



# SUMMARY OF ELECTION OBLIGATIONS AND STANDARDS FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS

THE  
CARTER CENTER



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CARTER CENTER



One Copenhill  
453 John Lewis Freedom Parkway  
Atlanta, GA 30307  
(404) 420-5100

[www.cartercenter.org](http://www.cartercenter.org)

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# Purpose of This Guide

This document is a short summary supplement to the Carter Center's Election Obligations and Standards (EOS) handbook and database (<https://eos.cartercenter.org>). The EOS handbook provides detailed documentation regarding relevant international obligations, standards, and best practices for 10 main parts of the electoral process.

This supplemental EOS series aims to provide a more targeted view of obligations, standards, and best practices related to several specific topics. In this volume, you will find relevant obligations and standards for elections related to women's rights, divided by each part of the election process cycle, followed by endnotes with international documentation and references. (Only the categories with relevant key issues to women's rights are included.)

The key issues and related obligations are presented in black text, followed by the relevant assessment criteria with text color based on the level of the source:

**Green** is used for international and regional treaties.

**Blue** is used for political commitments, such as declarations and other commitments that indicate state practice or customary law.

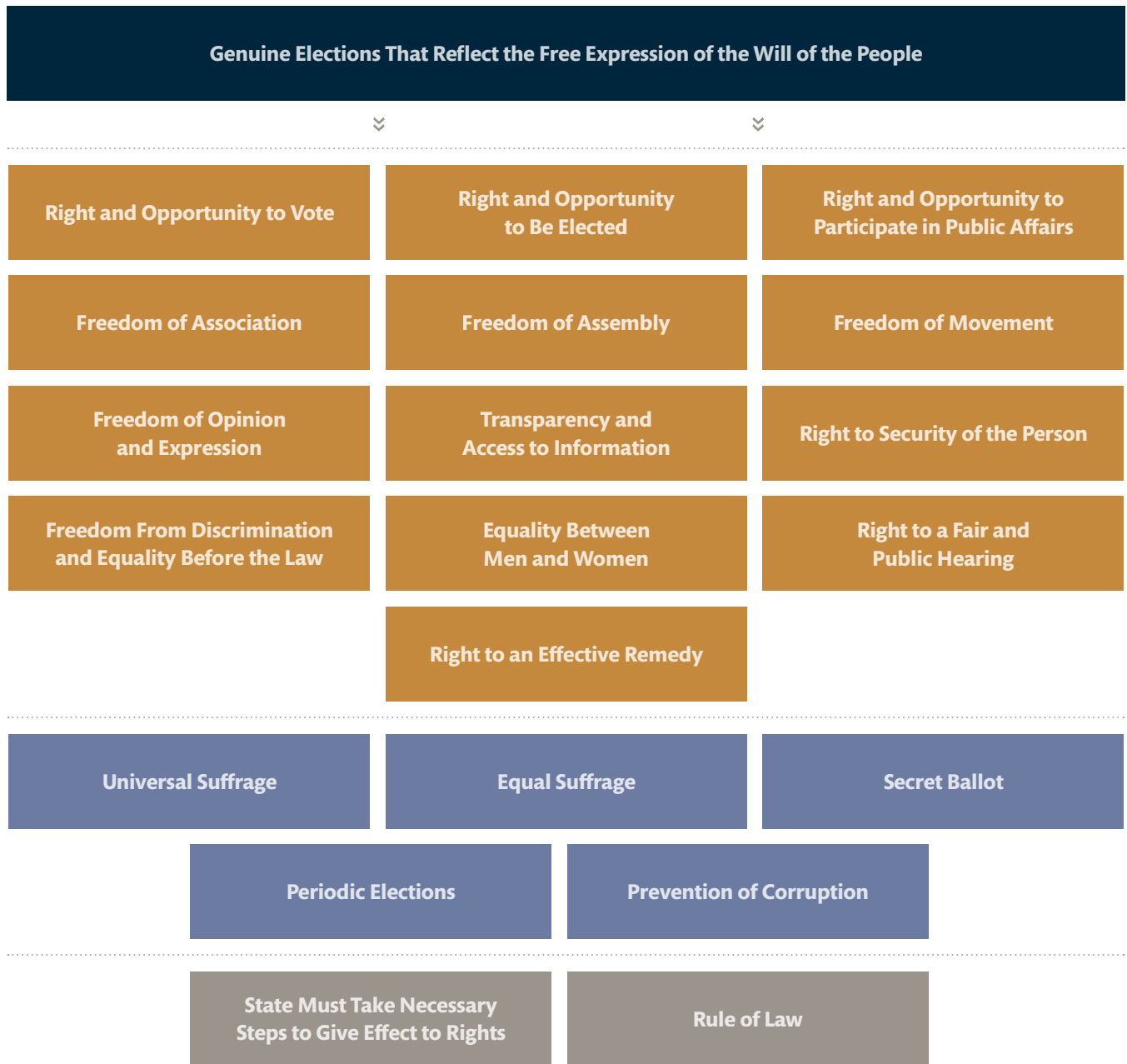
**Gold** is used for interpretive documents, such as the interpretation of treaty obligations by international courts or treaty monitoring mechanisms.

## Background on Election Obligations and Standards

Public international law is the system of laws governing interactions between states. As such, it creates a framework of commonly recognized norms and standards for democratic elections that states have accepted and voluntarily obligated themselves to, through their signature and ratification of treaties, and through their membership in the community of states. The Carter Center's EOS documents use a public international framework to provide a comprehensive tool to assist in reviewing and assessing key election issues.

The EOS framework can be envisioned as a two-dimensional system, with 21 fundamental rights, obligations, and standards on one side (see Chart 1) and 10 categories or "parts" of the electoral cycle on the other (see Chart 2). Using this system, the EOS database categorizes key content derived from roughly 300 source documents of public international law, along with more than 400 assessment criteria, to aid analysts in their work. Chart 3 illustrates the intersection of the 21 main election obligations with the 10 main parts of the electoral process cycle.

Chart 1: Obligations for Democratic Elections



- Macro-Level Obligation
- Individual Rights and Freedoms
- Process-Focused Obligations
- Foundational Obligations



**Chart 3: Relevant Obligations**

	LEGAL FRAMEWORK	ELECTORAL SYSTEM AND BOUNDARY DELIMITATION	ELECTION MANAGEMENT	VOTER REGISTRATION	VOTER EDUCATION	CANDIDACY AND CAMPAIGNING	THE MEDIA	VOTING OPERATIONS	VOTE COUNTING AND TABULATION	ELECTORAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION
Genuine Elections That Reflect the Free Expression of the Will of the People	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Right and Opportunity to Vote	●			●	●			●	●	
Right and Opportunity to Be Elected						●		●		
Right and Opportunity to Participate in Public Affairs	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	
Freedom of Association	●			●	●	●		●	●	
Freedom of Assembly	●					●				
Freedom of Movement			●	●		●	●	●	●	
Freedom of Opinion and Expression						●	●			
Transparency and Access to Information	●		●	●		●	●	●	●	●
Right to Security of the Person	●		●	●		●	●	●	●	●
Freedom From Discrimination and Equality Before the Law	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Equality Between Men and Women	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Right to a Fair and Public Hearing			●							●
Right to an Effective Remedy	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Universal Suffrage				●	●			●	●	
Equal Suffrage		●		●	●			●	●	
Secret Ballot					●			●	●	
Periodic Elections	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	●
Prevention of Corruption	●		●	●		●	●	●	●	●
State Must Take Necessary Steps to Give Effect to Rights	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Rule of Law	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

- Macro-Level Obligation
- Individual Rights and Freedoms
- Process-Focused Obligations
- Foundational Obligations

# Introduction\*

Women’s full and equal participation in electoral processes is a fundamental human right and a key indicator of democratic integrity. While international standards increasingly recognize the importance of gender equality in political life, persistent barriers—especially safety concerns and discrimination—continue to undermine women’s ability to participate as voters, candidates, and election officials.

The right to participate in public affairs is enshrined in Article 25 of the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (CCPR), and the obligation to eliminate discrimination and electoral attempts to undermine women is reinforced by Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and its General Recommendation No. 30. The CEDAW is an international treaty adopted by the United Nations in 1979 that serves as a global bill of rights for women, aiming to eliminate discrimination and promote gender equality in political, economic, social, and cultural life. These international treaty-based standards and best practices establish core obligations for state actors and nonstate groups to ensure women’s equal access to electoral processes, including candidacy, campaigning, voter registration, and voting operations.

Though foundational rights are well-articulated in international law, many operational protections—such as gender-responsive electoral systems, temporary special measures, and mitigation strategies led by electoral management bodies (EMBs)—are derived from best practices. This leaves gaps in enforcement and consistency across contexts. Recent reports from the U.N. Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women and the Venice Commission emphasize the need for systemic responses, including qualitative and quantitative legislative reform, capacity-building, and inclusive electoral administration.

Women voters are significantly more likely to be victims of polling-day violence than men. International guidance highlights the need for concentrated efforts from EMBs

and other stakeholders to address violence against women in elections, a form of gender-based violence that violates the right to security of the person and impedes political participation. Standards now call for zero-tolerance policies toward all forms of violence, including online harassment, intimidation at polling stations, and targeted attacks on female candidates. These actions constitute a violation of international human rights standards, under which states have obligations to prevent, investigate, and punish these acts whether perpetrated by state or non-state actors.

State obligations to protect and guarantee equal rights and opportunities to women span multiple parts of the electoral cycle and are reflected in assessment criteria such as: protection of the right to security of the person for all citizens, including EMB personnel; prohibition of intimidation or coercion of voters; safe and secure environments for vote counting, registration, and polling; and legal and practical safeguards against violence targeting politically active women. This is because women’s participation is most vulnerable during the electoral process, including within candidacy and campaigning, voter registration, and polling operations, where violence and intimidation are most acute. EMBs play a critical role in mitigating these risks through monitoring, reporting, analysis, electoral security assessments, operational decisions, training, and early warning systems.

In summary, international standards provide a strong normative foundation for gender equality in elections, but practical implementation remains uneven. Strengthening protections against violence, ensuring inclusive electoral systems, and adopting temporary special measures are essential steps toward achieving substantive equality. The most impactful standards derive from high-level treaties, but further development is needed in safety, both digitally and physically, enforcement, and consistent practices.

\*This introduction was written by Sarah Johnson and Rayah Abudayyeh. Sarah Johnson is senior associate director in the Carter Center’s Democracy and Conflict Resolution Programs, where she manages democratic governance, election observation, and conflict mitigation programming. She worked across the Middle East and Africa for more than 25 years and currently manages the Center’s efforts to mitigate U.S.-based political violence and polarization. Rayah Abudayyeh is a student at Emory University studying international studies and psychology with experience in democracy research and political communication. She has worked with The Carter Center and the Embassy of Jordan.

## Summary of Issues and Assessment Criteria

# Legal Framework

### International Human Rights Obligations in the Legal Framework – Necessary Steps to Rights and Rule of Law

- The legal framework for elections included the protection of fundamental rights and made international obligations domestically binding.<sup>1</sup>
- Any restrictions placed on fundamental rights were reasonable and objective.<sup>2</sup>
- Participatory rights were protected at the highest level of the law (the constitution).<sup>3</sup>

### Derogation of Obligations – Periodic Elections, Necessary Steps to Rights, and Rule of Law

- When derogating obligations or restricting human rights, the least restrictive measures were taken, and no limitations were placed on nonderogable rights.<sup>4</sup>
- Prior to the derogation of human rights and electoral obligations, a state of emergency was publicly announced.<sup>5</sup>
- Any restrictions on rights were justified by law and subject to review.<sup>6</sup>

### Rule of Law and the Legal Framework – Necessary Steps to Rights and Rule of Law

- The laws regulating elections were equally enforced and were not arbitrarily applied.<sup>7</sup>
- Sanctions for violations of the electoral law were proportionate, appropriate, and effectively enforced.<sup>8</sup>

### State Authorities Responsible for Upholding Rights – Freedom of Association and Necessary Steps to Rights

- All branches of the government are responsible for protecting human rights, including those responsible for administering election processes.<sup>9</sup>

### Freedom From Discrimination in the Legal Framework – Freedom From Discrimination and Equality Between Men and Women

- The legal framework for elections did not discriminate on the basis of prohibited grounds.<sup>10</sup>
- The legal framework for elections included guarantees of equality before the law.<sup>11</sup>
- The legal framework provided equal access to any place or service intended for use by the public.<sup>12</sup>

### Universal Suffrage, the Right to Vote, and Voter Education/The Right to Vote, and Voting Operations – Right to Vote and Right to Participate

- The legal framework for elections was consistent with international human rights.<sup>13</sup>

### Citizenship – Freedom From Discrimination and Equality Between Men and Women

- The rules regarding citizenship were clear and nondiscriminatory.<sup>14</sup>
- Citizenship rules did not discriminate directly or indirectly against women.<sup>15</sup>

### The Legal Framework and Equality Between Men and Women – Equality Between Men and Women

- The legal framework for elections included guarantees of equality before the law for men and women.<sup>16</sup>
- The state took steps to ensure de facto equality between men and women.<sup>17</sup>

### Special Measures – Freedom From Discrimination and Equality Between Men and Women

- The state took steps to ensure de facto equality between men and women.<sup>18</sup>



# Electoral System and Boundary Delimitation

## The Legal Framework for Electoral Systems and Boundary Delimitation – Right to Participate, Necessary Steps to Rights, and Rule of Law

- The laws regulating elections were equally enforced and were not arbitrarily applied.<sup>19</sup>
- The legal framework for elections was consistent with international human rights.<sup>20</sup>

## Freedom From Discrimination in the Electoral System, Boundary Delimitation Process, and Electoral Dispute Resolution – Freedom From Discrimination and Equality Between Men and Women

- The electoral system did not discriminate against citizens on grounds prohibited by international law.<sup>21</sup>

## Criteria for Boundary Apportionment – Equal Suffrage

- Each vote was of equal weight.<sup>22</sup>
- The apportionment criteria were publicly available and included details such as the number of residents, number of registered voters, number of actual voters, or a combination thereof.<sup>23</sup>

## Special Measures – Freedom From Discrimination and Equality Between Men and Women

- The state took steps to ensure de facto equality between men and women.<sup>24</sup>



# Election Management

## Legal Framework and Election Management – Necessary Steps to Rights and Rule of Law

- The laws regulating elections were equally enforced and not arbitrarily applied.<sup>25</sup>
- The legal framework for elections was consistent with international human rights.<sup>26</sup>

## Electoral Management Body Responsibility for Protection of Rights – Necessary Steps to Rights

- The electoral management body took steps to implement an electoral process that fulfilled and protected human rights.<sup>27</sup>

## Access to Information and EMB Documents – Access to Information and Equality Between Men and Women

- The state took steps to ensure de facto equality between men and women.<sup>28</sup>

## Freedom From Discrimination and the EMB – Freedom From Discrimination and Equality Between Men and Women

- The electoral management body treated all citizens equally.<sup>29</sup>

## Access to Electoral Information – Equality Between Men and Women

- The state took steps to ensure de facto equality between men and women.<sup>30</sup>

## Special Measures – Freedom From Discrimination, Equality Between Men and Women, and Necessary Steps to Rights

- The state took steps to ensure de facto equality between men and women.<sup>31</sup>
- The electoral management body included women.<sup>32</sup>

## Safety, Security, and the Electoral Management Body – Right to Security

- The right to security of the person for all citizens (including EMB personnel) was protected throughout the election period.<sup>33</sup>

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Key: **Green** = International and regional treaties; **Blue** = Political commitments; **Gold** = Interpretive documents



# Voter Registration

## Legal Framework and Voter Registration – Right to Vote, Necessary Steps to Rights, and Rule of Law

- The laws regulating elections were equally enforced and were not arbitrarily applied.<sup>34</sup>
- The legal framework for elections was consistent with international human rights.<sup>35</sup>

## Universal Suffrage, the Right to Vote, and Voter Education – Right to Vote

- The right to vote was guaranteed by law and was subject only to reasonable and objective restrictions.<sup>36</sup>

## Citizenship – Freedom From Discrimination

- The rules regarding citizenship were clear and nondiscriminatory.<sup>37</sup>

## Voter Eligibility and Barriers to Registration – Right to Participate, Right to Vote, and Universal Suffrage

- Voter registration promoted universal suffrage.<sup>38</sup>
- Limitations on universal suffrage imposed during the voter registration process were reasonable and objective.<sup>39</sup>
- Voter registration promoted broad participation, and there were no barriers to participation by otherwise qualified eligible voters.<sup>40</sup>

## Freedom From Discrimination in the Voter Registration Process – Freedom From Discrimination and Right to Vote

- Eligibility requirements for voter registration were reasonable and objective and did not discriminate on the basis of prohibited grounds.<sup>41</sup>
- Voter registration facilities were accessible to all.<sup>42</sup>

## Special Measures – Freedom From Discrimination and Equality Between Men and Women

- The state took steps to ensure de facto equality between men and women.<sup>43</sup>

## Equal Access to Public Places – Right to Vote

- The legal framework provided equal access to any place or service intended for use by the public.<sup>44</sup>

## Freedom of Movement for the Purposes of Voter Registration – Freedom of Movement

- Freedom of movement was respected throughout the voter registration process.<sup>45</sup>

## Transparency and Access to Electoral Documents – Equality Between Men and Women

- The state took steps to ensure de facto equality between men and women.<sup>46</sup>

## Safety, Security, and Voter Registration – Right to Security

- The state prohibited interference with registration, intimidation, or coercion of potential voters.<sup>47</sup>



# Voter Education

## Legal Framework and Voter Education – Necessary Steps to Rights and Rule of Law

- The legal framework for elections was consistent with international human rights.<sup>48</sup>
- The laws regulating elections were equally enforced and were not arbitrarily applied.<sup>49</sup>

## Universal Suffrage, the Right to Vote, and Voter Education – Right to Participate, Right to Vote, Universal Suffrage, and Necessary Steps to Rights

- The obligations of universal suffrage and the right to vote were advanced through voter education.<sup>50</sup>
- All eligible voters were informed of their electoral rights before, during, and after election day.<sup>51</sup>
- Voter education campaigns were responsive to the needs of the electorate.<sup>52</sup>

Key: **Green** = International and regional treaties; **Blue** = Political commitments; **Gold** = Interpretive documents

- The state took proactive measures to promote voting by the broadest pool of eligible voters and to ensure that votes cast were counted.<sup>53</sup>

#### **Provision of Voter Education by the Electoral Management Body – Necessary Steps to Rights**

- Voter education was provided by the EMB and was impartial and responsive to the needs of the electorate.<sup>54</sup>

#### **Freedom From Discrimination in Voter Education – Freedom From Discrimination and Equality Between Men and Women**

- All citizens received voter education regardless of their race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, physical or mental ability, sexual orientation or gender identity, property, birth, or other status.<sup>55</sup>

- Locations used for voter education were accessible in a nondiscriminatory manner.<sup>56</sup>

#### **Special Measures – Freedom From Discrimination and Equality Between Men and Women**

- The state took steps to ensure de facto equality between men and women.<sup>57</sup>

#### **Right to an Effective Remedy and Voter Education – Right to Remedy**

- There was a timely and effective means of seeking redress for violations of rights, including regarding voter education.<sup>58</sup>

## **Candidacy and Campaigning**

#### **Legal Framework and Candidacy and Campaigning – Necessary Steps to Rights and Rule of Law**

- The laws regulating elections were equally enforced and were not arbitrarily applied.<sup>59</sup>
- The legal framework for elections was consistent with international human rights.<sup>60</sup>

#### **Internal Party Policies – Necessary Steps to Rights**

- The participatory rights of citizens were protected and fulfilled by their parties in their internal management.<sup>61</sup>

#### **Candidature – Right to be Elected, Right to Participate, Freedom of Association, Freedom From Discrimination, and Rule of Law**

- Every citizen had the right to be elected, subject only to reasonable restrictions.<sup>62</sup>
- Candidacy requirements upheld freedom of association.<sup>63</sup>
- The loss of the right to be elected was only imposed after adjudication by a court.<sup>64</sup>
- Citizens were able to support any and all candidates of their choice.<sup>65</sup>

#### **Female Candidates – Equality Between Men and Women and Right to Security**

- Female candidates participated in the electoral process on an equal basis with men.<sup>66</sup>

- The state took steps to ensure de facto equality between men and women.<sup>67</sup>

- Both the state and citizens were able to support candidates and parties, including financial support, and this support did not interfere with the independence of the party.<sup>68</sup>

- Intimidation, coercion, or violence against politically active women was prohibited in law and in practice.<sup>69</sup>

#### **Equal Treatment of Candidates and Parties – Freedom From Discrimination and Equality Between Men and Women**

- Regulations for candidacy and campaigning were not discriminatory.<sup>70</sup>
- No one suffered discrimination or disadvantage of any kind because of their candidacy.<sup>71</sup>
- Candidates and political parties were able to compete on an equal basis.<sup>72</sup>

#### **Special Measures – Freedom From Discrimination and Equality Between Men and Women**

- The state took steps to ensure de facto equality between men and women.<sup>73</sup>

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### **Equal Access to Public Places – Freedom From Discrimination**

- Public places were accessible to all in a nondiscriminatory fashion.<sup>74</sup>

### **Advocacy of Hatred and Incitement to Violence – Freedom of Association and Freedom of Expression**

- Advocacy of national, racial, and religious hatred that constituted incitements to discrimination, hostility, or violence was prohibited by law, and the law was enforced.<sup>75</sup>

### **Campaigning Without Interference – Freedom of Assembly and Right and Opportunity to Participate in Public Affairs**

- Restrictions on campaign activities were proportionate, nondiscriminatory, and subject to prompt independent and impartial judicial review.<sup>76</sup>

### **Freedom of Movement for Political Candidates and Their Supporters – Freedom of Movement**

- Freedom of movement was respected for all electoral stakeholders, including candidates, parties, and their supporters during the campaign period.<sup>77</sup>

### **Right to an Effective Remedy for Candidates and Parties – Right to Remedy**

- There was a timely and effective means of seeking redress for violations of rights regarding candidacy and campaigning.<sup>78</sup>

### **Security of the Person for Candidates, Parties, and Their Supporters – Right to Security and Necessary Steps to Rights**

- The right to security of the person was enjoyed by all electoral stakeholders, including candidates, party members, and their supporters.<sup>79</sup>
- The right to security of the person for all citizens (including EMB personnel) was protected throughout the election period.<sup>80</sup>
- Electoral stakeholders were free from arbitrary arrest and detention as well as intimidation and coercion.
- Security personnel played a positive role during the electoral process, providing protection for voters, candidates, and electoral management body personnel without interfering in the process.<sup>81</sup>

### **Public Funding for Election Campaigns – Right to be Elected and Equality Between Men and Women**

- State support of candidates was available on an equitable basis and was distributed according to an objective, fair, and reasonable formula.<sup>82</sup>

### **Private Funding for Campaigns – Right to be Elected and Freedom of Expression**

- Citizens were able to support candidates and parties, including financial support, and this support did not interfere with the independence of the party.<sup>83</sup>
- The system for regulating private financial contributions ensured equality of freedom to raise private funds.<sup>84</sup>

### **Campaign Expenditures – Right to be Elected and Prevention of Corruption**

- All candidates were treated equitably with regard to campaign finance and expenditures.<sup>85</sup>

## **The Media**

### **Legal Framework and the Media – Necessary Steps to Rights and Rule of Law**

- The laws regulating elections were equally enforced and were not arbitrarily applied.<sup>86</sup>

### **International Human Rights Obligations and the Legal Framework – Freedom From Discrimination**

- The legal framework for elections included the protection of fundamental rights and made international obligations domestically binding.<sup>87</sup>

### Independence of the Media – Freedom of Expression

- There were no restrictions on people who may practice journalism by the state, though journalists may have regulated themselves.<sup>88</sup>

### Content of Voter Education Campaigns – Freedom of Expression

- Voter education efforts included information about all electoral rights, including equal suffrage, the right to vote and be elected, the right to an effective remedy, and the secret ballot.<sup>89</sup>

### Hate Speech and Incitement to Violence – Freedom of Expression

- Advocacy of national, racial, or religious hatred that constituted incitement to discrimination, hostility, or violence was prohibited by law, and the law was enforced.<sup>90</sup>

### Defamation – Freedom of Expression

- Remedies for defamation were not excessively punitive.<sup>91</sup>

### Freedom From Discrimination and the Media – Freedom From Discrimination and Equality Between Men and Women

- Political parties and candidates had access to the public media on a nondiscriminatory basis.<sup>92</sup>
- Female and male candidates received equal coverage.<sup>93</sup>

### Free Airtime and Paid Advertising – Freedom From Discrimination and Access to Information

- Free airtime was distributed equally (both amount of space as well as the timing and location of the media space).<sup>94</sup>

### Freedom of Movement and the Media – Freedom of Movement

- Freedom of movement was guaranteed to all electoral stakeholders, including the media.<sup>95</sup>

### Safety, Security, and the Media – Right to Security

- Security of the person was guaranteed for all election stakeholders, including members of the media.<sup>96</sup>

## Voting Operations

### Legal Framework for Voting Operations – Necessary Steps to Rights and Rule of Law

- The laws regulating elections were equally enforced and were not arbitrarily applied.<sup>97</sup>
- The legal framework for elections was consistent with international human rights.<sup>98</sup>

### Citizenship – Freedom From Discrimination

- The rules regarding citizenship were clear and nondiscriminatory.<sup>99</sup>

### Special Measures – Freedom From Discrimination and Equality Between Men and Women

- The state took steps to ensure de facto equality between men and women.<sup>100</sup>

### Right to Vote and Voting Operations – Right to Vote and Freedom From Discrimination

- The right to vote was guaranteed by law and was subject only to reasonable and objective restrictions.<sup>101</sup>
- Any restrictions on the right to vote were established in advance of election day.<sup>102</sup>

### Facilitation of Voting – Right to Vote and Universal Suffrage

- Voting operations facilitated broad participation.<sup>103</sup>

### Secrecy of the Ballot – Secret Ballot

- The legal framework offered clear guidance with regard to the secrecy of the ballot.<sup>104</sup>
- Family and group voting was prohibited.<sup>105</sup>
- Polling stations were set up to ensure secrecy of the ballot.<sup>106</sup>

### Freedom From Discrimination in Voting Operations – Freedom From Discrimination

- The voting process did not discriminate against anyone on the basis of prohibited grounds.<sup>107</sup>

### Freedom of Movement and Voting Operations – Freedom of Movement

- Freedom of movement was respected throughout the electoral process.<sup>108</sup>

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### Deterrence of Fraud – Equal Suffrage and Secret Ballot

- Procedures did not diminish the value of the votes of particular individuals, groups, or geographic areas.<sup>109</sup>

### Safety, Security, and Voting Operations – Right to Security

- Potential voters were able to vote without intimidation or coercion.<sup>110</sup>

- Safeguards were in place to prevent coercion of voters.<sup>111</sup>

- Security personnel played a positive role during the electoral process, providing protection for voters, candidates, and electoral management body personnel without interfering in the process.<sup>112</sup>

- The right to security of the person for all citizens (including EMB personnel) was protected throughout the election period.<sup>113</sup>

## Vote Counting and Tabulation

### Legal Framework and Vote Counting and Tabulation – Necessary Steps to Rights and Rule of Law

- The laws regulating elections were equally enforced and were not arbitrarily applied.<sup>114</sup>

### Counting Cast Ballots – Right to be Elected and Universal Suffrage and Freedom From Discrimination

- The state took proactive measures to promote voting by the broadest pool of eligible voters and ensured votes cast were counted.<sup>115</sup>
- Vote counting and tabulation processes protected the right to be elected.<sup>116</sup>
- The vote counting and tabulation process did not discriminate against anyone on the basis of prohibited grounds.<sup>117</sup>

### Protection of Ballot Secrecy – Secret Ballot

- Regardless of the balloting method used, secrecy of the ballot was maintained throughout the electoral process, including during voting and tabulation. It was not possible to link cast ballots to specific voters during counting and tabulation.<sup>118</sup>
- The legal framework offered clear guidance on secrecy of the ballot throughout the election.<sup>119</sup>

### Freedom of Movement and Vote Counting and Tabulation – Freedom of Movement

- Freedom of movement was respected throughout the electoral process, including the immediate election period.<sup>120</sup>

## Electoral Dispute Resolution

### Legal Framework and Dispute Resolution – Necessary Steps to Rights and Rule of Law

- Electoral dispute resolution took place in accordance with the principles of the rule of law.<sup>121</sup>
- **Laws and procedures were not arbitrarily applied.**<sup>122</sup>

### Freedom From Discrimination and Electoral Dispute Resolution – Freedom From Discrimination

- The electoral dispute resolution process did not discriminate on the basis of prohibited grounds.<sup>123</sup>
- Everyone was treated equally before the law and courts.<sup>124</sup>

### Misuse of State Resources – Prevention of Corruption

- Sanctions for violations of the electoral law were proportionate, appropriate, and effectively enforced.<sup>125</sup>

### Safety, Security, and Electoral Dispute Resolution – Right to Security and Necessary Steps to Rights

- Electoral stakeholders were free from arbitrary arrest and detention as well as intimidation and coercion.<sup>126</sup>

# References

- 1 U.N., ICCPR, art. 2; AU, AfCHPR, art. 1; OAS, ACHR, art. 2; CoE, ECHR, art. 1; CIS, Convention on Human Rights, art. 1; U.N., Vienna Convention on Treaties, art. 26; U.N. (CCPR), General Comment 31, para. 7, 8, 14; U.N. (CCPR), General Comment 25, para. 4 and 5.
- 2 U.N. (CCPR), General Comment 25, para. 4
- 3 U.N. (CCPR), General Comment 25, para. 4 and 5
- 4 U.N. (CCPR), General Comment 29, para. 8; U.N., ICCPR, art. 4(1); U.N. (CESCR), Siracusa Principles, para. A.11
- 5 U.N., ICCPR, art. 4(1); U.N. (CESCR), Siracusa Principles, para. B.42-44 and C.55
- 6 U.N. (CESCR), Siracusa Principles, para. E.62
- 7 U.N., ICCPR, art. 26; OAS, ACHR, art. 24; AU, AfCHPR, art. 8 and 13 (3); CIS, Convention on Human Rights, art. 20(1); EU, Charter on Fundamental Rights, art. 20; LAS, Arab Charter, art. 3; ASEAN, Human Rights Declaration, art. 3; U.N. (CCPR), General Comment 25, para. 4; OSCE (ODIHR), Legal Framework (Ed. 1), p. 6
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THE  
CARTER CENTER



One Copenhill  
453 John Lewis Freedom Parkway  
Atlanta, GA 30307  
(404) 420-5100

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