

Standards relating to oversight, accountability, and enforcement

Source : [IIIDEM](#) project

Oversight

"The Electoral Commission) should be empowered to ensure that proper election expenses returns are submitted on time, to inspect party accounts, and for parties to have properly audited and verified accounts."

SADC Parliamentary Forum, Norms and Standards for Elections in the SADC Region, para. 6

"States should require political parties to present the accounts (...) regularly, and at least annually, to [an] independent authority."

Article 13(a) - Council of Europe Committee of Ministers Rec(2003)4

"Financing of political parties must be fully transparent, which requires political parties, in particular to keep strict accounts of all income and expenditure, which must be submitted, at least once a year, to an independent auditing authority and be made public."

Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Rec 1516 (2001)

"The candidates, political parties (coalitions) participating in elections should, with periodicity stipulated by the laws, submit to the electoral bodies and/or other bodies, mentioned in the law, information and reports on receipt of all donations to their election financial funds, on their donors as well as on all their disbursements from those funds on financing of their election campaign."

Article 12 - Convention on the Standards of Democratic Elections, Electoral Rights and Freedoms in the Member States of the CIS



Accountability

"Oversight entities, whether electoral management bodies or judicial organs, should be independent, non-partisan, and equipped with sufficient human and financial resources and authority to enforce the country's laws."

OAS/ Carter Center, Statement of the Council of Presidents and Prime Ministers of the Americas, Financing Democracy: Political Parties, Campaigns, and Elections

"The Electoral Commission should be empowered to ensure that proper election expenses returns are submitted on time, to inspect party accounts, and for parties to have properly audited and verified accounts."

SADC Parliamentary Forum, Norms and Standards for Elections in the SADC Region, Para 2(5):

a. States should provide for independent monitoring in respect of the funding of political parties and electoral campaigns.

b. The independent monitoring should include supervision over the accounts of political parties and the expenses involved in election campaigns as well as their presentation and publication."

Article 14 - Council of Europe Committee of Ministers Rec(2003)4

"This Convention signatory state may form or place powers relating to execution of the control or supervision over observance of rules and manner of financing of the election campaign of candidates, political parties (coalitions) on a special body or bodies, officials or electoral bodies."

Article 12 - Convention on the Standards of Democratic Elections, Electoral Rights and Freedoms in the Member States of the CIS



Enforcement

"The enforcement of political finance laws and regulations requires the existence of independent oversight authorities and an effective system of sanctions to end impunity."

OAS/ Carter Center, Statement of the Council of Presidents and Prime Ministers of the Americas, Financing Democracy: Political Parties, Campaigns, and Elections

"States should require the infringement of rules concerning the funding of political parties and electoral campaigns to be subject to effective, proportionate and dissuasive sanctions."

Article 16 - Council of Europe Committee of Ministers Rec(2003)4

"Everyone will have an effective means of redress against administrative decisions, so as to guarantee respect for fundamental rights and ensure legal integrity."

Article 5(10) - OSCE Copenhagen Document, 1990

SANCTIONS