



INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS
ON ELECTIONS TO THE LEGISLATIVE
CHAMBER OF THE OLIY MAJLIS
OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN,
REGIONAL, DISTRICT AND CITY
KENGHASHES OF PEOPLE'S DEPUTIES

DECEMBER 2009

«UZBEKISTON»

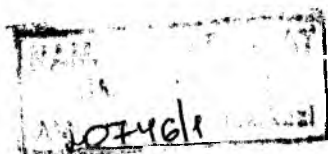


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DECEMBER 2009

TASHKENT
«UZBEKISTAN»
2010

This collection has been compiled by the Press Service of the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan. It reflects the opinions, feedback and assessment of international observers expressed at briefings and press conferences, statements in numerous interviews taken by representatives of national and international mass media with regard to preparation, organization and holding of elections to Legislative Chamber of Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan, regional, district and city Kenghashes (Councils) of people's deputies, conducted December 27, 2009.



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ELECTIONS TO THE LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER OF THE OLIY MAJLIS OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN, REGIONAL, DISTRICT AND CITY KENGHASHES OF PEOPLE'S DEPUTIES: SIGNIFICANT STEP TOWARD INTENSIFYING DEMOCRATIC SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL REFORMS

On december 27, 2009, elections were held to the Legislative Chamber of Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan and other representative bodies of power in regions.

In accordance with legislation in Uzbekistan, organization and holding elections to the Legislative Chamber of parliament has been carried out by the Central Election Commission, district and constituency election commissions that form the basis and integrity of the independent electoral system. Commissions at all levels, guided by principles of legality, collegiality, transparency, independence, justice defined by legislation, made all necessary efforts to conduct genuinely democratic elections, to ensure free expression of will be the electorate.

Preparation and holding of elections in full accordance with national legislation and democratic principles of openness, transparency, justice, universal, equal and direct suffrage by secret ballot, stipulated in the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, in the Law «On elections to the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan», «On guarantees of voting rights for citizens» and other

legislative acts in force in the country that regulate the electoral process.

In order to ensure the election campaign in complete accordance with the law, at high democratic level, the Central Electoral Commission approved the Concept of preparations and holding of elections to Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan, regional, district and city Councils of People's Deputies. Corresponding schedule of activities, all regulatory acts were developed defined by the law: directives and regulations on financing and the use of funds for preparation and holding of elections, organization of district election commissions, procedure for the nomination of candidates from the Environmental Movement of Uzbekistan to the Legislative Chamber of parliament and their election, and other issues.

In accordance with the law, 135 territorial constituencies for elections to the Legislative Chamber of parliament were created, lists of which, with their boundaries and the number of electorate in them, as well as information about the personnel of constituency electoral commissions, were published in the press on time.

In their composition, electoral commissions included respected members of public whose nominations had been widely discussed at meetings of Jokargy Kenes of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, regional and Tashkent city councils of deputies and were recommended for approval by the Central Election Commission.

District election commissions set up 8,447 polling stations, including in 44 representative missions of the Republic Uzbekistan in foreign countries, and constituency electoral commissions were instituted.

Particular attention was paid to ensuring the openness, transparency and fairness of the electoral process. Central Election Commission signed agreements to cover the preparation and holding of elections to Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan with the National Television and Radio Company of Uzbekistan, Creative Union of Journalists of Uzbekistan, Public Fund for the Support and Development of Independent Print Media, news agencies of Uzbekistan, and the National Association of Electronic Mass Media.

The major reason for cooperation of the Central Election Commission with the media is to create all the necessary conditions for the electorate to have a comprehensive insight into election programs of political parties and their candidates, to facilitate an informed vote on election day. Information on the preparation and conduct of elections was timely and broadly disseminated on central and local television and radio, government as well as private print media and news agencies of the republic.

All the activities of election commissions, including meetings of the CEC, district and constituency electoral commissions were carried out with the participation of media representatives. Regularly, thematic TV and radio programs were aired, and channels broadcast information videos explaining stipulations of electoral legislation: «Elections are the Mirror of Democracy», «News bulletin of the Central Electoral Commission», and others. Central Election Commission published a series of brochures on basis of electoral law, the preparation and holding of elections to the Legislative Chamber of parliament, participation of political parties and the Environmental Movement of Uzbekistan in

the elections, carrying out election campaign, guaranteeing voting rights of citizens.

2009 elections were held in a significantly increased activity of political parties. In the election campaign all four political parties registered in the country actively participated. During the elections to the Legislative Chamber of Oliy Majlis of Uzbekistan, the Central Election Commission registered 517 candidates nominated by the Social Democratic Party of Uzbekistan «Adolat», Democratic Party of Uzbekistan «Milly Tiklanish», Movement of Entrepreneurs and Business people — Liberal Democratic Party of Uzbekistan, and People's Democratic Party of Uzbekistan.

All political parties and their candidates for parliamentarians were granted equal rights to contend in the election campaign in accordance with the law . To conduct pre-election campaign they were presented with equal airtime on television and radio and equal room in print mass media. This opportunity was effectively used by all the participants in the election campaign.

CEC undertook measures to publish the electoral propaganda materials in sufficient quantities in compliance with principles of providing equal opportunities for political parties and their candidates. This included posters with biographical data of candidates for deputies of the lower house published in mass circulation in Uzbek, Karakalpak and Russian. In addition to this, political parties widely used other tools of election campaign (websites, banners).

Materials and speeches by representatives of political parties, candidates for deputies and election debates

were published in central and regional print media, as well as in party press. They were broadcast on central TV and radio channels «O'zbekiston» and «Yoshlar», regional TV and radio channels of Uzbekistan National Television and Radio Company, as well as on private television channel «NTT».

During the election campaign, political parties held 19,947 meetings in total with the electorate, including 4,364 by the Social Democratic Party of Uzbekistan «Adolat», 4,735 by the the Democratic Party of Uzbekistan «Milly Tiklanish», 5,591 by the Movement of Entrepreneurs and Businesspeople — Liberal Democratic Party of Uzbekistan, and 5,257 meetings by the People's Democratic Party of Uzbekistan.

The campaign was held within legal framework, voters had the opportunity to compare the electoral platforms of political parties, candidates for deputies of the Legislative Chamber, and to make an informed choice on the voting day.

The elections demonstrated the high socio-political activity, the growing level of political and civic consciousness of voters, broad popular support for persistent move of the nation toward intensifying democratic reforms, modernization of the country.

More than 15 million 108 thousand people representing 87.8 percent of those registered on the lists voted in elections of deputies to the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis and local representative bodies.

As a result of voting on December 27, 2009, deputies to the lower house of parliament were elected in 96 constituencies. Furthermore, in accordance with the Law «On elections to the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of

Uzbekistan», on the election day, the Conference of Environmental Movement of Uzbekistan elected 15 deputies to the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis.

Due to the fierce competition among political parties, none of the candidates succeeded to gain the necessary quantity of votes in 39 constituencies for the elections to the Legislative Chamber of Oliy Majlis. In this regard, on 30 December, 2009, the Central Election Commission approved a decision to hold the second round of voting on January 10, 2010, in those constituencies.

In the second vote, which in each of these districts was conducted between two candidates who received the biggest number of votes during major elections two weeks earlier, the electorate numbered 3 million 960 thousand citizens, representing 79.7 percent of voters listed in registers at those 39 constituencies.

Overall, the elections of deputies to the Legislative Chamber of Oliy Majlis produced 150 parliamentarians, including 53 from the Movement of Entrepreneurs and Businesspeople — the Liberal Democratic Party of Uzbekistan, 32 from People's Democratic Party of Uzbekistan, 31 from the Democratic Party of Uzbekistan «Milly Tiklanish», 19 from the Social Democratic Party of Uzbekistan «Adolat». 15 members of parliament are representatives of the Environmental Movement of Uzbekistan. In the lower house, practically all sectors of society are represented. Of the 150 deputies elected, 33 (22 percent) are women.

Among the elected deputies of the lower house of parliament 47 people, or 31.3 percent, have previously been members of the Legislative Chamber. This not only suggests that the elected members had won the confidence of their voters, but also the possibility for

more effective use of their life experience and practical skills in legislative creativity in the work of professional parliament.

In promoting transparency and openness of elections, participation of international and local observers, representatives of the media was of great significance. The broad coverage of the electoral process was provided by over 500 national and 200 foreign mass media.

Monitoring of elections to the Legislative Chamber of Uzbek parliament was carried out by more than 60 thousand observers and authorized representatives of political parties. Elections to the Legislative Chamber, local representative bodies have been attended by more than 270 observers from 36 countries and missions of four international organizations: OSCE / ODIHR, CIS Executive Committee , SCO and the OIC.

International observers were offered all necessary conditions for their activities. They had the opportunity to study the electoral law, get familiarized with the CEC, constituency and district election commissions, and provided with necessary information. They met with leaders of political parties and the Environmental Movement of Uzbekistan, candidate MPs, representatives of the media. On election day, they were free to visit polling stations and monitored the voting process, talked with organizers of elections and voters. Most of them have left notes in Guestbooks of international observers at polling stations, whereby they expressed their views, recommendations and feedback about the organization of elections.

Heads of observer missions from the OSCE / ODIHR and the CIS Executive Committee, as well as some



international observers participated in the Conference of the Environmental Movement of Uzbekistan on elections of deputies to the Legislative Chamber of Oliy Majlis of Uzbekistan.

Observers from international organizations and foreign countries were free to express their opinions about the organization and conduct of elections in Uzbekistan in interviews with representatives of overseas news agencies and local journalists. Heads of observer missions from international organizations held press conferences, made official statements on the outcomes of scrutiny. This collection includes views, assessments and wishes of a number of international observers.

*Mirzo-Ulughbek ABDUSALOMOV,
Chairman of the Central Election Commission
of the Republic of Uzbekistan*

I. ELECTIONS TO THE OLIY MAJLIS, REPRESENTATIVE BODIES OF POWER: REFLECTION OF PROFOUND DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES IN UZBEKISTAN

«I appreciate the reforms carried out in Uzbekistan in all areas, including improvements in electoral law. Voters actively participate in the elections and exercise their civic duty. This will of course have a positive effect on the prospect of democratic development of your country.»

Jacques BARA,
Professor of Patheon-Assas Paris II,
France

(Interview, «Davr» Program, «Yoshlar» channel,
December 27, 2009)



«It is not a coincidence that there have arrived around 300 international observers to the elections in Uzbekistan. This suggests that the international prestige of Uzbekistan is growing and the success of wide-scale reforms and economic growth are arousing great interest in the world.»

Santiago Ruiz-MORALES,
Chairman of Uzbek-Spanish Friendship Association,
Spain

(«Manifestation of democracy, transparency
and multi-party system» //
Pravda Vostoka, December 29, 2009)

«Your people are confidently passing the way of building a democratic legal state and fair civil society. I believe that the elections will be an important determinant of a new stage of development of your country.»

Demosfenos BARDZOKAS,
Professor of National Technical University,
Greece

(«All conditions created for observers» // UzA, December 23, 2009;
Pravda Vostoka, December 25, 2009)



«It should be stressed that elections in Uzbekistan are important to consolidate and expand democratic institutions. Set of political, economic, social and cultural international factors, the core of which is the state mechanism, ensures the sovereignty and sustainable social development. The revival of national statehood is a truly significant contribution of the President of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov to the political and social development of your country and heritage of the nation, the value of which will grow over time and be as an invaluable institutional legacy for future generations.»

Vittorio GEORGE,
Member of Bar Association «Evroyurist Italy»,
Italy

(«Democratic reforms in Uzbekistan
in the eyes of the Italians» // IA «Jahon», December 21, 2009)



«This is not my first visit to your country. Every time, being here, I am increasingly convinced of great changes in your country and most importantly growing confidence

of ordinary people in their future. In my opinion, these are the direct result of profound socio-economic and political reforms, being realized from the first days of independence in Uzbekistan.»

Lee GUENGGI—SIK,
president-publisher of the journal «Korean Post»,
Republic of Korea

(«International observers on parliamentary elections
in Uzbekistan //
IA «Jahon», December 29, 2009)



«During the independence, Uzbekistan has achieved great success in all areas of development. Well-being of the people is continuously growing and the authority of your country is increasing on the international arena. It shows the loyalty of the way of national development, chosen by the government. It is being conducted an extensive work to build a democratic legal state and a strong civil society in Uzbekistan. I have participated in previous elections held in Uzbekistan. I would like to emphasize that the election process is refined. The work to ensure the supremacy of law, the principles of justice is giving its results.»

Anatoliy KASYANENKO,
Deputy Chairman of the Board of JSC Ukrhydroenergo,
Ukraine

(«The electoral process in line with international standards» //
IA «Jahon», December 26, 2009)



«When observing electoral process of a determined state, it is firstly needed to study history, mentality, values, traditions and customs of the people. Electoral processes in your country are held in a spirit of generosity, reconciliation and unity, inherent to the Uzbek people, in an

atmosphere of peace and justice in accordance with democratic principles. This purposefully designed electoral system promotes the country forward. I am pleased that along with other areas, the activity of women is observed in the political system of Uzbekistan. The large number of women among candidates shows the attention, paid to improve women status in society. During the stay, I visited the polling stations and districts of Bukhara region. It should be noted that there are all conditions, as for voting and observers.»

Shalahuddin KAFRAVI,
Teacher's College, Hobart and William Smith
(New York and Geneva) on issues of philosophy,
law, ethics, religious studies, Islamic studies
and cultural studies,
USA

(«Meetings of political parties with voters
have been open and active» // UzA, 26 December 2009;
«The manifestation of democracy, transparency and multi-party
system» // Pravda Vostoka, 29 December 2009)



«... I participated as an observer in parliamentary elections held 2004. Since that time, in Uzbekistan there have been been fundamental radical changes toward democratic development. Especially noticeable is the bulky progress made by political parties. They are working more closely with the population, improving party programs, there is a fierce political competition. During this election campaign, parties actively debated with each other, criticized manifests of rivals. This is the result of increased competition among them, the struggle for hearts and mind of the electorate. And if the end goals of all parties in Uzbekistan are reduced to one — progress of society, the

ways to achieve these goals vary with each party. I have familiarized myself with the concept of CEC and I must acknowledge this is a rather important document. It provides all the conditions for an open work of the media, observers, which certainly confirms the democratic nature of elections. The franchise attracted a large number of observers from various countries that in itself is proof of fairness and openness of their conduct.»

Mohammad SALOMA,
deputy chief editor of «Al-Masaiya» newspaper,
Egypt

(«On open and transparent democratic principles //
«Uzbekistan Today», December 31, 2009)



«Political parties and movements successfully carry out their activities in Uzbekistan. As in many other countries, they play an increasing role in the formation of the government and public administration.»

Dr. HOFFEENBERG,
Consultant on EU Company «Vasto Danmark»,
Denmark

(«Foreign experts and the media on parliamentary elections
in Uzbekistan // IA «Jahon», 1 December, 2009)



«The very progress of electoral campaign and the legal framework completely meet the generally accepted electoral standards. Having the platforms of parties, candidates and their goals and objectives, I can say that within five years of parliamentary activity, the legal basis of your countries

independence, and all spheres in line with democratic principles will consolidate.»

Peter SHPARY,
Vice-President of Germany-Uzbekistan Society,
Germany

(Interview to «Akhborot» Program of «Uzbekiston» TV channel,
December 26, 2009)



«While observing the parliamentary elections in your country, I was convinced of their corresponding to all principles of democracy. The increase of political parties' participation in the modernization of your country will further strengthen the democracy. There are all conditions and legal framework in your country, to realize the electoral rights of citizens, free will in choosing their candidate, ensuring the legitimate interests.»

Amar Zunnun Abdulrahman AL-SANJAR,
Head of the central bureau
of publishing newspaper «Al-Bayan»,
United Arab Emirates

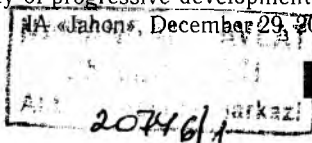
(«Today's elections will give significant results in the future» //
UzA, 27 December 2009)



«The democratic processes in Uzbekistan, are consistent, and elections to the Oliy Majlis — vivid evidence of irreversibility of their sustained development.»

Dato Haji Wan Ahmad bin Wan OMAR,
Deputy Chairman of the Electoral Commission,
Malaysia

(«The irreversibility of progressive development» //
«Jahon», December 29, 2009)



«I visited voting stations in Tashkent, Jizzakh and Khorezm regions, and can say that the preparation to the parliamentary elections in Uzbekistan was very thorough. In order to ensure the practical implementation of the electoral rights of citizens, an electoral system is formed that meets international standards.

Our mission participated in presidential elections held in Uzbekistan in 2007. Since then, the electoral system and laws in the country, as well as the organization of elections have been improved. All laws on elections in Uzbekistan meet international norms.

Creation of the Environmental Movement of Uzbekistan for the purpose of environmental protection and solving ecological problems, granting it 15 seats in the lower chamber of Oliy Majlis is a bright example of that tremendous amount of work to address the environmental situation is carried out in the country.

Elections are held with accordance to democratic principles, openly and transparently. At polling stations, all the necessary conditions are created for holding elections at a high level.

We met with representatives of political parties and candidates, studied their election program. The programs of candidates reflect a range of aspects and dimensions to serve the country's future.

The variety of directions and priorities of programs reinforces healthy competition between the parties. Election of worthy candidates will contribute to the further prosperity of Uzbekistan and raising the well-being of people.»

Sergey LEBEDEV,
Head of the CIS observers mission,
Chairman of CIS Executive Committee,

(«Elections are held in accordance with democratic principles» // UzA, 27 December 2009)

«Uzbekistan has achieved significant gains in consolidating the democratic foundations of society. It is noteworthy that the current elections in Uzbekistan are based on even more perfect legislation, which made the electoral process ultimately, transparent and created most favorable conditions for candidates and voters as well as the media who cover the preparation for and holding elections.»

Basvati SARKAR,
Professor, School of International Studies
Jawaharlar Nehru University,
India

(«Uzbekistan—India: Consolidating the ties». //
IA «Jahon», December 25, 2009)

«I have participated as an observer in several election campaigns in Uzbekistan and each time I've seen that the level of organization of elections is growing. In your country, the law guarantees the holding of open transparent elections on the basis of democratic principles and in accordance with international standards. Having familiarized with all laws and legislative acts on elections, as well as amendments, I can say with confidence that for the full implementation of the electoral rights of citizens in your country an electoral system is established that fully meets international standards. I would like to stress that in this respect Uzbekistan may serve as an example for many countries. Increasing the number of seats in the Legislative Chamber of Oliy Majlis from 120 to 150 will help improve the laws, social and political activities of parties and civil society institutions in the process of democratic renewal of the country.»

Nerri YUSHVAEV-KAVALER,
board member of the Congress
of Bukharian Jews in USA and Canada,
USA

(«The people of Uzbekistan on active preparation for the elections» //
UzA, December 23, 2009)

«I have visited Uzbekistan several times, participated in international academic conferences. I am very pleased to participate in the elections as an observer. I agree with the views of other international observers that the political and social development in your country is accelerating, backed by the current electoral processes. We see how effective the democratic system is in Uzbekistan. This is confirmed by high civic activism. It is an absolute factor in the further advancement of the republic.»

Fahad Al-MEKRAD,
Director General for Continuous Education
Arab Open University,
Kuwait

(Interview to «Akhborot» Program, «Uzbekiston» TV Channel // December 26, 2009)



«After reviewing the laws and regulations underwriting the electoral system of your country, I came to be convinced in the fact that priorities human interests in this area also be ensured when setting. I visited the cities of Navoi and Zarafshan for the first time. Citizens were active in the elections. Qualification of members in the district and constituency election commissions, their legal knowledge meet all the requirements. Fully consistent with international standards are processes of preparing and holding elections. A striking example of this is the participation in the upcoming elections of hundreds of observers from different countries and international organizations. Elections to the Legislative Chamber of Oliy Majlis proved again the high outcomes of large-scale reforms undertaken to modernize the country and build a civil society. Allocation of 15 parliamentary seats in the Legislative Chamber of Oliy Majlis to the Environmental Movement of Uzbekistan is a

testimony to the special attention given in your country to addressing the ecological situation.»

Dmitry ALEKSANDROV,
representative of Observer Mission
of CIS Executive Committee,
Russia

(«Elections prove once again the effectiveness
of wide-ranging reforms» // UzA, 27 December 2009;
«The manifestation of democracy, transparency
and multiparty politics» // Pravda Vostoka, 29 December 2009)



«There are all necessary conditions for voters and observers at the polling stations. It is remarkable that anyone can get acquainted with the biographies and programs of the candidates of political parties. Each time visiting Uzbekistan, I admire the radical transformations taking place in your country. The great progress in the process of further improving the welfare of the people in Uzbekistan, were obtained by the world community.»

Akbar Ahmad UZGAN,
Chairman of the Society of Friendship
«Pakistan-Uzbekistan»,
Pakistan

(«All conditions for observers» //
UzA, December 23, 2009)



«During the day I was in several polling stations, and found that all the organizational work was in the highest level. The mood of the electorate — positive. Youth activism is especially attractive. The country, where young generations think about its future, has only the brilliant prospects. In addition, I witnessed the enormous creation works in

Samarkand. While there is a global financial crisis, you are building modern buildings, new schools, lyceums and colleges, this proves that your country is on the path of development in all spheres.»

Ma CHZHENGAN,
President of the China Institute
for International Studies,

(Interview to «Davr» Program, «Yoshlar» channel, December 27, 2009)



«I watched the process of voting in some constituencies of the city of Margilan and was convinced that the elections were held in full accordance with democratic norms. There are all conditions and opportunities to ensure the voters freely express their will at polling stations. Uzbekistan has chosen a correct path of development and is confidently passing this way. There will be held a second election between two candidates who received the most votes in the districts, where the nominees were unable to gain enough votes on election day. This is another bright example of practical manifestation of democratic principles in your country.»

Abdulkodir AL HABIBULLAH,
political and financial analyst,
Saudi Arabia

(«The practical manifestation of generally
accepted international norms» // UzA, 29 December 2009)



«During the independence, Uzbekistan has made tremendous strides in all spheres, particularly in the economy. The welfare of the people and the authority of

Uzbekistan on the international arena is growing. This is a clear example of the correctness of national development way chosen by the government.»

Sun ZHUANGZHI,
Secretary General of SCO; Research Centre
at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences,

(«The electoral process in line with international standards» //
IA «Jahon», December 26, 2009; Pravda Vostoka, December 26, 2009)



«Peace and stability reigning in Uzbekistan, left huge impression on me. Since the independence there was entrenched democracy, religious tolerance, social justice and humanism in your country. Uzbekistan is envied in this sense.»

Vladimir MESAMED,
Professor, University of Jerusalem,
Israel

(«International observers speak»
// Newspaper «Zaraifshon», December 29, 2009)



«Since the moment Uzbekistan gained independence, it has made significant strides in economic and market liberalization, in the educational sphere, created an open and transparent banking system, democratic justice system and others. Active participation of citizens in political life, electoral legislation recognized by the global community, the important role of political parties in the society and multiparty system — all this is progress in the development of democracy and building civil society in the country.

There have been many indicators characterizing the democratic development of Uzbekistan».

Nikos BARDUNIAS,
journalist, a leading financial and economic
analyst of the newspaper Kafimerini,
Greece

(«Greek experts on parliamentary elections in Uzbekistan» //
IA «Jahon», December 24, 2009)



«Important changes have occurred in the sphere of nation-building in Uzbekistan: political system is developing dynamically, professionally operates a bicameral parliament, electoral system and legislative framework of elections are formed in accordance with international law, and most importantly, there are all necessary conditions for free and active participation of citizens and political parties in the electoral processes.»

Shalahuddin KAFRAVI,
Teacher's College, Hobart and William Smith
(New York and Geneva) on issues of philosophy,
law, ethics, religion, islamovedeiya
and cultural studies,
USA

(«Uzbekistan is developing democracy based
on the priority of public opinion» // IA «Jahon»
December 23, 2009)

II. ELECTION LAWS AND THE ELECTORAL SYSTEM IN UZBEKISTAN MEET THE HIGHEST DEMOCRATIC STANDARDS AND PRINCIPLES

«Undoubtedly, the parliamentary elections in Uzbekistan are held in accordance with world standards and democratic principles. I can assert this fact on the basis of observing the preparations for elections at polling stations. In general, the proper level of organization of electoral processes in your young nation deserves recognition.»

Julia KHERSON,
Coordinator of International Programs
University of Georgia,
USA

(Interview to «Hudud» Program, private broadcasting network NTT,
December 27, 2009)



«I have carefully studied the work on preparation and holding of elections to the Legislative Chamber of Oliy Majlis. I became acquainted with the course of campaigning and programs of political parties in the Internet and got loads of details about them. It should be noted that all legislation regarding the elections fully meet international standards. There are all the necessary conditions for international observers of the electoral process in your country. I should say that Uzbekistan pays great attention to all spheres, including education. I was convinced of this at many educational institutions in your country.»

Siddharth SAKSENA,
Chairman of the Cambridge Forum for Central Asia,
UK

(«For the observers all conditions» // UzA, December 23, 2009,
Pravda Vostoka, December 25, 2009)

«All necessary conditions are created in Uzbekistan for international observers to ensure direct scrutiny of the elections to the Legislative Chamber of Oliy Majlis. The electoral process in Uzbekistan is similar to electoral systems of developed democratic states. Clear evidence of this is the current elections going on the basis of democratic principles, openness and transparency. I am convinced that these elections, going on a multiparty basis, will bear significant fruits in the future, the people will elect those MPs who were deemed worthiest.»

Gerhard KRAMLI,
General Manager of the Institute of
experiments and research in construction,
Austria

(«Today's elections will give significant results in the future» //
UzA, December 27, 2009;

«The manifestation of democracy, transparency
and party» // Pravda Vostoka, December 29, 2009)



«In your country all the conditions for participation of citizens in elections are created. They exercise their electoral rights, there is legal basis for a free expression of will by people, implementation and protection of their legitimate interests.»

Sun ZHUANGZHI,
Secretary General of Research Center for SCO
at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences,

(«Electoral processes in line with international standards» //
IA «Jahon», December 26, 2009,
«Pravda Vostoka», December 26, 2009)

«Participation in elections is one of the fundamental rights of citizens in every country. I saw this once again when I was an observer in elections in your country. The representatives of various nations and nationalities, regardless of language or religion, vote for their choice of the most deserving candidates.»

Vladimir MESAMED,
Professor, University of Jerusalem,
Israel

(«International observers» // Newspaper «Zarafshon», December 29, 2009)



«I visited more than 15 polling stations in the capital. Most of the voters there are young people. This shows how active are young people in your country, how interested the younger generation is in elections and political processes in general. I believe the introduction of authorized representatives of parties according to changes in legislation was an important event. Because thanks to representatives who will watch the counting of ballots will be provided the inherent attributes of democratic elections — transparency, openness and publicity.

In recent years, your country has done much for the democratization and liberalization of the electoral legislation. It effectively applied democratic international standards and principles. In accordance with amendments to electoral law of Uzbekistan, the number of proxies of candidates for deputies of the Legislative Chamber of Oliy Majlis increased from 5 to 10 people.»

Vicente Lorez Ibor MAYOR,
President of the law firm «Estudio Juridico Internacional»,
member of Committee for public procurement,
European Commission,
Spain

(«Opinions of foreign observers» //
Newspaper «Jamiyat», January 1, 2010)

«I saw that there were all the necessary conditions for holding elections at the highest organizational level in polling stations. This shows that Uzbekistan has created the electoral system that meets democratic principles. Each party had a pre-election program. The rivalry among the political parties could be called a result of fair competition. Advocacy of candidates was also duly established. Ensuring free will for voters was an important factor of active participation of citizens in this process. Feels that they have great interest in democratic elections. The active participation of youth in the process deserves special credit. Interested youth participation in the voting process means that they are not indifferent for the fate and future of the country. At the polling stations, we found no violations of the law. No complaints from voters.»

Shirin AKINER,
Senior Researcher, Cambridge Forum for Central Asia,
UK

(«The elections were conducted in accordance
with international standards» //
UzA, December 28, 2009)



«Elections are an important political event that serves the development of each country. It is encouraging that the issue is highlighted in Uzbekistan. Citizens know very well the essence of elections, they studied biographies and programs of candidates. Directly observed the voting at polling stations. It met the law. I also got familiarized with the electoral legislation of Uzbekistan. It is designed in full accordance with international standards.»

Kovarik HELLMUTH,
Regional Director of the company «Notapharm GmbH»,
Austria

(«The manifestation of democracy, transparency and multi-party system» // Pravda Vostoka, December 29, 2009)

«Elections are an important institution of democracy and a means of free expression of will for the people, their active participation in political life and public administration. On election day, I visited a few sites. Elections to the parliament of Uzbekistan were free and democratic. This I could make sure by visiting the polling stations. The citizens voted freely, by secret ballot. It should be emphasized that the holding of elections on a multiparty and alternative basis, direct vote of every citizen show the elections meet all democratic principles and international norms.»

Safa Mahmud ALWAN,
owner of the company «Orient Consulting & Legal
Translation» and «New Orient»,
freelance correspondent for Al-Khaleej newspaper,
United Arab Emirates

(«Practical manifestation of universally accepted international norms» // UzA, 29 December 2009)



«To participate in the electoral process of Uzbekistan, hundreds of foreign experts and international observers were invited, which is evidence that the country formed the electoral system and legislation that meet world standards. In carrying out my duties as observer at several polling stations in Gulistan city, I saw that there were all necessary conditions for voters, local and international observers. I got acquainted with electoral laws, relevant books and literature. Openness and transparency of elections, a healthy rivalry among the political parties, created amenities and opportunities for expression of free will of citizens indicate that this important political event passed in accordance with international standards».

Vasiliy ASTREYKO,
Head of Department, CIS Executive Committee

(«The elections met international standards» // UzA, December 28, 2009;

«The manifestation of democracy, transparency and multiparty system» // Pravda Vostoka, December 29, 2009)

«I was observer during the elections to the Legislative Chamber of Oliy Majlis in 2004 as well. Over the past period your electoral legislation has become more sophisticated, as evidenced, for example, by strong, healthy competition among the parties. Voters are well aware that their choices will serve the development of the country, the welfare of the people. When spending time at polling stations in Peshku district of Bukhara region, I was struck by the political activity and higher legal consciousness of villagers.»

Mohammad SALOMA,
deputy chief editor of «Al-Masaiya» newspaper,
Egypt

(«The elections met international standards» // UzA, December 28, 2009;

«The manifestation of democracy, transparency and multiparty system» // Pravda Vostoka, December 29, 2009)

«I got acquainted with the laws and regulations in Uzbekistan on elections, as well as amendments. They fully correspond to international standards, ensure observance of constitutional rights of voters and recognized by the international community of democratic principles. The large number of international observers in parliamentary elections is the practical result of the enormous work to strengthen democracy in Uzbekistan.»

Choi Yong HA,
Professor, Sonmun University,
Republic of Korea

(«The people of Uzbekistan are actively preparing for elections» // UzA, December 23, 2009, Pravda Vostoka, December 24, 2009)

«I got familiarized with the preparations for the elections, received a lot of information. The electoral legislation of your country fully complies with international standards. All the conditions for international observers.»

Abdul Aziz BUKHARI,
Director of Uzbek Cultural Center of Jerusalem,
Israel

(Interview to «Davr» Program, «Yoshlar» channel, December 27, 2009)

«Uzbekistan has created all necessary conditions for holding elections at a very high level, with all the democratic principles of international practice. The mood of the people testifies to the great activity of the electorate.»

Hans-Joachim KNAUPE,
Director of the Academy of International Economics,
Germany

(«Nearly 90% of the population votes in elections» //
«Uzreport.com», December 30, 2009)

«As a journalist I watched the voting process at the polling station 5 of Buka district, Tashkent region. People are actively going to vote. I think that the electoral system in Uzbekistan meets international norms and standards. After returning to China I plan to publish analytical articles about the positive experiences of these elections in Uzbekistan.»

Fu MINSIN,
Head of editorials of «China» magazine,
China

(Interview to Program «Hudud», private television network «NTT» //
December 27, 2009; UzA, December 29, 2009)

«I have come to your country for the second time. Once again I was convinced that preparations for elections comply with the international standards. I believe that the elections will be based on principles of transparency and democracy.»

Jacques BARA,
Professor at «Patheon-Assas Paris II» University,
France

(«Electoral processes in line with international standards» //
Pravda Vostoka, December 26, 2009)



«The elections were transparent and democratic, in an environment akin to European standards. We monitored the voting process in the city of Tashkent and surrounding areas, where there was active voter participation in elections.»

Eldar IBRAHIMOV,
MP, Chairman of the Standing Committee
of the Milli Mejlis on Agrarian Policy,
Azerbaijan

(«Observer Mission of Azerbaijani Parliament says
elections to the Oliy Majlis of Uzbekistan held
transparent and democratic» // Agency of
the Azeri-Press (APA), December 28, 2009)



«Even before the elections, I had studied electoral legislation in Uzbekistan and ascertained that it was not only based on international standards and democratic principles, but also on principles of humanism and tolerance that are inherent in your people. From that special attention is paid to teaching women and youth in this process. In

particular, according to the electoral legislation of your country, at least 30 percent of candidates for deputies from political parties are women. And the preparations for the elections to areas were all the conditions for political party representatives and observers, journalists, organized clinics, rooms for mother and child. It also testifies to the great attention and care about the future of the younger generation, protection of motherhood and childhood.»

Rocco ABRAM,
Chairman of the Association Uzbekistan-Italy,
Italy

(«The elections met international standards» // UzA, December 28, 2009)



«I have long worked in Uzbekistan, so in your country I am almost native. Participated as observer also in the election of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2007. Elections to the Legislative Chamber correspond to democratic principles and international standards. Talked with voters at several polling stations in the city of Karshi. Note that each voter approaches this political process consciously and responsibly, they know why and for whom to vote. Impressed with the turnout of the elderly and youth.»

Sergey TIKHOMIROV,
deputy chairman of the
Interregional Association «Siberian Agreement»,
Russia

(«The elections were conducted in accordance with international standards» // UzA, December 28, 2009;

«The manifestation of democracy, transparency and multi party system» // Pravda Vostoka, December 29, 2009)

«The preparation to the upcoming elections has been held at a high organizational level. Although it is my first participation in the electoral process in Uzbekistan, I observed the previous elections for in the mass media. During my stay in your country once again I got convinced that the national electoral system is designed in accordance with international standards.»

Bal Ram SAINI,
Co-Chairman
India—CIS Commerce and Industry Chamber,
India

(«Observers share impressions on election process» //
UzA, December 26, 2009;

«The manifestation of democracy, transparency
and multi party system» // Pravda Vostoka, December 29, 2009)



«I want to emphasize the organization of elections in the legislative Chamber of Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the basis of international democratic standards, and creation of necessary conditions for elections in accordance with international standards. Polling stations were fully equipped with all means of technology and communications. In short, a thorough preparation is there for the elections. This has allowed to hold elections at a high level. As an international observer, I can say that Uzbekistan has extensive experience in conducting and organizing democratic elections. Noteworthy is the activity of citizens in the process of voting, election day in certain electoral districts shall be considered failed if they do not collect a sufficient number of ballots, and therefore will be a second vote. This not only conforms to democratic

principles, but also demonstrates fairness and carefully working out the electoral system Uzbekistan.»

Oleg KULEBA,
consultant of CIS Executive Committee
(«The practical manifestation of generally accepted international norms» // UzA, December 29, 2009)



«For a few days I watched the preparations for elections, followed by the process of vote on December 27. Such careful preparation and activity of citizens is rare in other countries. As a rule, political activities are estimated on the basis of international standards. Past elections in Uzbekistan fully correspond to them. Note that good initiatives are inherent in a country where there is peace and harmony. The key to all success, achieved by Uzbekistan is a wise and farsighted policy of Islam Karimov.»

Myrat GARRYEV,
Chairman of the Central Commission
for Elections and Referenda,
Turkmenistan
(«The elections were conducted in accordance with international standards» // UzA, December 28, 2009)



«The legal framework formed in Uzbekistan for elections gives all grounds to speak about liberalization and democratization. Creation of a bicameral parliament was an important step toward improving the activities of public

authorities in line with modern conditions, generally accepted norms of democracy.»

Eduard TAYEB,
Director of the magazine «l'Essentiel des
Relations Internationales»,
France

(«Briefing at the diplomatic mission of Uzbekistan in Paris» //
IA «Jahon», November 26, 2009)

«After reviewing all the laws and documents on election — got convinced that Uzbekistan established the electoral system in full compliance with international standards. On the ballot for change the enabling legislation was another step toward building a democratic state. During presidential elections in your country in 2007, I was also observer. At that time I admired the levels of turnout, which is rare in other countries. This indicates that the wise policy pursued by the President of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov enables citizens to freely vote for their candidate.»

Anatoliy SAVCHUK,
Assistant to Member of House of Representatives,
National Assembly,
Belarus

(«Electoral process in line with international standards» //
IA «Jahon», December 26, 2009;
Pravda Vostoka, December 26, 2009)



«I watched the process of parliamentary elections at several polling stations in Tashkent. Thorough preparations were carried out at all sites. Members of election commissions answer in detail the citizens' questions. Voting

takes place actively and freely. I revised the election laws of Uzbekistan and other electoral documents as well as amendments. They not only comply with international norms, but also reflect the constitutional rights of voters and democratic principles recognized the international community.»

Hadi RAJABLI,
Chairman of the Committee on Social Policy, Milli Majlis,
Azerbaijan

(«Open and transparent elections» //
UzA, December 27, 2009; «The manifestation of democracy,
transparency and multi party system» // Pravda Vostoka,
December 29, 2009)



«It gives me a pleasure to note that the elections are held at a high ta high level in accordance with international norms. This proves that the national electoral system in Uzbekistan gets ever more refined. Apart from that, political activeness of citizens is manifest clearly.»

Abdulrahmon AL-KHAMISI,
Author, member of the Association of Writers,
Egypt

(«International observers speak» //
Newspaper «Zarafshon», December 29, 2009)



«I have had the opportunity to participate in many elections that took place in your country. I got acquainted with documents relating to election legislation of Uzbekistan. I have received satisfactory answers to all questions on

the process. It should be noted that the voters are provided with all necessary conditions. Deserving special attention is the fact that among candidates from political parties, there are many women. This certainly testifies to the enormous emphasis in your country to improving the social status of women. The large-scale work, elections through openness and transparency, democratization of the electoral system, the possibility to freely express the will of voters indicated that the elections will be held in accordance with international standards.»

Boris CANDOV,
President of the Congress of
Bukharian Jews of USA and Canada,
USA

(«The electoral process in line with
international standards» // UzA, December 24, 2009)



«I got familiarized with the amendments to the electoral legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan. I can say with confidence that in your country, there are established laws that meet all international legal norms to ensure citizens' right to vote. And this system has worked quite well and accurately. In my observations, the level of organization is high. Legislation in your country ensures open and transparent elections in accordance with national standards and international norms.»

Nikolai LOZOVIK,
Secretary of the Central Commission for
Elections and Referenda,
Belarus

(Interview to «Davr» Program, «Yoshlar» channel,
December 27, 2009)

«There latest elections in Uzbekistan fully met international standards. The conditions created for voters added a real democratic spirit to the elections. In addition, citizens were fully informed about the candidates for whom they gave their votes. This suggests that each candidate held a high-level campaign.»

Elena KUZMINA,
Senior Research Fellow, Institute of Economics
Russian Academy of Sciences
(«International observers speak» //
«O'zbekiston ovozi», December 29, 2009)



«An important political event is held in Uzbekistan, the parliamentary elections were conducted in full accordance to democratic standards. The fact that candidates from political parties offered their purposeful programs that serve people's interests, as well as the good political awareness of voters, conditions created provided for the active participation of people in this process.»

Kuttykadam Ryskozhauly SEYDAHMET,
editor-in-chief of socio-political
magazine «Mysl» (Thought),
Kazakhstan
(Interview with UzA correspondent, December 28, 2009)



«Without informing anyone, I recently visited a polling station and made sure that the preparatory work is organized at the highest level. No one knew about my arrival, and work went on as usual.

On election day I will be able to monitor the work of polling stations in Tashkent and Urgench. Yet first impressions are such that these elections will take place in conditions of genuine democracy, and I'll return home with bright impressions on the creative process in your country.»

Jean Paul FOURNIER,
Director of Research Group,
National Center for Science and Research,
France

(Interview to «Akhborot» Program, «Uzbekiston»,
December 26, 2009)

«I have repeatedly visited Uzbekistan, but this is my first time in election process as an observer. I oversaw the preparations for the elections, sequence of activities of district and constituency election commissions, familiarized myself with programs of candidates. All work in preparation for the elections are in line with international standards.»

Azmat Hayat KHAN,
Rector of the University of Peshawar,
Pakistan

(«All conditions created for observers» // UzA, December 23, 2009,
Pravda Vostoka, December 25, 2009)

«The current election was preceded by a lot of preparatory work. The Central Electoral Commission had developed a concept, a few international events were held on issues concerning elections. By the way, I, participated in one of them. In the summer of this year in Bukhara, there was a seminar on legal aspects of transparency, openness and publicity in the organization and conduct of elections, where best practices, norms and standards were

explored. Also, the participants are widely acquainted with changes introduced in the electoral law of Uzbekistan. I believe that such events helped organize the whole process today in a clear and coherent way, with a very high turnout.»

Kim YONG-GU,
Member of Committees on Energy and Mineral
Resources, and Small and Medium Businesses
of the National Assembly,
Republic of Korea

(Kim Yong-Gu: «Elections will play an important role in the development of Uzbekistan» // «Uzreport.com», December 30, 2009)



«I would like to note that the elections for the lower house of parliament and local councils of people's deputies in Uzbekistan are at the highest level, the district electoral commission showed ideal preparation for this important for each democratic country event.»

Turarbek SABYROV,
Chief Specialist of the Central Election Commission,
Kyrgyzstan

(«Feels ideal preparation» // Web site
of the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan
«www.elections.uz», December 27, 2009)



«Overall, I would like to note that Uzbekistan has prepared to this election not today, not yesterday; the preparation has been quite for a while. I was able to see this — in September I was in Tashkent at an international conference organized by CEC. I know that the President of Uzbekistan came up with serious legislative initiatives on the development of the national electoral system. All



citizens had the opportunity to get acquainted with this. It is particularly encouraging that in the process of making these changes and public discussion, foreign experts including me were actively involved in it. The experience of CIS, EU, other countries was taken into consideration. Uzbekistan undertook serious preparation for these elections at the legislative level. I had an opportunity at a preliminary stage to visit the city of Navoi and Navoi region, Bukhara. I have no complaints. I am confident that the elections will proceed at a high level, without violations and will be a significant milestone in the consolidation of democracy and political system of the new, modern Uzbekistan.»

Alexey SHERSTABOEV,
Leading Expert of the Fund «Ukrainian Forum»,
Ukraine

(Interview to Program «Akhborot», «Uzbekiston»,
December 26, 2009)



«Conditions at the polls fully correspond with democratic standards. The environment created for young people who are participating in the electoral process, for the first time also deeply impressed me. Technical equipment is also complete. Preparations were conducted at a high level. And this, of course, ensured a high level of politically important process. As an international observer I can say that Uzbekistan has its own methods in elections. I also highly appreciate the active citizen participation in elections.»

Oleg KULEBA,
Consultant of CIS Executive Committee
(Interview to Program «Akhborot», «Uzbekiston»,
December 27, 2009)

«I would like to stress that in Uzbekistan all the conditions were created for observers to participate in the process of elections. Personally, I watched the ballot in several polling stations and found that a thorough preparation for the elections was carried out. The fact that the campaign was at a high level of organization, suggests that Uzbekistan is developing in political, economic and social spheres, and the people in the country are satisfied with their living conditions. This is a very important point. I read the latest amendments to the electoral legislation of your country. Its norms are fully consistent with generally accepted international standards. It will promote an effective work of parliament in all respects, which in turn will lead to further prosperity of the country, raise the living standards. This is one of the main conditions for building a civil society.»

Anatoliy KINAKH,
Member of Verkhovna Rada,
Ukraine

(«International observers speak» //
«Uzbekistan ovozi» December 29, 2009)



«According to preliminary results of elections to the Legislative Chamber of Oliy Majlis, in nearly forty of constituencies candidates failed to gain enough votes. Therefore, in these constituencies will be a rerun for the vote. This is a practical confirmation that the electoral law faces in Uzbekistan, the existing electoral system is fully consistent with generally recognized international standards, the principles of democracy, transparency, efficiency and multiparty system. However, this process will further enhance the confidence of both the public and the international community in the electoral system in your country. In the latest elections in Uzbekistan I examined

at polling stations 288, 297 in Tashkent. It was evident that they had thoroughly prepared for this political event. Laws, newspapers, magazines and posters for the parliamentary elections of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and well as information about the candidates for deputies could be seen in virtually all public places. Another thing I liked in the electoral system in Uzbekistan is that the citizens who for some reason have been unable to come to the polling station, could vote at home, for they have been allocated portable ballot boxes. In no other country have I seen such a bright manifestation of respect to the interests and human rights.»

Lim Zhong MENG,
Vice-President of the magazine «Diplomacy»,
Republic of Korea

(«The practical manifestation of generally
accepted international norms» // UzA, December 29, 2009)

«Due to the fact that in almost forty constituencies candidates failed to score enough votes, re-vote is planned in these constituencies. It is a dramatic confirmation that the electoral system in your country meets international norms, the principles of openness and transparency, multi partyism, and fairness. I want to stress that the Central Election Commission worked carefully and consistently. I got convinced that Uzbek specialists have extensive experience in this regard. I am pleased that during the visit to your country, I was granted an opportunity to not only observe the electoral process, but also study the electoral system of Uzbekistan, exchange views.»

Muhammad Talha Mahmood ARYAN,
Chairman of the Senate Committee on Internal Affairs,
Pakistan

(«The practical manifestation of generally
accepted international norms» // UzA, 29 December 2009)

«We have now visited a number of polling stations in several districts. Elections are held on the basis of international legal norms, principles of transparency and openness. In a relaxed quiet atmosphere, without any pressure, people vote like going on holiday.»

Mordehai KIMYAGAROV,
Head of Public organization of Bukharan Jews, director
of the cultural center «Central Asia—Israel»,
Israel

(«Parliamentary elections in Uzbekistan» //
Agency «Khabar», December 28, 2009)

«I participated in previous elections in your country. There are all conditions for holding elections in open and transparent manner, in accordance with democratic principles and international standards. This can be seen on the example of franchise to the lower house of Oliy Majlis. I visited several polling stations in Tashkent. Citizens are free to exercise their constitutional rights. The voting process at polling stations was closely monitored by journalists, local observers, including representatives of political parties. This is a practical manifestation of democracy.»

Santiago Ruiz-MORALES,
Chairman of Uzbek-Spanish Friendship Association,
Spain

(«Citizens are free to exercise
their constitutional right» //
UzA, December 27, 2009)

«Comparing the electoral systems in different countries, especially in Europe and the USA, it should be noted that the East promotes democracy based on the idea of community, the priority of public opinion. In this regard, I would like to quote President Uzbekistan Islam Karimov, who has repeatedly said that Uzbekistan is seeking to build not just a democratic society, but a fair democratic society based on the idea of national unity, social and ethnic harmony.»

**Shalahuddin KAFRAVI,
Teacher's College, Hobart and William Smith
(New York and Geneva) on issues of philosophy,
law, ethics, religion, islamovedeniye
and cultural studies,
USA**

(«Uzbekistan is developing democracy based
on the priority of public opinion» //
IA «Jahon», December 23, 2009)

III. ELECTIONS TO PARLIAMENT, LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE BODIES HELD IN COMPLETE ACCORDANCE WITH CURRENT LEGISLATION IN UZBEKISTAN

«Voting was carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan «On elections to the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan» and other legal documents. In general, organization of polling stations deserves praise with the active participation of citizens of Uzbekistan in the voting process.

... At the polling stations visited by the Mission, we encountered observers from political parties of Uzbekistan, authorized representatives of candidates, as well as international observers. Complaints and rebuke from those persons during the elections have not been reported to the Mission.

It is important to emphasize that the Mission had an exciting opportunity at its discretion to visit different polling stations, freely observe the elections and to obtain necessary information from constituency commissions.

The Mission has been present at counting the ballots and compiling the relevant protocols on voting results at polling places. During these procedures, violations of the law of the Republic of Uzbekistan «On elections to the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan» were not discovered by the Mission.»

From Statement of the Observer Mission from Shanghai Cooperation Organization on the course of preparation and conduct of elections to the Legislative Chamber of Oliy Majlis of Uzbekistan

(Mission of observers: elections in Uzbekistan were free and open // UzA, 29 December 2009); Statement by the Observer Mission from the Shanghai Cooperation Organization on preparation and holding of elections to the Legislative Chamber of Oliy Majlis of Uzbekistan on Dec. 28, 2009 // Web site of the Central Election Commission of Uzbekistan «www.elections.uz», December 28, 2009)

«The mission of CIS observers believes that the elections to the Legislative Chamber of Oliy Majlis were held in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, election legislation in force in the country, and universally recognized norms of democratic elections. We recognize the elections as free and open, note that the elections demonstrated the political maturity of civil society, provided for the expression of the free will of the electorate, strengthened the foundations of state sovereignty and the democratic foundations of the Republic of Uzbekistan.»

**From Statement of the Observer Mission from the
Commonwealth of Independent States on inspection of the
preparation and holding of elections to Legislative Chamber
of Oliy Majlis of Uzbekistan**

(Mission of observers: elections in Uzbekistan were democratic, free and open // UzA, 29 December 2009; Statement of the Observer Mission from the Commonwealth of Independent States on the results of monitoring the preparation and holding of elections to the Legislative Chamber of Oliy Majlis, December 28, 2009 // The website of the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan «www.elections.uz», December 28, 2009)



«Law «On introducing amendments and addenda to certain legislative acts of the Republic of Uzbekistan aimed at improving the electoral legislation» has provided qualitatively new organizational and legal conditions for active participation of political parties in the formation of representative and executive branches of government. In my opinion, the concept of preparation and holding of elections to Parliament, provincial, district and city Councils of People's Deputies allowed to host this important event in full compliance with national legislation on elections, openly and transparently, without any external influence

and pressure, objectively and honestly, while ensuring the free expression of voters.

Watching the progress of the campaign in Andijan region of Uzbekistan, I have come to the conclusion that deeply thoughtful and deliberate and systematic efforts to improve electoral legislation and the liberalization undertaken in your country have formed a unique environment which in some sense may determine some global trends in the development of election systems, as well as serve as an example for many developed democratic countries in the promotion and realization of electoral rights.»

Bogdana BABICH,
Director of the Institute of Practical Politics,
Ukraine

(«In accordance with the principles of genuine democracy» //
The website of the Central Election Commission of the Republic
Uzbekistan «www.elections.uz», December 27, 2009)



«Our objective is an impartial assessment of how effective the electoral process is, how to prepare for it. We attended a briefing of the CEC and were able to verify that the preliminary work done is already yielding positive results. And while watching the process at a polling station, I can say: everything is organized strictly in accordance with the electoral law, the premises are prepared well. And the fact that the electoral legislation is improving is an inevitable process; democracy, society in general, and political parties are developing. I was pleasantly surprised that the government pays attention to the development of such democratic institutions as elections. The position of President of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov demonstrates that all will be conducted in accordance with the law. There

will be no interference with the work of electoral commission, no administrative pressure on anyone, and that is a rather correct approach. I think this is a good example to other states in how to treat such important political events.»

Vasiliy VOLKOV,
Member of Central Election Commission,
Russia

(Interview to «Akhborot» Program, «Uzbekiston» channel,
December 27, 2009)



«Conduct of elections in Uzbekistan is regulated by the legal framework and procedural rules of law. One of the most important principles is the holding of elections by independent electoral authorities, i.e. the Election Commission.»

A. ATURK,
Lawyer, Member of Permanent Council
of the Democracy Foundation of Turkey,
Turkey

(«Foreign experts and the media on
parliamentary elections in Uzbekistan» // IA «Jahon»,
December 1, 2009; Web site of the Central Election
Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan
«www.elections.uz», December 27, 2009)



«As a politician, I closely watch the development processes in Uzbekistan. I was impressed by the parliamentary elections in your country, by the created conditions for a free vote. On the example of my observations at polling station 177 and 187 of Zarbdor electoral district, 208 and

211 stations of Zamin district, Jizzakh region, I can say that the elections were conducted in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan and international standards. The provision of seats to representatives of the Environmental Movement of Uzbekistan has vital socio-political importance and is worthy of emulation.»

Abul MALIK,
Chairman of Senate Functional Committee
on Regional Issues,
Pakistan

(«The elections were conducted in
accordance with international standards» //
UzA, December 28, 2009)



«We have seen that Uzbekistan has done much for holding democratic elections. The mission of observers from the CIS Executive Committee participated in the previous parliamentary elections in Uzbekistan. National electoral legislation during the intervening period has made great strides ahead. It fully guarantees freedom of the will of citizen to the highest democratic standards. The fact that the 2009 elections are scrutinized by great number of foreign and international observers shows the huge interest of the world to Uzbekistan's growing international reputation.»

Sergey LEBEDEV,
Head of the CIS observers mission,
Chairman of CIS Executive Committee,

(«Elections are held in accordance with democratic principles» //
UzA, 27 December 2009)

«I'm in Uzbekistan not for the first time and would like to note that the elections deserve wide discussion and thorough study. I was in Ferghana region, and familiarized myself with the vote at polling stations. The election campaign took place in an atmosphere of complete openness and transparency in accordance with existing law and international standards, which once again demonstrates the development of democracy in your country.»

Anatoliy KASYANENKO,
Deputy Chairman of the Board
of JSC Ukrhydroenergo,
Ukraine

(«International observers on parliamentary elections in Uzbekistan» // IA «Jahon», December 29, 2009)



«For a few days in Uzbekistan, I monitored the election campaign. Have visited several polling stations in Tashkent and watched the preparatory process. The level of training is very high, a lot of organizational work is done. It is clear that the Central Election Commission very well prepared for the elections.»

Aleksander YUREVICH,
Deputy Head of Department,
CIS Executive Committee

(Interview to Program «Hudud» of television network «NTT»,
December 27, 2009)

«The mission believes that the elections to the Legislative Chamber of Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan were free, transparent and conformed to the requirements of national legislation and international commitments. No violations, questioning the results of voting are detected in this election.»

Sherali JONONOV,
Observer Mission from Shanghai
Cooperation Organization (SCO),
Deputy Secretary General of SCO

(«On open and transparent democratic principles» //
«Uzbekistan Today», December 31, 2009)



«The conditions created are at the highest level, now everything is in the hands of people. To make this process take place at a required level, all legal basis is there. Personally I have no complaints. On the contrary, the right to vote in your country, stipulated in the Constitution has deeply impressed me.»

Shirin AKINER,
Senior Researcher
Cambridge Forum for Central Asia,
UK

(Interview to Program «Akhborot», «Uzbekiston», December 27, 2009;
«Election: the democratic and constructive character» //
IA «Jahon», December 15, 2009)



«Citizens of Uzbekistan are well acquainted with national law on elections. Everywhere — in organizations and institutions, on the streets and in public places — we

could see posters with biographies and election programs of candidates. All this contributes to holding of elections in accordance with principles of democracy, openness and transparency.»

Dung LUNIZYAN,
representative of the Information
Agency «Xinhua»,
China

(«Population is active in elections» //
UzA, 27 December 2009)



«Before the trip to your country, I had reviewed documents relating to the electoral process in the Republic of Uzbekistan. Have witnessed great progress here preparing for parliamentary elections. Each country has the right to to develop its electoral system. In the legislation of Uzbekistan on elections reflect all the necessary aspects of compliance with international standards. In 2004, I participated as an observer, in the parliamentary elections in the Republic of Uzbekistan. It should be noted that the process of preparing for elections has become even more perfect.»

Nikos BARDUNIAS,
journalist, a leading financial and economic analyst
of «Kafimerini» newspaper,
Greece

(«Electoral process in line with international
standards» // UzA, 24 December 2009;
Pravda Vostoka, 26 December 2009)

«I inspected the voting process at many polling stations in Tashkent. During that time I have not noticed a single case that does not conform to national electoral law and democratic principles. Despite that it is Sunday, the country's population actively participated in the elections. It is encouraging that the parents come with children to fulfill their civic duty. This, along with increased political culture that promotes young people's knowledge about elections, participation in elections of representatives of dozens of countries and numerous international organizations confirms that elections are conducted openly, fairly and in accordance with international standards.»

Stanislav MAKARENKO,
Head of Sector, Department
for CIS countries, Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Russia

(«Population is active in elections» //
UzA, December 27, 2009)



«The electoral process in Uzbekistan has been improving from year to year. Conducted in the country today, multi-party elections gave voters the opportunity to elect deputies on alternative basis. The electoral system in Uzbekistan fully meets the principles of democracy in which citizens, regardless of their ethnic origin, religion, sex, education, occupation, social status, have equal suffrage. The preparation and conduct of elections is overseen by an independent body — Central Election Commission, whose work is open and transparent. We would also like to emphasize that for observers from political parties and international ones, all the necessary legal, organizational

and technical conditions for an objective monitoring of electoral preparations and voting are created. All this suggests that the elections in Uzbekistan are held in strict accordance with election legislation and universally recognized norms.»

Ajay PATNAIK,
Professor of Jawaharlal Nehru University,
India

(«Consistent with the principles of democracy» // Web site of the
Central Election Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan.
«Www.elections.uz», December 27, 2009)



«Democratic elections in Uzbekistan represent a tangible result of the profound transformation of public life and society. Having visited polling stations in Tashkent and Bukhara, I can say with confidence that the elections to Parliament and local Councils of People's Deputies are conducted in full accordance with international norms and standards. You could see the active interest of the population in the elections.»

Parviz MOREWEDGE,
Professor of Philosophy and Social Sciences
State University of New York,
Director of Center for Global Scientific Publications,
USA

(«Parliamentary elections in Uzbekistan» //
«Gazeta.uz», December 27, 2009;
«Elections to the Legislative Chamber, regional,
district and municipal councils of peoples deputies'» //
«Uzreport.com», December 27, 2009)

«I've been involved as an international observer in elections to the Parliament of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Today, 27 December, I observed the voting in a number of polling stations at 130th constituency. The voting process has been completely open and in accordance with international standards. In the conduct of elections I've not observed any intervention or action contrary to electoral legislation. The active participation of women in this process deserves special attention. I believe that this phenomenon is evidence of increased participation of youth and women in political life.»

Lee GUENGGI—SIK,
president-publisher of the journal «Korean Post»,
Republic of Korea
(«International observers on parliamentary
elections in Uzbekistan» // IA «Jahon», December 29, 2009)



«The electoral process is in full compliance with international standards, based on democratic principles. I visited several polling stations in Navoi region, and I appreciate the activity of citizens, including youth in the region.»

Jun NAGATA,
correspondent of Kyodo Susil, News Agency,
Japan
(«Interview to Program «Akhborot», Channel «Uzbekiston»,
December 27, 2006)

«As an observer, I participated in elections in many countries. It is true that your country has created all the possibilities and conditions for the observers. Parliamentary elections were held in Uzbekistan openly and in accordance with democratic norms. Having been at nearly fifteen polling stations in Tashkent and the region, I closely monitored the voting process. I was impressed by your polling stations equipped with cutting-edge technologies. During the elections, I did not observe any violations. That in constituencies where candidates failed to garner enough votes a second vote is to be held, not only meets the international standards, but also testifies to the strength, accuracy and fairness of the electoral system in Uzbekistan.»

Vasiliy VOLKOV,
Member of Central Election Commission,
Russia

(«The practical manifestation of accepted international norms» // UzA, 29 December 2009

«The fact that in some districts, where candidates have not gathered enough votes, a re-run vote is organized, is one of the most democratic aspects of the electoral system in Uzbekistan. I got more familiar with the electoral legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan. It fully meets international standards. With a solid legal basis, elections to the Legislative Chamber of Oliy Majlis of Uzbekistan are held at a high level, based on a multiparty alternative and fair system. In this I got personally convinced after visiting many sites. Voters freely exercise their rights. No cases of interference and pressure on them from outside

is detected in this process. And the fact that among the candidates there are women, is one of the most humanistic aspects of democracy embarked on in Uzbekistan.»

Pak MU-ZHONG,
President-publisher of the newspaper «Korea Times»,
Republic of Korea

(«The practical manifestation of generally
accepted international norms» // UzA, 29 December 2009)



«I would like to point out that the parliamentary elections are held on the basis of high democratic principles. Noteworthy is rapid and precise work of members of constituency election commissions. I observed the elections in several polling stations and appreciate their work.»

Janis URBANOWIC,
Chairman of the faction of political association
«Center of Consent» in the Sejm,
Latvia

(«Today's elections will give significant
results in the future» // UzA, 27 December 2009)



«As an international observer I would particularly like to acknowledge the high level and quality of preparation for parliamentary elections in Uzbekistan. This is a very positive development, indicating the enormous attention given to the revitalization of the parliament and political parties. Invitation to a large number of international observers at elections I appreciate as yet another example of the commitment of Uzbekistan to hold elections openly

and democratically, in full accordance with international norms and standards.»

Anil SHASTRI,

Editor of newspaper «Sandesh»

Indian National Congress Party

(«International observers parliamentary elections in Uzbekistan //
IA «Jahon», December 29, 2009)

IV. HEIGHTENED SOCIO-POLITICAL ACTIVITY OF POLITICAL PARTIES, TENSE INTER-PARTY RIVALRY, POLITICAL PROGRAMS AND IDEAS CONSTITUTE A CRUCIAL FEATURE OF ELECTIONS IN UZBEKISTAN

«The main indicator of democratic elections I think is free will in a peacetul atmosphere, without anyone else influence and pressure. That's what I saw today with my own eyes. Almost every site has observers from the four parties, which shows how effectively operates a multiparty system in Uzbekistan, providing for alternatives.

Also, starting with the current elections, present at polling stations are authorized representatives of parties, who very closely monitor the observance of law and democratic principles. This can be vieved also as indicator of compliance with international standards because such an institution operates worldwide. And it is a more transparent, objective process. On this occasion, I would like to express my opinion as a parliamentary representative: elections do certainly play an important role in the development of your country, as parliament in Uzbekistan is increasingly getting weighty. On its work, on professionalism of deputies to be elected today, will largely depend the further course of democratization.»

**Kim YONG-GU,
Member of Committees on Energy and
Mineral Resources, Small and Medium
Businesses of the National Assembly,
Republic of Korea**

(Kim Yong-Gu: «Elections will play an important role for the development of Uzbekistan» / «Uzreport.com», December 30, 2009)

«Elections provide citizen participation in government and political processes in the country, demonstrating the increasing activity of parties and healthy inter-party competition. By visiting Uzbekistan, I see clearly how serious and indisputable changes occur in the political system, creating a solid foundation for strong democratic institutions. All this contributes to the fact that the political parties have intensified competition in the huge task of development. On this basis, improving is the work of parliament and the political machinery as a whole, which contributes to the expression of a wide range of social and ideological interests.»

Boris PINCUS,
President of the Association of Cooperation
«USA — Central Asia»,
USA

(«American expert: The forthcoming elections
will be a new stage in the history of
Uzbekistan» // IA «Jahon», December 8, 2009)



«Elections are a great historical, political event for any nation. In your country, they are held on a multiparty and alternative basis, which indicates that Uzbekistan has formed a democratic constitutional state, the election system fully meets international standards.»

Sin GUANCHEN,
Director of the Institute for the Study
of Remote Regions of China's
Social Sciences Academy

(«Elections meet international
standards» // IA «Jahon». December 26, 2009,
«Pravda Vostoka», December 26, 2009)

«Today I see in Uzbekistan there exists a strong rivalry among the political parties. Each party has its own political platform. In general, it should be noted that the more constructive opposition in the country, the stronger the state.»

Alexander TSINKER,
Director of the Institute of CIS Countries and Eastern
Europe, Head of International Center for the Study
of Electoral Systems,
Israel

(«The parliamentary elections were held in Uzbekistan open
and transparent »//
«Uzreport.com», December 30, 2009)



«Sometimes the talk is that in the political environment of Uzbekistan there is very little criticism. I watched the speeches of candidates and saw enough of criticism of other opponents. The voter has a choice, there are other candidates who also seek to gain the confidence of the people.»

Bogdana BABICH,
Director of the Institute of Practical Politics,
Ukraine

(«The parliamentary elections were held in Uzbekistan open
and transparent »//
«Uzreport.com», December 30, 2009)



«Watching the election campaign, I first examined the activities of political parties participating in elections. I believe that providing completely equal opportunities for all four parties operating in Uzbekistan, has ensured a healthy competition and active struggle of ideas. In some countries the heads of government come from political parties, which means that their party has an advantage in

practice. Consequently, in this case, there is the need to talk of a healthy political competition while democracy is violated. I got convinced that in Uzbekistan, much preparatory work organizing the elections was done. I believe that by conducting the current elections, your country has once again proved that it develops on the basis of universally recognized principles of democracy. The biggest success is the attitude of your people to the elections. I personally watched as voters began to come to the polling station from early morning and freely exercised their political rights. There is no doubt that a country whose citizens assume this responsibility for the fate of their Motherland, will take place among the most developed nations of the world.»

Mohan DHAR,
Columnist of «Political Events» weekly,
India

(«International observers speak» //
«O'zbekiston ovozi», December 29, 2009)

«I see a significant progress in the level of preparatory work by the CEC at polling stations. Also considerably active are the citizens themselves. And the fact that the parties actively vie for each seat is a great result. Thus this is a healthy rivalry. Where there is such a competitive environment, there is development and prosperity in the country.»

Aftab QAZI,
Senior Researcher
Institute of Central Asia and Caucasus,
Johns Hopkins University,
USA

(«Parliamentary elections in Uzbekistan», «Gazeta.uz»,
December 27, 2009; «Elections to the Legislative Chamber, regional,
district and city Councils of People's Deputies» // «Uzreport.com»,
December 27, 2009)

«I took part in the process of electing the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan two years ago. Then I was encouraged by open and transparent elections on alternative and multi-party basis, active participation of voters. And this time I witnessed an equal playing field at the election campaign for political parties and promotion of candidates. Secret ballot allows voters to freely choose their candidate.»

Tatsuzen FUJINO,
President of Association «Fukuoka-Uzbekistan»,
Japan

(«Meetings of political parties with the voters
were open and active» // UzA, December 26, 2009;
«The manifestation of democracy, transparency
and multi-party system» //
Pravda Vostoka, 29 December 2009)



«Implementing gradual and consistent policy reforms in the country show a rapid movement toward democracy in Uzbekistan. It is important not only for the nation, but also for the whole region. I would also like to underscore the increasing activity of political parties in public life. With such popular political parties, electoral processes and electoral campaigns also become dynamic. Political parties have different programs and focus on different issues. And during the election campaign, they made efforts to explain to voters what advantages they offer. And now is the time voters make their choice.»

Anil SHASTRI,
Editor of newspaper «Sandesh»
of the Party Indian National Congress
(«International observers on parliamentary
elections in Uzbekistan» // IA «Jahon», December 29, 2009)

«Uzbekistan is entering a qualitatively new level of political development in which the parties become a more perfect instrument of democratic processes, a means of enhancing people's participation in managing the affairs of society and state. It is important that the Government has adopted measures aimed at the development of a multi-party system and ensuring pluralism in society, and they are systemic in nature.»

Datuk Mohanmad Izat EMIR,
President of the Association of Malaysian
Businessmen and Industrialists,
chairman of the group «Emir Holdings»,
Malaysia

(«Elections: democratic and constructive character» //
IA «Jahon», December 15, 2009)



«The Central Election Commission of Uzbekistan carries out its activities smoothly and orderly, it facilitates the holding of elections at a high level... We, observers, are given the right to visit any site, on election day to monitor the electoral process. This makes it possible to study preparation for the elections in depth. I got familiarized with the pre-election campaigning of political parties and got convinced that Uzbekistan pays special attention to ensure openness and transparency of the election campaign. I was impressed by the heated debates among political parties. This will further enhance the ability of voters to choose a worthy candidate in the voting process.»

Bogdana BABICH
Director of the Institute of Applied Politics,
Ukraine

(«We believe in the election of deserving candidates!» /// UzA, 25 December 2009)

«I arrived at polling station 166 in Tashkent in the early morning, and it was filled with voters. Such a turnout is awesome. Watching the election process, I became convinced that they fully comply with democratic principles. Strengthening the role of political parties in the renewal and democratization of state governance and modernization of the country in the future will bear good results. This is confirmed by the current elections going on the basis of multi-party system in your country. All the conditions and legal basis for free choice and will of citizens are created to protect their legitimate interests. It will be easier for those who are not able to come to the polls — the disabled, the sick and the elderly. For voters with young children special rooms are there for their convenience. All this shows the attention paid in your country to the rights and interests of people. I believe that people will choose a reliable and worthy candidates. With every visit to your country I witness tremendous positive changes in various spheres.»

Aydin ABBASOV,
Member of Milli Mejlis,
Azerbaijan

(Voter turnout pleases // UzA, 27 December 2009)

V. ELECTIONS IN UZBEKISTAN HELD WITH HIGH SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ACTIVENESS OF THE ELECTORATE, INCREASED LEVEL OF POLITICAL CULTURE AND LEGAL CONSCIOUSNESS

«We are pleased that, despite the early hours, voters are pretty active. That is the evidence that they are not indifferent to the fate of the nation. I would note that the electoral processes in your country are based on democratic principles, multi party and alternative, in a spirit of openness and transparency. At polling stations all the conditions for voters and observers have been set up, the election programs of candidates are diverse, voters have the opportunity to choose the worthiest from a large pool of candidates from political parties of Uzbekistan. The presence among the candidates of women is universally valued as an achievement of your electoral system and is a practical embodiment of the ongoing reforms in the country aimed at improving the socio-political activity of women.»

Elie KRAKOWSKI,
Senior Research Fellow of the Institute of
Central Asia and Caucasus, Johns Hopkins University,
USA

(«Elections are held according to democratic principles» // UzA, 27 December, 2009)



«I started to follow the preparations for elections in Uzbekistan via the Internet and other media. Once arrived in Tashkent, I visited the Central Election Commission,

electoral districts and polling stations, directly acquainted with preparation and witnessed a large-scale organizational work. On election day I could see voters' interest and in good spirits. I have not noticed any pressure on them from outside, any violations. There is no doubt, an important factor of fair elections is the participation of observers from all political parties. In Uzbekistan democratic electoral system already fully formed that meets international standards. A firm foundation for this was the ongoing improvement of the electoral legislation and the modernization of society.»

Kuvondik TURGANKULOV,
Chairman of the Central Election Commission,
Kazakhstan

(«Elections were conducted in
accordance with international standards» //
UzA, 28 December 2009)



«Despite the fact that Uzbekistan is a young independent country, elections are held on democratic basis. The activeness of voters deserves special attention. I have been at the polling station 13, located in the secondary school № 22 of Bulunghur district, and saw that the elections were lively. Many voters came to the polling stations in the early morning and voted for their candidates. This means that citizens are not indifferent to this important political process.»

Tohir FARUK,
Editor-in-Chief of «Ittehad» newspaper,
Pakistan

(«International observers speak» //
«Zarafshon» Newspaper, December 29, 2009)

«In today's elections, I was struck by the active participation of voters. In the morning I was at the polling station 40 and watched the voting process at polling stations in other districts. Citizens were active everywhere, and clearly understand their responsibility for tomorrow. Preparation for elections deserves special attention. Equipment of polling stations, the creation of conditions for open and free vote — all meet international standards. At the same time I would like to highlight the conditions created for observers. Everything went perfectly. There were no cases of violations of election legislation during elections.»

Raisa SCSUROVA,
Researcher, Institute of Far Eastern Studies,
Russian Academy of Sciences
(«International observers speak» //
«Namangan Hakikati» Newspaper, December 30, 2009)



«Having watched the election process, I would like to point out that you have created all necessary conditions for free and secret ballot of citizens. I appreciate the conditions created for voters at polling station 339 of Hamza district of the capital. I honestly did not expect such activeness of citizens. Your people are confident in the great future of their country.»

Alper TAN,
International analyst
of television channel «Canal-A»,
Turkey
(«Elections were held in
accordance with international standards» //
UzA, 28 December 2009)

«I visited electoral district 110 in the city of Khiva and its polling stations, have ascertained that the elections were held in Uzbekistan with high activeness of the electorate. The electoral system is based on a multiparty and alternative system, fully meeting the international democratic principles.»

Chan BINH,
Editor-in-Chief of Journal «Russian,
Central Asian and Eastern European Studies»,
Institute of Russia, Eastern Europe and Central Asia
at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences

(«Elections were held in accordance with international standards» // UzA, 28 December 2009)



«Elections to the Parliament of the Republic of Uzbekistan are held transparently, on the basis of multi-party system meeting the national electoral legislation and international standards. This is what I learned by watching voting of electors at polling station 125 in Tashkent. It is noteworthy that the voters went to vote early, order and benevolence prevail. Citizens are deeply aware of the responsibility for the future development of their country. After gaining independence, Uzbekistan has achieved great success in all spheres, including in the economic sphere. Growing prosperity of the people, increased credibility in the international arena, it says that your country has chosen a correct path of national development.»

Krunes HELMUT,
Head of KRK Construction industrial company,
Austria

(«The elections are conducted openly» // UzA, 27 December 2009)

«We are witnessing the active participation of voters in elections to representative bodies of power in Uzbekistan. In the morning I visited seven polling stations. I have not seen any cases of violations of election standards. Elections are held according to democratic principles.»

Mirbek JAKYPOV,
Member of the Central Election Commission,
Kyrgyzstan

(Interview to Program «Hudud», private
television network «NTT»,
December 27, 2009)



«I visited several polling stations in Tashkent region and directly observed the elections to the Legislative Chamber of Oliy Majlis. Elections were held in accordance with international norms, and free. I was pleasantly surprised that people came to vote early in the morning, well aware of election laws. During the electoral process, I did not encounter a single case of violations of electoral legislation of Uzbekistan.»

Elena KUZMINA,
Senior Researcher, Institute of Economics,
Russian Academy of Sciences

(«Practical manifestation of generally
accepted international norms» // UzA, 29 December 2009)



«Holding elections to the Parliament of Uzbekistan and the local Councils of People's Deputies on a multiparty basis indicates that the country has laid the foundations of democracy. Familiar with the process of preparation and

holding of elections, I was convinced that the principles of openness, transparency have been fully met. I visited the polling stations 366 and 379 in Gallaaral, and 50 and 77—in Bakhmal districts of Jizzakh region, where I talked with people, especially young ones. Socio-political voter turnout, independent-minded young people indicate that citizens are not indifferent to the fate of the country and their own future.»

Rakardjan MOMO,
correspondent for the daily «Compass»,
Indonesia

(«Elections were held in accordance with international standards» // UzA, 28 December 2009; «Manifestation of democracy, transparency and multi-party system» // Pravda Vostoka, 29 December 2009)



«I have for long inspected the electoral processes in many countries, but in the elections in Uzbekistan I am for the first time. I would like to note that Uzbekistan as an independent country, only 18 years old, has had much success in the electoral system. Organizing and holding this important political event, creating the necessary conditions for the free will of citizens, as well as adherence to the principles of democracy and transparency of this process can only bring satisfaction. Polling stations were fully equipped with information materials on political parties participating in elections. Voters had received all the information about candidates, which helped them to vote for their candidate. I should envy the progress that your country has achieved in a short period of time in improving the political culture of the population, increased activity of the people in the process of reforming society and the formation of the electoral system, electoral systems are

not inferior to those of other developed countries in the world.»

Adnan SUER,
Head of channel «TPT-AVAZ», Turkish Radio
and TV Corporation

(«Elections were held in accordance with international standards» // UzA, 28 December 2009; «Manifestation of democracy, transparency and multi party system» // Pravda Vostoka, 29 December 2009)



«I saw that people voted proceeding from the generally accepted democratic norms. There were no illegal actions. I have not heard any objections and complaints of citizens. Everybody was acquainted with the biographies of candidates and their election programs. This indicates that people care about the country. In general, they were provided with open and democratic elections.»

Evgeniy JANKOVICH,
Head of Department, CIS Executive Committee
(«The manifestation of democracy, transparency and multi-party system» // Pravda Vostoka, 29 December 2009)



«Earlier, I observed the elections in Bukhara and Samarkand regions. And then, and now I have witnessed the activities of citizens for whom the polling stations created all conditions. The activity of the electorate is a very good indicator of democracy in your country.»

Santappu RADHAKRISHNAN,
Honorary Secretary of ASEAN legal association
(Interview to Program «Davr» , «Yoshlar» channel, December 27, 2009)

«In general I can conclude that the political process in Uzbekistan develops in a consistent pace. The most important factor determining the nature of the election campaign in Uzbekistan is the increased level of political, social and civic consciousness of the electorate, and responsibility for what is happening around them, to strengthen stability in the country.»

Boris PINCUS,
President of the Association of Cooperation
«USA — Central Asia»,
USA

(«American expert:» The upcoming elections
will be a new stage and history of Uzbekistan» //
IA «Jahon», December 8, 2009)



«I would like to congratulate the people of Uzbekistan with the active participation in the elections, which thus demonstrated their high degree of responsibility and involvement in the process of increasing the role of political institutions in the country. On behalf of the Observer Mission of the OIC, I would like to express our satisfaction with the way elections were organized in Uzbekistan and transparently held. We are confident that these elections will contribute to the development of democracy and the rule of law in Uzbekistan.»

Shukru TUFAN,
Head of Mission of Observers from the
Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC),
Adviser to the Secretary

(«Mission of observers: elections in
Uzbekistan were democratic — free and open» //
UzA, 29 December 2009)

«Having visited several polling stations in Tashkent, I got acquainted with the voting. I am very pleased with the turnout. International observers participating in elections said that in your country extensive work is carried out to strengthen democracy. Having arrived in Uzbekistan three days prior to elections, I had the opportunity to observe the progress of campaign. All preparation is at a very high level. Today, 27 December, early in the morning came to the 160th polling station in Tashkent. It was already crowded. For voters all the conditions are created. Provision of polling stations with all necessary tools — booths for secret voting, transparent ballot boxes for newsletters and much more — evidence about the thoroughness of the organization of elections and setting up all the conditions, and opportunities for the electorate. Sufficient awareness of voters of the programs of candidates and elections in general, suggested the high level of preparation for the event.»

Dato Haji Wan Ahmad bin Wan OMAR,
Deputy Chairman of the Electoral Commission,
Malaysia

(«Preparations for elections organized at high level» // UzA, 27 December 2009)



«I visited five polling stations in Samarkand region and can say with confidence that Uzbekistan places special emphasis on the principle of openness and transparency of elections. I believe that the elections were organized well. People were happy to exercise their duty, which shows their high political consciousness. Undoubtedly, the elections were held in accordance with international standards.»

Pak MU-ZHONG,
President-publisher of the newspaper «Korea Times»,
Republic of Korea

(«International observers on parliamentary elections in Uzbekistan // IA «Jahon», December 29, 2009)

«As an observer I visited Khorezm region. At all polling stations of a number of settlements that we visited, was held work of election commissions. We appreciated the optimism of people and saw the importance of elections for the population. We were lucky to encounter the warm hearts of people of all ages and nationalities with whom we met in the electoral process in Khorezm region.»

Abdullah HOJA,
President of Turkestan-American Association,
USA

(«International observers on parliamentary elections in Uzbekistan» // IA «Jahon», December 29, 2009)



«During the election, I directly oversaw the process at several polling stations in Tashkent. Everywhere I was I saw what serious preparatory work had been carried out. Members of district election commissions fully answered the questions of voters. And voters were actively going to vote that shows the political liveliness of the population.»

Mehmet EROL,
professor at the University of Gazi,
Director of the Institute for Strategic
Analysis «Dushunche»,
Turkey

(«Opinions of foreign observers» // Newspaper «Jamiyat», January 1, 2010)



«Watching the elections to the Legislative Chamber of Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan, regional, district and city Councils of People's Deputies, I can say that a lot

of preparatory work was carried out in your country for this important event. This morning I visited the 693th precinct in Ferghana. My attention was caught by the high level of turnout. Citizens vote on the basis of generally accepted democratic norms. To date, there have been no violations. No complaints have been received from the voters.»

Evgeniy JANKOVICH,
Head of Department, CIS Executive Committee

(«A thorough preparation for the elections» // UzA, 27 December 2009)



«In the process of elections to the Legislative Chamber of Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan I visited several polling stations in Jizzakh region. People started coming to polling places from early morning. I was struck by the political activism, their knowledge of the processes going on in the country and the world. The fact that the elections were held at a very high level is a testimony to the fact that your people, young people deeply feel personally responsible for the prosperity and welfare of the country.»

Masut FATKULIN,
Chairman of the Board of the Association
of NGOs «International Confederation
of Union of Artists»,

Russia

(«The manifestation of democracy, transparency and multi-party system» // Pravda Vostoka, 29 December 2009)

«I am quite knowledgeable about the course of reforms and always try to keep abreast of all developments in your country. I believe that an important milestone for the further development of Uzbekistan, as, indeed, in any democratic state, is to ensure the free expression of will of the people. Today's parliamentary elections in the republic, when the people themselves can freely choose their representative who is ready to defend and protect their interests, suggest a large step forward to strengthening the foundations of democracy. And here I would like to highlight the fundamental changes in legislation, in particular, the shift from unicameral to a bicameral parliament, thus ensuring a balance of power and improving the formulation and adoption of laws.»

Lee GUENGGI—SIK,
president-publisher of the journal «Korean Post»,
Republic of Korea

(«International observers on parliamentary elections in Uzbekistan» //
IA «Jahon», December 29, 2009)



«I was surprised that among the electorate preponderant were young people. In the morning I managed to visit the polling stations located in two educational institutions in Tashkent — National University of Uzbekistan and its Academic Lyceum. I was inspired by the activity of young voters. In their eyes one could see hope and confidence in the future. Elections were held at a high level. And I am confident that the outcome of the elections will be excellent results.»

Santappu RADHAKRISHNAN,
Honorary Secretary of ASEAN legal association
(«International observers on parliamentary
elections in Uzbekistan» // IA «Jahon», December 29, 2009)

«There is a mood of voters from the very early morning. The activity is quite high. Conditions created at the polling station are rather fine. With us, there were also observers from the UK. This suggests that the elections in Uzbekistan are open, and have the opportunity to acquaint the world with these processes.»

Mikhail MIKHAYLICHENKO,
Counselor of CIS Executive Committee

(Interview to Program «Ahborot»,
Channel «Uzbekiston», December 27, 2009)



«I've been to many places and seen a high turnout, especially young people. Electoral processes in Uzbekistan fully meet international standards. Elections are held in conditions of openness, transparency, and publicity.»

Mikhael KHUDOBA,
Chief Executive Officer, Heneken,
Slovakia

(Interview to Program «Davr», «Yoshlar»,
December 27, 2009)



«Participation as an observer at the elections has even more enriched my perception of the political life, and culture of your people. By visiting dozens of polling stations, I got acquainted with the process. I witnessed that in all regions of the country carried out were thorough preparations for the elections, and the event was held at a high level. Your people have participated in the elections in a buoyant spirit,

actively. The process of voting has fully complied with the principles of equality, justice, honesty.»

Arjun AMLA,
Representative of Uzbektourism National Company in India

(«The practical manifestation of generally
accepted international norms» // UzA, 29 December 2009)



«In Uzbekistan all conditions are created to ensure democracy and transparency in the electoral process. Especially pleasant is the desire of Uzbek youth to exercise their activity in all spheres. Boys and girls are extensively knowledgeable in modern science and technology, various foreign languages.»

Hamdi ABULAINAIN,
Vice Chairman of Egypt Commerce and Industry Chamber

(«In Uzbekistan all conditions created
to ensure democracy and transparency in the
electoral process» // UzA, 26 December 2009)



«On election day I visited four polling stations. Noted with pleasure the conditions, the active participation of citizens in this political event. I am interested in the method of collecting data about the electorate, and I received a detailed response from representatives of the local election commission on this issue.»

Rocco ABRAM,
Chairman of the Association
Uzbekistan-Italy,
Italy

(«Interview to Program «Hudud», private television
network «NTT», December 27, 2009)

«Elections to the Legislative Chamber of Oliy Majlis of Uzbekistan were held in accordance with applicable law for the holding of democratic elections, based on the principles of freedom, openness and transparency. Voters participated actively in the election process. Participation in the parliamentary elections of many foreign observers indicates significant development work to strengthen democracy in the country. Laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan on elections and other documents are fully consistent with international standards. They embody the constitutional rights of voters and the international community has recognized democratic principles. Noteworthy is the holding of elections on a multiparty basis, respective equal rights for representatives of all parties, creation of equal conditions.»

Anatoly BELOGUROV,

Assistant to First Deputy Chairman

of the Executive Committee — CIS Executive Secretary

(«The practical manifestation of generally accepted international norms»

UzA, 29 December 2009)



«A large number of women among the candidates to the lower house of Uzbek parliament indicates that the role of women in society is given priority. I think that in future they will contribute to the adoption by the legislature a number of laws related to further strengthening the rights of women and children.»

Schule ERCHETIN,

Professor, University of Hadzhitepa,

Advisor for Strategic Planning at the Union of

Municipalities,

Turkey

(Interview to Program «Hudud», private television network «NTT»,

December 27, 2009)

«In Uzbekistan, the electoral activity of citizens is high. I have visited twelve constituencies. People actively participate in the election. At the polling stations all conditions are created for voters. Before coming to your country, I thoroughly studied the electoral legislation. All changes in the law conform to democratic principles, the actual confirmation of what I watch.»

Gerhard KRAMLI,
General Manager of the Institute of experiments
and research in construction,
Austria

(Interview to Program «Hudud», private
television network «NTT», December 27, 2009)



«I visited two polling stations, have become familiar with their work. We have witnessed an active course of the electorate, sufficiently active participation of voters. I hope that these elections will serve the interests of Uzbekistan and its people.»

Lubna Muhammad AL-KENANI,
officer of the Ministry of Culture of the United
Arab Emirates

(Interview to Program «Hudud», private television
network «NTT», December 27, 2009)

VI. ELECTIONS IN UZBEKISTAN: TRANSPARENCY, OPENNESS, AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF MASS MEDIA

«All stages of elections to the Legislative Chamber of Oliy Majlis triggered a keen public interest, and therefore it is logical that they are accompanied with close attention from both local and international media. The journalists covering the campaign encountered no barriers. They were provided with all available means and technology to support their work, to make it faster, better and more objective. I managed to visit several polling stations where I saw with my own eyes how much work has been done to ensure the free expression of will of citizens of Uzbekistan, their political views. Crucially, each voter has a choice among candidates in Uzbekistan.»

Sylvie d'IZARN,
Editor-in- Chief, «Les milieux des Empires»,
France

(«On the basis of democratic principles, open and transparent» //
«Uzbekistan Today», December 31, 2009)



«The Uzbek media have shown great activity in the coverage of the election campaign. They are constantly watching the entire process, present the information to voters promptly. CEC prepared and conducted this event

at a high level. All necessary conditions have been created for journalists, in particular, they could themselves observe the voting process at premises. This is clearly confirmed in practice by the principles of openness and transparency in compliance with which elections were held in Uzbekistan. The very holding of elections has already proved that the country is democratic. The people themselves have chosen worthy representatives to the legislative power. If the electorate trusted and elected them, the latter should faithfully fulfill their tasks and justify the confidence. In conversations with voters I noted that they are well aware of the activities of parties and everyone has their own opinion, and this suggests that voters feel the country's political life.»

Yar Muhammad BADINI,
Editor-in-Chief of «Balochistan Today»,
Pakistan

(«On the basis of democratic principles, open and transparent» //
«Uzbekistan Today», December 31, 2009)

«I personally got convinced that in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, owing to the careful preparation for elections, all the conditions are created for voters. The active participation of media in the election campaign was essential to ensure openness and transparency of elections. In my opinion, the electoral legislation of Uzbekistan, the relevant legal documents, the activity of electoral commissions, the process of preparing for elections fully comply with democratic principles. Noteworthy is the 30 per cent quota for women in the nomination of candidates. I talked to voters at all polling stations in my oversight and assessed their political activity, their awareness of

personal responsibility for the fate and future of the country.»

Alexandr MARINOVICH,

Head of Department, CIS Executive Committee

(«The elections were conducted in accordance with international standards» // UzA, 28 December 2009; «The manifestation of democracy, transparency and multi-party system» // Pravda Vostoka, 29 December 2009)



«Candidates for the Legislative Chamber of Oliy Majlis are provided with equal opportunities in using the media during the election campaign. It is also important that many of them are women. All the necessary conditions to ensure international observers directly monitor the voting process. In this I came to believe after visiting several polling stations in your capital. Citizens who due to the illness can not come to the polls and the elderly, ballot boxes will be delivered to their home to allow everyone to fully realize their rights.»

Santappu RADHAKRISHNAN,

Honorary Secretary of ASEAN legal association

(«In Uzbekistan, a lot of work to strengthen democracy» // UzA, 25 December 2009)



«Uzbekistan attaches particular importance to the electoral rights of citizens. Progress in this direction is achieved step by step. Recently, the role of political parties also increased significantly. Parties have become more open and play an active role in the renewal and democratization of society. Political parties and their

candidates for parliamentary elections are guaranteed equal rights, for example, in using local media in their election campaigns. In turn, voters can carefully read the election programs of candidates and make the right choice, which they deem necessary in the light of contemporary realities.»

Sylvie d'IZARN,
Editor-in- Chief, «Les milieux des Empires»,
France

(Briefing at the diplomatic mission of Uzbekistan in Paris» //
IA «Jahon», 26 November 2009)



«Elections are addressed in articles published in the media, most television and radio programs, posters in the streets and indoors calling for vote. Over the national television I saw speeches and debates of candidates during their election campaign. All this contributes to the empowerment of voters in choosing a deserving candidate.»

Choi Yong HA,
Professor, University of Sonmun,
Republic of Korea

(«The people of Uzbekistan is actively preparing for the elections» //
UzA, 23 December 2009; Pravda Vostoka, 24 December 2009)



«When visiting a number of polling stations, I paid a particular attention to making sure the free vote of the people. In particular, there is all the information about candidates, as well as all polling places are provided with necessary brochures to the free determination of a voter for whom to vote. And the fact that the republican media

promptly provide information about the parties, their platforms, programs, debates among representatives of the parties, indicates the openness and active participation of the media in the elections process.»

Saleh HASHEM,
Secretary General of the Union
of Universities of Arab States,
Egypt

(«Opinions of foreign observers» //
Newspaper «Jamiyat», January 1, 2010)



«On election day, I got firmly convinced of the high political and legal culture of citizens of Uzbekistan. The population is well aware of the electoral legislation and has all the information about candidates. Visible role in this plays the electoral propaganda, particularly the media. The existence in your country of a fully formed electoral system, the development and implementation in practice of the international norms on electoral law, the conditions for secret ballot all constitute major achievements for the people.»

Kyoko NAKAYAMA,
Member of Parliament,
Japan

(«The manifestation of democracy, transparency
and multi party sytem» //
Pravda Vostoka, 29 December 2009)



«My attention was caught by the voter turnout, their responsible approach to the electoral process. Thus, at polling station 435 located in Chartak district of Namangan region, prior to ten o'clock in the morning more than half

of voters already cast their ballot. The same situation can be observed at other sites. Meanwhile, in many countries such situation is pretty rare. Conditions created at polling stations showed a high level of preparation for elections. In particular, special credit goes to the organization at polling stations of rooms for mother and child, health rooms. It should be emphasized also about the amenities created for the media and international observers. In Uzbekistan, voter registration system in comparison with other countries is remarkable for its perfectness. Opportunities are provided for free expression of the will by voters, the choice of the most worthy candidate. The political activity of people, their high-level awareness of the electoral law and regulations, allow them to choose the most deserving candidates.»

Raisa SCSUROVA,
Researcher, Institute of Far Eastern Studies,
Russian Academy of Sciences

(«The manifestation of democracy, transparency and multi-party system» // Pravda Vostoka, 29 December 2009)



«It should be noted that Uzbekistan has steadily improved the national electoral system. Political activity of the population has markedly increased. This, of course, owes much to the media who cover the processes of preparing for elections, explain the essence and content of election programs of candidates.»

Mohammad SALOMA,
deputy chief editor of Al-Msaeya,
Egypt

(«The media are used effectively» // UzA, 25 December 2009)

«It is noteworthy that in Uzbekistan, elections to the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis, provincial, city and district Councils of People's Deputies were based on openness, transparency, and choice. Having visited several polling stations in Bukhara region, I saw that each citizen voted for a deserving candidate capable to take an active part in making laws that would serve to further improve the living standards of people.»

Bal Ram SAINI,
Co-Chair of the Chamber
of Commerce India-CIS,
India

(«Word of international observers» // «O'zbekiston Ovozi»,
December 29, 2009)



«Uzbekistan has created all the necessary conditions for observers of the electoral process. It is noteworthy that in this country are created equal conditions and opportunities for all candidates of political parties in the use of the media during the election campaign. Your country pays special attention to increasing participation of women in society, protectinng their rights and interests. This was vividly demonstrated by the fact that there are many women among the candidates to the Legislative Chamber of Oliy Majlis.»

Ahmad KAMARUDIN,
Head of law company «Kamarudin & Partners»,
Malaysia

(«Many women among the candidates» //
UzA, 25 December 2009)

«When visiting a number of polling stations, I got convinced that the necessary conditions are created for holding elections on the basis of democratic principles, free expression of will. Fully informed about candidates, the electorate is provided with an opportunity to vote in polling booths without any intervention. I have read election programs of parties. Their prospective projects vary, but it is easy to understand that they are all aimed at realization of noble goals — protecting the interests of the people, development of the country, which should occupy a worthy place among developed nations.»

Peter SHPARY,
Vice-President of Germany-Uzbekistan Society,
Germany

(«In Uzbekistan created all conditions for democracy and transparency in the electoral process» // UzA, 26 December 2009;

«The manifestation of democracy, transparency and multi party system» //

Pravda Vostoka, 29 December 2009)



«After visiting several polling stations in Kashkadarya, we closely watched the preparations for the elections to the Parliament of the Republic of Uzbekistan and processes immediately after the voting took place. Citizens were well aware of the electoral law, candidates for deputies. At the polling stations could get complete information about them. It is known that due to the fact that in some districts the candidates gathered not enough votes second vote is to be held a All this indicates the holding of elections in accordance with the principles of democracy, openness and transparency. The electoral process to the Parliament of Uzbekistan has been closely watched by hundreds of observers from many countries and missions of international organizations, thousands of authorized representatives of political parties

that nominated candidates. This helped to ensure the openness and transparency in elections. In the process of elections we clearly felt healthy competition among the parties. In my opinion, the main factor of success in these elections in Uzbekistan is peace and stability reigning in your country.»

Salah SULTAN,
Secretary of the Asian Committee of Muslims,
Kuwait

(«The practical manifestation of generally accepted international norms» // UzA, 29 December 2009)

«I visited several polling stations in Tashkent and I can say that the elections were held in the spirit of openness and transparency».

Yakubjon MADUMAROV,
Chief Specialist of the Central Commission
for Elections and Referenda,
Tajikistan

(«Word of international observers» // «O'zbekiston Ovozi», December 29, 2009)

«I have read the materials concerning the electoral process. The media in your country widely publicized pre-election programs of four political parties taking part in the election campaign, candidates meeting with voters, innovations in the electoral system. In the years of independence, Uzbekistan has consistently developed mass media. All the conditions for free creative activity of journalists are created. In this I

came to believe once more by visiting the office of the newspaper «Uzbekistan Today».

Tohir FARUK,
Editor-in-Chief of «Ittehad» newspaper,
Pakistan

(«In Uzbekistan created all conditions to ensure democracy and transparency in the electoral process» // UzA, 26 December 2009;

«The manifestation of democracy, transparency
and multi party system» //

Pravda Vostoka, 29 December 2009)



«Elections are an important political event associated with the process of democratization in the country. Equally significant is the election of deserving candidates. Uzbekistan has carried out steady reforms in this direction, improving the electoral system. Coverage of the electoral process in the media indicates that special attention is given to ensuring democracy, openness and transparency of elections. A striking case in point is the arrival of about three hundred observers from foreign countries and international organizations. I want to emphasize that all necessary conditions are there for an objective assessment of the electoral process.»

Magdi DAIF,
Adviser of the Ministry of Information,
political observer, journalist,
Egypt

(«All the conditions for an objective assessment electoral observers» // UzA, 26 December 2009; «The manifestation of democracy, transparency and multi-party system» // Pravda Vostoka, 29 December 2009)



«On election day, I was at a polling station and talked with voters and observers from political parties. They

monitor the voting process and the counting of votes, which, in our view, contributes to the openness of the elections. As a result of amendments introduced into the electoral legislation, political parties in this country are given additional opportunities in conducting the election campaigns.»

Andris BERZINS,
Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Sejm,
Latvia

(«Opinions of foreign observers» //
Newspaper «Jamiyat», January 1, 2010)



«I got the opportunity to observe the performance of elections to the Parliament of the Republic of Uzbekistan, speeches by candidates from political parties and their electoral campaigning and debates in the media. I should mention the openness and activity of political parties in the course of meetings with voters, candidates have confidence in themselves and they are guided by clear-cut goals.»

Mohan DHAR,
Columnist of «Political Events» weekly,
India

(«Meetings of political parties with the voters have been openly and actively» // UzA, 26 December 2009; «The manifestation of democracy, transparency and multi party system» // Pravda Vostoka, 29 December 2009)



«I visited the 329th polling station in Tashkent. Preparation for voting is held at the highest level. Citizens of Uzbekistan are well aware of the electoral law, biographies and programs of candidates. In various organisations and public places you can see posters on elections. All this

indicates that parliamentary elections in Uzbekistan are held in accordance with the principles of democracy, openness and transparency, and for the voters all the conditions are there for free choice.»

Yasushi INABA,
Advisor, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
(«Citizens are well aware of the electoral legislation» // UzA, 27
December 2009; Pravda Vostoka, 29 December 2009)



«The electoral process is widely covered in all media, including the Internet. The fact that elections were monitored by hundreds of observers and foreign journalists, ensures openness and transparency of the polls.»

Hadi RAJABLI,
Chairman of the Committee on Social Policy,
Milli Majlis,
Azerbaijan
(«Open and transparent elections» // UzA, 27 December 2009;
«The manifestation of democracy, transparency and multi-party
system» // Pravda Vostoka, 29 December 2009)



«I visited many polling stations in Tashkent. Preparations for elections were held at a high level. It is safe to say that during elections, there was not a single case of violation. Central Election Commission created equal conditions for all candidates. Polls were held in accordance with international standards and requirements of national legislation based on the principles of openness, transparency and objectivity. This is fully confirmed by the participation

in the coverage of electoral processes of more than 630 representatives of local and foreign media.»

Tomasz MADYARIC,
Project Manager of Sytna Holding,
Slovakia

(«The practical manifestation of generally accepted international norms» // UzA, 29 December 2009)



«On election day, I visited about ten polling stations in the city of Khiva, and became acquainted with the voting process. Based on my observations, I can say that the elections were held in accordance with democratic principles and international standards. This was achieved through the organizational work of the Central Election Commission, district and constituency election commissions. Everywhere — in organizations and institutions, on the streets, in public places, people could see the posters and other visual aids with biographies of candidates with the election programs of parties. Particular appreciation goes to the media for their rapid, objective covering of the election campaign. It is noteworthy that the polling stations are equipped well, all the conditions are there for free and independent voting of citizens. In some constituencies candidates failed to gain enough votes which is natural for democratic elections. This contributes to building public confidence and that of the international community in the electoral system and the legislation of Uzbekistan.»

Yar Muhammad BADINI,
Editor-in-Chief of «Balochistan Today»,
Pakistan

(«The practical manifestation of generally accepted international norms» // UzA, 29 December 2009)

« Over the past several years Uzbekistan has improved its electoral laws, made the electoral process as transparent as possible, thus creating favorable conditions for the electoral campaign and its media coverage. Elections in Uzbekistan traditionally held in an elevated mood, by suggesting that people highly value and cherish the democratic achievements of the country.»

Mohan DHAR,
Columnist of the weekly «Political Events»,
India

(«Meeting with experts in India» //
IA «Jahon», December 15, 2009)



«Regarding the activities of the CEC I can say that it has accomplished its tasks with absolutely positive outcomes. Voters have the right to freely choose their candidate, and sites are provided with all necessary conditions. The CEC has also ensured the free activity of representatives from both national and foreign media.»

Parviz MOREWEDGE,
Professor of Philosophy and Social Sciences
State University of New York,
Director of Center for Global Scientific Publications,
USA

(«In the election voted about 90% of the population» //
«Uzreport.com», December 30, 2009)

VII. ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT OF UZBEKISTAN IN THE LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER OF OLIY MAJLIS IS THE REQUIREMENT OF TIMES AND KEY FACTOR IN FURTHER FACILITATING THE PROTECTION OF ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC HEALTH

«I would particularly like to highlight the efforts of Uzbekistan government in addressing the existing environmental problems. At a time when issues of environmental protection become the subject of everyday discussions the whole world, the decision to allocate parliamentary seats to the Environmental Movement of Uzbekistan is rather essential and timely. This decision will help in the future to respond adequately to the existing ecological problems in the country and around the region and accordingly prevent their negative impacts.»

Sylvie d'IZARN,
Editor-in- Chief, «Les milieux des Empires»,
France

(«Briefing at the diplomatic mission of Uzbekistan in Paris»//
IA «Jahon», 26 November 2009)



«Assignment of a fixed number of seats in Parliament for representatives of the «green movement» is a rather important decision, that demonstrates the priority given by the government to environmental affairs.»

Richard WILKINS,
Financial director of the company «Oxus Gold»,
UK

(«Election: the democratic and constructive character» //
IA «Jahon», December 15, 2009)

«Currently, various initiatives are put forward to address the environmental problems that cause serious concern for the entire global community. Numerous national and international projects are realized. In the upcoming election 15 seats in parliament are allocated for members of the Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan, and this I regard as an important initiative to address environmental problems. MPs to be elected from the Environmental Movement will in the future, no doubt, make a worthy contribution to improving the legislative base in this direction and development of economic mechanisms in this sphere.»

Hamdi ABULAINAIN,
Vice-Chairman
Chamber of Commerce and Industry,
Egypt

(«In Uzbekistan created all conditions to ensure democracy and transparency in the electoral process» // UzA, December 26, 2009)



«Currently, environmental problems are pressing worldwide. Development of Environmental Movement of Uzbekistan and the provision of 15 seats for them in the lower house of parliament will serve to address the ecological situation not only in Uzbekistan, but in all countries of Central Asia.»

Bal Ram SAINI,
Co-Chair of the Chamber of Commerce India-CIS,
India

(«All the conditions for an objective assessment of the electoral process observers» // UzA, 26 December 2009; «The manifestation of democracy, transparency and multi-party system» // Pravda Vostoka, 29 December 2009)

«I really like the way you address environmental issues. Today, Uzbekistan places special attention to this issue while it is not the case in the CIS and Uzbekistan is first to make substantial steps in this regard. If each country elects individual MPs responsible for issues concerning the environment — and you have 15 deputies elected — it will be a great contribution to solving environmental problems. I congratulate, you are first to elect deputies on environmental issues, and it is extremely important.»

Myrat GARRYEV,
Chairman of the Central Commission for Elections
and Referenda,
Turkmenistan
(«Interview to «Akhborot» Program, «Uzbekiston» channel,
December 26, 2009)



«I particularly wish to point out that the country has become open to an environmental movement that 15 seats are granted to Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan, is surely significant step forward while many international conferences address environmental issues on the global scale, it is very important that Uzbekistan can take advantage of the presence of the Environmental Movement in its parliament. From my point of view, this is an excellent start on which I would like to congratulate the people of Uzbekistan».

Andreas DULEIX,
Chairman of the Senate Friendship Group
«France—Central Asia»,
France
(«Briefing at the diplomatic mission of Uzbekistan in Paris» //
IA «Jahon», 26 November 2009)

«The current elections in Uzbekistan are distinct by factoring in such a major element of contemporary world politics as protectional environment. The fact that the environmentalists will be assigned seats in the parliament is of course important, because you know environmentalists can pass, and may not pass the election, which we observe in Western and Eastern Europe. This is problematic, and the theme of ecology is constant and the deeper it is addressed, the more influence it has on the development of all mankind the political system should study be adapted to these challenges that exist today.»

Igor KRUGOVYH,
Adviser of the analytical department
Administration of State Duma,
Russia

(The briefing in Moscow // IA «Jahon», December 10, 2009)



«Today, environmental issues play a very important role. The whole world is concerned about them and the fact that in Uzbekistan it was decided to grant 15 seats to MPs from the Environmental Movement, suggests that your country is going in line with global developments and seeks to address these issues at the highest level».

Nikos BARDUNIAS,
journalist, a leading financial and economic analyst
of «Kafimerini» newspaper,
Greece

(«On the basis of democratic principles, open and transparent» //
«Uzbekistan today», December 31, 2009)



«Protection of the environment is one of the pressing problems in the world, and the Environmental Movement

contributes to its solution. At present, the Aral Sea crisis is an environmental problem not only for the Central Asian region, but also around the world. Uzbekistan actively participates in solving this problem. Taking into account the need for long-term increased attention to issues of environmental protection, environmental sustainability, health care, 15 seats at the Legislative Chamber of Oliy Majlis are for deputies from Environmental Movement of Uzbekistan, which undoubtedly will bear significant fruits in the future.»

Anatoliy KASYANENKO,
Deputy Chairman of the Board of JSC Ukrhydroenergo,
Ukraine

(«The electoral process in line with international standards» //
IA «Jahon», December 26, 2009)



«Of particular note is the fact that at present, to the Legislative Chamber of Oliy Majlis shall be elected 15 deputies from the Environmental Movement of Uzbekistan. This will further improve laws in environmental issues, raise ecological awareness of the population.»

Sin GUANCHEN,
Director of the Institute for the Study of the
Peripheral regions of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences
(«Electoral process in line with international standards» // IA «Jahon»,
December 26, 2009; Pravda Vostoka, 26 December 2009)



«As a result of climate change there have arisen many environmental problems in recent years in the world. This

process is detrimental to the health of people. In Uzbekistan, on the initiative of President Islam Karimov extensive work is carried out on conservation and stabilization of ecological situation, on reducing the negative effects of production processes on the environment. In particular, granting the Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan in the lower house of Parliament 15 seats is a practical reflection of the great work in addressing the environmental issues.»

**Saleh HASHEM,
Secretary General of the Union
of Universities of Arab States,
Egypt**

(«Electoral process in line with international standards» //
IA «Jahon», December 26, 2009;
Pravda Vostoka, 26 December 2009)



«Currently one of the most pressing problems in the world is to protect the environment. To these ends, in particular to address the problems of the Aral Sea and improve soil fertility in Uzbekistan large-scale work is done. The provision in the Legislative Chamber of 15 to seats to envicon Movement of Uzbekistan may serve as a practical application: implementing reforms in order to improve environmental situation in the country.»

**Parviz MOREWEDGE,
Professor of Philosophy and Social Sciences
State University of New York,
Director of Center for Global Scientific Publications,
USA**

(«The people of Uzbekistan is actively preparing
for the elections» // UzA, 23 December 2009,
Pravda Vostoka, 24 December 2009)

«Creating the Environmental Movement of Uzbekistan and the allocation 15 seats in the Legislative Chamber of Oliy Majlis for it shows that the country pays great attention to protecting the environment.»

Hadi RAJABLI,
Chairman of the Committee on Social Policy, Milli Majlis,
Azerbaijan

(«An open and transparent elections» // UzA, December 27, 2009,
«The manifestation of democracy, transparency and multi-party
system» // Pravda Vostoka, 29 December 2009)



«Against the background of adoption of decisions to protect the environment by the international community improve ecological situation and health of people deserve a positive assessment of the legislative initiative on granting seats to representatives of Environmental Movement of Uzbekistan.»

Dato Haji Wan Ahmad bin Wan OMAR,
Deputy Chairman of the Electoral Commission,
Malaysia

(«Election: the democratic and constructive character» //
IA «Jahon», December 15, 2009)



«In Uzbekistan, great attention is paid to environmental protection, to such topical issues as the problem of the Aral Sea. 15 seats in the Legislative Chamber of Oliy Majlis are made available to Environmental Movement of Uzbekistan, which will contribute to further improvement in protecting the environment.»

Azmat Hayat KHAN,
Rector of the University of Peshawar,
Pakistan

(«All conditions for the observers» // UzA, December 23, 2009;
Pravda Vostoka, 25 December 2009)

«The amendments to the electoral legislation Uzbekistan, including the increase of seats in the parliament, require attention to pressing issues. Environment protection in Uzbekistan has large scale effects. In this regard, the provision of 15 parliamentary seats to environmental Movement of Uzbekistan shows the serious attention that the Government of Uzbekistan has placed on environmental issues.»

Ishanguly KERIMOV,
Member of Majlis,
Turkmenistan

(Interview to Program «Davr», «Yoshlar»,
December 27, 2009)



«Increasing the number of seats in parliament, as well as the preservation of 15 mandates for representatives of the Environmental Movement of Uzbekistan is a testimony to the fact that the political system in Uzbekistan has evolved to a qualitatively new level. The nature conservation, environmental issues are urgent in many countries, but I never have known the fact that members of the environmental movement operate in parliament. Such a policy makes me just rejoice. I see that the process of preparing for elections, if compared with my country — India — in Uzbekistan was held at a higher organizational level.»

Rashid ALVI,
Member of the Upper House of Indian Parliament

(«Word of international observers» //
newspaper «Sirdaryo Hakikati», December 30, 2009)

«Granting the new Environmented Movement of Uzbekiston seats in Oliy Majlis is an important practical step to advance issues of environmental security in the country and the region as a whole. The ecological problems in the region — Aral Sea, drying climate change, soil degradation and subsequent socio-economic effects — call for greater role of parliament in addressing the challenges of environmental protection and public health, utmost importance for the society and the state. It is therefore considered very important and timely the initiative on quota seats specifically for the EM of Uzbekistan.»

Shalahuddin KAFRAVI,
Teacher's College, Hobart and William Smith
(New York and Geneva) on issues of philosophy,
law, ethics, religion, Islamovedeniye
and cultural studies,
USA

(«Uzbekistan is developing democracy based on the priority of public opinion» // IA «Jahon», December 23, 2009)



«I got familiarized with the work to be carried out on election day in the process of voting and ballot counting. For this reason, I can confidently say that you have adopted effective laws to improve the electoral process and to form a more democratic electoral system in the country. The fact that the Environmental Movement of Uzbekistan is granted 15 seats in parliament, shows what significance the people and government attach to environmental issues. I support it.»

Amnon COHEN,
Member of Knesset,
Israel

(«Opinions of foreign observers» // Newspaper «Jamiyat», January 1, 2010)

«Today, our planet is suffering from environmental problems arising due to various negative phenomena. Therefore, worldwide emphasis is on environmental protection. And in Uzbekistan in order to stabilize the environmental situation in the regions is created environmental movement, which is allocated 15 seats in the lower house of parliament. I talked to candidates from this movement. All have extensive experience in environmental issues, leading specialists and scientists. I am convinced that elected members would make a major contribution to the development sphere.»

Vladimir FILIPOVICH,
Head of Department at the CIS Executive Committee
(«The manifestation of democracy, transparency
and multi party system» // Pravda Vostoka, 29 December 2009)

«After getting information about your electoral system, I noted several advantages hardly found in other countries. In particular, the establishment of an environmental movement (in order to improve the environmental signation ground the Aral Sea), the allocation for its representatives of 15 seats in the Legislative Chamber of Oliy Majlis of Uzbekistan showed, along with changes in other areas, large-scale reforms in the field of ecology.»

Abdulrahmon AL-KHAMISI,
Author, member of the Association of Writers,
Egypt

(«The manifestation of democracy, transparency
and multi party system» //
Pravda Vostoka, 29 December 2009)

«Familiar with the process of preparation and holding of elections, I realized the full respect for democracy, openness and transparency. Creation of the Environmental Movement of Uzbekistan is quintessential. Granting them 15 seats in the Parliament will contribute to the protection of nature, improvement of public health.»

Anatoliy KINAKH,
Member of Verkhovna Rada,
Ukraine

(«The practical manifestation of generally accepted international norms» // UzA, 29 December 2009)



«I would like to emphasize that the new legislation stipulates for 15 seats for the Environmental Movement in parliament. This is further proof of the fact that in Uzbekistan, protection of the environment is considered at the government level. If the environmentalists take part in decision-making process, it will serve not only the interests of the movement, but also the entire population.»

Ajay PATNAIK,
Professor of Jawaharlal Nehru University,
India

(«Meeting with experts in India» // IA «Jahon», December 15, 2009)

VIII. ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION OF INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS OF ELECTIONS REFLECTED IN FEEDBACK BOOKS AT DISTRICT ELECTION COMMISSIONS

«When I asked the citizens voting in polls whether there had been meetings with candidates to Legislative Chamber of Oliy Majlis, they replied they had been at numerous of them that were organized in mahallas where parliamentary candidates delivered election speeches and their programs. According to voters, they cast their ballots for those candidates who they thought were worthy.»

Rupert JOY,
Ambassador of the United Kingdom to Uzbekistan
(Polling station 424, Tashkent region)



«A great amount of work has been carried out in preparation for elections to Oliy Majlis, regional, municipal, district councils of people's representatives. Electoral registers and excerpts from documents on voters' rights are on the walls of the polling station. No complaints, and hence, as an independent observer from the United States, I can congratulate the people of Uzbekistan. Democratic roots are underway in Uzbekistan.»

Boris CANDOV,
President of the Congress of
Bukharian Jews of USA and Canada,
USA
(Polling station 6, Samarkand region)

«This is the third time I come here as an observer in the elections in Uzbekistan. It is nice to notice that the electoral system has been improving year on year. Transparency, openness, and secret ballot deserve particular mentioning. Equally vital has been the handing of fifteen parliamentary seats over to members of Ecology Movement. All this will undoubtedly facilitate democratic consolidation in Uzbekistan.»

Santiago Ruiz-MORALES,
Chairman of Uzbek-Spanish Friendship Association,
Spain
(Polling station 87, Tashkent)

«Voting at polling places of Tashlak electoral constituency passed in full conformity to international norms... Voters cast their ballots freely... I participated in 2004 elections, but the current ones are arranged more thoroughly compared to those. I have noticed that district electoral commissions contain loads of youth, and that is brilliant.»

Nikos BARDUNIAS,
journalist, a leading financial and economic
analyst of the newspaper Kafimerini,
Greece
(Tashlak district electoral commission 101, Ferghana region)

«I have visited a number of polling stations. Got convinced of the fact that the elections are fair and free. I

have observed the process scrupulously. Voters are energetic and full of enthusiasm. The turnout has been growing steadfast.»

Rashid ALVI,
Member of Upper house of Parliament,
India
(Polling station 9, Tashkent)



«This is hardly the first constituency I have had the opportunity to visit during these elections. I believe both the electorate and those responsible for arranging the polls are disposed positively and the people are fully involved in the process per se. I also exchanged views with observers from political parties. Was lucky enough to watch the elections and the participation of the younger generation in particular. Thus I got convinced of the high level of organization of elections that were characterized by integrity and fairness».

Rocco ABRAM,
Chairman of the Association Uzbekistan-Italy,
Italy
(Polling station 11, Samarkand region)



«At this polling station, by 15.50 local time 55 per cent of voters have already cast their ballots. Observers from political parties and electorate have had no complaints. The arranging of the station meets all international electoral



standards. Also, I would like to point out that the most festive mood has reigned in this station.»

Nerri YUSHVAEV-KAVALER,
board member of the Congress
of Bukharian Jews in USA and Canada,
USA
(Polling station 643, Tashkent)

«The preparations for 2009 parliamentary and local council elections have been scrupulous in your country. The efforts of regional election commission during the pre-elections campaign are worth acknowledging. The necessary environment for voting is there at polling stations. I saw how the voters came in elated mood, how high their confidence in the elections was. It is remarkable that citizens are well aware of their electoral rights and came to vote early in the morning. These elections are being held in accordance with universal democratic principles with strict abidance by electoral law.»

Shirin AKINER,
Senior Researcher
Cambridge Forum for Central Asia,
UK
(Polling station 230, Surkhandarya region)

«I witness that the electoral process has been winning the higher enthusiasm of the population. All the conditions

are created for voters and observers from political parties at the polling place».

Lilo HOFFMAN,
Manager of «Cru Projekt GmbH «Aux Gazelles»,
Austria
(Polling station 437, Tashkent region)



«The elections completely meet international standards. I am convinced that the representatives elected this year will make a remarkable input Uzbekistan's progress. The participation of international observers testifies to the fact that the elections are open and transparent.»

Mikhail MIKHAYLICHENKO,
Counselor of CIS Executive Committee
(Polling station 215, Surkhandarya region)



«I have visited the polling station 573 of electoral district 102. By the time I came in, the mass voting by citizens was in full swing. The people in charge of the polling place have prepared meticulously for this august political event. They came up with answers to any queries voters and observers had. I am confident that the elections are held on high political level, meeting all international norms and the legislation of Uzbekistan as a sovereign nation.»

Demosfenos BARDZOKAS,
Professor of National Technical University,
Greece
(Polling station 601, Ferghana region)

«The premises provided for the district commission are clean and comfortable, have all the amenities and are supplied with office equipment and communications. I received competent answers to my questions.»

Raisa SCSUROVA,
Researcher, Institute of Far Eastern Studies,
Russian Academy of Sciences
(Polling station 424, Namangan region)



«At the polling place 409 all the required setting was created. Showing up there at 15.00, we saw that citizens were active in electoral process by using their political rights. When we asked them whether it was possible for one to come and vote for the rest of the family, they countered that every voter had just one ballot.»

Nerri YUSHVAEV-KAVALER,
board member of the Congress
of Bukharian Jews in USA and Canada,
USA
(Polling station 409, Tashkent region)



«The elections procedures are arranged in accordance with the Conception of the Central Election Commission, and that makes me glad.»

Oleg KULEBA,
Consultant of CIS Executive Committee
(District Election Commission 22, Bukhara region)

«I have been to six polling stations and have barely encountered any breach of legislation; on the contrary, the elections were held in full conformity to the law. I believe the allocation of additional fifteen parliamentary seats to Ecology Movement is rather an interesting project. In my work from now on, I am going to follow the implementation of this scheme.»

Brigitta WOLLENWEBER,
Editor of WOSTOK magazine,
Germany
(Polling station 380, Surkhandarya region)



«The organizational aspect at the polling place is fine. All necessary amenities for children of voters are created at this premise. First aid room is also well equipped. The electoral process is held properly.»

Ajay PATNAIK,
Professor of Jawaharlal Nehru University,
India
(Polling station 529, Andijan region)



«The elections are organized rather professionally and are held at a high level. I would like to acknowledge the efficiency and responsiveness of this polling station chief. I have not seen any violations. Wish you all the best.»

Namik GUZEYNOV,
Department for Political Issues,
Organization of Islamic Conference
(Polling station 647, Tashkent)

«The polling station is equipped well. No complaints. I would like to acknowledge the high level of professionalism seen in the members of local electoral commission.»

Marina AFONINA,
Counselor of CIS Executive Committee
(Polling station 11, Samarkand region)

«The elections are open and democratic. Particularly worth appreciating is the mother and baby room that is the evidence of highest respect for women in this country.»

Carrie LEE,
Cultural Affairs Officer,
United States Embassy in Uzbekistan
(Polling station 199, Tashkent region)

«Owing to the brilliant organization and preparatory work for elections, the voting passed scrupulously, orderly, competently and with strict conformity to established international rules.»

Vyacheslav RATKIN,
Vice-Rector, Academy of Diplomacy,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Russia
(Polling station 4, Samarkand region)

«I am in Uzbekistan for the first time. I like the country a lot. It has especially been important for me to watch the elections in Termez which borders three countries. The national anthem was played from early morning that left an unforgettable impression on me. I was struck by how the people came to vote in teams, from 6 am in the morning. In Germany, for example, elections start at 8, and the voters come around normally by noon. As an observer in these elections, I felt like at holiday festivities.»

Peter SHPARY,
Vice-President of Germany-Uzbekistan Society,
Germany
(Polling station 234, Surkhandarya region)

«The future of Uzbekistan is definite. The people are voting to promote their interests, for their representation in the legislature of the country. This testifies to the success of democratic processes.»

Shalahuddin KAFRAVI,
Teacher's College, Hobart and William Smith
(New York and Geneva) on issues of philosophy,
law, ethics, religion, islamovedeniye
and cultural studies,
USA
(Polling station 642, Tashkent)

«Congratulations! Wish you all the best from the bottom of my heart, and not least in elections... Excellent environment is created here for democratic development!

Following my closer acquaintance with the course of elections, I can sincerely state that this experience is pretty impressive. Outstanding organization, festive elated atmosphere, feeling of accountability, and so forth. Good for you and well done! Uzbekistan is the future of Central Asia and Eurasia.»

Jean BLANKOFF,
Honorary professor of Free University Brussels,
Belgium

(Chirchik District Electoral Commission 86,
Tashkent region)



«At the polling place I got familiarized with organization of electoral process. All the work is carried out in strict observance of legislation and meeting international standards. Members of commission are well-trained. The splendid service of commission's chairman deserves a special acknowledgment.»

Vasiliy VOLKOV,
Member of Central Election Commission,
Russia

(Polling station 333, Tashkent)



«The organization of elections meets the requirements of legislation. Voter turnout is high. No violation observed.»

Sergey TOLSTOV,
Director, Institute of Political Analysis and International
Studies, National Academy of Sciences,
Ukraine

(Bukhara District Electoral Commission 21)

«The voting process is organized well at the polling premises. That facilitates competent, confident voting that meets international rules.»

Vyacheslav RATKIN,
Vice-Rector, Academy of Diplomacy,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Russia
(Polling station 12, Samarkand region)



«In my opinion, one of the principles of democracy is the opportunity for free vote. During the parliamentary elections in Uzbekistan I have witnessed how citizens cast their ballots freely for their favorite candidates. Moreover, the essential amenities are created at polling places. They have in particular rooms for mother and child.»

Kyudzo KATO,
Professor of National Ethnographic Museum,
Japan
(Polling station 417, Tashkent)



«The voting process at the polling station conforms to the current legislation. The preparation for elections was high-class. There are no violations.»

Irina ZVYAGELSKAYA,
Leading expert on Central Asia
Institute of Oriental Studies,
Russian Academy of Sciences
(Polling station 40, Sirdarya region)

«Elections in Uzbekistan are based on democratic principles. The electorate's liveliness and the environment created for them are at the level one can envy. We would like our own elections be like this.»

Anatoliy KINAKH,
Member of Verkhovna Rada,
Ukraine
(Polling station 199, Tashkent region)



«District election commissions have everything they need and the corresponding conveniences are there for voters. The elections are monitored by authorized representatives of all political parties as well as observers, who also have everything they need. I noted a high voter turnout in the process.»

Raisa SCSUROVA,
Researcher, Institute of Far Eastern Studies,
Russian Academy of Sciences
(Polling station 421, Namangan region)



«The elections are held marvelous, in an elated mood. All political parties are active in the polls. The voters cast their ballots with personal participation and keen interest. They have been enviably active.»

Ajay PATNAIK,
Professor of Jawaharlal Nehru University,
India
(Polling station 530, Andijan region)

«When I talked with observers and authorized representatives of political parties, they presented a detailed account of their rights, as to what they are allowed and not. In constituencies which I visited there were no cases of violations.»

Jalalidin SALAKHUDINOV,
Member Jokorgu Kenesh,
Kyrgyzstan
(Polling station 415, Tashkent region)

«Polling stations are well prepared to service the electorate. Mother and child rooms created here deserve particular interest. The electoral process is open and free. Observers from all four political parties of the country monitored the voting process. I congratulate the organizers of parliamentary elections in Uzbekistan, in particular the Central Election Commission, with the successful conduct of such an important event.»

Dato Haji Wan Ahmad bin Wan OMAR,
Deputy Chairman of the Electoral Commission,
Malaysia
(Electoral district 132, Tashkent)

«I think the elections are fair. I have noticed that citizens of this district are positive and enthusiastic about the elections. And I congratulate them with this.»

Ma CHZHENGAN,
President of the China Institute
for International Studies,
(Polling station 11, Samarkand region)

«I was given a warm welcome at the polling place. There the atmosphere was one of working. I enquired a voter why he was taking three ballot papers. He went one was for the candidate to the Legislative Chamber, and the others for those to regional and municipal Kenghashes (councils).»

Mohan DHAR,
Columnist of «Political Events» weekly,
India

(Polling station 79, Tashkent region)



«This polling place is well prepared for elections. Representatives from political parties are monitoring the process, which is characterized by fairness. Active also are the staff.»

Adjay PATNAIK,
Professor of Jawaharlal Nehru University,
India

(Polling station 535, Andijan region)



«At 11.30 when we arrived at the polling station, we witnessed how everything was going steadily and without any violations. When I asked the individuals throwing the ballot papers down into the boxes, what elections these were like, they responded that these were the elections to the Legislative Chamber of Oliy Majlis, regional, district Kenghashes (councils). I would prefer that other countries take these elections in Uzbekistan as a model.»

Kyoko NAKAYAMA,
Member of Parliament,
Japan

(Polling station 409, Tashkent region)

«Elections are arranged in the best possible way. The voting process went sequentially. Elections organizers were enough competent. These elections are testimony to the fact that Uzbekistan under President Islam Karimov's leadership has been on the way to political and economic progress.»

Pak MU-ZHONG,
President-publisher of the newspaper «Korea Times»,
Republic of Korea
(Polling station 11, Samarkand region)



«I did not witness any pressure on the electorate during the voting process. All necessary conveniences are there for voters and they proved pretty active in the process. I would like that a new government be formed in these days that would, I believe, serve the future of Uzbekistan.»

Muhammad Talha Mahmood ARYAN,
Chairman of the Senate Committee on Internal Affairs,
Pakistan
(Polling station 128, Sirdarya region)



«In Uzbekistan, democracy is manifest, first and foremost, in the willingness and interest of citizens in the participation in political processes of the country as well as the development of parliamentarianism. Democracy in Uzbe-

kistan will evolve, and that will in the future be a noble input into the prosperity and happiness of the nation.»

So KON I,
Chairman of company,
Republic of Korea
(Polling station 87, Tashkent)

«Parliamentary elections in Uzbekistan are organized on the highest level. I congratulate Uzbekistan's leadership on the successful holding of such a central event. Preparation for elections is going in fair and confidential atmosphere.»

Fahad AL-MEKRAD,
Director General for Continuous Education,
Arab Open University,
Kuwait
(Polling station 86, Tashkent)

«I saw the elections were held in a calm and peaceful environment. At the polling place, I had a chance to monitor the practical realization of the will of people with regard to the election of parliamentarians who will make their input into the further economic development and the consolidation of democracy in the country.»

Kim Yung SEEK,
Chairman of Shindong Enercom and Shindong
Engineering & Construction,
Republic of Korea
(Polling station 417, Tashkent)

«I am glad to have visited this polling place to witness fine groundwork and organization. And this is the most appropriate way of arranging elections. I congratulate the people of Uzbekistan on these elections that have been open and trustworthy. Wish the people of Uzbekistan the best of luck.»

Fahad AL-MEKRAD,
Director General for Continuous Education,
Arab Open University,
Kuwait
(Polling station 86, Tashkent)

«We see the progress in political reforms. I have already had a chance to participate in the presidential elections in Uzbekistan as an international observer. For the time span between the two elections, the electoral system has transformed remarkably and has currently been working in the right direction. I hope the current electoral campaign will be successful and peaceful.»

Tetsuji TANAKA,
Executive Director of the Institute for
Central Asia and Caucasus Studies,
Japan
(Polling station 119, Tashkent)

«I testify to the growing interest of the Uzbek people in assuming an active role in the political life of this country as well as their aspiration to build democracy. All this is

crucial in Uzbekistan's future development. May Almighty bless Uzbekistan and the Uzbek people.»

So KON I,
Chairman of company,
Republic of Korea
(Polling station 30, Tashkent)



«I am stunned by the enthusiasm of voters. The elections are transparent and meet international standards. Wish the candidates best of luck.»

Bhushan GUPTA,
Editor-in-chief of Sociallook magazine,
India
(Polling station 22, Andijan region)



«The polling station 642 opened at 6.00 am. There were myriads of voters. Representatives of political parties are also present as poll-watchers. The electoral process is held freely and fairly, using secret ballot. Members of district electoral commission are giving the incoming voters a warm welcome. I congratulate them and the leadership of the Central Election Commission with the fine organization of the electoral process. Thank you.»

Dato Haji Wan Ahmad bin Wan OMAR,
Deputy Chairman of the Electoral Commission,
Malaysia
(Electoral district 642, Tashkent)

«Elections passed in the best of conditions. The happy citizens freely and secretly cast their ballots for those candidates who they thought deserved their votes. This fact testifies again to the rigid foundation and stable roots of democracy in Uzbekistan.»

So KON I,
Chairman of company,
Republic of Korea
(Polling station 86, Tashkent)



«Once at the polling place, I saw how thoroughly organized all the work was. By the time we got familiarized with the work of district electoral commission, 70 percent of voters had already cast their ballots. I hope these elections will serve the interests of Uzbekistan well.»

Salah SULTAN,
Secretary of Asian Committee of Muslims,
Kuwait
(Polling station 767, Kashkadarya region)



«I arrived at the polling place at 8.45 am. I surveyed the elections process which involved a great number of voters. By the abovementioned time, 20 percent of the electorate had already cast their ballots, which is pretty fine. The elections here are premised on international democratic standards. Representatives of political parties also are present here.»

Abdulrahmon AL-KHAMISI,
Author, member of the Association of Writers,
Egypt
(Polling station 660, Samarkand region)

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ОБЛАСТНЫЕ, РАЙОННЫЕ И ГОРОДСКИЕ
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