



ORGANIZATION OF TURKIC STATES (OTS) ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSION FOR THE SECOND ROUND OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IN THE REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE

28 May 2023, Istanbul

STATEMENT

The International Election Observer Mission of the Organization of the Turkic States (OTS) (hereinafter referred to as the Mission) conducted observation of the second round of the Presidential Election of the Republic of Türkiye (hereinafter referred to as the Elections) on 28 May 2023.

Headed by Ambassador Yerzhan Mukash, the OTS Deputy Secretary General, the Mission is composed of the representatives of the Member States and officials of the OTS Secretariat, other than Türkiye.

The Mission observed the Elections in Istanbul in two groups, respectively, in order to observe the Elections in different districts of the cities.

The Mission carried out its activities in accordance with the legislation of the Republic of Türkiye, as well as generally recognized rules of international law on the organization and conduct of elections, without interfering in the electoral process and the sovereignty of the state.

On the Election Day, the Mission attended the opening of the polling station in Bakırköy and Beşiktaş districts of Istanbul. Tabulation of ballots and results was conducted in time according to the national election legislation.

The Mission visited 60 polling stations in total. The Mission did not find any evidence of intervention of administrative or law enforcement authorities in the work at the polling stations. All necessary administrative measures were taken to ensure the free will of the people during the voting day.

Appropriate conditions were provided to national and international observers to conduct impartial observation of the Elections. The Mission has observed participation of the mostly national and also some international observers, which reinforces the legitimacy and transparency of the Elections.

The Mission also observed the vote-counting process at the polling stations No. 1135 and 1137 of Bakırköy election district in Istanbul. Counting of ballots and announcement of results were conducted in time according to the national election legislation.

The Mission observed that there were no serious technical problems, which might affect the results of the election. The Mission observed no campaign materials visible inside or outside the polling stations, nor were there any campaign activities taking place nearby the polling stations. The polling stations were mostly accessible for persons with disabilities. The Mission noticed that the elders were listed to vote at the lower floors or basement of the polling stations. There were also mobile ballot boxes for those who could not cast their ballots 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 necessary information from the polling station officials.

Electoral participation was high, especially among the elders, and the polls have been prepared in compliance with electoral law. The widespread coverage of the elections by the media outlets of the country can be noted as an effect contributing to the legitimacy and transparency of the election process.

In conclusion, International Election Observer Mission of the OTS affirms that the second round of the Presidential Election of the Republic of Türkiye was open, transparent and competitive, and complied with the national legislation of the Republic of Türkiye and generally accepted international election standards.

The Mission congratulates the Government of the Republic of Türkiye and the brotherly Turkish people for the successful elections and expresses its belief that the results of the election would contribute to further development and prosperity in the country as well as strengthening the relations in the Turkic World.