, result form, ballots, audit check list) for the purpose of collecting evidence. However, they should refrain to take pictures from IEC staff, UN staff, observers or other candidate agents.
8. Sign the audit checklist and the new result form (if any).
9. Insert comments on the audit checklist next to their signature in case they do not agree with certain findings recorded in the audit checklist.
10. Receive a copy of the filled-in checklist.
11. Receive a copy of the new result form.

2) OBLIGATIONS OF CANDIDATE AGENTS: All candidate agents holding monitoring cards shall:

1. Ensure visible display of their monitoring identification badges, when in the IEC HQ compound.
2. Comply with the Election law, all other relevant laws, procedures and official decisions of the Commission.
3. Act in accordance with the relevant code of conduct and regulations.
4. Extend the necessary lawful cooperation to the Independent Election Commission, the Independent Electoral Complaints Commission and other relevant authorities involved in the audit and electoral processes.
5. Make efforts to familiarize themselves with the relevant legal and procedural parts of the technical framework and in particular with this code of conduct guiding the audit / recount process.
6. Arrive in time to the audit process in order to avoid unnecessary delay.
7. Refrain from crossing the red tape separating the observer / candidate agent space from the audit table.
8. Refrain from touching ballot papers.

9. Respect the 20-minutes time limit set in the Audit and Recount Procedures to resolve disputes.
10. Respect and implement the recommendation made by the UN Vote Audit Adviser.
11. Refrain from prejudgments or disseminating rumors.
12. Refrain from rendering illegal and unauthorized interventions in any of the steps of the audit process.
13. Refrain from any undue influence on IEC staff (including attempts to guide, instruct, intimidate or buy-off the IEC staff)
14. Refrain to take pictures from IEC staff, UN staff or observers or other candidate agents.
15. Refrain from using divisive/discriminatory language and inflammatory statements which could incite violence on grounds of race, ethnicity, regional, sex or religion.
16. Refrain from any aggressive behavior or physical violence towards anybody involved in the audit process.
17. Refrain from bringing weapons or anything into the audit center which could be used as a weapon.
18. Fully cooperate with the IEC security guards.
19. Sign this Code of Conduct prior to resuming work.
20. Return the candidate agent monitoring card to the Commission, when expired.

B) OBLIGATION OF THE CAMPAIGN TEAM

Each campaign team has the obligation to ensure that:

1. All their agents have sufficient knowledge of this Code of Conduct and are familiar with it.
2. All candidate agents are trained on the relevant provisions governing the audit / recount process.
3. All candidate agents will be supervised by the campaign team in a way that ensures full compliance with this Code of Conduct.
4. Any candidate agent will be removed from the audit center by the campaign team in case the respective campaign team supervisor becomes sure that the campaign agent acts contrary to this Code of Conduct.

C) SANCTIONS

In order to provide for a calm audit environment and to enforce this Code of Conduct no candidate agent will be allowed to attend the audit without having signed this Code of Conduct.

Breaches of this Code of Conduct will lead to the following disciplinary action executed by the Independent Election Commission:

- I. Issuance of a verbal or written warning;
- II. Temporary or permanent restriction from participation in the audit process;
- III. Temporary or permanent restriction from entering the IEC HQ compound;
- IV. Cancellation of the monitoring identification card.

The IEC will report any violation of the law to the respective legal and judiciary bodies for the legal prosecution.

Signature of the authorized campaign team representative:

The campaign team of the run-off presidential candidate Mr. confirms that the below signed campaign team agent has been fully briefed about his/her rights and obligations. This campaign team is fully aware of its responsibilities stated in this code of conduct, and in case it is assured that its agent has violated the provisions of this code of conduct, the disciplinary measures stated in this code of conduct will be applied against him/her.

Name in Capital letters: Signature:..... Date:

Signature of candidate agent:

I solemnly confirm that I have read and understood the contents and provisions of this Code of Conduct and will do the utmost to adhere to its provisions; and in case of breach of the provisions of this code of conduct, I will face the disciplinary measures mentioned above.

Name in Capital letters: Signature:..... Date: