



United States Mission to the OSCE

Statement on Elections in Kosovo

As prepared for delivery by Chargé d' Affaires Kyle Scott
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
November 22, 2007

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The United States welcomes the commitment to democratic development shown by the people of Kosovo on November 17th. Kosovo's electorate exercised its right to vote and to choose representatives at all levels of government. These elections are also a democratic step forward, since for the first time Assembly members will be selected via open list and mayors will be directly elected. We are pleased that both the pre-election campaign and the elections themselves were conducted peacefully and with respect by all parties for Kosovo's commitments in the ongoing status determination process.

The United States deeply regrets the decision of Kosovo Serbs, encouraged by the Government of Serbia, not to participate in these elections. Kosovo's Serb community can only be disadvantaged by this decision. The U.S. government remains committed to ensuring the rights and security of all of Kosovo's ethnic communities and urges their full participation in the political life of Kosovo.

Finally, the U.S. would like to congratulate the Central Elections Commission for its success in organizing and conducting the elections, and expresses once again our appreciation to the OSCE mission in Kosovo for the valuable support and assistance it provided to the CEC in this endeavor.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.