



## **Joint Electoral Management Body**

### **Regulation on Media Accreditation**

The Joint Electoral Management Body (JEMB), pursuant to Articles 56 and 57 of the Electoral Law and Presidential Decree No. 24 *on Holding Wolesi Jirga, Provincial, and District Council Elections* of 7 June 2005, issues the following Regulation on Media Accreditation:

#### **Article 1**

##### **General**

Journalists and other media representatives may observe and report on the electoral processes inside electoral facilities, including voter registration, polling, and counting centres (“Electoral Facilities”) in accordance with the provisions of this regulation and any procedures issued by the JEMB, provided that they have been accredited for that purpose by the JEMB.

#### **Article 2**

##### **Accreditation of Media Representatives**

- (1) Media representatives may apply for accreditation by submitting a complete Media Accreditation Application Package to a JEMBS Provincial Office or to the JEMB HQ in Kabul.
- (2) Each complete Media Accreditation Application Package submitted by a domestic media representative shall include the following documents:
  - a) a Media Accreditation Application Form (Annex 1), completed in full and signed by the media representative requesting accreditation;

- b) a Code of Conduct for media representatives (Annex 2), signed by the media representative requesting accreditation;
  - c) valid photo identification; and
  - d) either:
    - (i) documentary proof that the applicant is a professional journalist;
    - (ii) a letter signed by a Bureau Chief or Assignment Editor from a media organization registered with the Ministry of Information and submitted on official organization letterhead, stating that the media representative requesting accreditation is assigned to cover the electoral process. Applications under this sections shall be accompanied by proof that the organization is registered with the Ministry of Information; or
    - (iii) a letter from an Afghan public authority, on official letterhead, indicating that the applicant is a media representative of the authority and has been assigned to cover the electoral process.
- (3) Each complete Media Accreditation Application Packages submitted by a foreign media representative shall include the following documents:
- a) a Media Accreditation Application Form (Annex 1), completed in full and signed by the media representative requesting accreditation;
  - b) a Code of Conduct for media representatives (Annex 2), signed by the media representative requesting accreditation;
  - c) a Copy of a passport or other valid photo identification; and
  - d) either:
    - (i) a letter, signed by the applicant's Bureau Chief or Assignment Editor and submitted on official organization letterhead, stating that the media representative requesting accreditation is assigned to cover the electoral process; or
    - (ii) documentary proof that the applicant is a professional journalist.
- (4) Subject to the provisions of this Regulation or the Electoral Law, the JEMBS shall, within 14 days of receiving a completed Media Accreditation Application Package:
- a) accredit the media representative and provide him or her with an accreditation badge; or
  - b) refuse to accredit the media representative and provide written reasons why the application was rejected.
- (5) The JEMB may, in its discretion, invite media representatives that would not otherwise qualify to be accredited under this Regulation.

### **Article 3**

#### **Eligibility Criteria for Media Representatives**

In addition to the above requirements, to be accredited as a media representative, a person must:

- a) Be at least 18 years of age on the day on which he or she is accredited; and
- b) Not be a candidate for the Wolesi Jirga or Provincial Council.

### **Article 4**

#### **Rights and Obligations of Media Representatives**

(1) Accredited media representatives with properly issued badges may attend and report on the electoral operation in an Electoral Facility in accordance with Procedures issued by the JEMBS.

(2) Accredited media representatives have the right to:

- a) be in the Electoral Facility from opening time to closing activities;
- b) Move around the electoral facilities, as long as her/his movements do not interfere with, or obstruct, the flow of voters, accredited observers and agents, or the work of electoral officials; and
- c) observe the securing of materials for overnight storage.

(3) Accredited media representatives are not allowed to:

- a) interfere with or obstruct the functions of voters, electoral officials, or accredited observers and agents;
- b) interview any voter, accredited observer, accredited agent, or electoral official inside the Electoral Facility;
- c) film or photograph any individual without her/his consent;
- d) violate the secrecy of the ballot or the privacy of any persona;
- e) disclose any personal or confidential information that they may obtain while in an Electoral Facility; and
- e) handle any electoral material in the Electoral Facility.

(4) Accredited media representatives shall visibly display their accreditation badges and carry, at all times supporting valid photo identification. Media representatives shall not be permitted to enter any election-related event or facility without such identification.

(5) Only female accredited media representatives may enter centres and areas reserved for female registrants and voters.

(6) Media representatives shall comply at all times with the Code of Conduct for media representatives.

(7) The designated supervisor of an Electoral Facility may require an accredited media representative to leave an Electoral Facility concerned if, in the opinion of the designated supervisor, the media representative has violated the Electoral Law, this Regulation, the Code of Conduct or any lawful instruction from a JEMBS official. The designated supervisor shall inform his or her supervisor immediately if such action is taken.

(8) The designated supervisor of an Electoral Facility may limit the number of accredited media representatives who may access an Electoral Facility for reasons of safety or space. In such case, the designated supervisor shall establish a schedule or other method of allowing accredited media representatives equal access to the facility in question.

## **Article 5**

### **Revocation of Accreditation**

(1) The JEMB or ECC may revoke the accreditation of a media representative who violates the applicable Code of Conduct or commits an offence under Article 53 of the Electoral Law.

(2) If the JEMB revokes the accreditation of a media representative, the media representative shall immediately return the badge upon request to any JEMBS representative.

## **Article 6**

### **Entry into force**

This Regulation shall enter into force the day of its signature.