



**MISSION CANADA 2019
CANADEM ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSION UKRAINE
PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS**



For immediate release

PRESS RELEASE

CANADEM Launches Election Observation Mission to Ukraine

Kyiv, 15 February 2019

Today, CANADEM officially launched Mission Canada 2019 to observe the Presidential election in Ukraine, scheduled for March 31, 2019. The election observation mission will observe all aspects of the presidential electoral process, and assess compliance with international standards for democratic elections and domestic laws.

“We are very pleased to be here to observe Ukraine’s upcoming presidential election,” – stated the Deputy Head of Mission, Olya Odynska-Grod. “Mission Canada is neutral and impartial in its assessment and we hope that our mission will contribute to Ukraine’s democratic process.”

A group of 50 Long-term Observers (LTOs) arrived in Ukraine at the beginning of February, 2019. After a three-day long briefing on various aspects of the electoral process, they will deploy to all regions of Ukraine that are participating in the vote.

The activities to be carried out by LTOs before Election Day include observing all aspects of the electoral process, as well as contacting local electoral officials, election campaign representatives, civil society organizations and voters. Their observations and reports play a crucial role in the overall evaluation and assessment of the electoral process that Mission Canada 2019 will publish in its Preliminary Statement after Election Day.

Election analysts and observers will assess the electoral campaign, voting and counting procedures, compilation of results and post-election activities, including complaints and appeals procedures. They will also evaluate the general political context, the work of the election administration, the media environment and the role of civil society, as well as the participation of women, internally displaced persons and minorities in the electoral process. Mission Canada 2019 will consult with national and international stakeholders to gather information, views and concerns over the entire electoral cycle.

Approximately 100 Short-Term Observers (STOs) are expected to arrive in Ukraine one week before Election Day to reinforce the work of the LTOs in the field.

For media enquiries, please contact:

Phone: +380 (96) 9823057

Email address: Sviatoslav.Sviatnenko@canadem.ca

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Background to CANADEM Election Observation Mission (EOM)

CANADEM has participated in over 130 missions in more than 40 countries, playing a crucial role in strengthening the democratic process globally. They have mobilized nearly 2000 election observers to Ukraine for 11 elections since 2004. The CANADEM EOM operates in accordance with the “Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation”, adopted at the United Nations in 2005.