

RC.DEL/10/10  
1 October 2010

ENGLISH  
Original: RUSSIAN

**STATEMENT BY MR. RADZHABALI TAGAEV,  
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REFERENDUMS OF THE REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN, AT THE  
2010 OSCE REVIEW CONFERENCE**

Warsaw, 1 October 2010

**Working session 1: Democratic institutions, including democratic elections,  
democracy at the national, regional and local levels,  
citizenship and political rights**

Mr. Chairperson,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

Elections in the Republic of Tajikistan are held in accordance with the Constitutional Law on Elections to the Majlis Oli of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Constitutional Law on Elections of Deputies to the Local Majlis of People's Deputies.

The Republic of Tajikistan, drawing on the best election practices of the democratically developed OSCE participating States, has taken a decisive step on the path towards democratizing its society. Democratic institutions have been established in recent years and are now operating successfully.

Free elections in our country are becoming a positive political tradition and a mirror of the nation, reflecting the particular features of the historic moment, national traditions, legal culture and the political will of the people.

I should like to say a few words about the results of the recent parliamentary elections, which were held in February of this year and in which 536 observers participated, including more than 210 observers from the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR).

In order to ensure that the parliamentary elections proceeded in a manner that guaranteed the openness and transparency of the electoral process and the exercise of the electoral rights and freedoms of all the participants in the elections, the Central Commission for Elections and Referendums of the Republic of Tajikistan began preparations for this important political event in January 2009.

All eight political parties (the Agrarian Party, the Party of Economic Reform, the Democratic Party, the Islamic Renaissance Party, the Socialist Party, the Social Democrat Party, the Communist Party and the People's Democratic Party) participated in the

parliamentary elections, although only five of them succeeded in clearing the five per cent hurdle

A total of 229 of the 403 candidacies were registered for the single-seat constituencies totalling 41 seats, and of these 40 candidates were elected in the first round. While the previous parliamentary elections resulted in the election to Parliament of three parties (the People's Democratic Party, the Communist Party and the Islamic Renaissance Party), this year representatives of five political parties were victorious (the Agrarian Party, the Party of Economic Reform, the Communist Party, the Islamic Renaissance Party and the People's Democratic Party).

This result attests to the triumph of true democracy in conducting elections offering a free choice in the Republic of Tajikistan.

The observation missions from the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) delivered a positive assessment of the work of the Central Commission for Elections and Referendums in conducting the parliamentary elections, but the ODIHR has still not presented to the Commission the Russian-language version of its final report on the results of the parliamentary elections in the Republic of Tajikistan.

If we consider the standards of influential international organizations with regard to election monitoring, it will be seen that each mission is guided by its own criteria regarding the rights and duties of the observers. In our view, it would be better to draw up acceptable uniform standards, which would in turn simplify the election monitoring process involving OSCE observers.

The CIS and SCO observation missions have no long-term observers. It might have been possible to study the work experience of the OSCE/ODIHR long-term observers and to establish a long-term observer group.

Frequently, observation missions, without awaiting the final election results, issue premature findings, that is, when speaking of shortcomings, they refer to specific stages in the electoral process before the actual election day or, on the basis of minor facts, they speak of undemocratic elections. This is wrong and within a month or two there is no longer any need for a report of this kind.

Distinguished colleagues,

In every country, democratic reforms are implemented in accordance with that country's laws and traditions and with the specific characteristics and mentality of the people.

The Majlis Namoyandagon (house of representatives) of the Majlis Oli of the Republic of Tajikistan is currently working on an electoral code that will take into account all the comments and shortcomings mentioned by the international observers.

Presidential elections are soon to be held in Tajikistan. We would be grateful if all the relevant reports were summarized in the form of discs or books so that we in Tajikistan can make use of the experience of other States.

Thank you for your attention.