

International Election Observation Mission of the Organization of Turkic States Elections of Deputies of Local Councils of the Kyrgyz Republic

(18 November 2024)

STATEMENT

Upon the invitation extended by the Central Commission on Elections and Referendums of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Secretariat of the Organization of Turkic States (OTS) deployed an Election Observation Mission (EOM) to observe the elections of Deputies of Local Councils of the Kyrgyz Republic which was held on 17 November 2024.

The Mission was consisted of officials from the Secretariat of the OTS, Republic of Azerbaijan, Republic of Kazakhstan and Republic of Uzbekistan and conducted its activities in accordance with the national legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic, as well as generally recognized rules on the organization and conduct of elections.

During the pre-election process, the Mission had a meeting with Ms. Nurzhan Shaildabekova, Chairman of the Central Commission on Elections and Referendums of the Kyrgyz Republic in which, the Mission was thoroughly informed on every aspect of the election process.

Furthermore, Central Commission on Elections and Referendums made a comprehensive presentation on 16 November 2024 for the international observation missions present in Bishkek. At the presentation, detailed information provided and questions of the officials of the international observation missions were addressed in a clear and satisfying manner. In line with the information provided during the informative meeting by the Central Commission on Elections and Referendums, 3 important items were noted. Firstly, the election threshold was reduced from 7% to 5%. Secondly, in the elections of Deputies of Local Councils, evoting system is being used for the first time. Thirdly, updated biometric identification system was adopted.

On the Election Day, the Mission visited 16 polling stations in Bishkek and Kant. Tabulation of ballots and results was 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. The Mission did not find any evidence of intervention of administrative or law enforcement authorities in the activities of the polling stations.

Considering the span of the elections, it seems obvious that the Central Commission on Elections and Referendums made utmost effort for the preparation as well as in the course of the election process.

In line with the electoral law, 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 did not detect any serious issues, which would affect the results of the election. The Mission also notes that the public order was secured at the visited polling stations.

Furthermore, the Mission did not detect any campaign materials, coercion by any political group, and leakage of voting bulletins during the Elections.

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. The polls have been prepared in compliance with the electoral law. In conclusion, International Election Observation Mission of the OTS affirms the compliance of the voting process with the domestic legislation and international standards.

We would like to congratulate Kyrgyz Republic and fraternal Kyrgyz people for holding the elections successfully.

We express our belief that the results of the elections would contribute to further development and prosperity in the country, empowering the unity of the Kyrgyz society as well as strengthening the brotherly relations within the Turkic World.