



**INTERNATIONAL OBSERVATION MISSION OF THE  
PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF TURKIC-SPEAKING COUNTRIES  
Presidential Election, Republic of Uzbekistan  
24 October 2021**

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**STATEMENT**

Following the invitation from the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the International Observation Mission (*hereinafter referred to as the Mission*) of the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic Speaking Countries (TURKPA) conducted short-term monitoring of the Presidential Election held in the Republic of Uzbekistan on 24 October 2021. The Mission comprised of members of the parliaments of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkey, as well as the diplomatic staff of the TURKPA Secretariat (*see the list of Mission*).

Presidential election in the Republic of Uzbekistan is primarily regulated by the Constitution and Election Code (both last amended in 2021). The regulatory framework also includes the Law on Political Parties (last amended in 2019), the Law on Financing of Political Parties, the Criminal Code and the Code of Administrative Responsibilities (all three last amended in 2021), presidential decrees and resolutions, as well as regulations of the CEC. Uzbekistan is a party to main international and regional instruments related to the holding of democratic elections.

The election is administered by the Central Election Commission (CEC), 14 District Election Commissions (DECs) and 10761 Precinct Election Commissions (PECs). Out-of-country voting was conducted at 54 polling stations established at diplomatic missions of Uzbekistan.

Necessary precautionary and protective measures have been developed for election day in the context of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, such as assigning of health workers to PECs, social distancing, temperature check and wearing of masks at the polling stations. The CEC has issued the Resolution “On approval of instructions to prevent the spread of COVID-19 during the presidential elections in the Republic of Uzbekistan”.

**TURKPA Election Observation Mission**  
**Presidential Election, Republic of Uzbekistan**  
**24 October 2021**

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The legislation grants possibility to be nominated only by registered political parties. A nominated candidate must be supported by signatures of at least 1% of total number of voters. The CEC registered five candidates, including one woman, for participation in the presidential election from political parties. According to the electoral legislation, in case if no candidate receives more than half of the votes in the first round, a second round takes place between the two candidates with the most votes within one month from the election day.

The election campaign started on 20 September and ended on 22 October. The legislation guarantees freedom of speech and the right to access information, requiring the media to provide equal conditions for all candidates. Contestants can purchase extra airtime and space in public and private media. The contestants used different campaign means, including social media, having an opportunity to reach a broad audience.

Within its observation program, the Mission held meetings with Chairman of the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan Mr. Zainiddin Nizamkhodzhayev, First Deputy Chairperson of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan Mr. Sodik Safoyev and Head of the Committee on International Affairs and Inter-Parliamentary Relations of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan Mrs. Dilorom Faiziyeva. During these meetings, members of the Mission were informed in detail on the preparations for the presidential election.

The Mission have also held meetings with officials of the political parties. Representatives of the political parties informed the observers on the election platforms, propaganda activities during the pre-election period and their expectations from the presidential election.

On the voting day, the TURKPA observers visited a number of polling stations in the capital city Tashkent and Samarkand, having observed the voting process at all stages, starting from the opening of polling stations till the counting of votes. The Mission monitored the casting of votes, talked to voters, polling stations' officials and local observers on the ground.

On election day the polling stations were opened from 8:00 a.m. till 8:00 p.m. Voting was conducted in a generally calm environment and according to the preliminary information of the CEC, voter turnout for the election was approximately 80,8%.

**TURKPA Election Observation Mission**  
**Presidential Election, Republic of Uzbekistan**  
**24 October 2021**

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The election was held against the backdrop of the implementation of the Action Strategy for the five priority areas of development of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2017-2021. The Mission highlights significant developments of election-related legal framework in Uzbekistan over the last period. The latest amendments were related to financing of campaign, prohibition of misuse of state resources, electoral dispute resolution, as well as some other technical aspects. The Mission considers the recent legislative amendments, as strengthening democratic standards of the electoral process in Uzbekistan.

The Mission positively assesses the application of high technologies in the election process. In this context, the Mission notes, among others, the elaboration and application of the Single Electronic Voter List, installation of video surveillance cameras at polling stations, interactive services on the website of the CEC and special website Sailov-2021 that contribute to the improvement of the electoral process. According to the information of the CEC, more than 21.2 million voters were included in the Single Electronic Voter List.

The Mission emphasizes that presidential election was held in calm environment. Election administration bodies were well-resourced and professionally prepared for the conduct of election. In this framework, the Mission commends the work of the CEC on providing voters with comprehensive and detailed information about the presidential election and conducting trainings for lower-level election commissions.

The Mission appreciates the provision of unimpeded access for people with disabilities by election administration bodies and in the meantime, most of the polling stations were accessible for voters with mobility impairments. The Mission commends the excellent work of election administration bodies as regards the COVID-19 prevention measures on the election day.

The legislation provides for observation by political parties, citizens' self-governing bodies and international observers at all stages of the electoral process. In this regard, the Mission highly appreciates the legal and logistical conditions provided for international observation of presidential election in Uzbekistan. In its activity, the Mission followed the objectivity, justness, transparency and impartiality principles in accordance with the TURKPA Regulations on Election Observation and relevant international instruments.

The Mission concludes that the presidential election in the Republic of Uzbekistan on 24 October 2021 was held in compliance with the national legislation of Uzbekistan and international election standards.