



**DELEGATION  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN TO THE OSCE**

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**Statement  
by the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the OSCE,  
Ambassador Kairat Abdrakhmanov  
at the 857<sup>th</sup> Permanent Council meeting  
7 April 2011**

Mr. Chairperson,  
Excellencies,  
Dear colleagues,

Many thanks for all previous statements.

As you are aware, the people of Kazakhstan made their choice in the presidential elections held last Sunday, 3 April.

On the basis of the election results, the Central Election Commission (CEC) of the Republic of Kazakhstan announced that President Nursultan Nazarbayev had been re-elected to the office of president with 95.55 per cent of the votes. Zhambyl Akhmetbekov of the Communist People's Party of Kazakhstan, Mels Yeleussizov, head of the "Tabigat" Ecological Union, and Gani Kassymov, leader of the Party of Patriots of Kazakhstan, received 1.36 per cent, 1.15 per cent and 1.94 per cent of the votes respectively.

All in all, 8,279,227 of the 9,200,298 people eligible to vote – in other words 89.98 per cent of the total electorate – participated in the elections.

The impressive victory of the incumbent President, Nursultan Nazarbayev, was a fair and natural outcome of his outstanding constructive work to build an economically powerful, socially stable and democratic State. You were able to see for yourselves last year, having visited my country on several occasions during its Chairmanship of the OSCE, how far Kazakhstan's society has progressed in terms of modernization.

A total of 1,059 observers from the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (OSCE PA), the

Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), the Parliamentary Assembly of the Turkic-Speaking Countries (TURKPA) and the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, along with observers from foreign countries, came to Kazakhstan to monitor the presidential elections and assess how free, fair and transparent they were. All the necessary conditions were put into place for the observers and representatives of the media, and they themselves have said that they received every possible support.

In this connection, I should like to briefly share a few basic thoughts regarding the assessments made by the international observers.

The statement of preliminary findings and conclusions by the International Election Observation Mission sent by the ODIHR and the OSCE PA mentioned significant improvements in the electoral process. Kazakhstan also noted that there were few compliments in the report, which, in our view, was undeservedly critical on the whole.

The ODIHR report is very detailed and touches on many aspects of the electoral process. It certainly warrants careful study by the relevant bodies in my country. The observers were meticulous in their approach, and I would even go as far as to say that they spared no effort to identify shortcomings, even the most insignificant ones, in our political system. Evidently this is the method of work by election experts that has been approved during countless observation missions in the past. At the same time, we are becoming increasingly aware of the need to adapt these methods to the present-day realities. We might recall in that connection Maastricht Ministerial Council Decision No. 5/03 on elections, which states that “democratic elections can be conducted under a variety of different electoral systems and laws”. Perhaps one of the ministerial decisions to be adopted in Vilnius should deal with the issue of improving the OSCE’s election-related activities.

Confirmation to this view might be what the head of the delegation of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, who said, I quote “PACE has observed elections in Kazakhstan in the past and is pleased to state progress from one election to another in this country. The delegation is united in its view that despite certain imperfections that invariably mark all elections in any country, the outcome of this vote truly reflects the will of Kazakhstan’s electorate.”

It might also be added that the head of the CIS observation mission, Sergey Lebedev, noted that “the necessary conditions had been created in the Republic for the international observation of the elections, attesting to the openness of the electoral process. Furthermore, the mission concluded that the legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan makes it possible to hold free and democratic elections on the basis of universal, equal and direct suffrage”.

The head of the SCO observation mission, Muratbek Imanaliyev, also declared that the elections had been free and transparent. The head of the observation mission sent by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Turkic-Speaking Countries, Aidyn Mirzazade, considered the presidential elections in Kazakhstan to be legitimate and in compliance with all international democratic standards.

Unfortunately, against this background the ODIHR Mission of observers did not grasp the free and transparent atmosphere, in which elections were held, as well as a significant progress in Kazakhstan in this direction. The ODIHR estimations did not reflect the fact that the authorities and society exercised political will and aspiration to facilitate that these elections match the international standards and the OSCE commitments for democratic elections. This is why, I ought to state that such an approach seriously affects our joint efforts to strengthen confidence measures and eliminate the dividing lines that, unfortunately, still exist in our Organisation.

**Dear colleagues,**

We are grateful to all the observers, including the long- and short-term observers sent by the ODIHR/OSCE, for their work and for their assiduous efforts in preparing their conclusions. I am certain that all these valuable and objective comments will be duly noted and carefully analysed with a view to the possible adoption of relevant decisions in my country.

In the meantime, the political outcome of the elections – the impressive victory of Nursultan Nazarbayev – truly reflects the authority of the incumbent President and the unity of the leader and people of Kazakhstan.

I should like to stress in particular that Kazakhstan will continue its ongoing democratization efforts. For example, literally the day after the election, during a press conference, President Nazarbayev declared that Kazakhstan would continue its political modernization in the future. “This is what the international community is hoping for. We shall strengthen the rule of law through an independent judicial system. We shall work on decentralizing power, although we are a unitary State and have a vast territory. Beginning with the next parliamentary elections, parliament will be a multi-party one, as stipulated in our Constitution. Freedom of the media, as accepted throughout the world, will be at the centre of our attention, and we have our partners and friends in the West to advise us on these matters. We shall consult with them”, the President underscored.

Generally speaking, we should like to call delegations’ attention to the following aspects:

- The stability of the pre- and post-election political situation and the orderly socio-economic circumstances in Kazakhstan, along with the conditions and opportunities created for the unhindered monitoring of the elections;
- The high voter turnout attests to the sincere involvement and interest of the people of Kazakhstan in the process of governing the country;
- The election commissions at all levels, including the CEC, carried out their work in a professional, independent, open and public manner. Their regular meetings were open to representatives of the media and observers;
- The CEC ensured that large-scale briefings were held and published instructive material for subordinate election commissions;
- The political parties were entitled to put forward their members for participation in the election commissions, with the exception of the CEC;
- Efforts were made to improve the quality of the voter lists through the large-scale verification of households and by ensuring that the voter lists could be checked;
- The media made sure that candidates received equal coverage, and the principle of equal access to the media was upheld;
- The CEC received no complaints from presidential candidates of flagrant violations having a significant impact on the overall electoral process;
- No use was made of negative public relations or smear campaigns.

Against the background of political upheavals in neighbouring regions and the global financial and socio-economic instability, Kazakhstan, as you have all been able to see for yourselves, has taken a huge step forward in its democratic development. My focus on the socio-economic aspects of society's development is deliberate. Today, we are seeing in many countries with so-called "Western" democracies that the electorate are unhappy with some of the platforms of the political parties that were in office during the profound economic crisis.

In this regard allow me once again to quote what my President said after the election: "While presidential elections usually divide a country into different political factions, our election has united us; while there is bloodshed and ethnic discord elsewhere in the world, we stand united – all ethnic groups, peoples and religions in Kazakhstan; while jobs are being cut and factories are closing down in other places, we are building factories and creating new jobs; while pensions are being curtailed today in other places, we are increasing them. In the year of the 20th anniversary of our independence, the people of Kazakhstan have once again

shown the entire world that our young country is a respected member of the international community. We are open to the entire world and we are building a democratic Kazakhstan.”

Thank you for your attention.