FINAL STATEMENT

of the International Observers Mission of the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic-Speaking Countries on the early parliamentary elections held on 15 January 2012 in the Republic of Kazakhstan

The international observers group of TURKPA held a short-term monitoring of parliamentary elections held in the Republic of Kazakhstan on 15 January 2012 on their conformity with the international commitments for democratic elections, as well as with national legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

TURKPA international observers group included the representatives of two TURKPA member countries: Republic of Azerbaijan and Republic of Turkey, as well as the representatives of the TURKPA International Secretariat.

In the framework of visit, meetings were held with Mr. B. Dospanov, Chairman of the Territorial Election Commission of Almaty City, and Mr. A.Yesimov, Head Executive (Akim) of Almaty City, as well as with the leaders of various political parties. During these meetings, observers were given detailed information with regard to actions taken on preparation of the parliamentary elections.

During the short-term monitoring of elections, the TURKPA International Observers Mission assessed conditions of polling stations and premises for voting, having analyzed process of pre-election campaign.

In the pre-election period, a progress was observed in protecting speech and media freedom. Mission members did not mention any restrictions for the activities of mass media. Facts of pressure on the members of campaign headquarters, candidates and their representatives were not registered.

On election day, voting and counting of ballots and results was conducted in time prescribed by the national election legislation (voting started at 8:00, as counting began after 20:00). Comparing with previous elections, a significant progress has been marked towards operative conduct of this process.

Mission members observed that significant changes had been made to improve and facilitate democratization of election process. There have not been any violations of law regarding possible influence of pre-election campaign on election results. All the legal and logistical conditions were

provided for international observance of elections in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Proper conditions were provided for a wide spectrum of public and political organizations to carry out their activities, for foreign observers to attend election process and to conduct impartial observance of elections.
Attendance of polling stations by various international organizations, political parties, non-governmental organizations and independent observers can be considered as a progress towards transparent election process.

386 candidates to 98 seats in Mazhilis from 7 parties participated in the elections.

It was noted that in polling stations visited by the Mission a free expression of people's will was fully provided in accordance with the national legislation.

There have not been registered facts of direct or indirect restrictions of the rights for participation in election irrespective of race, nationality, sex, language, origin, property status or official capacity, residence, religion, beliefs and membership in public associations.

During visit to the polling stations in Almalinsky and Bostondiksky districts of Almaty City, the mission members did not find out any facts of interfering by administrative or law-enforcement authorities in the work of election commissions.

Mission members monitored that due to the university holidays a number of student voters was low in some polling stations. Mission members also mentioned some inconvenience caused by queues during the voting process. Nevertheless, facts of abstention from vote due to this reason were not registered.

TURKPA International Observers Mission emphasized that abovementioned irregularities were not of mass character and did not have impact on results of the early elections to Mazhilis of the Parliament of Kazakhstan.

Early parliamentary elections held on 15 January 2012 demonstrated free expression of will of the people of Kazakhstan and considerably contributed to the development of political relationships in the country.

TURKPA international observers group concludes that early parliamentary elections in the Republic of Kazakhstan were held, excepting some

technical irregularities, in democratic conditions conforming to the national legislation of Kazakhstan and international democratic standards.

ON BEHALF OF THE TURKPA INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS MISSION

Head of Mission
Head of the Kazakhstan-Turkey inter-parliamentary Friendship Group
Chairman of the TURKPA Commission on Legal Affairs
Member of the Parliament of the Republic of Turkey — **Haluk İPEK**

Member of the Parliament of the Republic of Turkey — **Kadir Gökmen OĞUT**

Member of the Parliament of the Republic of Turkey — **Ömer Faruk ÖZ**

Member of the Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan
Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee for Culture — **Nizami JAFAROV**

Member of the Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan — **Sadagat VALİYEVA**

TURKPA Secretary General — **Ramil HASANOV**

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Foreign Relations and Protocol Department of the Parliament of the Republic of Turkey. — **Serhat Bülent ERTEN**

Almaty, 15 January 2012