



**DELEGATION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN TO THE OSCE**

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**Statement by the delegation of Kazakhstan to the OSCE
on the parliamentary elections in Kazakhstan
19 January 2012**

Dear Mr. Chairperson, dear colleagues,

The delegation of Kazakhstan wishes to express its thanks to the delegations of the European Union, the United States, Canada, the Russian Federation, Belarus and Turkey for their statements on the parliamentary elections in Kazakhstan. We appreciate the readiness of our partners to support the Government of Kazakhstan in a further strengthening of the democratic processes in the country.

Indeed, the parliamentary elections that took place on 15 January 2012 can be greeted as an important and historic milestone for Kazakhstan – they have resulted in a pluralistic Parliament in which three parties will be represented.

The elections were calm, peaceful and orderly, including in Zhanaozen town.

Some 6.98 million people, or 75.07% of the total number of registered voters, cast ballots on 15 January. A high voter turnout of 63.6% was registered in the town of Zhanaozen, which is currently under the state of emergency announced there after an outbreak of violent civil disorders on 16 December last year.

The authorities ensured all the conditions necessary to allow the people of Kazakhstan to express their constitutional right to free and democratic expression, and that contributed to the high voter turnout.

The Central Election Commission (CEC) conducted its work in an open and transparent manner. On 16 January, the CEC announced the final results of the election to the *Majilis* - the lower chamber of the country's Parliament:

- People's Democratic Party *Nur Otan* - 80.99 per cent;
- Democratic Party of Kazakhstan *Ak Zhol* – 7.47 per cent;
- Communist People's Party of Kazakhstan – 7.19 per cent;

- All-National Social Democratic Party – 1.68 per cent;
- Kazakhstan Social Democratic Party *Aul* – 1.19 per cent;
- Party of Patriots of Kazakhstan – 0.83 per cent;
- Democratic Party *Adilet* – 0.66 per cent.

The three parties which exceeded the seven per cent threshold will now enter the country's 107-member legislature with a proportional allotment of seats, namely, the *Nur Otan* party with 83 seats (21 women), the pro-business *Ak Zhol* party with eight seats (2 women), and the communist CPPK with seven seats (1 woman). The remaining nine seats (2 women) were allotted on 16 January by the Assembly of the People of Kazakhstan, a unique political body that represents the various ethnic groups that make up the population of the multi-ethnic State of Kazakhstan. The total number of women in the new *Majilis* increased to 26, compared to 17 in the fourth convocation, and to eight in the third convocation of the *Majilis*. Of the 107 members of the legislature, 43 are deputies of the previous convocation. This means that 60% of the members of the *Majilis* will be newcomers.

The elections were monitored by 819 international observers. Those included 309 representatives of the OSCE/ODIHR, 262 from the CIS Observer Mission, 46 from the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, 15 from the PACE, 11 from the SCO Observer Mission, nine from the Cooperation Council of Turkic-Speaking States, seven from the OIC, ten from the TURKPA, and 150 others from 29 countries. In addition, the CEC also accredited 170 foreign media representatives to cover the electoral process in Kazakhstan.

All the international organizations made independent assessments and drew conclusions based on their own observation of the electoral process. The monitoring mission of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) stated that the parliamentary election in Kazakhstan was “open and transparent, and took place in accordance with the law of the country and existing democratic norms”.

The mission of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) believed that “the election of deputies to the *Majilis* was legitimate, free and open and generally met the requirements of the national law and accepted international commitments”.

Elsa Papademetriou, the Head of the Delegation of the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly, said, “These elections proved to be a move in the right direction”.

Kazakhstan took note of the preliminary assessment and conclusion of the ODIHR/OSCE mission. We believe the mission did not take a balanced approach to evaluating the pre-election process and the voting. But even the OSCE's assessment could not ignore the improvements. After studying and thoroughly analysing the statement of preliminary findings and conclusions of the OSCE

Election Observation Mission, the CEC will send its comments to the ODIHR in due course.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the international observers for visiting Kazakhstan during the winter season and performing the hard work of assessing our elections. We believe that the observers' work has played an important and generally constructive role in the ongoing development of our electoral process.

Kazakhstan's Foreign Ministry stated that "Kazakhstan is firmly committed to the fundamental principles of holding democratic elections. We understand that democracy in our nation is still a work in progress. Kazakhstan will continue to pursue a steady path of democratization, ensuring fundamental freedoms and human rights". It believes that the election outcome "reflects the interests of the majority of the population and its mature civic society", representing "another step forward for our nation: it will increase debate and the competition of ideas, strengthening our Parliament and our political system as a whole". The full text of the Foreign Ministry's statement was circulated on 17 January (SEC.DEL/19.)

The outcome of the parliamentary elections is clear: Kazakhstan has taken a major step forward towards strengthening its multiparty democracy and making it more robust.

Concerning the new law of the Republic of Kazakhstan on television and radio broadcasting", signed by the President on 18 January, the concerns expressed by the EU delegation will be forwarded to my capital. In general, the law aims *inter alia* to ensure the constitutional rights of citizens to free access to information and freedom of expression, as well as the security of individuals, society and the State. The law also calls for an increase in domestic content of programming to 50 per cent by 2018 and for full coverage of Kazakhstan-air by digital television and radio broadcasting. With regard to this and other media-related issues, Kazakhstan is ready to continue to engage constructively with the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media and her team.

Thank you, Mr.Chairperson.