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Canadian Delegation to the
Organization for Security & Cooperation
in Europe



Délégation du Canada auprès de
l'Organisation pour la sécurité et la coopération
en Europe

DELEGATION OF CANADA TO THE OSCE
INTERVENTION ON UZBEKISTAN
696TH PLENARY MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL
17 JANUARY 2008

Canada followed the 23 December Presidential Election in Uzbekistan with interest. We have taken careful note of ODIHR's statement emanating from the reports compiled by the Limited Election Observation Mission.

Canada deplores that, according to ODIHR's statement, the election left no room for real opposition and failed to meet many OSCE commitments.

Like other delegations, we also remain concerned about strict governmental control over the expression of ideas and political views as well as the limited media coverage of the campaign.

On a more positive note, we are pleased that government officials in Uzbekistan provided increased support to observers in comparison with previous elections, with the exception of denying full access to documents and candidates, and that some legislative reforms have been undertaken.

Our Delegation would further highlight the need to ensure that legislative and administrative practices respect human rights, such as the freedoms of assembly and speech, which are values and commitments undertaken by Uzbekistan in numerous OSCE documents.

Canada strongly encourages the Government of Uzbekistan to continue and deepen its cooperation with the OSCE, in particular ODIHR, in an effort to ensure future elections meet OSCE and other international standards.