## *Appendix #1 made to the Rules*

## TABLE

of checking information

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| ***I stage – Nomination of candidates*** | **List of bodies and organizations where examination of documents and information is possible** |
| **The Central Election Commission shall examine the submitted document within a 5-day period, make a grounded decision on whether the candidate nominated for the relevant constituency is approved or not, and inform about it the authorized representative of the candidate, of political parties and blocks of political parties (Articles 53.6 and 54.9 of Election Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan).** |  |
| Pursuant to Article 100 of the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan, a citizen of the Republic of Azerbaijan aged not under 35, who has permanently lived more than 10 years within the Republic of Azerbaijan, having the right to participate in elections, as well as, who has never been accused for crime, not having commitments before other countries, high educated, not having dual citizenship could be elected President of the Republic of Azerbaijan.  |  |
| Information to be checked in this case: a) Citizenship of the Republic of Azerbaijan;b) To have a right to participate in elections;c) Permanent residence more than 10 years within the Republic of Azerbaijan.  | a, b, c) Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan |

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| **If a candidate is nominated on his/her own initiative, the conformity of documents to be examined by the Central Election Commission and procedure of candidate nomination with Law** | c) Relevant departments of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Azerbaijan or Department of the Notary that approved the powers of attorney |
| a) notification on the nomination of the candidate; b) application on commitment;If an authorized representative is appointed; c) the authorized representative’s power of attorney approved in the notary order; d) conformity of the nomination procedure with the Election Code. |
| **Information to be examined** |  |
| ***Information in the notification to be examined*:** a) surname, name and patronymic of the candidate;b) date of birth;c) address of residence; d) period of stay on the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan; e) serial number of ID card or its substitute document;f) main working or service place (if not any, type of activity).  | a, b, c, d, e) Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Housing and utility service. Relevant executive authority;f) organizations and persons where persons are in labor relations. Relevant tax bodies. |
| Information in the application on commitment to be examined:a) surname, name and patronymic of the candidate; b) date of birth; c) address of residence; d)period of stay on the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan;e) education;f) serial number of ID card or its substitute document; g) main working or service place (if not any, type of activity). | a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j, ) the Ministry of Internal Affairs; Housing and utility service. Relevant executive authority;k) Relevant educational institute or Ministry of Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan; |
|  | l) Information about persons who get their education outside of the Republic via the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan.m) organizations and persons where persons are in labor relations. Relevant tax bodies; |
| **Information in the application on a sentence of a candidate which is not served or cancelled:**h) name and number of the relevant Article of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan;i) action committed abroad and if the same action provides for liability established by the Criminal Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan and is sentenced by a court decision, which entered into force, the name of the relevant law of the foreign country;j) citizenship of the Republic of Azerbaijan;k) whether has got citizenship of a foreign country or not; l) obligations resulting from permanent, steady and stable affiliation related to more than 5 years period of living abroad. | x) Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan |

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| **Examination of powers of attorney approved in the notary order of the authorized representative appointed by the candidate to the presidency:** | a) Relevant departments of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Azerbaijan or Department of the Notary that approved the powers of attorney.   |
| a) Legitimacy of the powers of attorney. |
| ***If the candidate is nominated by the voters initiative group, then legitimacy of documents to be examined by the Central Election Commission and nomination procedure*:** |  |
| a) notification on nomination of a candidate; | c) legal entity that approves the protocol and person who allocated place for the conduct of the meeting approved by his seal. |
| b) a candidate’s application on commitment compiled pursuant to Article 53 and 180 of the Election Code; c) meeting protocol on the establishment of voters initiative group and nomination of a candidate; d) legitimacy of candidate nomination. |
| **If an authorized representative is appointed by a candidate:** | a) Relevant departments of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Azerbaijan or Department of the Notary that approved the powers of attorney. |
| a) the authorized representative`s powers of attorney provided by the candidate. |
| ***Information in the notification to be examined*:** |  |
| a) candidate’s surname, name and patronymic;b) date of birth;c) address of residence; d) serial number of ID card or its substitute document; e) main working or service place (if not any then type of activity); f) surname, name and patronymic of members of the initiative group; g) dates of birth;h) address of residence; i) serial number of ID card or its substitute document;j) signature of members of initiative group and date; | a, b, c, d, e, f, g, j) Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan; Housing and utility service. Relavant executive authority;c,h,)Housing and utility service. Relevant executive authority; d) organizations and persons where persons are in labor relations. Relevant tax bodies. |
| **If an authorized representative of voters initiative group is appointed:** | a, c) Head department on statistic information and operations of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan;b) Housing and utility service. Relevant executive authority; |
| a) surname, name and patronymic of the representative of voters initiative group;b) address of residence; c) serial number of ID card or its substitute document;d) date of issue of the notification. |
| ****Information to be examined in the application on commitment****: |  |
| a) candidate’s surname, name and patronymic; b) date of birth; c) education; d) serial number of ID card or its substitute document; e) address of residence; f) period of stay on the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan;g) main working or service place (if not any then type of activity). **Information in the application on a sentence of a candidate which is not served or cancelled:**h) name and number of the relevant Article of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan;i) if an action committed abroad and if the same action provides for liability established by the Criminal Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan and is sentenced by a court decision, which entered into force, the name of the relevant law of the foreign country; ***as well as, state of having dual citizenship and commitment before other states;***j) citizenship of the Republic of Azerbaijan; k) whether has got citizenship of a foreign country or not; l) obligations resulting from permanent, steady and stable affiliation related to more than 5 years period of living abroad; m) signature, date of drafting the application form. | a, b, d, e, g, i) Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan;c)Relevant educational institute or Ministry of Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Information about persons who get their education outside of the Republic via the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan; d) Housing and utility service. Relevant executive authority;g) organizations and persons where persons are in labor relations. Relevant tax bodies; f, j, l) Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan;k) Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan. |
| **If a candidate is nominated by political parties, then the legitimacy of documents to be examined by the Central Election Commission and nomination procedure:** | a, b) Relevant departments of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Azerbaijan or Department of the Notary that approved the powers of attorney;c, d, f) supreme body and executive apparatus of a political party. d, g) supreme body and executive apparatus of a political party or personally h) Central Election Commission |
| a) Copy of the certified document on the registration of the political party approved in the notary order;b)  copy of the political party charter in force approved in the notary order;c) decision of the convention (conference, meeting by the authoritative body) by the political party on the candidate nomination and protocol of the relevant meeting; d) list of authorized representatives of political parties (this list is submitted to the Central Election Commission);e) applications on consent of authorized representatives and authorized representatives on financial issues of political parties; f) powers of attorney of authorized representatives and authorized representatives on financial issues of political parties approved in order established by the Civil Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan;g) candidate`s (candidates`) application (applications) on consent;h) legitimacy of candidate nomination. |
|  ****Information to be examined in the application on consent:**** | a, b, f, h, i, l) Ministry of Internal Affairs of the republic of Azerbaijan.c) Housing and utility service. Relevant executive authority;d)Relevant educational institute or Ministry of Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Information about persons who get their education outside of the Republic via the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan.g) organizations and persons where persons are in labor relations. Relevant tax bodies;d, j, k, l) Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan. |
| a) candidate`s surname, name and patronymic; b) date of birth; c) address of residence; d) period of stay on the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan; e) education;f) serial number of ID card or its substitute document; g)  main working or service place (if not any then type of activity). **Information in the application on a sentence of a candidate which is not served or cancelled:** h) name and number of the relevant Article of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan; i) if the candidate has committed an action abroad and if the same action provides for liability established by the Criminal Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan and is sentenced by a court decision, which entered into force, the name of the relevant law of the foreign country;***as well as, state of having dual citizenship and committment before other states;***j) citizenship of the Republic of Azerbaijan;k) whether has got citizenship of a foreign country or not; l) obligations resulting from permanent, steady and stable affiliation related to more than 5 years period of living abroad;m) signature, date of drafting the application form |
| **If the candidate is nominated by political party block****Documents to be submitted to Central Election Commission:** |  |
| **For the registration of the political party pursuant to Article 50 of the Election Code, its authorized representative shall submit the following documents to the Central Election Commission in the form pursuant to requirements of Election Code: the followings should be examined by Central Election Commission:** | a) Relevant departments of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Azerbaijan or Department of the Notary that approved the powers of attorney;b, c, d, e, f, g, h, j) Chief bodies of political parties entering block; i, k) supreme body of the political party or executive authority or personally   |
| a) copies of charters of political parties which included in the block, verified by the notary;b) agreements of political parties on inclusion in the block;c)  decisions of political parties on inclusion in the block;d)  information on full and short name of the political party bloc;e) political party blocs can submit their emblems to Central Election Commission for approval;f) decision of joint meeting of political parties or representatives of political parties or political party blocs or their conference, meeting of the leading body on the appointment of authorized representatives, as well as authorized representatives on financial issues;g) joint decision on the establishment of the block, signed by authorized representatives of political parties and stamped by seals of these political parties; |
| h) list of authorized representatives of political party blocks;i) letter (letter) on consent of authorized representative (representatives); j) list of authorized representatives on financial issues of political parties: k) letters on consent of authorized representatives on financial issues  |  |
| **The legitimacy of documents to be examined by the Central Election Commission and nomination procedure**: |  |
| a) decision of the convention (conference, meeting by the authoritative body) by the political parties on the candidate nomination and protocol of the relevant meeting;b) decision of the meeting by the representatives of political parties on the candidate nomination on behalf of the bloc of political parties and protocol of the relevant meeting;c) list of authorized representatives of political parties;d) powers of attorney of authorized representatives and authorized representatives on financial issues of political parties approved in order established by the Civil Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan;e) candidate’s applications on consent. | a, b, c, d) supreme body of the political party or executive authority;d) Relevant departments of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Azerbaijan or Department of the Notary that approved the powers of attorney; |
| ****Information to be examined in the application on the consent to nominate candidate****: |  |
| a) candidate’s surname, name and patronymic;b) date of birth; c) address of residence; d) period of stay on the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan;  e) education;f) serial number of ID card or its substitute document; g) candidate’s main working or service place (if not any then type of activity);h) party affiliation;**If the candidate has got not served or suffered accusation, then the application should contain the followings:** i) name and number of the relevant Article of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan;j) if the candidate has committed an action abroad and if the same action provides for liability established by the Criminal Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan and is sentenced by a court decision, which entered into force, the name of the relevant law of the foreign country;k) citizenship of the Republic of Azerbaijan;l) whether has got citizenship of a foreign country or not; m) obligations resulting from permanent, steady and stable affiliation related to more than 5 years period of living abroad; n) Signatures and dates.  | a, b, c, d, e, i, j, k, l ) Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan;c) Housing and utility service. Relevant executive authority.       d) Relevant educational institute or Ministry of Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Information about persons who get their education outside of the Republic via the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan;g) organizations and persons where persons are in labor relations. Relevant tax bodies;f) supreme body of the political party or executive authority;i) Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan. |

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| **Information to be examined in the application on the consent of authorized representative:**  |  |
| a) authorized representative’s surname, name and patronymic;b) date of birth; c) address of residence, telephone number; d) serial number of ID card or its substitute document and date of issue of document; e) authorized representative’s main working or service place (if not any then type of activity);f) signature and dates. | a, b, c, d) Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan; Housing and utility service. Relevant executive authority;      e) organizations and persons where persons are in labor relations. Relevant tax bodies. |
| **II stage –candidate’s registration:** |  |
| **For registration of nominated candidates, authorized representatives of the candidates, political party and block of political parties shall submit the following documents to the Central Election Commission at most 50 days and at least 30 days prior to the voting day, before 18:00 (Article 58.1 of the Election Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan):****- signature sheets, which include voters signatures in support of candidates (Article 58.1.1 of the Election Code);****- 2 copies of protocols on results of collecting signatures prepared in a form defined by the Central Election Commission (Article 58.1.2 of the Election Code);****- notification on changes made to the information about the candidates, submitted according to Articles 53.3 and 54.8 of the Election Code (Article 58.1.3 of the Election Code);****- information on the amount and sources of candidate’s income (Article 58.1.4 of the Election Code);****-  reference on the annual sum of this income got from the organizations income is get from (Article 58.3 of Election Code);****- information on the candidate’s property on the basis of ownership right (Article 58.1.5 of the Election Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan);****- candidate’s initial financial report (including information on funds spent for organization of collection of voters signatures) (Article 58.1.6 of the Election Code);**When receiving election documents, Central Election Commission shall approve each folder containing signature sheets with their stamps, check if the number of submitted signature sheets match with the number of recorded in the protocol on results of collecting signatures, then having recorded the date and time of their receipt, provide the candidate, authorized representatives of political party and block of political parties with a reference on receipt of election documents with indication of the number of the signature sheets and the number of signatures therein **The Central Election Commission should make a grounded decision on registration or non-registration of the candidate after receiving of signature sheets and other required documents for the registration of candidate within a 7 – day period. If the registered candidate is nominated by a political party or block of political parties, the relevant election commission shall mention in the registration report, that the candidate is nominated by the relevant political party, block of political parties. The registration date and time shall be indicated in decision of registration or refusal of registration (Article 60.1 of the Election Code).****The Central Election Commission shall have the right to submit the copy of the decision on registration of a candidate after acceptance of decision within 1 day to the candidate, authorized representative of political parties or block of political parties that nominated the candidate and if there is a refusal of registration, then the reasons should also be clarified (Article 60.2 of the Election Code)** |  |
| ***Persons collecting signatures*:** |  |
| a) candidate himself, authorized representatives;b) persons collecting voters signatures on the basis of agreement; c) authorized representatives of political parties or block of political parties. |  |
| **Requirement for persons collecting signatures:** |  |
| a) citizenship of the Republic of Azerbaijan aged18 with active suffrage;b) has active suffrage; c) to have the right of collecting signatures; d) surname, name and patronymic of the person collecting signatures; e) serial number of ID card or its substitute document, date of issue of the document; | a, b, c, d, e) Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan.  |
| **Requirements for collecting signatures and their check:** |  |
| 1. if the candidate himself collects the signatures, the information on himself and meeting the requirements of Article 57.1 of the Election Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan;
2. if signatures are collected by authorized representatives, conformity of the information about him/her and requirements for the powers of attorney with this Rules;

3) if signatures are collected by another person on the basis of agreement, then the agreement between sides and its legitimacy, information about this person, approval document on the amount paid to the person collecting signatures from the election fund, meeting requirements for the person collecting signatures by this person and meeting requirements of Article 57.1 of the Election Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan;4) if signatures are collected by authorized representatives of political parties or block of political parties, then the document that approves the appointment of an authorized representative by political parties or block of political parties, meeting requirements for the person collecting signatures by this person and meeting requirements of Article 57.1 of the Election Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan.**\_\_\_\_*****Note: during nominating candidacy by political parties and political party blocs, the basis implied by Article 60.2 of Election Code can be approved because information submitted pursuant to Article 57-58 was incorrect in the case when incorrect information provided because of candidate’s fault*.** | 1) information about the candidates and meeting requirements for the person collecting signatures shall be examined pursuant to the Instruction;2) information about the authorized representatives and meeting requirements for the person collecting signatures shall be examined pursuant to the Instruction;  3) The agreement should be examined pursuant to the body that approves it, payment should be via the authority bank, and meeting requirements for the person collecting signatures;4) Authority should be examined by the body that approves the authority and meeting requirements for the person collecting signatures pursuant to the Instruction. |
| 1) **S*ignature sheets with voters signatures included in support of the candidate nominated.***  |  |
| Signature sheet shall be compiled in conformity with the form and subject defined by Appendices # 2 and 2”A” of the Election Code. |  |

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| **Information to be examined in the signature sheet** |  |
| **1. Name of the constituency on which territory the signatures are collected.****2. Information about the voter and requirements:**a) surname, name and patronymic of the citizen who signed; b) year of birth (month and day of birth of the person aged 18); c) address of residence; d) serial number of ID card or its substitute document and date of issue of document e) signature and date;f) citizenship of the Republic of Azerbaijan of the person who aged 18 on the Election Day;g)  active suffrage;h)  signature in support of the candidate shall belong only to the voter;i) meeting requirements of Article 57.1 of the Election Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan.\_\_\_\_\_\_***Note: The right to put signature in support of the candidate should belong only to the voter himself.*** | a, b, c, d, f, g) Head department on statistical information and operations of the Ministry of Interior Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan;c) Housing and utility service. Relevant executive authority;e, h) by person himself or according to legislation. |
| **3. Information about the candidate:**a) candidate’s surname, name and patronymic;b) personal signature;c) date of signature;d) if the candidate has a sentence, which is not served or cancelled, name and number of the relevant Article of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan;e) if the candidate has committed an action abroad and if the same action provides for liability established by the Criminal Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan and is sentenced by a court decision, which entered into force, the name of the relevant law of the foreign country;f) citizenship of the Republic of Azerbaijan;g) whether has got citizenship of a foreign country or not; h) obligations resulting from permanent, steady and stable affiliation related to more than 5 years period of living abroad;i) if the candidate has been nominated by political parties or block of political parties, then name of political party or block of political party in the signature sheet. | a, d, e, f, g) Ministry of Internal affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan;f) Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan;g) The Central Election Commission; supreme body of the political party or executive authority. |
| **Information about the person collecting signatures and requirements** |  |
| a) surname, name and patronymic of the person; b) serial number and date of issue of ID card or its substitute document;c) signature of the person and its date;d)  citizenship of the Republic of Azerbaijan of the person aged higher 18;e)  active suffrage;f)  authority to collect signatures. | a, b, d, e) Head department on statistical information and operations of the Ministry of Interior Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan;c) by person himself or according to legislation. |
|  **1) Information about the voter and requirements:** | a, b, c, d, f)  Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijane) Central Election Commission and relevant expert groups. |
| a) surname, name and patronymic of the person; b) year of birth (month and day of birth of the person aged 18);c) address of residence; d) serial number of ID card or its substitute document and date of issue of document;e) signature and date.f) citizen of the Republic of Azerbaijan with active suffrage; |
| **2) The protocol on results of collection of voters’ signatures in the form defined by the Central Election Commission:** |  |
|  a) pursuant to the form and subject indicated in Appendix 1 of the relevant Instruction of the Central Election Commissionb) whether it is in two copies. |
| **3) Information in the notification to be examined on the amendments made in the information about the candidate submitted:** | Pursuant to relevant information and rules for their checking. |

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| **4) Information about the amount and sources of income of the candidate:**  | a, b, c, d, e)  organizations and persons where persons are in labor relations. Relevant tax bodies (Ministry of Tax of the Republic of Azerbaijan, “Financial Markets Supervision Chamber), relevant banks. |
| a) salary from main working place; b) rewards and financial support; c) the income from civic-legal contracts; d) the income from ownership activity; e) the income from non-ownership activity. |
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| **\_\_\_\_\_****Note: this information can be achieved by applying to the bodies defined by the Central Election Commission.** |  |
| **5) Information about the property belonging to the candidate on the basis of ownership right:**  |  |
| a, b, c, d, e) State Property Issues Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan and State Service of Real Estate under the State Property Issues Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan |
| (pursuant to the form and subject indicated in Appendix 5 of Election Code).  **Real estate:**a) land plot;b) residence;c) flats;d) gardens; e) garage and other buildings, equipments. |
| **Transport means:** |  |
| a) passenger cars; b) tracks; c) other transport means. | a, b, c) State Road Police Office |
| **6) Initial financial report of the candidate** |  |
|  (By indicating the amount of the funds spent by the candidate for the organization of collecting voters’ signatures). |  Authorized bank |

 *Appendix 2*

**P R O T O C O L**

**on checking the accuracy of information**

**in signature sheets**

Citizen of the Republic of Azerbaijan nominating a candidate to the presidency \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 *(surname, name, patronymic)*

As a result of checking the signaturees in signature sheets submitted to the Central Election Commission in support of a candidate, the following is determined:

1. Number of submitted signature sheets .....................................\_\_\_\_

2. Number of constituency commissions from the territory of which the signatures are collected..........................................................................\_\_\_\_

3. Number of submitted signatures ...............................................\_\_\_\_

4. Number of checked signatures .................................................\_\_\_\_

5. Number of signatures that are not checked ..............................\_\_\_\_

6. Number of signatures that are considered correct ....................\_\_\_\_

7. Number of signatures that are considered incorrect .................\_\_\_\_

*Including the following reasons:*

- Repeated signatures except one signature.................................\_\_\_\_

- Signatures of voters entered into signature sheets before the notification on nomination of the candidate is sent to election commission.............................................................................................\_\_\_\_

- Signatures, recorded in hand or recorded by pencil......................................................................................................\_\_\_\_

-Signatures which do not approve the amendments made on the date of puting voters’ signatures by the persons who approve the signature sheet...............\_\_\_\_

- voters’ signatures containing incorrect information.....................\_\_\_\_

- signatures of citizens who do not have active suffrage ( citizens who are not 18 years old, incapacitated and limited capacitated persons, foreigners and other persons defined by legislation).............................\_\_\_\_

- Signatures in written lines of signature sheets that are not completely filled out................................................................................\_\_\_\_

- Signatures revealed in lines of the writings inappropriate with Elelction Code..................................................................\_\_\_\_

- Signatures put by one person on behalf of several persons, or by several persons on behalf of one person...............................................\_\_\_\_

- Signatures that are considered invalid due to the violation of requirements set forth in Article 57.1 of Election Code.......................................................................................................\_\_\_\_

- The signatures in the signature sheets that are considered invalid if signature sheets are not certified with the signature of the person who collected them, also by a candidate, political party, bloc of political parties, the authorized representative of candidate or if signature of authorized representative is not correct...................................................................\_\_\_\_

- Other reasons..............................................................................\_\_\_\_

**Chairman of Working Group**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_­­­­­

 *(signature) (surname, name, patronymic)*

**Note:**

*1. If persons collecting signatures make relevant notes on crossed out signatures in signature sheets, then these signatures are not checked and accepted.*

*2.* *Changes and notes made by determined way in the signature list should not be the reason for considering the signature invalid.*

*3. If a signature of one person appears several times, only one signature shall be considered valid, others are considered incorrect.*

*4. If the requirements of Article 181.1 of Election Code are violated i.e. the signatures are collected from the territory of less than 60 election constituencies, then these signatures should not be checked and their number is considered less than the required number of signatures.*