



Centar za demokratsku tranziciju - CDT

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STATEMENT OF THE CENTER FOR DEMOCRATIC TRANSITION

The Center for Democratic Transition (CDT) will monitor the forthcoming presidential election on December 22, 2002. These are the sixth elections in Montenegro that the Center will monitor.

A free political campaign, without violations of laws and democratic norms is one of the most important aspects, which influence the development of democratic processes. As in the previous elections, CDT proposed the "Agreement on a fair campaign". We are pleased to announce that this time also the majority of the participants accepted our document. On the basis of foreseen principles, CDT will follow the pre-election campaign. The presidential candidates who signed this agreement are obliged:

- During public presentations to avoid statements that can be interpreted as a threat to other candidates or their supporters and to citizens of different nationalities or confessions;
- Not to influence the electoral will of voters by offering them money or gifts;
- Not to prevent journalists from performing their duties in accordance with the rules of their profession and the election rules;
- To publicize their election campaign expenditures within 10 days of Election Day;
- To respect the will of citizens expressed in the election if there are no major violations of the election process.

Filip Vujanovic, Dragan Hajduković, Aleksandar Vasiljević, Milivoje Bakić, Ilija Darmanović, Milan Šparović, Djordjije Milic signed the agreement, and this document was offered to all the presidential candidates.

The Center for Democratic Transition evaluates that the campaign is conducted so far in a peaceful atmosphere. These are the first elections in which we have no strong confrontation of the political parties and candidates.

We note that these elections are the fourth elections in Montenegro in the last two years. We would like to emphasize that only one election cycle costs at least around 1.5 million € and that expenses of these and eventual repeated elections are paid by the citizens as taxpayers.

CDT will not work on a "get-out-the-vote" campaign for the citizens. According to our opinion, boycott is a legitimate political decision. However, in countries where



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democracy has just begun, we think that non-participation in elections is not a good political judgment.

We will leave it up to citizens to judge whether Montenegro needs to enter again a vicious circle of election cycles or to turn towards concrete realization of the ever-growing economic and social problems.

CDT will monitor these elections at more than 90% of the polling stations throughout Republic with its monitors and mobile teams. Apart from monitoring the pre-election campaign on the basis of the signed Agreement, CDT will also inform the public about the citizens' turnout throughout Election Day. Also, as was done in previous elections and by using the PVT method – meaning a partial parallel count of the votes – CDT will very quickly announce the results and estimation whether a sufficient number of citizens went to the polling stations in accordance with Article 16 of the Law on Election of the President of the Republic.

With the aim to have the most qualitative information for the citizens and public, we prepared our Internet presentation where you can find all information about the upcoming elections, as well as information and results of almost all elections held since the beginning of the multi-party system in Montenegro. The Internet address is www.cdtmn.org.

Podgorica, 13 December 2002.
