



**International Election Observation Mission
Organization of Turkic States (OTS)
Early Elections to the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan
(1 September 2024)**

S T A T E M E N T

The International Election Observer Mission of the Organization of Turkic States (*hereinafter referred to as the Mission*) conducted observation of the early Elections to the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan on September 1, 2024. The Mission was consisting of the officials of the Secretariat of the Organization as well as the Central Election Commission representatives from the Member States other than Azerbaijan. The Mission observed the Elections in various districts of the city of Baku as well as the Absheron-Khizi region. The Mission carried out its activities in accordance with the Election Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan as well as international standards on the organization and conduct of elections. During the pre-election period, the Mission had meetings with representatives of “New Azerbaijan Party” and “Democratic Reforms Party” on August 29, 2024 in order to get familiar with the campaign processes and preparations of the parties for the upcoming elections. The delegation discussed the subjects related to programs of the parties for the elections, the campaign funding, the access to media coverage and the legal framework for elections. On the same day, the Mission met with Mr. Mazahir Panahov, Chairman of the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The Chairman provided comprehensive information about the election process, the participation of international observer missions and local observers in the elections, and preparations for the voting process for the citizens living abroad. On August 30, 2024 the mission was also received at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan where the preparations for the elections were discussed.

On the Election Day, the OTS delegation attended the opening of the polling station No. 9 of Hatayi District of Baku. The opening was conducted in time according to the national election legislation.

The Mission visited 36 polling stations in total. During the monitoring process, the Mission states that it did not observe any evidence of intervention of administrative or law enforcement authorities in the activities of the polling stations. All necessary administrative measures were taken to ensure the free will of the people during the voting day. In line with the Election Code of Azerbaijan, needed conditions were provided to national and international observers for observing of the Elections. The Mission has witnessed participation of the national and international observers, which reinforces the legitimacy and transparency of the Elections.

The Mission also participated in the vote-counting process at the polling station No. 21 of Narimanov District of Baku. 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 problems that could affect the election results. The observers were given a free access to the polling stations, and received necessary information from the polling station officials. The Mission observed no campaign materials visible inside or outside the polling stations. No campaign activities taking place nearby the polling stations were detected. Most of the polling stations were accessible for people with disabilities. The polls have been prepared in compliance with electoral law. The wide coverage of the elections by the media outlets of the country was noted as an element contributing to the legitimacy and transparency of the election process.

In conclusion, International Election Observer Mission of the OTS estimates the elections as open and transparent, as well as complying with the national legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan and internationally recognized election standards. Once again, we would like to congratulate fraternal Azerbaijan as well as the Azerbaijani people for the successful elections and express our belief that the outcomes of the elections would contribute to further development and prosperity in the country.