

**INTERNATIONAL OBSERVATION MISSION OF THE ORGANIZATION OF TURKIC STATES  
NATIONWIDE REFERENDUM ON AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC  
OF UZBEKISTAN**

**(30 April 2022)**

**STATEMENT**

In response to the invitation extended by the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan (CEC) to engage in the observation of the Nationwide Referendum on Amendments to the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan (Referendum), the Organization of Turkic States (OTS) deployed an International Referendum Observation Mission (Mission), commencing its operations on April 28, 2023.

The composition of the Mission included officials from the Secretariat of the OTS and representatives from election commissions at various levels hailing from Member States. The Mission's activities were conducted in accordance with the national legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan as well as generally recognized rules of international law on the organization and conduct of voting processes.

As part of the observation of the pre-referendum process, the Mission held a meeting with H.E. Zayniddin Nizamkhodjaev, Chairperson of the CEC of the Republic of Uzbekistan. During the meeting, comprehensive information pertaining to the preparations for the Referendum was disseminated to the Mission's members, and they were familiarized with the primary agenda for the preparation and execution of the Referendum.

The CEC administered the Referendum in an impartial manner, adhering to the legally mandated deadlines. Public meetings were conducted in an efficient and collegial manner and were open to the media. Local commissions demonstrated professionalism and garnered the trust of local stakeholders. The Central Election Commission conducted an informative campaign directed at voters, which encompassed televised and digital content centered on Referendum Day procedures. Relevant authorities expended the necessary effort to disseminate impartial information concerning the issue to be decided.

The broadcast media provided citizens with extensive data related to the Referendum. The Mission posits that addressing several matters, such as the equal opportunities for those advocating “in favor” of the draft Constitution and those “against,” voter education on the substance of the procedural consequences of the Referendum would benefit from specific attention and be quite contributive to the voting process.

Throughout the Referendum Day, the Mission observed the voting processes at 25 polling stations in the city of Tashkent. Essential information and materials regarding the Referendum procedures were exhibited within the polling stations. For young citizens exercising their right to vote for the first time, special attention and encouragement were provided at the polling stations.

Precinct commissions granted comprehensive access to both international and local observers for proactive observation across all locations encompassed by the Mission. The Referendum was organized and executed professionally, devoid of any significant irregularities. Voting and counting procedures were adhered to, and the transparency of the process was maintained. Voting proceeded smoothly, with no instances of unauthorized intervention by administrative or law enforcement authorities in the operations of referendum commissions observed.

Mission was given unrestricted access to polling stations and received comprehensive information from polling station officials. No impediments to the exercise of free voting rights were identified. The national legislation of Uzbekistan affords ample opportunities for observation by representatives of local public associations and international observers. The Mission witnessed the active participation of national observers, which bolstered the transparency and public accountability of the Referendum.

The Mission observed that no severe technical issues transpired that would impact the results of the Referendum. It also noted that public order was maintained at the visited polling stations. Additionally, the Mission did not identify any instances of campaign materials, coercion by political groups, or leakage of voting bulletins during the Referendum.

Concurrently, the Mission deems it prudent to review the established practice of enlisting voters who intend to cast their ballots at any polling station beyond their permanent registration on a supplementary voter list on the day of voting. The Mission expresses its approbation for the Central Election Commission's endeavors in facilitating conditions conducive to upholding the rights of disabled citizens, equipping polling stations with all indispensable materials and technical equipment.

Subsequent to the conclusion of the voting day, the Mission observed the vote counting process at one of the polling stations. The precinct commissions executed the vote counting in accordance with the regulations delineated by the legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The Observation Mission of the Organization of Turkic States evaluated the adherence of the Referendum, held on April 30, 2023, to both international norms and domestic legal frameworks.

The OTS Mission extends its heartfelt congratulations to the amicable citizens of Uzbekistan on the successful execution of the Referendum. It reaffirms its optimism that this progression towards a more democratic system of governance and the adoption of an innovative paradigm for collaboration between the state and society will serve to further elevate the overall well-being and prosperity of the nation.