



**International Election Observer Missions
Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States and
Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic Speaking Countries
Early Presidential Election in the Republic of Azerbaijan, 11 April 2018**

JOINT STATEMENT

Upon the invitation of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the International Election Observer Missions of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States (Turkic Council) and the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic Speaking Countries (TURKPA) (hereinafter referred to as the Missions) conducted observation of the election of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan (hereinafter referred to as the election) held on 11 April 2018.

The Missions are composed of 24 officials from the Secretariats of Turkic Council and TURKPA, the representatives from the Turkic Academy and the representatives of the Member States other than Azerbaijan – Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkey.

The Turkic Council delegation observed the election in Baku and Sheki. The delegation in Baku was divided into two groups in order to observe the election in different districts. The TURKPA delegation visited the polling stations in the cities of Sumgayit, Khirdalan and Baku.

The Missions carried out its activities in accordance with the legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan, as well as generally recognized rules of international law on the organization and conduct of elections, without interfering in the electoral process and the sovereignty of the state.

Constitution and the Election Code primarily regulate the Presidential Elections. The Constitution guarantees universal, equal and direct suffrage by secret ballot. Other legislation related to parts of electoral process includes the Law on Mass Media, the Law on Mass Events, relevant provisions of the Criminal Code, the Code of Administrative Offences, the Civil Procedure Code and resolutions of the Central Election Commission. It should be noted that Azerbaijan is a party to major international and regional instruments related to the holding of democratic elections.

In the framework of the observation of the pre-election process, on 6 April 2018, the Turkic Council delegation had a meeting with Mahmud Mammad-Guliyev, the Deputy Foreign Minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan. On 8 April 2018, the Turkic Council delegation met with Ziyaddin Aliyev, the Head of the Executive Authority of Guba, and Mubariz Abasov, the Chairman of the District Election Commission of Guba. The next day (9 April 2018) the Turkic Council delegation gathered with Mazahir Panahov, the Chairman of the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The group in Sheki convened with Elkhan Usubov, the Head of the Executive Authority of Sheki, and Rasim Azizov, the Chairman of the District Election Commission of Sheki. On 10 April, the TURKPA delegation came together with Ogtay Asadov, the Chairman of the Milli Mejlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Mahmud Mammad-Guliyev, the Deputy Foreign Minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and Mazahir Panahov, the Chairman of the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

On 8 April 2018, the Turkic Council delegation paid visits to several polling stations in the city of Guba to make a first-hand appraisal of the preparation to the elections and did not notice any presence of law violation.

On the Election Day, the Turkic Council delegation attended the opening of the polling station in Sheki. Tabulation of ballots and results was conducted in time according to the national election legislation.

The Missions visited 55 polling stations in total: 29 in Baku, 12 in Sheki, 8 in Sumqayit, 6 in Xirdalan. More precisely, the Missions observed Narimanov, Nasemi, Suraxani, Xatai, Yasamal, Zangilan-Qubadli election districts in Baku, two election districts in Sheki, Sumgayit and Sumgait-Khizi election districts in Sumgayit, Absheron election district in Khirdalan. The Missions did not find any evidence of intervention of administrative or law enforcement authorities in the work at the polling stations. All necessary administrative measures were taken to ensure the free will of the people during the voting day.

Appropriate conditions were provided to local, national and international observers as well as NGOs representatives to conduct impartial observation of the election. The Missions has observed high-level participation of the national and international observers, which reinforces the legitimacy and transparency of the election.

The Missions also observed the vote-counting process at the polling stations No. 27 of Yasamal III election district in Baku. Counting of ballots and announcement of results were conducted in time according to the national election legislation.

The Missions observed that there were no serious technical problems which might affect the results of the election.

The Missions observed no campaign materials visible inside or outside the polling stations, nor were there any campaign activities taking place nearby the polling stations. The polling stations were also accessible for persons with disabilities. There were also spare ballot boxes and braille alphabet templates for disabled and blind voters. The Missions observed no attempt by any outsider to influence voters on how to vote, was given full access to the polling stations, and received necessary information from the polling station officials.

In line with the electoral law, polling station materials including informative documents on how to vote and observe the election were present at the polling stations. Electoral participation was high, especially among the youth, and the polls have been prepared in compliance with electoral law. The widespread coverage of the elections in the social media can be noted as well.

In conclusion, International Election Observer Missions of Turkic Council and TURKPA affirms that the election of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan was open, transparent and competitive, and complied with the national legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan and generally accepted international election standards.

The full list of the delegation of the Missions is enclosed herewith.

Ömer Kocaman
Deputy Secretary General
Turkic Council

Altynbek Mamaiusupov
Secretary General
TURKPA

(Undersigned)

(Undersigned)

International Election Observer Mission of the Turkic Council

5-12 April 2018, Baku/Guba - Sheki

Baku Group

1. Ömer Kocaman – Head of Delegation
2. Metin Kılıç
3. Ali Çivler
4. Zhanar Nugumanova
5. Dastan Almen
6. Yerzhan Isakov
7. Naziya Telmukhamedova
8. Baktinur Mambetov
9. Reha Yereshen

Sheki Group

1. Assan Mazhitov – Head of the Group
2. Zhyldyz Uzakova
3. Özge Pan
4. Timur Kozyrev
5. Aygul Kairbekova
6. Ludmila Kutuyeva
7. Hakan Büyükbaş

International Election Observer Mission of the TURKPA

10-12 April 2018, Sumgayit, Khirdalan, Baku

1. Haluk İpek – Head of Delegation
2. Ceyhun İrgil
3. Berik Ospanov
4. Duishon Torokulov
5. Altynbek Mamaiusupov
6. Nauryz Aidarov
7. Ali Yıldız