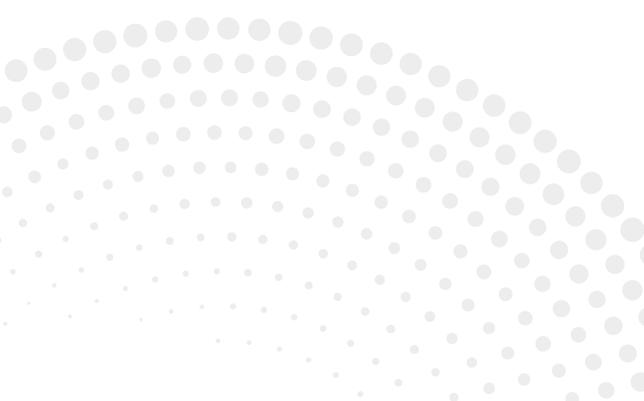




Code

for a Fair and Democratic Electoral Process



Departing from a shared commitment to democratic and fair elections;

Aware of the fact that the electoral legislation, which has not undergone SUFFICIENT reforms or adaptations to address the new needs and requirements of the electoral process for nearly a decade, has its shortcomings in relation to the desired level of quality of the electoral procedure;

Committed to preserving the integrity of elections and building trust in the electoral process;

Convinced that democratic elections are the foundation of the legitimacy of all institutions and policies and a guarantee for a stable and effective government capable of implementing the necessary reforms and bringing the country closer to the European Union membership;

Electoral lists participating in the 2023 parliamentary elections have agreed to sign the Code for a Fair and Democratic Electoral Process (hereinafter referred to as “the Code”) with the Center for Democratic Transition (CDT), a non-governmental organization involved in citizen observation of electoral processes since 2000)

As signatories to this Code, the electoral lists have committed to respecting this system of rules and principles throughout the election campaign, on election day and during the post-election period of the parliamentary elections scheduled for June 11, 2023, and hereby undertake to ensure that the rules contained in it are publicly promoted, presented to party officials, members and activists, as well as respected by all.

Code

for a Fair and Democratic Electoral Process

I Compliance with the Code

Electoral lists, as signatories to this Code, pledge to:

- Take decisive steps which ensure that their officials, candidates and members respect the provisions of this Code consistently and without exception;
- Do everything in their power to discourage their sympathizers from violating its provisions;
- Refrain from submitting untrue, frivolous or malicious complaints that allege its violation.



II Respect for the law

Electoral lists, as signatories to this Code, are obliged to respect Montenegrin legislation, in particular the valid election laws, regulations and procedures.



III Implementation of the campaign

Electoral lists, as signatories to this Code, are additionally obliged to:

- Respect the rights and freedoms of all participants in the election to campaign and express their political ideas and principles;
- Behave in a manner that respects the rights of their own list, as well as the rights of all voters and other members of the community;
- Respect the freedom of voters to engage in political activities;
- Respect the citizens' right to privacy;
- Respect the truth and the right of the public to objective information and commitment to fact-checking;
- Counter any illegal and inappropriate political, financial, media or foreign or domestic influences on the electoral process, regardless of their origin;
- Counter disinformation campaigns aimed at undermining the democratic electoral process.

The electoral lists, as signatories to this Code, shall not:

- Prevent or obstruct journalists from performing their work in accordance with the principles of the journalistic profession and election standards;
- Prevent or interfere with public gatherings or propaganda activities of other parties;
- Destroy the propaganda material of other participants in the elections;
- Conduct anonymous negative campaigns against political opponents;
- Publish or disseminate information without knowing its source or being able to verify it;
- Use social network campaigns to promote violence and/or intimidate voters;
- Use access to foreign media to circumvent national regulations and gain an unfair advantage in the media.

The electoral lists, as signatories to this Code, shall refrain from public messages that:

- Use insults or unjustifiably escalate tensions during the election process;
- Present information that is not supported by precise evidence in an attempt to discredit and disparage other electoral lists and candidates;
- Make threats or incite violence against any individual or group;
- Display any form of intolerance or hatred towards members of other nations or religions, or minority groups.



IV Electoral procedure

The electoral lists, as signatories to this Code, are obliged to:

- Refrain from exerting any political pressure on the members of the election administration and/or from influencing decisions that hold particular political interests;
- Maintain professional cooperation with the authorities in charge of implementing the elections, with the aim of the peaceful and legal implementation of the election procedure and allowing voters to exercise their right to vote without harassment and interference;
- Contribute to the peaceful conduct of elections at polling stations;
- Respect the independence of and cooperate with authorized election observers;

Signatories to this Code shall not:

- Influence the outcome of the vote by means of violent or illegal activities;
- Unjustifiably or in bad faith, interfere with the work of members of the election administration, the voting process, vote counting or the determination of final results;
- Endanger the safety of members of the election administration by means of their activities before, during and after the elections;
- Influence the decision of voters at the polling stations or in their immediate vicinity;
- Unjustifiably or maliciously interfere in the affairs of members of the election administration body;
- Influence voters to vote multiple times or vote on behalf of another person, whether living, deceased or non-existent;
- Provide false information to their voters about their rights and obligations in the electoral process and electoral procedures;



V Promotion of non-violence

Electoral lists, as signatories of this Agreement, agree that any form of violence is unacceptable, and undertake to create an environment in which the laws of Montenegro are respected, especially in relation to:

- Prohibiting their officials, candidates, members and activists from perpetrating violence against anyone;
- Prohibiting carrying firearms or other weapons during the election campaign and on election day;
- Publicly condemning violence or threats, or any acts of vandalism or disruption of public order by their officials, candidates, members or supporters.

Signatories to this Code shall not:

- Participate in or commit any act of violence to demonstrate party strength or superiority;
- Cause damage to the private or public property of other electoral lists;



VI Prevention of abuses

As signatories to this Code, the electoral lists are committed to countering abuses of public resources in the election campaign.

Signatories to this Code shall consistently respect legal limitations and shall not:

- Abuse their positions, privileges or influence for political purposes, by means of offering rewards, threatening to punish, or in any other way;
- Use state, municipal or other public property for campaign purposes;
- Use employment in public administration and enterprises as a means to gain an institutional advantage over other election participants;
- Exert political influence on state and municipal bodies to pursue their own political goals during the election campaign;
- Abuse public functions to gain an unfair advantage in accessing the media.

The signatory parties to this Agreement shall refrain from:

- Exerting pressure, whether financial or through other illegal means, on citizens to vote for or against a certain party, or to abstain from voting;
- Exerting pressure, whether financial or through other illegal means, on citizens to become or not become candidates on an electoral list, or to withdraw or not withdraw their candidacies;
- Exploiting anyone's economic, social or health status, to influence the free will of voters.



VII Accepting and respecting the democratically expressed will of citizens

The electoral lists, as the signatories to this Code, respect for the freely expressed will of citizens is a fundamental democratic principle.

The signatories undertake to:

- Accept the outcome of the election as confirmed in the legal election process;
- Behave responsibly towards the process of determining election results and refrain from obstructing the election process by submitting appeals that are fictitious or have no justifiable grounds;

- Accept and respect the final decisions of competent state authorities;
- Refrain from organizing celebrations before the announcement of credible election results.



VIII Implementation of the Code

The Center for Democratic Transition (CDT) undertakes to establish a multidisciplinary team (hereinafter referred to as the “Team”), consisting of experts in certain areas of the electoral process, and a network of regional and municipal coordinators. In cooperation with the signatories, the Team will analyze each individual application, respond appropriately, and monitor the implementation of this Code until the completion of the election process.

The Team will maintain direct communication with all signatories to this agreement that have objections to the violation of this Code, but also with state authorities that may have jurisdiction related to the subject matter of the objection.

Representatives of international election observers may also be involved in the work of the Team.

The work of the Team is based on the principles of transparency, good faith and mutual trust between the signatories to the Code.

Each signatory electoral list shall appoint one representative who will be available to the Team for all matters related to this Code.

Based on the conclusions of the Team in relation to individual complaints, the CDT shall inform the public about the outcome of the process and/or informs the competent state authorities in case of suspected violations of the law.



IX Application of the Code

All confirmed electoral lists that, for any reason, did not attend the ceremony of signing this Code may still commit to comply with it by publicly expressing their acceptance of its content.

The application of this Code begins on the day of signing and concludes upon determining the final election results.

In Podgorica

May 25th, 2023

Albanska alijansa

Albanski forum – Nik Gjelošhaj „BESA Za Evropski Razvoj“

ALEKSA I DRITAN – HRABRO se broji!

EVROPA SAD! – MILOJKO SPAJIĆ

HGI – Na pravoj strani svijeta!

Jasno je! Bošnjačka stranka - mr Ervin Ibrahimović

DA, MI MOŽEMO ZA GRAĐANSKU CRNU GORU!

NARODNA KOALICIJA – „SLOŽNO I TAČKA“ – (Dejan Vukšić – Demohrišćanski pokret, Marko Milačić – Prava Crna Gora, Vladislav Dajković – Slobodna Crna Gora, Dragica Perović – Demokratska srpska stranka, dr Novica Stanić – Pokret za Pljevlja)

PRAVDA ZA SVE! – dr Vladimir Leposavić

Pokret za promjene - PRVO CRNA GORA – Nebojša Medojević – Reforme za spas zemlje

Preokret za sigurnu Crnu Goru – Srđan Perić

SDP – ZA NAŠU KUĆU

SNP – DEMOS – ZA TEBE

ZAJEDNO! Za budućnost koja ti pripada – Danijel Živković (DPS, SD, DUA, LP)

ZA BUDUĆNOST CRNE GORE (Nova srpska demokratija, Demokratska narodna partija Crne Gore, Radnička partija)

Centar za demokratsku tranziciju (CDT)

