

International Election Observation Mission of the Organization of Turkic States Early Presidential Elections in the Republic of Azerbaijan (7 February 2024)

STATEMENT

Upon the invitation extended by the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan, International Election Observation Mission (EOM) of the Organization of Turkic States (OTS) headed by the Secretary General of the OTS, H.E. Ambassador Kubanychbek Omuraliev, conducted observation of the Early Presidential Elections in Azerbaijan in the period of 4-7 February 2024. The Mission was composed of officials from the Secretariat of the OTS and representatives from the Member States other than Azerbaijan.

The Mission conducted its activities in accordance with the national legislation of Azerbaijan, as well as the generally recognized rules of international law on the organization and conduct of elections.

As part of the pre-election observation process, the Mission had meetings with H.E. Jeyhun Bayramov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan and H.E. Mazahir Panahov, Chairman of the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Additionally, discussions took place with various international observer missions. The focus of these meetings was on the legal and administrative aspects of preparing and conducting the election process. The Mission also met with the representatives of the contesting candidates to receive first-hand information regarding the campaigning process and preparations of the candidates for the elections.

On the election day, the Mission was divided into three groups and visited 22 polling stations in Baku, Shusha, Hankendi and Khojaly. The OTS Mission took pride in witnessing an important milestone in the

history of the brotherly Azerbaijan, with the elections exercised in the liberated territories of the country for the first time since independence.

During its observation, the Mission did not find any evidence of intervention of administrative or law enforcement authorities in the activities of the polling stations; noticed that all necessary administrative measures were taken to ensure the free will of the people during the voting day.

The Mission observed no significant irregularities, which would affect the results of the elections. The Mission also notes that public order was ensured at the visited polling stations. The precinct commissions ensured free access for international and local observers, allowing free observation across all locations covered by the Mission, which reinforces the transparency and accountability of the elections.

Furthermore, the Mission did not identify any campaign materials in the polling stations nor observed any attempt by any political group to coerce or influence voters on how to vote, and leakage of voting bulletins during the elections. The Mission was given full access to the polling stations and received detailed information from the polling station officials.

The Mission noticed that the polling stations were equipped with all necessary materials and technical equipment for the efficient conduct of the elections, and conditions were set for the easy-access of the disabled citizens to the polling stations in fulfillment of their constitutional rights.

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 confirms that the Early Presidential Election in the Republic of Azerbaijan was conducted in an open and transparent manner, in line with the international standards and national election code.

The OTS Mission extends its congratulations to the citizens of the brotherly Azerbaijan for the successful elections and reiterate its hope that the results of the elections would contribute to further strengthening the stability and prosperity in the country, as well as deepening the fraternal relations in the Turkic World.