ANNEX to the Resolution of the

Central Election Commission of the Republic of

Uzbekistan No. 1185 dated August 30, 2022

**REGULATIONS**

**on the Accreditation Procedure for Media Representatives at the Referendum of the Republic of Uzbekistan**

These Regulations, in accordance with the Laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On Referendum of the Republic of Uzbekistan”, “On Mass Media”, and “On the Principles and Guarantees of Freedom of Information” shall define the accreditation procedure for foreign and local mass media representatives (hereinafter referred to as the mass media) to cover the referendum of the Republic of Uzbekistan (hereinafter referred to as the referendum).

**Chapter I. General Provisions**

1. The mass media of the Republic of Uzbekistan shall cover the preparation and holding of the referendum. Media representatives shall be accredited to participate in all activities for the preparation and holding of the referendum.

The powers of media representatives must be confirmed by certificates issued by the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan (hereinafter referred to as the CEC).

2. The media can apply to the CEC for accreditation of their representatives starting from the day of the official announcement of the decision on calling the referendum, but not less than ten days before the referendum.

3. A media representative accredited by the CEC shall be issued a certificate using the pro-forma provided in Annex No. 1 to these Regulations.

4. The term of office of media representatives shall begin on the day they receive their accreditation certificate and end on the day of the official announcement of the results of the referendum.

**Chapter II. Accreditation procedure for local media representatives**

5. Accreditation of local media representatives at the referendum shall be performed by the CEC.

6. Local media executives shall apply to the CEC for accreditation.

The application of the local media shall contain the surname, first name, patronymic, and position of the employee to be presented for accreditation and the following documents shall be attached:

a copy of the employee’s ID;

a copy of the local media state registration certificate;

an accreditation form filled out for each media representative;

a digital photo of the employee (jpeg-format photo with white background, 3x4 cm size, 100 KB, 600x600p; not more than the 90-day photo, and the face and upper part of the shoulders must be clearly visible).

The application and the accreditation form of a local media representative shall be filled out in accordance with Annex No. 2 to these Regulations.

The application and attached documents shall be sent to the CEC electronically. In this case, the documents specified in paragraphs two to five and seven of this clause must be in pdf format.

7. The application shall be considered within five days, and a certificate of accreditation shall be issued to a local media representative based on the CEC decision.

**Chapter III. Accreditation procedure for foreign media representatives**

8. Accreditation of foreign media representatives at the referendum shall be carried out by the CEC.

9. The corresponding bureau (office) chief of the media should apply to the CEC to accredit foreign media representatives accredited with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan (hereinafter referred to as the MFA).

The application shall contain the surname, first name, patronymic, and position of the employee presented for accreditation, as well as the following documents shall be attached:

a copy of the employee’s ID;

a copy of the local media state registration certificate;

a copy of the MFA certificate of accreditation;

a digital photo of the employee (jpeg-format photo with white background, 3x4 cm size, 100 KB, 600x600p; not more than the 90-day photo, and the face and upper part of the shoulders must be clearly visible).

The documents shall be sent to the CEC electronically. In this case, the documents specified in paragraphs two to five of this clause must be in pdf format.

The application shall be considered within five days, and on the basis of the CEC decision, a representative of a foreign media outlet shall be issued a certificate of accreditation.

10. To cover the referendum, representatives of foreign media who have not been accredited by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs should apply to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The application shall be accompanied by:

reference - information about the media;

autobiographical data of the employee presented for accreditation, a copy of the identification document, and two 3x4 cm photos.

11. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs shall consider the application of foreign mass media representatives not accredited with the MFA not later than within two weeks from the date of application. In case of incomplete submission of information specified in clause 10 of these Regulations, as well as in case of violation of deadlines for submission of application for accreditation, the application shall be left without consideration.

12. The MFA shall submit a proposal for accreditation of foreign mass media representatives to the CEC.

The application shall be considered within five days, and a foreign media representative shall be issued a certificate of accreditation based on the CEC decision.

**Chapter IV. Rights and obligations of a media representative**

13. A media representative shall be entitled to the following:

cover all activities related to the preparation and holding of the referendum;

attend meetings of referendum commissions;

get copies of referendum commissions' decisions for media coverage;

be notified of the time and place of early voting and observe the process;

be present in the voting booths on referendum day, including during the vote count;

make photo, video, and audio recordings without interfering with the activities of referendum commissions, the voting process and without violating the secrecy of the vote (except for referendum polling stations in detention and imprisonment settings, military units, and medical institutions);

be present during the voting process according to the citizen's place of residence with his/her permission;

be present at the acceptance of protocols on the results of vote counting by precinct commissions by the district referendum commission, as well as in the process of revealing the results of the voting in the district;

make public their opinion on the preparation and holding of the referendum.

A media representative shall also enjoy other rights in accordance with legislative acts.

14. A media representative shall be obliged to do the following:

follow the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On Referendum of the Republic of Uzbekistan”, legislative acts on mass media, and the resolutions of the CEC in their activities;

When in the buildings (premises), at meetings and press conferences of the referendum commissions, always wear their credentials in a visible position

cover the preparation and holding of the referendum in the designated area of the building where meetings, press conferences, voting, and other events are being held;

not interfere with the activities of the referendum commission and the voting process when covering the referendum;

have his/her certificate and identification document and present them upon request of officials when visiting the referendum commissions, public authorities, and other organizations.

15. A media representative shall be prohibited from the following:

dissemination of information about goals of a forcible change of the constitutionally established state order, sovereignty, integrity of the Republic and threats to security, constitutional rights and freedoms of citizens, propaganda for war, social, national, racial, and religious hostility looming the health and spiritual reality of the population;

influence voters; illegally distribute any campaign materials or literature;

be in the voting booth or voting room while the voter is filling out the ballot;

ask voters how they voted and provide any kind of assistance in filling out the ballot;

interfere in the activities of precinct referendum commissions, including at the time of sealing and opening of the ballot boxes, and in the process of counting votes;

publish on referendum day and the day before voting the results of public opinion polls, forecasts of referendum results, and other research relevant to the referendum.

16. A media representative must notify the relevant Precinct Referendum Commission at least three days before visiting the Referendum Precincts established in military units, places of detention and imprisonment.

17. A media representative shall notify the relevant Referendum Commission in advance about participation in meetings, press conferences, and other events (hereinafter referred to as the event) of the Referendum Commissions. In this case, the Referendum Commission shall take measures to create the necessary conditions for the participation of media representatives in the events.

The Referendum Commission for the participation of mass media representatives in the event shall announce the terms of registration, the venue of the event, and other organizational issues.

18. It shall be prohibited to photograph or videotape the process of filling in the ballot by the voter in the voting booth or voting room, and to distribute it, including posting it on social media.

Should a media representative disclose the secrecy of the vote or attempt to influence the will of the citizens, he or she shall be immediately escorted out of the voting building. This shall be decided by the Precinct Commission.

19. The grounds for refusing accreditation of a media representative shall be as follows:

а) in case of incomplete submission of documents for accreditation;

b) if the questionnaire is not filled out completely and correctly;

c) in case of non-compliance with the deadlines specified in these Regulations;

d) if the media outlet is not operating permanently during the accreditation period;

e) if the media outlet is registered as a website and the website indicated in the documents does not exist;

f) if the media registration certificate is declared invalid by the court;

g) in the case of suspension or liquidation of the media outlet;

h) if the data presented in the application or attached documents are not consistent with reality;

i) in case of restriction or suspension of the activities of media outlets on the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan by a court decision;

j) if the media outlet has not re-registered (if after registration the data of the founder, name of the media outlet, language and type of activity, goals, and objectives have been changed).

The Press Service of the Central Election Commission may suggest the media eliminate any deficiencies in the documents submitted for accreditation.

If the deficiencies in the documents are not addressed within one day, a media representative shall be denied accreditation.

If a media representative is denied accreditation, no individual decision shall be made and he/she shall be given a reasoned response about the denial in accordance with the Regulations and/or legal provisions.

The media can apply again to the CEC ten days before the referendum, having eliminated the deficiencies stipulated in subclauses “a” and “b” of this clause.

20. In the following cases accreditation of a media representative can be prematurely terminated by the CEC decision:

violation by a media representative of the requirements of the Law “On Referendum of the Republic of Uzbekistan”, legislative acts on mass media, CEC resolutions, and these Regulations;

recognition of the mass media registration certificate null and void by a court;

invalidity of information contained in the application for accreditation or in the attached document

termination of the labor contract between an accredited employee and a media editorial office

submission of a written request to CEC by the media editorial office to cancel the accreditation of the employee;

suspension and termination of the media release.

21. CEC shall have the right to request and receive from public authorities and other organizations information, decisions, and other documents necessary for the comprehensive review and making an informed decision on accreditation, denial of accreditation, and early termination of accreditation of a media representative.

22. In the case of loss or invalidity of a certificate of accreditation, a duplicate certificate shall be issued to a media representative within one working day upon his/her request. The “DUBLICATE” inscription shall be placed in the upper right corner of the certificate.

23. In case of dismissal of an accredited employee, the media editorial office shall immediately notify the CEC.

ANNEX №1 to the Regulations on the Accreditation Procedure for Mass Media Representatives at the Referendum of the Republic of Uzbekistan

**SAMPLE CERTIFICATE OF ACCREDITATION FOR A MEDIA REPRESENTATIVE**

**REFERENDUM**

**OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN**

CERTIFICATE № \_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*(media outlet name)*

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(*media representative position*)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(*surname*)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*(name)*

**Chairperson of the Central Election Commission**

Stamp \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*(signature)*

This Certificate shall be valid upon presentation of an identification document

Photo

**Note:** State symbols of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the logo of the Central Election Commission, as well as various ornaments and colors, may be used in the production of the Certificate. The Certificate may indicate the date of the referendum. Important information about the rights and obligations of the media may be displayed on the back of the Certificate.

The Certificate shall be 140 mm in height and 100 mm in width, with the inscription on both sides, one side in the Uzbek language, on the other side in Uzbek or Russian, or English.

ANNEX 2 to the Regulations on the Accreditation Procedure for Mass Media Representatives at the Referendum of the Republic of Uzbekistan

*Sample application*

**OFFICIAL LETTERHEAD**

**Central Election Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan**

To cover processes related to the preparation and holding of the referendum *(name and form of media, region, and form of distribution (excluding websites)*, we would like to kindly ask you to accredit the following employees:

1.

2.

3.

....

Accredited employees have been informed of the rights and obligations of a media representative.

Annex: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ pages.

**Head of the organization: full name**

*Action by: full name*

*Telephone number:*

**MEDIA REPRESENTATIVE ACCREDITATION FORM**

|  |
| --- |
| **Photo**  *(3 x 4)*  *JPEG* |

**I. Сведения об аккредитуемом представителе СМИ**

**Personal data**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Фамилия:**  Last name: | **Имя:**  First name: |
| **Гражданство:**  Nationality: | **Адрес в Узбекистане (для зарубежных СМИ):**  Address in Uzbekistan (for foreign media): |
| **Постоянное место жительства:**  Permanent address: |
| **Дата рождения:**  Date of birth: | **Место рождения:**  Place of birth: |
| **Должность:**  position/designation | **Пол:**  Sex:   |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Мужчина**  Male |  |  | **Женщина**  Female |  | |
| **E-mail:** | |
| **Номер телефона:**  Phone number: | **Номер мобильного телефона:**  Mobile phone: |

**II. Сведения о средстве массовой информации**

Information on the media organisation

|  |
| --- |
| **Название организации:**  Name of organisation: |
| **Адрес СМИ:**  Address of media organisation: |
| **Вид СМИ (печать, ТВ-радио, Интернет):**  Type of media (print, broadcast, Internet) |
| E-mail: |
| **Официальный сайт СМИ в Интернете (если такой имеется):**  Media official website (if applicable): |
| **Номер телефона:**  Phone number: |