

Human Dimension Implementation Meeting  
WORKING SESSION 3  
Democratic Institutions and Democratic Elections

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As delivered by

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Mr. Moderator,

Armenia attaches great importance to free and fair realization of the right to vote and form the Government elsewhere in the OSCE area regardless of the status of territories in line with Universal Declaration of Human Rights, ICCPR and OSCE commitments

At previous HDIM, my delegation was privileged to refer to the elaboration of Electoral Code and today I am pleased to present the outcomes of its implementation in April 6 Parliamentary Elections.

New Electoral Code which was an outcome of inclusive political process and agreement among the ruling and opposition parties represented in the Parliament. The civil society was also represented in the entire consultation process. The agreement fully addressed a significant part of the joint recommendations of the Venice Commission and the ODIHR, something that was acknowledged in the Preliminary Findings and Conclusions of the International Observation Mission.

This agreement was essential in two major points. First, it addressed all outstanding and divisive issues of previous elections including identification of voters and post-election publication of the signed voter list. This agreement has been strictly observed at these elections. Second, the agreement ensured strong ownership of the Electoral Code by all political forces and increased public trust and confidence towards elections. High turnout in the election day, which was visible to all observers in the polling stations reflected the degree of public trust towards elections.

The high number of international and domestic observers was unprecedented in these elections. In order to ensure transparent implementation of the Electoral Code Armenia received unrestricted and increasing number of international observers from intergovernmental organizations including OSCE/ODIHR, OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, in total approximately 650 observers. 49 Armenian NGOs accredited roughly 28 thousand observers in the elections.

The efficiency of newly introduced Voting Authentication Devices has been widely acknowledged by all observation missions. Electronic voter identification prevented number of irregularities in these elections. Here, we would like to take this opportunity to thank those participating states who helped Armenia in introducing these new devices. I would also like to recall the important contribution of

the OSCE Office in Yerevan who co-organized number of events on Electronic Voting systems last year.

The observers well documented that the election day was calm and peaceful, fundamental freedoms were generally respected, contestants were able to campaign without restrictions and finally voters were able to freely exercise their right to vote.

Aside from the right to vote, these elections brought positive change in protecting and promoting other fundamental freedoms. Newly elected Parliament secured inclusive representation of all major minorities of Armenia in the Parliament and as a result Yazidi, Russian, Assyrian and Kurdish communities will get a seat therein.

We are ready to continue cooperation with all our international partners particularly ODIHR aimed at sustaining and furthering strong progress and success achieved by these elections.

Thank you