

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
“QUALITY OF ELECTIONS: MAKING DEMOCRACY STRONG”
RECOMMENDATIONS**

Participants of the International Conference “Quality of Elections: Making Democracy Strong” call on the politicians, the mass media, and the civil society organisations to consider the threat that the democratic elections standards may be violated due to the recent amendments introduced into the presidential election law, as well as due to the deteriorated quality of political debate among the candidates caused by unfair methods of political struggle and populism.

In this context, they r e c o m m e n d that:

1. The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine should without delay amend the Law on Presidential Elections in order to ensure the exercise of the voters’ rights and at least to grant the voting right to the Ukrainian citizens unregistered with consulates, to prohibit any amendments to the voter lists on the voting day, to review the procedure set for the establishment of the election results, and to introduce a procedure for contestation of election-related decisions, actions, and omission of action which would guarantee efficient defence of election rights. Special attention should be devoted to the establishment of appropriate conditions for NGO`s official election observers.
2. The presidential candidates, political parties and election blocs should abstain from violating the election legislation, ensure true implementation of the standards of democratic, fair and transparent elections, abstain from using populist slogans throughout the election campaign, offer a comprehensive vision of a strategy for Ukraine’s further development and its implementation methods, and outline the principles for cooperation with political opponents in the post-election period.
3. The Central election commission of Ukraine should establish permanent advisory public committee that would strengthen a role of Commission in the process of ensuring democratic, fair and clear elections and contribute to the political and legal education of citizens in the context of election process.
4. In order to ensure high quality presidential elections, the mass media should strengthen their cooperation with civil society organisations, arrange and conduct high quality political debates among presidential candidates, which should focus more on Ukraine’s development policies and their implementation, and aim at the development of joint positions of the candidates on the main issues of the domestic and foreign policy as the final goal.
5. Civil society organisations should issue a Statement on Democratic, Fair, and Transparent Elections, propose that presidential candidates sign under such Statement, and oversee its observation by the presidential candidates. They should also activate cooperation both among themselves and with the mass media for high quality of the political debate in the course of the presidential election campaign.

The International Conference “Quality of Elections: Making Democracy Strong” is a last action of a set of regional public discussions arranged by the Agency for Legislative Initiatives, with participation and support of the Directorate General of Political Affairs of the Council of Europe, the Venice Commission, the Parliamentary Committee for Public Authorities and Local Self-Governance Development, the Central Election Commission in partnership with the Election Law Institute and the Committee of Voters of Ukraine.