



**International Election Observation Mission
of the Organization of Turkic States
Parliamentary Elections in Turkmenistan
(26 March 2023)**

STATEMENT

Upon the invitation extended by the Central Commission for holding Elections and Referendums in Turkmenistan (CEC), the Secretariat of the Organization of Turkic States (OTS) deployed an Election Observation Mission (EOM) to observe the elections of deputies of Mejlis of Turkmenistan, members of velayat, etrap, city halk maslahats and gengeshes which was held on 26 March 2023.

The Mission was consisted of officials from the Secretariat of the OTS and conducted its activities in accordance with the national legislation of the Turkmenistan, as well as generally recognized rules on the organization and conduct of elections.

During the pre-election process, the Mission had a meeting with H.E. Gulmurad Muradov, Chairman of the Central Commission in which, the Mission was thoroughly informed on every aspect of the election process.

On the Election Day, the Mission visited 8 polling stations in Ashgabat and Akhal velayet. Tabulation of ballots and results was conducted in time according to the national election legislation.

All necessary administrative measures were taken to ensure the free will of the people during the voting day. The Mission did not find any evidence of intervention of administrative or law enforcement authorities in the activities of the polling stations.

Considering the span of the elections, it seems obvious that the CEC made utmost effort for the preparation as well as in the course of the election process.

In line with the electoral code, necessary conditions were provided to national and international observers to conduct impartial observation of the Elections.

The Mission has witnessed participation of the national and international observers, which reinforces the transparency and public accountability of the Elections.

The Mission did not detect any serious issues, which would affect the results of the election. The Mission also notes that public order was secured at the visited polling stations.

Furthermore, the Mission did not detect any campaign materials, coercion by any political group, and leakage of voting bulletins during the Elections.

At the election day, online access to the 240 polling stations in Ashgabat and 5 provinces of Turkmenistan was granted through the official website of the Central Commission for holding Elections and Referendums in Turkmenistan.

In addition to the in-person visit of the polling stations in Ashgabat, the Mission also followed the voting process in other provinces of Turkmenistan through online regime.

We welcome the online access to the polling stations in Turkmenistan during the elections and express our hope for the continuation and expansion of this practice.

For young citizens, who obtained the right to vote for the first time, a special attention and encouragement were given at the polling stations.

The Mission observed no attempt by any outsider to influence voters on how to vote, was given full access to the polling stations, and received detailed information from the polling station officials.

Electoral participation was high and the polls have been prepared in compliance with the electoral code.

In conclusion, International Election Observation Mission of the OTS affirms the compliance of the voting process with international standards and domestic legislation.

We would like to congratulate Turkmenistan and fraternal Turkmen people for holding the elections successfully.

We express our belief that the results of the elections would contribute to further development and prosperity in the country as well as strengthening the brotherly relations within the Turkic World.