

**CODE OF CONDUCT**  
**FOR INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS AND MONITORS OF THE LOCAL**  
**COUNCIL ELECTION AND WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**  
**ELECTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES**

All international observers and monitors accredited by the Elections Commission of the Maldives are required to act with strict neutrality, professionalism, and respect for the legal framework of the Republic of Maldives. Compliance with this Code of Conduct is mandatory throughout the electoral process.

1. On polling day, observers and monitors must strictly refrain from engaging in any act prohibited under Section 44 of Act No. 11/2008 (Elections General Act), as well as from any conduct restricted by the regulations governing the Local Council and Women's Development Committee Elections.
2. Observers and monitors must conduct themselves in full compliance with Regulation No. R-48/2020 (General Elections Regulation), as well as with the specific regulations applicable to the Local Council Election and Women's Development Committee Election.
3. The official accreditation pass issued by the Elections Commission must be displayed prominently at all times while observing or monitoring polling stations or election areas.
4. Any queries regarding voting or counting procedures must be addressed only to the Polling Station In-Charge for the relevant station or area.
5. Observers and monitors must avoid any action that may cause inconvenience or disturb voters in the voting area.
6. Observers and monitors may conduct their activities or participate within polling stations only to the extent that space permits.
7. At any given time, only one individual may act in the capacity of an observer, monitor, or candidate representative within a polling station.
8. Observers and monitors must not interfere with the duties of polling officials, accredited observers, monitors, candidate representatives, or election staff.

9. Observers, monitors, and representatives of candidates are strictly prohibited from entering voting booths or attempting to view the marking of ballot papers.
10. Observers and monitors must not provide assistance to voters with physical disabilities who are unable to mark their own ballot papers.
11. All activities must be conducted in a manner that does not hinder or obstruct the work of polling officials.
12. Any action intended to gain or diminish support for any candidate or to prejudice electoral rights is strictly prohibited.
13. Observers and monitors must refrain from engaging in any form of campaigning, including seeking support for or expressing opposition to any candidate, from 18:00 hours on the day preceding the election until 06:00 hours on the morning following the election.
14. Observers and monitors must refrain from any action that may obstruct or interfere with the vote-counting process at the polling station.
15. Voters and polling officials must not be interviewed within polling stations.
16. Ballot papers and any voting documents must not be handled under any circumstances.
17. Wearing, displaying, or carrying any material indicating support for or opposition to any candidate or party is prohibited.
18. Observers and monitors must refrain from attempting to influence election officials and must extend full cooperation to election officials in the performance of their duties.
19. Observers and monitors may not give instructions or directions to anyone regarding election procedures.
20. Observers and monitors must present official identification documents upon request by the Polling Station In-Charge.
21. Any act that obstructs or interferes with the work of polling officials or security forces within polling areas is prohibited.

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22. The use of telecommunication devices within polling stations is prohibited.
  23. Observers are not permitted to take photographs or record audio or video. Accredited monitors may do so only as authorized by the Elections Commission.
  24. Accredited monitors recording or photographing must maintain a minimum distance of ten (10) feet from voting booths while capturing images or audio/video, without compromising the secrecy of the vote.
  25. Observers and monitors must not disseminate false, misleading, or unverified information regarding the election.
  26. Any reports or publications prepared by observers or monitors must be accurate and based on verified information.
  27. Observers and monitors must not disseminate false, baseless, or unverified information concerning the Elections Commission, its members, or its employees.
  28. The Polling Station In-Charge has the authority to revoke accreditation passes and remove any observer or monitor from the polling station for non-compliance with this Code of Conduct.

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