



**COOPERATION COUNCIL OF TURKIC SPEAKING STATES
(TURKIC COUNCIL) INTERNATIONAL OBSERVATION MISSION TO THE
ELECTION OF PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN**

STATEMENT

(25 October 2021)

The International Observation Mission of the Turkic Council conducted observation of the Presidential Elections of the Republic of Uzbekistan on 24 October 2021. The Mission was composed of the officials assigned by the Turkic Council Member States, other than Uzbekistan, as well as Turkic Council Secretariat.

The Presidential elections were successfully conducted in compliance with national legislation and international standards and practices. Therefore, we congratulate the Republic of Uzbekistan and the brotherly Uzbek people, and wish that the results of the elections would further strengthen the socio-economic development of the country in the years ahead.

The Mission observed the Elections in two groups within Tashkent city, in different “tumans”. The Mission carried out its activities 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 elections.

In the framework of the observation of the pre-election process, on 22-23 October 2021, the Mission had meetings with the First Deputy Chairman of the Senate of the “Oliy Majlis” of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Mr. Sodik Safoyev, and the Chairman of the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Mr. Zayniddin Nizamkhodjayev.

The Mission also had meetings with all 5 political parties; People’s Democratic Party, Social Democratic Party “Adolat”, Democratic Party “Milliy Tiklanish”, Movement of Entrepreneurs and Business People – Liberal Democratic Party and Ecological Party as well as their campaign representatives in order to receive first-hand information regarding the campaigning processes and preparations of the candidates for the elections.

At the meetings, the delegation discussed the main platforms of the candidates for their election campaigns, their access to media coverage, as well as campaign funding, and specific concerns on the quality of the legal framework for elections, including the electoral system.

During the meetings held with different stakeholders, the Mission was thoroughly informed on every aspect of the election process, ongoing reforms in the country, new amendments brought to the electoral code on the basis of the recommendations of international community,

participation of international observer missions in the elections, and preparations for the voting process for the Uzbek citizens living abroad.

In light of these information, as the Turkic Council International Observation Mission, we wholeheartedly welcome the significant improvements brought by the new Electoral Code and the practical measures taken to strengthen the legal foundations of democracy and political pluralism and the gradual modernization of the electoral system in Uzbekistan based on the principles of openness, transparency and independence.

Particularly, the political parties were given broader rights for the election.

It is worth noting that no special separate permission was required for holding public events from the local authorities, such as meetings with voters, which can be realized by written notification within the specified deadlines. This serves to further improve the national electoral legislation on the basis of generally recognized international electoral standards and to inform the international community of the ongoing democratic reforms in this direction;

In addition, the additional financing provided by the state budget to each registered political party for their campaign purposes was an important step forward.

Shifting the date of the election from December to October is reflected as a positive element increasing the voter participation in the elections;

We evaluate that the opening of 54 polling stations in 37 countries through accredited Embassies and Consulate Generals of the Republic of Uzbekistan was as one of the important facilitative measures for ensuring larger participation of the citizens living abroad in the voting, particularly during the ongoing pandemic, meaning that the elections were inclusive;

At the same time, it is important to underline the introduction of the mobile application called “Saylov 2021” by Central Election Commission, which facilitated the citizens’ access to information about the polling stations.

There are 20.5 million voters registered, and voter lists are extracted from a centralized, electronic register and were available for public scrutiny.

On Election Day, the Mission visited 31 polling stations in total. Tabulation of ballots and results were 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 amid the challenges posed by the pandemic. The Mission did not find any evidence of intervention of administrative or law enforcement authorities in the activities of the polling stations.

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 also participated in the vote-counting process at the polling station No. 351 in Tashkent city. Counting of ballots and announcement of results were conducted in time and according to the national election legislation.

The Mission observed that there were no technical problems, which would seriously 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.

At the same time, in accordance with the measures taken in connection with the pandemic, curtains or doors were not installed in the voting booths. The Mission noticed that necessary sanitary precautions have been taken by CEC at the polling stations concerning the COVID-19 pandemic.

The polling stations were mostly accessible for persons with disabilities. It is essential to mention the widespread usage of digital technologies at the polling stations, including those for voters with disabilities to receive information about the candidates and to easily cast their ballots.

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

The widespread coverage of the campaign and elections process by the international and national media outlets of the country and the establishment of media centers/halls in 14 administrative territorial units can be noted as essential elements contributing to the awareness-raising and transparency of the election process.

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.

Voter turnout was very high and the polls have been prepared in compliance with the electoral code.

In conclusion, the International Election Observation Mission of the Turkic Council affirms that the Election of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan was open, transparent and complied with the national legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan as well as the internationally recognized election standards.

The Mission will share with the Member States and relevant International Organizations its evaluation of and recommendations on the Election of the President in the coming days.

We once again congratulate Uzbekistan and the Uzbek people for the successful elections and reiterate our hope that the results of the elections would further contribute to increasing welfare in the country and strengthening the brotherly relations in the Turkic World.