

**UKRAINIAN WORLD CONGRESS INTERNATIONAL OBSERVATION MISSION
TO UKRAINE'S 2019 ELECTIONS**

Parliamentary Election in Ukraine on 21 July 2019

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS

Kyiv, Ukraine, 22 July 2019 – The Ukrainian World Congress (UWC) is the international coordinating body for Ukrainian communities in the diaspora representing the interests of over 20 million Ukrainians. The UWC has a network of member organizations and ties with Ukrainians in over 60 countries.

Founded in 1967, the UWC was recognized in 2003 by the United Nations Economic and Social Council as a non-governmental organization with special consultative status and obtained in 2018 participatory status as an international non-governmental organization with the Council of Europe.

On 11 July 2019, the Prosecutor General of the Russian Federation declared the UWC to be an undesirable organization that constitutes a threat to the constitutional order and security of the Russian Federation.

Since 1999, the UWC has deployed election observation missions to monitor all Presidential and Parliamentary Elections in Ukraine.

The UWC International Observation Mission to Ukraine's 2019 Elections (UWC Mission) is the fourth largest international observation mission to the Parliamentary Election in Ukraine after the observation missions of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (ODIHR OSCE), the European Network of Election Monitoring Organizations (ENEMO) and CANADEM.

The Central Election Commission of Ukraine (CEC) registered 142 short-term observers (STOs) with the UWC Mission who came from 30 countries, namely: Argentina, Australia, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America.

The UWC Mission has also closely cooperated with the observation mission of its member organization, Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), which registered 32 STOs. Together, the UWC and the UCCA missions registered 174 STOs with the CEC.

The UWC and UCCA missions monitored the electoral process in 20 oblasts of Ukraine, namely: Cherkaska, Chernihivska, Chernivetska, Dnipropetrovska, Ivano-Frankivska, Kharkivska, Khmelnytska, Kyivska, Lvivska, Mykolaivska, Odeska, Poltavska, Rivnenska, Sumska, Ternopilska, Vinnytska, Volynska, Zakarpatska, Zaporizka and Zhytomyrska.

In addition, the UWC and UCCA missions monitored the voting in Ukraine's diplomatic missions in 23 countries, namely: Argentina, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Serbia, South African Republic, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, and Uzbekistan.

The UWC and UCCA missions are the only international missions that monitored the electoral process in Ukraine's diplomatic missions around the world.

The conclusions of the UWC Mission are based upon the direct observations of its STOs, and meetings held with high-level officials from state institutions and representatives of the media, civil society and the international community.

The UWC Mission has assessed the Parliamentary Election considering Ukraine's international commitments to democracy, the rule of law, freedom of speech, and to free and fair elections.

UWC STOs recorded minor irregularities in certain polling stations, including the difficulty for elderly and physically disabled people to access polling stations located on second and third floors. These irregularities were not systemic and did not impact on the election results.

The governing authorities and law enforcement agencies of Ukraine ensured the overall integrity and security of the electoral process despite the ongoing hybrid aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine.

In fact, Russian hybrid aggression against Ukraine had the worst impact on the 2019 Parliamentary Election in Ukraine since it did not allow the Ukrainian people to elect MPs from Crimea and the occupied territories of the Donbas.

Based on the monitoring results of the UWC Mission, the 2019 Parliamentary Election in Ukraine has met international standards for the conduct of democratic elections.

These preliminary observations are delivered prior to the completion by the CEC of counting and tabulation, the announcement of preliminary and final results, and adjudication of possible complaints and appeals. The UWC Mission will publish a comprehensive final report with recommendations eight (8) weeks following completion of the electoral process.

The UWC Mission expresses gratitude to UWC member organization - the World Congress of Ukrainian Youth Organizations, for deploying a substantial number of short-term observers with the UWC Mission.

The UWC Mission is also grateful to the Ukrainian people for their hospitality during its work, particularly on 21 July 2019, the day of monitoring of the Parliamentary Election in Ukraine.

Since 14 June 2019, the UWC Mission's 125 long-term observers (LTOs) have been monitoring media in 28 countries and 20 languages for evidence of disinformation with respect to Ukraine generally, and the Parliamentary Election specifically. Preliminary observations on media-monitoring by the UWC LTOs will be presented on 24 July 2019 at 11:00 in the Ukraine Crisis Media Centre, Kyiv.

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