

- the poll opens on time at the designated hour.

If the poll does not open at the time provided for by law, the reason for the late opening should be recorded.

2. AT THE POLLING STATIONS DURING VOTING HOURS

When visiting any polling station, observers should ensure that their activities do not disrupt the voting process in any way. Conversations with election officials should be held only when they are not occupied with voters, and conversations with political/candidates' representatives and other observers should preferably take place outside the polling station. Finally, permission should be obtained from the presiding officer or individual concerned before any photographs are taken, as this is frequently discouraged or not permitted.

When inside the polling station, observers should note whether:

- there are long queues of electors and whether these are orderly;
- there is a military or police presence and whether this creates an atmosphere of intimidation;
- there have been any incidents of violence or intimidation at the poll;
- there is any evidence of party or political colours, symbols or propaganda in or near the polling station;
- voters encounter any confusion or difficulty on entering the polling station;
- there are problems related to the list of electors (if applicable) or the acceptability of voter identification documents;
- problems and challenges concerning identity documents, missing documents or the voters lists are expeditiously and knowledgeably dealt with, without seriously disrupting the voting process;
- all procedures related to checking for and applying indelible ink (as applicable) are followed;
- there is sufficient ink and, if related lights or machines are used, whether these are functional;
- the stamping, initialling and issuing of the ballot paper(s) (as applicable) is in