



United States Mission to the OSCE

On the April 11 Presidential Election in Azerbaijan

As delivered by Chargé d'Affaires, a.i. Harry Kamian
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
April 19, 2018

The United States looks forward to working with President Aliyev and with the people of Azerbaijan on a range of important bilateral and regional issues, including promoting respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, supporting economic reforms and prosperity, and combating terrorism. We also look forward to continued active work with the OSCE Minsk Group to help realize a peaceful settlement to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

The United States concurs with the OSCE election observation mission's preliminary assessment of the presidential election in Azerbaijan on April 11th. The preliminary report noted several shortcomings, including a restrictive political environment, limits on fundamental freedoms, and a lack of genuine competition.

Furthermore, while the election administration was organized and well-resourced, OSCE observers reported widespread disregard for mandatory procedures, lack of transparency, and numerous serious irregularities, such as ballot box stuffing. We urge Azerbaijan to address these concerns expeditiously.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.