

Ukrainian World Congress
International Observation Mission to Ukraine's 2019 Elections
Final Report

A. ABOUT THE UWC MISSION

On 24 January 2019, the Ukrainian World Congress (UWC) launched the UWC International Observation Mission to Ukraine's 2019 Elections (UWC Mission) to monitor and safeguard democracy in Ukraine.

The UWC Mission monitored and provided reports on the Presidential Election held on 31 March 2019 and 21 April 2019.

The UWC Mission will also monitor the Parliamentary Election scheduled for 21 July 2019.

During Ukraine's Presidential Election, the UWC Mission Core Team was composed of the following individuals:

Eugene Czolij – Head of UWC Mission;

Andrew Futey – Deputy Head of UWC Mission;

Peter Szytk – UWC Mission Chief Observer;

Volodymyr Kistianyk – Coordinator of UWC Mission;

Maryna Iaroshevych – Advisor to Head of UWC Mission;

Irene Mycak – UWC Mission Media Officer;

Dmytro Panchuk – UWC Mission Data Monitoring Analyst; and

Oleksandr Riabtsev – UWC Mission Deployment Officer.

The Central Election Commission (CEC) of Ukraine accredited:

- 138 domestic observer organizations;
- 19 international organizations with 2,485 observers; and
- 215 observers from 22 countries.

The UWC Mission was the third largest international observation mission to monitor Ukraine's Presidential Election after the observation missions of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (ODIHR OSCE) and the European Network of Election Monitoring Organizations (ENEMO).

For Ukraine's Presidential Election, the UWC Mission registered with the Central Election Commission of Ukraine (CEC) 249 short-term observers (STOs) from 33 countries, namely: Argentina, Australia, Belarus, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, 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 88 STOs with the CEC. Together, the missions of the UWC and the UCCA registered 337 STOs with the CEC.

The UWC Mission also had 122 long-term observers (LTOs) from 28 countries, namely: Australia, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Estonia, Italy, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Mozambique, Moldova, Poland, Portugal, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

On 7 February 2019, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine adopted a law that banned Russian citizens from participating as observers in the Presidential and Parliamentary elections.

This law has affected the UWC Mission in that it has excluded citizens of the Russian Federation who are members of UWC member organizations from joining the UWC Mission.

The UWC Mission focused on the following:

- Commenting on the legal framework of the electoral process, particularly on Ukraine's domestic legislation and legal norms, as well as Ukraine's commitments to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe and the Council of Europe, and to other international standards for democratic elections;
- Intelligence gathering on Ukraine's preparedness to ensure democratic elections and to counter possible foreign interference, including cyberattacks, manipulations and violations of the electoral process;
- Media-monitoring around the world and in different languages in order to detect any attempts to undermine Ukraine during this election year, including the integrity of Ukraine's electoral processes and the legitimacy of its democracy; and
- Observing the electoral process in the days leading up to and on election day, as well as the counting and transfer of ballot boxes to the CEC from polling stations in Ukraine and Ukrainian diplomatic missions around the world where voting has taken place.

The UWC Mission was completely independent and did not receive any government funding.

By its composition and scope, the UWC Mission was unique because it:

- Consisted in its vast majority of Ukrainian-speaking observers who were familiar with the situation in Ukraine;
- Included STOs who monitored the electoral process not only in Ukraine but also at Ukrainian diplomatic missions abroad; and
- Included LTOs who carried out media-monitoring outside of Ukraine.

The UWC Mission prepared Guidelines for Observers and issued five (5) reports:

- Interim Report on 26 March 2019;
- Preliminary Observations on the day after the first round of the Presidential Election on 1 April 2019;
- Preliminary Observations on the day after the second round of the Presidential Election on 22 April 2019;
- Interim Report on Media-Monitoring on 24 April 2019; and
- Final Report on 15 July 2019.

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

B. UWC SHORT-TERM OBSERVERS (STOs) DURING THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

UWC and UCCA STOs monitored the electoral process in 19 oblasts of Ukraine, namely, Cherkaska, Chernihivska, Chernivetska, Dnipropetrovska, Donetsk, IvanoFrankivska, Khersonska, Kyivska, Lvivska, Mykolaiivska, Odeska, Poltavska, Sumska, Ternopilska, Vinnytska, Volynska, Zakarpatska, Zaporizka and Zhytomyrska.

In addition, UWC and UCCA STOs monitored the voting in Ukraine's diplomatic missions in 25 countries, namely Argentina, Belarus, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Moldova, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America.

Training was provided for UWC STOs by OPORA, CHESNO Movement and International Foundation for Electoral Systems.

The online reporting system for UWC STOs was developed by the Sterling Business School.

The UWC and the UCCA missions were the only international missions monitoring the electoral process in Ukraine's diplomatic missions around the world.

The UWC Mission has analyzed the Presidential Election in light of Ukraine's international commitments to democracy, the rule of law, freedom of speech, and free and fair elections.

C. UWC LONG-TERM OBSERVERS (LTOs) DURING THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Since 4 March 2019, UWC LTOs monitored media outside Ukraine for evidence of disinformation with respect to Ukraine generally, and the Presidential Election specifically.

The UWC LTOs monitored media in 31 countries, namely: Australia, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Estonia, Italy, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Lebanon, Moldova, Montenegro, Mozambique, Poland, Portugal, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

UWC LTOs monitored media in 20 languages, specifically Arabic, Azeri, Bosnian, Czech, Dutch, English, Estonian, French, German, Greek, Italian, Kazakh, Latvian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Serbian, Slovak, Spanish, and Ukrainian.

Online training was provided for all UWC LTOs that included a tutorial on the specifics of the media environment during the election period and instructions on submitting online reports.

The online reporting system was developed in partnership with Sterling Business School in consultation with representatives of StopFake and Kyiv Mohyla School of Journalism.

The media-monitoring of the UWC Mission was realized remotely and in two (2) stages:

- 1) Observers-volunteers completed online reports on a weekly basis, submitting information about questionable news items and analytics with elements of disinformation; they also carefully followed the portrayal of specific disinformation narratives that included among others: a) the elections in Ukraine were falsified and did not represent the will of the Ukrainian people; b) Ukraine is not capable of conducting fair, transparent and democratic elections; c) there are no candidates in Ukraine worthy of being President; and d) Ukraine, in essence, is a failed state; and
- 2) A second team analyzed these reports and made conclusions accordingly.

Effectively taking advantage of its multilingual network, the UWC Mission researched and established the breadth of Russian disinformation about Ukraine and its electoral processes outside Ukraine.

D. BACKGROUND

The 2019 Presidential Election in Ukraine took place on the heels of the 5th anniversary of Ukraine's Revolution of Dignity and the invasion by the Russian Federation of the sovereign territory of Ukraine including the illegal occupation of Crimea and, subsequently, parts of the Eastern Ukrainian territory of the Donbas.

In 2013-14, the people of Ukraine stood up against the authoritarian regime of Viktor Yanukovich in a Revolution of Dignity which ended in sniper fire and the deaths of over 100 peaceful Ukrainian protesters from 18-20 February 2014 in Kyiv.

Immediately following the Revolution of Dignity, the Russian Federation invaded and illegally occupied Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula and launched military aggression against Ukraine on its Eastern territories.

The Russian military aggression has affected the entire population of Crimea and 4.4 million people in Eastern Ukraine.

The consequences of the military actions of the Russian Federation in the Donbas include 13,000 deaths, 30,000 injuries and the internal displacement of more than 1.5 million people.

Since the beginning of the aggression, over 2,500 people have been the victims of exploding landmines, including at least 240 children, and 1.9 million people live on territories littered with landmines.

3.4 million people require humanitarian aid, 2.2 million – medical aid and 1.2 million – food aid.

More than 120 political prisoners are being illegally detained by the Russian Federation, and more than 100 hostages are being held in the Donbas.

On 25 November 2018, the conflict escalated further with the assault of the Russian Federation's naval forces on Ukrainian naval forces near the Kerch Strait. Three ships were seized and 24 crew members continue to be unlawfully detained by the Russian Federation despite multiple appeals by the international community calling for their immediate and unconditional release.

The human rights situation in Crimea continues to deteriorate.

In Eastern Ukraine, on the eve of the first round of the Presidential Election, the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) recorded 75 ceasefire violations in the Donetsk oblast and 9 ceasefire violations in the Luhansk oblast.

On the eve of the second round of the Presidential Election, the OSCE SMM recorded 20 ceasefire violations in the Donetsk oblast and 50 ceasefire violations in the Luhansk oblast.

The hybrid aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine has been widely acknowledged and repeatedly condemned by the international community which has provided military, financial and humanitarian aid to Ukraine.

Since the last Presidential Election in Ukraine in 2014, the following events have occurred:

- Coming into force of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement, as well as the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area;
- Adoption of a visa-free regime for Ukrainian citizens travelling to Schengen zone countries as well as Chile, Albania, Costa Rica, United Arab Emirates and Uruguay;
- Signing and coming into force of the Canada-Ukraine Free Trade Agreement;
- Signing of the Israel-Ukraine Free Trade Agreement;
- Granting of a Tomos of autocephaly to the Orthodox Church of Ukraine; and

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- Adoption of constitutional amendments reflecting Ukraine's strategic goal of becoming a member of NATO and the European Union.

E. LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Ukraine's Legislation

The legal framework governing elections in Ukraine is based upon the following laws: a) *Constitution of Ukraine*; b) *Law on Elections of the President of Ukraine*; c) *Law on the State Register of Voters of Ukraine*; d) *Law of Ukraine on the Central Election Commission*; e) *Law of Ukraine on Judiciary and Status of Judges*; f) *Code of Administrative Procedure of Ukraine*; and g) *Code of Administrative Offences*.

Below are excerpts from salient provisions of these laws:

- *Constitution of Ukraine*

Article 38. Citizens have the right to participate in the administration of state affairs, in All-Ukrainian and local referendums, to freely elect and to be elected to bodies of state power and bodies of local self-government

Article 69. The expression of the will of the people is exercised through elections, referendums and other forms of direct democracy.

Article 70. Citizens of Ukraine who have attained the age of eighteen on the day of elections and referendums have the right to vote in the elections and referendums. Citizens deemed by a court to be incompetent do not have the right to vote.

Article 71. Elections to bodies of state power and bodies of local self-government are free and are held on the basis of universal, equal and direct suffrage, by secret ballot. Voters are guaranteed the free expression of their will.

Article 103 The President of Ukraine is elected by the citizens of Ukraine for a five-year term, on the basis of universal, equal and direct suffrage, by secret ballot.

A citizen of Ukraine who has attained the age of thirty-five, has the right to vote, has resided in Ukraine for the past ten years prior to the day of elections, and has command of the state language, may be elected as the President of Ukraine.

One and the same person shall not be the President of Ukraine for more than two consecutive terms.

The President of Ukraine shall not have another representative mandate, hold office in bodies of state power or in associations of citizens, and also perform any other paid or entrepreneurial activity, or be a member of an administrative body or board of supervisors of an enterprise that is aimed at making profit.

Regular elections of the President of Ukraine are held on the last Sunday of March of the fifth year of the term of authority of the President of Ukraine. In the event of preterm termination of authority of the President of Ukraine, elections of the President of Ukraine are held within ninety days from the day of termination of the authority.

The procedure for conducting elections of the President of Ukraine is established by law.

- *Law on Elections of the President of Ukraine*

Article 1. Main Principles of the Elections of the President of Ukraine

1. The President of Ukraine shall be elected by the citizens of Ukraine on the basis of universal, equal and direct suffrage, by means of a secret ballot.

2. The term of office of the President of Ukraine shall be determined by the Constitution of Ukraine.

Article 2. General Suffrage

1. The elections of the President of Ukraine are general. Citizens of Ukraine, who have reached 18 years of age on the day of elections, shall have the right to vote.
[...]
3. Citizens of Ukraine who have the right to vote may participate in the work of election commissions as their members, as well as in the conduct of the pre-election campaign, in the observation of the elections of the President of Ukraine and in other events in accordance to the procedure specified in this and other laws of Ukraine.
4. Any direct or indirect privileges or restrictions of the voting rights of the citizens of Ukraine based on race, skin colour, political, religious and other convictions, gender, ethnic and social origin, property status, place of residence, or based on language or other criteria, besides those envisaged by the Constitution of Ukraine and this Law, shall be prohibited.
5. Citizens found incompetent by a court shall not have the right to vote.
6. The right to vote in the elections of the President of Ukraine of citizens of Ukraine, who, at the time of preparation and conduct of the elections, reside or are staying outside the boundaries of Ukraine is guaranteed by inclusion in the registry of voters in the relevant electoral precinct established in accordance with this Law.
7. Citizens of Ukraine who have the right to vote are voters.

Article 3. Equal Suffrage

1. The elections of the President of Ukraine shall be equal: citizens of Ukraine shall take part in them on an equal basis.
2. Each citizen of Ukraine has one vote in the elections of the President of Ukraine. The voter may only cast his/her vote at one election precinct on the day of elections where he/she is registered on the voters' list. The voter exercises his/her right to vote in accordance with the regulations as stipulated in this Law.
3. All candidates nominated for the post of the President of Ukraine shall enjoy equal rights and opportunities to take part in the election process.
4. The equality of rights and opportunities to take part in the election process is guaranteed by:
 - 1) the prohibition of all privileges and restrictions on the candidates for the post of President of Ukraine based on race, skin colour, political, religious and other convictions, gender, ethnic and social origin, property status, place of residence, or based on language or other criteria;
 - 2) the prohibition on interference from State executive bodies, governing authorities of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and bodies of local self-government in the election process, except in cases envisaged by this Law;
 - 3) the prohibition on using funds for the purposes of financing the pre-election campaign other than funds from the State Budget of Ukraine and the election funds of the candidates for the position of President of Ukraine;
 - 4) the equal and objective treatment by the institutions of state governing authorities, governing authorities of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and bodies of local

self-government, and their civil and elected officials, of the candidates for the position of President of Ukraine;

5) equal and objective treatment by the media of the candidates for the position of President of Ukraine.

Article 4. Direct Suffrage

Elections of the President of Ukraine are direct. Citizens of Ukraine shall directly elect the President of Ukraine.

Article 5. Voluntary Participation in Elections

Citizens of Ukraine participate in the elections of the President of Ukraine on a voluntary basis. No one may be forced to take part or not take part in the elections.

Article 6. Free Elections

1. The elections of the President of Ukraine are free. The voters are guaranteed conditions to form and express their will freely during voting.
2. The use of violence, threats, fraud, bribery or any other actions impeding the free formation and free expression of the will of the voters is prohibited.
3. Military servicemen shall vote at ordinary election precincts located outside the boundaries of dislocations of military units, except in cases envisaged by this Law. Fixed-term military servicemen shall be provided with at least a four hour leave on the day of elections in order to ensure the free expression of their will.

Article 7. Secret Ballot

The ballot for the elections for the President of Ukraine is secret: control over the expression of the will of voters is prohibited. Photographing, videotaping in any way the results of the expression of will of the voters in the voting booth for casting a secret ballot, and the revelation by the voter of the results of the expression of will in the electoral precinct is forbidden and a violation of the secret vote.

Members of electoral commissions, other individuals are forbidden to take any action or announce information that could lead to the revelation of a specific voter's expression of will.

Article 8. Personal Voting

Each voter shall cast his/her vote at the election of the President of Ukraine in person. Voting on behalf of other persons, as well as delegating one's right to vote to any other person, is prohibited.

Assisting a voter with specific needs unable to independently fill out a ballot or drop it into a ballot box during the expression of his/her free will and in accordance with this Law is not considered voting in place of the voter.

Article 9. Eligibility

1. A citizen of Ukraine, who is thirty-five years of age on the day of elections, eligible to vote, has a command of the state language and has resided in Ukraine for the last ten years prior to the day of elections, can be elected the President of Ukraine.
2. According to this Law, residence in Ukraine means a residence registered in Ukraine in accordance with the *Law on Freedom of Movement and Free Choice of Place of Residence in Ukraine*.

3. One and the same individual cannot be the President of Ukraine for more than two consecutive terms. An individual who has been elected the President of Ukraine for two consecutive terms cannot be nominated as a candidate for this post.
4. A person, whose powers at the post of President of Ukraine have been terminated before the term according to the Constitution of Ukraine, cannot be nominated candidate to the post of the President of Ukraine in extraordinary elections called in connection with the aforementioned termination of powers.

Article 10. Right to Nominate Candidates for the post of the President of Ukraine

1. The right to nominate candidates to the post of the President of Ukraine shall belong to Ukrainian citizens who are eligible to vote. They shall exercise this right through political parties (hereinafter parties), as well as by self-nomination in accordance with this Law.
2. A party may only nominate one candidate to the post of the President of Ukraine.

Article 57. The Terms for Conducting the Pre-Election Campaign

1. A candidate to the post of President of Ukraine may begin the pre-election campaign the day after he/she is registered by the Central Election Commission.
2. The pre-election campaign shall end at 24 hrs on the last Friday before the day of elections.
3. The campaign before the repeat voting shall start the day after the repeat voting was called and shall end at 24 hrs on the last Friday before the day of repeat voting.
4. Campaigning during the election process beyond the terms established in this article shall be prohibited.

Article 62 (2). TV debates from the funds from the state budget of Ukraine shall be held on the last Friday before the day of repeat voting between 19 and 22 hrs on live air with a duration of not less than 60 minutes.

Article 84 (1). The Central Election Commission shall, at its meeting, within ten days, but not later than on the third day after receipt of all protocols of district election commissions, on the results of voting within the respective territorial election districts on the basis of these protocols, including the mark "Clarified", and the protocol of the Central Election Commission on the results of voting within the foreign constituency, establishes the results of the election of the President of Ukraine, which is made up of a protocol. The Central Election Commission is obliged to establish the results of the election of the President of Ukraine irrespective of the number of polling stations / constituencies in which / during which the voting was not organized and conducted in accordance with the requirements of Articles 76 or 77 of this Law.

The Central Election Commission may extend the specified term for no more than one day, if it is necessary to provide the district election commission with time to submit a protocol marked "Clarified".

Article 84 (3). The candidate who received more than half of the votes of voters who participated in the vote shall be declared President of Ukraine elected on the day of the elections. The Central Election Commission shall take a decision declaring the President of Ukraine elected according to the results of the vote on the day of elections. The surname and initials of the candidate, who according to this Law was elected as President of Ukraine, shall be specified in the protocol of the Central Election Commission on the results of the vote on the day of the elections of the President of Ukraine.

Article 84 (5). If more than two candidates to the post of President of Ukraine were included in the election ballot for voting on the day of elections and according to the results of the vote

on the day of the elections of the President of Ukraine neither candidate was elected in accordance with the requirements of part three of this article, the Central Election Commission shall take a decision on conducting repeat voting, about what a record shall be made in the protocol on the results of the vote on the day of the elections to the President of Ukraine.

Article 85 (16). The Central Election Commission, at its meeting on the basis of protocols of district election commissions, on the results of the repeated voting within the respective territorial election districts, shall, not later than the tenth day after the day of repeat voting, establish and announce the results of the repeat voting in the election of the President of Ukraine, about which makes a protocol.

- Law of Ukraine on Judiciary and Status of Judges

Article 37 (5) 3. In the Administrative Cassation Court separate court chambers must be established. These chambers shall adjudicate cases on election process and referendum and protection of political rights of citizens.

- Code of Administrative Procedure of Ukraine

Article 9 (1) 6. The jurisdiction of administrative courts extends to cases in public-law disputes, in particular disputes concerning legal relations related to the electoral process or the referendum process;

Article 20 (1) 2. The local general courts as administrative courts shall have jurisdiction in administrative cases related to the election process or the referendum process concerning: appeals against decisions, actions or inactivity of polling station election commissions, polling station commissions from the referendum, members of these commissions; clarification of the list of voters; appeals against acts or inactivity of mass media, news agencies, enterprises, institutions, organizations, their officials and officers, creative media workers and news agencies that violate election and referendum legislation.

Article 22 (2). The appellate administrative court in the district of appeal, which includes the city of Kyiv, as a court of first instance, has jurisdiction concerning appeals against decisions, actions and inactivity of the Central Election Commission (other than those specified in part four of this article), actions of candidates for the President of Ukraine, their trustees.

Article 22 (4). The Supreme Court as a court of first instance has jurisdiction for the establishment of the election results or an all-Ukrainian referendum by the Central Election Commission, a case regarding the pre-term termination of the powers of a people's deputy of Ukraine, as well as cases concerning the appeal of acts or omissions of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, the President of Ukraine, the High Council of Justice, the High Qualifications Commission of Judges of Ukraine, the Qualification-Disciplinary Commission of Prosecutors.

Article 273 (6) Appeal statements regarding decisions, actions or inactivity of the election commission, referendum commission, members of these commissions may be filed with the administrative court within five days from the date of the decision, action or admission of inactivity.

Article 273 (9). The court shall decide on administrative cases, specified by this article, within two days after receipt of the statement of claim. Administrative cases on claims filed before the day of voting shall be settled by the court within two days, but not later than two hours before the beginning of the voting. Administrative cases on claims filed on election day are decided by the court before the end of voting. Administrative cases on claims filed on the day of voting, but after the end of voting, are resolved by the court within two days after receipt of the statement of claim.

Article 278. Features of court decisions on the consequences of the consideration of cases related to the election process or referendum and their appeal.

Article 278 (2). Appeal complaints against court decisions following the consequences of considering cases as defined in Articles 273-277 of this Code may be filed within two days from the date of their proclamation, and for court decisions made prior to the day of voting, no later than four hours before the poll starts.

Article 278 (4). The Court of Appeal considers the case within a two-day period after the expiration of the time limit for appeals against the notification of the participants of the case. An appeal against a court decision that was adopted before the day of voting shall be considered not later than two hours before the beginning of the vote.

Case law

Case law of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine also plays an important role with respect to the electoral legislation of Ukraine.

International Law

Ukraine has also made commitments to the UN, OSCE and Council of Europe and is bound by other international standards of the democratic expression of will, specifically:

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the UN General Assembly

Article 21. The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be conducted by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by other equivalent free voting procedures that guarantee freedom of the vote.

- Document of the Copenhagen Meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe

5. They [participating states] solemnly declare that among those elements of justice which are essential to the full expression of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all human beings are the following:

5.1. free elections that will be held at reasonable intervals by secret ballot or by equivalent free voting procedure, under conditions which ensure in practice the free expression of the opinion of the electors in the choice of their representatives.

- Law of Ukraine on Implementing decisions and applying practices of the European Court of Human Rights

Article 17. Courts [of Ukraine] in hearing cases apply the Convention [*Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms*] and the practice of the Court [European Court of Human Rights] as the sources of law.

- Law of Ukraine on The Ratification of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of 1950, First Protocol and protocols No. 2, 4, 7 and 11 of the Convention

Article 1. Ukraine fully recognizes on its territory article 25 of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of 1950 on the recognition of the competency of the European Commission for Human Rights to accept from any individual, non-governmental organization or group statements addressed to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe on violations by Ukraine of rights, as designated by the Convention, and article 46 of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of 1950 on recognizing as mandatory and without the need for a special agreement the jurisdiction of the European Court of Human Rights in all questions related to interpreting and applying the Convention.

Recent relevant updates

In 2015, Ukraine adopted the *Law of Ukraine on the Condemnation of the Communist and National Socialist (Nazi) Regimes, and Prohibition of Propaganda of Their Symbols* which prevents the nomination of a candidate for President of Ukraine by a party that disseminates the propaganda of Communist or national-socialist (Nazi) totalitarian regimes.

As a result of the illegal occupation of Crimea and the armed aggression of the Russian Federation in Eastern Ukraine, which have been repeatedly condemned by the international community, Ukrainian lawmakers have adopted the following legal acts:

- *Resolution of the Central Election Commission of Ukraine No 274* dated 31.12.2018, that provides citizens of Ukraine living on the territory of the Russian Federation the right to vote in Georgia, Kazakhstan and Finland;
- *Resolution of the Central Election Commission No. 303* dated 12.02.2019, confirming that citizens of Ukraine shall not be able to vote on the temporarily occupied territories of Crimea and Donbas;
- *Resolution of the Central Election Commission of Ukraine No. 129* dated 5.9.2018, amending the procedure for the temporary change of the place of voting of a voter without changing his election address, approved by the Central Election Commission on 13 September 2012, No. 893 "*On Provisional Change in Voter's Place without changing one's election address*". This resolution foresees that residents of the temporarily occupied territories of Crimea and Donbas shall have the right to change their electoral precinct to one within Ukrainian controlled territory on the basis of a declaration; and
- Law of Ukraine "*On amendments to some laws of Ukraine on monitoring the electoral process in Ukraine*" dated 07.02.2019, which includes an amendment to article 68 of the *Law of Ukraine "On Elections to the President of Ukraine"*, stating that an official observer may not be an individual who is a citizen of a state recognized by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine as an aggressor state or occupier state. The Russian Federation is recognized by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine as an aggressor state in the declaration of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine "*On combating armed aggression of the Russian Federation and overcoming its consequences*" dated 21 April 2015 and the *Law of Ukraine "On the specifics of state policy on guaranteeing the state sovereignty of Ukraine on the occupied territories of the Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts"* dated 18 January 2018.

F. UKRAINE'S PREPAREDNESS FOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

The 2019 Presidential Election in Ukraine was being conducted while the country continued to combat the hybrid aggression being waged by the Russian Federation on Ukrainian territory. This, coupled with the fact that the Russian Federation has been linked to disruptions to electoral processes in other independent countries, had placed Ukrainian authorities on high alert with respect to monitoring any potential threat of foreign interference in the electoral process.

Ukrainian authorities assured the UWC Mission of their readiness to act accordingly and respond to potential threats. In preparing to address any potential threats to the electoral process, Ukrainian authorities sought cooperation with international partners to learn from past experiences and best practices.

G. FINDINGS REGARDING UKRAINE'S PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

There were two (2) rounds of the Presidential Election since no candidate received more than half of the votes during the first round of voting. The first round of voting occurred on 31 March 2019 and the second round of voting was on 21 April 2019.

The UWC Mission monitored both rounds of the Presidential Election.

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UWC STOs recorded very few irregularities.

The difficulty for elderly and physically disabled people to access polling stations located on second and third floors remains an issue.

These isolated irregularities did not impact the election results.

The biggest obstacle of this election was the brutal hybrid aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine which is ongoing for over five (5) years and includes military aggression in Eastern Ukraine and the illegal occupation of Crimea.

In view of that, Ukrainian citizens could not vote in the territories occupied by the Russian Federation in the Donbas and Crimea.

Therefore, the governing authorities of Ukraine helped ensure that internally displaced persons from the Donbas and Crimea could vote in the election by simplifying the procedure for changing a voter's election precinct.

Due to risks and threats to the election and the impossibility of guaranteeing the security of voters in the Russian Federation, the CEC decided not to open any election precincts in that country.

However, the citizens of Ukraine residing in the Russian Federation could exercise their constitutional right to vote in diplomatic missions of Ukraine located in Finland, Georgia and Kazakhstan.

The governing authorities of Ukraine made considerable efforts to ensure that the election would be transparent and conducted on the highest level without the misuse of administrative resources for the support of any one candidate. The law enforcement agencies of Ukraine also successfully protected the electoral process, despite the ongoing hybrid aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine.

Voters were able to express their will on election day.

The CEC statistics confirmed a voter turnout surpassing 60%. This means that Ukrainian voters have a high level of trust in the electoral system, which is another important step in the development of democracy in Ukraine.

The CEC statistics also indicated a voter turnout outside of Ukraine of about 13%, which is mainly due to long travelling distances for voters to be able to exercise their right to vote. However, there were 448,896 registered voters outside of Ukraine and 29,645,358 registered voters in Ukraine.

On the basis of the monitoring results of the UWC Mission, the 2019 Presidential Election in Ukraine has met international standards for the conduct of democratic elections.

On 30 April 2019, the CEC announced that Volodymyr Zelenskyy won the Presidential Election.

On 20 May 2019, Volodymyr Zelenskyy took the oath of office of the President of Ukraine.

H. FINDINGS REGARDING THE MEDIA-MONITORING

In 2019, the topic of disinformation has entered daily conversations of the mainstream population in many countries of the world. The question is no longer about the existence of disinformation. Instead, the debate now revolves around the extent to which disinformation has contributed to shaping the political landscape of one's respective country.

Russian disinformation has throughout history been designed with the aim of blurring the lines between fact and fiction and thus creating confusion and doubt, and instilling in the audience a belief that the truth does not exist.

Campaigns are very targeted with disinformation sowing discord in society, creating division between groups or fabricating divisions that previously did not exist. Moreover, disinformation takes aim at democratic institutions painting them as unreliable, untrustworthy and corrupt.

Moreover, Russian disinformation attempts to portray international structures and various countries as hopeless, ineffectual, dishonest or corrupt with the goal of weakening them to further its own geopolitical and imperial aims.

According to the testimony of 3 November 2015 given before the Subcommittee on Europe and Regional Security Cooperation of the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee by former US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Benjamin Ziff: *“The Kremlin sponsors these efforts with a sophisticated \$1.4 billion-a-year propaganda apparatus at home and abroad, which claims to reach 600 million people across 130 countries in 30 languages. The Russian government also funds think tanks and outside organizations in its neighboring states to help achieve its goals of promoting the Kremlin’s false narratives; portraying the West as a threat; and undermining trust in independent media as well as Western institutions and values.”*

In the case of Ukraine, since 2014 the Russian Federation has been openly waging a powerful hybrid aggression to return Ukraine to its sphere of influence and complete domination.

This hybrid aggression against Ukraine includes:

- Military actions in the Donbas, the illegal occupation of Crimea, terrorist acts, cyberattacks, the capture of hostages in Eastern Ukraine and imprisonment in the Russian Federation of Ukrainian political prisoners; and
- Persistent efforts of the Russian Federation to portray Ukraine as a failed state in order to minimize financial, military, technical and humanitarian aid to Ukraine from the international community, and to eliminate the current sanctions regime against the Russian Federation.

The Russian disinformation machine, although not a novice in the realm of information warfare, has significantly increased its capabilities over recent years taking full advantage of traditional, social and digital networks at its discretion to reach an unprecedented number of people with its messaging. This includes the use of bots, trolls and methods uniquely tailored to each audience.

Disinformation narratives during Ukraine’s Presidential Election were varied and disseminated through traditional and social networks, and in various languages. The intended audience was not confined to the Ukrainian people but included the international community with varying degrees of involvement with Ukraine.

In particular, UWC LTOs discovered narratives about a falsified Presidential Election with unworthy candidates. This type of disinformation is aimed to discredit the whole electoral process in order to continue portraying Ukraine as a failed state that the international community should disregard.

For instance, the following narratives were noted by UWC LTOs:

- On 1 April 2019, the Polish website of Sputnik quoted a top official of the Russian Federation as saying, *“The current election campaign in Ukraine has every chance to go down in history as the rudest, dirtiest, and the fiercest.”* It should be noted that this appeared one day after the first round of voting when reputable international observation missions delivered positive assessments of Ukraine’s Presidential Election.
- On 31 March 2019, the online journal Strategic Culture Foundation published an English-language article titled *“Chaining America’s Destiny to the Chaos of Ukraine”* which states the following about the Presidential Election in Ukraine: *“Whichever one of them wins, the United States and the entire NATO alliance are mortally committed to supporting an extremist, out-of-control and desperate failing regime that would not hesitate to pull America into a thermonuclear war for its own selfish ends.”* This blatant disinformation not only presents Ukraine as a completely failed state but foresees that US and NATO cooperation with such a country will lead to thermonuclear war.

- On 29 March 2019, Fort Russ News quoted an Italian member of Parliament as saying: *“Everyone in Europe who believes in the self-determination of peoples must use his voice to stop these false elections, which illegally exclude millions of people with Ukrainian citizenship, but who speak Russian. We will officially ask the Italian government not to recognize this unacceptable discrimination.”* Those allegations are untrue since there was no exclusion from voting based on language and international observation missions have concluded that the Presidential Election was free and democratic.
- On 25 March 2019, TASS Russian News Agency stated in an English-language article titled *“Russia won’t send observers to Ukraine as part of OSCE human rights body’s mission”* that: *“Kiev’s illegal steps against Russian observers at the OSCE were reflected in the interim report of the ODIHR [Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights] monitoring mission released on March 15.”* This sentence structure creates the impression that the OSCE referred to the law of Ukraine that prevented citizens of the Russian Federation from being observers as illegal, whereas the OSCE report informs about the law but does not deem it to be illegal.

The same article also states: *“By its steps, Kiev has again discredited itself, and in particular, it seriously violated the spirit and letter of the Copenhagen Document and other OSCE’s commitments on elections. Kiev’s decision not to open polling stations in its diplomatic missions in Russia also stripped of their constitutional rights to vote millions of Ukrainians who are currently in Russia.”* This assertion inaccurately cites the Resolution of the Central Election Commission of Ukraine № 274 from 31 December 2018 which foresees that citizens of Ukraine living on the territory of the Russian Federation can vote in Ukrainian diplomatic representations in Georgia, Kazakhstan and Finland.

- On 23 March 2019, the Strategic Culture Foundation online journal published in the English language *“Three Neo-Nazis lead Ukraine’s Presidential Contest: Gallup Finds Ukrainians Despise All the Candidates”*. A title as such slanders the main candidates as neo-Nazis in an attempt to convince the consumer of the information that the next President of Ukraine does not deserve respect, regardless of who wins this Presidential Election. It also clearly does not reflect the general attitude of the Ukrainian electorate taking into account that the winner of this election won 73% support.

The assessments by the international observation missions, including the ODIHR OSCE, ENEMO, CANADEM and NDI have unequivocally signalled that Ukraine conducted a fully democratic election. For example:

- ODIHR OSCE: *“The 2019 presidential election in Ukraine was competitive and held with respect for fundamental freedoms.”*
- *“ENEMO praises the conduct of the vote which was generally well organized, with minor violations not affecting the outcome of the election results.”*
- The Honourable Lloyd Axworthy, Head of CANADEM, stated: *“Ukrainians have affirmed their commitment to democratic development and have now chosen their new president in a democratic election.”*
- According to NDI: *“Ukraine’s 2019 presidential election was historic. In the second round on April 21, Ukrainians reaffirmed a deep commitment to democracy alongside a strong desire for change. Both rounds of the election were genuinely competitive. Voters turned out in large numbers. Election administrators performed professionally. In spite of Russian interference, the process met key international standards and the outcome reflected the will of voters. As the results became clear, the incumbent president offered a unifying message by congratulating the winner, conceding with dignity, and pledging to move into constructive opposition.”*

On the basis of LTO media-monitoring and analysis, the UWC Mission asserts the existence of widespread disinformation about the Presidential Election and Ukraine in general.

The UWC Mission also considers disinformation to be an important instrument in the arsenal of the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine.

The challenge for the international community is in raising awareness of the fact that disinformation is prevalent in our societies and there is a need to continually remain vigilant of the dangers of accepting information without being discerning of the source and the motivation.

Governments and civil society have a role to play in educating citizens about the perils of disinformation and the importance of being analytical consumers.

The media has a role to play in practising the principles of open and transparent journalism, and taking action against those who mock these principles.

Citizens must make an effort to be aware of attempts to undermine democratic processes through disinformation.

I. RECOMMENATIONS OF THE UWC MISSION

The UWC Mission makes the following recommendations to improve Ukraine's electoral process:

Recommendations based on the short-term monitoring of the UWC Mission

- 1) Ensure that the debate of the Presidential candidates take place at least one week in advance of the election day, and not a few hours before the "*day of silence*", in order to allow sufficient time for the Ukrainian electorate to fully absorb the essence of these debates.
- 2) Abolish the "*day of silence*" as an outdated procedure which does not take into account the significant role of social networks, which have remained off limits to such a regulation.
- 3) Provide equal conditions for candidates for the President of Ukraine in the media space, which would include same airtime and uniform representation of candidates.
- 4) Ensure that the establishment of the election results and their contestation period is completed in time for the second round of voting. Currently, this process could last up to 21 days, which could have ended on the election day of the second round of voting, since it provides: a) 10 days for the CEC to establish the election results; b) 5 days to file a contestation in court; c) 2 days for the first instance court to render its judgment; d) 2 days to appeal; and e) 2 days for the appeal court to render its judgment. Thus, the UWC Mission proposes to either increase the time period between the first and the second round of voting, or shorten the period to establish the election results and contest same.
- 5) The UWC Mission recommends that the Ukrainian authorities, in cooperation with international organizations, including the UWC, explore new initiatives that would simplify the participation of Ukrainian voters abroad, some of whom had to travel very long distances in order to cast a vote during the Presidential Election. Such mechanisms may include voting by mail, electronic voting, and increasing the number of polling stations in foreign constituencies. The UWC Mission points out that:
 - a) *Voting by mail*. It is widely practiced in such advanced democracies as Australia, Belgium, Canada, Germany, Latvia, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States, and it allows all or some categories of citizens, including those living outside the respective states, to participate in the vote.
 - b) *Electronic voting*. The experience of Estonia, which has fully embraced electronic voting, and of some other countries which use electronic voting partially (Australia, Belgium, Brazil, India, France and Switzerland), or have engaged in a comprehensive analysis of electronic voting, but who, for security considerations, have abandoned

this method of plebiscite (Lithuania, Norway, USA and Finland), contribute to Ukraine developing a balanced position on the expediency of implementation of electronic voting.

c) *Increasing the number of foreign polling stations.* The insufficient number of polling stations in foreign constituencies limits the electoral participation of the citizens and comprises one of the reasons for the low voter turnout abroad.

Recommendations based on the long-term monitoring of the UWC Mission.

The Ukrainian authorities, civil society and the UWC should:

- 1) continue raising awareness of the serious threats that disinformation pose for political stability, socioeconomic wellbeing and fundamental freedoms;
- 2) conceive a strategic program for combating disinformation, which is an important element of the Russian Federation's hybrid aggression against Ukraine;
- 3) set up a commission, which will coordinate the various stakeholders involved in the process of preventing, detecting, analyzing and combating disinformation and its side effects;
- 4) create a monitoring group consisting of diaspora representatives, who will continue on a permanent basis the monitoring of traditional and social media in their countries of residence for manipulation and disinformation about Ukraine generally and its democratic processes in particular;
- 5) establish channels of cooperation with governments of Western countries and international organizations to share experiences and data so as to effectively counter Russian disinformation and to coordinate the struggle against this destructive phenomenon at the global level;
- 6) identify effective ways of engaging Google, YouTube, social media such as Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, and the communication platform WhatsApp, in developing the means to counteract the spread of Russian and other disinformation;
- 7) invest in increasing media awareness among Ukrainian citizens, including the issues of disinformation and manipulation through specialized trainings and the inclusion of critical thinking and media literacy courses in school and academic curricula;
- 8) facilitate the development of independent and high-quality media which would effectively disseminate accurate information about Ukraine to different target audiences and in different languages.

J. MEETINGS OF THE HEAD OF THE UWC MISSION

Head of the UWC Mission Eugene Czolij met with Hierarchs of Ukrainian Churches, representatives of the governing authorities, specifically with the Central Election Commission of Ukraine, the leadership of other international and national observation missions in Ukraine, as well as representatives of civil society in Ukraine working mainly in the areas of media monitoring and communications. The meetings focused on the preparation of the Ukrainian Presidential Election and the monitoring of this process by the UWC Mission. Meetings with experts in the field of media monitoring and communications touched upon the monitoring activities by UWC LTOs and coverage of the electoral process in Ukraine by foreign media.

Head of the UWC Mission Eugene Czolij met with the following individuals:

List of meetings in Ukraine on 11-15 February 2019

Aivazovska Olga, "OPORA" Head of the Board, Political Programs Coordinator

Bekeshkina Iryna, Director of the Ilko Kucheriv Democratic Initiatives Foundation

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Bernatska Nataliia, Secretary at the Ukraine Central Election Commission

Bodnar Vasyl, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine

Boggeri Francesca, Media Analyst of OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission to Presidential Election 2019 in Ukraine

Bondarenko Anatoliy, Editor of “data journalism” of TEXTY.org.ua online media

Bozhok Yehor, Head of External Intelligence Service of Ukraine

Boiarchuk Roman, Head of State Center for Cyber Protection and Counteraction of Cyber Threats

Domenico Reno, UCCA Chief Observer and President and CEO of Sterling Business School

Druckman Mehri, IREX Ukraine Country Representative

Dumanska Vita, Coordinator of CHESNO Movement

Fedchenko Yevhen, Director of the Mohyla Journalism School, Co-Founder and Chief Editor at StopFake

His Beatitude Epifaniy, Primate of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine, Metropolitan of Kyiv and All Ukraine

Hopko Hanna, Head of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine

Hrytsak Vasyl, Chairman of Security Service of Ukraine

Jepsen Harald, International Senior Adviser of International Foundation for Electoral Systems

Krause Stefan, Deputy Head of Mission of OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission to Presidential Election 2019 in Ukraine

Meleshevych Andriy, President of the National University of “Kyiv-Mohyla Academy”

Odynska-Grod Olya, Deputy Head of Mission Canada – Ukraine Elections 2019

Ogrysko Volodymyr, Ambassador, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine (2007-2009), Director of the Center for Russian Studies

Pavlenko Rostyslav, Director of the National Institute for Strategic Studies

Radchenko Yevhenii, Vice-Chairman of the Ukraine Central Election Commission

Rozkładaj Igor, Media-Lawyer at the Media Law Institute, Expert at Reanimation Package of Reforms

Savanevskiy Maksym, Managing Partner at PlusOne Digital Agency

Slipachuk Tetiana, Chairperson of Ukraine Central Election Commission

Sologub Ilona, Scientific Editor at VoxUkraine

His Beatitude Sviatoslav, Head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church

Tejler Peter, Ambassador, Head of OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission to Presidential Election 2019 in Ukraine

Tsibulska Liudmyla, Head of the Hybrid Warfare Analytical Group of Ukraine Crisis Media Center

Turchynov Oleksandr, Secretary at the Council of National Security and Defence of Ukraine

Vujovic Zlatko, Head of ENEMO Election Observation Mission to Ukraine 2019

Waschuk Roman, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Canada to Ukraine

Woodward Ian, Deputy Director of National Democratic Institute

Yevdochenko Leonid, Chairman of the State Service of Special Communications and Information Protection of Ukraine

Zolotuhin Dmytro, Deputy Head of the Ministry of Information Policy of Ukraine

On 11 February 2019, the Head of the UWC Mission attended a coordination meeting at the Canadian Embassy in Ukraine with representatives of other international election observation missions, diplomatic corps and Ukrainian non-governmental organizations registered with the CEC.

List of meetings in Ukraine on 24 March - 3 April 2019

Alekseenko Andriy, Acting Head of External Intelligence Service of Ukraine

Avakov Arsen, Minister of Interior of Ukraine

Bernatska Nataliia, Secretary at the Ukraine Central Election Commission

Bidenko Artem, State Secretary at the Ministry of Information Policy of Ukraine

Chernenko Oleksandr, Head of the Sub-Committee on elections and referendums of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine Committee on legal policies and justice

Druckman Michael, Country Director of International Republican Institute in Ukraine

His Beatitude Epifaniy, Primate of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine, Metropolitan of Kyiv and All Ukraine

Erben Peter, Senior Global Electoral Adviser and Ukraine Country Director of the International Foundation for Electoral Systems

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy, Head of the CANADEM Mission – Ukrainian Elections 2019

Hrytsak Vasyl, Chairman of Security Service of Ukraine

Jepsen Harald, International Senior Adviser of International Foundation for Electoral Systems

Koshel Oleksiy, Director General of Committee of Voters of Ukraine

Lytvynenko Oleksandr, Deputy Secretary at the Council of National Security and Defence of Ukraine

O'Hagan Mary, Country Director of National Democratic Institute in Ukraine

Odynska-Grod Olya, Deputy Head of the CANADEM Mission – Ukrainian Elections 2019

Radchenko Yevhenii, Vice-Chairman of the Ukraine Central Election Commission

Shevchuk Stanislav, Head of Constitutional Court of Ukraine

Slipachuk Tetiana, Chairperson of Ukraine Central Election Commission

Smokovych Mykhaylo, Head of Cassation Administrative Court of the Supreme Court of Ukraine

His Beatitude Sviatoslav, Head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church

Vujovic Zlatko, Head of ENEMO Election Observation Mission to Ukraine 2019

Woodward Ian, Deputy Director of National Democratic Institute in Ukraine

On 30 March 2019, the Head of the UWC Mission attended a coordination meeting hosted by National Democratic Institute and International Republican Institute, where he met other Heads of international observation missions and G7 Ambassadors in Ukraine.

List of meetings in Ukraine on 15-24 April 2019

Alekseenko Andriy, Acting Head of External Intelligence Service of Ukraine

Archbishop Yevsratiy (Zorya), Archbishop of Chernihiv and Nizhyn

Avakov Arsen, Minister of Interior of Ukraine

Bakanov Ivan, Head of campaign of Presidential candidate Volodymyr Zelenskiy and Head of “Servant of People” Party

Berezenko Serhiy, Deputy Chief of Staff for electoral campaign of President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko, Deputy Head of political party “Bloc Petra Poroshenka”

Bernatska Nataliia, Secretary at the Ukraine Central Election Commission

Druckmann Michael, Country Director of International Republican Institute in Ukraine His Beatitude Epifaniy, Primate of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine, Metropolitan of Kyiv and All Ukraine

His Holiness and Beatitude Filaret I, Archbishop and Kyiv Metropolitan, Honorary Patriarch of Orthodox Church of Ukraine

Hrytsak Vasyly, Chairman of Security Service of Ukraine

Jepsen Harald, International Senior Adviser of International Foundation for Electoral Systems

Kluchkovska Iryna, Director of Lviv Polytechnic National University International Institute for Education, Culture and Diaspora Relations

Koshel Oleksiy, Director General of Committee of Voters of Ukraine

Lytvynenko Oleksandr, Deputy Secretary at the Council of National Security and Defence of Ukraine

Meleshevych Andriy, President of the National University “Kyiv-Mohyla Academy”

O’Hagan Mary, Country Director of National Democratic Institute in Ukraine

Petrenko Halyna, “Detektor Media” Director

Prach Father Doctor, Rector at Ukrainian Catholic University

Radchenko Yevhenii, Vice-Chairman of the Ukraine Central Election Commission

Rybachuk Oleh, Director and Co-Founder of CENTRE.UA

Savrasov Maksym, Head of Secretariat of political party “Bloc of Petro Poroshenko”

Shevchuk Stanislav, Head of Constitutional Court of Ukraine

Slipachuk Tetiana, Chairperson of Ukraine Central Election Commission

Smokovych Mykhaylo, Head of Cassation Administrative Court of the Supreme Court of Ukraine

His Beatitude Sviatoslav, Head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church

Syumar Viktoriya, Head of the Verkhovna Rada Committee on Freedom of Speech and Information Policy

Tsibulska Liudmyla, Head of the Hybrid Warfare Analytical Group of Ukraine Crisis Media Center

Tsigikal Petro, Head of State Border Guard Service of Ukraine

Vujovic Zlatko, Head of ENEMO Election Observation Mission to Ukraine 2019

Waschuk Roman, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Canada to Ukraine

Woodward Ian, Deputy Director of National Democratic Institute

Yermolenko Volodymyr, Director of European Projects at Internews-Ukraine

Zolotuhin Dmytro, Deputy Head of the Ministry of Information Policy of Ukraine

On 20 April 2019, the Head of the UWC Mission attended a coordination meeting hosted by National Democratic Institute and International Republican Institute, where he met other Heads of international observation missions and G7 Ambassadors in Ukraine.

On 23 April 2019, the Head of the UWC Mission participated in the Second Round Table discussion on the conduct of the second round of the Presidential Election in Ukraine hosted by the European Platform for Democratic Elections at the premises of the Association of Journalists of Ukraine.

K. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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The UWC Mission expresses its gratitude to: (a) the UCCA election observation mission for its cooperation; (b) its group coordinators, particularly Dmytro Lecartev from Moldova, President of the World Congress of Ukrainian Youth Organizations, as well as Roman Biłas and Maria Tucka from Poland; and (c) all STOs and LTOs, particularly those who travelled to Ukraine during their Easter holidays for the second round of the Presidential Election.

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The UWC Mission expresses its gratitude to the Ukrainian people for their hospitality during its work, particularly on 31 March 2019 and 21 April 2019, the days of monitoring of the first and second rounds of the 2019 Presidential Election in Ukraine.

L. ABOUT THE UWC

The 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.

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

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



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