



**OPENNESS, PUBLICITY, EQUAL RIGHTS AND
FAIRNESS THE KEY PRINCIPLES OF ELECTIONS
OF PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN
ON 4 DECEMBER 2016**





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Compiled and edited by
N. Nurmatov

Translated by
Sh. Gulomov, R. Rahimov, Edited by B. Ergashev

The collection contains major documents and materials related to the outcomes of presidential ballot in Uzbekistan that took place on December 4, 2016, as well as the feedback by mission chiefs of international organizations (the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States, Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Association of World Electoral Bodies, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation) and foreign observers, provided at briefings and press conferences, outlined in statements and numerous interviews to national and foreign mass media regarding the preparation, organization and conduct of elections.

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**RESOLUTION
OF THE CENTRAL ELECTION COMMISSION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN**

**ON THE OUTCOMES OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS IN THE
REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN CONDUCTED
ON DECEMBER 4, 2016**

In accordance with Articles 90 and 117 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Articles 14, 35, 36 of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan «On the Elections of President of the Republic of Uzbekistan», Articles 5 and 9 of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan «On the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan» and on the basis of the protocols of district election commissions on the elections of President of the Republic of Uzbekistan related to the results of elections, the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan

R E S O L V E S:

1. To recognize the elections of President of the Republic of Uzbekistan as valid and held in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan «On the Elections of President of the Republic of Uzbekistan».

2. To consider **MIRZIYOYEV Shavkat Miromonovich** elected to the post of President of the Republic of Uzbekistan for a period of five years with 88.61 percent of the votes in the elections held on 4 December 2016 on an alternative basis.

3. To publish this resolution on the official website of the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan, as well as in other sources.

**Chairman
of the Central Election Commission**

M. ABDUSALOMOV

*Tashkent,
December 9, 2016*

**WE WILL BUILD FREE, DEMOCRATIC
AND PROSPERING UZBEKISTAN WITH OUR
COURAGEOUS AND MAGNANIMOUS PEOPLE**

*Address by Shavkat Mirziyoyev at the joint session of the chambers of
Oliy Majlis convened to a solemn ceremony of assuming the post
of President of the Republic of Uzbekistan*

Dear compatriots!

Distinguished Chairman of the Senate and the senators!

Esteemed Speaker and the deputies!

Ladies and gentlemen!

First of all, while addressing you, my dears, and in your person our entire nation, allow me time and again to extend gratitude from the bottom of my heart to all fellow countrymen and women, who have expressed high confidence on me and elected to the post of President of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Today, standing at this high rostrum, I convey heartfelt thankfulness to the representatives of all ethnicities living in our country, to the esteemed seniors, our kind and beloved women and energetic youth. I consider it both my duty and obligation to bow low to our diligent and magnanimous people who possess elevated human qualities.

I consider such a noble trust shown to me by you, my dear compatriots, our people and the nation as a big honor and enormous responsibility. I promise to devote my strength and energy, knowledge and experience, my whole self to meet this generous confidence, which cannot be compared to or weighed by anything.

I especially thank all members of the Liberal Democratic Party of Uzbekistan who nominated me to run for President of the Republic of Uzbekistan and supported me during the entire election campaign.

Along with this, I once again communicate my appreciation to the chairman of the Central Council of the People's Democratic Party Khatamjon Ketmonov, the chairman of the Central Council of Milliy Tiklanish Democratic Party Sarvar Otamuratov and the chairman of the Political Council of Adolat Social Democratic Party Narimon Umarov, who have participated in these elections conducted on alternative basis.

Taking this opportunity, I also express my deep gratitude, innermost esteem and high respect to the heads of state, leaders of international organizations, political and public figures, who have sent their congratulations to me, along with the chiefs of diplomatic missions of foreign nations in our country, who have supported us during the electoral process and are doing it at all times and attending our session today.

Dear compatriots!

All of us are well aware that each and every sovereign state has its own unique history and culture. The people of this nation are duly considered to be those who truly create and make this history and this culture. The centuries-long history of our Uzbekistan and the period of its last 25-year development, the progress aimed at strengthening its state independence and sovereignty has once again confirmed this truth.

The powerful and decisive force of this creative process is, no doubt, our multiethnic people. All of us are well aware of the thorny periods and hard trials in the millennia-long history of the Uzbek people. The latest history of Uzbekistan and our world-known achievements afford us a solid ground to rely with confidence that our brave and steadfast people are capable of overcoming any difficulty, barriers and trials with their strength and willpower.

We safeguard and preserve the bright memory of our ancestors and eternally cherish it in our hearts and souls. We are boundlessly proud of our teachers, mentors and contemporaries who have dedicated their lives to the comprehensive progress of our dear Motherland by demonstrating in practice an unbending will as well as a model of selflessness and audacity.

Today, I call upon the chambers of Oliy Majlis, political parties and movements, public organizations and our entire nation to unite efforts along the path of one objective bequeathed to us by the First President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, distinguished Islam Abduganievich Karimov.

This noble task is to build a steadily advancing, free, prosperous and democratic country.

At present, Uzbekistan has its own commendable place and status in the international community. We are open for a close cooperation and practical dialogue with all states in the world. The latest democratic electoral process has confirmed it brightly.

As you know, nearly 600 observers from 5 prestigious international organizations and 46 states have monitored the elections. Crucially, the Office on Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe has sent a full-scale mission to our country for the

first time. That is to say, about 200 representatives from 32 member nations – and it is a significant number – have observed the ballot and the entire process, particularly from the point of democratic principles.

Our citizens expressed their will, demonstrated high political consciousness and active civic stance in the voting process. This in turn brightly suggests that our people are looking to the future with big confidence and responsibility.

We consider the election results, first of all, as a fair and true assessment given by our compatriots to the democratic reforms being undertaken in Uzbekistan, to the strategic program for near- and long-term progress.

All foreign observers openly and unanimously acknowledged that the elections were conducted in the atmosphere of sound competition and struggle among the political parties, in full conformity with the provisions of our national legislation, the universally acclaimed international standards on elections, and in the spirit of freedom and openness. In the announcement of the final conclusions on the election results made recently by the Central Election Commission this truth has once again been confirmed. There is no doubt that all of us are pleased with such a high recognition and acclaim.

Dear friends!

Today, as I assume the post of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, I comprehensively and deeply feel and realize as a head of state the very enormous responsibility on my shoulders and to what extent it is difficult and responsible to govern the big nation and the big country of 32 million people as continuing the work of the great state and political figure, our dear teacher Islam Karimov.

Our first President with his multifaceted political activity and noble human qualities has left an indelible and bright trace in the centuries-long history of our Motherland. Our great leader was recognized as a prominent person and figure, who earned a profound respect, authority and acclaim not only in Uzbekistan, but also throughout the world.

Therefore, thousands of our fellow-countrymen and women have been sending their proposals and recommendations on perpetuating the memory of our dear tutor. All of them are being extensively studied by the state commission. A separate resolution shall be adopted in this respect.

Dear participants of the session!

As I assume the enormous responsibility of being a leader of Uzbekistan, in today's situation of rapid globalization in the world, intensification of clashes of various interests in the international community and given the tense situation of the ongoing global economic and financial crisis, I lean, first of all, upon our time-honored and wise people, your trust, help and assistance, my dear compatriots.

All of you are well aware during the election campaign I have held many meetings and conversations with voters and the representatives of various layers of population. The practical proposals and lawful appeals enunciated at those open dialogues and the concrete measures taken to implement them, to be frank, have also served for me as yet another big school of life. The final conclusions of such meetings and conversations will serve as a program guideline for me in my very important and responsible activity as the President of the country.

Today, the time itself puts forward before all of us, and primarily before me as the President of Uzbekistan, the new and very responsible tasks.

I consider it appropriate to briefly inform you today in our session about these major tasks.

First, we will steadfastly, resolutely and consistently continue the broad-scale political, economic and social reforms started by our dear First President Islam Abduganievich Karimov.

This path is a solid foundation of building a free, democratic, humane state, establishing a civil society, raising the economic might of our Homeland and ensuring its further progress.

As the President of the country, I consider it to be my major duty and task to strictly and unconditionally comply with the provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, ensure the rule of law, conduct the internal and foreign policy, which ensures the rights and freedoms of citizens.

I think that certainly you are well aware of the fact that I have enunciated my ideas related to the practical efforts in terms of implementation of these fundamental principles in the address I had made at the solemn session dedicated to the 24th anniversary of our Constitution.

In this regard, I ask the Speaker of the Legislative Chamber, deputies, the Chairman of the Senate and the senators along with State advisors of the President and the Government jointly elaborate the set of concrete measures on further improving and strengthening the legal foundations of the reforms and transformations to be implemented in our country.

Second, I consider it my priority task to preserve as the apple of my eye and strengthen the interethnic and civil accord, the atmosphere of mutual respect, mercy and kindness reigning in our country.

It is well-known that the freedom of conscience and religion and the rights of representatives of various nationalities are equally guaranteed and the atmosphere of religious tolerance is being consolidated in our country. At present, the representatives of more than 130 nationalities and ethnicities live in Uzbekistan in mutual harmony. The religious organizations belonging to 16 confessions are freely functioning.

It will remain in the focus of our attention to further consolidate the mutual friendship and accord reigning in our society, ensure the equal rights for all citizens irrespective of their nationality, religion and faith. It absolutely won't be allowed in Uzbekistan to disseminate the extremist and radical ideas, which would sow discord among representatives of various ethnicities.

The ever intensifying bloody conflicts and confrontations, the danger of terrorism and extremism in some regions of the world today require us to be always vigilant and alert. In this respect, such resolute tasks as providing for the security and inviolability of Uzbekistan's borders, solidifying the defense capability of our country and not allowing any evil to the country's doorsteps will always remain in the focus of our attention.

Today, I deem it necessary to once again underscore the very idea, which is important from the principle point of view: Uzbekistan and its magnanimous people are consistently and solidly upholding the position of conducting a peaceful policy and implementing the principles of respectful approach to national and universal values. However, if it is necessary, we are capable of fiercely striking back against any attempts which threaten the sovereignty and independence of our country, the peaceful and tranquil life of our people. Therefore, I would like to address to our nation that no one should have any doubt about that. We have sufficient strength and power for that.

Taking this opportunity, I express my sincere gratitude to the privates and sergeants, officers and generals of the Armed Forces, National Security Service, border and interior troops, as well as all servicemen for their loyalty to their oath and sacred duty.

I am confident that you will continue showing the example of high professional skills, bravery and courage and will remain devoted to your patriotic duty related to preserving and consolidating peace and stability in our country.

I ask the Security Council at the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan along with the Ministry of Defense and leadership of other structures to present in the near days the set of measures on preparing for and worthily celebrating the 25th anniversary of our Armed Forces. In this respect, it is expedient to introduce the proposals on decorating the deserving servicemen not only with recently instituted insignia, but also the high state awards.

Third, we consider it our primary task to further and broadly solidify the feeling of justice in our life – the very feeling, which has been revered and prioritized over anything by our people for centuries. In this respect, the words with a deep meaning of our great sakhirkiran (great leader, commander), forefather Amir

Temur: «Let justice be our company in each and every deed and a guideline program» must turn for each of us into a life credo.

This issue is first of all an immediate task of the heads and employees of state government and governance bodies, the entire judicial system, prosecutor's office, interior and supervisory structures, as well as the authorized person of the Oliy Majlis for human rights.

We should take the strict measures in our society in terms of struggling against corruption, various crimes and other cases of infringement of law, not allowing them to happen, as well as ensuring in practice the provisions of law that stipulate the inevitability of punishment of crime.

I think and I am confident that the deputies and senators, broad public and our entire nation will certainly endorse these efforts of our country in this important sphere of building a law-governed and democratic state.

In further deepening the democratic reforms and implementing the concept of developing a civil society, we believe that, as it was before, the citizens' self-governance bodies – makhallas, as well as the non-state, non-profit organizations, free and impartial mass media will take an active place. In implementing the important principle, namely, **«From a strong state to a strong civil society»**, above all, we will lean upon the strength and capabilities of such social institutions.

In this regard, we will pay a special attention to the realization of the provisions on consolidating the institution of public control as the most important foundation of democracy enshrined in the Article 32 of our country's Constitution, the laws and other documents such as **«On the transparent activity of the state government and governance bodies»** and **«On the social partnership»**.

In this important work we will hope for and lean upon the advice and active assistance by all our citizens, above all, our esteemed and time-honored elderly and the representatives of greater generation with a profound life experience.

It was thanks to the selfless labor of this particular generation that the large industrial complexes were built and modernized in its own time in our country. Thanks to their wit, intellect and efforts, the new branches of the industry based on high technologies were established, the rare infrastructure facilities were built, the movement of farmers was founded, the look of our towns and villages has radically changed.

It was thanks to the great love, kindness and selflessness of these particular esteemed persons towards our Motherland that the solid foundation of the state of independent Uzbekistan was established.

Taking today's opportunity, allow me to express my high respect, esteem and sincere wishes to our dear elderly and veterans of labor for their diligent services

along the path of the progress of our country and wish all of them a long life, sound health, happiness and well-being.

In this regard, I would like to especially emphasize one idea: strengthening the attention and practical care for the persons of old age and the representatives of elder generation, increasing their pensions, bettering healthcare, social and consumer services for them will continue to remain as one of the most important tasks both for the President, our Government and all hokimiyats (governor's and mayor's offices).

For this purpose, at present the set of broad-scale measures was elaborated on strengthening the state support of pensioners, lone elderly and people with disabilities. They will be unconditionally implemented. The additional necessary measures will be taken to increase the number of employees of the «Nuroni» and «Makhalla» foundations, improving their material and technical basis, further raising their role and status in our society.

Our dear women, who are the priceless virtue of the Almighty Creator, dear mothers, kind spouses, cherished sisters, beloved daughters and grandchildren always care about us, boundlessly believe and render strength and assistance to us along the path of overcoming all barriers and achieving our objectives.

We are eternally indebted to you for your motherly mercy and kindness, womanly charm and compassion.

For this purpose, we consider it our most important task to actively continue the state policy on protecting the health of mothers and children, giving jobs to women taking into account their living conditions, creating comprehensive opportunities on alleviating hardships of our sisters, raising the place and prestige of women in our socio-political life.

All of us are well-aware that Uzbekistan is rich with raw and natural resources and boasts with powerful economic and human potential. However, our biggest wealth is an enormous intellectual and spiritual potential of our people. We know well and highly cherish that our respected intelligentsia – the people of science, techniques, and above all, our academicians, the people culture, literature, art and the representatives of sport are diligently and selflessly working in creating and further multiplying this potential.

We should consider as our primary task to comprehensively support the scientific and creative research by these hard working people and create the necessary conditions for them. With such an aim, our government will elaborate and implement the concrete measures.

Today, the pivotal appeal, namely **«Our children must be stronger, more knowledgeable, smarter and certainly happier than us!»** took a solid place in the

minds and hearts of each of us, the parents and broad public. At present, the youth up to 30 years of age make up 32 percent of our country's population, or 10 million people. The fact that our youth is turning into a decisive force of our today and tomorrow capable of rightfully assuming the responsibility for the future of our Homeland makes all of us proud and pleased.

We must take to the logical end our broad-scale work being accomplished in this sphere, in particular, our national programs adopted on education and upbringing.

With such a goal, the most important task of the Government, relevant ministries and departments, entire system of education, our esteemed teachers and professors is to take our work up to a new level on giving a comprehensive education to younger generation, upbringing it as physically and spiritually mature persons. The time itself necessitates upgrading our work aimed at creating the modern jobs for our younger generation and ensuring it to take a commendable place in life.

We will continue the state policy on the youth with resolve and consistency. We will not only continue, but we will raise this policy to the higher level in line with the latest requirements as our top priority task.

We will channel all available strength and capabilities of our state and society to raise our youth as happy and independently thinking people with high intellectual and spiritual potential, who stand not inferior in any sphere to their contemporaries in the world.

Fourth, the implementation of the important principle and priority task as ensuring the steady growth of our economy will remain as a strategic objective for me as head of the state.

Above all, we should accelerate the work started on further deepening the reforming and liberalization of economy, structural changing its branches and sectors. Such issues as modernizing the sectors and areas, increasing the level of their competitiveness and developing their export potential should constantly be in the focus of our attention.

For this purpose, we need to more actively attract the foreign investments, advanced technologies and information-communication systems to all spheres.

On this particular basis we should increase the gross domestic product of our country over two-fold by 2030.

The issues of reforming the agriculture and ensuring the food security, no doubt, will remain as one of the most important tasks for us. Most importantly, a profound attention will be paid to consistently developing the complex of agricultural industry and its locomotive, i.e. the diversified farming entities, which are its driving force.

The resolution of the set of issues related to reducing the participation of state in the economy to the strategically reasonable level, further developing and protecting private ownership will be defined as a top priority task for the government, relevant bodies of state governance and hokimiyats (governor's and mayor's offices) of all levels.

Our another important task is to support and promote the small business and entrepreneurship, create the comfortable conditions for increasing the share of this sphere in consolidating the economic potential of our country, peace, stability and social accord in Uzbekistan.

Since, a business person sustains not only himself and his family, but also the people and the society.

I am never tired of reiterating that **if people are affluent, then the state is well-off and powerful!!!**

Therefore, from now on, hindering on the development of entrepreneurship will be considered as hindering the policy of state and the policy of the President. I deem it important and necessary to once again underscore this posture which is critical from the fundamental point of view.

During meetings with voters, I got deeply convinced that this particular demand was resolutely supported not only by businesspeople, but also the broad layers of our population.

Fifth, the efficiency of the economic reforms and social changes which we are accomplishing is measured, first of all, to what extent they are affecting the material state, well-being and enhancement of the quality of the living standards of population.

For this purpose, we have elaborated the concrete measures to gradually increase the wages, pensions, allowances and stipends and they will certainly be implemented.

Starting from 2017, the new system will be introduced on providing jobs for the population, first of all, the graduates of lyceums, vocational colleges and higher educational institutions.

Expanding the production of consumer goods and fully meeting such needs of the population, in particular, fully providing our people with variety of food products at affordable prices are among the important tasks before us.

With an aim of protecting a human health, which is considered to be the priceless wealth for us, the Government should concentrate its attention on implementation of the set of measures on radically improving the sphere of healthcare, above all, the activity of its branches of primary healthcare and rural medical stations, further development of the specialized centers

rendering services based on emergency healthcare and high technologies. In this respect, the other day the leadership cadres in the system of the Ministry of Healthcare have been entirely renewed and it can be said it was reinforced!

All of you are well aware that for over the last time the concrete measures have been taken on improving the system of price setting for medicines and medical items. We will resolutely continue this work.

Such reforms are especially worth noting due to the fact that they are aimed at cardinally improving the quality of medical services to the population and supplying it with medicines.

You are well aware that some of the 15 targeted programs aimed at 2017-2021 were adopted and started to be implemented. In the near term, the work on approving the rest of them will be completed.

All of the mentioned programs pursue one goal. They will be directed to tackling a number of urgent issues related to comprehensive development in the near 5 years of residential areas, especially, the rural areas, districts and cities, establishing modern engineering-communication, social and market infrastructure.

Sixth, I consider it the most important and priority task for me to take the concrete measures on constantly conversing with people, implementing their lawful demands, appeals and proposals.

From now on, the system will be established, according to which, not only the government, but also the relevant ministries and departments, economic entities, including the governors and mayors will be reporting on the outcomes of their activity in this direction. Their activity shall be evaluated based on the aforementioned.

Therefore, I demand from each and every head and official to undertake a consistent and efficient work on this particular basis.

You are well aware that we have announced 2017 as the Year of Dialogue with People and of Human Interests. However, all of us well understand that the dialogue with people, talking to them, living with their problems and concerns and ensuring the human interests is not a one-year work for us.

This issue will remain the top priority task in our forthcoming five-year activity. And all of us must deeply and well comprehend this truth.

Since, whatever work we will accomplish in our country along the path of building a new state and new society, we will do all of it in consultation with our people:

- It is this people who brought us up and raised us.
- It is this people who sustained all of us.
- It is this people who placed trust on us and elected us as leaders.

Thus, who should we talk with in the first instance? We should talk with our people.

Whom should we consult with in carrying out our work: first of all, we should consult with our people? Then our people will be pleased with us.

If people are pleased with us, then there will be efficiency and blessing in our work.

If people are pleased with us, the Almighty Creator shall be pleased with us.

In this regard, we should recall the phrases with deep meaning written by our great forefather Alisher Navoiy, which go as follows: «**Odamiy ersang, demagil odami, onikim, yoq khalq ghamidan ghami**».

It means that living with problems and concerns of people in this world is the highest quality of being a human.

By this maxim our great ancestor underscores that a person, who is far from the problems of the people, cannot be considered as an integral part of a human society.

One can be astonished of how these immortal phrases go in full harmony with our current life, our dreams and aspirations and deeds.

In the activity of all state bodies, we should switch to qualitatively absolutely new system on working with the population's appeals.

In particular, starting from 2017 the system will be introduced, according to which, the governors and mayors of all levels, the heads of prosecutor's office and interior bodies will be reporting to the people.

Along with this, as we stated before, it will be necessary to establish the «public receptions» in each and every district and city and ensure their full-scale activity.

It is necessary to clearly define the legal status of these receptions, their authorities and obligations and establish the activity of such a system in which not a single appeal must be left without consideration.

In evaluating the activity of state bodies and officials, such principles as ensuring lawfulness, to what extent the citizens' rights and freedoms are protected, the quality and openness of rendering the public services for them must be most important criterion for us.

In this respect, once again I want to emphasize one notion. It is not the people who should serve the government bodies, but it is the government bodies who should serve our people.

In this regard, we should raise the efficiency of the system currently in force related to critically analyzing the implementation of the most important social-economic tasks, the purposeful programs on branches and sectors, priority investment projects and other urgent objectives.

Along with this, the practice shall be newly introduced, according to which, the heads of the complexes and economic branches of the Cabinet of Ministers, as well as governors and mayors will have personal reporting hearing before the President.

The Government, governors and mayors' offices shall be instructed to unconditionally implement the set of measures along with ministries and departments elaborated on the outcomes of meetings with voters and broad layers of population and aimed at tackling the problematic issues in terms of development of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, all regions and the city of Tashkent in 2017-2021.

I deem it very important to actively continue the work on extensively studying the lawful appeals and complaints being sent today by citizens not only to the electronic mail and reception of the Prime Minister, but also to the President and tackling the issues being raised in them.

Generally speaking, from now on, the results of the activity of the heads of ministries and departments and economic entities, as well as governors and mayors will be evaluated not based on the blank economic indicators, but based on how they engage with people and organize their work, to what extent the citizens' problems are resolved. Afterwards, a relevant conclusion will be made.

If the mark is positive and if the people are pleased, then we thank them. And if vice versa, we bid farewell to such heads!!!

Dear friends!

The fact of implementation of the broad-scale tasks before us, first of all, demands from me as a head of the state, three branches of state power, as well as all heads and officials a strict discipline.

Today, the life itself requires to properly organizing our work, ensuring its efficiency and qualitatively upgrading the activity of the entire system of governance in line with the latest requirements.

Certainly, I deeply comprehend that all changes that we are planning are quiet multi-faceted and very important.

However, no matter what obstacles and hardships, the tense and urgent problems we are going to face with, we don't have a right to adopt resolutions in rush and in a chaotic way, and we don't have a right to allow for poorly thought-out actions.

others. Thus, they will establish their own even a small company, will lawfully earn income, financially sustain both themselves and their families and will make a worthy contribution to the development of our makhalla, district, town, region and country. The main goal of this policy is to create the broad conditions and opportunities for each and every citizen to realize his strength and capacity, his talent and potential.

Less than 15 days have left until the end of the year 2016. In order to successfully conclude the outgoing year, achieve the set goals and create a solid foundation for ensuring a stable development and accelerated growth rates of our country we need to channel all our efforts.

I ask the leadership of the Cabinet of Ministers to comprehensively and thoroughly implement these tasks and provide a detailed report on this at the governmental meeting due next year in January.

Dear participants of the session!

According to Article 78 of our country's Basic Law, in modernizing the country, ensuring reforming and democratizing our society, the important place and responsibility was laid on the Legislative Chamber and the Senate of Oliy Majlis.

For this purpose, the following three tasks should be implemented.

The first task, it must be ensured that the instructions defined at the solemn meeting on December 7, 2016 must be concretely realized.

You are well aware that at the festive ceremony held on the occasion of the anniversary of our Constitution, I have addressed to the deputies and senators with one proposal.

My proposal was about that with an aim to create the influential mechanisms of the parliamentary and public control, it was necessary to introduce the procedure according to which they should learn the true state of affairs in the cities and districts and introduce the report of the relevant heads to the sessions of the councils of people's deputies.

For this purpose, the deputies and senators of Oliy Majlis, elected from each region, on a monthly basis need to travel to a district for 10-12 days. They should thoroughly learn, analyze and draw the relevant conclusions about the activity of the local government bodies, prosecutor's office and interior department. Based on this, our distinguished Speaker and the Chairman of Senate must lead the discussions of these issues with local kengashes (councils). If such a system is introduced, certainly, tomorrow it will give its positive efficiency.

The second task – it is necessary to undertake monitoring the implementation in practice of the Law «On the parliamentary supervision» in all spheres,

including learning and introducing the advanced experience of foreign countries in this respect.

Therefore, yesterday an important issue was discussed at the session of the Senate of Oliy Majlis and the relevant resolution was adopted.

It is well-known that one of our priority tasks in the sphere of economy is to further consolidate the economic ties with foreign states and further enhance the international prestige of Uzbekistan through broadly propagating its economic capabilities abroad, accelerate the attraction of investments and further developing the sphere of tourism.

Thus, with an aim to create the system of effective parliamentary supervision over the activity of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other state departments in this direction, the post of the First Deputy Chairman of Senate was instituted. From now on the activity of the relevant Senate committee will be radically improved.

I want to especially underscore the significance and importance of the third task, i.e. we should take the concrete influence mechanisms in terms of each situation related to non-implementation of the provisions of law.

We need to continue to better the activity of the bodies of state power at the local level, the governors' and mayors' offices of all levels and the councils of the people's deputies. Therefore, it would be expedient, to introduce the practice of organizing the work of exemplary councils of people's deputies turn by turn in each region by the Senate of Oliy Majlis.

Their main goal and task is to have a constant dialogue with all layers of the population and not only learn about the demands and the needs of citizens but to tackle them as well.

We need to create comprehensively comfortable conditions on tackling the available problems in practice, as well as ensuring for the population to freely work, have a decent leisure time and commendable living standards.

Proceeding from these criteria, we can make conclusions about the efficiency of the activity of local bodies of state authority on implementing the Articles 100 and 101 of the Constitution of our country.

Therefore, I would like to especially underline that 2017 was announced in our country as «The Year of Dialogue with People and the Human Interests».

All of us are well aware that we need to carry out a lot aimed **at enhancing the entire system of work with cadres** in order to implement the broad-scale tasks before us.

At present, it can be observed that in many instances in state and governance bodies the utilization of cadre potential, distribution of their duties and authorities is not reasonably and efficiently arranged.

The worst is that this situation hinders our work. If you look at one agency, there are hundreds of employees who work there just nominally. If you look at another one, there is a lot of work and tasks, but not enough people and there is a lack of staff.

The time has come to put an end to such incorrect distribution of labor. Each state employee must clearly know his duties and obligations, simply speaking, to be able to cope with his responsibilities.

This is the requirement of contemporary time. If we do not fulfill this work ourselves in order to accomplish our tasks and objectives, no one will come from beyond and do it for us.

From this point of view, I believe the time has come to develop a targeted program, which would encompass the important issues of forming the practical cadre reserve, their training and retraining. The main task is to form the new corps of managerial staff and officials with high professional skills and modern thinking, be capable of making the well thought-out and comprehensively correct decisions, and achieving the set goals.

In this a special attention must be paid to training the skilled cadres for the regional governance bodies, above all, for the governors' and mayor's offices of districts and cities.

For this purpose, the scientific and practical potential and capabilities of 6 academies, the Scientific-Education Center of Corporate Management at the Cabinet of Ministers along with educational institutions must be more actively mobilized.

In this regard, it will be correct to say that the Academy of State Administration at the President is completely not fulfilling the task entrusted upon it. Therefore, we are forced to cardinaly change the working method of this Academy and reconsider its managerial staff.

Along with this, it is required to enhance the duties and authorities of local governors' and mayor's offices.

The relevant proposals are being elaborated on delegating the additional authorities to local governors' and mayor's offices considering their role in comprehensive development of regions, implementation of social-economic programs, ensuring implementation of laws, efficient coordination of the activity of bodies of state power at the local level.

Dear friends!

You are well aware that the approaches and position of our state in the sphere of foreign policy have been thoroughly outlined in the address dedicated to the Constitution Day.

In addition to those ideas, I would like to say that we consider deep studying and practical implementation of the best practices in the world as one of the

important conditions of successful fulfillment of the broad-scale tasks before us. We will organize the close cooperation with foreign states, above all, the neighboring countries, as well as the international institutions in line with today's requirements and based on mutual trust and consideration of mutual interests.

The relations of cooperation with businessmen, who have demonstrated themselves as reliable partners, will certainly be continued in Uzbekistan.

In this regard, the newly established Senate committee is required to consistently fulfill the tasks entrusted upon it.

Dear fellow countrymen and women!

All of us realize well that more enormous tasks are awaiting us. We will build the great future of our Motherland along with you, my dear compatriots. Together with our brave and noble people we will certainly achieve our goals.

May the Almighty support all of us in this cause!

I wish all of you a sound health, happiness and success, peace and harmony, opulence and abundance to your homes!

May our land be peaceful, our skies blue, and our people always safe!

Thank you for your attention.

ELECTIONS OF PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN UNDER THE ELECTION LEGISLATION SECURED FREE EXPRESSION OF CITIZENS' WILL

On December 4, 2016, the most significant political event took place – the elections of President of the Republic of Uzbekistan which once again demonstrated the commitment of the people of Uzbekistan to the chosen path of development. Citizens of the country, having taken active part in the voting process, showed a high level of political awareness and once again expressed their support for the course of the underway reforms in the country.

The elections were conducted in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the laws «On guarantees of electoral rights of citizens» and «On the elections of President of the Republic of Uzbekistan» while securing the citizens' right to free expression of will and observance of the principles of universal, equal and direct suffrage by secret ballot.

Undoubtedly, elections are the main form for the expression of the will of the people and their direct participation in political life, state and public management, and the formation of state power. The creation of modern, democratic and dynamic conditions for our dynamic development of the electoral system, ensuring the free and active participation of citizens and political parties in electoral process, reliable guarantees for the full implementation of electoral rights, have become one of the key priorities of the policy of updating and modernizing the country in the years of independence.

The election campaign of 2016 for the election of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan was carried out in the context of significantly increased inter-party competition, political and civil activity of the population. Having realized the large-scale reforms, Uzbekistan has made tremendous progress in democratization and liberalization of political, economic and humanitarian spheres. Our main achievements, first of all, have been the consolidation of peace, stability and civil harmony in the country, stable economic growth rates, constant improvement of the well-being, level and quality of life of the population.

It is of fundamental importance that the consistent reforms were carried out simultaneously aimed at the formation and advancement of a civil society in the country. Profound changes in people's thinking, their civic position, and a

growing sense of belonging to the destiny of their Motherland were the most essential factor and source of these positive transformations.

All this was expected from political parties that decided to participate in the elections of the head of state, to raise their work to a higher political level, to improve the electoral programs of their candidates nominated for the presidency of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The legal basis for the preparation and conduct of presidential elections is the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, in which, it was enshrined that the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan shall be elected by the citizens of the country on the basis of universal, equal and direct suffrage via secret ballot. In addition, a package of laws regulating the whole process of elections of the head of state has been formed over the years of independence: the laws «On the Guarantees of Electoral Rights of Citizens», «On the Elections of President of the Republic of Uzbekistan», «On the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan» and a number of other legislative acts.

The irreversibility of the ongoing transformations, their effectiveness are conditioned, first of all, by the evolutionary character of the Uzbek Model of reforms. They were implemented step-by-step and consistently in the formation of a democratic electoral system which ensured its solidity and sustainability. At the same time, it laid the ground for further advancement – on the basis of the calls of times and the enhancement of reforms. The corresponding tasks were set in the Concept of further deepening of democratic reforms and formation of civil society in the country approved by the Oliy Majlis in 2010. The measures defined in this program document to intensify the democratization of public administration and enhancement of the multiparty system were of key importance. To this end, the Basic Law was introduced amendments aimed at further improving the system of checks and balances between the branches of government.

In addition, amendments and additions were made to the electoral legislation to better implement the principle of freedom of choice, to increase the effectiveness of securing equal conditions for political parties and candidates nominated by them in the course of election campaigning, and improving the legal mechanisms for ensuring transparency in the electoral process. In accordance with introduced amendments to Article 117 of the Constitution of the country, the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan has the status of a constitutional body that occupies a special place in the system of state power which ensures the preparation and conduct of elections without any interference by other state authorities. The main principles of the commission's activities are independence, legitimacy, collegiality, openness and justice. All this has strengthened the

guarantees of securing the free expression of the will of voters and the democracy of elections.

Amendments to the legislation on the election of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2015 gave a clear definition for the concept of «pre-election agitation», legislatively defined the conditions, types, permissible forms and methods of its conduct. These amendments created all the necessary organizational and legal conditions for the candidates of the Presidency of the Republic of Uzbekistan to bring the essence and content of their pre-election programs and their positions on the solution of the most pressing issues of socio-economic and political development of the country to the voters' notice under the healthy competition. The norms were fixed according to which the election campaigning shall not be allowed not only on the day of elections, but also the day before the start of voting. In addition, the rules regulating the procedure for early voting and the establishment of electoral precincts in places of detention were also stipulated.

All legislative acts adopted in Uzbekistan are aimed at strict observance of citizens' electoral rights based on the principles of equity, publicity, openness and transparency, creating the necessary conditions for voters to freely participate in elections, broad and equal opportunities in the course of the election campaign to political parties and their nominated candidates.

The independent election commissions provide the organization and conduct of elections in accordance with the requirements of the law and are headed by the Central Election Commission. The most significant feature of the national electoral system is the legislatively fixed system of independent election commissions.

It should be noted that the activities of election commissions of all levels and all events at each stage of the election process are clearly regulated by the law, as well as by the program of major events in preparing and conducting the elections of President of the Republic of Uzbekistan developed by the Central Election Commission. Taking into account the tasks set in the electoral legislation for the preparation and conducting of the elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan and on the basis of a clear timetable, all relevant measures, as well as the structures responsible for them were recorded in the program. This made it possible to organize an electoral campaign at a high democratic level, to provide the necessary conditions for effective work of regional (district) and precinct election commissions, as well as for the full realization of the electoral rights of the participants in the election process – political parties, presidential candidates nominated by them and directly by the voters.

14 electoral districts and relevant precinct election commissions on the election of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan were formed by the

Central Election Commission in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, the regions and the city of Tashkent, the lists of which with the number of voters and information on the personal composition of district election commissions were published in the press. Candidatures for members of district election commissions from among high-ranking representatives of the public were preliminarily discussed at the meetings of Zhokargy Kenes of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, regional and Tashkent city Councils of people's deputies.

If we pay attention to the composition of the district election commissions, it can be noted that out of 152 members 54.6% are representatives of the social sphere, 19.7% are non-governmental non-profit organizations, and 15.7% are from the industrial sector. It is noteworthy that 56.6% of the members of the district election commissions earlier participated in the organization and conduct of the elections.

An analysis of the composition of the district election commissions shows that 23.4% of the total number of the district election commissions (DEC) members was NGO leaders and activists. In 7 out of 14, i.e. in 50% of district election commissions, representatives of NGOs were chairmen, in 4 – deputy chairmen, and in 6 districts – secretaries of the DEC. In the district election commissions there were also employees of the mass media – 8 people. The representation of women in the district election commissions was 36.8%, and 12 – in the leadership of election commissions. For comparison, in the presidential election of 2015, women in district election commissions were 15%, and in parliamentary elections in 2014 – 8%.

In accordance with the law, 9,383 polling stations were established, including 44 at the missions of the Republic of Uzbekistan in foreign states that were attached to the Tashkent city electoral district No. 14. District electoral commissions were formed, their personal composition was selected from among the candidates recommended by district and city Kengashes (Councils) of national deputies. More than 98 thousand people were involved in the activity of precinct election commissions.

A qualitative analysis of the composition of the precinct election commissions (PEC) shows that more than 47% of the total number of PEC members was women. At the same time, more than 65% of the members of their total number have a higher education degree; 27% – secondary specialized education degree; 69% – previously participated in organizing and conducting the elections. In general, the members of election commissions were formed from well-trained, competent and authoritative representatives of the public who have experience in this field.

The representation of NGOs exceeded 10% in the personnel of the precinct election commissions. 17,932 representatives of the mahalla institute, 4,870 –

the Women's Committee of Uzbekistan, 3,355 – the Public Youth Movement «Kamolot», 2,323 – professional unions were among the members of the precinct election commissions.

The regional and precinct election commissions were placed in modern buildings with all the necessary conditions and are fully provided with transport, information and communication technology services, communication facilities, including Internet access.

In order to create favorable conditions for voting of citizens with disabilities, each electoral precinct was equipped with a wheelchair ramp. In addition, one of the voting booths was adapted for the disabled. For the blind the special ballots were prepared for the first time with the use of the Braille alphabet. All this was done taking into account the fact that people with limited physical abilities are full members of society.

As it is known, the effective organization of the activities of precinct electoral commissions is one of the significant conditions for a qualitative electoral campaign. Therefore, we took an approach with even greater responsibility to the preparation of polling stations, to raising the legal knowledge of members of precinct commissions. There were elaborated a program of cascade trainings aimed at effective organization of the work of precinct election commissions. Members of the Central Election Commission, experts on electoral legislation and practice took part in these events which were organized in the republican, regional and district levels. The members of the precinct election commissions enhanced their knowledge and qualifications on such topical issues as financing the activities of precinct election commissions, the specifics of compiling voter lists, the legal basis for organizing and conducting of the voting, arranging of an early voting, voting on election day, counting of the votes at a polling station.

For the first time in the history of national electoral practice, the Program of measures aimed at further improving the legal awareness of voters in the course of the elections of President of the Republic of Uzbekistan was adopted.

The program provided a broad explanatory work on the national electoral system created in the years of independence, the essence and significance of the Law «On the elections of President of the Republic of Uzbekistan», the latest amendments and additions to it, acts of the Central Election Commission ordering the electoral process, and on the rights and freedoms of voters enshrined in the laws.

Explanatory activities were conducted in the form of round-table discussions, seminars, meetings, direct dialogues, conferences and trainings, as well as by

preparing articles and broadcasts in the media, various brochures, flyers and other handouts.

Over 30 publications and legal literature on electoral subjects were published in thousands of copies.

The program activities covered all segments of the population of our country and compatriots abroad. The Kamolot Youth Civic Movement, the Women's Committee, the Mahalla Charitable Foundation, the Republican International Cultural Center, the institutions of civil society carry out various actions in social partnership with the state authorities and government bodies in order to further enhance the legal awareness and activity of citizens.

103 thousand 698 such events were conducted of which 17 thousand 997 through the media, 81,904 – meetings, seminars, conferences. The Women's Committee of Uzbekistan and its subdivisions carried out 47,584 events on the participation of women in the electoral process. 4,473 of them were widely covered in mass media, 1,039 on television, 1,039 on radio and 2,395 in print media and online publications. 43,111 events took place in the form of meetings, round tables and seminars.

At the explanatory events aimed at increasing the legal awareness of the voters, special attention was placed on preventing cases of so-called «family» voting when one voter votes for several others. In this direction, large scale explanatory works were carried out with the participation of voters, members of regional and precinct election commissions, representatives of civil society institutions and the media in places. 100,000 propaganda posters of this subject were prepared which were placed in the public places and on the transport.

In addition, 871 events were conducted by the representatives of the Republic of Uzbekistan in foreign countries, including 365 briefings, 111 round tables, 82 seminars, 313 presentations on the essence and significance of the elections of President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, amendments and additions made to the electoral legislation. On the websites of the embassies of the Republic of Uzbekistan, 11,606 information materials and messages were posted.

All four political parties operating in the country, having submitted the necessary documents to the Central Election Commission, were allowed to participate in the elections: Milliy Tiklanish Democratic Party of Uzbekistan, the Movement of Entrepreneurs and Businesspeople – the Liberal Democratic Party of Uzbekistan, the People's Democratic Party of Uzbekistan and Adolat Social Democratic Party of Uzbekistan. Presidential candidates were nominated by the highest bodies of political parties – conducted sessions or kurultais (general sessions).

There were collected subscription lists in support of candidates. By law, the signed sheets submitted by each political party contained signatures of at least one percent of the total number of all the country's voters representing at least eight administrative-territorial regions. In one administrative-territorial region – the Republic of Karakalpakstan, the region, the city of Tashkent – a political party could collect no more than eight percent of signatures from their total number. Subscription sheets along with necessary documents were presented by political parties to the Central Election Commission for registration of candidates.

In due time, the Central Election Commission checked the submitted documents and gave an opinion on their compliance with the requirements of the law. The working groups formed by the Central Election Commission inspected the correctness of the signature lists.

On October 28, a meeting of the Central Election Commission was taken place in which the resolutions were adopted on the registration of candidates for the Presidents of the Republic of Uzbekistan and about the pre-election talks of candidates during the election campaign. The candidates for the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan were registered: from Milliy Tiklanish Democratic Party of Uzbekistan – Sarvar Sadullayevich Otamuratov, from the Movement of Entrepreneurs and Businesspeople – the Liberal Democratic Party of Uzbekistan – Shavkat Miromonovich Mirziyoyev, from the People's Democratic Party of Uzbekistan – Khatamjon Abdurakhmonovich Ketmonov and from Adolat Social Democratic Party of Uzbekistan – Narimon Majitovich Umarov. Also, the Central Election Commission registered authorized representative of each candidate to the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

From October 28 to December 2, 2016, pre-election campaigning of candidates for the post of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan was carried out. In accordance with the resolution of the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan, they were created equal conditions for the use of mass media for pre-election campaigning purposes. Each of them was provided on free basis for 638 minutes of airtime on TV and radio channels «Uzbekistan» and «Yoshlar», 206 minutes of airtime on 12 local TVs and radio channels and 286 minutes – on the television and radio channel «Toshkent» of the National Television and Radio Company of Uzbekistan, for 6 pages of printed space in the newspapers Xalq So'zi, Narodnoe Slovo, Pravda Vostoka and 5 pages in newspapers Ovozi Tojik and Nurli Djol, 55.5 pages of print space in 30 regional newspapers. In addition, by decisions of the district election commissions, 30 more pages of regional newspapers were also provided for free to the candidates.

All conditions were created for direct familiarization of voters with electoral programs, biographies of candidates through the media and during meetings of

candidates with voters. Particular attention was paid to creating conditions for citizens of different nationalities to get acquainted with the election campaign materials. Candidates to the post of President of the Republic of Uzbekistan were provided with a free print space in the newspapers *Ovozi Tojik*, *Ovozi Samarkand* published in the Tajik language, and in the newspaper *Nurly Jol* published in the Kazakh language. In general, information about the course of the election campaign was published in the media of our country in 17 languages. In addition, such publications as *Koryo Shinmun*, *Thonil – Unity* in Korean, *Apaga* in Armenian language freely published election processes on their pages.

Meetings of candidates to the post of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan and their authorized representatives with voters have taken place in all constituencies. Based on the principles of equality and justice, the district election commissions created equal conditions and opportunities for organizing meetings of candidates with voters in the field. At the same time, the opportunities of modern information and communication technologies were widely used. The meetings of the candidates took place in the mode of videoconferencing and covered thousands of voters who could directly ask questions of interest to them. In addition, meetings of the candidates were broadcasted on the TV channels of the National Television and Radio Company of Uzbekistan, which significantly increased the audience of voters. In general, 846 such meetings have been conducted by presidential candidates and their authorized representatives, which were widely covered also in other mass media.

Opportunities of printed products of pre-election content were used: brochures were published with autobiographies and electoral programs of candidates in Uzbek, Russian and Karakalpak languages with a total circulation of 392 thousand, posters with a total circulation of 492 thousand. On 2,668 billboards and 36 electronic monitors were placed pre-election materials, information clips from candidates to the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The Central Election Commission monitored this process. The outcomes of monitoring media coverage of the election campaign of candidates showed that the given air time was enough for candidates to tell voters about their electoral programs in detail. Within 5 weeks of pre-election campaigning by the candidates to the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, their authorized representatives effectively used the created conditions and opportunities. The speeches of the candidates in the media were aimed at bringing to electorate and general public of the electoral programs, positions reflected in them related to the socio-economic and socio-political development of the country. The media provided equal conditions for candidates when using given airtime and printed area.

Throughout the entire election campaign, the media adhered to the principle of equal opportunities for all candidates. In particular, on the TV channels «Uzbekistan» and «Yoshlar» candidate from the Milliy Tiklanish Democratic Party of Uzbekistan used 10 hours 38 minutes, candidate from the Movement of Entrepreneurs and Businesspeople – the Liberal Democratic Party of Uzbekistan – 7 hours 48 minutes 10 seconds, candidate from the People’s Democratic Party of Uzbekistan as a whole was allotted 10 hours 38 minutes; candidate from the Adolat Social Democratic Party of Uzbekistan – 10 hours 38 minutes of free airtime.

On 13 territorial TV channels of the National Television and Radio Company of Uzbekistan each candidate was allocated 2,758 minutes, or 45 hours 58 minutes of free airtime. The candidate from the Milliy Tiklanish Democratic Party of Uzbekistan used 45 hours 51 minutes, candidate from the Movement of Entrepreneurs and Businesspeople – the Liberal Democratic Party of Uzbekistan – 39 hours 38 minutes, the candidate from the People’s Democratic Party of Uzbekistan – 45 hours 50 minutes 30 seconds; candidate from the Adolat Social Democratic Party of Uzbekistan – 45 hours 12 minutes of free airtime.

Candidates for the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan also effectively used the opportunities of the printed space allocated for pre-election campaigning. For example, in the newspapers Xalq So’zi, Narodnoye Slovo and Pravda Vostoka candidates from the Milliy Tiklanish Democratic Party of Uzbekistan, the People’s Democratic Party of Uzbekistan, the Adolat Social Democratic Party of Uzbekistan used for their agitation 6 pages, and candidate from the Movement of Entrepreneurs and Businesspeople – the Liberal Democratic Party of Uzbekistan – 4 pages of printed space in each edition.

In the newspapers Nurly Jol and Ovozi Tojik candidates from Milliy Tiklanish Democratic Party of Uzbekistan, the People’s Democratic Party of Uzbekistan, Adolat Social Democratic Party of Uzbekistan used for agitation 5 pages each, and candidate from the Movement of Entrepreneurs and Businesspeople – the Liberal Democratic Party of Uzbekistan – respectively 4 and 3.5 pages of printed space in each edition.

In 30 territorial print media in general each candidate for the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan was given 85.5 pages of print space. At the same time, the candidate from Milliy Tiklanish Democratic Party of Uzbekistan used 73.4 pages, candidate from the Movement of Entrepreneurs and Businesspeople – the Liberal Democratic Party of Uzbekistan – 72.1 pages, candidate from the People’s Democratic Party of Uzbekistan – 73.7 pages, candidate from the Adolat Social Democratic Party of Uzbekistan – 70.7 pages of print space.

Thus, during the period of election campaigning the media observed all the requirements of legislation on ensuring equal conditions for all candidates for using the media. As a result of such a large-scale work, voters were provided with the opportunity to become thoroughly acquainted with the provisions and tasks stipulated in their electoral programs.

The Central Election Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the basis of the received protocols of the district election commissions determined that out of 20 million 461 thousand 805 voters included in the voters list, 17 million 951 thousand 667 people took part in the vote of December 4, 2016. This amounted to 87.73 percent of the total number of voters.

According to the election results, the candidate from the Milliy Tiklanish Democratic Party of Uzbekistan Sarvar Sadullaevich Otamuratov gained 421 thousand 55 votes, or 2.35 percent of those who took part in the vote, candidate from the Movement of Entrepreneurs and Businesspeople – the Liberal Democratic Party Uzbekistan Shavkat Miromonovich Mirziyoyev attained 15 million 906 thousand 724 votes, or 88.61 percent of those who participated in the vote, candidate from the People's Democratic Party of Uzbekistan Khatamjon Abdurakhmonovich Ketmonov earned 669 thousand 187 votes, or 3.73 percent of those who took part in the vote, and candidate from the Adolat Social Democratic Party of Uzbekistan Narimon Majitovich Umarov obtained 619 thousand 972 votes, or 3.46 percent of those who participated in the vote.

In accordance with Articles 90, 117 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Articles 14, 35, 36 of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan «On the elections of President of the Republic of Uzbekistan», Articles 5 and 9 of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan «On the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan», the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan decreed to consider Mirziyoyev Shavkat Miromonovich elected to the post of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The Central Election Commission at all stages and events of the election campaign on election of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan attached special attention to ensuring openness and transparency.

Mass media played important role in ensuring openness and transparency of the electoral process. For the purpose of comprehensive and objective coverage of the 2016 election campaign, the Central Election Commission concluded bilateral agreements with the National Television and Radio Company of Uzbekistan, National Information Agency of Uzbekistan, National Association of Electronic Mass Media of Uzbekistan, Jahon and Uzreport Information Agencies.

The agreements also provided for a broad explanation of the national legislation regulating the electoral process among the population. Within the framework of

these agreements, special sections were organized in print media: «Saylov – 2016» («Elections – 2016»), «December 4 – saylov kuni» (December 4 is Election Day), as well as regular broadcasts on TV and radio channel «Uzbekistan» of «Saylov – demokratiya kuzgusi» («Election is the mirror of democracy»), «Markaziy saylov komissiyasi xabarlari», «Novosti Centralnoy izbiratelnoy komissii», «The Central Election Commission's News», which explained the provisions of the laws «On the elections of President of the Republic of Uzbekistan», «On guarantees of electoral rights of citizens» and other acts of the legislation, informed the public about all stages of the election campaign in a timely manner. Qualified lawyers, scientists, experts in the field of electoral right, representatives of the parliament, public and media attended them.

In addition, clips and educational films about the work of the precinct election commission, its powers, activities on election day, guarantees of electoral rights of citizens, legal basis for presidential elections, role of civil society institutions in elections, role of the media in the elections, ensuring openness and transparency of election campaign, international electoral standards, organizational and legal bases of the voting process, system of election commissions on the elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, procedure for early voting, voting on election day and filling out the ballot paper were broadcast on the central and territorial channels of the National Television and Radio Company of Uzbekistan.

Non-state media including members of the National Association of Electronic Mass Media, as well as information and analytical Internet publications, have shown activity in covering the electoral process.

The opportunities of modern information and communication technologies were effectively used: CEC meetings, online briefings with the participation of district election commissions, as well as online seminars with representatives of press centers and journalists were held in real time. The possibilities of the Internet, outdoor advertising, advertising on transport, mobile phone text messages for broad public informing about all stages of the election campaign were used.

Since the announcement of the beginning of the election campaign for the election of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Central Election Commission on 14 meetings has adopted 68 decisions, including the formation of commissions, registration of candidates, accreditation of observers and foreign journalists. In accordance with the requirements of election laws, all news related to the election campaign were posted on the official web site of the Central Election Commission www.elections.uz in Uzbek, Russian and English. Since the beginning of the election campaign, more than 1,475 information, photo and video materials were posted on website. In addition, the web sites of information

agencies were set up, which also periodically provided information video and photo materials related to the elections.

In the press and on websites of news agencies articles, interviews and information materials, on current topics, aimed at raising the legal and information awareness of voters have been published.

The Republican Press Center for Covering the Elections of President of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the press centers of district election commissions, where all the necessary conditions for domestic and foreign media were created, have been functioning. From November 30 to December 5, 2016, for the first time in the electoral practice «Press Club: Elections – 2016», which was a social and civic initiative, carried out its activities. This multimedia platform was created by the National Association of Electronic Mass Media of Uzbekistan together with a number of non-state media. Its online connection was established with the Republican press center for covering the election of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan. As part of the work of the press club, connections were established with fifteen regional non-state television studios for direct reporting from polling stations throughout the country and the formation of objective content on preparation and conduct of the elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Various events took place in the framework of the activities of the press club, including briefings and speeches by representatives of the CEC, political parties, religious faiths and civil society, international observers, representatives of the Senate and the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Presidential elections were covered by 615 national and 272 foreign media, including 315 foreign and national online publications. The Republican press center for coverage of the elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan and press centers of district election commissions with the participation of over 1,400 domestic and foreign journalists 180 press conferences have been conducted, briefings and online briefings on important stages of the election campaign. Online briefings on the voting on election day were broadcast live on state and non-governmental TV channels, as well as on the official website of the Central Election Commission.

More than 22 thousand 700 articles and information materials, TV and radio programs concerning the preparation and holding of the elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan were published in foreign and national media.

Nearly 600 observers from 46 states of America, Europe, Asia and Africa, as well as five international organizations – the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the

Commonwealth of Independent States, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the World Association of Electoral Bodies and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, have become evidence of the democratic nature and transparency of the election campaign. More than 37 thousand observers from political parties also took part in monitoring of electoral process.

On the whole, summing up, it should be noted that the elections were held in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the laws «On guarantees of electoral rights of citizens» and «On the elections of President of the Republic of Uzbekistan», ensuring the free expression of the will of citizens, equal and direct suffrage by secret ballot.

Observers from international organizations and foreign countries, foreign journalists expressed their views and assessments on the organization and conduct of the elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan directly at polling stations, in numerous interviews with representatives of foreign and national media, at briefings and press conferences on the outcomes of observation.

This collection contains assessments and opinions of foreign observers and foreign journalists on the preparation and conduct of elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

*Mirzo-Ulugbek Abdusalomov,
Chairman of the Central Election Commission
of the Republic of Uzbekistan*

**OPINIONS OF THE OBSERVERS FROM INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS AND FOREIGN STATES ON THE PREPARATION
AND CONDUCT OF THE ELECTIONS OF PRESIDENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN**

**I. POLITICAL-LEGAL SYSTEM CREATED IN UZBEKISTAN
HAS PROVIDED FOR SUCCESSFUL
PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS**

Sergei LEBEDEV, head of the CIS observer mission:

– I am happy to say that the elections have succeeded and been recognized valid, and this is the most significant event. And what we saw at the polling stations once again confirms the thorough preparation of the bodies that were responsible for the elections in Uzbekistan. A festive atmosphere prevailed in all polling stations.

Crucially, we were pleased of the mood by the voters. We talked with them during observation of the elections, as well as with members of election commissions, with local observers. It is essential for all of them that the course laid down by the First President of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov will continue. And this is the policy of peace and stability for the sake of creating conditions for the further advancement of Uzbekistan and its progress.

I am convinced that the elections conducted today can be called open, democratic and, most importantly, responsive to the interests of citizens of Uzbekistan. I am sure that the organization of elections, the calm nature of their conduct, and good preparation give us grounds to assert right now that the right of citizens of Uzbekistan to a free expression of will has been secured today.



*Sergei Lebedev: Festive atmosphere reigned everywhere
//[http://www.ut.uz/rri/eshyo/vybory-2016/sergey-lebedev-
povsyudu-tsarila-prazdnichnaya-atmosfera/](http://www.ut.uz/rri/eshyo/vybory-2016/sergey-lebedev-povsyudu-tsarila-prazdnichnaya-atmosfera/)*



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Eckhard PRILLER, director of the Maecenata Institute Berlin for Philanthropy and Civil Society (Germany):

– We witnessed that the election of the head of state in your country are carried out in accordance with the Constitution and Law «On the Elections of President of the Republic of Uzbekistan». This confirms the effectiveness and stability of the constitutional system. I would like to emphasize the role and significance of civil society institutions in ensuring citizens' activity in elections and socio-economic reforms. Activities of more than eight thousand non-governmental non-profit organizations operating in your country are aimed at protecting the human rights and interests, in particular, the electoral rights of citizens, securing the freedom of expression of will which serves to provide the transparency of the activities of electoral bodies.

*«Saylovlar demokratik huquqiy davlatning muhim belgisi» //
The daily Xalq So'zi, December 3, 2016*



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Guy Olivier FAURE, professor at the Sorbonne University Paris V (France):

– The elections are an indispensable component of the democratic way along which your country has been going all last years. I am impressed with a lot of work on the organization of electoral campaign at a high level, in the spirit of openness and competitive struggle, in strict accordance with the requirements of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan with an entire chapter with a detailed indication of all aspects. All aspects of preparations and conduct of the elections were clearly prescribed in national legislation, provisions of which meet the requirements of the world's democratic standards in this field.

*«Slovo – mezhdunarodnym nablyudatelyam» //
The daily Pravda Vostoka, December 7, 2016*

Valerius SIMULIK, member of the Seimas of Lithuania:

— I participated as an international observer in the elections of the President of Uzbekistan. We are observing a positive trend in boosting civil activity of the population in your country. During the current elections great attention is placed on reaching out to a wider population in order to get full realization of their constitutional rights. There are ballots for the blind at polling stations. This is a great success. For example, when people with disabilities are vote in Lithuania, their relatives accompany them and they help them to cast their ballot for a candidate. Therefore, upon my return to my country, I intend to propose to implement this positive experience.



*International observers on the election
of President of the Republic of Uzbekistan //
<http://jahonnews.uz/ru/aktualno/626/28839/>*

Li Ji YONG, head of the Central Asia department at the Hankuk University of Foreign Studies (Republic of Korea):

— Representatives of many states, a number of international organizations came to observe the elections of the President of Uzbekistan. They will tell in their countries about how these elections were conducted. I wish that their results will be good for Uzbekistan and the people of the country, so that it achieve even greater success.



*«Saylovchilar faolligi – demokratik
islohotlar ifodasi» // UzA,
December 4, 2016*



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Anatoly SAVCHUK, head of the tourist company Ak-tam (Belarus):

– The current election campaign was carried out in full accordance with the current legislation; all activities and processes were open, transparent and organized at a high democratic level.

They corresponded to the principles of objectivity and observance of international norms and rules. Polling stations were provided with everything necessary, the members of district and precinct election commissions received special training and created proper conditions for the free expression of the will of citizens.

*Opinions of international observers //
The newspaper «Pravda Vostoka»,
December 6, 2016*



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Kim YONG-HI, Secretary-General of the Association of World Electoral Bodies:

– We noticed a very great desire of members of precinct election commissions to prevent the practice of family voting. «One person – one vote» is the basic principle of democracy.

On the election day, we visited one polling station in Tashkent and three in Bukhara. The work was organized at the proper level, all necessary conditions were created for both the voters and members of precinct election commissions. I noticed that there were no long lines in the polling stations at such a high voter turnout. That is, the members of the precinct election commissions carried out their work professionally and quickly.

Thus, I concluded that the electoral process was effectively organized.

*The A-WEB mission: The electoral process is organized effectively //
http://news.uzreport.uz/news_2_r_146598.html*

Dan BARTON, former member of the US Congress and Chairman of the Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia and Threats (USA):

– I visited three polling stations in Tashkent city. Preparation at all of them was carried out at a high level: they were equipped with all the necessary technical-information and communication tools, conveniences were created for the voters, special attention was paid to the people with disabilities.

There were rooms for «Mother and child», medical posts. I was very impressed by the fact that for citizens who cannot come to the polling station because of health issues electoral staff organizes the voting at home. This approach deserves respect, because it provides an opportunity for all citizens to use their Constitutional right.

In general, presidential elections are conducted in the spirit of transparency and openness. I am confident that their results will contribute to the further advancement of Uzbekistan on the road to democracy.



International experts: Uzbekistan has formed democratic electoral system // Jahon Information Agency. December 3, 2016

Magdy ZABAL, director of the Center for Scientific Research at Zagazig University (Egypt):

– We appreciate our cooperation with Uzbekistan. Today the country follows the path of progress in all spheres - political, social, cultural and others.

Honest and free elections are a reflection of the democratic development of the country. Uzbekistan achieved a lot during the years of independence. The First President Islam Karimov supported a strong rule-of-law state with an educated and progressive society. On the chosen candidate rests the future of a large country, the well-being of the citizens. For all candidates to the highest state post, equal conditions and opportunities were created for appearances and speech on the pages of the periodical press, on television and



radio. This also demonstrates Uzbekistan's commitment to democratic values and standards.

*Opinions of international observers //
Pravda Vostoka daily, December 6, 2016*



Hale Hamad Al-MEKEYIMI, assistant to the State Secretary of the Ministry of Information of Kuwait:

– The election of the President is important in determining the future of the country, the consistent continuation of economic and spiritual development of Uzbekistan.

The participation of observers from forty-six countries and a number of international organizations in the electoral process is a practical manifestation of great attention and interest in Uzbekistan. We visited the press club, got acquainted with the candidates' election programs. The high level of organization of the election campaign contributes to the selection of the most worthy candidate and indicates free, open and transparent conduct of presidential elections.

*High level of preparation and conduct of the elections //
Uzbekistan Today News Agency,
December 2, 2016*



Fumihiko KATO, adviser to the President of the National Association of Petroleum Commercial (Japan):

– In the years of independence, Uzbekistan has accumulated a solid experience in organizing elections in accordance with national legislation and international norms. Particular attention is placed on holding elections on the basis of a multi-party system, in the spirit of openness, transparency and democracy. Financing of the election campaign by the state helps to prevent violations of the law in this sphere, securing the free expression of the will of each voter, ensuring the priority of justice.

*«Saylov yuqori saviyada o'tadi» //
UzA, December 3, 2016*

David GEERTS, member of the House of Representatives of the Belgian Parliament:

– The statehood of Uzbekistan has a solid foundation. Taking into consideration of this, the socio-economic direction is defined as the main course of reforms in the country which plays significant role in its development, the prosperity of the people.

Having visited Samarkand and Bukhara, we touched the history of Uzbekistan, saw how the country lives today. We got acquainted with the heritage of such great scientists and statesmen as Amir Temur, Mirzo Ulughbek. We were convinced that the current advancement is a continuation of your glorious history. In this, of course, great merit of the First President of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov.

We observe that the electoral system and the election process meet all the requirements. We are confident that after this important political event Uzbekistan will reach a new level of development.

*Uzbekistan will reach a new level of development //
Jahon Information Agency, December 3, 2016*



Jerzy SKALSKI, professor at Lublin University (Poland):

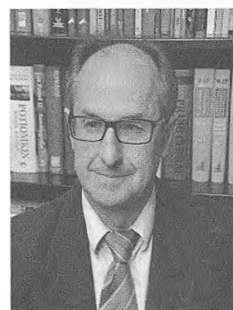
– The stable and peaceful development of Uzbekistan and the whole of Central Asia is of great interest to Europe, so we are closely watching the modernization of social and political life in your country.

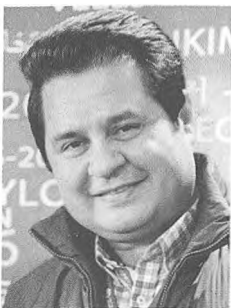
The current elections have become the most significant event for the republic, because their results will determine the prospects for the state's renewal for several years to come.

We have been thoroughly acquainted with the activities of the Central Election Commission, the conditions created for the presidential candidates and other sides of the electoral process. At one time I have written a scientific paper on the Constitution of Uzbekistan, so I can be sure that these elections correspond to the norms set in your Basic Law.

What we saw at the polling stations confirms that the voting was in the established order; therefore the results of the elections do not raise doubts.

*Word to international observers //
Pravda Vostoka newspaper, December 7, 2016*





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Irfan ULLAH KHAN, deputy mayor of Islamabad (Pakistan):

– Within a short period of time, Uzbekistan has reached a high level of development. In the country, social and economic stability and cohesion are being strengthened. This can be seen in the process of preparing for the elections of the President.

As a part of the preparation for the elections, necessary conditions were created at polling stations for the members of the commissions, voters, and observers. Full compliance of the law on presidential elections with international norms, the level of legal culture of the people, and its political activity raise the confidence that elections will be conducted at a high level.

Large-scale reforms initiated by the great leader will be consistently continued // UZA, December 2, 2016



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Abdurahman AL-HAMISY, member of the Writers' Union of Egypt:

– I am happy to be together with the Uzbek people during this important and responsible period. It is encouraging to note that presidential elections are carried out in accordance with international legal norms, the principles of glasnost, multi-party system and equality. The norms enshrined in electoral legislation play a significant role in that they secure free and personal participation of citizens in the elections and their expression of will in secret ballot.

I was impressed by the conditions created at polling stations for citizens, especially for the women and people with disabilities. Not all countries in the world can see similar attention to the voters. Calm and order reign everywhere. The voting process takes place in an atmosphere of openness and transparency.

In my opinion, the voting results will contribute to the continuation of the political course of the country's development recognized as the «Uzbek model» in the world. The peace and stability that reign in the Republic are essential factors for its consistent advancement.

International observers on the elections of President of the Republic of Uzbekistan // Jahon Information Agency, December 2, 2016

Shirin AKINER, senior researcher at the Cambridge Forum for Central Asia (UK):

– The citizens received information not only through the media, but also in public places where posters and banners were placed, and special information was also transmitted through infographics. As I was informed, the representatives of the Kazakh diaspora were informed about the course of the election campaign in their native language.

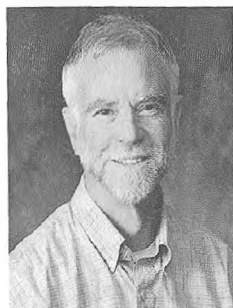
During the elections, I observed the voting process at the polling station No. 15 located in the Nukus State Pedagogical Institute named after Adjiniyaz. The conditions for the voting of people with disabilities were created here, medical room and the room «Mother and child» were also functioning.



*Transparent and organized
Pravda Vostoka daily, December 5, 2016*

Michael BRODY, professor of the American University (USA):

– Each polling station that we visited convinced us that the elections were fair. The citizens were given broad opportunities. Pleases that they freely made their choice and were confident in future. This is a true democracy. We are sure that the elections will open the way for further dynamic development of Uzbekistan.



*May peace and harmony reign in Uzbekistan forever //
Uza, December 4, 2016*

Mina Singh ROI, research fellow of the Institute for Defense and Strategic Analysis (India):

– I was surprised, even I can say that I was struck by 4 facts in the elections. The first is the «Mother and child» room. The second is a medical room. The third is the attitude towards the elderly, people with disabilities and those who due to illness could not personally come to the polling station, and in these cases we saw how the members of the precinct



election commissions went to their house. Well, the fourth fact - early voting. All this, in turn, provides a high percentage of electoral activity.

From the interview to the information program Akhborot, National TV and Radio Company of Uzbekistan



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Boris KANDOV, president of the Congress of Bukharian Jews in the US and Canada:

– Today Uzbekistan is among the leaders by many indicators. The country is carrying out large-scale democratic reforms to build a rule-of-law state, and a strong civil society is being formed. The Central Election Commission has done a great and high-quality work on preparing the presidential elections. Numerous experts and observers, journalists were invited, in a word, the necessary conditions were created for the conduct of open and fair democratic elections. The stable political system created in Uzbekistan contributes to the successful organization of the elections. It is essential that elections are carried out in a timely manner, in strict accordance with the legislative acts with adherence of the electoral rights of citizens.

The presidential elections signify the desire of the people and the leadership of the country to secure the succession of power through universal direct voting. Today, the atmosphere of peace reigns in the country, Uzbekistan provides stability not only within the country, but also in the Central Asian region. I am sure that the people will choose a leader who will continue the stage-by-stage model of transformation which was defined by the First President of Uzbekistan.

*«Elections in Uzbekistan through the eyes of international observers»,
the newspaper Narodnoe Slovo, December 5, 2016*



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Lisa WILLIAMS, former head of the administration of the congressman E.Faleomavaega (USA):

– It is an honor for me to be in Uzbekistan as an international observer for the presidential elections, to be a witness of this great event.

Your country has done much to build a democratic state with a rule of law and a strong civil society. To date, a strong regulatory and legal framework has been formed

in the country, in particular, the Basic Law - the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan was adopted which establishes the fundamental principles of democracy.

Here is the great merit of the First President of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov. He was a great leader who left behind a strong electoral legislation that will guide the country during the current presidential elections. And peace, stability and security, reigning in the republic for 25 years, are the embodiment of democracy.

International observers on the elections of President of the Republic of Uzbekistan // Jahon Information Agency, December 2, 2016

Gerhard Guenther BIRKL, director of Silk Road Company (Germany):

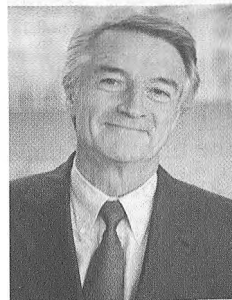
– The electoral legislation of your country fully complies with international standards today. The candidates for the President were created equal conditions for campaigning. The presidential elections are carried out openly and public. A lot of information about the election campaign in Uzbekistan was spread abroad. All polling stations in the city of Karshi where I visited, worked in accordance with the procedure established by the law. For myself, I noted the work of the rooms «Mother and child» as a positive practice, it would be great to apply this experience in Germany. Every time I come to Uzbekistan, I become a witness of new transformations. The most valuable achievement is peace and stability which are so crucial for the dynamic development of the country.



Xalqaro kuzatuvchilar: «Saylov yuksak demokratik tamoyillarga javob beradi»// The newspaper Xalq So'zi, December 5, 2016

Andre RICHARD, senator from the Department of Lower Rhine, member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (France):

– Uzbekistan prepared at a high level for the presidential elections. This shows that the electoral legislation is in line with international standards in your country and the electoral experience was accumulated. If compared with the electoral system of other countries, in Uzbekistan two aspects drew



my attention. One of them is facilities for disabled people and citizens who cannot come to the polling station. The second is «Mother and child» and medical rooms.

*From the interview to the information program Akhborot
The National TV and Radio Company of Uzbekistan*



Dominique TILMANS, honorary senator of Belgium:

– We closely cooperate with our Uzbek colleagues and are very glad to back to your country. We are watching the changes taking place in Uzbekistan. Step by step, on the basis of the «Uzbek model» of evolutionary development, reforms are being realized in the socio-political life and economy. From elections to elections, the potential of civil society is boosting, the electoral system is being improved. The peculiarity of Uzbekistan's democratic advancement is that reforms are carried out taking into account national peculiarities and own experience while many countries gradually lose their national identity in Europe. I am confident that the elections will be successful, and the people of Uzbekistan will choose the way of continuing the reforms.

*An important area of cooperation //
The newspaper Narodnoe Slovo, December 3, 2016*



Mordechai KIMYAGAROV, chairman of the public organization Merkaz Assiya-Israel (Israel):

– Seven observers and two journalists arrived from our country to the elections of the President of Uzbekistan. This is due to the great interest in the events and transformations taking place here, all the more the current elections were especially historically significant. This was also noticeable in terms of their level of realization - for years of independent development Uzbekistan has accumulated vast experience in the electoral sphere and successfully introduced the latest innovations in the field. Such a solid practice made itself felt - the elections were conducted according to the norms of the developed democratic countries, honestly and transparently. I will say more, it makes sense for many states to adopt your experience of organizing elections where attention is placed on all the subtleties.

*The word to international observers //
Pravda Vostoka, December 7, 2016*

Han DACHAN, Deputy Secretary-General of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences:

– I was very impressed by the conditions created in the polling stations of Bukhara and Tashkent. The inspiration of the voters attracted my notice. Election campaigning for presidential candidates was conducted on the basis of equality and fairness. The rights and obligations of voters and candidates are secured in conformity with national legislation and international standards. I am confident that the elections will end successfully, and the country further will achieve great successes on the chosen path of development – on the basis of the «Uzbek model».



The conditions created for the voters can be considered exemplary for many countries of the world. There were organized special rooms for children, health centers, special booths for the disabled, as well as specially allocated portable voting boxes to vote at home for patients who cannot come to the polling stations. All this creates the necessary basis for the successful conduct of elections, shows the real operation of the principles of transparency, openness and justice.

*Uzbekistan always prepares for election at a high level//
UzA, December 4, 2016*

Jasim Isa AL-MUTAWA, counselor for the relations with CIS countries of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Emirate of Sharjah (UAE):

– I am an expert in international law. Prior to my arrival, I got acquainted with the election legislation of Uzbekistan. It reflects the basic foundations of democratic development. Uzbekistan in a very short time was able to organize presidential elections which indicates that the political situation in the country is stable, people are confident in continuing the reforms in all areas. Uzbekistan is positive and effectively reacted to the recommendations of international observers following the results of previous elections and introduced corresponding changes in the legislation. In the course of observation, we see the implementation of new provisions in practice.



*From the interview to the television and
radio channel «Yoshlar» of the National Television and
Radio Company of Uzbekistan*



Eko Sri MARGIANTE, Rector of the University of Gunadarma (Indonesia):

– The election of the President is an essential stage in the continuation of building a strong democratic state. The arrival of a good leader is important both for Uzbekistan itself and for other countries, in particular, for Indonesia. Our countries and peoples have always been on good terms, effectively supported international cooperation. I am not in Uzbekistan for the first time; I have visited almost all cities of the republic. I was sure that the current elections are organized at the highest level. This positive situation can be seen not only in large cities, but also in remote regions. I have seen the processes of preparation at polling stations, everything is well thought out, organized. Great work has been done to provide maximum comfort to the voters, journalists and us, observers. And most important - this is mood. Positive atmosphere is observed in all places.

*Elections in Uzbekistan through the eyes
of international observers // The newspaper Narodnoe Slovo,
December 5, 2016*



Sanjay Kumar PANDEY, professor of the Center for Russian and Central Asian Studies at the School of International Studies (India):

– During the years of independent development under the leadership of the First President Islam Karimov Uzbekistan has achieved unprecedented successes. Most importantly, Uzbekistan managed to maintain peace and stability. Elections are a good opportunity to demonstrate that Uzbekistan has fully reached political maturity. Therefore, the current elections are of particular interest. Uzbekistan has its own election practice. For example, organizing a «Mother and child» room at the polling stations is a unique initiative that could be very useful for India. During the observation, I would like to study the role and activities of political parties of Uzbekistan in the life of the country. The experience of the progress of



O'ZBEKISTON RESPUBLIKASI PREZIDENTI SAYLOVI
BO'YICHA RESPUBLIKA MATBUOT MARKAZI

REPUBLICAN PRESS CENTRE
ELECTIONS OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN





parliamentarianism is interesting. Upon completion of the trip, I plan to prepare a number of publications for Indian media.

*O'zbekiston Respublikasi Oliy Majlisi Senatida //
Xalq So'zi, December 2, 2016*



Antonio Alonso MARCOS, professor of the University of San Pablo (Spain):

– The past elections of the President of Uzbekistan are an event of great importance in the political life of your country. Their conduct in accordance with all democratic requirements and norms is another serious step on the way to further advancement of the republic which has been carrying out large-scale transformations, demonstrating steady economic growth rates and more and more actively declaring itself on the world arena in recent years.



What we observed at the polling stations in the Khorezm region shows the high quality of the organization of the elections. Equivalence of the votes of all citizens is ensured as provided by the principle of equality of electoral rights of the each «one voter – one vote». Measures were taken to protect against multiple voting. The voters filled out ballot papers without any outsiders in booths for secret voting.

*A word to international observers //
«Pravda Vostoka», December 5, 2016*



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Evgeniy SLOBODA, head of department at CIS Executive Committee:

– Our mission repeatedly observed the elections in Uzbekistan. I would like to note the tremendous, professional and competent work of the Central Election Commission, in particular, on improving the forms and methods of work, securing the openness of the election campaign for the election of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Among the innovations, I would like to note that the Program of Measures on Raising the Legal Culture of Voters was adopted for the first time, in accordance with which various events are carried out at the local level. This will be a great help in the conduct of the forthcoming elections at a high organizational level.

*The mission of CIS observers started working //
Narodnoe Slovo daily, November 19, 2016*



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Rafael BUENO, director of political, social and educational programs at Casa Asia (Spain):

– On the basis of the model developed by the First President Islam Karimov, the Republic of Uzbekistan managed to achieve huge positive successes in a short period of advancement. Among them, I would note the stability that keeps in the country which is of great importance in view of regional specifics, as well as a dynamically emerging economy. Over the years, crucial prerequisites for strengthening democracy have been laid: institution of free elections, a transparent electoral system, a multi-party system, parliamentarianism and others. The upcoming presidential elections are intended to become the next significant stage in the further evolvement of Uzbekistan as a stable and dynamically developing country in accordance with the democratic principles of the state.

*Conference in Barcelona dedicated to
the presidential elections in Uzbekistan //
Jahon Information Agency, November 15, 2016*

Wu TING, editor-in-chief of the Shanghai International Press Bureau edition The Paper (China):

– I read a lot about Uzbekistan. I am well-informed on the ongoing democratic processes in the country, especially about the electoral system. Participating in this political process as an observer, I want to acquaint the inhabitants of China with it. Today, after visiting a number of polling stations in Samarkand, I became convinced that preparations for the event were carried out at a high level; all conditions were created for the voters and observers.



It is noteworthy that methods based on the principles of openness and democracies are applied in accordance with international standards. The conduct of elections at such a high level in a democratic state formed on the basis of the ideas and sensible policies of the great and incomparable statesman - the First President of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov, will certainly attract the attention of the world community.

*International observers on the elections of the President of Uzbekistan
http://news.uzreport.uz/news_2_r_146583.html, 4 December 2016*

Maria Ludovica Botarelli TRANQUILLI-LEALI, Secretary-General of the Italian branch of the European Women's Lobby:

– Working as an international observer in previous elections in Uzbekistan, I had the opportunity to see the significant endeavors made under the leadership of the First President Islam Karimov in the direction of transforming legal mechanisms towards the formation of consolidated and modern democratic institutions. Crucial efforts were made to secure that citizens of Uzbekistan got acquainted with their rights and responsibilities within the framework of the election legislation.



As a representative of the European organization of civil society, I have been working to expand the political and socio-economic rights and opportunities of the women, has always been impressed by their active participation in the work of election commissions. Moreover, at polling stations there were created

the conditions for the care of children and the provision of the first medical assistance to help mothers to execute their voting right. The presence of numerous foreign civil society representatives among international observers shows the importance attached to the formation of a modern democratic state in your country.

*International observation: practice in the mirror
of international standards //*
The daily Narodnoe Slovo, November 16, 2016



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Pierre-Emmanuel TOMANNE, director for Geopolitical Studies of the European Institute of International Relations (Belgium):

– What is important in the current election campaign, so it is connected with the transition of power. After the untimely passing away of the First President of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov a transitional period began during which the republic confirms its stability. This means that Uzbekistan is a strong state and capable of organizing elections under changed conditions. And the situation of your country directly influences stability in the region, and elections will be also reflected in the current status.

Uzbekistan has formed its own electoral system, taking the best national experience, as well as international elaboration. It is essential that the country has its own model taking into account its own history and priorities of development. Each state has the right to its own path. The main thing is that the entire current election campaign is in compliance with the provisions of your country's Constitution, its legislation and international standards. This is evident of the growing civil activity - voters are confident in their country, electoral process, its legitimacy and want to take part in determining the future of Uzbekistan. They know that their votes will be taken into account.

In an atmosphere of openness, publicity and increased competition //
The daily Pravda Vostoka, December 3, 2016

Bernadette MILL, deputy of the municipality of London's Waltham Forest borough (UK):

– This is my second visit to Uzbekistan. As an international observer, I participated in the 2014 parliamentary elections. I want to note many changes and successes that your country achieved. It is very remarkable that your people appreciate and respect historical cultural values and traditions. In Europe, they are lost. However the level of spirituality is a significant component of progress and prosperity.



From the interview to the information program Akhborot of the National Television and Radio Company of Uzbekistan

Dieter BRANDENBURGER, Vice President of the German-Uzbek Friendship Society in Bonn (Germany):

– The Central Election Commission has done a great job in preparing the elections. The necessary conditions were created at polling stations in Bukhara. The interests of citizens with disabilities were also taken into account - ramps were installed, in places there were ballot papers based on the Braille alphabet. The voters went to the polls, knowing who they would vote for. They studied the pre-election programs of presidential candidates in advance, got acquainted with their goals and tasks.



The elections became a clear evidence of the fact that effective democratic institutions, free and independent mass media and a developed civil society were formed in Uzbekistan. They demonstrated their ability to ensure the conduct of genuine and fair elections, even Uzbekistan went onto the conditions related to the untimely passing away of the First President Islam Karimov.

*The word to international observers //
The daily Pravda Vostoka, December 5, 2016*



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Inna STETSENKO, Vice Rector of the Baltic International Academy (Latvia):

– I visited almost ten polling stations in the city of Gulistan, Khavas district of the Syrdarya region. At all sites, the preparations were conducted at a high level. They can even be called innovative, as they were fully equipped with all the necessary technical and information and communication tools.

Most importantly, all conveniences for the voters were created. The rooms of «Mother and child» and first-aid posts drew my attention. Conditions for the disabled people were also created. This is evidence of the country's high social culture.

Visiting the polling stations, I was convinced that early voting passed in conformity with the requirements of the law. It is necessary to pay tribute to the measures taken to secure the voting of the citizens - the elderly and sick who will not be able to come to the polling station on the election day. It turned out that for such categories of citizens the members of the precinct election commission organized a vote at home. This is an essential factor that provides an opportunity for all citizens to execute their constitutional right.

A people with strong will achieve progress //
UzA, December 1, 2016



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Ramanathan TEYVENDRAN, Secretary General of the Management Development Institute of Singapore (MDIS):

– Despite there is a large flow of people, especially at this polling station, it is clear that the process is organized very coordinated, smoothly and openly. I am very happy to see the process carried out in full confidentiality which is very important for the voter. Even the period is really very short from past elections; it is visible that the process is organized even better. Undoubtedly, Uzbekistan today is an example of how electoral process should be open, transparent and democratic.

*From the interview to the information program
Akhborot of the National TV and Radio Company of Uzbekistan*

Alexander TSINKER, president of the International Center for Electoral Systems, director of the Institute for the CIS and Eastern Europe (Israel):

– In general, during visits to places and other meetings, we were convinced that your election legislation works efficiently, and we have accumulated solid experience in this area. The main thing is that Uzbekistan formed a stable political system that proved its strength in the conditions of the current transit of power. Everything happens without shocks and excesses, there is a dynamic trend in the development of the country. The pre-election campaign and the voting process were conducted in a free and fair atmosphere; we did not observe any illegal actions at the polling stations.



*The word to international observers //
Pravda Vostoka, December 5, 2016*

José Claudio MARQUES, lawyer (Brazil):

– With the achievement of independence, Uzbekistan has set itself the goal of building a democratic legal state. In the past period, significant progress has been made in this direction. All rights, including electoral are guaranteed for the citizens. The experience of Uzbekistan in this area can serve as a model for other countries.

A positive moment is the independence of the electoral system of Uzbekistan, in particular, the execution of its activities by the Central Election Commission, regardless of state bodies. This is a crucial factor in organizing and conduct of the elections on the basis of the most high-level democratic demands.



*Saylovlar yuqori saviyada o'tadi // UZA,
December 3, 2016*



Tofik ABBASOV, director of the media department of the Baku International Center for Multiculturalism (Azerbaijan):

– We see that the relevant political institutions, non-governmental organizations and other structures have jointly developed and realized a strategy for securing the process for expression of the will of citizens in accordance with all norms. Your electoral legislation is built as provided by the Constitution of the Republic and international standards. In all the polling stations that we visited, the elections were well organized and conducted at a decent level, all conditions were created for the free and democratic expression of the people’s will. The people exercised their constitutional right, made a conscious choice, voted for the most worthy, in their opinion, candidate for peace and stability.

*Opinions of international observers //
Pravda Vostoka, December 6, 2016*



Dan PETERSON, independent consultant for Certification of Professional Educators (USA):

– And in the previous elections I have seen how with great enthusiasm and responsibility prepare for such events. A huge preparations headed by the Central Election Commission of Uzbekistan was carried out this time. Giving the status of a constitutional body to the Commission and expanding its powers is of great significance in this is process.

*Uzbekistan will reach a new level of advancement //
UzA, December 2, 2016*

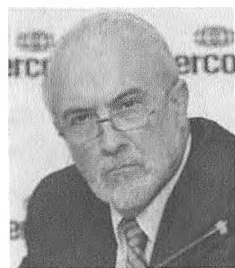


Juan-Ramon Duran PUEBLA, director of the National Association of Manufacturers of Capital Goods SERCOBE (Spain):

– It is a great pride and honor for me to participate in such a significant political event, the results of which will allow Uzbekistan to continue its comprehensive development. We visited a number of polling stations, including the Tashkent branch of the Moscow State University named after M. Lomonosov and the University of Inha in Tashkent. I personally convinced myself that the presidential elections were organized at a high level; all processes were transparent and open. They meet not only the norms of the legislation of Uzbekistan, but also the demanding international one.

Among the innovations of this election of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, I want to highlight the special care for people with disabilities. They were equipped with special voting booths; ballots based on the Braille alphabet were prepared. This is another indication that the elections were carried out in line with democratic principles.

*Opinions of international observers,
Pravda Vostoka, December 6, 2016*



Evgeny KOZYAK, member of the CIS observer mission:

– I visited the 11th Ferghana District Election Commission, and the 673rd, 693rd, 699th and 729th polling stations. I got acquainted with how the activities of the polling stations were organized, with the state of preparation for the elections, with the work conducted for the youth who is voting for the first time. Voter lists were posted in a conspicuous place.

In Uzbekistan, a strong system of securing the electoral rights of citizens was created. As a part of the democratization of all spheres, the improvement of the national electoral legislation continues. Measures taken on liberalization and democratization of society boost the self-awareness, the standard of living of people, and strengthen their faith in tomorrow.

Careful preparation is the basis for the successful conduct of any political event, especially elections which are a mirror of the democratization. A great



responsibility in this process lays with the precinct election commissions. I want to note the importance of the ongoing seminars-trainings on familiarizing them with changes in the electoral legislation.

In a word, preparations for elections were carried out in compliance with all established norms and standards. Activities of workers of the Central Election Commission, members of the district and precinct election commissions were organized efficiently.

Saylov kampaniyasi oshkoralik va tenglik muhitida o'tmoqda // UzA, November 22, 2016



Andreas ANDRIANOPOULOS, director of the Institute of Diplomacy and International Relations (Greece):

– All the morning, I visited six polling stations. All polling stations were very well equipped and the work there was well-organized. On polling stations there are rooms of «Mother and child», a medical room which are remarkable. Voting at home was organized for those who could not come to the site for health reasons. And one more feature. This is what the polling stations are located in the mahalla uniting the inhabitants of this particular area. Thus, you know exactly how many voters, and approximately how many of them are going to vote on their own. All this is very impressive and shows that all the legal bases for preparing and conduct of the elections at the proper level were ensured.

*From the interview to the television channel
Mening Yurtim of the National Association
of Electronic Mass Media of Uzbekistan*

Marco MARSILI, member of the Observer Mission of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODIHR):

– I was at the elections in Kazakhstan, Armenia and Afghanistan as an international observer. I am here in Uzbekistan for the first time.

In Uzbekistan, this political event is organized by the Central, District and Precinct Election Commissions strictly in accordance with the law.

The polling stations were created depending on the number of voters in the range of not less than 20 and not more than 3000 voters. In the Republic of Karakalpakstan, the members of the district election commission thoroughly acquainted us with the main points of preparation for the presidential elections, the conditions created at remote polling stations, provided us with the necessary assistance in carrying out our work on monitoring the elections.

*The word to international observers //
«Pravda Vostoka», December 5, 2016*



Mohammed ILTAF SHEIKH, member of the House of Lords of the British Parliament:

– Thanks to the special attention attached by the founder of Uzbekistan's independence, the first President of the country Islam Karimov to an objective study of the history of your country, wide propagation of the weighty contribution of your ancestors to the development of world civilization, the authority and role of Uzbekistan in the international community are rising. This is even more vividly reflected in the process of the elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The notice of the whole world is drawn to this significant political process taking place in the country today. The experts, observers from many countries, authoritative international organizations come to monitor it.

It should be noted that Uzbekistan, over the years of independence, has made great progress on the path of building a legal democratic state and civil society. A modern electoral system has been formed which is a reliable guarantee for the full

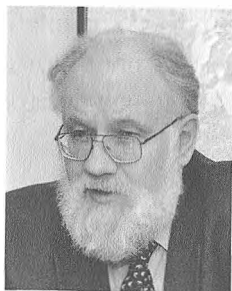


realization of the requirements of the democracy and electoral rights. Observing the preparatory process for the forthcoming presidential election on December 4, it can be seen key results of this system.

Polling stations were established in all regions; all the conditions were created for every citizen in order to exercise his/her constitutional right so that the elections would be conducted in a spirit of openness and transparency on the basis of national and international legislation.

Ochiqlik, oshkoralik va demokratiya ruhida, //

UzA, December 1, 2016



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Vladimir CHUROV, Ambassador-at-large of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia:

– There are no violations, because everything was organized very clearly.

We drove round all Ferghana valley. We have come back just now. Voting was completed and ended successfully. Turnout was high. In the villages the people voted very early, in the cities later. The residents of Russia should pay attention not only to the conduct of elections in the US, but closely monitor the elections in Moldova, Bulgaria and Uzbekistan.

«Churov praised the organization of the presidential elections in Uzbekistan».

<http://podrobno.uz/cat/politic/churov-pokhvalil-organizatsiyu-prezidentskikh-vyborov-vuzbekistane> / December 5, 2016



◆

Yu XINHUI, head of the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences:

– With the arrival in Uzbekistan, we immediately felt the spirit of the elections. It is noteworthy that the preparations were carried out at a high level at polling stations; voters were particularly responsible for this political event.

We see how Uzbekistan advances year after year. This is facilitated by a solid foundation laid by its First President. I think that the noble work begun by this great man will continue.

*The large-scale reforms initiated by the great leader
will be continued consistently // UzA, December 2, 2016*

**Anatoly SAVCHUK, head of the tourist company
Aktam (Belarus):**

– For international experts who came to observe the elections, all the necessary conditions were set up. They without hindrance acquainted with the activities of the Central Election Commission, district and precinct election commissions. We saw that worthy preparation was conducted for this key political event; there are all conditions for free voting of citizens. With whom we talk, citizens were unanimous in their desire to vote for the stability of peace and development.



*A high level of preparation for elections shows
the firm confidence of the people of Uzbekistan in their future //
UzA, December 2, 2016*

**Akkan SUVER, Director General of the Marmara
Group Foundation for Strategic and Social Studies
(Turkey):**

– The election of the President of Uzbekistan conducted on December 4, can be considered an example for all Turkic-speaking countries. Representatives of our delegation attended the polling stations of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, Tashkent, Ferghana and Samarkand. The Uzbek people carried out the elections of the Head of State in conformity with democratic norms, modern requirements of international electoral law. They can be considered open, successful and transparent. The experience of conducting a significant political event in Uzbekistan will become



an exemplary model for other countries. It is essential that the reforms initiated in all spheres under the leadership of the First President Islam Karimov would be continued.

Akkan Suyer: The election of the President of Uzbekistan is an exemplary model

<https://www.gazeta.uz/ru/2016/12/05/turkey/>

December 5, 2016



Seydahmed KUTTIKADAM, editor-in-chief of the socio-political magazine Mysl (Kazakhstan):

– Today the country is on the threshold of a historic event. Conducting elections at a democratic level will play a key role in ensuring security and stability not only in Uzbekistan, but also in the region as a whole.

I am confident that Uzbekistan which has accumulated extensive experience in this direction will carry out the elections at a high level. We are interested in further cementing the friendship in our region.

Saylov yuqori saviya o'radi // UzA,

December 3, 2016



Chung Jong SOP, member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea:

– The result of the reforms in the socio-political, social and economic life of Uzbekistan, above all, provided boosting the welfare of the population, the growth of civic activity, achievements in the economy and social sphere which are highly assessed today by the world community.

In a relatively short time, Uzbekistan has accumulated solid experience in the sphere of enhancing electoral legislation. The changes and innovations that were introduced into the normative legal acts are interesting from the point of view of lawmaking.

I visited several polling stations, I saw the rooms of «Mother and child», created conditions for people with disabilities. At polling stations, all conditions

for free expression of will of citizens were set up. Uzbekistan's experience in preparing and conducting the elections deserves to be studied.

*From the interview to the information program Akhborot of
the National Television and Radio Company of Uzbekistan*

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Rashid ALIMOV, head of the SCO observer mission:

– The mission of observers from the Shanghai Cooperation Organization recognizes the December 4 presidential elections in Uzbekistan as open, free and democratic. Our mission states that the elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan corresponded to the requirements of the electoral legislation of the country and the international obligations accepted by the Republic of Uzbekistan.



Violations of the norms of national legislation that call into question the legitimacy of the elections were not noted by the mission. The mission recognizes the past elections as open, free and democratic.

*The SCO mission recognized the presidential elections
in Uzbekistan as free and democratic//
<http://kabar.kg/rus/world-news/full/114708>,
December 5, 2016*

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**Eldar IBRAGIMOV, chairman of the Commission of
Milli Majlis of Azerbaijan:**

– In Uzbekistan, a national electoral system was created that fully meets democratic requirements and universally recognized international standards securing the right of citizens to freely express their will. This made it possible to conduct the presidential elections at a high level.



*May peace and harmony reign in Uzbekistan,
UzA, December 4, 2016*



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Juri ADRIANTARO, chairman of the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Indonesia:

– Uzbekistan has extensive experience in conducting the elections in line with universally recognized standards and principles of democracy. In my opinion, one of the most significant features of the country's electoral system is that the legislation guarantees the independent status of the Central Election Commission. This serves as the basis for carrying out the elections on the principles of openness and transparency. The efforts for broad media coverage of the preparations for the elections deserve the highest appreciation. This is indicated, in particular, by the availability of the possibility for obtaining complete and objective information in English on the official website of the Central Election Commission.

The large-scale and comprehensive work on the preparations for the presidential elections demonstrates the serious and responsible approach of the Central Election Commission to the conducting of the most important political event. This approach, first of all, meets the interests of the voters, for whom free expression of will is guaranteed in the country.

From the interview of the radio station «Navro'z FM» of the National Association of Electronic mass media of Uzbekistan



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Alexander ZAVARZIN, director of department at the CIS Executive Committee:

– I visited the 73rd, 92nd, and 38th polling stations in the city of Andijan and got acquainted with the voting process which was carried out in accordance with the generally recognized international requirements and norms, as well as with the activities of a number of precinct election commissions, and talked with people.

A great future await for the people who are confident in their abilities // UzA, December 4, 2016



Muhammad BAYDA, editor-in-chief of the news agency MENA Herald (UAE):

– Uzbekistan is a dynamically developing state. In this, I was convinced in the course of monitoring the electoral process. All conditions for voters were created at polling stations. The population demonstrated the high political activity and legal awareness. The activity of citizens' self-government bodies in this process is noteworthy. The mahallas which have no analogue in the world are political and cultural centers for the population.



*Preparation at a high level // UzA,
December 2, 2016*



Victoria MARTYNOVA, head of the international department of the newspaper Novosti Nedeli (Israel):

– Preparation is on. The people are friendly. We visited the polling station in the college building. Everything corresponded to the international norms.

The presence of four candidates is good. I talked with people to find out the situation from the inside which interests the people. I was surprised and pleased that now in Facebook there is an open discussion. There is competition among the candidates. It is clear that the acting President managed to do a lot. And thank God that he did. It's super important that he kept what was achieved. The country is tranquil, stable, people are calm for tomorrow. There was an alarm when President Islam Karimov passed away. We all know what is happening in Syria now. Here the people calmly communicate, walk along the street.



*From the interview of the radio station Poytaxt-FM of
the National Association of Electronic Mass Media of Uzbekistan*

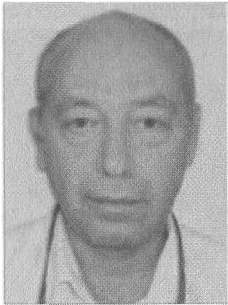


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Mohd Yusuf bin Haji OSMAN, director of the Institute of Progressive Islam at the National University of Malaysia:

– In Uzbekistan, elections were carried out by direct and secret ballot. This contributed to the free will of every citizen, to personal participation in the management of the affairs of the state and society. I am glad that I was able to get familiar with the positive experience that the country has accumulated in the sphere of elections.

*May peace and harmony reign forever in Uzbekistan / Uza,
December 4, 2016*



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Valery SERDTSE, editor-in-chief of the Mir Pute-shestviy magazine and the newspaper Okna (Israel):

– I am for the second time in the elections in Uzbekistan. I was here in the parliamentary elections in 2014, both times as a journalist. Comparing how elections were conducted then and how they pass now, I see some progress in the sense that very serious measures have been taken to prevent some other residual phenomena of the Soviet period, for example, when one person voted for the whole family.

The principle «one voter – one vote» is observed. We were at 5 polling stations yesterday and in the district election commission in Bukhara. And I looked at how everything was organized there. Places for observers, rooms «Mother and child», first-aid posts, all this exists. Everything will be carried out calmly. Because the peace reigns in your country, and what you need for the future was laid by your first President. And it must continue for the benefit of the country, for the benefit of representatives of all nationalities who reside here.

*From the interview of the radio station «Grand FM» of
the National Association
of Electronic Mass Media of Uzbekistan*

Rohan GUNARATNA, professor at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (Singapore):

– Such electoral system which fully absorbed national and universally recognized international principles as in Uzbekistan, can serve as a model for many states.

I am confident that the elections will serve as a continuation of the ongoing reforms in the country.



*Uzbekistan is a steadily developing country // UzA,
December 2, 2016*

Dmitry MEZENTSEV, member of the Committee of the Council of the Federation of Russia on Economic Policy:

– The current elections were carried out under the conditions of genuine democracy. It should be noted that the role of the mass media in the coverage of the election campaign was significantly enhanced on the basis of such democratic principles as openness, transparency and transparency. I have great respect for the choice of the people of Uzbekistan and I wish Mirziyoyev health and success in continuing reforms.



*From the interview to the television channel «Mening Yurtim»
of the National Association
of Electronic Mass Media of Uzbekistan*

II. IMPROVED LEGISLATION AND ELECTORAL PRACTICE SERVED TO CONDUCT THE ELECTIONS ON A QUALITATIVELY NEW LEVEL



Johan Peter Traugott TEJLER, head of the OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission to the Republic of Uzbekistan:

– The preparations for the elections were well organized, and we observed some improvements.

Uzbekistan where only one and a half years ago the presidential elections were passed, under the conditions of an unprecedented transit of power gathered all its forces and potential and for a fairly short period of time managed again to hold the election of the head of state in a civilized and organized manner, in an environment of peace and stability on the basis of the created legislation.

This is a clear proof for the consistency of the electoral system, the solidity of the democratic institutions formed during the years of independence, as well as the high level of consolidation of the state and society. Most importantly, it was highly assessed by independent observers of the missions of other international organizations, as well as by experts who are not the first time participating in election observation, as well as a number of innovations that helped to secure the openness, authenticity and fairness of elections.

Noting the importance of adopting the Program of measures to improve the legal culture of voters, its effectiveness and the need to continue this work, the CEC published most of the election-related materials, including bulletins in Uzbek, Russian and Karakalpak. State-owned national newspapers provided candidates with free print space for campaigning addresses to the voters in Uzbek, Russian, Tajik and Kazakh languages.

The preparation and conduct of the elections were transparent
<https://telegraf.uz/ru/vibori/podgotovka-i-provedenie-viborov-bili-prozrachnimi>,
December 5, 2016

Ali Abolhassani SHAHREZA, head of the observer mission of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation:

– Having become acquainted with the changes and amendments made to the electoral legislation, we were sure that Uzbekistan achieves great success in legislative activity. It is worth to especially mention the reduction of the necessary number of signatures in support of presidential candidates from 5 to 1 percent, the attention paid by the Central Election Commission to increase the political awareness of citizens, creating opportunities for disabled people and blind voters.

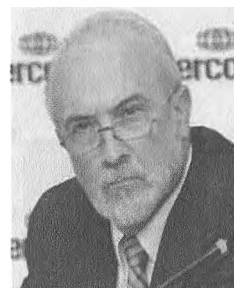


High quality preparation for the elections conducted in a short time is worthy of high praise // UzA, December 3, 2016

Juan-Ramon Duran PUEBLA, director of the National Association of Manufacturers of Capital Goods SERCOBE (Spain):

– Today I had the opportunity to observe the voting process at several polling stations. The conditions created for voters deserve special attention. Here everything serves to create maximum comfort for the people to come to polling stations and give their votes for a candidate they trust.

Also, people who could not come to the site were provided with the conditions for voting at home. I would especially like to note the opening of medical checkpoints at polling stations. In Spain, such points were not organized, and afterwards much time and effort was invested to help people who were sick. Here, in Uzbekistan, all this in advance was provided and the issue was solved as effectively as possible.



International observers on the election of President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Jahon Information Agency, December 5, 2016



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Lidia ERMOSHINA, chairperson of the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Belarus:

– Over the years of independence, your country has made great strides in the way of building a legal democratic state and civil society. A modern electoral system has been created that serves for reliable guarantee of the full realization of democratic principles, electoral rights. Thanks to successive democratic reforms, the electoral system is being enhanced, and training of members of election commissions is being conducted. I visited the Tashkent, Samarkand, Ferghana regions and the Republic of Karakalpakstan and saw how the electoral process was widely organized. I was especially impressed that people went to the polling stations with families demonstrating cohesion and a high level of activity. I think that the election of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan works for a consistent continuation of the reforms in the society, the further advancement of Uzbekistan, the maintenance of peace, prosperity, and civil harmony.

*From the interview to the information
program Davr of the National TV and
Radio Company of Uzbekistan*



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Alexander TSINKER, president of the International Center for Electoral Systems, director of the Institute for CIS and Eastern Europe (Israel):

– I have participated before as an observer in the elections conducted in Uzbekistan. It is noteworthy that with the progress of the country its legislation is being improved. We saw that after the last elections, the proposals of observers were taken into account, amendments and additions were made to the electoral legislation in a short time which are fully observed during the current elections. The thorough preparation carried out for the elections, the political activity and the broad view of the voters deserve the attention.

*Uzbekistan will reach a new level of development / UZA,
December 2, 2016*

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**Elena PASKALEVA, professor at Leiden University
(the Netherlands):**

– During the visit to the polling station, I noticed that political parties in Uzbekistan have a more detailed focus in their activities whereas in most European countries parties have only a narrow field of activity. In addition, the country actively engages the female population in political processes. The fact that the proportion of women is 46 per cent of the total number of voters, who intend to vote in elections, shows a high level of achievement of equal rights and access to political participation for both women and men.



*From the interview of the radio station «Poytaxt FM»
of the National Association of Electronic Mass media
of Uzbekistan (The NAEMM)*

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**Osama SRUR, chief of the international department
of the Kuwaiti newspaper Al-siyasa:**

– Uzbekistan demonstrated a high level of preparation for the elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

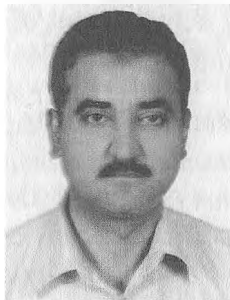
Arriving in Uzbekistan to cover the election of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, I witnessed that Uzbekistan continues to advance along the democratic path. Each voter received a personal invitation to the elections. The special cabins for wheelchair users were created in all polling stations. To those who for health reasons could not come and vote, the representatives of the election commission came to the house with ballots and boxes.

Great attention was paid to creating favorable conditions for journalists covering the elections. In particular, the Elections.uz-2016 press club was established. The conditions in it exceeded all expectations. Journalists can work productively thanks to modern technology, high-speed Internet and other conditions. It is significant that every day in the press club there were various meetings, debates, cultural events. I myself participated in many meetings. The Press Club has become a place where journalists get to know each other, establish creative ties.



I want to specially note the contest of social videos, in which I managed to participate as a member of the jury. It is gratifying that young journalists took part in this competition.

Osama Srur: Polling stations in Uzbekistan were prepared in 40 days before the elections //http://ut.uz/ru/eshyo/Elections-2016/osama-srur-izbiratelnye-uchastki-v-uzbekistane-gotovilis-za-40-dney-do-vyborov/?sphrase_id=2003



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Izzatullah HASHMI, editor of the newspapers Urdu News and Arab News (Saudi Arabia):

– For the first time I observed the elections in Uzbekistan. When comparing the electoral system of Uzbekistan with the systems of other countries, my attention was attracted by two points. Firstly, they are facilities for disabled people and citizens who are unable to come to the polling station. Second, they are the rooms «Mother and child» and medical offices at the polling stations. All this is a noble work aimed at creating amenities for the voters. The preparation for the elections carried out in Uzbekistan is deserve high assessment.

International observers on the election of the President of Uzbekistan // http://news.uzreport.uz/news_2_r_146583.htm. December 4, 2016



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Robert FRANTSEV, correspondent of the All-Russian State TV and Radio Company:

– We took part in the briefing. It was very informative event where we were told about the nuances of the election campaign of Uzbekistan which distinguishes it from the campaign of previous years. We visited to four campaign headquarters of all four candidates, and it was very informative.

The first thing that immediately catches your eye is the numerous changes. In my opinion, reducing the number of required signatures to register a candidate to 1 % is the most important change.

A large segment in preparation for the election campaign was devoted precisely to the organization of comfortable conditions for access to polling stations for people with disabilities – this is the availability of the ramps. We

got acquainted with such approach in different countries. In principle, this is a nuance, but it is very crucial. Their angle of inclination was not more than 30 degrees.

As for media coverage, I think that there is a huge number of foreign journalists here. It speaks about the openness, desire to make the pre-election process transparent.

http://ut.uz/ru/eshyo/Elections-2016/znachimye-izmeneniya/?sphrase_id=2005



Falk PORSCHE, Executive Director of the German-Uzbek Business Council (Germany):

– As a lawyer, I am well acquainted with the legislation of your country, closely monitor the preparation and conduct of the upcoming elections. It is noteworthy that the preparation of elections is carried out in accordance with the Program of major measures approved by the Central Election Commission. This allows you to conduct the activities in the order and terms defined in the election laws. There is every reason to assert that the legislation of Uzbekistan and large-scale preparatory work conducted by the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan fully secure the right of citizens to freely express their will.



*From the interview to the information program
Akhborot of the National TV and Radio Company of Uzbekistan*



Magdi ZABAL, director of the Center for Scientific Research of Zagazig University (Egypt):

– Under the leadership of the First President Islam Karimov, the huge positive changes were happened in Uzbekistan - political stability, an independent foreign policy and security were ensured which contributed to a large-scale modernization, sustainable and dynamic economic development of the country.

Along with this, an electoral system was created in the republic which guarantees the justice, freedom of expression of will by the citizens,



maximum openness and publicity of elections. It is good to note that in your country there is a purposeful and consistent work to improve the national legislation. At the same time, it relies on your own experience, as well as the best practices of foreign countries.

Uzbekistan, being an open democratic legal state, consistently fulfills its international obligations, regularly invites experienced experts working in the electoral sphere and international organizations as foreign observers.

Foreign experts on the preparation for the presidential elections in Uzbekistan, Jahon Information Agency, November 19, 2016



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Tamara GUSENKOVA, deputy director of the Russian Institute for Strategic Studies:

– Speakers today at the conference spoke in detail about the innovations in the electoral system of Uzbekistan and rightly noted that this is running in line with democratization and liberalization of the electoral process. Due to these changes, the electoral base is expanding. Participation of citizens in elections is inherent for any modern state.

We are pleased with the approach of the organizers to attract international experience to your electoral process. There is a rather large representation of observers from Asian countries. I note that Uzbek lawmakers closely cooperate with Korean colleagues. Korean electoral experience and the issues of creating an open electronic government and document circulation are actively studied and applied in Uzbekistan.

The creation of a press club is an international standard. It is remarkable that the experience of the advanced countries was used in the opening of this club in Uzbekistan.

From the interview of the radio station «Navro'z FM» of the National Association of Electronic Mass Media of Uzbekistan

Inna STETSENKO, Vice Rector of the Baltic International Academy (Latvia):

– During the years of independence, there have been developing and implementing the constitutional principle of separation of branches of power and powers between its main subjects – the President, the parliament, the government of the country and judicial bodies in Uzbekistan. Particular attention should be placed on enhancing the role and importance of the national parliament in the system of state power, which is one of the features of the democratic system.

Electoral legislation of the Republic is constantly improving, including taking into account the world's best practices. For me, as for women, it is essential that women take an active part in the social and political life of the state. I would also like to note the conditions created for the citizens at polling stations. In particular, special notice was attached to people with limited physical abilities. The functioning of the rooms of the «Mother and child» and the medical stations testifies to the social orientation of the state policy of Uzbekistan.

International experts on the democratic electoral system of Uzbekistan / Jahon Information Agency, December 4, 2016



Ilyas UMAKHANOV, deputy chairman of the Federation Council of Russia:

– We came to Uzbekistan not by indifferent observers, but by interested supporters of the further advancement of your country. The elections are a vivid example of a clear organization of the electoral process. They passed calmly, dignifiedly and in accordance with world standards. They demonstrated the effective activity of the state, the supremacy of the Constitution, the laws, the cohesion of the people.

*The inter-parliamentary dialogue is strengthening,
The daily Narodnoe Slovo, December 6, 2016*





Benedek PERI, head of the Department of Turkish Studies of the Budapest University of E. Laurent (Hungary):

– After visiting a number of polling stations, I did not notice any violations on the organization of their activities. The cordial and hospitable attitude of members of precinct election commissions towards citizens and their readiness to respond immediately to feedback drew my attention. I should also note the full correspondence of the design of premises to the established norms. Full lists of voters, placards of candidates and their electoral programs were posted.

Despite the soaring spirit of competition, the new rule of law concerning the day of silence was fully observed. The propaganda posters of the candidates were removed from the city, the TV stopped demonstrating the promo clips of political parties, the print media suspended the publication of the candidates' election programs. After such an active and large-scale political agitation, the Central Election Commission took all measures to form citizens own opinion on each candidate and self-selection.

*From the interview of the radio station «Oriat FM»
of the National Association of Electronic
Mass Media of Uzbekistan*



Eckhard PRILLER, director of the Maecenata Institute Berlin for Philanthropy and Civil Society (Germany):

– It is the second time that I am participating as an observer in the elections in your country. The current elections are of great political significance for the development prospects of the republic. The population has to make a really crucial choice.

I am observing the processes of transformation in your country, building a democratic society with interest. As part of the reform of the legislative system, the republic has established a reliable legal and regulatory framework, including in the field of electoral legislation which meets international standards. Adoption of amendments to the legislation on presidential elections is a serious measure.

The election process is organized at a high level; all necessary conditions are created for the observers. We received information materials on elections, on candidates for the presidency and other issues.

*In an atmosphere of openness, transparency and increased competition //
Pravda Vostoka, December 3, 2016*

Valentin GORBUNOV, chairman of the Moscow City Election Commission (Russia):

– Members of election commissions of all levels do not have the right to be members of political parties. Unfortunately, we have a different approach in this matter, 50% of the members of the commissions are members of parties. Here you have members of the commissions are not party representatives and they are really independent of both the executive branch and the parties. Honorable people participate in the work of election commissions. I saw the rector of the university on the lists of members of the district election commissions.

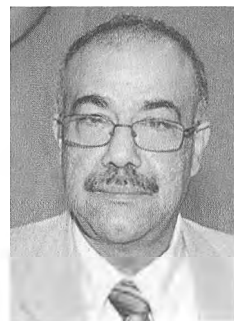
Also, the number of voter signatures in support for nominating a candidate at the elections has been reduced from 5 to 1%. All this allows more candidates to stand for election. The issuance of bulletins with Braille creates new opportunities for people with disabilities.

*From the interview of the radio station «Poytaxt FM» of
the National Association of Electronic Mass Media of Uzbekistan*



Mohammed Hussain Al-FILI, professor of the Faculty of Law of Kuwait University:

– I am monitoring the course of preparation for the elections of the President of Uzbekistan with interest. I ascertained that the necessary conditions have been created in your country to organize and conduct an important political event. In particular, it is worth noting the created legislative base, as well as the norms of the Basic Law guaranteeing equal voting rights for all citizens. The Constitution takes into account democratic principles, positive experience of the countries of the world and modern ideas of building a constitutional state. It defined the democratic the way



of development of Uzbek society on the basis of the rule of law and the protection of citizens' interests.

*Transparently and in an organized way //
Pravda Vostoka, December 5, 2016*



Iveta GRIGULE, member of the European Parliament, co-chair of the Parliamentary Cooperation Committee Uzbekistan-EU:

– It is necessary to note the importance of the ongoing reforms in the sphere of improving the electoral process, strengthening the constitutional status and independence of the Central Election Commission, as well as expanding its powers.

The radical reforms in the field of electoral legislation realized in recent years serve as a solid basis for conducting the elections in an atmosphere of equality, transparency, with full respect for election laws and the basic norms and principles of international law.

Today I have not seen posters on the street. I did not see any ads on the TV at the airport. This fully corresponds to the norms of the legislation on the elections, as today is a day of silence. No agitation is permitted. Tomorrow I plan to observe the voting at polling stations, I am going to see how technically everything is organized.

*From the interview to the information program Akhborot
of the National TV and Radio Company of Uzbekistan*



Kim Yong GU, President of Shindong Resources (Republic of Korea):

– Uzbekistan and Korea have a long history of cooperation in various sectors of the economy, arts and culture. Our electoral systems are similar, especially the preparation process for elections. The Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, like the Constitution of Korea, establishes the fundamental principles of the suffrage - universality, equality, direct suffrage by secret ballot which corresponds to universally recognize international democratic standards. One of the features of your country's electoral system which shows its commitment to democratic

principles is the opportunity for citizens to vote at home with the participation of observers. On the election day, I visited to several polling stations in Navoi region. Thus, the polling station No. 64 in Karmana district was formed and equipped strictly in line with the legislation. Cabins for secret voting were installed. Representatives of four parties watched the process. In general, the whole process meets the requirements of international standards, ensuring the suffrage of citizens.

*Opinions of international observers //
The daily Narodnoe Slovo, December 6, 2016*



Vladimir GARKUN, first deputy chairman of the CIS Executive Committee:

- I want to especially note the well-coordinated work of the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan which competently and clearly organizes preparations for the elections. There is no formalism in its activities. Organized seminars, trainings and conferences, including in on-line mode have a practical result. Also, the selection of personnel in precinct election commissions deserves high attention which responsibly and professionally fulfills the tasks assigned to them. Democracy is very developed in your country. Uzbekistan unlike many countries manages democracy, but does not play it. Everything has been done for the people, the youth, the future of the country.



*From the interview of the radio station «Oriat FM»
of the National Association of Electronic
Mass Media of Uzbekistan*



Dominique TILMANS, honorary senator of the Kingdom of Belgium:

– Every time, when I come to Uzbekistan, I witness a great transformation that causes admiration. The electoral system of Uzbekistan is improving. Democracy demands openness, equality, objectivity. I directly observed the election process; therefore, I can give a correct and objective assessment. Creating equal conditions for representatives of different nation-



alities, the citizens with disabilities is a vivid manifestation of democracy. I have 27 years of experience in politics. I know the electoral system well and from this point of view I think that the elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan are organized at a high level.

*Transparently and in an organized way //
Pravda Vostoka, December 5, 2016*



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Siyabshah SHAPIYEV, member of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation:

– During my stay in Uzbekistan, I talked with many international observers, including those from European countries. They note that there is a lot to learn from you today. These are the adopted changes in the national electoral legislation that correspond to international standards, the training of members of district and precinct polling stations with whom I personally communicated, and I note their thorough legal knowledge, work with the electorate and much more.

*Elections in Uzbekistan through the eyes
of international observers //
The newspaper Narodnoe Slovo, December 5, 2016*



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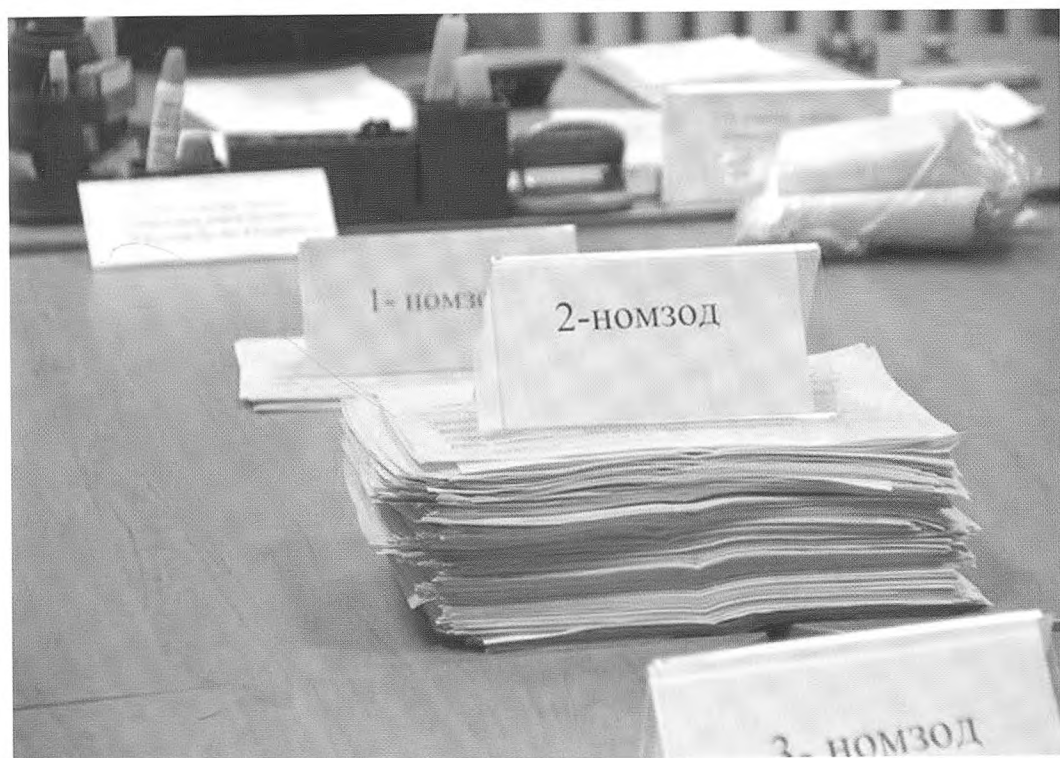
Yoon SANG-JICK, member of the National Assembly (Republic of Korea):

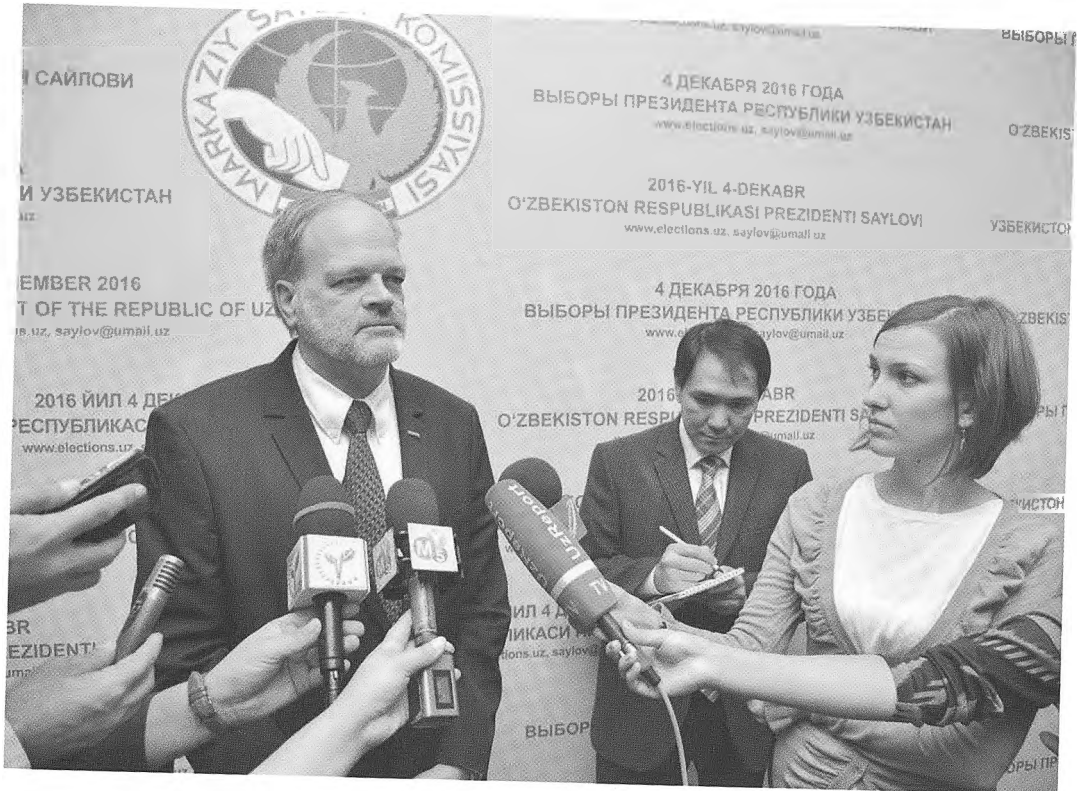
– I am participating as an international observer in the elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan and I can say that a lot of work has been done to carefully prepare for the elections. All activities were carried out in strict accordance with the updated electoral legislation. The current presidential election is really democratic elections in all respects. It is important to note that a lot of information on citizens' voting rights can be obtained online from the specialists. All this shows that the Central Election Commission has established cooperation with the media which undoubtedly ensures the openness and transparency of the entire electoral process.

*From the interview to the information program
Davr of the National TV and Radio Company of Uzbekistan*









Andreas JAN, leading expert of the Committee for International Cooperation of the Bundestag (Germany):

– A full-fledged electoral system was formed in Uzbekistan, the necessary laws were developed and are being implemented that comply with international norms and are constantly improving taking into account the requirements of the time. All conditions for free and secret voting of voters were created. This is a great achievement of your people.

The Central Election Commission, district and precinct election commissions carried out extensive preparatory work requiring a competent approach to ensure open, true and fair elections. All information on the elections was open, voters were available who wanted to prepare and verify in advance. The media regularly released the information on various aspects of the election campaign, useful to local residents and observers.



*Transparently and in an organized way» //
Pravda Vostoka, December 5, 2016*

Vladimir MESAMED, professor of the Institute of Asian and African Studies at the University of Jerusalem (Israel):

– The difference between the current elections of the President of Uzbekistan and the previous ones is manifested in the wide opportunities created for voters and candidates. We visited to several polling stations in Namangan. Our attention was drawn to the rooms of «Mother and child», medical stations, the availability of special bulletins for the blind.

The process of pre-election campaigning is organized at the high level. The people of Uzbekistan will choose a worthy leader. We wish this important historic event to be successful.



*A qualitative preparation for elections conducted
in a short time is worthy of high evaluation // UzA,
December 3, 2016*



Lisa WILLIAMS, former chief of administration of the congressman E. Faleomavaega (USA):

– I visited to the polling stations in Samarkand, Bukhara, got acquainted with the work of commissions created by the conditions places, including the rooms of «Mother and child». We do not have that. The activity of the female impressed me. One more thing - you have the opportunity to come and vote to the disabled people, the elderly. To be honest, we do not have such conditions in America. As for the work of journalists, judging by the materials in the press I can say on this score that the media work very quickly and objectively. Many international observers were involved in the process. In general, everything is very well thought out and clearly organized.

From the interview to the information program Akhborot of the National TV and Radio Company of Uzbekistan



Sin GUANCHEN, director of the Center for the Study of History and Geography of Border Regions of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences:

– The national electoral system of Uzbekistan allows voters to fully realize their constitutional right. The Central Election Commission effectively organized all stages of the election campaign. The electoral legislation of your country fully complies with international standards. I am confident that the recent amendments and additions made to it are of great importance for further deepening of the democratic reforms being carried out in Uzbekistan in the sphere of public and state construction.

*Uzbekistan is a dynamically developing country, Uza,
December 3, 2016*

Dan PETERSON, independent consultant, ex-chairman of the Seattle-Tashkent Association of Sister-Cities (USA):

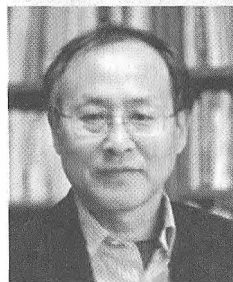
– I can say that the current elections were conducted at an even higher level. We were provided with all necessary materials on normative and legal documentation related to the elections, as well as detailed information on the work done by the Central Election Commission, candidates and their programs, rules of campaigning and monitoring of their compliance. Thus, we had the opportunity to study the situation and to make sure that the election legislation of Uzbekistan fully complies with the most advanced international standards and secures equal conditions for each applicant.



*Transparently and in an organized way» //
«Pravda Vostoka», December 5, 2016*

Kang MYUNG, director of the Asia Research Center of the Seoul National University (Republic of Korea):

– This is my first time in Uzbekistan. Elections are carried out well, we were able to assess the level of preparation at polling stations. All is within the framework of democratic norms.



*From the interview to the information program Akhborot the
National Television and Radio Company of Uzbekistan*

Jasim Isa AL-MUTAWA, counselor for CIS countries of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Emirate of Sharjah (UAE):

– The uniqueness of the election legislation of Uzbekistan lies in the fact that you managed to take the most advanced of the world experience and, taking into account national peculiarities, to form your own progressive model of the electoral system in all respects. It is clearly visible in securing



the openness and transparency of all stages of the elections. Providing equal opportunities for presidential candidates in campaigning creates an advantage for the voters who receive full information about applicants for a high state post. I got acquainted with the activities of the Republican Press Center and made sure that the journalists have the most up-to-date technical conditions; the representatives of the mass media have free access to any information.

*Elections in Uzbekistan through the eyes
of international observers // Narodnoe Slovo,
December 5, 2016*



Shamil AYRIM, deputy director general of the Marmara Group Strategic and Social Research Foundation (Turkey):

– It should be noted that the electoral legislation of Uzbekistan has been improved. Normative and legal documents in this direction and the changes and additions introduced therein reflect all the necessary aspects relating to the protection of human rights and interests. The current electoral system corresponds to universally recognize international norms and principles of democracy, publicity, and alternativeness. True political pluralism and respect for basic human rights and freedoms ensured an open and fair competition between rivals representing different political trends and provided voters with a genuine choice.

I would like to emphasize that all conditions and opportunities for international observers have been created in the course of the preparation and conduct of the elections that fully fulfilled their mission.

*Opinions of international observers //
«Pravda Vostoka», December 3, 2016*

Iosif SIDOROVICH, executive director of the CIS Executive Committee:

– The Central Election Commission has gained a good experience which for many countries can serve as an example. With each electoral campaign, the level of training of election organizers is growing; the interests and wishes of voters, recommendations of observers are taken into account. All changes made to the electoral legislation of Uzbekistan over the past year are aimed primarily at strengthening democratic principles, creating really equal conditions for voting.



*Opinions of international observers //
«Narodnoe Slovo», December 6, 2016*

Marit FOSS, publisher and editor-in-chief of the magazine Diva International (Switzerland):

– I was in Navoi on the day of elections. I observed the work of the polling station No.49 located in school No.2 of the Karmana district. I was convinced that the elections were carried out with strict observance of the legislative norms. According to them, from the beginning to the end of voting on the site there were observers from four parties that nominated candidates for the post of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan. With them, stationary and portable ballot boxes were sealed. The process was also monitored by foreign observers by journalists.



These elections are much different from previous election campaigns, and not only by changes in legislation. They are characterized by high voter turnout, openness, honesty and objectivity. For the first time, at the invitation of the Central Election Commission, a full-fledged OSCE/ODIHR election observation mission arrived in Uzbekistan. This shows the boosting confidence of the world community in the elections in your country, recognizing their authenticity, democracy and compliance with international standards.

*The word to international observers //
«Pravda Vostoka, December 7, 2016*



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Tatyana SINITSINA, editor-in-chief of InfoShOS Information and Analytical Portal (Russia):

– Of course, I seriously studied the legislation before taking on the mission of an observer journalist. The legislation was created, very sensible and practical people weighed it. They considered your national interests, your traditions, at the same time, laws are completely combined with what is required in the world. And basically the transparency and competition is required, and your legislation system contains all of them. The order of voting is certain. All this was observed absolutely. I visited several polling stations. I think that the new President will lead the country further, further along the historical path, and Uzbekistan certainly has all chances to represent itself on the international arena at the level of a high civilization.

*From the interview to the information program
Akhborot of the National TV and Radio Company of Uzbekistan*



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Muhammad ABBASKHAN, correspondent of The Daily Ittehad (Pakistan):

– The Central Election Commission organizes and clearly conducts preparations for the election of the President of Uzbekistan. In particular, the conditions have been created in polling stations for voters, including people with disabilities. Attention is also drawn to the fact that the increase in the legal awareness of the voters occupies a significant place in the program of key events for the preparation and conducting of the elections. I attended several explanatory events in Samarkand and Bukhara regions. The voters are well informed about the pre-election programs of presidential candidates. The topic of elections in Uzbekistan is widely discussed in Pakistan. For example, our newspaper publishes weekly materials about the socio-political processes in your country.

The electoral process: the view of the observer //
The daily Narodnoe Slovo, December 3, 2016

Choe SOONJA, President of Inha University (Republic of Korea):



– In Uzbekistan, as in South Korea, it can be said the distinctive feature is that everyone actively participates in elections. At each polling station in your country, there are rooms for «Mother and child» and medical rooms which for me is an innovation and left me a special impression. I think it would be good to introduce this in South Korea. At the same time, the organization of special ramps, paths and cabins for people with disabilities deserves the special attention. This shows that every citizen in your country has the right to vote, shows the full implementation of his constitutional right to participate in an crucial political event, especially the distribution of ballots on the Braille alphabet guarantees the right of everyone to vote personally for the candidate he/she considers worthy. Still a lot attracted me during my current visit. An interesting meeting was carried out at Inha University in Tashkent with representatives of young people; I especially note the activity of young people and girls in the polling station organized there. In a word, the unity and cohesion of your people, the activity of young people clearly demonstrated that the elections in your country were conducted in full accordance with generally recognized international standards.

Xalqaro kuzatuvchilar: Saylov yuksak demokratik tamoyillarga javob beradi // The newspaper Xalq So'zi, December 6, 2016

Aga Ikrar KHARUN, editor-in-chief of the internet publication DND, correspondent of the news agency E-Turbo News (Pakistan):



– I have already visited three polling stations in Samarkand. A large and effective work has been done to organize the elections. The polling stations had all the necessary information about presidential candidates, lists of voters were open, ramps and special voting booths were installed for the people with disabilities. The rooms of «Mother and child» and medical points were opened, and this is a big concern for voters.

I note that the electoral process in Uzbekistan is in accordance with the current Constitution and national legislation, consistent with generally recognized democratic principles.

Equal rights are guaranteed to presidential candidates at the legislative level in using the media in the period of election campaigning. I received full information on its activities at the 7th Samarkand district election commission.

*The manifestation of openness and publicity //
The daily Narodnoe Slovo,
December 2, 2016*



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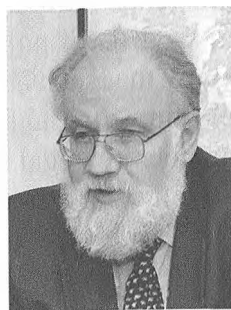
Evgeniy SLOBODA, head of department at CIS Executive Committee:

– We are aware of the improvement of the legislation basis on presidential elections and the introduction of changes and additions to it to create amenities for citizens in Uzbekistan. In accordance with the amendments and additions to the Law «On the elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan» in December 2015, clarity was introduced into the types, forms and methods of conducting election campaigning. Voters who do not have the opportunity to be at the place of residence on the election day, have the right to early voting. The law defines additional opportunities for the participation of political parties in elections, support for their candidate. The number of subscription lists in support of the presidential candidate has been reduced from five to one percent of the total number of all voters of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

*In Uzbekistan, an election campaign is conducted
within the law, openly and publicly,
in accordance with international norms // Uza,
November 28, 2016*

Vladimir CHUROV, Ambassador-at-large of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia:

– In Uzbekistan, preparations for the presidential elections were carried out at the highest level in the shortest possible time. This is the result of an electoral system established in the country that meets international standards and the relevant legislation, accumulated considerable experience in conducting elections. A large-scale work has been done that ensures the conduct of elections in accordance with international standards.



*The election process passes objectively and rightly, Uza,
December 2, 2016*

Bakhtiyor KHUDOYORZODA, Chairman of the Central Commission for Elections and Referenda of the Republic of Tajikistan:

– Uzbekistan is closest neighbor for us. We have similar electoral systems which correspond to universally the recognized international standards. The Central Election Commission has done a lot of work on organizing and conducting the elections. A large number of international observers were invited which demonstrates the openness and transparency of the electoral process. Free will of citizens is created.



*International observers arrive in Uzbekistan //
The newspaper Narodnoe Slovo, December 1, 2016*

Oleg SMIRNOV, member of the mission of observers from the Commonwealth of Independent States:

– On December 4, early in the morning I was at the polling station No.114 of the city of Namangan. Its design and equipment were fully complied with the requirements of election legislation. The same exemplary condition was observed at other places. Thanks to this, the voting took place in an organized manner, without fuss and, again, in accordance



with the legislative norms. The active civil position of the Uzbeks pleasantly surprised us. Already in the first half of the day, a large part of the voters declared in the lists of polling stations have voted for the candidates they had selected. I know that such a picture was observed even in areas in remote areas. The current election campaign demonstrated the achievements of Uzbekistan in building a democratic legal state and civil society.

Election commissions of all levels acted professionally and efficiently. The procedures for voting, counting the votes and reporting the results were free from falsifications or manipulations which ensured an accurate reflection of the will of voters in the results of the elections.

*Transparently and in an organized way //
«Pravda Vostoka», December 5, 2016*

III. POLITICAL PARTIES AS THE KEY ELEMENTS OF ELECTIONS IN THE ATMOSPHERE OF HEALTHY COMPETITION

Rashid ALIMOV, head of the observers mission from the Shanghai Cooperation Organization:

– We note the rather active position of the mass media - they are open to all candidates who are given the opportunity to speak, to present their program, not only in the central media, but also in the regional media, and even in the district ones.

The current analysis suggests that the election campaign is very calm, without hesitation, political competition is visible which is positive and important. Since any election is a step towards further development and progress of society, and not a desire for power.

The next thing we can note right now is the very high level of activity of candidates and the high professional work of the election commissions. The creation of appropriate conditions for the free expression of the will of people clearly depends on them. We see the voters' access to information about candidates and their programs, as well as meetings with them. It is unacceptable to exert any pressure on people in choosing, and we see that this principle is observed.



*The SCO Secretary-General: We are together with the
Uzbek people in this very important historic period//
«Jahon» IA, December 1, 2016*



Gao YUSHEN, head of the delegation of observers from China:

– On the voting day, representatives of our delegation visited to 71 polling stations in 8 regions of the country, including Tashkent, Samarkand, and others. We saw the whole process of elections in full - from the preparation of ballots and the sealing of ballot boxes for voting till counting the votes.



I also want to note that citizens are well informed about the electoral programs of presidential candidates in your country, and the media in turn openly cover the election process. In this regard, we can confidently state that the presidential elections met all the requirements of the Law «On the elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan», as well as the norms and principles of international law.

*The PRC Mission: Elections met all standards of international law // http://news.uzreport.uz/news_2_r_146602.html,
December 5, 2016*



Inna STETSENKO, Vice Rector of the Baltic International Academy (Latvia):

– Increasing the role of political parties in the elections of the President of Uzbekistan is one of the fundamental steps on the way to deepening democratic reforms. The participation of political parties in elections was facilitated on a legislative basis. The political parties in the country have their own programs and goals. In accordance with the law, all of them are given equal and wide terms for participating in the election campaign. Having visited to several districts of the city of Tashkent and the Syrdarya region, I was convinced in this.

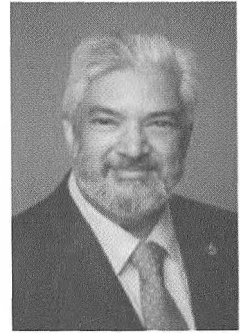
Healthy competition during elections is one of the most significant factors. Creating equal conditions for candidates from all political parties, monitoring compliance with equality, attracting not only national but also foreign observers and experts to this process all this meets the highest democratic requirements.

Everywhere you can see that the campaigning of all four candidates is carried out under the same conditions, including in the placement of advertising materials, banners. I have not observed cases of special attitudes or any restrictions on candidates.

*The people with strong will make progress // UzA,
December 1, 2016*

Joe DANIEL, chief executive officer of Cloud-Fi Inc. (Canada):

– I would like to note the role of political parties of Uzbekistan in the electoral process which represent the interests of different segments of society. I think that the country's potential is based on the inclusiveness of its political forces which in turn allows the broad sections of the population to contribute to the solution of important issues of the vital activity of the state.



In conducting democratic elections, an important function is performed by international observers. In this regard, it is gratifying to learn that the full-fledged OSCE/ODIHR mission will observe the election process in the Republic of Uzbekistan along with representatives of other international organizations. This decision is a confident step, which, in turn, increases the level of objectivity and trust in the norms of the electoral process established in the country.

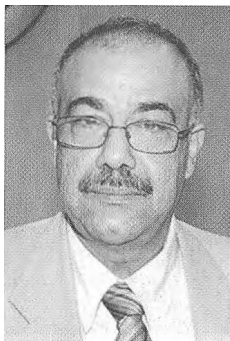
*From the interview of the radio station «Oriet Dono»
of the National Association
of Electronic Mass Media of Uzbekistan*

Pavel DULMAN, special correspondent of the newspaper Rossiyskaya Gazeta (Russia):

– I covered the elections not only in Russia, but also in many CIS countries. I am in Uzbekistan for the first time. For four days in your country, we had time to get acquainted with the economic and political situation in the republic, to visit the election headquarters of the parties. It is encouraging that the elections here are conducted calmly, in an equal competitive atmosphere as opposed to other countries, did not become an occasion for the split of the people.



*Here I think we will spend a lot of time //
http://ut.uz/ru/eshyo/Elections-2016/zdes-ya-dumayu-my-provedem-mnogo-vremeni/?sphrase_id=2024, November 30, 2016*



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Mohammed Hussain AL-FILI, professor of the Law Faculty at Kuwait University:

– We visited to numerous polling stations and we can say that everything is qualitatively organized. First, each candidate for the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan has the opportunity to present his election program, and the voters – to get acquainted with them. Also, the candidates freely campaign their voters, use various forms, types and methods of election campaigning. Secondly, thanks to the extensive explanatory work carried out by the election commissions, including through the media, the population clearly knows the location of the polling stations, the procedure for voting and filling out the ballot. Thirdly, each voter has the right to freely choose and vote for a certain candidate. We see the fourth important element on the basis of the election results. This is the transparency of the announcement of the results of the presidential elections. The media played the main role in ensuring the openness and transparency of the electoral process. In Uzbekistan this sphere is advanced and for journalists all conditions and opportunities for prompt submission of information were created.

From the interview to the television and radio channel «Yoshlar» of the National TV and radio companies of Uzbekistan



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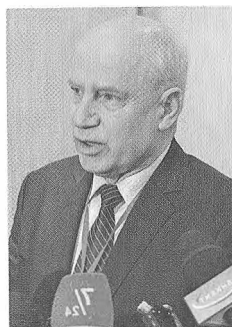
Heinz BUEHLER, deputy head of the Bonn City Council (Germany):

– It is worth to note the high level of inter-party competition and pre-election campaign which were organized in the framework of the legislation. The course of this campaign was widely covered not only within the country, but all over the world. The elections were conducted in conformity with high democratic requirements. On all sites that I visited, there was a high level of preparation. Members of election commissions demonstrated good knowledge of the law.

Views of international observers // «Pravda Vostoka», December 6, 2016

Sergei LEBEDEV, head of the CIS observer mission:

– Uzbekistan managed great changes in a short period of time. The national legislation made considerable advances and meets with international norms, in strict accordance with which the entire electoral process was organized. A huge organizational work was carried out. An effective multiparty system that provides an alternative to the elections for voters has been created. This is one of the achievements of the republic. It is pleasant to note the active participation of all four parties in the elections, their healthy competition during the election campaign. All this is a confirmation of securing democracy, openness and transparency of the electoral process. I am glad that the elections are carried out in a calm atmosphere. I am sure that the citizens of Uzbekistan will make the right choice by voting for a person who will ensure the country's further advancement on the path of prosperity.



*Elections in Uzbekistan through the eyes of international observers //
The daily Narodnoe Slovo, December 5, 2016*

Valerius SIMULIK, member of the Seimas of Lithuania:

– Another feature of the current presidential elections in Uzbekistan is the strong competitive struggle between candidates from four parties for the presidency.



*International observers on presidential elections of the
Republic of Uzbekistan // Jahon Information Agency,
December 5, 2016*



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Ralph WINNIE, director of the Eurasia Center for Global Enterprise Development (USA):

– The elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan were carried out at the highest level, were genuinely competitive, honest and fair, based on universal and equal suffrage. The situation in the country is characterized by growing political pluralism, high confidence of the electorate in the electoral process, transparency and accountability of the electoral bodies of the public which allowed voters to make a conscious choice between different political platforms.

Uzbekistan is a multiethnic country. Representatives of various nations and nationalities live here in peace and harmony. It is impressive that the members of the commissions communicated with voters in different languages. Campaign was conducted in several languages, for the first time elective materials were printed in newspapers published in Tajik and Kazakh languages. This is an indicator for the tolerance of your people.

The current election campaign was distinguished by a high level of inter-party competition which is noticeable in the electoral platforms of presidential candidates.

*Transparently and in an organized way //
«Pravda Vostoka», December 5, 2016*



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Kang Muung GU, director of the Asia Research Center at the Seoul National University (Republic of Korea):

– Yesterday I visited to a number of polling stations in Tashkent and saw how citizens actively visit to use their voting right and vote for their candidate. Each candidate from the party tried to reflect the vital issues and aspirations of the electorate in his election program. The elections were conducted transparently and in a calm atmosphere. In general, I am impressed by the high level of organization of the electoral process.

Undoubtedly, the results of these presidential elections will positively influence the development of democracy in your country and will be another step towards strengthening civil society.

International observers on the elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan // Jahon Information Agency, December 5, 2016



James MORAN, former member of the US Congress:

– I got acquainted with the programs of four candidates.

Each program focuses on political, economic and social well-being in the country. Young people took an active part in the electoral process. When you see the clear eyes of the young men and women of Uzbekistan, you are convinced that the country expects the same bright future.



Uzbekistan is always at a high level of preparation for elections // UzA, December 4, 2016



Wu TING, editor-in-chief of the Shanghai International Press Bureau edition The Paper (China):

– The elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan are distinguished by the variety of electoral programs of candidates nominated by political parties, the presence of a multitude of election campaign materials. Voters are provided with all conditions for getting familiarized with the candidates' election programs. They meet with voters who are widely broadcast on television.

Publicity and openness are the peculiarity of this electoral process. I must say that on-line briefings of the Central Election Commission are carried out at a high level using modern technologies.



From the interview to the information program Davr of the television and radio channel Yoshlar of the National TV and Radio Company of Uzbekistan

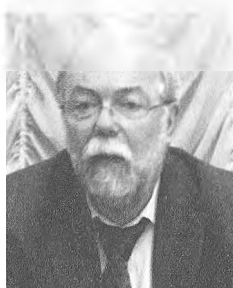


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Violain de VILMORE, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of France to Uzbekistan:

– We follow the public opinion of the inhabitants of Uzbekistan about the presidential elections in social networks. We watched the meetings of candidates in the regions, their speeches, read about it in the press. It is evident that the people of Uzbekistan treat seriously and with all responsibility to the elections. This indicates that citizens are not indifferent to the future of the country.

Ochiqlik, oshkoralik va demokratik ruhida //
UzA, 2016 December 1 December



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Vladimir LAFITSKI, deputy director of the Institute of Legislation and Comparative Jurisprudence under the Government of the Russian Federation:

– We observed a high level of inter-party struggle, a real competitiveness of presidential candidates. It was manifested fully in the course of the election campaign which was organized with the observance of the principles of equality and justice. The elections themselves are uniquely authentic, transparent and fair.

International observers, journalists and party representatives took an active part in each phase of the campaign. On the voting day, they were at each place, watched the counting of votes which was also fair and open.

The word to international observers //
«Pravda Vostoka», December 7, 2016



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Hitoki NAKAGAWA, special correspondent of the newspaper Asahi Shimbun (Japan):

– It is noteworthy that Uzbekistan has achieved great successes in historically short terms. The country occupies a particularly important place in the region, and in general in international life. Many foreign observers arrived at the elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan. All created conditions for foreign journalists facilitated the operational coverage of the election process.

We see that each of the parties participating in the presidential elections has its status. A full-fledged work was carried out to organize elections in accordance with international norms – on the basis of transparency, openness, equality and justice.

*The large-scale reforms initiated by the great leader,
will be continued consistently / UzA,
December 2, 2016*



Evgeniy SLOBODA, head of department at CIS Executive Committee:

– We highly value the role of the mass media of Uzbekistan in election campaigning, on the whole, in the electoral process. A videoconference with the participation of members of all election commissions was recently conducted at the Central Election Commission. This is also one of the effective methods for ensuring publicity and openness. The event was attended by observers from political parties that nominated their candidates for the presidency of the Republic of Uzbekistan, representatives of the press, radio, and television, observers from foreign countries and from international organizations. The signing of an agreement by the Central Election Commission on cooperation with the National Television and Radio Company of Uzbekistan, leading news agencies, the National Association of Electronic Mass Media is a significant factor for the comprehensive objective coverage of the election campaign this year. It is noteworthy that in this direction more than ten thousand materials have already been published by the mass media. In the pre-election campaign, the media create equal conditions for all candidates and secure truthfulness and transparency.



We visited to several areas, many polling stations. Based on my own observations, I can convincingly say that an electoral campaign in Uzbekistan is conducted within the framework of the law, openly and publicly, in accordance with international norms. Voters are provided with all the conditions for acquaintance with the candidates' programs, free voting and the use of their rights.

*In Uzbekistan the election campaign is conducted within the law,
openly and publicly, in accordance with international norms //
UzA, November 28, 2016*



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Fakhri KHAMZA, deputy speaker of the House of People's Representatives of Indonesia:

– All international observers note that the election process is objective and fair. All candidates are given equal conditions.

Qualitative preparation for elections conducted in a short time is worthy of high praise //
UzA, December 3, 2016



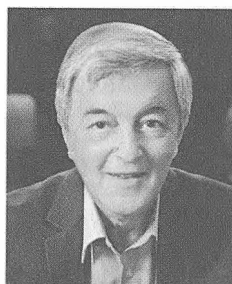
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Guy Olivier FAURE, professor at the Sorbonne University Paris V (France):

– Everywhere I saw examples of pre-election campaigning of all candidates. Particular attention was paid to the work of the mass media of Uzbekistan - they became active participants in the entire electoral campaign and covered in detail all the events, providing the same conditions for candidates for the presidency.

I visited to different polling stations and everywhere I saw that the members of electoral commissions are very devoted to their work. They created all conditions for free expression of will of the citizens and open counting of votes. The people organized themselves and registered their choice. In a word, there are no critical remarks.

Word to international observers //
«Pravda Vostoka», December 7, 2016



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Eduard YAKUBOV, president of the Holon Institute of Technology (Israel):

– Political institutions are dynamically advancing in Uzbekistan. All four registered parties submitted their candidates for participation in the election process. I am sure that regardless of who wins the election, he will do everything possible within his authority to further boost the welfare of his people and the prosperity of the country.

Presidential elections are carried out in the spirit of publicity and transparency //
Jahon Information Agency, December 4, 2016

Frederick STARR, chairman of the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute at Johns Hopkins University (USA):

– Elections are a very significant event for Uzbekistan as the leading country of all Central Asia and for other states. Local experience is interesting from a number of positions, because not all the republics of the former Soviet Union were able to provide an equally smooth transition to democracy. Over the past decades, there have been major changes; reforms have been made which are now reflected in practice.



Another difficult subject is the evolution of political parties that emerged not so long ago. Over the past time, all of them have become truly alive, functioning organisms, engaged in real practical affairs and working with the population of the whole republic. Each new initiative is more significant than the previous one. The parties articulated their own, clearly expressed positions on crucial issues of the country's development, solving political, economic, social problems, as evidenced by the programs of their candidates for the post of President. They have different priorities, different approaches. It will be especially interesting to observe the further advancement of the multiparty system of Uzbekistan within the framework of the long-awaited general modernization of political life.

*The elections in Uzbekistan through the eyes of international observers //
The daily Narodnoe Slovo,
December 5, 2016*

Nikolai LEVICHEV, member of SCO observer mission:

– I have happened to observe the electoral processes in many countries. With regard to healthy competition among political parties, activity, voter cohesion and voting order, Uzbekistan's electoral process is not inferior to and in some cases even surpasses some countries. Billboards and outdoor advertising of presidential candidates are on equal terms in the streets of Tashkent.



*The modern electoral system: the experience of Uzbekistan //
UzA, November 30, 2016*



Michele AL-HAJI, general manager of the law firm «All Direction Gulf» (Kuwait):

– December 4 is an important date in the political life of Uzbekistan. On this day citizens of the country will choose the new President from among four nominees from different political parties. It should be noted that the candidates' programs include all pressing issues, the solution of which will contribute to the further advancement of Uzbekistan and improvement of social and economic situation, as well as the creation of more favorable conditions for foreign investment.

I am sure that the new leader of Uzbekistan will undoubtedly continue the course of development of the nation's own model of economic development and modernization, designated by the First President Islam Karimov.

Results of presidential elections in Uzbekistan will strengthen its image in the international arena // Jahon IA, December 3, 2016



Gunars KUTRIS, deputy secretary of the Presidium of the Latvian Saeima, deputy chairman of the parliamentary group «Heart of Latvia»:

– The outcome of elections does not depend on international observers, but they, like the litmus paper, can reflect how this important political event was carried out in practice, whether the rules prescribed in the electoral legislation were observed.

The elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan were held on the basis of democratic principles of national legislation. Candidates for the post of President were given equal space and airtime in the media. This serves as the basis for holding fair and open elections. At meetings held in the regions, they informed citizens in advance about the goals and objectives of their electoral programs. Such an interactive form of communication with the population allowed citizens to clarify and decide in advance who they will vote for.

In a transparent and orderly manner // «Pravda Vostoka», December 5, 2016

Shin Hyun DU, president of magazine The Seoul City (Republic of Korea):

– I was told that people in Uzbekistan go to vote at sunrise, so I went to polling stations No.591, 596, 597 at 6 am and was shocked by the number of people. As for the polling stations themselves, they amazed me with rooms for children and music. People have a joyful mood as if they were going to a festival. Pre-election campaign of the presidential candidates was also interesting, to be more precise, time on air and funds between party representatives were fairly distributed. This is a very useful rule that equalizes the chances of candidates.



Observers about the peculiarities of elections that attracted attention

<https://www.gazeta.uz/ru/2016/12/04/mandats/>

December 5, 2016

Seichiro MURAKAMI, member of the lower house of the Japanese parliament:

– The presidential election campaign is held on the basis of a multi-party system, which is the result of successive democratic reforms in Uzbekistan.

It should be noted that the meetings of candidates are held with voters not only in the capital, but also in all regions of the country, during which voters have an opportunity to get familiarized themselves with the pre-election programs of those who run for the office of President of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

In their programs, the candidates put forward important issues of state policy, providing for the continuation of socio-economic reforms, increasing the competitiveness of the country's economy, implementing state youth policy, developing sports and other tasks. It is encouraging that the agenda of all candidates to the post of President of the Republic of Uzbekistan includes further advancement of people's welfare and living standards.



*From an interview with the television and radio channel «Toshkent»
of the National Television and Radio Company of Uzbekistan*



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Ahmed Nabi MUSA, Deputy Minister for Informatization of the Arab Republic of Egypt:

– The competition of nominees from four political parties in elections on equal terms demonstrates the establishment of a democratic electoral system in Uzbekistan at the level of international standards.

Voter Turnout Reflection of Democratic Reforms // UzA, December 4, 2016



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Veli YUKSEL, member of the parliament of the Kingdom of Belgium:

– I have monitored elections in Bulgaria, Spain, Poland. These are different electoral systems with diverse elements. Thus, in Belgium, voting is there from 8 am to 1 pm and in electronic form. In Uzbekistan, observers from four political parties who nominated their candidates for the presidency, have attended all polling stations. The voting booths are properly equipped and provide the principle of secret ballot. I note that media representatives worked in favorable conditions and widely covered the election process, and openness is the main criterion for elections.

Opinions of international observers // «Narodnoe slovo», December 6, 2016



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Johann Peter Traugott TEJLER, Head of the OSCE / ODIHR Election Observation Mission to the Republic of Uzbekistan:

– State-owned national newspapers provided candidates with free print space for campaigning in Uzbek, Russian, Tajik and Kazakh.

On December 4, elections were held in a festive atmosphere; the polling stations opened on time and were adequately provided with all the necessary resources. Observers from political parties

and international observers had an opportunity to watch all stages of the electoral process. After the completion of casting ballot and vote count, the OSCE / ODIHR mission observers obtained copies of the protocols of precinct election commissions at all polling stations, which is indicative of full transparency of the electoral process.

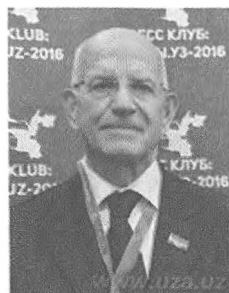
OSCE/ODIHR: «The preparation and conduct of elections were transparent»
http://news.uzreport.uz/news_2_r_146601.html

December 5, 2016

Cornelius LADAJ, director of the nongovernmental organization Intertwine Consultancy (The Netherlands):

– We see that Uzbekistan has carried out thorough preparations for the elections. All processes are carried out in accordance with the updated electoral legislation, which ensures the organization of elections on the basis of high democratic requirements.

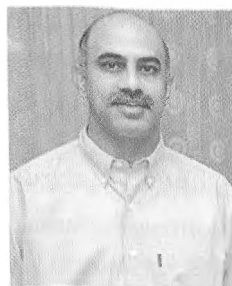
The electoral campaigning was held with coverage of the specific position of each candidate, with a wide range of voters. Meetings on the ground were lively; citizens openly expressed their views, which indicates an increased activity of voters. This shows that the people of Uzbekistan firmly believe in the future of the country.



High level of preparation for elections testifies to the firm confidence of Uzbekistan's people in their future // UzA, December 2, 2016

Riven Gerard D'SOUZA, executive director of the weekly newspaper Times Kuwait (Kuwait):

– As a journalist covering the parliamentary and presidential elections in Uzbekistan in 2014 and 2015, I want to emphasize that in the republic over the years of independence a stable system of public administration and democratic institutions have been formed. A huge role in this



is played by creating the necessary conditions for the organization and regular holding of open and free elections, which are the basis of modern democracy.

The national electoral system of Uzbekistan has been improved in accordance with national legislation and generally recognized international norms and standards. Elections of the head of state, deputies of the parliament, and representative bodies of government in the field are carried out exclusively on a multi-party basis.

*Outcomes of presidential elections in Uzbekistan will
strengthen its image in the international arena //*

Jahon IA, December 3, 2016



**Aleksey LAZURENKO, columnist of Ren-TV channel
(Russia):**

– We have come in Uzbekistan as part of a delegation of Russian media. Already had time to visit the headquarters of political parties that nominate candidates for the post of the President of Uzbekistan, talked with representatives of the election commission. We communicated a lot with local residents, and they talk about the peaceful situation in the country, which in the modern world is very valuable. What we saw in the campaign, confirms the opinion of the inhabitants of Uzbekistan. Political parties respect the laws of ethics.

Here, while carrying out election campaigns, the candidates not only personally met with voters in different regions of the country, but also contacted via video conference, which enabled them, through new technologies, to reach a larger number of voters. Thanks to changes in the legislation, a day of silence appeared – an important factor in the election campaign. After all, a person has time to comprehend what he has heard, seen before. It is also important that for the first time bulletins are printed in Braille and special voting booths for people with disabilities appeared.

Political parties observe the laws of ethics //

http://ut.uz/ru/eshyo/Elections-2016/politicheskimi-partiyami-soblyudayutsya-zakony-etiki/?sphrase_id=1996,

November 30, 2016

**Tofik ABBASOV, director of the media department
at the Baku International Center for Multiculturalism
(Azerbaijan):**

– The fact that all four parties of Uzbekistan nominated their hopefuls for the post of the head of state deserves special attention. The election process takes place in conditions of openness, fair competition.

Over the years of independence, peace and stability have been ensured, human and intellectual potential has been significantly strengthened in the republic.



*The electoral process in Uzbekistan is taking place
in conditions of fair competition //
«Narodnoe slovo», November 30, 2016*

**Mark BONNELL, President of the Avicenna-France
Association:**

– I have visited Uzbekistan many times and I see the transformations taking place here. I can say that your country is going through peace and advancement, and the election campaign confirms this. The electoral process meets international standards; all events are at an exemplary level.

Candidates and parties that stay behind them have done a great deal of work to develop their own initiatives in all areas. And the mass media actively help them deliver their proposals, which have become important participants in the entire campaign. They provided equal opportunities for candidates to the post of President and areas for placing their materials, they cover in detail all the ongoing meetings with voters and other events, which allows the population to form a full understanding of the difference between the candidates' programs and the electoral process as a whole.



*In an atmosphere of openness,
publicity and increased competition //
«Pravda Vostoka», December 3, 2016*



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Marlene MIZZI, member of the European Parliament:

– I attend the elections in the republic on a personal initiative and not as part of any mission. I visited eight polling stations, saw all well and asked many questions to members of the commissions and observers. I can say that I did not see anything wrong. Everything was organized well, members of electoral commissions have willingly cooperated, and I cannot say that I could criticize anything. I was impressed by the children's rooms, organized on sites where adult voters could leave their children, as well as doctors' offices. Everything was thought out.

The only thing that surprised me was the presence of party observers on polling stations that monitored the rule of law. The fact is that in Malta, observers can only be outside the polling station, at least 50 meters away. But they can campaign for their candidate even on the election day. At the same time, we understand that in all countries the electoral legislation is different, even, for example, within the EU. The main thing is that the laws are respected.

*MEP surprised by observers in polling stations
during presidential elections in Uzbekistan //*
<https://vz.ru/news/2016/12/5/847522.html>

December 5, 2016



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Yoel RAZVOZOV, member of the Israeli Knesset:

– Conducting free and fair elections serves as a means of increasing the trust of civil society in the political system of the country. In Uzbekistan, this postulate is elevated to the rank of an axiom. The nomination and registration of candidates were held in the republic within the framework of the Constitution, in accordance with the program of the main activities of the CEC for holding presidential elections. Candidates for the highest state post are given an equal opportunity to defend their program both in printed media and during planned meetings with voters. Their headquarters conduct active propaganda work among

the population. It should be noted that there is a very high general level of awareness of voters and their knowledge of their constitutional rights.

*International observation: practice in the mirror
of international standards //
«Narodnoe slovo», November 16, 2016*

**Chon Chjon SOP, member of the National Assembly
of the Republic of Korea:**

– In the election legislation of Uzbekistan the Central Election Commission has an independent status. In my opinion, this fact is of great importance, since it has allowed CEC to freely carry out its activities in the preparation, organization and conduct of elections.

It is noteworthy that all the information about the biographies and programs of the presidential candidates could be obtained not only in Uzbek, but also in other languages. This shows that in your country every vote is important for the state and all citizens are provided with the necessary information about the course of the election campaign.



*In a transparent and orderly manner // «Pravda Vostoka»,
December 5, 2016*

**Sin GUANCHEN, director of the Center for the Study
of History and Geography of Border Regions at the
Chinese Academy of Social Sciences:**

– The Presidential elections were carefully prepared on the basis of national legislation and international democratic principles. All candidates were given equal conditions and opportunities to carry out election campaigning. Their programs and meetings were regularly covered in the media.



*Uzbekistan is a dynamically developing country // UzA,
December 3, 2016*



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Hillel NEWMAN, head of sector at the Department of Strategic Studies of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Israel:

– At this stage, the focus of attention of the international community is directed towards the presidential elections in the Republic of Uzbekistan. This country, which sets the rhythm in the development of socio-political and economic processes in Central Asia, is the largest republic in terms of population and a key segment in the architecture of regional security. Due to the factors mentioned, the outcome of the elections in Uzbekistan, its further course, are of great interest in the world. All the parties of Uzbekistan declared about themselves on the pre-election field. Already, we can state that there is real political competition. The liberalization of electoral legislation, the empowerment of parties to fight for power, the active involvement of the civil sector in the election process, and the accreditation of a large number of foreign observers – all of this suggest that Uzbekistan has made a serious shift towards democracy and openness.

International observation: practice in the mirror of international standards //
«Narodnoe slovo», November 16, 2016



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Zhan HUNZJIAN, international observer from the Shanghai Cooperation Organization:

– I have been to Uzbekistan before. I would like to note the positive changes that have taken place in the country. As a representative of the mission of international observers while observing the elections I adhered to the principles of neutrality, non-interference in the internal affairs of the state, objectivity and carried out our monitoring according to the requirements. The polling stations were distinguished by a high level of preparedness; all the details of the electoral process were thought through.

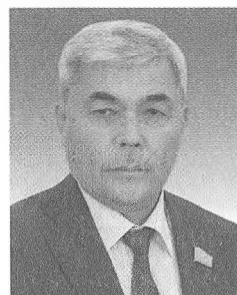
All presidential candidates were provided with the same conditions, allowing them to compete on an equal footing, they had unhindered access to the media without any discrimination. State and other mass media provided fairly balanced and impartial information on the basis of which the voter could make a deliberate choice. The rules for financing the election campaign did not create the advantages of any particular party or candidate.

*In a transparent and orderly manner //
«Pravda Vostoka», December 5, 2016*

Kudaibergen ERJAN, deputy of the Majilis of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan:

– We received detailed information in media about an important event in the country's socio-political life – the election of President of the Republic of Uzbekistan and preparations for them. Observing the speeches of the candidates nominated by the parties for the presidency, I witnessed a healthy competition between them, their respect for voters. Your compatriots regard these elections very responsibly, with a feeling of belonging to the destiny of the Motherland.

A little earlier we visited the polling station, organized at the Embassy of Uzbekistan in Kazakhstan in Almaty. Here, preparations for elections are also organized at a high level. It is worthy of note that all opportunities for free participation in the current elections and voting of citizens living abroad have been created. This, in turn, is of great importance in the implementation of their civic duty, constitutional rights.



*In the spirit of constructive dialogue //
«Narodnoe slovo», December 3, 2016*

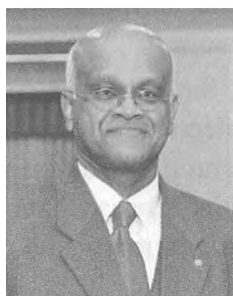


Heinz WYSSLING, Vice President of the Uzbek-Swiss Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Switzerland):

– The election of the President is of great importance for Uzbekistan, because in the course of them the future of the country will be determined. They cause a great deal of interest abroad, including among the investors that your country seeks to involve actively. And for this it is important to have a stable political system and political will of the state leadership. In Uzbekistan, a necessary system of checks and balances has been created; parties play an active role in the electoral process, between which real competition has intensified.

The candidate from each of them had his own programs and priorities in the field of socio-economic development, his own solutions to actual problems, his own views on many issues that they actively defended. All this is the result of democratic reforms.

*In a transparent and orderly manner //
«Pravda Vostoka», December 5, 2016*



Mosud MANNAN, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Bangladesh to Uzbekistan:

– I once happened to participate in the parliamentary elections in Uzbekistan as an observer. This time I monitor the presidential elections. We got acquainted with biographies and electoral programs of the hopefuls. Each of them proposes objectives to improve the well-being of people, aspires to boost the standing of the country.

We highly appreciate the work of the country's journalists. Regular coverage of elections in the media increases the legal awareness of Uzbekistan's people. I am confident that these elections, which are of great importance for the political and public life, will further expand the prospects of Uzbekistan.

*In the spirit of openness, publicity and democracy //
UzA, December 1, 2016*





Shirin AKINER, senior research fellow of the Cambridge Forum for Central Asia (UK):

– I am not for the first time in Uzbekistan and, in particular, in Karakalpakstan. However, I am surprised to learn how much this region has transformed. I've managed to visit the sights in Nukus city. I was in the Karakalpakstan district election commission and press center. Witnessed the organized preparation for the elections, broad awareness of citizens on all matters of the electoral process. I managed to look through central, party and regional newspapers, in which there is all the necessary information, and events in this direction are highlighted. The electoral programs of presidential nominees reflect issues related to the further improvement of the economy, enhancement of social opportunities of the population, preservation of national cultural traditions.



*In a transparent and orderly manner //
«Pravda Vostoka», December 5, 2016*



Alexander BALITSKY, reporter of the «Rossiya» television company:

- The political processes themselves are one thing, but all these processes must influence the life of the common people. Why do people go to politics? To change some established standards and change the country to a better position, if possible. Errors happen to all politicians, therefore, the work of journalists in elections is not only a meeting with candidates, and an overview of their pre-election promises, but, first of all, it is necessary to find out how ordinary people live, what they think, how they assess their social situation, salaries, Are they satisfied with state mechanisms.



*Press club «Elections – 2016»: Expert opinions and interviews //
http://news.uzreport.uz/news_2_r_146481.html,
December 2, 2016*





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Safa Mahmoud ALVAN, director general of the consulting company Orient Consulting and Legal Translation (UAE):

– I constantly observe the reforms implemented in Uzbekistan. For the second time as an observer I participate in the elections held in this country. We visited the 14th constituency of Tashkent city, where we got acquainted with the course of preparation for the elections, work conducted with young people voting for the first time. We were convinced that the country had created a well-thought-out system that meets international requirements for ensuring the electoral rights of citizens.

On the streets and buildings there are posters, slogans calling on voters to take an active part in the elections. We watched the speeches of representatives of political parties and candidates in mass media. This process is very active and lively, which, undoubtedly, will help voters choose a worthy candidate.

In the spirit of openness, publicity and democracy //
UzA, December 1, 2016



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Vladimir FILIPOVICH, head of department at the CIS Executive Committee, member of the CIS Observation Mission:

– Equal opportunities for all presidential candidates, funding of election campaigning from the state create a solid basis for conducting elections in Uzbekistan at the level of international requirements and in an environment of healthy competition. This practice is rare in the world. It is very important that each party works with its electorate. Candidates' programs put forward noble goals for ensuring a prosperous future for the people of Uzbekistan, for further development of the country.

The high level of preparation for elections testifies to the firm confidence of the people of Uzbekistan in their future //
UzA, December 2, 2016

Jasim Isa AL-MUTAWA, counselor for relations with CIS countries at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Emirate of Sharjah (UAE):

– I got acquainted with the course of preparation of the elections of the President of Uzbekistan, in particular, pre-election campaigning. I was convinced that the candidates for President were given equal opportunities and conditions. It was possible to get acquainted with the goals and objectives of their programs, biography through the media. It should be noted that the media played a big role in the conduct of the election campaign in accordance with the generally recognized principles of democracy. They formed public opinion, in particular, called on people to actively vote and not be indifferent to the future of the country, and provided the necessary information about the course of the election campaign. People, of course, made the main choice.



*Opinions of international observers //
«Pravda Vostoka», December 6, 2016*

Vladimir KOBYAKOV, correspondent of NTV channel (Russia):

– I was surprised that in a year and a half the legislation on elections has been changed. That is, the organizers of the election campaign gave more tools to the people who want to participate in elections. And this is already good.

The current elections are unprecedented for political culture and traditions of Uzbekistan. We got acquainted with the programs of all candidates. They are very active in these elections; they have opened their pages in social networks, hold meetings with a large number of voters and presented various videos on TV channels and Internet. We arrived at night at the UzLiDeP headquarters, after all the plots were closed, there was a clear revival. In principle, it was already clear that people have a good mood that their candidate wins.



From the interview of the radio station «Poytaxt-FM» of the National Association of Electronic Mass Media of Uzbekistan



Zheng QI, correspondent of China Daily (PRC):

– Mass media actively participate in the activities of the election campaign. Equal opportunities have been created for presidential candidates to hold election campaigning on television, radio, newspapers and online publications. We journalists will not only watch, but also broadcast to the countries of the world what we have seen here, in particular the solid experience of holding elections in Uzbekistan.

Preparations at a high level /

UzA, December 2, 2016

IV. ENSURING PUBLICITY, OPENNESS AND TRANSPARENCY OF THE ELECTORAL PROCESS INCREASES INTEREST TO ELECTIONS

Kim YONG-HI, Secretary-General of the Association of World Electoral Bodies:

– Openness, transparency and justice are required for elections based on high democratic principles. With this in mind, the process of preparing for elections in Uzbekistan was held at a high level.

We observed this during the pre-election campaign, and on Election Day we witnessed the work of polling stations at the level of international standards.

We were very pleased with the special attention paid to all segments of the population, especially those in need of social protection – representatives of the older generation, youth, women with young children, disabled people.

The creation of conditions for children of different ages in the rooms «Mother and Child», providing toys, books, is noteworthy. In medical rooms, all conditions are also created. Separate voting booths facilitate the process of their free expression of will.

Voting was held within the law, and citizens freely expressed their will. We are sure that the results of the elections will serve the further development of your country.

*Head of the A-WEB: The results of the elections will serve the further
development of Uzbekistan // http://news.uzreport.uz/news_2_r_146571.html,
December 4, 2016*



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Gao YUSHENG, Ambassador-at-large of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, head of the delegation of observers from China:

– Our team includes both representatives of the diplomatic corps and general public – heads of commercial enterprises, organizations, scientists. In total – about twenty people.



We consider the holding of elections as an important event, important for strengthening the political, economic, social and other spheres. We assess the work of organizing the election of the Central Election Commission at a decent level. Preparation is in accordance with national legislation, as well as generally accepted standards in world practice. The media objectively and in detail highlights the course of an important political event, and also provides information on candidates for the presidency.

It should be noted that the high activity of citizens and their attendance at polling stations indicate the successful holding of presidential elections.

*In a transparent and orderly manner //
«Pravda Vostoka», December 5, 2016*



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**Frederick PONSONBY, member of the House of Lords
of the British Parliament:**

– At the polling station formed in detention premises, all the necessary conditions have been created for the free expression of will of persons, in relation to which the verdict of the court has not yet been announced. It is gratifying that the principle of secret ballot is secured. I would like to note that giving the opportunity to exercise constitutional right to a circle of persons under investigation is one of the key positive aspects of the current electoral process. The organization of elections in such places requires thorough preparation. I see that the Central Election Commission has coped well with this difficult task.

*From an interview with the television and radio channel Toshkent of the
National Television and Radio Company of Uzbekistan*



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**Pierre CHABAL, professor at the University of Le
Havre, an international relations expert (France):**

– The information presented about the political system in your country, speaks about a good level of development of democracy and legislative base. The Presidential Elections are organized in full accordance with the Constitution and the Law «On the elections of President of the Republic of Uzbekistan» and prove the effective and stable functioning

of the state's constitutional system. I would especially note a large number of foreign and international observers. This once again speaks about the open and transparent nature of the electoral process. I am confident that the monitoring of the electoral process should be carried out in the spirit of constructive international cooperation.

Another positive sign in these elections demonstrates the participation of candidates from all four parties represented in the parliament, as well as a high percentage of citizens' participation. This means that people are worried about the present and future of the country, they are trying to be an active part in the process of further state building.

*In a transparent and orderly manner //
«Pravda Vostoka», December 5, 2016*

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Hironobu KUROSAKI, Manager General of the department for America, Europe, Middle East and Africa at NEC Corporation (Japan):

– The process of covering the preparation and progress of presidential election by the media is also organized at a very high level. The opening of the press club equipped with all the necessary modern information technologies, attests to the great attention paid to this important event.



International observers about elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan // IA «Jahon», December 5, 2016

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Valerius SIMULIK, member of the Seimas of Lithuania:

– We drove around 15 sites. Indeed, I liked the order. Everywhere it is clear who, how and for what is responsible for. All information is clearly presented. People understand everything, do not wander, find out how and where to vote. There are responsible people who can consult, and then the election commission will count the votes and determine the results of the elections.



From the interview to the information program «Axborot» of the National TV and Radio Company of Uzbekistan



Robert FRANTSEV, reporter of the TV channel Russia 24:

– We understand that the elections in Uzbekistan will determine the future of the country, the entire vast region. On the voting day, our channel was the first of foreign media to be on the air at 8 am Moscow time. In order to prepare, set up the equipment, we came to the polling station at half past five. And we found at the doors people who had come here before the opening of the polling station. We were convinced that people were pertinent to the elections – their civic duty – with great responsibility. Separately, I want to say that the attention attached to journalists suited to this important event. For our work, we were provided all the conditions on the ground here and in the press club, for which many thanks to the organizers. Thanks to this, our viewers will learn more about Uzbekistan.

*The attention to journalists suited to the event. //
«Narodnoe slovo», December 6, 2016*



Akkan SUVER, Director General of the Strategic and Social Research Foundation «Marmara Group» (Turkey):

– I want to note that election preparation and the elections themselves were organized everywhere at the most professional level. This shows that in the friendly Uzbekistan, the process of democratization has significantly increased. We visited several polling stations in Tashkent, Samarkand, Ferghana and the Republic of Karakalpakstan. We watched directly the process of voting on the ground. We saw how responsibly the citizens of your country approach to this important historical event. They came to choose this or that candidate with whole families. It really touched me. Observing the presidential elections in Uzbekistan, we came to the following opinion: the election process was open and transparent. This is a success not only for Uzbekistan, but this experience will be a good example for our country.

From the interview to the information program «Axborot» of the National TV and Radio Company of Uzbekistan

Heinz WYSSLING, Vice President of the Uzbek-Swiss Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Switzerland):

– The procedure for electing a new President is in full compliance with the principles of transparency, transparency and justice. I am happy to return to Uzbekistan again, to this hospitable country. In this election, I like the press club, where you can watch the voting process online and communicate with representatives of other countries. This is a platform not only for elections, but also for negotiations in the business sphere, exchange of experience. Thank you for this opportunity.

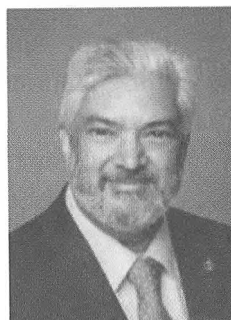


Observers - about the peculiarities of elections that attracted attention <https://www.gazeta.uz/en/2016/12/04/mandats/>, December 5, 2016

Joe DANIEL, former member of the House of Commons of the Canadian Parliament, CEO of Cloud-Fi Inc.:

– Being an international observer in presidential elections is a very good opportunity to conduct an analysis of current events in another country.

During my stay in Uzbekistan, I was pleasantly surprised by the process of organizing voting in your republic. Well-trained professionals are attracted to it. Great attention is attached to openness, publicity and transparency.



Elections–2016: comments by international observers // IA «Jahon», December 6, 2016

Osama SRUR, correspondent of the newspaper Arab Times (Kuwait):

– We visited several polling stations in the Bukhara region.

The press club organized in Tashkent created great conveniences for journalists. I watched the elections in many countries. The opportunities created in Uzbekistan for voters,



observers and journalists are impressive. I am preparing for Kuwait's media a series of materials on the peculiarities of presidential elections in Uzbekistan.

*International observers about the election of the President of Uzbekistan
http://news.uzreport.uz/news_2_r_146583.html, 4 December 2016*



Pierre-Emmanuel TOMANNE, Director for Geopolitical Studies at the European Institute of International Relations (Belgium):

– The electoral system of Uzbekistan has incorporated the basic principles of international standards and ensures the holding of free democratic elections. Legislation on elections is based on the national culture and history of the people, taking into account the best practices of developed countries. The elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan are held in a spirit of transparency and publicity. People come enthusiastically to polling stations. It's nice to see that early in the morning voters are rushing to realize their constitutional right to vote. I note the high level of voters' activity, which indicates their involvement in the fate of their country, responsibility for the future of their country.

From an interview with the television and radio channel «Toshkent» of the National Television and Radio Company of Uzbekistan



Nurjan SHAILDABEKOVA, Chairperson of the Central Commission for Elections and Referendums of the Kyrgyz Republic:

– After getting acquainted with the course of preparation for the elections in a number of polling stations in Samarkand, after talking with the members of the commissions and voters, we were convinced that in Uzbekistan the thorough work was done. The population is well informed about presidential candidates and their programs. Among citizens there is a high activity and pluralism of opinions and views. All conditions are created at the

polling stations; in particular, there are rooms for «Mother and Child», medical rooms. It is necessary to study this experience of Uzbekistan.

*The experience of Uzbekistan should be studied //
UzA, December 3, 2016*

Khan DACHUAN, Deputy Secretary-General of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences:



– I visited five polling stations in Tashkent. The impression is very deep. I want to note the high level of organization of such an important political event in the life of your country. I was impressed by the order and working atmosphere in all polling stations.

The conditions created for voters can be considered exemplary for many countries of the world. Special rooms for children, health centers, special booths for the disabled people, as well as specially allocated urns for patients who cannot come to the polling stations and vote at home are organized at the polling stations. All this creates the necessary basis for the successful conduct of elections, shows the real operation of the principles of transparency, publicity and justice.

Each polling station was attended by international observers, observers from each party and representatives of the media. It is noteworthy that the CEC invited twice more observers to these presidential elections than last time. This clearly demonstrates the great attention of the world community to the elections in your republic.

*International observers on the election of President of the Republic of Uzbekistan //
«Jahon» IA, December 5, 2016*

Sergey BURUTIN, member of the CIS observer mission:



– Elections are held publicly, within the framework of national legislation and in accordance with world standards. Voters come to the vote early in the morning. Attention was drawn to the clear organization of voter registration. The organization of voting at home for disabled people and citizens who do not have the opportunity to come to polling stations deserves praise. All this is a practical manifestation of

humanism and ensuring the suffrage of every citizen. Qualitative preparation for the elections has created significant convenience for citizens.

From the interview to the radio station «Navro'z FM» of the National Association of Electronic Mass Media of Uzbekistan



Samantha PAXTON, Chairperson of Seattle-Tashkent Sister Cities Association (USA):

– Uzbekistan is building a legal democratic state and developing civil society. Holding presidential elections in a spirit of openness and transparency serves to further advance along this path.

The presidential elections in the country are organized at a high level. Openness and transparency, as an important sign of democratic elections, are manifested in the activities of the media. Before coming to Uzbekistan, I constantly monitored the media reports. Based on my observations, I can say that the election process is objective and fair.

*The election process is objective and fair // UzA,
December 2, 2016*



Veli YÜKSEL, member of the House of Representatives of the Parliament of Belgium:

– The invitation of foreign observers to such an important political event as the election of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, speaks about the open and transparent nature of the electoral process in your country. This also indicates a serious approach to holding elections in accordance with international norms and democratic procedures.

We were told about the work carried out in the field of improving the electoral process and legislation, liberalizing the socio-political life as a whole, as well as the activities of election commissions created for presidential candidates for election campaigning and other issues. I and my fellow observers are provided with all conditions for the fulfillment of their mission in Uzbekistan, participation in various events within the

framework of the election campaign, communication with representatives of state structures and election commissions. The events we have seen are carried out in an organized manner, involving a large number of specialists and experts.

In an atmosphere of openness, publicity and increased competition // «Pravda Vostoka», December 3, 2016



Alexander TSINKER, President of the International Center for Electoral Systems (Israel):

- What I like about the current elections is the work of the media. They more broadly describe the process. Their work allowed me, while in Israel, to monitor the entire course of the election campaign, to find out about each of the candidates, their election platforms, their meetings with voters. That is, the media became a party to the electoral process. I think that there is another important function of the media - this is a function of civil control, since they have the opportunity to work directly with the CEC. The more active this interaction, the higher the people's confidence in the outcome of the elections. I think that the work should continue in this respect.



International experts: Democratic electoral system has been formed in Uzbekistan // Jahon IA, December 3, 2016



Li ZHOUNQIN, reporter of China Radio International:

- We covered all the stages of preparation for the elections. I have prepared several materials for the website. Our audience consists of users of news applications on smart phones. We are glad that the necessary conditions have been created for the mass media. This is a clear indication that elections are organized in a spirit of openness and transparency.



From the interview to the information program Akhborot of the National TV and Radio Company of Uzbekistan



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Dmitriy POVAROV, reporter of Russia Today:

– We are really impressed by the press club, the scale and technique that are deployed here. Excellent monitors, wonderful internet connection, the channels work very well. This is important for journalists, so that we can transfer all this quickly, because the competition is very large and much depends on the speed of information transfer. We see that the organizers gave their best and listened at the opening of the press center that it was financed by a commercial radio stations and the national media association. The mass media of Uzbekistan themselves participate in the organization of such press clubs; it is important for covering such important events for your country.

*Press club «Elections–2016»: Expert opinions and interviews //
http://news.uzreport.uz/news_2_r_146481.html,
December 2, 2016*



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Mahmoud Saad Kamel DIAB, editor of the international news department of the newspaper Al-Ahram-at-taavvuni (Egypt):

– All organizational issues are solved at a high level. Press conferences and work of the Press Club «Elections – 2016», which have been organized by the Republican press center on coverage of the elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, deserve a positive assessment. I am pleasantly surprised by the conditions created for domestic and foreign journalists, opportunities for their professional activities in covering the election campaign. All this testifies to the openness and openness of the elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, which is of great importance for the future of your country.

From the interview of the radio station «Poytaxt FM» of the National Association of Electronic Mass Media of Uzbekistan



Leyla ORUDJEVA, counselor of the Embassy of Azerbaijan in Uzbekistan:

– In accordance with the electoral legislation of Uzbekistan, the Central Election Commission is given absolute powers for the preparation and conduct of elections. Such status helps to ensure legality in the process of organizing and holding elections, create conditions for the free expression of voters' will. It is noteworthy that the legislation on elections, taking into account the international experience and practice of Uzbekistan, enshrines the participation of observers from political parties, media representatives, observers from other states and international organizations at all stages of the electoral process.



*Elections will be held at a high level //
UzA, November 30, 2016*



Wei QING, deputy editor-in-chief of the online video channel Pear Video (PRC):

– The election of President of the Republic of Uzbekistan is characterized by the diversity of the electoral programs of candidates nominated by political parties and the presence of a multitude of election campaign materials.

Voters are provided with all conditions for getting familiarized with the candidates' election programs. They meet with voters who are widely broadcast on television.

The peculiarity of this electoral process is publicity and openness. It should be noted that on-line briefings of the Central Election Commission are held at a high level using modern technologies.



*From the interview to the information program «Davr»
of the television and radio channel «Yoshlar» of the National
TV and Radio Company of Uzbekistan*

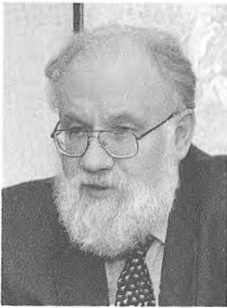


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Frederick STARR, Chairman of Central Asia-Caucasus Institute at the Johns Hopkins University (USA):

– I was imbued with the positive creative atmosphere of the live communication in the press club, the exchange of opinions. The media work in a new way, they have reached a qualitatively new level of development, which, of course, pleases. I think this course should be continued, and such initiatives should be supported.

*The attention to journalists suited the event // «Narodnoe slovo»,
December 6, 2016*

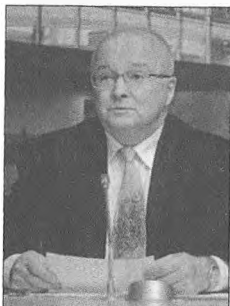


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Vladimir CHUROV, Ambassador-at-large of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation:

– I can say that both in Russia and in Uzbekistan, the main goal of the development of the electoral system is to improve the voting conditions for voters, as well as to ensure greater transparency. It is for this, as we see, that a full-scale mission of the OSCE ODIHR has arrived in the country, and monitoring missions of organizations such as the CIS, the SCO, and a significant number of foreign observers are widely represented.

*International experts: Democratic electoral system has been formed in Uzbekistan //
Jahon IA, December 3, 2016*



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Zenonas VAIGAUSKAS, Chairman of the Central Election Commission of Lithuania:

– I am happy to participate as an observer in the elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Despite the established short term for the preparation for elections a great deal of work has been done by election commissions of all levels led by the Central Election Commission. There

are all conditions at polling stations both for the work of the election commission and for the conduct of voting. At the same time, special attention is given to persons with disabilities; there is a separate cab for secret voting, provided for the disabled.

I got acquainted with the election programs of the candidates for the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan. All conditions for voters to familiarize with them are created. Meetings of candidates with voters are held, which are widely covered in the mass media. Candidates effectively use free air time and print space in order to fight for the votes of voters.

From the interview to the information program Akhborot of the National Television and Radio Company of Uzbekistan



Mohammed Iltaf SHEIKH, member of the House of Lords of the British Parliament from the Conservative Party:

– The elections of the President of Uzbekistan were held at a democratic level in conditions of openness and transparency. The people showed high electoral activity. Citizens have been provided with all opportunities for free expression of will. The process of an important political event in Uzbekistan was monitored all over the world. The fact that the country invited international observers testifies to the desire for openness and transparency in conduct of the election campaign. International observers were not restricted in the choice of polling stations – they could visit any of them and get acquainted with the voting process. All candidates were given equal opportunities for campaigning. The people on an alternative basis made their choice, chose those goals and objectives of one of the programs that are consonant with the aspirations of citizens. The country under the leadership of the new head will continue to follow the path of advancement, deepening the democratic reforms.



The floor to international observers // «Pravda Vostoka», December 7, 2016



Andreas JAN, leading expert of the Committee for International Cooperation of the Bundestag (Germany):

– Uzbekistan’s experience in preparing and conducting free democratic elections is impressive. This also concerns the coverage of the electoral process in the media. We visited today five polling stations in Bukhara. They made a very good impression on me. I witnessed that from early morning people actively participate in the voting. The elections in Uzbekistan are held in accordance with national legislation and international standards. It is worth mentioning that favorable conditions have been created at polling stations for all categories of voters, in particular for women with children and elderly citizens. I participated as an election observer in a number of countries, but the «Mother and Child» and medical rooms became new for me. I would recommend other countries to use this positive experience.

*From the interview to the information program
Diyor Yangiliklari
of the Bukhara TV and Radio Company*



Osman GUKMEN, head of TRT channel representative office in Tashkent (Turkey):

– I have been working in Uzbekistan since 2005. I also followed the elections in the country earlier. The opening of the «Press Club: Elections.uz – 2016» to cover the elections will facilitate the work of foreign journalists, international observers and experts. In the press club you can simultaneously watch the air of several TV channels. This place has become an important media platform.

Every day Turkish television broadcasts reports on the preparations for the elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the lively atmosphere prevailing here, and current conditions created at the polling stations. The election of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan is another practical embodiment of ensuring the constitutional rights of citizens and generally recognized democratic principles.

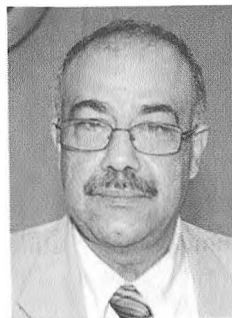
*The modern electoral system: the experience of Uzbekistan //
UzA, November 30, 2016*



Mohammed Hussain AL-FILI, Professor of Kuwait University:

– All conditions have been created for holding presidential elections on the basis of high democratic demands.

Adherence to the principles of openness and transparency also indicates the existence of a strong state system in Uzbekistan. It is also important to note the broad conditions for the people to freely express their will.

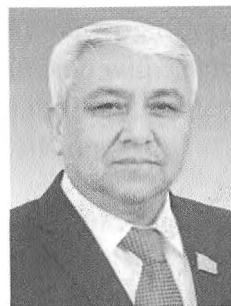


*In the spirit of openness, publicity and democracy //
UzA, December 1, 2016*



Fakhriddin KARATAEV, member of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan:

– Immediately upon arrival in Uzbekistan, we saw in the eyes of people that elections are an important event for the people, for every citizen of the country. Information about the election of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, which will be held on December 4, we receive from Internet sites. Moreover, since we are a neighboring state for Uzbekistan, then, of course, we always live with the hope and feelings that our peoples will be even closer to each other. Elections in Uzbekistan are democratic, very organized. We saw with our own eyes that all four candidates for the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan have equal good conditions for election campaigning, bringing their views to the electorate.



*From the interview to the information program Akhborot of the
National Television and Radio Company
of Uzbekistan*



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Safir Hussain SHAH, editor-in-chief of the newspaper Election Times (Pakistan):

– This is not my first participation in the elections in Uzbekistan. The country always attaches special attention to holding elections openly and publicly, in accordance with modern requirements. All that concerns the preparation of the current elections, election campaigning and explanatory events are organized at a high level. The new press club has all the conditions for journalists. I have already prepared two articles on preparation for the elections of the President of Uzbekistan.

Presidential elections are very important for further advancement of country, welfare of people. Strong legal basis for ensuring openness and publicity of elections, free expression of citizens' will is created. This facilitates the conduct of all election-related activities in accordance with democratic requirements.

*In the spirit of openness, publicity and democracy //
UzA, December 1, 2016*



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Andrea MENAKER, partner of White & Case LLP international law firm (USA):

– I managed to visit several polling stations from early morning. Everything passes openly, publicly, at a high organizational level. This is one of the key elements of democracy. Citizens vote actively; conditions for elderly people and disabled are created. There are rooms for mothers and children, and this I have never seen before.

*From the interview to the information program Akhborot of the
National Television and Radio Company
of Uzbekistan*

Nikolai LEVICHEV, member of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation:

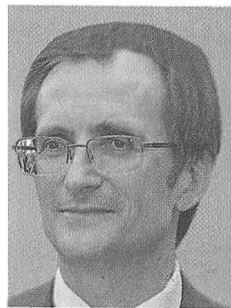
– Journalists, with all the observance of international standards, should cover the electoral process in Uzbekistan, taking into account the national, cultural, religious and socio-political traditions of the country.

We hope that relations with Russia will remain a priority for the new leadership of Uzbekistan. Uzbekistan follows the path of democracy and is at the stage of improving democratic processes. In this respect, the role of media is important for the correct explanation and bringing these features to the notice of international community.

We, of course, will study the experience of holding elections in Uzbekistan and everything useful and good we can apply in the course of the electoral process in Russia.

Opening a press club is a very good idea, which allows not only receiving information about the course of elections, but creates an entirely new platform for journalists from different countries for professional communication with each other. We in Russia will also take this practice into service, so that the press center will be not only a place for information, but also for its comprehension.

Nikolai Levichev: We will study the experience of holding elections in Uzbekistan and we can apply everything useful and good in the electoral process in Russia //
http://www.ut.uz/ru/eshyo/Elections-2016/nikolay-levichev-my-budem-izuchat-opyt-provedeniya-vyborov-v-uzbekistane-i-vse-poleznoe-i-khoroshee-/?sphrase_id=2027
December 1, 2016



Zheng QI, correspondent of China Daily (China):

– I used to participate in elections in Uzbekistan. I want to emphasize that in the process of democratic reforms the role of the mass media is constantly increasing in the country. Media opportunities are effectively used during the pre-election campaign, for which presidential candidates were given equal opportunities.

There are Republican press center for coverage of elections and press centers at district election commissions.



They are equipped with modern information technologies. A press club has opened, which indicates the progress of media in Uzbekistan, activation of journalists' participation in democratization processes.

In the spirit of openness, publicity and democracy //

UzA, December 1, 2016



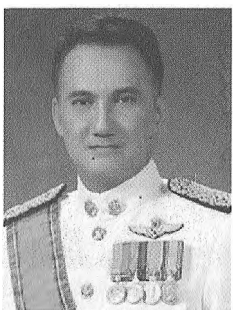
Chris GEORGE, Director of IdeaWaveLabs (India):

– Our company works in the field of information technologies, in which we closely cooperate with Uzbekistan. I would like to note the achievements of the country in the field of introduction of information technologies in different spheres.

We see that modern information technologies are widely used in the organization of elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Information about elections, campaigning activities are distributed around the world in online mode.

*Large-scale reforms initiated by the great leader
will be consistently continued //*

UzA, December 2, 2016



Nitipum NIVARATNA, founder of Balance (Tutor Moo) Co Ltd (Kingdom of Thailand):

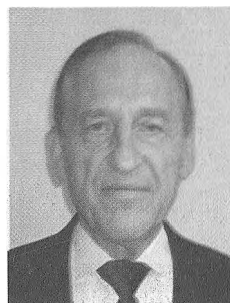
– I am glad to observe the election process in Uzbekistan. It passes at a high level, I see many people on the polling stations that I visited today. I want to say that the people of Uzbekistan are very actively expressing their civic consciousness; they come to cast their vote for this or that candidate. You have your own characteristics. I want to note how actively your citizens vote, what conditions are created for them. Everything is conducted openly, unhindered and democratic. I do not see anyone interfering during the voting process. Such an active electorate and the work done in country will help Uzbekistan to reach even greater heights in its further comprehensive development.

*From the interview to the information program Akhborot of the
National Television and Radio Company of Uzbekistan*

Dieter BRANDENBURGER, Vice President of Germany-Uzbekistan Friendship Society:

– I am a builder, as a representative of a foreign organization I took part in the construction of large facilities in Tashkent and Kashkadarya region. The second time I came to your country as an international observer. In Uzbekistan, national electoral legislation has been formed fully in line with international law. It has many common aspects with the German electoral system. It is encouraging that in accordance with the election legislation of Uzbekistan, observers from political parties take part in the voting process. This is consistent with the principles of transparency and fairness.

I am convinced that the people possessing ancient and rich history will choose the Head of State who will adequately continue the work initiated by the First President of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov.

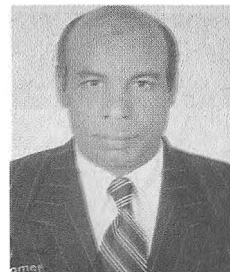


Uzbekistan is confidently following the chosen path //

UzA, December 3, 2016

Ahmed Noubi MUSA, Deputy Minister for Informatization of the Arab Republic of Egypt:

– A group of journalists who came with us also watched the elections. We transmitted urgent reports from press conferences, places of events. This also confirms the fairness, openness and publicity of the elections.



Voter activity is a sign of democratic reforms //

UzA, December 4, 2016



Sergey TOLSTOV, Director of the Institute for Political Analysis and International Studies (Ukraine):

– The elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan were held at the highest level, in the conditions of modern mechanisms of competitiveness and healthy competition between candidates and with a significant increase in the legal consciousness of citizens of your country.

From an interview with the television and radio channel Toshkent of the National Television and Radio Company of Uzbekistan



Valentin GORBUNOV, Chairman of the Moscow City Election Commission (Russia):

– We observe mass use of mass media. Meetings of candidates for the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan with voters made it possible to familiarize them with their electoral programs. A lot of explanatory work is carried out by the Central Election Commission. With an appeal to come to the polls, the Chairman of the Central Election Commission himself speaks on the TV channels. A good level of media coverage of elections contributes to the formation of such a mood among the population.

From the interview to the radio station Oriat Dono of the National Association of Electronic Mass Media of Uzbekistan



Rashid ALIMOV, Secretary General of the SCO:

– Materials on preparation and holding of the elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan were published and disseminated in Uzbek, Karakalpak, Kazakh, Russian and Tajik languages, coverage of elections in the media was provided in 15 languages.

The missions of international observers announced their conclusions // UzA, December 5, 2016

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Khironobu KUROSAKI, general manager of the department for the region of America, Europe, the Middle East and Africa «NEC Corporation» (Japan):

– For the Presidential election the principle of openness and transparency are very important. I am very glad that I am participating as observer in the election of the Head of the Republic of Uzbekistan. And I want to note that everything goes very strictly, with compliance with all requirements.

Yesterday I also visited some district electoral stations and observed for the latest preparations, and I really liked the working environment. I'm amazed at the fact that everything is envisaged. There are rooms «Mothers and children», equipped with medical stations, where at any time will be given emergency medical care.

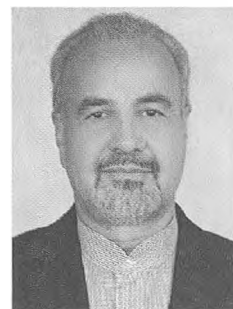


*From the interview to the information program «Akhborot»
National TV and Radio Company of Uzbekistan*

—◆—
Mortaza SAFFARI, member of the Iranian parliament:

– Openness and transparency are important principles of elections. Having visited almost ten polling stations, we saw that these principles were fully observed.

*May peace and tranquility prevail in Uzbekistan forever //
UzA, December 4, 2016*



—◆—
Guy Olivier FAURE, Professor at the Sorbonne University Paris V (France):

– I have been in your country for several days. I visited some polling stations and I want to note the high level of preparation for the forthcoming elections and the high electoral activity of citizens. I want to emphasize that the preparations for the elections fully comply with international standards. Everything is organized extremely openly and



transparently. This is confirmed by the participation of local and numerous international observers.

From the interview to the information program Akhborot of the National Television and Radio Company of Uzbekistan



Viktoria MARTYNOVA, head of the international department of the newspaper Novosti Nedeli (Israel):

– Press club is super professional. Splendid. There must be some dynamics. We need to spread news about Uzbekistan. This international journalistic get-together gives you a network of acquaintances. The media sphere is constantly changing. You are all ultra-modern, very good leap in the advancement of the country's openness. If journalists can safely come, then this is important. If we compare what was a year ago and now, then there were fewer journalists. This year their circle is expanded. It's great.

From the interview to the radio station Navruz FM of the National Association of Electronic Mass Media of Uzbekistan



Aliheydar RZAEV, editor of the magazine Aviamost (United Arab Emirates):

– Good conditions have been created for journalists. I was convinced that the press of Uzbekistan carries out free activity. In the press club we talked with colleagues. I keep in touch with the workers of the polling station established in the United Arab Emirates. They said that the elections were conducted transparently and publicly.

Elections in the spirit of democracy // UzA, December 4, 2016

Vladimir KOBYAKOV, NTV reporter (Russia):

– In terms of information coverage of the election process, the media in Uzbekistan also demonstrates significant success compared to previous election campaigns. A very interesting and open information platform has been created.

The press center is very convenient. What it would be desirable to note? In Tashkent, there are now two press centers: one at the CEC, the other here, and it's not always convenient for journalists to work when you need to be constantly in the CEC to have a connection and information. When there are few such points around the city, then journalists' work is much more convenient. Accordingly, the information becomes more prompt, and there is more time to collect this information so that to prepare more voluminous material.



*From the interview to the radio station
Oriat Dono of the National Association
of Electronic Mass Media of Uzbekistan*

**Ismini KRIARI, Rector of the Pantheon University of
Social and Political Sciences (Greece):**

– While monitoring elections in accordance with the principles of democracy, on the basis of openness and publicity, the role of the institution of observers is high. Along with international observers in Uzbekistan, political parties, representatives of the media and the public follow the electoral process, which also ensures openness and transparency of elections.



*Large-scale reforms initiated by the great leader
will be consistently continued // UzA, December 2, 2016*

V. HIGH ELECTORAL ACTIVITY OF CITIZENS – INDICATOR OF CONFIDENCE TO ELECTORAL SYSTEM AND FEELING OF INVOLVEMENT TO COUNTRY’S FATE



Ali Abolhassani SHAHREZA, head of the observer mission of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation:

– I have visited about 10 polling stations in the city of Tashkent. It is encouraging to note the high level of work of the election commissions, thanks to which the voting process is carried out in accordance with requirements of the law. I saw how citizens, being conscious of the importance of this event, take an active part in the voting. We communicated with some of the voters and became convinced of their high

legal awareness and political consciousness.

We were very pleased with the special attention paid to all segments of the population, especially for the representatives of older generation, youth, women with young children and disabled people who are in need of social protection. We are confident that the results of the nationwide vote will serve to further development of Uzbekistan.

International observers on the elections of President of the Republic of Uzbekistan //Jahon IA, December 5, 2016



Sergei LEBEDEV, Chairman of the Executive Committee – Executive Secretary of the CIS:

– The mission believes that state bodies and local self-government bodies, electoral commissions of all levels ensured the implementation of the citizens’ right to freely express their will during the elections.

The citizens of Uzbekistan demonstrated political maturity, showed activity during the voting, which became country’s significant step on the way of democratic reforms.

*CIS mission: The elections in Uzbekistan were free and democratic
<https://regnum.ru/news/polit/2213556.html>. December 5, 2016*

Rashid ALIMOV, head of the observer mission of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization:

– The elections of President of the Republic of Uzbekistan met the requirements of the electoral legislation of the country and the international obligations accepted by it.

Violations of the norms of national legislation that call into question the legitimacy of the elections were not noted by the mission.

The mission recognizes the past elections as open, free and democratic. We state that the presidential elections were an important step towards the further development of the democratic processes of the Republic of Uzbekistan.



*The SCO mission recognized the elections as free and democratic
<https://www.gazeta.uz/ru/2016/12/05/sco/>, December 5, 2016*

Sha DATI, correspondent of Xinhua News Agency (China):

– Uzbekistan has accumulated extensive experience in covering the preparation and conduct of elections jointly with various media. This is evidenced by the current election campaign. The holding of press conferences and on-line briefings by the Central and District Electoral Commissions helps to increase the activity of voters in all regions, ensuring full coverage of preparations for this important political event. The opening of the Press Club «Press Club: Elections.uz – 2016» will enable providing even wider access to information for journalists and effective covering of the election campaign.



http://www.ut.uz/ru/eshyo/Elections-2016/oni-osveshchayut-vybory/?sphrase_id=1984

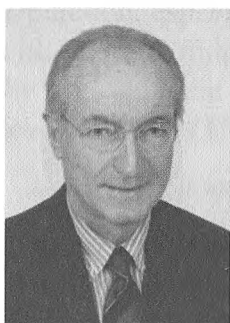


— ◆ —

Leonid SLUTSKIY, Committee Chairman at the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of Russia:

– The elections of the President of Uzbekistan are organized at a high level. Voting indicates a high potential turnout. Already 30% have already voted, somewhere already 40% of voters are at the polling stations. Elections in Uzbekistan are organized very conveniently for voters and prepared at a high level; they are passing without violations of the electoral legislation.

Presidential elections in Uzbekistan are organized at a high level // RIA Novosti, December 4, 2016



— ◆ —

Heinz WYSSLING, Vice President of the Uzbek-Swiss Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Switzerland):

– I witnessed the active formation of civil society in the country and the progressive development of democratic processes. Unfortunately, I can not compare these elections with the past, as I am participating as an observer for the first time, but I can say that they impressed me. I visited about two dozen polling stations in Bukhara and Tashkent.

I was struck by the high organization and compliance with international standards. I did not notice any violations. If you evaluate elections on a ten-point scale, you can state the highest score. In short, what you have seen leaves no doubt about further progress.

And I want to add that one of the main factors in the evaluation of electoral process is the mood of people. Here I was faced with an extremely high voter turnout and activity, which prompted me to think about seriousness of the work carried out, which is capable of ensuring such free expression of people's will.

*Through the eyes of an observer // Uzbekistan Today,
December 15, 2016*

Scott HERSHMAN, Managing Partner of White & Case LLP (USA):

– In the course of communication with the voted citizens, I noted their positive attitude and festive mood with which they came to polling stations.

Many of them are coming with whole families, even small children, who can have fun in the «Mother and Child» room. There are various toys and entertainment programs for children.

There are observers from political parties at each polling station, and I have met with authorized representatives of presidential candidates. Everyone is determined to react to the slightest violations. At the same time, they noted that there were no such phenomena in the work of precinct election commissions.

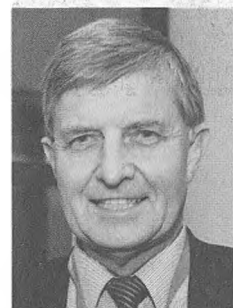
All this indicates a thorough preparation for the elections, which are conducted at a high organizational level.

From the interview to the radio station Oriat Dono of the National Association of Electronic Mass Media of Uzbekistan



Michael BORCHMAN, member of the Board of German-Asian Economic Forum, member of the Commission of State Examinations of Lawyers of the Federal Land of Hessen (Germany):

– I was very impressed with the conditions created at polling stations for citizens. I visited six polling stations and everywhere I watched the activity and inspiration of the voters. The publication for blind citizens of brochures and special bulletins in Braille, preparation of voting booths for disabled people is noteworthy. People came to the polls as whole families, as if on a holiday. They understood perfectly that they are choosing the future of their children.



*Elections - 2016: comments by international observers //
Jahon IA, December 6, 2016*



—◆—

Ken MATZUZAWA, President of the Council on International Friendship (Japan):

– I think that the people of Uzbekistan made a worthy choice, giving the largest number of votes for Shavkat Mirziyoyev. Today, my forecasts about the results of the elections have become a reality. I am confident that under the leadership of the new Head of State, Uzbekistan will reach the greatest heights in all spheres, including the development of mutually beneficial cooperation with the countries of the near and far abroad. I wish your country further development and prosperity.

From the interview to the radio station Oriat Dono of the National Association of Electronic Mass Media of Uzbekistan



—◆—

Viktor GRISHIN, Rector of the G.V.Plekhanov Russian Economic University:

– I personally saw that legislative guarantees for holding free and open elections are implemented in practice, and all participants of the process are interested in their observance. I should note the increased level of the legal awareness of the population, the political activity of the Uzbeks. This is evidenced by the high turnout at the elections – almost 88 percent. The citizens of the country demonstrated that they care about the future of the Motherland, they feel themselves involved in its fate.

This is the most important achievement of Uzbekistan, where people have lived in peace and harmony for a quarter of a century, stability and tranquility prevails in the country. After all, large-scale reforms in all spheres are aimed primarily at ensuring the rights and freedoms, legitimate interests of citizens, the welfare of all segments of the population.

Assiduous people capable of great achievements // «Narodnoe slovo», December 13, 2016





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*Assiduous people capable of great achievements //
«Narodnoe slovo», December 13, 2016*





Han DACHUAN, Deputy Secretary-General of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences:

– I was very impressed by the conditions created at the polling stations of Bukhara and Tashkent. My attention was attracted by the inspiration of the voters. Election campaigning for presidential candidates was conducted on the basis of equality and fairness. The rights and obligations of voters and candidates are ensured in accordance with national legislation and international standards. I am confident that the elections will complete successfully, and on the chosen path of development – on the basis of the «Uzbek model» the country will continue to achieve great success in the future.



*International observers about elections
of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan //
Jahon IA, December 5, 2016*

Marit FOSS, publisher and editor-in-chief of the magazine Diva International (Switzerland):

– I am taking part as an observer in elections in Uzbekistan for the third time. I visited many polling stations in the Karmana and Kyzyltepa districts of the Navoiy region. I want to note a good preparation for an important political event; people went to the polling stations massively in the early morning. And everyone had a great mood. Most of all I was struck by the practice of creating the necessary conditions for people with disabilities, which is available not in all countries of Europe. The availability of special bulletins prepared on the basis of Braille for the blind is commendable. Creating equal opportunities for all voters is a new democratic technology that fully meets international democratic norms and principles. This is the basis for building a powerful civil society.



*Elections in Uzbekistan through the eyes of international observers //
«Narodnoe slovo», December 5, 2016*



— ◆ —

Pierre-Emmanuel TOMANNE, Director for Geopolitical Studies at the European Institute of International Relations (Belgium):

– I want to emphasize that preparations for the presidential elections were held at a high level, citizens actively participated in the voting, which was organized in accordance with democratic principles and universally recognized international norms. I visited the 38th polling station of the city of Andijan; all conditions for free expression of will have been created here.

*People confident in their abilities expect a great future // UzA,
December 4, 2016*



— ◆ —

Xing Guang CHEN, Director of the Academy of History and Geography Studies of the Neighboring Countries of the People's Republic of China:

– I visited three polling stations in the city of Gulistan. I am glad that the elections are organized at a very high level. The people come actively, they vote for their chosen candidate. As an expert, I can say that these elections fully comply with international requirements.

*From the interview to the information program Akhborot of the
National Television and Radio Company of Uzbekistan*



— ◆ —

Akkan SUVER, Director General of the Marmara Group Foundation for Strategic and Social Studies (Turkey):

– In Uzbekistan, I already took part in monitoring the parliamentary and presidential elections. The process of preparation and holding of elections corresponded to a high level. The elections were conducted objectively,

transparently, in accordance with the requirements of international suffrage and democratic norms. On December 4, we visited the polling stations in Samarkand, where we watched the voting process. The polling stations were attended by observers from political parties; polling stations corresponded to all legislative norms. Conditions have been created for people with disabilities. The citizens came to polls in high spirits. The delegation of the Foundation visited the polling stations in Karakalpakstan, Tashkent and Ferghana to monitor the electoral process. The fact that about 88 percent took part in the vote, states that the people of Uzbekistan are in favor of further democratization in the country. The elections were successful. They passed openly, transparently and publicly.

*Opinions of international observers //
«Narodnoe slovo», December 6, 2016*

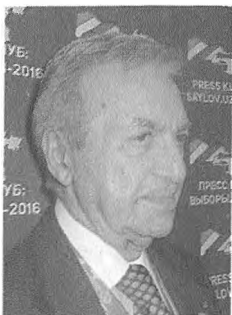


Viktor MARTYNOV, Rector of the I.Gubkin Russian State University of Oil and Gas:

– At 6 am I participated in the opening ceremony of polling station No.591 in the city of Tashkent. I watched the active participation of voters in the voting from the very early morning, which indicates the indifference of Uzbek citizens to the fate of the Motherland, the future of their children. The voting process itself is conducted in accordance with the legislation of the country, without outside interference. No one interferes with voters in free will and does not exert any pressure. This is an important factor demonstrating the free and democratic conduct of the elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan.



*From the interview to the radio station
O'zbekim Taronasi of the National Association
of Electronic Mass Media of Uzbekistan*



—◆—

Robert BLOOM, President of the Geneva Diplomatic Circle (Switzerland):

– Voting is an important way of expressing a civic position. While visiting 8 polling stations I was convinced that the work in them was organized at a high level, I did not find any shortcomings. Until 11 am the voters turnout was already over 38%, this indicates that the people want to actively participate in the political life of their country.

I think that we should study the Uzbek experience in organizing and conduct of citizens' voting. Few countries in the world can hold them at such a high level. Upon returning home, I intend to write detailed material on this important event.

*Elections – 2016: comments by international observers //
«Jahon» IA, December 6, 2016*



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Andreas JAN, leading expert of the Committee for International Cooperation of the Bundestag (Germany):

– The activity shown in the course of the preparations for the elections by broad sections of the population, especially women and youth, which is to be voted for the first time, deserves attention. Having become acquainted with the list of states that participate as observers at the elections, I ascertained that observers from many foreign countries and international organizations participate in this important political event. This shows that the elections are held in conditions of publicity and openness.

*In the spirit of constructive dialogue //
«Narodnoe slovo», December 3, 2016*



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Carolyn LAMM, Managing Partner at White & Case LLP, Chairperson of the America-Uzbekistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (USA):

– I was impressed by the organization and coherence of the actions of all the people involved. I witnessed a high turnout of citizens, which once again proves the successful implementation of measures to increase

the legal awareness of Uzbekistan's population. In addition, the presence of medical rooms and mother and child rooms demonstrates the spirit of humanity. I think that it would be appropriate to adopt this practice also in the USA.

From an interview to the radio station Poytaxt FM of the National Association of Electronic Mass Media of Uzbekistan



Gous Bakh Khan MAHER, member of the National Assembly of Pakistan:

– Elections are an important attribute of a democratic legal state, the main means of expressing the will of citizens. The electoral system and legislation of Uzbekistan fully comply with international requirements. Citizens of Uzbekistan actively participate in all election events, including youth, which indicates a high legal culture, strong civic position.

This is evident in the current presidential elections. Voting is not only a constitutional right, but also a duty of a citizen. We see that the people of Uzbekistan are deeply aware of this and responsibly approach this important social and political event.

*In a spirit of openness, transparency and democracy // UzA,
December 1, 2016*



Ichiro MATSUOKA, Mayor of Higashikawa City, Hokkaido Prefecture (Japan):

– For the first time I participate in such a grandiose political event held in these days in Uzbekistan. I liked how the people of country were in high spirits and enthusiastically going to vote for their candidate. Noticeable was the appearance of electors at the polling stations which we have visited. It is also encouraging that along with the precinct election commissions, representatives from each party also were present.

*Elections – 2016: comments by international observers //
Jahon IA, December 6, 2016*





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Ojars SPARITIS, Professor, President of the Latvian Academy of Sciences:

– I see a high organizational level and a targeted campaign. This gives good results. Voters know who to vote for on the election day.

From the interview to the information program Akhborot of the National Television and Radio Company of Uzbekistan



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Eduard KINSBRUENER, regional director of the Eastern Regional Economic Committee (Germany):

– On the Election Day, at six o'clock in the morning, I arrived at the polling station No.59 of the city of Samarkand to observe the voting. I was surprised that despite the early hour, it was already crowded – residents rushed to use their constitutional right to participate in elections. I have also got acquainted with the biography of the candidates for the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the list of voters, the rooms of the Mother and Child, and medical posts. Members of the Commission willingly answered questions, provided all the information, voiced the number of voters, demonstrated the conditions created at the polling station. The entire process was organized in strict accordance with the norms of election legislation.

Opinions of international observers // «Pravda Vostoka», December 5, 2016



**Maria Ludovica Botarelli TRANQUILEY-LEALE,
Secretary General of the Italian branch of the European
Women's Lobby:**

– This is not the first time that I am participating as an observer in the elections in Uzbekistan. I had very good impressions of their organization and conduct. An important characteristic was the social orientation of the electoral process. In all areas, there were special rooms for «Mother and Child», as well as medical posts. Thus, women who wanted to vote could not worry about whom to leave their children with, and had the opportunity to use their civil law. All-round support of women, implementation of measures to increase their social and political activity deserves high appreciation.



*Elections – 2016: comments by international observers // «Jahon» IA,
December 6, 2016*



**Punchok STOB DAN, Coordinator of the Western Asia
Center at the Institute for Defense Studies and Analysis
(India):**

– It was interesting for me to observe the progress of the organization of the elections of the President of Uzbekistan and learn a lot about your country, which has accumulated significant experience in modernizing the socio-political system, and present elections demonstrated this. They were held in full compliance with the laws of your country and generally recognized provisions of world law. The elections demonstrated a high level of trust between the authorities and population which feels involvement in the destiny of the state.



*In a transparent and organized manner //
«Pravda Vostoka», December 5, 2016*



Irina RODNINA, member of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly (Russia):

– This is an important moment for Uzbekistan, but I think that the people of Uzbekistan themselves must realize how important this is, and what they expect from the elections, and what their hopes and plans are. Still, people have a desire for stability, prosperity. Therefore, there is such a high turnout. If the elections are indifferent to you, you may not go and not take part in it. Today I went to Tashkent. Yesterday I visited the Tashkent region, so yesterday we observed somewhere 10-11 polling stations. Today 14 polling stations have been observed.

People wish stability, prosperity //

[Http://news.uzreport.uz/news_2_r_146558.html](http://news.uzreport.uz/news_2_r_146558.html), 4 December 2016



Mohammed Iltaf SHEIKH, member of the House of Lords of the British Parliament from the Conservative Party:

– I really liked that the elections were have been conducted in accordance with international standards. Openly, publicly, democratically. Every citizen had the opportunity to make his choice. I was pleasantly surprised that about 90 percent of voters voted in Uzbekistan, which far exceeds the number of voters in other countries. It was noticeable that it was very important for people to show their civic social position. I communicated with many voters. When asked why they came to the polls, they answered that to support their candidate, and that the future of the Motherland is not indifferent to them. I would like to note the special rooms of «Mother and Child», medical off ces. In other countries, this is not practiced. I did not see this. I would like to give a definition that people used their civil law, and not an obligation, because they came to vote voluntarily, without compulsion. At polling stations, everything was organized, civilized and without any problems and violations of the electoral legislation.

From the interview to the information program Akhborot of the National Television and Radio Company of Uzbekistan



**Toyim JUNUSOV, Chairman of the Public Council
(Republic of Kazakhstan):**

– Before coming to Uzbekistan, I only read that in Uzbekistan the electoral activity of the population, like in our country, is very high. After visiting the polling stations, I was convinced that this is indeed so. In the morning, polling stations were particularly crowded. A high level of training of members of election commissions is praiseworthy.

In the Palace of Youth Creativity «Kamolot» we were presented with an artistic program of amateur performances of collectives of national cultural centers. We visited the complexes of Hazrati Imom and Zangiota, as well as the Tashkent Islamic University.

We showed great interest in organizing the activities of the mahalla committees. Our attention to this institute was attracted by a visit to the precinct election commission No.307, which works in the premises of citizens' gathering of the mahalla «Hazrati Imom».



Kazakhstan delegation gets acquainted with Uzbekistan //
[http://www.ut.uz/ru/eshyo/vybory-2016/ delegatsiya-kazakhstana-znakomitsya-](http://www.ut.uz/ru/eshyo/vybory-2016/delegatsiya-kazakhstana-znakomitsyas-uzbekistanom/)
s-uzbekistanom/, December 4, 2016



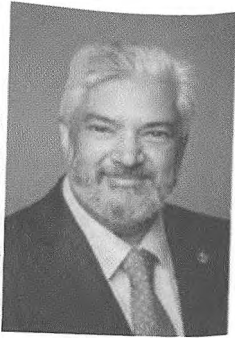
**Steven NADERNY, Vice President of CNH Industrial
(USA):**

– First of all, I should express my pleasant surprise with the desire of people to realize their right to vote. There were so many people on polling stations that at times a queue was formed at the voter registration desks. Despite this, no claims have been recorded to the practical aspects of the functioning of polling stations.

I should note an effective and, at the same time, coherent election campaign, where real competition was observed, without the participation of pseudo candidates. Each political candidate believes in his victory and has tangible support among the electorate. At the same time, it is pleasant to note that there are no dirty methods of political struggle that are observed in some countries and damage the image of the state.



*From the interview to the radio station «Oriat Dono» of
the National Association of Electronic Mass Media of Uzbekistan*



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**Joe DANIEL, Chief Executive Officer of Cloud-Fi Inc.
(Canada):**

– According to my observations, the level of activity of voters was high. For example, in Canada, if 60 percent of the electorate participates in the elections, this is a big indicator. However, in Uzbekistan the figure is much higher. This is due to the fact that in your country much attention is attached to organizing and holding elections, increasing civil responsibility among the population and instilling a high legal awareness.

*Elections – 2016: comments by international observers //
«Jahon»IA, December 6, 2016*



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**Jamshed JAMSHEDOV, member of the Central
Election Commission of the Republic of Tajikistan:**

– I was observing the voting process at the 5th polling station of the city of Jizzakh. Elections are held in full compliance with national legislation and principles of international democracy. Voters freely vote for their chosen candidate. I spoke with some voters; each of them has his own opinion. The activity of voters shows the indifference of the people of Uzbekistan to the destiny of their Motherland, the future.

*Elections are held on the basis of democracy principles // UzA,
December 4, 2016*



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**Iskander MATRAIMOV, member to the Jokorgu
Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic:**

– The elections held in accordance with generally recognized international norms and requirements demonstrate not only Uzbekistan's achievements in building a democratic state, but also the active position of people, their involvement in the processes taking place in the country.

*Uzbekistan is a dynamically developing country // UzA,
December 3, 2016*

Chung Dae VAN, Professor of the Faculty of Political Science and International Relations, Kemyon University (Republic of Korea):

– I visited the Tashkent City District Electoral Commission No.14, as well as the polling stations No.72 and No.83 in Tashkent. During the monitoring of the voting process, I witnessed with what enthusiasm and responsibility citizens of the country participate in elections. I especially want to note three points: the presence of a secret voting booth for the disabled, a room for mothers and children, a medical room for first aid. Upon arrival in Korea, I will certainly put forward an initiative to introduce Uzbek experience into our electoral system. In addition, I really liked the idea with stickers with the inscription «We voted! And you?» in two languages. This is an excellent advertisement for those who have not yet come to the polls.



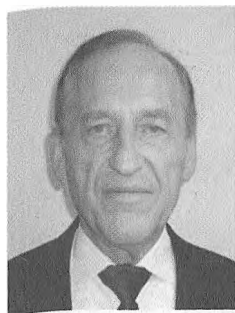
From an interview to the radio station «Grand FM» of the National Association of Electronic Mass Media of Uzbekistan

Tamara GUZENKOVA, Deputy Director of the Russian Institute for Strategic Studies:

– At the international conference «Constitutional Legal Basis for Presidential Elections: The Experience of Uzbekistan and Advanced Countries», international observers got acquainted with the principle of publicity and mass media activities reflected in the electoral legislation of Uzbekistan. Observing the process at a number of polling stations, I can note that citizens of Uzbekistan voluntarily take an active part in the elections and at the same time are very responsibly pertinent to this process.



*Uzbekistan always prepares for elections at a high level // UzA,
December 4, 2016*



Dieter BRANDENBURGER, Vice President of the Germany-Uzbekistan Friendship Society:

– The population of Uzbekistan is deeply aware of the importance of the elections, as evidenced by active participation of people in the voting from early morning. It is worth noting that every citizen has the right to elect and be elected, regardless of nationality, religion or social origin. This shows that the country provides for human rights, social equality.

*Elections passed in the spirit of democracy // UzA,
December 4, 2016*



Pierre-Emmanuelle DUPONT, chairman of the Public International Law Advising Group (France):

– On December 4 I was at the polling stations of Bukhara. A lot of work has been done to prepare for this important political event on the basis of national legislation and in accordance with international standards. Before the start of elections, voters received information about candidates for the presidency, their election programs. All necessary conditions were created at the polling stations so that citizens could freely vote.

Voters were active – they came to the polling stations early in the morning to exercise their constitutional right. Along with the older generation were boys and girls, including those who voted for the first time.

*In a transparent and organized manner //
«Pravda Vostoka», December 5, 2016*

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Aliheydar RZAEV, editor of the magazine Aviamost (United Arab Emirates):

– The publication for blind citizens of brochures, special bulletins in Braille and preparation of voting booths for disabled people is noteworthy. People came to the polls with whole families, as if on a holiday. They understood perfectly that they choose the future of their children.



*The elections were held in the spirit of democracy //
UzA, December 4, 2016*

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Sergei BUKREYEV, member of the mission of observers from the Commonwealth of Independent States:

– I have visited several polling stations located in the territory of the Kashkadarya region. I have noticed the political activity and responsibility of voters. I am confident that high rates of turnout for voting throughout the country are the result of large-scale work to increase the legal awareness of the population conducted by the CEC and members of election commissions. The election campaign included training seminars for voters and members of election commissions, meetings with youth, women, residents of citizens' assemblies. The excellent knowledge of electoral law by members of precinct election commissions is also noteworthy, as well as the high level of equipment of polling stations, in particular, the presence of medical rooms and «Mother and child» rooms in them.



*In a transparent and organized manner //
«Pravda Vostoka», December 5, 2016*

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Xing Guang CHEN, Director of the Academy of History and Geography Studies of the Neighboring Countries of the People's Republic of China:

– I have observed the voting process at the 5th, 11th and 18th polling stations in the city of Gulistan. I liked the equipment of the rooms «Mother and Child», medical offices. Voters



actively participated in the voting. There were many people at all polling stations. This is rarely seen in other countries. I was impressed by the level of political culture of your people.

*Uzbekistan confidently follows the path of development // UzA,
December 4, 2016*



Arnis CIMDARS, Chairman of the Central Election Commission of Latvia:

— Yesterday, I visited the polling stations in order to observe the voting process. Despite the early morning, people came to vote for the will of the presidential election. This is proof of the high level of activity of the population. The conditions created at polling stations deserve high praise. Violations of election laws were not observed. The system of elections for each state has its own peculiarities. It is formed taking into account the requirements of the society, which chooses its candidates for the post of President. However, if we look through the prism of international standards and requirements, then we can compare and evaluate the individual electoral systems. In this context, it can be said that Uzbekistan has an effective system of conducting democratic elections that fully meets international standards and standards.

*International observers about elections of the President
of the Republic of Uzbekistan //Jahon IA,
December 5, 2016*



Edgar KLOSE, President of the Brandenburg Institute for Technology Support and Development (Germany):

— I visited the 409th, 213th and 348th polling stations of the capital, got acquainted with the voting process. Voters came to the polling station early in the morning, voted for the candidate he had chosen. They had a good mood, a strong confidence in the correctness of their choice.

The current elections, undoubtedly, are a step towards the further development of Uzbekistan. The obvious fact is that the people are not indifferent to fate of the country. This is a reflection of the high practical results of democratic reforms.

*Voters' activity a sign of democratic reforms //
UzA, December 4, 2016*



Bernadette MILL, deputy of the municipality of London's Waltham Forest:

– Having participated in the parliamentary elections of 2014, I witnessed that they passed in compliance with international legal norms and standards. Preparation for the current elections is no less careful. Briefings are held for representatives of domestic and foreign mass media, for international observers. At the same time, I was pleasantly impressed by the responsible attitude of members of precinct election commissions to their tasks, the elated mood of voters and especially the interest of young voters in the process. The elections were open and public, with secret ballot. Each voter cast his vote for the candidate he considered worthy.



*Meetings of Members of Parliament with International Observers // «Narodnoe slovo»,
December 6, 2016*



Reiner RIENMUELLER, Doctor of Medicine, Professor (Austria):

– In many European countries 40-50 percent of the population takes part in the electoral process.

I am sure that in Uzbekistan this figure will be at least 90 percent. The solidarity and political activity of your people deserves attention.



*A qualitative preparation for the elections conducted in a short time is worthy
of high praise // UzA, December 3, 2016*



Samantha PAXTON, chairperson of the Seattle-Tashkent Twin Cities Association (USA):

– I visited the polling stations of Samarkand and Tashkent. Voters have sufficient legal knowledge, especially women and youth. I got acquainted with the activities of the Women's Committee of Uzbekistan, events that they conduct in accordance with the Program to improve the legal awareness of voters in country's regions. This speaks about the active civic position of the girls and women of Uzbekistan; they are now clearly showing themselves in the spheres of life of the state and society.

*Opinions of international observers // «Narodnoe slovo»,
December 6, 2016*



Hironobu KUROSAKI, general manager of the Department for the Region of America, Europe, Middle East and Africa at NEC Corporation (Japan):

– Yesterday, early in the morning, I visited several polling stations and I personally became convinced of the high activity of citizens. They, realizing the importance and seriousness of today's event, actively used their electoral right for the sake of their country's future, further strengthening of peace and stability. I would like to especially note the high level of organization of the elections; all conditions for free voting have been created.

*International observers about elections of the President
of the Republic of Uzbekistan //IA «Jahon»,
December 5, 2016*

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Rafael NEKTAL, editor-in-chief of the weekly newspaper *The Bukharian Times* (USA):

– Every time we visit Uzbekistan, we feel cordiality and hospitality of the Uzbek people.

Citizens of the country, especially young people, are actively involved in the electoral process. Thanks to special attention to those who vote for the first time, young people have formed a high electoral awareness, a sense of belonging to the destiny of country has become stronger. In general, it is worth to pay tribute to the ongoing work in Uzbekistan on the education of the younger generation. The wide involvement of young people in managing the affairs of the state and society is one of the important factors for strengthening stability. Uzbekistan's youth policy is worthy of being an example for others.



High level of preparation for elections testifies to the firm confidence of the people of Uzbekistan in their future // Uza, December 2, 2016

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Safa Mahmoud ALVAN, director general of the consulting company Orient Consulting and Legal Translation (UAE):

– Before the elections, we got acquainted with the preparation in many polling stations of your country. Everything was done on the basis of established requirements. The main thing is that people have a good mood, they believe in their country. Elections are open, organized, and public. People are thoroughly acquainted with the programs of candidates and will consciously make their choice.



From the interview to the information program Akhborot of the National Television and Radio Company of Uzbekistan



Siyabshah SHAPIYEV, member of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation:

– I was impressed with the level of patriotism, which can be said judging by the fact, that when opening the voting process at the polling stations, the hymn of Uzbekistan has sounded. This plays a large educational role for all voters. The high turnout that we see now demonstrates the trust of the people of power and their desire to contribute to the country's future.

International observers about elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan // Jahon IA, December 5, 2016

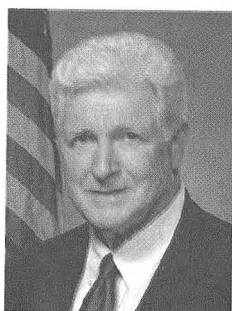


Elena PASKALEVA, Professor of Leiden University (The Netherlands):

– We see the high activity of the population, especially women, in the electoral process. In the upcoming elections, 10 million women are expected to participate, which is an important and high figure. I think that qualitative education system is the main factor of high political consciousness and electoral activity of the population.

The youth of Uzbekistan are studying the Constitution already from the primary classes in the school, which increases its legal and political culture.

The electoral process passes objectively and fairly // UzA, December 2, 2016



James MORAN, leading legal consultant with McDermott Will and Emery LLP (USA):

– The socio-political event taking place today is important both for Uzbekistan and for the region as a whole. Uzbekistan can serve as an exemplary model of how a young republic can build equal and mutually beneficial relations with both the East and the West. The

current elections in your country are open, young people are also actively participating in them.

*International observers about elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan
/Jahon IA, December 4, 2016*



Valerius SIMULIK, member of the Seimas of Lithuania:

– I believe that the Program of the Central Election Commission for Raising the Legal Awareness of Voters served as an important factor in the activity of voters on the voting day. It played a significant role in understanding by citizens of Uzbekistan the need to actively participate in political processes, mechanism of the government and their future. Your country occupies a special place in the Central Asian region; therefore, Uzbekistan has a great responsibility for peace, dynamic development of the region. Young people total 60 percent of your population; any European state can envy this. And you attach significant attention to their upbringing.

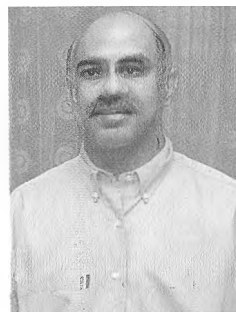


*Opinions of international observers //
«Narodnoe slovo», December 6, 2016*



Riven D'SOUZA, executive director of the newspaper Times Kuwait (Kuwait):

– Sociological polls conducted in Uzbekistan show a high level of citizens' support for democratic reforms conducted during the years of independence. The majority of Uzbeks consider presidential elections as the most important event in the socio-political life of the country, they understand the need to participate in the voting, and also show a high level of awareness of the forthcoming presidential elections. In this context, the high electoral activity of citizens deserves a positive assessment, which indicates an increased sense of their responsibility for the future of their country.



*Results of presidential elections in Uzbekistan will strengthen its image in the
international arena // Jahon IA, December 3, 2016*



Kyoko NAKAYAMA, member of the upper house of the Japanese parliament, leader of the Heart of Japan Party:

– We visited a number of polling stations and saw that many people come to the polls. And they do it with joy, with pleasure. This indicates a high civil activity of the population. The election process was open, all mass media freely covered it without interference and restrictions, observers from political parties and foreign observers freely watched all stages of the electoral process before and on Election Day.

Uzbekistan is a country with a rich history, cultural heritage and high spirituality, from which we could learn a lot. The first President Islam Karimov has done a great deal to turn your country into a politically and economically strong state, ensure the peaceful life of your people. I am sure that the election of a new leader will serve to continue these noble deeds, further development of all spheres and improvement of people's living conditions.

*In a transparent and organized manner //
«Pravda Vostoka», December 5, 2016*



Berik IMASHEV, Chairman of the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Kazakhstan:

– We are glad to participate in the elections of the President of Uzbekistan as observers. These elections are of great importance for the brotherly Uzbek people, for the further development of Uzbekistan. Citizens are deeply conscious of this. Most importantly, all the opportunities for holding elections at a high level have been created, with the active participation of the population.

*The experience of Uzbekistan should be studied // UzA,
December 3, 2016*

Magdi ZABAL, director of the Center for Scientific Research, Zagazig University (Egypt):

– Elections are a political process, important not only for today, but also for the future. We have noted that the youth of Uzbekistan, which takes part for the first time in the elections, are deeply conscious of the responsibility for the future. The issue of women's participation in political life, which still remains unresolved in many countries, is considered in Uzbekistan at the level of state policy. The electoral processes regularly covered in the media provide the population with complete and objective information from primary sources. All this contributes to the holding of the presidential elections in Uzbekistan at a high level.



A qualitative preparation for the elections conducted in a short time is worthy of high praise // UzA, December 3, 2016

Elman NASIROV, member of the Milliy Mejlis of Azerbaijan:

– It seems to me that the people will first of all vote for stability in the country, ensuring that human rights are respected at all levels. And, most importantly, for the Uzbek state to flourish in the future. And, probably, proceeding from this, there is still a very big responsibility now before the Uzbek people. Now, observing the election process, I see that everyone votes for the future of Uzbekistan, for their children, and for the future of the state in general.



From the interview to the information program Akhborot of the National Television and Radio Company of Uzbekistan



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**Vladimir MESAMED, Professor of Hebrew University
Institute of Asia and Africa (Israel):**

– I was an observer at the 22nd polling station in the city of Jizzakh. All conditions for free voting of voters have been created. The voting process was based on international norms. Voters are satisfied with the results of the reforms carried out in the country in the social and economic life, and they took an active part in the elections with confidence in the future. Citizens are sure that the country will progress consistently. And this is very important.

*With confidence in the future // UzA,
December 4, 2016*



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**Eckhard PRILLER, director of the Maecenata
Institute Berlin for Philanthropy and Civil Society
(Germany):**

– The electoral process in Uzbekistan is at a high organizational and technical level. This became possible thanks to the well-coordinated work carried out by the Central Election Commission and other structures.

Participation in elections of international observers is a practical manifestation of great attention and interest to Uzbekistan. During our stay in the republic, we visited several polling stations and a press club, got acquainted with the candidates' election programs. I am sure that the people of Uzbekistan will choose the most worthy candidate for President.

*International experts on the democratic electoral system of Uzbekistan //
Jahon IA, December 4, 2016*

Li ZHUNQIN, reporter of China International Radio:

– We visited several polling stations and observed high activity of the population. The joy of the children who came with their parents, the happy faces of the youth who voted for the first time, gave the elections a festive mood. The way elections were prepared and held is worthy of all praise.



*Let peace and tranquility prevail in Uzbekistan forever // UzA,
December 4, 2016*

Kenichi MATSUMOTO, President of the Organization for External Technical Assistance in Medical Equipment (OMETA), Chairman of the Matsumoto Foundation (Japan):

– For the third time I have been participating in the elections as an observer. The organization at the polling stations is worthy of attention - medical aid rooms, «Mothers and Child» rooms have been created. I think this practice should be introduced in our electoral system. I also want to note one thing. As a rule, about 50-60% of the population participates in elections. The activity of citizens of your country is praiseworthy.



*From the interview to the information program Akhborot of the
National Television and Radio Company of Uzbekistan*

Venta KOTSERE, Director of the Academic Library of the University of Latvia:

– Today, I observed the voting process at the 90th polling station at the Uzbek State Institute of Physical Culture and 105th – at Inha University in Tashkent. I was convinced that the people of Uzbekistan not only respect their past, but also firmly believe in the future. I think that



the high level of training, the activity of voters and solidarity of participants of the electoral process will ensure the successful results of elections.

*The changes happened in Uzbekistan cause admiration // UZA,
December 4, 2016*



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**Udo FOELKER, independent consultant of CLAAS
(Germany):**

– I visited polling stations No.508, 509 and 510 of the city of Tashkent. I positively assess the equipment of the polling stations and note the operational work of the members of election commission. Citizens are very seriously pertinent to the implementation of their electoral rights, everywhere I observed their activity. This is an indicator of the growth of political level of citizens who are optimistic about the future and expect the results of elections to further improve their lives.

*From an interview to the radio station Poytaxt FM
of the National Association of Electronic
Mass Media of Uzbekistan*



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**Muharbek DIDIGOV, deputy chairman of the Council
of Federation (upper house) Committee on Defense and
Security (Russia):**

– The people of Uzbekistan reacted to the presidential elections as an important political process that is crucial not only for the life of the country, but for the personal destiny of every voter and his family. People deeply realized that they were voting for a guaranteed stable life. In Samarkand, Bukhara and Tashkent, we were directly acquainted with the preparation and conduct of the elections; we saw that equal opportunities were created for all sections of the population.

The elections were held in accordance with national legislation, international democratic principles, international law, on the basis of a multi-party system and the principles of freedom and equality.

*Elections passed in the spirit of democracy // UzA,
December 4, 2016*



Izzatullah HASHMI, correspondent of the newspaper Arab News (Saudi Arabia):

– I am very pleased to participate in the elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan as an international observer. In Uzbekistan, preparations for the presidential elections have been held at a high level. The favorable conditions created for the mass media, including foreign journalists, contribute to holding elections in the spirit of openness, transparency and democracy.



Yesterday we visited two polling stations. Voting began today at 6:00 am. In the morning, venerable elderly people, representatives of the intelligentsia, as well as young men and women who participated in the elections for the first time, came to vote. By 1:00 pm, the turnout at the polls exceeded 60%, and this is a very good result.

*International observers about elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan
//Jahon IA, December 5, 2016*



Amzulian RIFAI, Ombudsman of the Republic of Indonesia:

– Thorough preparation has been conducted for the presidential elections in Uzbekistan. I was convinced of this by visiting several polling stations of the capital today. As a result of my observations, I can say with confidence that all conditions have been created for voters at the highest level. Everywhere there are «Mother and Child» rooms, medical stations. They are equipped



with the necessary equipment and provided with the necessary items. For people with disabilities, everything necessary is also created. Blind persons can vote by receiving ballots on the Braille alphabet. Such opportunities are rarely found in international practice.

From the interview to the information program Akhborot of the National Television and Radio Company of Uzbekistan



Yoel RAZVOZOV, member of the Israeli Knesset:

— I was convinced that all citizens are very interested in the elections. All conditions for active participation of voters, in particular women with young children and disabled people, are created at the polling stations. Particular attention is paid to working with young people who vote for the first time.

*Elections will be held at a high level // UzA,
December 3, 2016*



Boyan CHUKOV, National Association of International Relations, member of the editorial board of the journal International Relations (Bulgaria):

— Elections are very clear, organized. Here everything is well prepared; I see that people come with pleasure from the early morning. And the percentage of voters is very high. You know, I am accompanied by a very young student from the law faculty in Tashkent, a wonderful guy, I see the future of Uzbekistan in him, and so you can be calm. At the end of the day it will be clear, and we can congratulate on the choice of Uzbek people. And the people, as always, are very wise.

From the interview to the information program Akhborot of the National Television and Radio Company of Uzbekistan

Zheng QI, correspondent China Daily (PRC):

– I visited several polling stations located on the territory of the 3rd Bukhara electoral district for the elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan. They were carefully prepared for this important political event. Openness and justice are the most important features of democratic elections. In this connection, all necessary conditions were created for representatives of political parties and foreign observers directly observing the process of voting at polling stations.



*Uzbekistan is a steadily advancing country // UzA,
December 4, 2016*

STATEMENTS OF OBSERVER MISSIONS FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, ARTICLES AND OTHER MATERIALS ON THE PREPARATION AND CONDUCT OF THE ELECTIONS PUBLISHED IN THE MASS MEDIA



**FROM THE STATEMENT OF
the Mission of Observers from the Commonwealth of Independent States
on the outcomes of monitoring the preparation and conduct of the elections
of President of the Republic of Uzbekistan**

General provisions

On the invitation of the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan (hereinafter referred to as the Central Election Commission, CEC), the Mission of observers from the Commonwealth of Independent States (hereinafter referred to as the Mission) from November 17, 2016 monitored the preparation and conduct of the elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan (hereinafter – elections).

In accordance with Articles 96 and 117 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, as well as Article 8 of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan «On the elections of President of the Republic of Uzbekistan», Articles 5 and 9 of the Law «On the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan», the Central Election Commission announced December 4 as the day of election of President of Republic of Uzbekistan.

73 observers were accredited to the CIS Mission, representing the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Belarus, the Republic

of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and the CIS Executive Committee.

As part of the monitoring of the elections, the Head of the Mission, the Chairman of the Executive Committee, the Executive Secretary of the CIS S.Lebedev met with the Chairman of the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan M. Abdusalomov, the Head of the OSCE/ODIHR Mission P.Tejler, the Head of the Mission of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Secretary General of the SCO R.Alimov, the Secretary General of the World Association of Electoral Bodies J.Kim, and also got acquainted with the work of the district and precinct election commissions of the Jizzakh region and the Tashkent city.

Guiding by the legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan, without interfering in the course of the electoral process and in the internal affairs of the state, the mission performed its functions freely and independently.

The headquarters of the Mission issued press releases and an interim report on the monitoring of the preparations for the elections. The representatives of the media were informed about the activities of the Mission.

Legislative foundations for the elections of President of the Republic of Uzbekistan

The legal basis for the conduct of the elections is the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Law «On the elections of President of the Republic of Uzbekistan» (hereinafter – Law), the Law «On guarantees of electoral rights of citizens», the Law «On the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan», a number of other legislative acts and resolutions of the CEC.

In order to further improve the organization and conduct of elections in December 2015, the Law was amended and supplemented. The concept of electoral campaigning, its types, forms and methods was revealed in detail; terms and procedure of early voting were established. The number of signatures of the total number of voters that a political party needs to support a candidate for participation in elections, has been reduced from 5 to 1%.

The experts of the Mission note that the electoral legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan contains the provisions on securing the electoral rights and freedoms of citizens and serves as a solid legal basis for conducting open, free and democratic elections.

Formation of election commissions and their activities

The organization and conduct of the elections were carried out by:
the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan;
the district election commissions for the election of President of the Republic of Uzbekistan (hereinafter, district commissions – DEC);

and the precinct election commissions for the election of President of the Republic of Uzbekistan (hereinafter, precinct commissions – PEC).

The Central Election Commission comprising 17 people was formed by the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The district commissions were established by the Central Election Commission consisting of the chairperson, deputy chairperson, secretary and at least 6-8 commission members.

The precinct commissions were formed by the district commissions consisting of 5-19 members, including the chairperson, deputy chairperson and secretary.

14 district and 9383 precinct commissions, including 44 abroad were formed in the terms established by the law.

The Central Election Commission in an organized way and consistently conducted the work on the preparation and conduct of elections.

The Central Election Commission adopted a Program of major events for the preparation and conduct of elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The Central Election Commission organized a republican online training seminar for the members of the district commissions aimed at further enhancing the knowledge of electoral legislation and the skills of its application.

In order to secure an organized conduct of elections, the CEC adopted a Resolution «On the conduct of training seminars devoted to the issues of the effective organization of work of the precinct election commissions on the elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan» on October 13, 2016,

According to the Resolution, the training was conducted in three stages with the participation of the CEC members and experts in the field of electoral legislation.

The trainings covered the issues of further boosting the legal knowledge of PEC members, equipping the polling stations, working with voter lists, organizing an early voting and voting on the election day, the role of the media in ensuring openness and transparency of the electoral process. The representatives of the Mission participated in the separate trainings.

In order to secure the unified application of electoral legislation by election organizers, the CEC produced 20 items of memos, manuals, collections and other printed materials.

The Central Election Commission together with the National Television and Radio Company of Uzbekistan prepared two training films: one on the organization of the PEC until the voting day, the other on the election day.

The CEC meetings were carried out, as a rule, in the mode of videoconferencing with the participation of the members of the district commissions, representatives of political parties, international observers, and the mass media.

As part of election monitoring, long-term observers from the CIS got acquainted with the activities of the district and precinct commissions in Andijan, Jizzakh, Namangan, Samarkand, Tashkent, Ferghana, Khorezm regions and the city of Tashkent.

The members of the Mission note that the DEC and PECs had the necessary conditions for working, they were provided with transport, communication facilities, legal and methodical literature. In the premises of the PEC, voter lists were posted up for review, information notes were hanged up on the voting procedure, the order for compiling voter lists, the order for early voting, and the prohibition of «family» voting.

To timely apply of individuals and legal entities, prevent the violations of the law during the preparation and conduct of elections, a round-the-clock «hotline» functioned in the Central Election Commission from November 1, 2016.

According to the Mission, the activities of the Central and subordinate commissions were aimed at securing the strict compliance with the norms of the electoral legislation of the country from the beginning of the electoral campaigning to its completion.

Nomination and registration of presidential candidates

In accordance with the Law, the right to nominate candidates for the post of the President belongs to the political parties registered by the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan no later than 6 months before the announcement of the beginning of the election campaign.

On September 23, 2016, after reviewing the applications and other documents of political parties, the Central Electoral Commission decided to allow Milliy Tiklanish Democratic Party of Uzbekistan, the Movement of Entrepreneurs and Businesspeople – the Liberal Democratic Party of Uzbekistan, the People's Democratic Party of Uzbekistan, and Adolat Social Democratic Party of Uzbekistan to take part in the elections.

The nomination of candidates for the Presidency was carried out from September 30 to October 20, 2016.

The political parties conducted the general sessions in which the presidential candidates were nominated in accordance with the law, and collected voters' signatures in support of them.

To verify the signature lists provided by the political parties, an expert group was formed including members of the CEC, representatives of the public, specialists from the internal affairs bodies, justice, as well as public accounting institutions which concluded that the collection of signatures was carried out in accordance with the requirements of the law.

On October 28, 2016, having examined the documents submitted by the political parties, the Central Election Commission registered candidates for the Presidency of the Republic of Uzbekistan S.Otamuratov from Milliy Tiklanish Democratic Party of Uzbekistan, Sh.Mirziyoyev from the Movement of Entrepreneurs and Businesspeople – the Liberal Democratic Party of Uzbekistan, Kh.Ketmonov from the People's Democratic Party of Uzbekistan, and N.Umarov from Adolat Social Democratic Party of Uzbekistan.

The mission notes that the procedures for nominating and registering candidates for the presidency were open and conducted in compliance with the requirements of the law.

Election campaign and coverage of electoral campaigning by the mass media

The campaigning of presidential candidates began from the moment of their registration and lasted until December 2, 2016.

On October 3, 2016, the Central Commission approved the Regulations on the procedure for conducting election campaign by candidates for the Presidency of the Republic of Uzbekistan. According to the Regulations, electoral campaigning was conducted through the media, through the production and distribution of printed, visual, audiovisual and other campaign materials, meetings with voters.

In accordance with the Resolution «On electoral campaigning of candidates for the office of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan during the electoral campaigning on the election of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan» adopted by the CEC on October 28, 2016, presidential candidates were provided each with free and equal conditions:

for 638 minutes of air time on the TV and radio channels «Uzbekistan» and «Yoshlar» of the National Television and Radio Company of Uzbekistan;
for 206 minutes of airtime on 12 regional TV and radio channels;
for 286 minutes of air time on the TV and radio channel «Toshkent»;
for 6 pages of printed space in the newspapers «Xalq so'zi», «Narodnoe Slovo» and «Pravda Vostoka», as well as 5 pages of printed space in the newspapers «Ovozi Tojik» and «Nurly Jol»;
for 55.5 pages of print space in 30 local newspapers;
for 642 means of external advertising in the regions of the republic;
for 36 electronic monitors in the regions of the republic for placement of campaigning rollers of presidential candidates by a single bloc.

By the same resolution, the CEC determined the order of the presidential candidates' appearance in the mass media.

The mass media provided equal conditions for the duration and volume of coverage in newscasts and other informational materials on the candidates' electoral activities.

In order to clarify the pre-election programs, the candidates and their authorized representatives conducted meetings, meetings with voters, including for the first time in videoconference format which were widely covered in central and regional media.

Meetings of presidential candidates were carried out in all 14 electoral districts. In addition, their authorized representatives conducted about 800 such meetings.

In the struggle for the votes, the websites of political parties, party prints, means of external advertising, electronic monitors were used, electoral leaflets and other propaganda materials were distributed.

A campaign on the election day and the day before the voting was not allowed. Pre-election campaign materials previously placed on the means of external advertising were taken off.

The mission believes that the organizers of the elections took the necessary measures aimed at conducting election campaigning in a free atmosphere that allowed presidential candidates to publicly state their convictions and introduce the voters to their electoral programs.

The Central Election Commission effectively used the potential of the media to secure the transparency and openness of the electoral process.

In order to inform the general public about the preparations of the CEC for the elections, agreements were signed on coverage of the election campaign with the National Television and Radio Company of Uzbekistan, the National information agency of Uzbekistan, the information agency «Jahon», the National Association of Electronic Mass Media, the information agency «Uzreport».

According to the CEC, since the beginning of the election campaign, about 15,000 materials have been published in the media concerning the topics of the upcoming elections.

The members of the Central and District Election Commissions informed the citizens about the preparations for the elections on the pages of printed publications, on the air of television and radio channels.

The CEC website promptly published its decisions, regulations and instructions, news and information related to the election campaign.

The Chairman of the Central Election Commission M. Abdusalomov addressed to the voters of the country with call-up to take an active part in the elections. His message was repeatedly shown on the television.

The CEC opened the Republican Press Center for covering the elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Similar press centers operated under the OIC.

Since November 30, 2016, the Press Club «Elections-2016» formed by the National Association of Electronic Media of Uzbekistan together with a number of printed and Internet publications, television and radio channels has started its work. As a part of its activities, events were carried out with the participation of the representatives of the CEC, political parties, religious confessions and civil society, international observers, deputies of the national parliament of the republic.

Information messages on the forthcoming elections were regularly broadcasted through the channels of television and radio. The videos explaining the voting procedure, early voting, the procedure for filling out ballot papers were also transmitted on the TV. Slogans for voting were placed on outdoor advertising media.

The Kamolot Youth Civic Movement, the Women's Committee, the Mahalla Charitable Foundation, the Republican International Cultural Center and other civil society institutions carried out actions in the format of social partnership with the state and management authorities: «I will personally participate in the voting», «In our family has its own voice», «My voice determines the destiny of my country», «We have the right to choose», «Find yourself on the voters list».

The district commissions sent invitations to the voters for the elections indicating the date, place and time of the voting, as well as information about the candidates for the presidency.

The mission notes that for the first time in the country's election practice, the Program of measures approved by the CEC to improve the legal awareness of the voters in the preparation for the elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan was adopted and consistently realized.

The Central Election Commission conducted seminars, roundtables with the participation of the representatives of civil society institutions. In the course of their work, the issues of the advancement of the electoral system of the republic, its compliance with generally recognized norms for holding democratic elections, improving electoral legislation, participation in the electoral process of women, as well as the voters who voted for the first time, were discussed.

A total of about 70,000 such events were conducted, and 22 corresponding brochures were published in thousands of copies in Uzbek and Russian languages.

Particular attention was placed on preventing the cases of «family voting». 100 thousand posters were published on this topic which were placed in public places and transport.

Voter Lists

The list of voters included all citizens of the republic who reached the age of 18 until or on the election day, permanently or temporarily residing at the time of drawing up the list on the territory of this polling station.

The lists were drawn up by the precinct commissions on the basis of the information provided by local executive and local self-government authorities.

The PECs with the involvement of representatives of the public organized the clarification of voter lists by way of a door-to-door and a home-to-home round. At the same time, citizens were explained the possibility of early voting and other rights.

Voters can see the PEC premises with the lists and check the correctness of their compilation 15 days before the elections. Every citizen had the right to appeal to the district commission on non-inclusion, incorrect inclusion in the list or exclusion from the list, as well as the inaccuracies in indicating the data about the voter. The decision of the commission could be appealed to the court in accordance with the established procedure.

According to the CEC, over 20 million 400 thousand citizens were included in the lists for the participation in the elections.

According to the Mission, the procedure for compiling and clarifying voter lists guaranteed the realization of the principle of universal suffrage.

Complaints and appeals

As of December 3, 2016, the Central Election Commission, the General Prosecutor's Office, the Supreme Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan did not receive applications and statements regarding the electoral process. According to the information of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan, no violations related to the election campaign have been recorded.

Observation of voting and ballot counting

According to the Law, voters who did not have the opportunity to be in the residence on the day of elections from November 24 to December 2, 2016, from 09.00 to 18.00 could vote ahead of schedule in the precinct commission. The representatives of the Mission observed the procedure for early voting.

Observers from the CIS on election day, monitoring in all 14 constituencies, visited 719 polling stations, were present at their opening, observed the voting process and the results of the voting by the precinct election commissions.

The polling stations visited by observers were provided with all the necessary conditions for the voters and the work of the PEC members. Medical rooms, rooms of mother and child were created everywhere. The information was placed on presidential candidates at each polling station.

According to the observers from the CIS, the vote was conducted in an organized way and calm atmosphere with high activity of citizens.

A voter who for some reason was not included in the list on the day of elections on the basis of an identity and residence document was included in the supplement to the list of voters.

The CEC provided additional conditions for voting of citizens with disabilities. Most polling stations were equipped with a wheelchair ramp and a special voting booth. The ballot papers were made in Braille for the blind voters.

In cases where individual voters could not arrive at the polling station for health reasons or for other reasons, the PEC members organized a vote at their place of residence.

In the opinion of the observers from the Commonwealth, recorded individual violations did not have a systemic and mass character and did not affect the outcome of the elections.

Members of the Mission observed the counting of votes and noted that this procedure was transparent and conducted in accordance with the Law.

About 37,000 national observers monitored the voting which contributed to the provision of public control.

The mission believes that public authorities and local self-government bodies, election commissions of all levels provided the realization of the citizens' right to free expression of will during the elections.

The observers from the Commonwealth make their assessments and conclusions on the basis of their own observation, analysis of factual material and information collected by them in the process of long-term and short-term monitoring of the elections.

Conclusions

The Mission of observers from the Commonwealth of Independent States comes to the following conclusions:

The elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan conducted on December 4, 2016, were carried out at a high organizational level in accordance with the electoral legislation operating in the country and universally recognized international standards for the conduct of elections;

The conducted elections were free, transparent and competitive;

Elections have demonstrated the level of political maturity of civil society, have become a significant step in the movement of Uzbekistan along the path of progress and creation, in the implementation of new democratic reforms.

December 16, 2016

<http://e-cis.info/page.php?id=25787>



**FROM THE STATEMENT OF
the Observer Mission of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization on the
outcomes of monitoring the preparation and conduct of the elections of
President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on December 4, 2016**

At the invitation of the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Observer Mission of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (hereinafter referred to as the «Mission») from November 29 to December 4, 2016 monitored the preparation and conduct of the elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The invitation of international observers is regarded by the Mission as the desire of the leadership of the Republic of Uzbekistan to ensure maximum openness, transparency and democratic character of the presidential elections.

1. Composition of Mission

The Mission included representatives of legislative, executive and electoral bodies of the SCO member states, officials of the SCO Secretariat.

From the Republic of Kazakhstan – member of the Central Election Commission M.A. Sarsembayev; from the People’s Republic of China – Adviser to the Department of Europe and Central Asia of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Liu Baojun; from the Kyrgyz Republic – Deputy Chairman of the Committee for the Law and Order, Combating Crime and Counteracting Corruption of the Jogorku Kenesh I.I. Matraimov, Chairman of the Committee for Agrarian Development, Water Resources and Ecology of the Jogorku Kenesh A.K. Nazarov, Deputy Chairman of the Committee for Agrarian Development, Water Resources and

Ecology Zhogorku Kenesh A.J. Akmatov, members of the Central Commission on Elections and Conducting Referenda of the Kyrgyz Republic A.J. Eshimov and N.T. Aripov; from the Russian Federation – Member of the Committee on Constitutional Legislation and State Building of the Council of Federation of the Federal Assembly A.D. Bashkin, Deputy Chairman of the Committee on International Affairs of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly I.K. Rodnina, Member of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation N.V. Levichev, from the Republic of Tajikistan – member of the Central Commission for Elections and Referenda J.N. Jamshedov; from the SCO Secretariat – advisers Zhang Hongjian, M.S. Rakhanova, senior experts – M.M. Aseinov, S.M. Rustambayev, 1st category experts – S.N. Smetannikov, Sh.J. Zakirova.

The mission was led by SCO Secretary General Rashid Alimov.

2. Legal framework of the Mission activities

The Mission fulfilled its functions, guided by the Regulations «On the SCO Observer Mission in presidential and/or parliamentary elections and referendums», observing the principle of political neutrality and non-interference in the internal affairs of the state, in strict accordance with the legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

All the conclusions of the Mission are based on the personal observations and factual material collected by the members of the Mission gathered during the preparations for the elections and on the day of elections.

3. Mission activities

The mission carried out its activities in accordance with the designed work plan.

Members of the Mission were thoroughly acquainted with the work conducted by the Central Election Commission on the preparation and conduct of elections, including their organization in diplomatic missions of Uzbekistan abroad.

The Mission was provided with exhaustive information about election campaigning conducted by election participants as well as accredited observers of international organizations and the media.

The Mission created all the necessary conditions for monitoring the preparation and conduct of the election process.

During its activity, the Mission visited 235 polling stations in 13 electoral districts of the Republic of Uzbekistan, taking into account the territorial division – «capital», «autonomous republic», «region», «city», «village».

The mission conducted a series of meetings and conversations with the leadership of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan, chairmen, secretaries and members of city, district and precinct election commissions, ordinary voters, local observers, representatives of political parties, media, leaders and mission members Observers of foreign states and international organizations.

4. Legal framework for the election of President of the Republic of Uzbekistan

The legal basis for the Election of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan is formed by: the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Law «On the elections of President of the Republic of Uzbekistan», the Law «On guarantees of electoral rights of citizens», the Law «On the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan», the Law «On amendments and addenda to some legislative acts of the Republic of Uzbekistan», the resolution of the CEC of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated December 4, 2015.

The mission conducted an in-depth analysis of the legal framework. In the Republic of Uzbekistan at the legislative level all the necessary conditions have been created for the subjects of the electoral process, the right and opportunity to freely vote or not to vote, to be elected or to be elected on an equitable basis through universal, equal expression of will through secret voting procedures, are guaranteed. Legislation provides for the rights of national minorities, in particular, Uzbekistan's Central Executive Committee's Resolution requires the issuance of bulletins in three languages: Uzbek, Russian and Karakalpak.

The mission considers significant steps towards improving and liberalizing electoral legislation:

First, a reduction in the percentage of collecting signatures for the main subject of the electoral process – the political party – from 5% to 1%;

Second, the organization of voting for persons held in custody, but not yet convicted by a court decision;

Third, the creation of conditions for citizens of Uzbekistan, but for one reason or another not having the opportunity to vote on the Election Day, mechanism of early voting;

Fourth, the opportunity for citizens to vote at the place of actual (temporary) residence.

The most important guarantee of ensuring democratic elections is the constitutional consolidation of the status of the Central Election Commission as an independent democratic institution that ensures the preparation and conduct of elections without any interference by other public authorities.

5. Candidates for the post of President of the Republic of Uzbekistan

In accordance with the legislation, the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan adopted the relevant resolutions on the registration of the following candidates for the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan:

from the Milliy Tiklanish Democratic Party of Uzbekistan – Sarvar Sadullaevich Otamuratov;

from the Movement of Entrepreneurs and Businesspeople – the Liberal Democratic Party of Uzbekistan – Shavkat Miromonovich Mirziyoyev.

from the People's Democratic Party of Uzbekistan – Khatamjon Abdurakhmonovich Ketmonov.

from the Adolat Social-Democratic Party of Uzbekistan – Nariman Majitovich Umarov.

6. Election campaigning

The mission notes that the activities in the election campaign were conducted in an open manner, covered in the mass media particularly and catholically, in strict accordance with the legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

For the participants of the electoral process, regardless of their party affiliation and political views, equal conditions for fair competition were ensured. Candidates to the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan were given equal free air time and equal printed space.

The media, in accordance with the electoral legislation, provided equal coverage of candidates' programs.

According to electoral legislation, election campaign funding is made from the state budget. In order to create conditions for fair competition, the distribution of funds is made in an equal amount for all candidates for the post of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Use of funds by parties from other sources is prohibited. At the same time, in case of emergence of an additional source of funding, the CEC of Uzbekistan is entitled to distribute these funds among candidates also in equal parts.

Candidates for the highest state post were given equal opportunities to hold meetings with voters, where campaign materials and detailed information on the pre-election programs, goals and plans of candidates for the office of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan were distributed. At the same time, state bodies, public associations and enterprises were ordered to provide equipped premises for meetings with voters on a free basis.

The mission emphasizes that the central and regional television and radio channels have broadcasted meetings of candidates and authorized representatives with voters, videos were shown on the electoral programs of candidates for the post of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The Mission notes with satisfaction that the materials devoted to the preparation and conduct of the elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan were disseminated in five languages of the peoples living in the country – Uzbek, Karakalpak, Kazakh, Russian, Tajik, and were also published by the media in even 15 languages, including in Azerbaijani, Armenian, English, Arabic, Dari, Indian, Spanish, Chinese, Kyrgyz, Korean, German, Persian, Turkmen, French, Japanese.

Special attention should be paid to organizing meetings of candidates with voters using modern technologies. Thanks to online conferences, the candidates could simultaneously conduct interviews with representatives of several localities, and residents of remote areas were given the opportunity to ask the candidates for the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan the most burning questions and get answers to them.

Websites of political parties, party prints were widely used, as well as regional and local media have published election materials of candidates.

The Mission received no complaints or comments on the work of media in covering the campaign.

The mission notes that the analysis of all aspects of the election campaign demonstrates the country's political pluralism, competition, openness and transparency of the election campaign, broad opportunities for citizens to make an independent and informed choice.

7. Preparatory works

The Mission notes that during the implementation of the Program of the main activities for the preparation and conduct of the elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Central Election Commission and electoral commissions of all levels carried out a large-scale complex work aimed at ensuring the electoral rights of citizens.

Within the framework of this work, 9,382 polling stations were established in 14 electoral districts, including 44 polling stations within the diplomatic representations of the Republic of Uzbekistan in foreign countries.

The district election commissions formed the composition of precinct election commissions, for the activity implementation of which more than 98 thousand people were involved. Of these, 69% previously participated directly in the

work of election commissions and, in this respect, they have certain practical experience.

Simultaneously, special seminars on the so-called «cascade» method were conducted with the purpose of training the staff of election commissions taking into account the peculiarities of the current election campaign.

The mission notes that for the first time in the electoral practice, the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan has developed and successfully implemented a program of measures to improve the legal awareness of voters.

Within the framework of mentioned program 22 titles of pamphlets and methodological aids have been published, special video clips have been produced showing all stages of the preparatory work of precinct election commissions and turn-based actions of voters on the polling station on the voting day. In addition, public organizations and structures such as mahalla committees, women's committees, veterans' councils were actively involved, which in an intelligible manner explained to voters their rights and obligations, including the inadmissibility of the so-called «family voting» when the head of the family votes for all family members.

In order to ensure the protection of the electoral rights of the population, the Central Election Commission of Uzbekistan opened «hotlines», which continuously accepted and considered complaints and appeals of voters concerning elections.

Along with the press center in the Central Election Commission, which covered the work of the Central Executive Committee of Uzbekistan and regularly provided all official information, «Press Club: Elections-2016» was opened for the first time in election practice from November 30 to December 5, 2016. The project is a social and civic initiative. This multimedia platform was created by the National Association of Electronic Mass Media of Uzbekistan together with a number of domestic printed and Internet publications, television and radio channels. An online connection was established with the press center of the Central Election Commission. As part of the work of the press club, connections were established with ten regional non-state television studios for direct reporting from polling stations throughout the country and the formation of objective content on the preparation and conduct of the elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Various activities took place in the framework of the activities of the press club, including briefings and speeches by representatives of the CEC, political parties, religious faiths and civil society, international observers, representatives

of the Senate and the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Following the results of discussions with representatives of national and foreign media, participants of the events within the club, this innovation is considered by the Mission as a very effective way to deliver operative and objective information to the population of the country, free exchange of opinions and experience of electoral practice.

8. Day of voting

On the voting day, 4 December 2016, members of the Mission arrived at the polling stations before their opening, were present at the preparation of ballots and ballot boxes.

The Mission members carried out the observation in 10 electoral districts, visited 181 polling stations in Tashkent city, Tashkent, Bukhara, Samarkand, Namangan, Andijan, Ferghana, Jizzakh regions, as well as cities and other localities of the Republic of Karakalpakstan.

Observers of the Mission visited polling stations without a pre-designed plan, without agreement with the executive and electoral bodies. The choice of the polling station was carried out by each member of the Mission independently. There were no obstacles to visiting a site for the members of the Mission, including in the territories of closed organizations (the regional psycho neurological dispensary in Chirchik town).

A very impressive moment for the members of the Mission was that, at the opening of many polling stations, a rite of blessing was carried out by the district elders, which, according to the Mission, introduces an element of spirituality and purity into this important social and political event, as well as greater responsibility for the participants in the electoral process.

The mission notes the high activity of citizens in the course of voting and the professional level of training of workers of precinct election commissions.

The members of the precinct election commissions provided the necessary conditions for carrying out the voting procedure, remained impartial during the voting process, provided full explanations on the emerging issues during voter addresses, showed sensitivity and attentiveness to voters, trustees, local and international observers.

The activities of election commissions wore qualified, transparent, transparent and independent nature.

In the precinct election commissions, documentary and reference books, observer registration journals, methodological collections, duty schedules, evacuation schemes and other documents were represented in full.

The polling stations visited by the members of the Mission were provided with means of communication, computer and other equipment, as well as all things necessary for the voting of voters and the work of PEC members. Every polling station was equipped with first-aid posts, mother and child rooms. There were places for voting of persons with disabilities, polling stations were equipped with ramps. For the first time for visually impaired people ballot papers were also printed in Braille.

In order to ensure the transparency of the voting process, video cameras connected to a single computer network were installed at the polling stations, which allowed the CEC to observe the voting process online, maintain a stable video communication with the regions of the country.

The mission notes with satisfaction the high activity of young people on the voting day, as well as the special attention of the precinct commissions to young people who participated for the first time in the elections. According to the Central Election Commission, there are 555,497 such citizens. They were given flowers and souvenirs, which emphasized, on the one hand, the solemnity of the event for a given citizen, and on the other hand, the state's concern for the younger generation.

At polling stations, the voting was calm, with due observance of the established order and in the presence of observers from political parties, authorized representatives of candidates, as well as representatives of number of international organizations and media.

Representatives of the Mission received no complaints or comments on the voting.

9. Principal outcomes

The mission states that the elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan corresponded to the requirements of the electoral legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the international obligations accepted by the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Violations of the norms of national legislation that call into question the legitimacy of the elections were not noted by the Mission.

The mission recognizes the past elections as open, free and democratic.

The mission states that the presidential elections were an important step on the way to further development of the democratic processes of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The mission congratulates the people of Uzbekistan on the election of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, wishes him success in implementing the policy of strengthening the country's independence, sovereignty and socio-economic development, new achievements in all areas of society and prosperity.

The mission of the observers from the Shanghai Cooperation Organization expresses its deep gratitude to the Central Election Commission, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other organizations and institutions of the Republic of Uzbekistan for their full cooperation and assistance during its work.

*Rashid Alimov,
head of the Observer Mission
from the Shanghai Cooperation Organization,
SCO Secretary General
Tashkent, December 5, 2016//
http://elections.uz/ru/events/current_topics/45290/*



**FROM THE STATEMENT OF PRELIMINARY FINDINGS
AND CONCLUSIONS OF ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSION
OF THE OFFICE FOR DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND HUMAN
RIGHTS OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND
COOPERATION IN EUROPE (OSCE/ODIHR)**

Preliminary Conclusions

The election administration undertook measures to enhance the transparency of its work and prepared efficiently for the election.

The presidential election is regulated by a multitude of laws and Central Election Commission (CEC) resolutions. Recent legal amendments addressed some previous OSCE/ODIHR recommendations, mainly of a technical nature.

Election commissions, led by the CEC, efficiently administered operational aspects during the preelection period, and met all legal deadlines. The CEC held open sessions and promptly published its decisions, thus contributing to the transparency of the electoral process.

The CEC conducted a comprehensive voter awareness campaign on state and private media, including against proxy voting.

Four party-nominated candidates, including the prime minister who serves as the acting president, contested the election.

In a positive step, the number of supporting signatures required for candidate registration was lowered from five to one per cent of voters nationwide, thus reducing an obstacle on the right to stand.

Around 20.5 million voters were registered to vote, including some 12,000 abroad. The legislation stringently defines campaign coverage, while granting

each candidate ample free airtime and space within national and regional state media, which markedly exceeded editorial output.

During an election year, parties receive an equal amount of public funding for campaign-related expenses.

The OSCE/ODIHR EOM has not been made aware of any formal complaints filed to election commissions or the courts. National minorities enjoy full political rights under the Constitution. Campaign materials were available in three minority languages. The CEC produced most election-related material, including ballots, in Uzbek, Russian and Karakalpak languages. State-owned newspapers with a nationwide reach provided candidates with free print space for campaign messages in Uzbek, Russian, Tajik and Kazakh.

Women comprised some 36 and 47 per cent of the DEC and PEC members, respectively. Of the sixteen CEC members, two are women.

Authorities accredited 548 international and over 37,000 party observers.

Preliminary Findings Background

On 9 September, a week after Islam Karimov, Uzbekistan's first president, passed away in office, the Central Election Commission (CEC) announced the 4 December early presidential election.

This was the seventh election observed by the OSCE/ODIHR, and the first full-scale election observation mission with systematic observation of election day proceedings.

Electoral System and Legal Framework

The president is directly elected by popular vote for a five-year term. If no candidate receives more than 50 per cent of the valid votes cast, a second round between the two leading candidates takes place within one month. There is a voter turnout requirement of 33 per cent for the first round, but no such requirement for a potential second round. There is a constitutional limit of two consecutive presidential terms. The presidential election is primarily regulated by the Constitution, the Law on Election of the President (PEL), the Law on the Central Election Commission (Law on the CEC), the Law on Guarantees of Suffrage to Citizens (Law on Suffrage) and a multitude of other legal acts.

In December 2015, following the last presidential election, amendments were introduced to the PEL, the Law on the CEC and other election-related laws.

Namely, in line with previous OSCE/ODIHR recommendations, the number of supporting signatures required for candidate registration was lowered from five to one per cent of voters nationwide and an obligation was introduced for the CEC to publish its resolutions on its website. In addition, legal provisions on campaigning and early voting were elaborated. Furthermore, the establishment of polling stations in pre-trial detention centres, introduced by a CEC resolution in 2014, was included in the PEL.

Election Administration

The election was administered by the CEC, 14 District Election Commissions (DECs) and 9,383 Precinct Election Commissions (PECs). Including 44 out-of-country polling stations established in diplomatic missions in 36 countries; 226 in military compounds and 11 in pre-trial detention centres. The number of DECs corresponds to the number of electoral districts established in the 12 regions, the Republic of Karakalpakstan and the city of Tashkent. The CEC is a permanent body, while DECs and PECs are formed for each election. Election commissions were well-resourced and overall prepared efficiently technical aspects of the election, meeting all legal deadlines.

Sixteen members of the CEC, including two women, were appointed for an indefinite term by the parliament, based on regional council proposals. The CEC held four sessions during the OSCE/ODIHR EOM observation, which were open to and attended by international and party observers and the media. To enhance the transparency of communication within the election administration, the CEC conducted three sessions as live videoconferences with all 14 DECs.

Following the call for the early presidential election, the CEC adopted and posted on its website 60 decisions, covering various aspects of the electoral process.

In a welcome step, the CEC passed a regulation addressing the needs of persons with disabilities to facilitate their independent participation. According to CEC Resolution 773, all PS are to be equipped with ramps to facilitate access of voters with wheelchairs and separate accessible voting booths. In addition, as a first time initiative, the CEC printed some ballots in Braille.

Voters who were away from their polling station on election day could vote early between 24 November to 2 December. They had to apply in writing indicating the reason for their absence without providing any supporting documentation.

The CEC formed DECs from nominees recommended and selected by the deputies of the city and regional kengashes (councils). DECs formed PECs

based on the recommendations of the councils that receive nominations from mahallas.

Women comprised 36.8 per cent of DEC members and 47 per cent of PEC members. By law, members of political parties, candidates and their proxies cannot serve on election commissions; the only criterion for membership in lower-level commissions provided for in the law is reputation.

The CEC launched its training programme for all PEC members on 1 November. A second set of training sessions, with a focus on election day procedures, was organised between 20-30 November. The CEC, jointly with media and several state-supported public associations, conducted a comprehensive voter awareness campaign, including against proxy voting. Some televised spots were in sign language.

Voter Registration

The right to vote is granted to citizens of Uzbekistan, who have reached 18 years of age. Voters declared mentally incompetent or serving a prison sentence, irrespective of the severity of the crime, are ineligible to vote, while those in pre-trial detention centres are eligible. Voter registration is passive and is managed locally. There is no centralized voter register. Voters are registered based on their permanent or temporary place of residence. By law, a voter may be included only in one voter list (VL). According to the law, PECs compile VLs based on data provided by the local executive authorities (khokimyats).

VLs in regular polling stations were printed and posted for public scrutiny by 19 November, and by 2 December in special polling stations. Voters could verify their records and request amendments from their PECs, including on election day. PEC decisions and appeals against those decisions at the corresponding district court have to be made within 24 hours, while complaints filed a day prior to or on election day must be reviewed immediately.

Voters can be added to an annex to the main VL based on their identification and proof of residence. CEC Resolution 739 states that a PEC which has registered a voter on election day has an obligation to notify the PEC of the voter's permanent residence so as to avoid multiple entries.

In addition, the authorities conducted a door-to-door voter verification campaign and subsequently reported a final number of 20,428,891 in-country voters and some 12,000 out-of-country voters.

Candidate Registration

Uzbek citizens who are at least 35 years old, have resided in the country for at least 10 years prior to election day and have full command of the Uzbek language, are eligible to stand. Individuals convicted of intentional crimes, those under criminal prosecution and professional clergy of religious organizations are ineligible. Self-nominated candidates are not permitted.

The CEC registered four presidential candidates representing four political parties: Shavkat Mirziyoyev, Liberal Democratic Party of Uzbekistan (LDPU), Xatamjon Ketmonov, People's Democratic Party of Uzbekistan (PDPU), Narimon Umarov, Social Democratic Party of Uzbekistan (SDPU) Adolat, and Sarvar Otamuratov, Democratic Party of Uzbekistan (DPU) Milliy Tiklanish. Candidates had to collect a requisite number of signatures.

Campaign

The official election campaign started on 30 October and ended at midnight on 2 December. The election administration allocated 642 billboards to each candidate and displayed uniform sets of candidate information posters countrywide. Although there is no requirement, all four parties produced a similar array of smaller campaign materials.

Contestants also enjoyed equal access to 36 electronic screens countrywide to broadcast their messages. Tashkent city authorities decided to allocate an additional 25 billboards to each candidate's campaign.

The four candidates held a comparable number of meetings with voters across the country, which were organized with the help of the election administration. These meetings were often attended by local dignitaries invited by regional party branches, and for the first time, were tele-beamed to other locations within each province in order to reach a higher number of voters. Observed by the OSCE/ODIHR EOM in Jizzakh, Karakalpakstan, Navoi, and Samarkand provinces.

Many more, mostly smaller-scale meetings were held by candidates' proxies: each candidate was entitled to up to fifteen proxies to aid in campaigning, with most choosing fourteen, or one per province.

Campaign Finance

Campaign financing is regulated by the PEL and a CEC resolution. During an election year, parties receive public funding for campaign-related expenses. For this election, each party received approximately UZS 1 billion (some EUR

294,000) as well as cost-free use of meeting premises and media coverage. Private funding specifically to parties or candidates for campaigning is prohibited, which is an undue limitation on citizens' ability to financially support their preferred contestant. Instead, private funds may be donated to the CEC, which distributes them equally to contestants.

Political parties are required to submit campaign finance reports on their expenditures to the CEC and the Chamber of Accounts within 20 days after the publication of election results. In addition, they are required to publish their income records in party newspapers and the official party websites one month after the publication of election results. The Chamber of Accounts and the Ministry of Finance are mandated with monitoring compliance with party and campaign finance regulations. Parties do not publish their expenditures, and the CEC and Chamber of Accounts do not publish their conclusions, as this is not legally required.

Media

Media are held liable for the «trustworthiness» of disseminated information.

The state-owned National Television and Radio Company (NTRC) reproduces output from government-controlled news agencies and is the primary source for political news. Private national and regional media rely on the same agencies for their content thereby resulting in a state-defined and self-referential media narrative.

The PEL and CEC regulations stringently define the form and content of campaign coverage, binding both state and private media to allocate equal coverage to all presidential candidates within editorial materials. Defamation of a candidate's dignity is a criminal offence punishable by up to three years of imprisonment. A CEC regulation grants each candidate ample free airtime and space within national and regional state media. Contestants could purchase airtime or space on an equal basis.

The OSCE/ODIHR EOM monitored a sample of media with a national and regional reach. Monitored commercial outlets sold exactly the same amount of airtime/space to each of the four political parties – 37 minutes to each party on the UzReport TV and exactly four pages to the DPU, LDPU and SDPU in Darakchi. The equality principle was also characterized in the distribution of free airtime with each candidate receiving 5 hours and 15 minutes on O'zbekistan and Yoshlar during the monitoring period, exactly as prescribed by a CEC regulation. Time allotted to free and paid campaign ads markedly exceeded editorial content on all monitored broadcast media.

CEC Regulation 764 establishes the order of the candidates and allocation of free airtime/space within the state media's programming. Each candidate was granted approximately 1 hour of free airtime on 2 national state TV channels daily, and a total of approximately 8 hours per candidate on 13 regional broadcasters; the daily free print advertisement space was uniformly distributed in 5 national and in 30 regional newspapers.

The OSCE/ODIHR EOM monitored media daily during primetime hours on the state-owned TV O'zbekiston, Yoshlar, Toshkent and private UzReportTV; state-owned radio O'zbekiston; state-owned newspapers Narodnoe Sovo, Pravda Vostoka, Halk Suzi and the commercial publication Darakchi.

On O'zbekistan free airtime constituted 44 per cent, news 23 per cent; on Yoshlar 60 per cent versus 24 per cent; on Toshkent 51 per cent versus 6 per cent; on state radio O'zbekistan 78 per cent versus 18 per cent; on private UzReport TV 20 per cent was allotted to paid airtime and 18 per cent to the news.

Each candidate was allotted from 18 to 22 per cent of the total time dedicated to political actors in news segments across all monitored broadcasters. Each candidate's direct speech was strictly confined to his campaign address, constituting between 18 and 25 per cent of the total time allocated to political actors' direct speech within the news programmes.

National Minorities

The last official population census was conducted in 1989. Uzbekistan has an ethnically diverse population with ethnic Tajiks, Kazakhs, Russians and Karakalpaks constituting the largest national minority communities. The latter group predominantly resides in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, which also includes areas with a high concentration of ethnic Uzbeks, Turkmens and Kazakhs.

The Constitution provides for equal rights and freedoms without discrimination by sex, race, nationality, language, religion, social origin, convictions, individual and social status and mandates respectful attitude toward languages, customs and traditions of other nationalities. The Constitution also provides for representation of officials from Karakalpakstan in the Oliy Majlis, Cabinet of Ministers and the Constitutional Court.

Positively, the CEC produced most election-related information and polling material, including ballots, in Uzbek, Russian and Karakalpak languages. State-owned newspapers with a nationwide reach provided candidates with free print space for campaign messages in Uzbek, Russian, Tajik and Kazakh.

No specific cases of discrimination on ethnic grounds related to the electoral process were reported to or observed by the OSCE/ODIHR EOM.

Complaints and Appeals

The election dispute resolution system is regulated by several laws and CEC resolutions and contains several gaps, ambiguities and inconsistencies. Overall, there is a hierarchical structure as complaints against decisions, actions and inactions of election commissions may be filed with higher-level commissions. Appeals of PEC and DEC decisions are filed with the district courts, whereas CEC decisions may be challenged at the Supreme Court.

The law states that every citizen may file a complaint at the court and that the CEC hears reports from election commissions, political parties, state and local authorities and NGOs.

In addition, the CEC and the Ombudsperson operated hotlines for receiving election-related complaints.

The law does not prescribe deadlines for filing complaints and appeals. As a rule, election commissions and courts must decide on complaints within three days. Complaints filed during the last six days prior to election day must be reviewed immediately. The CEC may invalidate an election, totally or partially. A CEC decision invalidating the election may only be appealed by candidates and should be filed to the Supreme Court within ten days following the publication of election results.

The OSCE/ODIHR EOM has not been made aware of any formal complaints filed with election commissions and the courts. The CEC informed the OSCE/ODIHR EOM that it received 129 written and 347 telephone inquiries, of which 60 and 102, respectively, were unrelated to the election.

The Ombudsperson informed the OSCE/ODIHR EOM that they received 304 telephone inquiries related to the election.

Citizen and International Observers

Political party and international observers may observe all stages of the electoral process and may receive copies of results protocols. Each political party is entitled to one observer per polling station.

According to the CEC, DECs accredited 37,352 party agents, including 9,339 each from the LDPU and DPU Milli Tiklanish, and 9,337 each from the SDPU Adolat, and the PDPU. Some 548 international observers were accredited for the election.

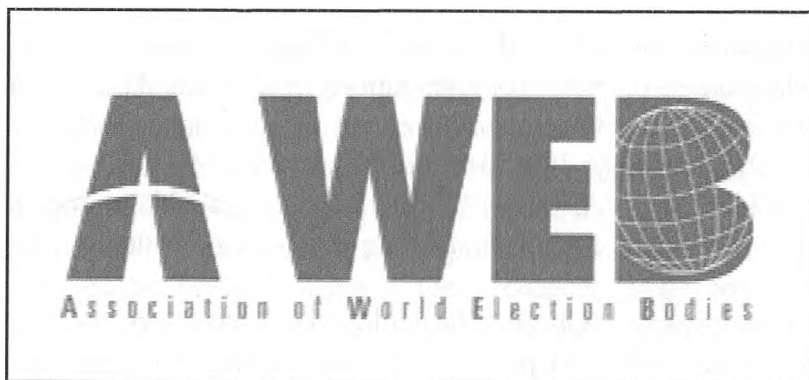
Mission Information & Acknowledgements

Following an invitation from the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan, based on the recommendations of a Needs Assessment Mission conducted from 11 to 13 October 2016 and in accordance with its mandate, the OSCE/ODIHR deployed an Election Observation Mission to observe the 4 December 2016. The OSCE/ODIHR EOM, opened in Tashkent on 2 November, includes 15 experts in the capital and 20 long-term observers deployed throughout the country.

On election day, the OSCE/ODIHR deployed 193 observers from 32 countries. Opening was observed in 84 polling stations and voting was observed in 833 polling stations across the country. Counting was observed in 81 polling stations. The tabulation was observed in all DECes.

The assessment was made to determine whether the election complied with OSCE commitments and other international obligations and standards for democratic elections and with national legislation. This Statement of Preliminary Findings and Conclusions is delivered prior to the completion of the electoral process. The final assessment of the election will depend, in part, on the conduct of the remaining stages of the electoral process, including the count, the tabulation and announcement of results, and the handling of possible post-election day complaints or appeals. The OSCE/ODIHR will issue a comprehensive final report, including recommendations for potential improvements, some eight weeks after the completion of the electoral process.

The observers wish to thank the authorities for their invitation to observe the election and the Central Election Commission and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for their assistance. They also express their appreciation to other state institutions, political parties and the international community for their co-operation.



**FROM THE STATEMENT
of the Observation mission of Association of World Electoral
Bodies (A-WEB) on the monitoring of the elections**

There is a clear difference in the object of the A-WEB's Election Visitor Program from that of other organizations' observation in that the latter place importance on monitoring and inspecting the electoral process while A-WEB intends to share knowledge and practices among the member states. It is because A-WEB is the Association of World Election Bodies, where members of our organization advise each other and take advantage of each other's experience rather than criticizing it. In other word, we learn and advise each other.

Prior to visiting Uzbekistan, we were slightly skeptical of electoral process due to long reign in the office of the previous President. But during my participation in the conference: «Constitutional & Legal Fundamentals of Head of the State Elections: Experience of Uzbekistan & Developed Democratic Countries», we have noticed that scholars, officials, civil society spoke freely & openly on the value and progresses of election and democracy. My concerns on fairness of election were well addressed.

The day before election, we visited Tashkent DEC and two PECs in Tashkent and saw how they've prepared for the elections. We noticed the strong will of members of commissions to prevent the practice so called 'family voting' issue, which some colleagues from the Western World would have been probably concerned as «one man one vote» is one of the main principles of the democracy. We saw that the officers of the polling stations well aware that proxy voting is not allowed.

On the Election day, we visited one polling station in Tashkent and three in Bukhara. The polling stations were well organized and kept in a very good order.

They had enough number of voter identification desks, which led to reduce any possible queuing time for voting even if many voters came at same time. I was able to conclude that the CEC has managed election procedure in a realistic and effective way.

When it comes to the voters' list, in particular, we have been told that the list had been announced fifteen days before the election and could be revised upon requests. We were not able to check the correctness of the list personally, However, we found that CEC has had a capacity to manage the voters' list in a proper manner and we were also able to confirm the electoral system of Uzbekistan works according to the legal framework.

In Bukhara, we observed counting of the vote at one PEC and we didn't find any kind of violation and complaints. The officials, members of the PEC, were experienced and sufficient knowledge of the electoral processes.

At the observation of counting in one polling station we saw the one candidate obtained the most of number of votes, which have been expected.

Under such kind of situation, we came to a conclusion that election stake holders, including local volunteers haven't had any reason to violate election law.

Democracy and election system of each country have been developed its own way, which related to its historical, political, economical and even cultural background. The observers should not have any prejudice and stereotype while monitoring other countries' election. Before criticizing some electoral process or practices, observers need to clearly understand legal framework, political environment, the development stages of election policy and institution, and the public sentiments at the political circle.

In conclusion, as far as we observed, there occurs no violation of laws and regulations in the electoral processes in the polling stations we visited.

H.E. Kim Yong-Hi, Secretary General A-WEB city of Tashkent,

December 5, 2016

<http://elections.uz/en/events/news/45292/>



**FROM STATEMENT OF
Observation Mission
from the Organization of Islamic Cooperation**

The December 4 Presidential Election in the Republic of Uzbekistan were open, free and transparent.

We are grateful to Central Election Commission for participating in the elections as observers.

Your country actively cooperates with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, in October the 43rd session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of OIC was held in Tashkent with the participation of delegates from more than 50 states, international and regional organizations. It gave the start to presidency of the republic in the council under the motto «Education and enlightenment – the path to peace and creation». The documents voiced at that time were supported by the rest of the states and will be implemented. That's why situation in this country plays a big role for us; we closely monitor ongoing processes here, including electoral ones.

For the fifth time I am participating as an observer in the elections in Uzbekistan, and in each of my arrivals I see further improvement in their preparation and conduct. This time, we also learned about recent changes in electoral legislation, which are very important for conduct of elections at high level. In particular, the number of signatures in support of nominating presidential candidates has been reduced from five to one percent, which facilitated the participation of political parties in elections. The Program on the further advancement of the legal awareness in the period of preparation for the elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan became another important feature of election campaign. As a result of extensive work on its implementation, the awareness of the population has increased noticeably.

Members of the mission, consisting of three groups, visited polling station elections before the elections and directly on the voting day, were present at the vote count. In their opinion, the polling stations were prepared at the highest level, and the members of election commissions are very well prepared and informed about all aspects of voting. They also responded positively to the fact that ramps were installed on the sites for free access of disabled people, and for the first time ballot papers, which were printed in Braille especially for blind people, were used for voting.

We communicated with observers from political parties, exchanged opinions with observers from other states and international organizations, and all of them noted the high professional level of election organization. This is not surprising, because in Uzbekistan elections of different levels have been held many times, and the country has accumulated a lot of practical experience in this direction.

I note that each state has its own laws, historical features and traditions that need to be taken into account. Democracy is not a system where a one-size-fits-all approach is possible. For us the main thing is that such an important political event in the history of Uzbekistan, like presidential elections, was public, transparent and peaceful, in accordance with the law.

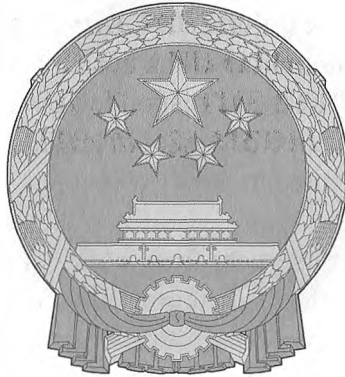
The first criterion by which we evaluated election – people voted freely, without any coercion for a particular candidate. It is noteworthy that active participation of all population has ensured high turnout. Particularly young people, who voted for the first time, were glad to exercise their legal right. All made their own choice. We did not see any problems or shortcomings, did not receive complaints from observers from political parties or from anyone else.

And now, when the preliminary results have already been announced, we would like to congratulate the President and all the people of Uzbekistan, who have once again shown political maturity and interest in their future.

*Ali Abolhassani Shahreza,
Head of the observer mission from
Organization of Islamic Cooperation*

Tashkent, December 6, 2016

<https://telegraf.uz/ru/vibori/organizaciya-islamskogo-sotrudnichestva-vibori-bili-free-i-prozrachnimi>



STATEMENT
by the delegation of observers from the People's
Republic of China

In accordance with the invitation of the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan, during the period from December 2 to December 5, 2016, a delegation of observers from the PRC monitored the preparation and conduct of the elections of President of the Republic of Uzbekistan that took place on December 4, 2016.

The Mission of Observers, strictly observing all normative and legal acts of the Republic of Uzbekistan, on the principles of respect for sovereignty and non-interference in internal affairs, conscientiously fulfilled its duty. During their stay in Uzbekistan, representatives of the delegation of observers carried out meetings with the Chairman of the Central Election Commission M. Abdusalomov, visited the city election commission of Tashkent and other 8 election commissions, got acquainted with the biography and programs of 4 presidential candidates, as well as the voting procedure.

On December 4, on the voting day, the representatives of the delegation of observers attended 71 polling stations in 8 regions of the country, including Tashkent and Samarkand, monitored the preparation of ballots and boxes, verifying the identity of voters, issuing ballots, voting and counting votes in places and etc.

The Mission of Observers from China arrived at the opinion that all electoral commissions fully, in a timely manner informed voters about the laws on elections, effectively secured the right to information for them. The mass media covered the election process.

In connection with the aforementioned, the delegation of observers from the People's Republic of China believes that the elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan met the requirements of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan «On the elections of President of the Republic of Uzbekistan», norms and principles of international law. The elections were conducted in a calm atmosphere. No violations were detected. The elections were legitimate, democratic, transparent and fair. The freedom of expression of will of the citizens of Uzbekistan who have the right to vote, was fully ensured.

The Mission of Observers expresses its gratitude to the Central Election Commission, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, other organizations and institutions of the Republic of Uzbekistan for their assistance and support.

*Gao YUSHEN, head of the delegation of observers
from People's Republic of China*

December 5, 2016, Tashkent

http://elections.uz/ru/events/current_topics/45289/

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS IN MEDIA FOCUS

An international roundtable discussion in Tashkent has provided an effective platform to address application of international standards in covering presidential elections in Uzbekistan by nongovernmental TV and radio broadcasters of the country in the context of national experience and global practices.

The forum was organized by the National Association of Electronic Mass Media (NAEMM) in partnership with the Central Election Commission (CEC), representative offices of Konrad Adenauer Foundation (Germany) and UNESCO in Uzbekistan.

Taking part in it were deputies of Oliy Majlis, officials of the ministries and government agencies, foreign experts from Bulgaria, Germany, Denmark, Latvia, Lithuania, France, representatives of diplomatic corps and international organizations accredited in Uzbekistan, of political parties and mass media.

Speaking at the opening of the forum, chairman of the Parliamentary Commission on the Management of Resources of the Public Fund to Support NGOs and Other Civil Society Institutions under the Oliy Majlis A.Saidov, chairman of the Board of the National Association of Electronic Mass Media Firdavs Abdukhalikov, chairman of the Central Election Commission Mirza-Ulugbek Abdusalomov noted that the reforms, being carried out in the country, represent in themselves a multifaceted process, in which the quality of democratic renovation was largely determined by the level of public opinion, while mass media play a major role in shaping it.

As a rule, people learn about the course of election campaign from the newspapers, via TV, radio and Internet. And mass media provide us not only with all the news about the elections, but they also have an opportunity to create the politicians' images and render a decisive impact on the voters' political preferences.

There are also serious qualitative transformations taking place today in the media sphere along with quantitative changes. The essence and content, themes covered in the articles published in the newspapers and magazines and broadcast over the radio and television while meeting modern requirements, serve as an evidence of expanding outlook, growing experience, knowledge and professional skills of domestic journalists. Such unbiased implications were voiced in the speeches made by many experts, representatives of international organizations

accredited in Uzbekistan, who monitor on a regular basis the progressive changes taking place among young journalists.

«The National Association of Electronic Mass Media of Uzbekistan jointly with the Central Election Commission signed a bilateral agreement on covering presidential elections in Uzbekistan, which is an evidence of credibility of the non-government TV and radio stations,» noted in his speech chairperson of the NAEMM Firdavs Abdukhalikov. «This, in its turn, puts on us greater responsibility. This document triggered an active preparatory work from the side of non-government radio broadcasters to the process of covering the elections. 263 reports, 126 news items, and 63 public opinion surveys have already been prepared in this area to date. During the subsequent period we plan to prepare and broadcast more than 400 materials, and we will try to highlight this important political event promptly and objectively.

«We all know that the mass media, covering the election campaign these days, are an important factor of raising the level of legal culture and awareness of citizens about all stages of preparation for and conducting the elections, and facilitating their active participation in this event. It is undeniable that free and fair elections are carried out not only for the sake of opportunity to vote, but to exercise the right to receive information about the election process and the candidates. The electorate may justifiably cast their votes to a definite candidate only on condition that they have full information about him or her. The growing interest in the candidates, their programs, ideas and objectives, and to their future in general is a positive sign of democracy.»

«The election campaign in Uzbekistan is covered not only by national but also foreign mass media. Thus, the objective reflection of preparatory process and conducting elections for introducing this political process to the entire global community turns, in this connection, into yet another priority task facing our media workers.»

Responses to the election campaign in Uzbekistan have already appeared in the foreign press. In particular, the newspaper Renmin Ribao (People's Daily) published an article stating that the upcoming presidential elections in Uzbekistan will raise to «a qualitatively new level the processes of further deepening democratic reforms.» The Israeli newspaper «Globe» writes about a large-scale propaganda campaign launched and carried out by the candidates. A Pakistani TV channel presented a story about the election campaign in Uzbekistan, which provided detailed information about the «Uzbek model of development», which had made it possible to hold democratic elections. As we can see, foreign journalists are involved in creating the image of our independent state.

After signing the bilateral agreement with the Central Election Commission the NAEMM conducted a general conference of the NAEMM members aimed at preparation for and coverage of presidential elections. A Program of covering the elections by NAEMM and non-government TV and radio studios was discussed and approved at the conference. The Program consists of six directions of activities.

One of them includes conducting training seminars on electoral legislation for creative groups of the non-government TV and radio stations with the participation of members of the Central Election Commission. This is what the OSCE expert on the issues of freedom of mass media in Vienna, chairperson of the Creative Union of Journalists of Lithuania Dainus Radzevichius says about the work carried out in this direction:

«Coverage of election processes in regional TV channels plays a major role. Any journalist should be well aware about the electoral legislation. The programs broadcast by non-government TV studios, which I have been able to watch, were prepared at a high level from this point of view. I have no doubt that presidential elections in Uzbekistan will be successful. And the merit in this goes to national mass media, which carry out large-scale and diverse activities in covering the election campaign.»

Another direction envisages conducting events with the participation of international experts with the aim of demonstration the opportunities and conditions created for non-government electronic mass media on the expression of their active civic stance. Here's the opinion of the UNESCO senior councilor Mogens Schmidt on the events carried out in this direction:

«The seminars organized by the NAEMM, at which I had a chance to participate, were held in an interesting and informative way. Taking part in them were the youths and girls, who try to master European standards in covering the elections and apply them in practice. They are all true patriots of their country and their occupation, which they strive to continuously improve. They try to stay close to the people in their professional creative activity, and this too is a manifestation of Uzbekistan's democratic standards.»

Another two directions in the NAEMM program provide for preparation of quick and authentic media products by the Association's information services and its radio information center and their delivery to non-government TV and radio broadcasters.

This is what Doctor Eugene Eteris, international observer of the Baltic-course.com internet magazine (Denmark) says about this activity:

«The success of independent TV and radio stations of Uzbekistan in covering presidential elections rests in its focus and dedication to the youth not only in the

quality of its target audience, but also in the makeup of its working personnel. Working in the non-government TV and radio stations today are predominantly young people and they demonstrate high level of professionalism in covering such a rather complicated subject as election of a head of state. I feel impressed about the huge volume of these programs and their high quality.»

Yet another direction is production of social media products and TV and radio commercials, devoted to explaining the essence and significance of elections, basic provisions and procedure of voting, and functioning of polling stations. Head of UNESCO Office in Uzbekistan Krista Pikkat highly assessed the media content elaborated in this direction:

«The creative staff of NAEMM has done a tremendous job in covering the pre-election campaign; the non-government TV and radio companies cover the elections at the global level. As far as social commercials are concerned, they are interesting in their ideas and content, as well as in their consideration of the interests of the country's younger generation.»

The last direction assumes preparation of talk-shows on the subject of elections with the participation of representatives of the CEC, political parties, and the presidential candidates' confidants and transmitting them by the non-government TV and radio stations. President of the Federal Association of Television Companies of Germany Rene Falkner expressed his opinion on this subject:

«I have watched with great interest some of the shows broadcast over the channel «My voice» – they are very interesting, quite acute at times and they represent a wide range of voters' opinions. And the master classes, which I conducted in Tashkent, were devoted to international experience in preparing talk-shows on important socio-political events. Many NAEMM young staff members demonstrated during the training their willingness and ability to enrich those programs. I have no doubt that they will be able to improve further their skills and potential.»

Local and foreign experts noted at the «round table» discussions that the electoral processes differ from one country to another. However, this circumstance does not remove the use of international standards in covering the election process. There is a possibility to assess the extent of creating necessary conditions for an informed and conscientious choice of every citizen of the country with the help of those landmarks and through the analysis and realistic evaluation of the opportunities of the country's media sector. The forum participants expressed their confidence in that it had united them in their aspiration to achieve true democracy and their desire to ensure that every voice was heard and headed to.

The foreign experts underlined that they were able not only to discuss but also sum up certain results of application of international standards in covering

presidential elections in Uzbekistan by non-government TV and radio studios of the country, which deserve the highest appreciation.

Recommendations have been elaborated on the further coverage of election processes on the basis of advanced countries' international experiences.

Birgit Wetzels, independent journalist, expert on the countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (Germany):

«The international forum has demonstrated an excellent preparedness of the non-government mass media and their readiness to cover elections in all its aspects. Much work has been done, which shows that every citizen has the right to vote. Many special talk shows have been organized and articles published in printed media to cover the election campaign. Intensive trainings, specifically designed for young employees, have been carried out. They were very active and exposed to knowledge at the seminars, they were ready to work for long hours to acquire knowledge and to discuss so many nuances of this activity. It is such a positive advantage plus that so many young journalists are involved in covering the elections in your country.»

Ognian Zlatev, expert on the development of mass media in South-East Europe, president of SEECOM, member of the European Association of Communication Directors' Society (Bulgaria):

«Independent mass media of Uzbekistan introduce international experience and invite prominent foreign experts for raising the competency level of their personnel. I have no doubt that covering the election campaign in your country complies with international standards. The activities of the mass media in covering the elections are quite balanced and honest, since all presidential candidates enjoy equal opportunities and equal access to mass media.»

Mjusa Sever, director of the non-government organization Regional Dialogue (Slovenia):

«I have been impressed and pleasantly surprised with the dynamics and courage of non-government mass media workers in covering the election campaign. I lay hope for the same success in the development of events, when the citizens will express their will at the polling stations. Independent television and radio studios demonstrate new approaches in covering this topic, which gives this activity a positive connotation.»

Amandine Ambregni, editor-in-chief of the Agence France-Presse (AFP) Information Agency in Paris (France):

«Having acquainted myself with the changes taking place in the mass media space in Uzbekistan I have been impressed with the level of international experts, who cooperate with the NAEMM. This openness for cooperation and willingness to pool the most advanced foreign experience explains the large number of

interesting programs devoted to the subject of elections, which are broadcast by the non-government TV studio channels.»

Stephan Flat, former minister of education of the FRG, chairperson of the ARD management structures (Germany):

«I welcome the fact that the NAEMM, with the support of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, conducts training seminars with the participation of international experts on raising the competencies of young journalists of the non-government TV and radio stations on the issues of covering presidential elections. And such practices will, no doubt, facilitate a consistent coverage of the election campaign and observation of international standards in Uzbekistan's electoral processes.»

Andrei Shvedov, editor-in-chief of the Telegraph magazine (Latvia):

«I can see no difference in the activities of the non-government TV and radio stations of Uzbekistan compared with the media environment in Riga, where I myself had to cover the elections. International standards here are being strictly adhered to. The telecasts, which I have watched, are rich in content, prompt and unbiased. And, most important, they are very interesting and help voters to make their right decision.»

*Uzbekistan Today,
November 25, 2016*

CIS MISSION: ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN IN UZBEKISTAN IS IN THE SPIRIT OF OPEN COMPETITION

The mission of observers from the Commonwealth of Independent States at today's media briefing in Tashkent presented preliminary findings and assessments in the interim report on the monitoring of the preparation and conduct of the presidential elections in Uzbekistan.

It says that election campaigning in Uzbekistan is conducted in compliance with the law, presidential candidates are provided with equal conditions for presenting their programs and meetings with voters. In general, the election campaign takes place in the spirit of open competition and at a high organizational level.

Describing in detail all the stages of the current election campaign, legislative framework, amendments and additions to the normative and legal acts, the CIS observers stressed that the work on the preparation and holding of the forthcoming elections is conducted in an organized and consistent manner.

The members of the mission note that the necessary conditions have been created for the work of district and precinct election commissions, citizens are

informed of the progress of preparations for the elections in the pages of printed publications, on television and radio channels. The twenty-four-hour operation of Central Election Commission's «hotline» and e-mail from November 1 this year for the treatment of individuals and legal entities, preventing cases of violation of law, is especially stated.

For the first time in the election practice of Uzbekistan, as observers noted, the program of measures approved by the CEC for improving the legal awareness of voters in the run-up to the elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan was adopted and consistently implemented. To this end, seminars are held, «roundtables» with the participation of representatives of civil society institutions.

Large-scale efforts of public organizations of Uzbekistan in the format of social partnership with government authorities also found vivid and detailed reflection in the interim report, including social actions on various elective topics.

The CEC of the country effectively uses the potential of the mass media to ensure transparency and openness of the electoral process, members of the CIS observer mission stressed. According to observers, Uzbekistan's media provide equal conditions for the duration and scope of coverage of candidates' election activities in news programs and other information materials.

Recall that the mission of observers from the CIS is monitoring the preparation and conduct of presidential elections in Uzbekistan since November 17. The Chairman of the Executive Committee – Executive Secretary of the CIS Sergei Lebedev was determined as the Head of the mission, which includes 10 long-term and about 60 short-term observers.

As part of the election monitoring, long-term CIS observers got acquainted with the activities of district and precinct election commissions in our country, visited a total of 104 polling stations in different regions of the country. In addition, members of the mission observed early voting process, which runs from November 24 to December 2.

The mission will state its final conclusions and assessments in the final document on the results of monitoring the elections.

CIS observers answered questions of interest to journalists and thanked representatives of the media for qualitative and timely coverage of the election campaign.

*<http://www.ut.uz/ru/eshyo/missiya-sng-izbiratelnaya-kampaniya-v-uzbekistane-prokhodit-v-dukhe-otkrytoy-konkurentsii/>,
November 29, 2016*

UZBEKISTAN ON THE EVE OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

«The multiparty system in the republic has become the dictates of the times and demand of the people.» This is the title of the article in the regular issue of *Nezavisimaya Gazeta* (Russia) about the forthcoming elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The author analyzes the data of the public opinion poll, compares the programs of political parties, and discusses their role in the processes of state and public construction in Uzbekistan.

Thus, article it is noted that in Uzbekistan the strategy of continuing the reform of society is preserved and continuity of power will be ensured. As citizens believe, to preserve peace and tranquility is the main thing. For them, elections are a civic duty, a manifestation of responsibility for the future of the country, an opportunity to express an opinion and choose a worthy candidate for the post of head of state.

A special feature of the 2016 election campaign is the real competitiveness of candidates for the presidency, facilitated by laws that streamline the election process – «On the election of the President of the Republic Uzbekistan», «On guarantees of electoral rights of citizens», «On the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan» and others. Normative legal acts are aimed at unconditionally observing the electoral rights of citizens, creating the necessary conditions for the free participation of voters in elections, broad and equal opportunities for political parties and presidential candidates during the election campaign in accordance with the principles of fairness, openness, transparency and transparency. The entire electoral campaign is based on broad publicity and openness.

The author draws attention to the fact that the completely different content and nature of the electoral process in Uzbekistan, the real political struggle between the parties, the growing political activity of the population, and its desire for active participation in the elections were the result of a consistent modernization of state power and administration.

Thus, for the first time in 2015, a new procedure for nominating and approving the candidacy of the Prime Minister was applied, when the candidate is nominated by a political party that has won the largest number of seats in the Legislative Chamber. Parties that have received a minority form a parliamentary opposition. An important factor in further enhancing the role of the parliament elected by the people, the author considers the adoption of the Law on Parliamentary Control, which raised the control and analytical activity of the parliament to a new level.

Comparing platforms of political parties, the author tells about their versatility, difference of approaches, views and their unity in adherence to democratic values.

«Argumenty i fakty» published an article «Uzbekistan chooses the future», in which the election campaign for the election of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan is presented in the general context of the cardinal structural reforms launched in Uzbekistan during the years of independence, with a view to building a democratic state and a strong civil society.

The author of the article notes that the institute of presidency plays a key role in the system of state administration of Uzbekistan. As enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic, the President is the head of state and ensures the coordinated functioning and interaction of public authorities. The President acts as a guarantor of observance of rights and freedoms, the Constitution and laws of the country.

Therefore, the forthcoming presidential elections on December 4 are a socio-political event which is extremely important for the life of the country and the people. The country has created an electoral system and legislation that fully comply with democratic principles. They are aimed at unconditionally observing the electoral rights of citizens, creating the necessary conditions for the free participation of the voters in elections, broad and equal opportunities for the political parties and presidential candidates during the election campaign in accordance with the principles of fairness, openness, publicity and transparency.

The most significant feature of the national electoral system is the functioning of an independent system of election commissions under the leadership of the Central Election Commission that ensure the organization and conduct of elections in conformity with the requirements of the law. Judicial protection of his/her electoral rights, the possibility of appealing to the court on illegal actions of election commissions, state bodies, officials, public associations is guaranteed for each citizen of Uzbekistan. The law does not allow the direct or indirect restriction of citizens' electoral rights.

One of the noteworthy moments of the current election campaign, the author notes the adoption by the CEC of the Program of measures to further enhance the legal awareness of the voters in which an important place is placed on the participation of non-governmental non-profit organizations that are eager to contribute, to direct all forces and opportunities to defend one of the most crucial rights – Electoral rights of citizens.

It can be stated with certainty that the system of public administration, democratic institutions and national legislation created in Uzbekistan for years

of independent development is functioning efficiently and allows us to look confidently into the future, summarizes «Argumenty i fakty».

Lilia AKHMEDJANOVA,
«Narodnoe slovo», November 30, 2016

CHINESE AMBASSADOR: PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS IN UZBEKISTAN UNDERSCORE CONSOLIDATION OF SOCIETY FOR PROSPERITY OF THE NATION

On December 4, 2016, the people of Uzbekistan will elect the head of state.

On the eve of this significant social and political event, an Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China in Uzbekistan Sun Lijie gave an exclusive interview to the Jahon Information Agency.

– Mr. Ambassador, as the head of the Chinese diplomatic mission in Tashkent, you know Uzbekistan well, are aware of the socio-political and socio-economic processes taking place in our republic. In this connection we would like to know your opinion on the forthcoming presidential elections and their significance for the future of Uzbekistan.

– Voting for the head of state is an important event in the social and political life of Uzbekistan and an epoch-making milestone in the development of the country. Its results will determine the priority areas of large-scale reforms for the further modernization of the state.

It is encouraging that the preparation process for elections takes place in an atmosphere of openness and transparency, with strict observance of the requirements of the law. The overwhelming majority of the population is aware of the significance of the upcoming event and the need to participate in the voting, and also demonstrates great activity in the socio-political life of the republic and a high level of legal awareness.

There is no doubt that the elections will be conducted on the basis of the principles of legality and transparency, and will also become a vivid example of the consolidation of society for the sake of the prosperity of the country. The Chinese side will continue to firmly support the Uzbek people in its independent development path.

– What is your assessment on the electoral system formed in Uzbekistan and the measures taken to secure openness, publicity and transparency of the election process?

– Over the years of independence in Uzbekistan, thanks to a consistent phased modernization of the political and legal spheres, a modern electoral system has been created. It fully meets democratic standards and universally recognized international norms, provides legal guarantees for the free expression of the will of the citizens.

The most important features of the national electoral system are the principle of a multi-party system which creates conditions for broad public and political activity of political parties, and the functioning of independent election commissions that ensure the organization and conduct of democratic elections on the basis of openness and transparency in full compliance with the law. The citizens' self-government bodies and other non-state institutions also play a special role. They became effective factors for boosting the political and public activity of citizens, expressing their will and opinions.

It is worth to note that the electoral system of your republic is being improved and reformed in line with international standards in order to strengthen the foundations of democracy. I am confident that the forthcoming elections will once again confirm the effectiveness and democratic character of the electoral system of Uzbekistan.

– Please share your opinion on the preparations for the upcoming elections, including organizational and campaigning work.

– Currently, the election campaign has entered the final phase. The international community is closely following the progress of the upcoming voting. It is pleasant to note that within the framework of the implementation of the Program of the main events for the preparation and conduct of the elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the election commissions of all levels carried out a large and painstaking work aimed at securing the electoral rights of citizens.

We highly appreciate the fact that pre-election campaigning of the candidates for the highest state office is based on the rule of law, transparency, openness and equality. The country conducts active information and campaign efforts among voters, a unified computer network has been created which allows to observe the voting process on-line on the election day.

Participation in the election process as observers of representatives of authoritative international organizations and foreign countries contributes to the transparency of elections and demonstrates their compliance with international standards. We fully share the assessment of the missions of international observers that the election campaign is at a high organizational level and a democratic legal state has been formed in Uzbekistan.

– After the presidential elections – next week the people of Uzbekistan will celebrate the 24th anniversary of the adoption of the country's Constitution.

We are grateful for your assessment on the role and significance of the Basic Law of Uzbekistan in the successful introduction of large-scale reforms aimed at building a strong civil society, a democratic law-based state and a socially-oriented market economy.

– The Constitution of Uzbekistan has become a vivid symbol of the country's independence and a solid and fundamental legal foundation for realizing large-scale reforms aimed at building a legal democratic state, a strong civil society and a socially-oriented market economy.

Over the years, thanks to the implementation of the provisions of the Basic Law, Uzbekistan has become a stably developing country with a modern multi-sector economy that secures a dynamic growth in the well-being of the population which is confidently advancing along the path of democratic renewal. The most significant thing is that the key place in the Constitution is given to the rights and freedoms of citizens, the protection of their legitimate interests. The idea on the highest value is a person, his life, freedom, honor, dignity and other rights is enshrined in the legislative form. The history of independent Uzbekistan convincingly confirms the enormous potential of the Basic Law. It can be stated that the Constitution and its deeply thought-out principles of further deepening of reforms and the formation of civil society give confidence in the bright future of Uzbekistan.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely congratulate the people of Uzbekistan on this significant date, to wish them continued success and prosperity.

*Jahon Information Agency,
<http://jahonnews.uz/en/aktualno/626/28555/>, December 1, 2016*

NG: ELECTION CAMPAIGN IN UZBEKISTAN IS BASED ON WIDE PUBLICITY

Nezavisimaya Gazeta daily posted on its website Viktoria Panfilova's article dedicated to the forthcoming elections of the President of Uzbekistan.

The author states that according to the results of the conducted survey, 95% of citizens consider the election of the head of state to be the most important socio-political event. 41.2% of respondents to the question of what requirements they give to candidates they answered that it is important to preserve peace and tranquility in Uzbekistan. 95% of citizens, who participated in the survey, reported that they «will definitely take part in the voting». Of them, 41.3% explained this as «civic duty». 31.8% – «to show responsibility for the future of the country». In

the opinion of 21.3%, voting is an opportunity to express an opinion and choose a worthy candidate.

As the journalist writes, the study also revealed that the population has increased the exactingness with regard to political and socio-economic reforms, participation of political parties in this process, their activities and application for the future.

It is emphasized that the peculiarity of the election campaign of 2016 is the real competitiveness of the candidates for the Presidency. «This is facilitated by normative acts that streamline the process of election of the heads of state. Among them are laws «On the elections of President of the Republic of Uzbekistan», «On guarantees of citizens' electoral rights», «On elections to public authorities of the Republic of Uzbekistan» and others.

We should especially note that any election campaign is based on broad publicity. Each voter has the right during his electoral process to seek, receive and disseminate information concerning organization of electoral districts and precincts, composition of election commissions, their staff and terms of work, final registration of candidates and elections in general.

Speaking in detail about the state of power and governance in Uzbekistan, the Russian newspaper stresses that in this sphere a new procedure for approving candidates has been used for the first time. The Prime Minister, when he nominated his political party, won the largest number of seats in the Legislative Chamber. Parties that have received a minority form a parliamentary opposition. This in itself predetermines a completely different content and nature of the electoral process, a real political problem between the parties, and increase in the political activity of the population, its attention to organizations and holding of elections.

The publication is designed to be united by a commitment to democratic values. However, the difference between them is manifested in the priority to ensure specific social interests. «If the Movement of Entrepreneurs and Businesspeople – the Liberal Democratic Party of Uzbekistan extends to entrepreneurs forming the middle class, including in the agrarian sector, then the People's Democratic Party of Uzbekistan – to the socially vulnerable segments of the population. Adolat Social-Democratic Party of Uzbekistan positions itself as a carrier of modern social-democratic ideas, and the main electorate of which is the working class. The Milliy Tiklanish Democratic Party of Uzbekistan attracts creative and scientific intellectuals.»

Further, the author writes about parliamentary control. «Today the authorities set the daily practice of carrying out legislative checks of the parliamentary hearings, where the members of the government are accountable to the elected representatives of the people about their activities.»

«The adoption of the Law «On electronic government» provides for the provision of access to the mass media, including government agencies, Nezavisimaya Gazeta continues. It takes into account the conceptual moments of international and advanced experience of the USA, Germany, Austria, and Republic of Korea. As a result, applications, complaints and suggestions can now be sent directly through the site or a free call on the short number of the phone available throughout Uzbekistan.»

<http://uzbekistan.lv/ng-izbiratelnava-kampaniya-v-uzbekistane-stroitsva-na-osnove-shirokoi-glasnosti/>

December 1, 2016

NIKOLAI LEVICHEV: WE WILL STUDY THE EXPERIENCE OF ELECTIONS IN UZBEKISTAN AND ALL USEFUL AND GOOD CAN BE APPLIED IN THE ELECTORAL PROCESS IN RUSSIA

«Journalists with all observance of international standards should cover the electoral process in Uzbekistan taking into account the national cultural, religious and socio-political traditions of the country», Nikolai Levichev, a member of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, said.

«We hope that relations with Russia will remain a priority for the new leadership of Uzbekistan. Opening a press club is a very good idea, it will allow not only receiving information about the course of elections, but creating an entirely new platform for journalists from different countries for professional communication with each other», he said.

Nikolai Levichev also drew attention to the fact that journalists, with all the observance of international standards, should cover the electoral process in Uzbekistan taking into account the national, cultural, religious and socio-political traditions of the country. Uzbekistan only follows the path of democracy and is at the stage of improving democratic processes, there are a lot of subtle and scrupulous questions that need to be taken into account. In this regard, the role of the Uzbek media in the correct explanation and bringing to the attention of the international community of these features is important.

«To be sure, we will study the experience of holding elections in Uzbekistan and we can apply everything useful and good during the electoral process in Russia», the member of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation suggested.

«Billboards and outdoor advertising of presidential candidates are on equal terms in the streets of Tashkent. I liked the creation of the press club, which allows exchanging views on the course of the election campaign between journalists from different countries», he said. «We in Russia will also take this practice into service, so that the press center will not only be a place for information, but also for its comprehension.»

<http://www.ut.uz/ru/eshvo/nikolay-levichev-my-budem-izuchat-opyt-provedeniya-vyborov-v-uzbekistane-i-vse-poleznoe-i-khoroshee/>

December 1, 2016

KIM YONG-HI: UZBEKISTAN'S CEC PERFECTS AND ENHANCES ELECTION SYSTEM

Today in Tashkent the international conference «Constitutional and legal bases of presidential elections: the experience of Uzbekistan and developed democracies» was held, in which General Secretary of the Association of World Electoral Bodies Kim Yong-Hi took part.

The conference was attended by more than 80 foreign experts representing 22 countries, the Association of World Electoral Bodies and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. Upon its completion, Mr. Kim Yong-Hi answered the questions of the correspondent of Uzbekistan Today.

– Has your opinion on the progress of the organization of presidential elections in Uzbekistan changed following the results of the conference?

– It is difficult to judge this from the information received at the conference because of the tight schedule it did not happen to take part in it from beginning to end. I should note very informative reports that comprehensively cover the electoral process in Uzbekistan. Nevertheless, when I talked with the specialists of the Central Election Commission, I noticed the desire to improve and enhance the electoral process, make it more open and transparent.

– The conference talked a lot about improving the legislation. What do you think about this issue?

– Yes, indeed, this election campaign in Uzbekistan is held for the first time with the use of innovations introduced in the legislation at the end of last year with the adoption of amendments to the current legislation. From 5% to 1%, the threshold of voters' signatures has been reduced, which the party must collect for registration of the presidential candidate. The legal basis for early voting has been created. All changes are aimed at making the elections more transparent,

democratic and objective. At the same time, it is very important that stage-by-stage improvement of electoral legislation continue in the country. As I was told in the Central Election Commission, the next step in the improvement will be the introduction of information and communication technologies in this process, electronic voter lists will be formed, and the Uzbek people will have the opportunity to vote in electronic format. All this will help to avoid possible errors in the counting of votes, objectivity and transparency of elections.

– How do you assess the practical readiness of the country to hold elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan?

– I will be able to share my impressions a bit later. In the coming days I plan to visit polling stations in Tashkent and Bukhara region. At the same time, I felt the spirit of improvement and modernization of all electoral processes in the first hours of my stay in the Uzbek land. The design of city streets, media materials indicate competition among candidates, the mood of people speaks of their willingness to come to polling stations to determine the future of the country.

<http://www.ut.uz/ru/eshvo/kim-ven-khi-tsik-uzbekistana-uluchshaet-i-sovershenstvuet-sistemu-provedeniva-vvborov/>

December 2, 2016

CHUROV: UZBEKISTAN TO IMPROVE VOTING CONDITIONS AND TRANSPARENCY OF ELECTIONS

The main vector of the development of the electoral system of Uzbekistan is aimed at improving the voting conditions for voters, as well as increasing the transparency of elections, Vladimir Churov, the ex-head of the Russian Central Election Commission, the special envoy of the Russian Foreign Ministry said.

The elections of the President of Uzbekistan will be held on December 4. All four political parties, officially operating in the country, registered candidates to participate in them. The first President of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov passed away on September 2 at the age of 78 years from a stroke. Prime Minister Shavkat Mirziyoyev was appointed as the acting head of state.

«Both in Russia and in Uzbekistan, the main vector of the development of the electoral system is aimed, on the one hand, to improve the voting conditions for voters, and on the other hand, to increase transparency, as evidenced by the OSCE mission, full-scale this time, and very wide representation of such organizations

as the CIS, the SCO and a certain number of observers on a bilateral basis,» Churov told journalists on Friday.

The former chief of the Russian CEC noted that these are the first elections, which he observes in the new status of the ambassador at large of the Russian Foreign Ministry. During the observation of the elections, he is going to visit the cities of the Ferghana Valley. In addition, Churov intends to compare this campaign with the two previous ones, which he also observed in Uzbekistan.

According to political scientists, the main contender for the post of President is Mirziyoyev, nominated from the Liberal Democratic Party of Uzbekistan. He advocates non-alignment of the country with military-political blocs and development of relations with the CIS countries, primarily with Russia. Another two candidates – vice speaker of the lower house of parliament Sarvar Otamuratov, nominated by the National Democratic Party Milliy Tiklanish (National Revival), and the leader of the Social Democratic Party Adolat (Justice) Narimon Umarov – are to develop allied relations and strategic relations with the Russian Federation. The leader of the People's Democratic Party of Uzbekistan, Khatamjon Ketmonov has mainly focused on the implementation of employment programs and tariff policy in the housing and utilities sector.

<https://ria.ru/world/20161202/1482688262.html>.

December 2, 2016

RASHID ALIMOV: PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS IMPORTANT STEP IN UZBEKISTAN'S DEVELOPMENT

The mission of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), which worked in Uzbekistan on the eve of and during the election of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, recognized them as «open, free and democratic».

This was stated in an interview with TASS by SCO Secretary General Rashid Alimov, who noted that the elections, according to the SCO mission, «were an important step on the way to further development of the democratic processes of the Republic of Uzbekistan.»

Uzbekistan along with Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, China, Russia and Tajikistan is a member state of this organization rapidly gaining international weight; this year the SCO summit took place in Tashkent, where a number of important documents have been adopted.

– Rashid Kutbiddinovich, how do you assess the participation of the SCO mission in monitoring elections in one of the founding states of the organization?

– The invitation of international observers is regarded as the desire of the leadership of the Republic of Uzbekistan to ensure maximum openness, transparency and democratic character of the presidential elections.

All the conclusions and findings of the mission are based on the personal observations and factual material collected by the mission members gathered during the preparations for the elections and directly on Election Day. The mission members have thoroughly acquainted with the work carried out by the Central Election Commission on the preparation and conduct of elections, including their organization in diplomatic missions of Uzbekistan abroad. The Mission was provided with detailed information on election campaigning conducted by the participants in the election campaign, as well as by accredited observers of international organizations and the media. We believe that all the necessary conditions for the subjects of the electoral process have been created in the Republic of Uzbekistan, the right and opportunity to freely vote or not to vote, to be elected or to be elected on an equitable basis through universal, equal expression of will, using secret voting procedures are guaranteed. Legislation provides for the rights of national minorities, in particular, the Central Executive Committee of Uzbekistan require the issuance of bulletins in three languages: Uzbek, Russian and Karakalpak.

– What specifically can be distinguished in terms of improving the electoral process?

– The mission considers significant steps towards improving and liberalizing the electoral legislation to reduce percentage rate for collecting signatures for the main subject of the election process, organizing voting for persons held in custody but not yet convicted by a court decision, creating conditions for citizens of Uzbekistan for one reason or another who do not have the opportunity to vote on election day, giving citizens the opportunity to vote at the place of actual residence. But, of course, the most important guarantee of ensuring democratic elections is the constitutional consolidation of the status of the Central Election Commission as an independent democratic institution that ensures the preparation and conduct of elections without any interference by other public authorities.

– Does the SCO mission consider equal the conditions created for various political forces in the republic for citizens of different nationalities? In Central Asian countries, this is a very significant issue. Was there any evidence of an infringement of electoral rights for one reason or another?

– For the participants of the electoral process, regardless of their party affiliation and political views, equal conditions for fair competition were ensured. Candidates for the President were given equal free air time and an equal print space. Depending on the places of compact residence of national minorities,

propaganda materials were distributed in five languages: Uzbek, Russian, Kazakh, Tajik, Karakalpak. Along with these candidates were given the opportunity to publish their programs in the media in 17 languages. The SCO mission notes that the analysis of all aspects of the election campaign demonstrates the country's political pluralism, competition, openness and transparency of the election campaign, broad opportunities for citizens to make an independent and informed choice.

– **Were there any innovations here?**

– For the first time in the electoral practice of the country, the Central Election Commission has developed and successfully implemented a program of measures to improve the legal awareness of the voter. Brochures and manuals were published; special videos were produced showing all the stages of preparatory work of precinct election commissions and turn-based actions of voters on the polling station on the voting day. Public organizations and structures such as mahalla committees, women's committees, veterans' councils were actively involved, who explained their rights and obligations in a lucid manner, including the inadmissibility of the so-called family voting, when the head of the family votes for all members of the family.

– **And yet were there any significant shortcomings?**

– The recorded individual violations, according to observers from the SCO, were not of a mass character and could not affect the results of the voting.

– **What about the technical support of the electoral process, which often becomes a problematic issue even in the most technologically advanced countries?**

– I would say that special attention should be attached to organizing meetings of candidates with voters using modern technologies. Thanks to online conferences, the candidates could simultaneously conduct interviews with representatives of several localities, and residents of remote areas were given the opportunity to ask questions to presidential candidates and get answers to the most burning questions.

– **Was the mission encountered with any obstacles and difficulties? Were there any attempts to influence your work?**

– Observers of the mission visited polling stations without a pre-designed plan, without agreement with the executive and electoral bodies. The choice of the polling station was carried out by each member of the mission individually. There were no obstacles to visiting a site for the members of the mission. We could visit even «closed» institutions, for example, the regional psycho-neurological dispensary in Chirchik.

– Were there any specific features of the electoral process that seemed remarkable to you?

– A very impressive moment for the members of the mission was that at the opening of the polling stations the blessing rite by the elders of the district took place, which, in the opinion of the mission, introduces an element of spirituality and purity of this important social and political event, as well as greater responsibility for the participants of electoral process. Every polling station was equipped with first-aid posts, mother and child rooms. Voting places were provided for persons with disabilities, polling stations were equipped with ramps. For the first time for visually impaired people, ballot papers were also printed in Braille.

– The turnout at the presidential elections in Uzbekistan was 87.83%. How did the Uzbek youth behave – those who came to polling stations for the first time?

– We note with satisfaction the high activity of young people on the Election Day. The precinct commissions' significant attention was attached to the young people who participated in the elections for the first time. They were given flowers and memorable gifts, which emphasized, on the one hand, the solemnity of the event for this citizen, and on the other hand, the state's concern for the younger generation.

– Rashid Kutbiddinovich, tell us what episodes seemed to you the most significant, what has left in your memory?

– At the 83rd polling station in Tashkent, I met with an elderly woman named Mariam Nazirova, born in 1926. Despite her venerable age, she insisted on voting for one of the candidates personally. Together with her great-grandchildren, she came among the first citizens to the polling station, was blessed by the members of the precinct election commission, personally filled out the ballot and voted. At a polling station at the farm «Politotdel», I heard the citizens of Uzbekistan of Korean nationality respond positively to the national policy of the government, the work of schools and centers of Korean culture. At the polling station, which is located in the building of the music school, music was sounding. Coming closer, we saw how the members of the election commission – the teachers of the school – arranged an improvised concert at the entrance to the site. Over 200 voters gathered. At some point, they began to sing together. Many voters told me that they are going to the elections as a holiday. They went consciously, driven by their right to take part in determining the future of their country.

– What basic conclusions can be made as a whole following the results of the current elections in Uzbekistan?

– The elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan corresponded to requirements of the electoral legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan and

international obligations accepted by republic. Violations of the norms of national legislation that call into question the legitimacy of the elections were not noted by the mission. The mission recognizes the past elections as open, free and democratic. We note that the presidential elections held were an important step towards the further progress of the democratic processes of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Allow me in this interview on behalf of the SCO mission to congratulate the legitimately elected President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on a convincing victory, to wish him success in implementing the policy of strengthening the independence, sovereignty and socio-economic development of the country, and to the Uzbek people – new achievements in all sphere of social life and prosperity.

Interviewed by phone by TASS correspondent in Beijing

Andrei Kirillov

<http://tass.ru/opinions/interviews/3841001>

December 5, 2016

**CHAIRMAN OF THE CENTRAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN B.IMASHEV PARTICIPATED
IN MONITORING THE ELECTIONS OF THE PRESIDENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN HELD
ON 4 DECEMBER 2016**

Chairman of the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Kazakhstan B.Imashev at the invitation of the Chairman of the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan M.Abdusalomov took part in the observation of the elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, which were held on December 4, 2016.

On the voting day on December 4, B.Imashev visited a number of polling stations in the city of Tashkent. On the same day, he met with the Head of the Central Election Commission of Uzbekistan M.Abdusalomov, where issues of organization of elections, activities of candidates, political parties, media, local and international observers and other participants of the electoral process were discussed. The Chairman of the Central Election Commission of Kazakhstan noted the high activity of voters in polling stations visited by him, and the clear and coordinated work of members of precinct election commissions. Participation in the observation of the election of numerous missions of international organizations, observers of foreign states indicates a great interest in the elections

by the international community. The parties agreed to deepen cooperation between the central electoral bodies of the two countries and bring it to a new level of development.

After the closure of polling stations, the head of the Central Election Commission of Kazakhstan took part in the discussion of the mission statement of observers from the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

Also, member of the Central Election Commission of Kazakhstan M.Sarsembayev participated in the observation of the elections as part of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) observer mission.

In all, 59 people participated in the presidential elections in Uzbekistan as international observers, including 8 in the CIS mission, 10 in the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, and 1 in the SCO, 40 on a bilateral basis.

<http://www.election.kz/rus/news/releases/index.php?ID=3477>.

December 5, 2016

FREDERICK STARR: THE CURRENT ELECTION CAMPAIGN IS A STEP FORWARD

After the international conference «Constitutional Legal Basis for Presidential Elections: The Experience of Uzbekistan and Advanced Democracies», the correspondent of «Uzbekistan Today» spoke with its participant, international observer Frederick Starr, Chairman of the Central Asia and Caucasus Institute at the Johns Hopkins University, USA.

– The election of the head of state is a very important event for Uzbekistan as the leading country in Central Asia. The multi-party system formed in Uzbekistan testifies that the country follows the path of democracy. Inter-party competition moves the development of society forward. Equal conditions created during the election campaign for all four political parties are the embodiment of justice. In recent years, all of them have become living organisms engaged in real political affairs, have found their own clearly expressed positions on significant issues of the country's development. So it will be very interesting to observe the further development of the multi-party system of Uzbekistan, F.Starr said.

– **Are you for the first time in Uzbekistan?**

– I have often come and written a lot about your country. It is no exaggeration to say that the republic is one of the leaders of the CIS countries. At the heart of these successes is the constant improvement of legislation in accordance with the requirements of the times. The efforts of the people of Uzbekistan to continue the

large-scale reforms initiated by the First President of the country are worthy of high appreciation. But at the elections in your republic, this is the first time.

– **In your books you, like Zbigniew Brzezinski, argue that Uzbekistan is the heart of Central Asia, very important on the path of the Great Silk Road.**

– The thesis of my book: for 500 years, Central Asia – and this is the territory of Uzbekistan – was the center of the world, and not the periphery. And the achievements in all areas – culture, economics and even the technologies of those years – were at the very top of the world’s achievements. And I tried to explain what those achievements were in all areas and why it happened.

But most importantly – I argued that this is not the periphery. You are the only ones who had direct contact with all the surrounding centers of civilization. This is a unique position all over the world, and it is still preserved.

– **What can you say about how the current elections meet international standards?**

– This question is asked to itself by all international observers. It can be said that the current election campaign is a step forward compared to the previous one. Great work has been done to improve the domestic legislation.

Another important point is the change of power and peaceful conduct of presidential elections. This is a real achievement of the republic, it does not always happen that way, so I have positive emotions.

– **Did you get acquainted with the election programs of the presidential candidates?**

– Of course. They have a lot of valuable, programs testify to the great work carried out by candidates and political parties to identify pressing issues of concern to residents of the country and to work out proposals for their effective solution.

– **How do you assess the coverage of elections by domestic media?**

– I think it’s at a high level. My delight was caused by Press-Club: Elections. uz – 2016. I plunged into its work, and the spirit of creativity and modern technologies reigning there impressed me very much. It seems to me that this is not only completely new in the coverage of the elections, but also a new phase in the development of journalism in the republic.

*Uzbekistan Today,
December 6, 2016*

SPANISH OBSERVERS: UZBEKISTAN CONFIDENTLY MARCHING ON THE PATH OF DEMOCRACY

International observers and journalists from Spain, who monitored and covered the presidential elections in Uzbekistan, completed their mission and returned to their homeland. They told their impressions and assessments to the correspondent of Jahon Information Agency in Madrid.

Antonio Alonso Marcos, professor at the University of San Pablo, Madrid:

– I am impressed by the large-scale changes that are taking place in Uzbekistan. The presidential elections were held in full accordance with generally recognized democratic standards, without any violations. I noticed significant progress, both in the organization of elections, and in the election process itself. All four presidential candidates enjoyed the same and absolutely equal opportunities provided for in the legislation.

The active participation of voters in the vote indicates that the Uzbek people are very concerned about the future of their country. Citizens came to a vote with only one goal – to choose the most worthy candidate.

In general, these elections have become a demonstration of the tremendous progress of democracy in Uzbekistan.

Juan Ramon Durand, CEO of the Spanish Association of Manufacturers of Industrial Equipment «SERCUBE»:

– I am very pleased that I had the opportunity to observe the elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, which, without any doubt and exaggeration, are a historical moment for a young state confidently marching on the path of democracy.

I want to note the special electoral activity of the younger generation. Unfortunately, in Europe this situation is very rare. It is very important when young people are interested in the future destiny of their country. Uzbek youth is very optimistic and very positive about the prospects for the country's development.

As for the voting process itself, during my visits to the polling stations there were no cases of violation or infringement of the rights and freedoms of voters. Elections were organized at the highest level, with observance of international standards. I take this opportunity to congratulate the Uzbek people on the choice of a new leader.

Manuel-Alberto Rubio, editor-in-chief of the Diplomat in Spain:

– I visited Uzbekistan for the first time and I am very pleased that I got an opportunity to get acquainted with the electoral process as a journalist. To be honest, I was pleasantly surprised by the achievements of your country in all areas, including the organization of elections. Against the background of observed

turbulence in global financial markets and continuing conflicts in various regions of the world, it is difficult to maintain political stability and dynamic economic development. However, the leadership of Uzbekistan succeeds in this, thanks to which the set goals and objectives are realized.

I believe that the results of the election of the new President will continue to serve to consolidate the successes and overcome the challenges facing the state.

*Jahon IA, Madrid,
8 December 2016*

EUROPEAN MEDIA: PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS IN UZBEKISTAN: A HISTORIC MOMENT IN THE HEART OF ASIA

The electoral process in our country continues to be at the center of attention of the socio-political and expert circles, as well as the media in Europe.

Thus, recently on the **web page** of one of the leading Spanish think tanks – the **Institute for Strategic and International Studies** located in the city of Valencia – an article was published that notes that the presidential elections open a new page in the history of Uzbekistan and are of great importance for the prospects of regional Cooperation and stability in Central Asia.

«Uzbekistan is the heart of Central Asia with more than 31 million people, ancient history and rich culture. Being the homeland for more than 100 nationalities and ethnic groups living in peace and harmony, an atmosphere of interfaith tolerance, this state is of central importance for the stability and prosperity of the region. Representatives of more than 15 religions, among whom there are also followers of the Catholic Church, enjoy equal rights and opportunities,» the analytical article notes.

In this regard, the opinion is expressed that the election of the Head of Uzbekistan without any exaggeration is a historic event on a regional scale, and further stable and dynamic development under the leadership of the new leader of Uzbekistan will make a great contribution to strengthening security and expanding cooperation in the region.

The whole issue was devoted to the presidential elections in Uzbekistan in the magazine *Diplomatic News* (Switzerland). The publication contains materials on various aspects of holding elections in Uzbekistan, as well as economic development of the country, its unique historical and cultural heritage and tourist potential.

Particular attention in the issue is attached to democratic and institutional reforms. In particular, the development of the bicameral parliamentary system, the role of political parties and the improvement of the electoral system are discussed. It is noted that today, according to the level of democracy's compliance, the electoral legislation of our country surpasses many developed countries of the world.

According to Diplomatic News, Uzbekistan has recently undergone a very important process of renewing democratic institutions. Based on observation of the electoral system, the opinion is expressed that the parliamentary and presidential elections in 2014–2015 were conducted at a high professional level, transparently and openly, in compliance with democratic principles and norms.

The authors emphasize that the transition of the presidential power this fall was carried out legitimately, the Uzbek statehood showed its stability. The current election campaign demonstrates once again that Uzbekistan is on the right track of democratic reforms and building a civil society.

Along with this, the magazine gives a high assessment of the economic potential of our country. It is noted that the phenomenon of the «Uzbek development model» is recognized by experts and analysts of leading international financial institutions and research centers. For a historically short period of time, the country actively joined the process of international economic relations, confidently entering a high-tech future.

The authors draw attention to the fact that over the past 4 years more than 15 laws have been adopted aimed at enhancing the role and protection of private property, further improving the business environment and the conditions for doing business. It is emphasized that comprehensive measures have been implemented in Uzbekistan to carry out structural reforms, further reduce the state share in the economy, modernize and diversify the industrial sector, develop the transport and communications infrastructure, and support small and medium-sized enterprises.

Large investment projects with leading global companies, such as General Motors, MAN, Huawei, Knauf, Rieter, Nestle, Indorama and Maxam are named as examples of successful investment cooperation.

The Swiss edition mentions the reports and forecasts of the UN, the World Bank, the EBRD, according to which the annual GDP growth of Uzbekistan over the past 10 years is estimated at 8%.

*Jahon IA,
December 8, 2016*

«PROSPEROUS UZBEKISTAN ENTERS INTO A NEW STAGE OF PROGRESS»

On the website of the China Radio International there is an article by Su Chan, Senior Researcher at the Institute of Russia, Eastern Europe and Central Asia of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, dedicated to the held presidential elections in Uzbekistan.

As noted in the publication, the successful holding of this event is an important guarantee of stability and security in Central Asia.

«Political processes in Uzbekistan have entered a new stage of progress. After the presidential elections, the priority task of the new leadership of the country is to address important issues related to maintaining the country's sustainable development and maintaining economic growth in the face of ongoing crisis phenomena in the world,» the author states.

It is emphasized that after gaining independence, Uzbekistan has chosen its own path of development, having overcome many difficulties and trials. «The political system is formed taking into account national interests, and the national model of reforms is based on a market economy. Showing high results in many directions, prosperous Uzbekistan enters a new historical period,» the expert writes.

The material also notes that the Uzbek people are purposeful and strong. «Great personalities who lived on the territory of the country contributed to the development of world science and culture. Uzbek traders have introduced a special flavor in the interaction between East and West,» the article says.

The author pays special attention to the relations between the PRC and Uzbekistan, which develop on the basis of mutual trust and respect. «Uzbekistan has been and will be a friendly and reliable partner of China. On the basis of existing agreements, bilateral cooperation will continue to strengthen», sums up S. Chan.

*Jahon IA, Beijing,
December 8, 2016*

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS HAVE INDEED HISTORIC IMPORTANCE IN THE UZBEK STATE DEVELOPMENT

In the popular Malaysian magazine TOP 10 published an extensive article by the director of the Institute of Islamic Civilization of Malaysia Mohd Yusuf bin Hadji Osman, dedicated to the held presidential elections in Uzbekistan.

The material notes that this event has a truly immense historical significance for the people and Uzbek statehood.

As the author emphasizes, all candidates actively used the given equal opportunities for conducting the election campaign. According to the expert, the voters made their choice based on the merits of the candidates for the Uzbek people, as well as the main lines of activity outlined in their programs if they are elected to the post of the President.

In general, speaking about Uzbekistan, the author notes that our country is a key state in Central Asia. «Combining East and West, this region enriched the world civilization. The Republic has a huge number of unique attractions and is the main tourism destination in the region,» the publication says.

In this context, the opinion of the President of the Society of Buddhists of Malaysia, Victor Wie, who often visits for pilgrimage the Surkhandarya region, where historical monuments of the Buddhist heritage are concentrated. V. Wie highly appreciates the ongoing work on the transformation of the city and the capital city's buildings, in particular the construction of housing facilities, as well as changes in the cultural life of the population.

The author of the article stresses that Uzbekistan is one of the ancient centers of Islamic civilization, the birthplace of great scientists and thinkers.

«The country's architectural heritage attracts many tourists from all over the world, including from Malaysia. Taking into account the available resources and opportunities, as well as mutual interest and respect, the similarity of traditions, one can assume a significant expansion of bilateral contacts and a multiple increase in tourist flows in the coming years,» the expert writes.

*Jahon IA, Kuala Lumpur,
December 9, 2016*

OUTCOMES OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS DISCUSSED IN PARIS

The other day in Paris, a roundtable was held on the theme «Results of the election of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan: adherence to the interests of the Uzbek people, the Constitution and high international standards», organized by the Embassy of our country in France in cooperation with the Institute for Prospects and Security in Europe (IPSE).

It was attended by representatives of parliament, ministries and departments, public organizations of France, the University of Sorbonne and the National Center for Scientific Research, IPSE experts, international observers who participated in the presidential elections in Uzbekistan, as well as journalists of local media.

The event was also attended by Deputy Chairman of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan Svetlana Artikova. She provided detailed information on the course of the election preparations, the conduct and results of the voting in the December 4 elections. The importance of the elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan for continuation of large-scale socio-economic, socio-political and democratic reforms in the country, strengthening of stability, security and sustainable development of Central Asia was especially noted.

Great interest of the French side was caused by the main provisions of the speech of the elected President Sh.Mirziyoyev at a solemn meeting on the occasion of the 24th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution of Uzbekistan.

International observers from France shared their impressions of the presidential elections held in our country.

Emmanuel Dupuis, President of the Institute for Prospects and Security in Europe:

– The progress and results of the 2016 election campaign in Uzbekistan, according to our assessment, will have a positive effect on the situation in the country and the region. If we talk about the internal political priorities of the elected President, they are well reflected in his speech on the occasion of the Constitution Day celebration. The proclamation of 2017 in the country «The Year of Dialogue with the People and Human Interest» confirms the orientation of the course of Sh.Mirziyoyev on consolidation the state's connection with the people. His innovative initiative to create a virtual reception room for the Prime Minister is an important step towards strengthening the responsibility of government authorities, transparency and accountability of their activities, fighting corruption, and improving effective governance in all areas of public work.

André Richard, Senator from the Department of Lower Rhine, Member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Chairman of the Friendship Group «France-Caucasus»:

– As a senator, I was especially attracted by the initiative on effective cooperation between the government and parliament in the field of lawmaking, control and analysis. This step will strengthen the system of checks and balances in the authorities, improve work on laws, as well as on their implementation.

During the observation of the elections in Uzbekistan, we witnessed great democratic progress, a high level of organization and holding genuinely democratic popular elections. I believe that we have much to learn from many other countries.

Jean-Antoine Dupra, Deputy Director of the Institute for Urban Construction and Development at the University of Paris IV Sorbonne:

– This is the third election campaign in Uzbekistan, in which I participated as an international observer from France. In past parliamentary and presidential elections, I paid special attention to the clear and impeccable work of the electoral bodies. And this time I was pleased with the excellent organization of the election process, as well as the increased transparency of the election campaign, the strengthening of measures to prevent any technical errors, violations or abuses.

Thanks to the continuation of the reforms aimed at modernizing and liberalizing various spheres of the country's life, an effective legal framework for citizens' electoral rights has been formed in the republic, which fully complies with international standards.

I also want to note a number of positive changes in the process of organizing elections in the Republic of Uzbekistan. The use of an infographic system with a live voting card in the country, a full coverage of the election campaign in the press and on television, campaign materials, and a direct broadcast of the election process deserve a high appreciation. All this speaks about technological and political perfection of conduct of election campaign in Uzbekistan.

Pierre-Emmanuel Dupont, Chairman of the International Law Consultative Organization Public International Law Advising Group:

– First of all, I want to emphasize the high professionalism and responsibility of the electoral bodies of the republic. I have very positive impressions about the last elections in Uzbekistan, which took place under the high activity of voters, in an atmosphere of fair competition among the country's political parties, without violations and obstacles. I attended 16 polling stations in Bukhara. We can especially note those comfortable conditions that were created for people with disabilities, measures to prevent family voting, ballot stuffing and other violations.

Our mission also had the opportunity to see new achievements of Uzbekistan in the field of social and economic development, growth of industrial production, implementation of large infrastructure projects, construction of roads and other communications. The image of the country is changing quickly and for the better.

The election of the new President showed that Uzbekistan had passed the test for the strength of its statehood and dynamic development. This once again highlighted the role of the republic in the region as a factor of stability, security and improving the economic and political situation in Central Asia. Uzbekistan is a stronghold against regional challenges and threats.

The election of Sh. Mirziyoyev as the President of Uzbekistan will contribute not only to continuing high rates of economic growth, but also to solving many problems in the region. It seems that the President's political program will be aimed at improving and strengthening Uzbekistan's relations with all neighboring countries, as well as maintaining a balanced approach to building friendly and mutually beneficial ties.

I am sure that the Uzbek-French relations in this context will be expanded in all directions.

In an interview with Jahon IA Senator **André Richard** stressed that he was especially impressed by the incredible influx and activity of voters, including young people.

– For the younger generation, this has become a real lesson of democracy, based, among other things, on the rich history of the Uzbek people, Richard said. I think that in present conditions, the task of France and the whole Europe should be actively supporting the course of the new leadership of Uzbekistan to carry out further democratic, socio-economic and administrative reforms outlined in the speech of the elected President Sh. Mirziyoyev at a solemn meeting dedicated to the 24th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution of the Republic. The friendship group «France – Central Asia» in the French Senate, with which we work closely, is committed to developing interparliamentary cooperation in every way in all priority areas in which the Uzbek side will be interested. Taking this opportunity, I would like to wish the Uzbek people success on the path of further progress and prosperity.

In turn, **President of the Association «Avicenna-France» Mark Bonnell** welcomed the measures to ensure the accelerated development of the tourism industry in Uzbekistan, including the cardinal liberalization of the visa policy.

– This, undoubtedly, will serve the real opening of Uzbekistan in the world tourism market, he said. My current trip to your country as an international observer will be remembered by the fact that during it I held important meetings in the ministries and departments of the republic, which, I hope, will serve to

expand mutually beneficial cooperation in the field of public health and medicine, promoting the greatest scientific and humanistic heritage of Abu Ali Ibn Sina in the world.

Professor of the University of Sorbonne Guy Olivier Faure noted:

– Voting in the presidential elections in Uzbekistan was organized in an extremely open and transparent manner. Local and numerous international observers were able to attend and observe the entire process of voting from start to finish. The elections were held in the conditions of democratic expression of will. The main conclusion I made on the results of my trip is that citizens of Uzbekistan are full of civil responsibility, determination and enthusiasm for continuing the course on building a democratic rule of law and its prosperity.

*Jahon IA, Paris,
December 10, 2016*

FREDERICK STARR: THE ROLE OF UZBEKISTAN IN WORLD POLITICS WILL GROW

On December 4 of this year a presidential elections have been conducted in Uzbekistan, the progress of which was monitored by a number of international organizations and 600 observers from 46 countries. Among them was the authoritative American scientist, chairman of the world-famous Central Asia-Caucasus Institute under the Johns Hopkins University Frederick Starr.

In an exclusive interview an American expert answered the questions of reporter of the Jahon Information Agency.

– As an international observer, could you share your assessments on the preparation and conduct of elections of the President of Uzbekistan, as well as their outcomes?

– First of all, I want to congratulate President-elect Shavkat Mirziyoyev with a confident victory in the elections. I also congratulate the people of Uzbekistan with the completion of this important political event.

Despite the fact that the presidential elections in Uzbekistan were pre-term and very short time was given to prepare them according the Constitution, they were conducted successfully at the highest organizational level.

An equal space was given to all candidates for the highest office in the print and electronic media. For the first time the parties began to use the Internet, as well as social networks («Twitter», «Telegram», «Facebook» and etc.) to bring their ideas to the voters. Candidates offered concrete solutions to existing problems.

Demonstrating its openness, for the first time in Uzbekistan there was invited the long-term OSCE mission. The Government has initiated a special issue of public service announcements on television which discussed the practice of «family voting» and stimulated «election activity».

Of course, there is no absolutely perfect election in the world. Even the most advanced democracies allow for some mistakes. There is nothing to worry about that. But I think the most important thing is that all recognize one indisputable fact – the elections are a major step forward in the development of democratic processes in Uzbekistan.

I hope that Uzbekistan will not stop in this. I am confident that in the next presidential elections we will see more active parties and their candidates, the clash of ideas and opinions. This will be proof that these elections have given a strong political impetus to the development of the country.

– How do you assess the election campaign of elected President Shavkat Mirziyoyev?

– Shavkat Mirziyoyev, becoming the acting President of Uzbekistan acted quickly and took a number of practical steps to improve the living standards, the initiation of overdue reforms. He took a number of important decisions aimed at ensuring the independence of the judiciary, fight against corruption, the protection of the interests of entrepreneurs and improving the business climate, enhancing the role of the Parliament and strengthening its control over the executive bodies. In fact, all of these initiatives have given the public the opportunity to absolutely conscious choice towards the support of the policy of Sh.Mirziyoyev.

In my opinion, the reforms that have been declared before the elections, contain a long-term trend. Results of the voting – not a successful end and a new beginning of the political life of the country. I am confident that with the new leadership Uzbekistan continues the progressive development, further reform of the state in all spheres of life and society.

I have great interest in watching how developing multiparty system in Uzbekistan. I am convinced that it will have more weight in the country's political system. This is the best guarantee that the government will reflect the interests and aspirations of the people.

– You attended the event dedicated to the Day of the Constitution, heard the address of the elected President. What kind of impression you made on his speech?

– President-elect has impressed me as an energetic, decisive and charismatic politician. In fact, in his speech, he announced the new policy which became a logical continuation of his pre-election initiatives and guidelines of the platform

of the program. I think the proposal of Sh.Mirziyoyev about a gradual transition to the electoral system of hokims (governors and mayors) is «revolutionary».

The process of state power and governance reform launched by him as well as the willingness and openness to dialogue with the population will bring Uzbekistan to a new level of political development.

– What kind of place is given in the United States to Uzbekistan in ensuring regional security in Central Asia in the context of the continuing difficult political and military situation in Afghanistan?

– The US is always aware of the fact that Uzbekistan – is the largest country in Central Asia bordering with Afghanistan. Washington is also aware that your country is the cultural center of the region.

Uzbekistan has recently taken a number of important initiatives aimed at strengthening relations with the countries of the region. I hope that they will be supported in all countries of the Central Asia. It is important that countries of the region could negotiate with each other to sound not their individual voices and a strong joint position in the global arena. Because of this, the voice of the region will be heard stronger in Washington and other capitals. Uzbekistan should play a central role in these efforts.

– Should we expect any changes in the new US administration's policy regarding the Central Asia and Afghanistan?

– While it is difficult to answer this question. But I think that we will see how the new administration will be more guided by objective information and attract a wide range of consultants. I hope that any problems will not go away on their attention and all positions will be taken into account.

I believe that under the foreign policy under the new administration of the US will become more dynamic. According to my forecasts, in the near future the role of Uzbekistan in world politics, including in the US foreign policy strategy, will increase.

In Washington a new administration is going to form now which I believe, will continue to strengthen cooperation with Central Asian countries and play a key role in Afghanistan.

– We know you as a great scientist who deeply knows the history and culture of Central Asia. How do you think historical and cultural heritage of the region determines the role of the Central Asian states in the world today?

– Being at the crossroads of the Silk Road, the Central Asian nations have acquired a unique ability, a kind of «collective strength» which brings together people from different continents, different cultures. Modern Central Asian countries are actively involved in international political processes, and the world's largest forums are being conducted on their territory. People from various

countries love to come here, enjoy the local hospitality, to communicate with each other.

In my book «Lost Enlightenment: Central Asia's Golden Age from the Arab Conquest to Tamerlane», I noted that for 500 years, between the ancient era and XVI-XVII centuries, Central Asia was a center of the world. It was a great moment in the history of the region. The greatest representatives of Central Asia made a revolution in mathematics, astronomy, biology, chemistry, made a great contribution to world civilization. What was the success for this? Central Asia then liaised with all the countries of Eurasia and received the information from all over the world. It was an open society, willing to change, but at the same time preserving its independence. The peoples of Central Asia were not only good merchants who know how to manage the economy and to handle the money, they also cultivated the prestige of science and knowledge, translated works of ancient Greek philosophers on their tongues.

Why this «golden age» ended? There are many reasons. But most importantly, in my opinion, it is that rational ideas were suppressed by the orthodox dogma in the context of intense sector-religious struggles. In this regard, to all of us it is important to remember the lessons from history and not repeat the mistakes of the past. What I saw in Uzbekistan that these problems are well-remembered.

*Jahon Information Agency,
December 10, 2016*

SOUTH KOREAN MEDIA: ELECTIONS IN UZBEKISTAN WERE BUILT ON HONEST AND OPEN POLITICAL STRUGGLE

The outcomes of the December 2016 presidential elections in Uzbekistan were covered on the pages of a number of South Korean media outlets, including the magazine Seoul City, internet publications The Korea Post, Yonhap News Agency, Joongang Ilbo, Newsis, and the news agency Asia.

As the journalists write, the latest presidential ballot has showed a high level of legal awareness and political activity of citizens who once again expressed their sense of involvement in the fate of the native land and proactive civic stance through their participation in the voting.

«The election campaign was conducted on the basis of the principles of multiparty competition and justice. All candidates were guaranteed equal rights in the use of the media to bring the basic provisions of their programs to the

electorate. The norms and requirements determined by the legislation were fully observed during the electoral process», the publications stressed.

Attention of readers was focused on the victory of Shavkat Mirziyoyev, a nominee from the Movement of Entrepreneurs and Businesspeople – the Liberal Democratic Party of Uzbekistan, for whom 88.61% of citizens from the total number of voters cast their ballot.

The article of Seoul City provides evaluation of the electoral process by the editor-in-chief Shin Hyun Du, who took part in the election of the President of Uzbekistan as an international observer.

«I got acquainted with the transparency of the procedures and how well everything was organized – at each polling station there were the lists of all registered voters compiled on the basis of passport data. People were positively inclined and full of determination to realize their constitutional right», the publication states.

The Seoul City also acquaints its readers with the achievements of our nation during the years of independence. It notes that Uzbekistan is confidently moving along the path of democratic renewal and liberalization. Peace and harmony reign in the country, an atmosphere of mutual respect, interethnic and civil accord, high rates of macroeconomic growth were secured.

«During the elections, the people of Uzbekistan once again demonstrated adherence to the chosen way of building a democratic constitutional state and a strong civil society, enhancing the economic reforms aimed at boosting the well-being of the population and prosperity of the republic», the magazine writes.

In turn, the online edition of The Korea Post emphasizes that elections in Uzbekistan were open and public based on an honest and open political struggle in full compliance with the provisions and norms of national legislation and universally recognized principles.

«The election of the President is significant for the prosperity of the nation, elevation of its standing in the international arena, and consequent growth in the level and quality of life of the population», the article summarizes.

*Jahon Information Agency, Seoul,
December 11, 2016*

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS IN UZBEKISTAN IN THE WORDS OF INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS

Yu Xinghue, secretary of the party committee of the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences:

– The elections of the President of Uzbekistan were organized at a high level. This testifies to the considerable experience of the country in the conduct of democratic elections. Along with familiarizing ourselves with the activities of the polling stations, we thoroughly studied the national legislation of the republic.

The opening of the press club equipped with all cutting-edge information technologies contributed to the provision of high-quality information services for the multi-media coverage of this crucial political event.

It should also be noted the activity, political maturity of the inhabitants of the country and their serious approach to the choice of the head of state. Each candidate in his program tried to reflect the vital issues and aspirations of the electorate.

Today, thanks to the successes achieved over the years of independence, Uzbekistan has been recognized by the world community as a country that is confidently and successfully advancing on the basis of its own model of reforms. In this context, I note that the first President Islam Karimov made a huge contribution not only to the prosperity of the republic, but also to securing the peace and stability in the Central Asian region.

Jiang Feng, secretary of the party committee of the Shanghai University of International Studies:

– An electoral system was formed in Uzbekistan that corresponds to modern democratic requirements, legislative bases were developed and adopted that meet international standards.

During the pre-election campaign, all candidates were given broad and equal opportunities to bring the basic directions of their programs to the attention of the citizens.

We visited more than 10 polling stations and were personally convinced that they created all the necessary conditions for the citizens to exercise their constitutional right. In general, the elections were conducted in accordance with the principles of transparency and openness.

Due to high level of the organization of elections, the proper qualification of the members of the precinct commissions and their well-coordinated work, no case was identified that could cause complaints.

During our stay in Uzbekistan we were able to get acquainted with the architectural monuments of Tashkent, Samarkand and Bukhara, learn a lot of

interesting information about the rich history of the Uzbek people. The large-scale work carried out in the republic on studying and popularizing the heritage of great ancestors, preserving and restoring cultural monuments, developing the infrastructure of villages and cities gives its positive results.

Yong-Hi Kim, Secretary General of the World Association of Electoral Bodies (A-WEB):

– The work done by the Central Election Commission on the preparation and conduct of elections deserves a positive feedback. This political event was conducted at a decent level, voters actively participated in voting, the process of counting ballots was open and public.

During the observation, we did not find out cases of violations of the electoral law. All the conditions for voting were created at the polling stations, the members of the commission showed a high degree of preparation.

Song Bong Sop, Director General of the Policy Department of the National Electoral Commission of the Republic of Korea:

– We had a good opportunity to get acquainted with the procedure for conducting the elections in Uzbekistan, as well as study the legislation of the republic more in detail. I believe that a number of features of the country's electoral system can be introduced into practice in South Korea.

In addition, this trip provided an opportunity to expand contacts with Uzbek electoral bodies and to exchange the opinions on relevant issues in this area.

Abdul Halim bin Abd Samad, Deputy President of the Senate of the Parliament of Malaysia:

– I want to express my gratitude to the leadership of the Central Election Commission of Uzbekistan for the invitation to take part in the elections as an international observer.

I want to note that the CEC has done a great and significant work in the matter of ensuring transparency, democracy and openness of the elections in your country. During my visit to polling stations I was pleasantly surprised by the atmosphere of calmness, friendliness, and respect for the older generation.

I was present at the counting of the votes which was carried out under the observance of all international standards. In general, the presidential elections were conducted in full conformity with generally recognized democratic standards, without any violations.

Fakhri Khamza, Vice Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Parliament of Indonesia:

– The elections in Uzbekistan were carried out in full accordance with the national electoral legislation and generally recognized democratic norms. During monitoring of the voting process, I had the opportunity to exchange views with

other international observers. All my interlocutors were delighted with the coordinated work of the election commissions.

I am confident that the republic will continue to flourish under the leadership of the newly elected President.

During my stay in your country, we conducted a number of meetings in Oliy Majlis, as well as in other departments, during which the parties discussed topical issues for the further advancement of bilateral relations between Uzbekistan and Indonesia.

I am ready to assist in attracting investments of our companies to the republic and promoting the tourist potential of Uzbekistan, and the activation of contacts between the business circles of the two countries.

*Jahon Information Agency,
December 11, 2016*

BRIEFING IN BEIJING FOR CHINESE MEDIA ON THE OUTCOMES OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS IN UZBEKISTAN

The event organized by the Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the People's Republic of China was attended by journalists from People's Daily, China Daily, International Radio of China and other media outlets.

During the meeting, a number of mass media representatives who visited Uzbekistan to monitor the course of the elections shared their assessments. Thus, the correspondent of the International Radio of China Li Zhongqing noted that he was very impressed with achievements of the independent Uzbekistan across various spheres, including in the perfection of the electoral system. The reporter made a special emphasis on the conditions created for women and children, in particular the organization of «Mother and child» rooms.

The journalist said that he visited such pearls of the East as Samarkand and Bukhara located at the crossroads of the Great Silk Road. He got acquainted with the peculiarities of the educational system of Uzbekistan and highly appreciated the intellectual potential of our youth.

The China Daily correspondent Ren Chi noted that he participated in parliamentary and presidential elections in Uzbekistan in 2014 and 2015 and visited polling stations in Tashkent and Khiva. This year he traveled to Samarkand and Bukhara. As the journalist stressed, polling stations were carefully prepared for the significant political event. He said that he was impressed by the activity and political maturity of the voters, as well as the respectful attitude to observers and the broad opportunities granted to them to successfully fulfill their mission.

As a result of the briefing, the information materials on the results of the election of the President of Uzbekistan were posted on the websites of the Chinese media.

In particular, People's Daily and the International Radio of China inform that the crucial political event in the life of Uzbekistan demonstrated the increased political, public activity and civic responsibility of the people.

«About 600 observers from the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Commonwealth of Independent States, the OSCE/ODIHR, OIC, A-WEB, as well as 46 states became evidence of the democratic, open and transparent election campaign. The heads of missions of international organizations highly acclaimed the reforms carried out in recent years to enhance and liberalize the electoral legislation», the reporter said.

It was noted that the past elections became an evidence of great experience of Uzbekistan in the creation and development of a modern electoral system that meets democratic standards and ensures the free expression of the will of the citizens.

As the PRC media write, all this became possible thanks to the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan which is the guarantor of observance of the rights and freedoms of citizens.

«It is profoundly symbolic that the elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan were conducted on the eve of the 24th anniversary of the adoption of the Basic Law. His special value in the realization of democratic reforms is the fact that the interests of citizens are priority for the state.

The normative legal acts adopted on the basis of the Constitution are aimed at observing the electoral rights of citizens, creating the necessary conditions for their free participation in elections, providing broad and equal opportunities for political parties during the election campaign», the article says.

*Jahon Information Agency, Beijing,
December 11, 2016*

CHAIRMAN OF THE CEC OF TURKMENISTAN: ELECTIONS DEMONSTRATED POLITICAL MATURITY OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN UZBEKISTAN

Jahon Information Agency received official comments and opinions of the Chairman of the Central Commission on Elections and Referenda of Turkmenistan Gulmurad Muradov through the diplomatic representation of our country in Ashgabat. The official's letter read thus:

«At the invitation of the Central Election Commission (CEC) of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Chairman of the Central Commission for Elections and Referenda of Turkmenistan Gulmurad Muradov and the Commission Secretary Amangeldy Gandymov took part from 3 to 5 December 2016 in the elections of President of the Republic of Uzbekistan as part of the Mission of Observers from the Commonwealth of Independent States.

The Mission performed its functions freely and independently, guided by the legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan, without interfering in the course of the electoral process and in the internal affairs of the state.

It should be noted that the electoral legislation of Uzbekistan contains provisions on securing the electoral rights and freedoms of citizens and serves as a solid legal basis for conducting open, free and democratic elections.

We visited a number of polling stations in the city of Tashkent. The activity of the population and a notable growth in civil self-consciousness were distinctive features of the presidential elections.

The Central Election Commission organized and consistently carried out the work on the preparation and conduct of the elections.

In order to provide the unified application of electoral legislation, the CEC released 20 items of memos, manuals, collections and other print materials.

The Commission, in conjunction with the National Television and Radio Company of Uzbekistan, prepared two training films: one on the organization of the work of the CEC until the day of voting, the other on the election day.

The activities of the Central and Subordinate Commissions were aimed at securing strict observance of the norms of the electoral legislation.

The CEC registered candidates for the Presidency of the Republic of Uzbekistan: S.Otamuratov from the Milliy Tiklanish Democratic Party of Uzbekistan, Sh.Mirziyoyev from the Movement of Entrepreneurs and Businesspeople – the Liberal Democratic Party of Uzbekistan, Kh.Ketmonov from the People's Democratic Party of Uzbekistan, N.Umarov from the Adolat Social Democratic Party of Uzbekistan.

The CEC effectively used the potential of the mass media to ensure the transparency and openness of the electoral process.

According to the Commission, over 20 million 400 thousand citizens were included in the lists for participation in the elections. The procedure for compiling and clarifying the voter lists guaranteed the realization of the principle of universal suffrage.

The polling stations that we visited were provided with all the necessary conditions for the voters and work of the CEC members. Medical rooms, rooms of «Mother and child» were equipped everywhere. The information about

presidential candidates was posted. The voting process was carried out in calm atmosphere and organized way, with high activity of citizens.

The bodies of state power and local self-government, electoral commissions of all levels ensured the implementation of the right of citizens of the country to freely express their will during the elections.

The elections demonstrated the level of political maturity of the civil society, became a significant step in the advancement of Uzbekistan along the path of progress and creation, in the realization of new democratic reforms.

The people of Uzbekistan took advantage of their constitutional right and confirmed their readiness to continue moving along the democratic path of development».

*Jahon Information Agency,
December 13, 2016*

VIKTOR GRISHIN: HARD-WORKING PEOPLES ARE ABLE TO MAKE GREAT ACHIEVEMENTS

On December 4, 2016, a significant public and political event – presidential elections were conducted in Uzbekistan. As an overseas observer from the Russian Federation, during my visit to the polling stations of Tashkent, I was once again convinced that your people, having a thousand years of rich history of statehood, good traditions and customs, are going through a transition to a higher qualitative stage in their advancement.

This is particularly noticeable when you see beautiful houses in a modern architectural setting combining the traditions of national architecture, wide and spacious streets of cities, neat and well-kept fields and trees in villages where there is an endless construction of modern residential buildings for young families. This can be seen in conversation with young men and women – energetic, talented and cheerful, confident in the future and striving to contribute to the prosperity of the Motherland.

Your people experienced an irreparable loss – the passing away of the First President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov. Thousands of people outside the republic deeply shared this sadness. The people of Uzbekistan firmly survived this test without panic and confusion. And they worthily saw off their First President to his ‘last journey’. However, life does not stop, it is necessary to continue those large-scale reforms in the name of the well-being of the people,

the maintenance of peace and stability, harmony in society, and the further comprehensive progressive development of the country.

And people have made their democratic and free choice, having elected the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev on December 4, who for 16 years has worked side by side with Islam Karimov. In many ways thanks to Shavkat Miromonovich, the country has successfully realized consistent, deeply thought out and comprehensively substantiated large-scale reforms.

Representatives of about 600 state and public figures, representatives of the parliament and electoral bodies, legal scientists and political scientists from almost fifty foreign countries observed the presidential elections in Uzbekistan. This international event was attended by international observer missions – the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Association of World Electoral Bodies, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, whose representatives freely observed the course of voting. The participation of observers from international organizations and foreign countries was the guarantor in strengthening universally recognized standards and democratic principles.

According to the estimates of international experts, the elections of President of the Republic of Uzbekistan were carried out in the conditions of high political competition between the four parties, the growth of citizens' activity, in the spirit of openness and transparency. The Missions particularly noted the reduction in the number of voter signatures in support of the presidential candidate from five to one percent, equal conditions for campaigning, and the possibility of voting in places of detention for persons who have not been sentenced. They stressed the mechanism of early voting, as well as the opportunity to make a choice at the place of actual residence.

I personally saw that these and other legislative guarantees for the conduct of free and open elections are being implemented in practice, and all participants in the process are interested in their observance. In addition to the above-mentioned steps towards improving and liberalizing electoral legislation, we should also note the increased level of legal awareness of the population, the political activity of Uzbek people. This is evidenced by the high turnout at the elections – almost 88 percent. The citizens of the country demonstrated that they care about the future of the native land, they feel themselves involved in its fate.

This is the most significant achievement of Uzbekistan where the people live peacefully and harmoniously throughout the quarter-century, stability and tranquility reign in the country. After all, large-scale reforms in all spheres are aimed primarily at securing the rights and freedoms, the legitimate interests of

citizens, the well-being of all segments of the population. I often go to Uzbekistan and every time I am sure that a wonderful hospitable people are satisfied with their life, believe in a beautiful future.

During the years of independence of the republic's economy grew by almost 6 times. The share of industry increased from 14 to 34 percent. Despite the still ongoing global recession, Uzbekistan has been showing an annual high economic growth of no less than 8 percent among the few countries in the world for ten years, the standard of living of people has been steadily rising. An active investment policy is being conducted. Completely new high-tech industries are advancing. A major event on the international economic map was the completion in 2016 of the construction of the new electrified railway Angren-Pap with a length of 123.1 kilometers with the construction of a tunnel on the Kamchik Pass, 19.2 kilometers long. This railway line is essential for the development of international transport corridor.

The economic growth of Uzbekistan is largely determined by the large-scale measures taken by the republic's leadership with the aim of constantly improving the business climate in the country. Constructive measures were taken to remove barriers and restrictions; complete freedom was given to the development of private property and private entrepreneurship. Over the years of independence, much has been done to create a reliable regulatory and legal framework and protect the inviolability of private property and investment, and provide private owners with the necessary conditions and guarantees. Many branches of the economy are actually transferred to private ownership; the presence of the state was reduced in them.

The adoption of the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan «On additional measures to ensure accelerated development of entrepreneurial activity, full protection of private property and a qualitative improvement of the business climate» on October 5, 2016, was a logical continuation of the large-scale work. Its realization will provide the continuity and consistency of the course determined by the First President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on resolutely removing administrative barriers and artificial barriers to the advancement of entrepreneurial activity as a key factor for sustainable economic development, will help ensure reliable protection of private property, further improvement of the business climate in the country, the inflow of foreign investment into the national economy and the increase in prosperity of the population as a whole.

In the 21st century, the main competitive advantage of a highly developed country is primarily connected with the possibility of advancing its human potential, the education of an educated and intellectually developed generation which in the modern world is the most significant value and decisive force in

achieving the goals of democratic development, modernization and renewal. In this connection, I would like to emphasize that for Uzbekistan investing in human capital is a priority direction of socio-economic policy. The republic has successfully implemented a unique program for reforming education, transition to 12-year free compulsory education, a wide network of specialized professional colleges and academic lyceums. The branches of the most prestigious higher educational institutions of Great Britain, Italy, Russia, Singapore, and South Korea function here.

I can say with full justification and certainty that for Uzbekistan, talented people have been and still are the most basic and priceless source of growth and development, in the hearts and minds of which is tireless work for the sake of the future of the independent land.

*Narodnoe Slovo,
December 13, 2016*

CHAIRPERSON OF THE CEC OF KYRGYZSTAN ON THE PREPARATION OF ELECTIONS IN UZBEKISTAN

Bishkek has hosted a press conference for representatives of the Kyrgyz mass media. The event was led by the Chairman of the Central Election Commission of the Kyrgyz Republic Nurzhan Shaildabekova who took part in the elections of the President of Uzbekistan as an international observer.

During the press conference it was reported that the delegation of Kyrgyzstan visited 40 polling stations of 6 electoral districts of Uzbekistan. As N. Shaildabekova noted, the level of organization of elections was high.

– All polling stations were fitted out with the necessary equipment. There are rooms for children. Our delegation took note of some aspects of the electoral process.

By organizing this important event and the mood of citizens, it can be argued that the Uzbek people trust the electoral process and support the ongoing state policy. We saw this in a glance. The polling stations were opened at 6 am and the people were going to vote.

Changes were also seen in the openness and awareness of the electorate. At the polling stations, there was a lot of information about the voting procedure, candidates and their electoral programs. We noticed the change in the work of the media. They transmitted not only official information, but also reviews and expert opinions.

Most observers agreed that the elections were conducted openly, transparently and democratically. We have not seen a single case of ballot stuffing.

*Jahon Information Agency, Bishkek,
December 14, 2016*

IN ITALY ON PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS IN UZBEKISTAN

The presidential elections in our country are a mirror of the carried out reforms to build a democratic law-based state and a strong civil society, a radical renewal and modernization of all spheres of life.

Thus, in the first decade of December this year, the attention of the public, political, expert and business circles of Italy was focused on the electoral process in our country.

In particular, in an interview with Jahon Information Agency, **chairman of the Commission on Finance at the Chamber of Deputies of the Italian Parliament Maurizio Bernardo** said:

– I would like to state that Uzbekistan occupies a significant place in the international arena. The presidential elections were conducted in qualitatively new conditions and correspond to the development strategy of the state in the interests of all the people. The transparency of the election campaign allowed the electorate to make an objective choice in favor of a worthy candidate.

I would like to emphasize my personal commitment to further expanding relations between our peoples and promoting new trade and economic projects.

Research fellow of Camerino University, Central Asia expert Fabio Indeo:

– The presidential elections clearly demonstrated the further orientation of Uzbekistan. The first President Islam Karimov led the country to the independence and developed its statehood. These elections have become a guarantee of maintaining political stability and security, preserving the growing economic progress of the country.

For the first time, the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights sent a full-scale election observation mission. This was the result of the joint work of Uzbekistan and the OSCE for the purpose of an objective assessment of the electoral process.

Realization of the potential of Uzbekistan in Central Asia will boost its geopolitical weight and emphasize its leading role in the region.

Professor of the University of Sapienza Fabio Grassi:

– An important period for Uzbekistan is coming that is leading to the formation of a advanced democracy in the country, including party pluralism and political competition. It is very essential that the recent presidential elections became a platform for expressing various socio-political and social and economic ideas, rather than individual ethnic or religious groups. It is pleasurable to note the concern for the protection of the rights of children and women in the programs of the four political parties. The economic and political progress of Uzbekistan will be a valuable example for the entire international community. I am fully confident in this!

Along with this, **the Italian Center for Eurasian and Mediterranean Studies (CESEM)** also published an article on its portal devoted to the elections of the President of Uzbekistan. The article notes that this event is of great importance and is crucial in the life of the country. The Center reported that the research carried out in the country visually illustrated the citizens' support for democratic transformations and reforms. «The high level of electoral activity was facilitated by the introduction of the Program of measures to further enhance the voter's legal awareness which envisages carrying out a broad explanatory work among them about the essence and significance of national legislation in this direction», the publication underlines. Italian researchers note that the citizens demonstrated great confidence in the national electoral system.

*Jahon Information Agency, Rome,
December 14, 2016*

ISRAELI MEDIA ON THE ELECTIONS OF THE PRESIDENT IN UZBEKISTAN

As known, the recent electoral process in our country was widely covered in the foreign media. Israeli publications also dedicated their pages to this event.

Thus, the article published in the Jerusalem Post reports that over 600 international observers monitored the presidential elections in Uzbekistan.

Characterizing Uzbekistan as a secular republic with a emerging economy which has great potential, the publication writes that the country has made significant progress in 25 years of sovereign development. With the reference to the statements of the Israeli observers in Tashkent, it is noted that in the Uzbek society there is an atmosphere of peace of mind. People's well-being has improved, the face of the country and architecture of cities has changed, and interethnic consent has been preserved.

The publication stresses that the country formed a national electoral system corresponding to international democratic standards. Based on the interviews with the voters, Israeli observers came to the conclusion that the people expect from the new leadership to secure stability and peace in the country, continue the creative course, preserve the secular nature of the state.

In turn, in the material of the newspaper Vesti (Israel) it is said about the high electoral turnout at the elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan which testifies to the high political awareness of citizens that was established in the years of independence.

*Jahon Information Agency, Tel Aviv,
December 15, 2016*

GERMAN OBSERVERS: PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS IN UZBEKISTAN WERE TRANSPARENT

Berlin has hosted a briefing on the results of the elections to the Presidency of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The participants of the event were the representatives of the Bundestag, governmental, public, expert and academic circles, and the media in Germany.

The attendees were provided with the information on the results of the presidential elections taken place on December 4 in our country. It was noted that they were conducted in conditions of openness and transparency with the provision of equal opportunities for all candidates nominated by the political parties. The democratic nature and transparency of the electoral process was also confirmed by international observers monitoring the voting process. In addition, the elections were covered by the numerous national and foreign media.

Speaking at the event, the observers from Germany noted the high organizational level of the elections carried out in Uzbekistan. They expressed sincere gratitude for the created conditions for free and unobstructed observation of the voting process.

German representatives stressed that the elections demonstrated the increased level of political awareness of the citizens of the republic.

In particular, **the expert of the Committee on International Cooperation of the Bundestag Andreas Jan** said that on the voting day he visited a number of polling stations in Bukhara. Well-coordinated work on them, he said, indicates a thorough preparation for the conduct of elections.

«Electoral precincts were provided with all necessary attributes, maximum conditions for free and secret voting were created. I was greatly impressed by the political activity and positive attitude of the voters», A. Jan noted.

Director of the Maecenata Institute Berlin for Philanthropy and Civil Society, Eckhard Priller, stressed that Uzbekistan can be proud of the successful conduct of elections, as evidenced by the very high voter turnout. According to him, no violations were found during the voting, the elections were carried out in line with modern international standards. The expert stated that at the polling stations all conditions were created not only for the voters, but also for international observers and journalists.

E. Priller also drew attention to the measures being taken in the country to ensure the dialogue of state bodies with the population.

«This is very important for deepening the processes of democratization, as well as further strengthening people's trust in state power», the German expert said.

According to Volker Neef, editor-in-chief of Dusseldorfer Blatt, who took part in the coverage of the election campaign in Uzbekistan, the elections were conducted at the highest level, both from substantive and organizational and technical points of view.

«We were able to freely and without hindrance watch the voting, take an interview any voter and observer. I want to highlight the activity of citizens who reacted with great responsibility to the elections. I am impressed by the fact that the turnout was about 90%», F. Neef pointed out.

The participants of the briefing were also acquainted with the contents of the report of the President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev at the solemn meeting dedicated to the 24th anniversary of the adoption of the country's Constitution. In the opinion of the German representatives, the emphasis on increasing the responsibility of the state agencies towards the population shows the focus of the new leadership on the full provision of human rights and interests. This aspiration was reflected, among other things, in the announcement of 2017 in Uzbekistan as the Year of Dialogue with the People and of Human Interests.

In this context, the attention of the audience was placed on the consistent measures being taken in the country to further democratization of the society, strengthening the independence of the judiciary and liberalization of the country's economy.

In an interview with Jahon Information Agency some of the participants of the briefing shared their views and opinions.

Eduard Kinsbruner, regional director for Central Asia of the Eastern Committee of German Economy:

– It was great honor for me to participate in the elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan as an international observer. As part of this mission, I observed the voting at the polling stations of Tashkent and Samarkand. According to my estimates, the elections were free and transparent. I did not record any violations. I witnessed an active participation of citizens of the republic in the voting.

During my stay in Uzbekistan, I also visited a number of enterprises and was convinced that your country has a huge industrial potential. The active use of these opportunities, taking into account the measures to liberalize the economy, opens new prospects for further accelerated advancement of the republic.

I wish all Uzbek people peace, prosperity and new successes.

Hans-Joachim Knaupe, director of the Berlin International Economic Academy:

– The presidential elections in Uzbekistan were open and democratic. International observers had the opportunity to observe the voting freely and without obstacles. I was especially impressed by the activity of the electorate which testifies to the high level of self-consciousness and responsibility of the citizens of the republic in the determination the country's future.

I would like to stress that citizens of Uzbekistan are well aware of their electoral rights; they had a full understanding on the priorities of political parties and the candidates nominated by them. Undoubtedly, all this allowed them to make an informed choice in the course of voting.

I consider the presidential elections carried out in Uzbekistan as an important stage of the country's further sustainable development. Our academy is ready to expand the cooperation with the partners in Uzbekistan in the field of personnel training and introduction of innovative technologies in various sectors of the economy of the republic.

I take this opportunity to congratulate the leadership and people of Uzbekistan on the Constitution Day and wish all the residents of the republic to achieve their goals!

Jahon Information Agency, Berlin, December 16, 2016
<http://jahomiews.uz/en/aktualno/626/29272/>

«WE ALL NEED TO LEARN FROM UZBEKISTAN ON SUCH A WELL-THOUGHT-OUT ORGANIZATION OF ELECTIONS»

International observers from Poland who took part in the elections of President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on December 4 this year, underscore their full compliance with democratic standards.

Witold Buyski, president of the publishing and printing group PUBLISHING HAUS REA:

– For the first time I took part in the elections in Uzbekistan as an international observer. I want to note that they were perfectly organized, conducted on an alternative basis. In the course of the election campaign, four representatives from political parties had equal opportunities to discuss their programs and the same chances to be elected to the presidency of the country.

The voting passed transparently and in a calm atmosphere, all voters went to the polling stations in high spirits. This means that elections are not a formal event, but a special event in the life of every citizen of Uzbekistan who expects only positive results from them.

I visited to seven polling stations in Samarkand. On each of them were not only international observers, but, and very importantly, observers from political parties. As early as 11:00, at least 40 percent of the electorate voted in each electoral district.

It was a pleasant surprise for us to equip each polling station with medical items and «Mother and child» rooms. In addition, the voting at home was provided for persons who for one reason or another reason could not attend the polling stations.

We all need to learn from Uzbekistan on such a high, comprehensively and subtly thought-out organization of the elections.

I wish Uzbek people prosperity and all the best!

Jerzy Shukalsky, professor at the University of Lublin and the Higher School of International Relations and Social Communications in Helm:

– We, as part of three observers from Poland, attended the elections of the President of Uzbekistan, visited to a number of polling stations in the regions of the republic. In particular, before the elections I was in the district election commission of the capital, as well as in the polling stations of Tashkent and Samarkand.

With full confidence I declare a high level of preparation, both in the pre-election period and on the voting day. First of all, there was a very high electoral activity in Uzbekistan. This testifies both to the high professionalism of those who were involved in preparing the elections, and the active citizenship of the inhabitants of the country.

It should be noted that the elections were conducted on the basis of democratic norms in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan and electoral legislation.

I was in Uzbekistan in 1990 and I can say that the country has changed beyond the recognition. As seen through well-kept streets, avenues, cars, modern buildings, educational institutions, catering facilities, today it is a rich and prosperous republic. I have visited many countries, but in terms of hospitality and friendliness, Uzbekistan certainly has no equal.

I wish all Uzbek people a bright future!

Adam Marshalek, president of the publishing house Marshalek Holding:

– I returned from Uzbekistan to Poland with a particularly upbeat mood and with satisfaction in the results of monitoring the presidential elections which were well organized.

We visited to polling stations in Tashkent and a number of cities and villages of Uzbekistan.

With confidence, I can say that the level of conduct was impressive. Already at six o'clock in the morning there were voters at the polling stations. Here we met observers from all four political parties who submitted four candidates.

I saw significant moments that you rarely see in Poland and other countries – it is a kind of specificity of Uzbekistan. For example, specially designated rooms for children in which they can be at the time when their parents vote, and gladly spend time there. In addition, there were also perfectly organized medical service points.

During the election campaign, the citizens of Uzbekistan received detailed information about all candidates. Posters and banners with biographies and electoral platforms of the candidates were available at all polling stations. All candidates were given the same time on television, radio, and page in print media.

*Jahon Information Agency, Warsaw,
December 16, 2016*

«ELECTIONS BECAME AN EMBODYMENT OF SECURING THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS OF CITIZENS»

International observers from Turkey who took part in the presidential elections in our country, shared their assessments and comments on their arrival in their homeland.

Hikmet Ehren, editor-in-chief of the socio-political magazine Eko Avrasya:

– The elections in Uzbekistan have aroused great interest in Turkey. Every day, materials were printed on the Turkish media, reportages on the preparations for the crucial event in your country were broadcast on TV and radio channels. In the materials, including our reportages from Tashkent and the Khorezm region, we transmitted the information about the progress of the election process, as well as the current conditions created at the polling stations throughout the country.

We have also closely monitored the course of the pre-election campaign in Uzbekistan and appeals on the results of voting. At the same time, the main attention of our experts was mainly focused on the study of the electoral program of the candidates who were distinguished by their thoughtfulness, practical significance and lack of populist declarations.

A recent visit by President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to the city of Samarkand and the results of his talks with Shavkat Mirziyoyev also testifies to the readiness of the new leader to build mutually beneficial relations with foreign partners, taking into account the country's national interests, without regard for various interpretations of the measures taken by individual external forces.

Ayfer Ilkhan, head of the regional studies projects of the social and political newspaper Dunya Gazetesi:

– The elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan carried out on December 4, 2016 became the next embodiment of ensuring the constitutional rights of citizens and generally recognized democratic principles.

A trip to Uzbekistan to cover the elections provided me with a unique opportunity to prepare and broadcast materials that aroused genuine interest among readers of our publication. They learned very interesting information for them, not only about the official status of the electoral legislation and electoral process, but also about the socio-political, social and economic situation in Uzbekistan.

On my own behalf and on behalf of the numerous readers of the newspaper Dunya Gazetesi, I sincerely congratulate the people of Uzbekistan on the election of the new President and express my wishes for peace, well-being and prosperity!

*Jahon Information Agency, Ankara,
December 21, 2016*

THE UN INFORMS THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY ON THE OUTCOMES OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS IN UZBEKISTAN

At the United Nations headquarters in New York, the information about the results of the elections of President of the Republic of Uzbekistan has been disseminated as an official document of the 71st session of the General Assembly in the six official languages of the UN.

The document states that involving in the vote the citizens of our country once again expressed their support for the policy reforms in the country. The Central Election Commission of the Republic on the basis of received protocols of district election commissions has determined that on 4 December 2016, a total of 87.73 percent of the overall number of voters has cast their ballot.

The article stressed that the electoral process took place in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Laws «On guarantees of electoral rights of citizens» and «On the elections of President of the Republic of Uzbekistan», ensuring citizens' rights to freedom of expression and the respect for universal principles, equal and direct suffrage by secret voting.

«600 observers from 46 countries and five international organizations – the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States, Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the World Association of Electoral Bodies and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation have witnessed the democratic nature and transparency of the electoral season. More than 37,000 observers from political parties also took part in monitoring the elections», the document informs.

*Jahon Information Agency, New York,
December 22, 2016*

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e-mail: uzbekistan@iptd-uzbekistan.uz

www.iptd-uzbekistan.uz

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