

PC.DEL/797/09
16 October 2009

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Delegation of Uzbekistan

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN AT THE
MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

15 October 2009

**Agenda item “Any other business”: Parliamentary elections in Uzbekistan
to be held in December 2009**

Madam Chairperson,

The delegation of Uzbekistan would like to inform the Permanent Council that the campaign for the elections to the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis (Parliament) of the Republic of Uzbekistan and to the district, local and municipal Kengashi (councils) of people's deputies officially began in Uzbekistan on 22 September 2009.

The elections will take place on 27 December 2009 in accordance with part 2 of Article 117 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan and with the Law on Elections to the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

We should like particularly to stress that, in conformity with national legislation, all the arrangements for the election campaign will be made by the Central Election Commission and the local election commissions in strict compliance with the basic principles and requirements of electoral legislation and the Concept for the Preparation and Conduct of Elections to the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan and to District, Local and Municipal Kengashi of People's Deputies.

Taking into account the significant developments taking place in the country's socio-political life, in the interests of enhancing legislative work and the socio-political activities of the parties and civil society institutions in the democratic renewal of Uzbekistan, the number of seats in the Legislative Chamber has been increased from 120 to 150, and the system whereby candidates for office could be put forward by voters' action groups has been abolished. Thus the right to put forward candidates for seats in the Legislative Chamber now rests exclusively with political parties.

In addition, because of the tremendous importance of issues concerning the protection of the environment and efforts to improve the ecological situation and public health, 15 seats are assigned to deputies elected by the Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan.

Legislation has been passed making provision for authorized representatives of political parties to have the right to participate in the counting of votes at polling stations and in verifying the accuracy of voter lists. The possible number of confidential agents of candidates for office has been increased from 5 to 10. Legislative provisions have also been introduced to ensure greater transparency in the activities of election commissions with regard to the preparation and conduct of elections.

The election campaign and the elections themselves will be conducted on the basis of generally recognized international standards, observing the principles of fairness, choice and transparency. Local and foreign observers representing various international organizations, including the OSCE, the Shanghai Co-operation Organization, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Organization of the Islamic Conference, are being invited to observe the progress of the election campaign and the elections themselves.

In that connection, we should like to inform you that the Uzbek Government has already extended an official invitation to the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) to take part in the elections in a monitoring capacity.

The Uzbek Government hopes that the international observers will act strictly in accordance with the provisions of the Copenhagen Document adopted by the 1990 Conference on the Human Dimension.

Uzbekistan takes the view that the ODIHR's participation in and objective assessment of the forthcoming parliamentary elections in Uzbekistan should assist in the further development of democratic processes in our country.

Thank you for your attention.