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

**For immediate release**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Deputy Head of Mission Visit to Kherson**

**Kyiv, 7 March 2019**

The Deputy Head of Mission (D HoM) Olya Odynska-Grod visited Kherson oblast on March 6-7, and met with various regional and local interlocutors of the election process.

“Our Long-term Observers are present in every oblast of Ukraine where elections will take place,” – stated the Deputy Head of Mission, Olya Odynska-Grod. “In our observation work we talk to all stakeholders of the process, but we pay special attention to the participation of women, minority and socially disadvantaged groups in the upcoming vote.”

The Deputy Head of Mission met with the Acting Presidential Representative of Ukraine in Crimea, and the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People in Kherson. She also met with election administration bodies and various NGO groups working to promote the participation of Roma people and internally displaced persons in the election process.

“In the course of our work it is important to meet with regional stakeholders working tirelessly in the field.” - said the Deputy Head of Mission, Olya Odynska-Grod. “They can bring important local issues to our attention which we will follow up during our observation work.”

A group of 50 Election Analysts and Long-Term Observers are assessing the electoral campaign and the preparations for the election, and will assess 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 consults with national and international stakeholders to gather information, views and concerns over the entire electoral cycle.

Approximately 110 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.

CANADEM launched Mission Canada 2019 to observe the regular 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. The mission is neutral and impartial in its assessment and hopes to contribute to Ukraine’s democratic process.

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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.