

## STATEMENT

### **of the International Observers Mission of the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic-Speaking Countries on the results of parliamentary elections held on 12 June 2011 in the Republic of Turkey**

The International Observers Mission of TURKPA held a monitoring of parliamentary elections held in the Republic of Turkey on 12 June 2011 on their conformity with the national legislation of the Republic of Turkey.

TURKPA International Observers Mission included the representatives of three TURKPA member states: Republic of Azerbaijan, Republic of Kazakhstan and Republic of Kyrgyzstan, as well as the representatives of the TURKPA International Secretariat.

Short-term observance of preparation process and holding of elections has been organized in period of few days prior to the voting day. Agitation campaign has been finalized at 17:00 on 11 June 2011.

The candidates were granted equal conditions for conducting agitation work through the mass media having also the possibility for open organization of the meetings on the entire territory of Turkey. The candidates have addressed on the state and private television channels presenting the basic aspects of their election platform.

In general, media coverage of the elections to the Grand National Assembly of Turkey was prominently held. Facts of restricting access to media since the political motives or interference of government authorities in election campaign have not been registered.

About 50,2 million citizens of Turkey are entitled the right to vote. Participation of voters in elections has comprised 87% giving a possibility for the leading political parties to be presented in the parliament.

In the framework of visit a meeting of the group members with representatives of Supreme Central Election Board of Turkey was held. During this meeting the observers were given detailed information with regard to the actions taken on preparation of the parliamentary elections.

In day before the elections the TURKPA observers made a visit to the district election centers of Ankara city for monitoring the preparation process of voting.

There are all necessary legal and logistical conditions for holding international observance of elections in Turkey. The observers were given a possibility for acquainting with activities of election commissions and obtaining necessary information from them.

On 12 June 2011, the TURKPA International Observers Mission made a visit to the polling stations, where they were given a possibility to form personal impression on the voting process at all stages of voting – from the opening of stations up to the definition of election results. Complaints on the electoral lists, granting of ballot papers, as well as on voting procedure on the stations have not been registered.

Observers have noted the high level of public order and security provided during the preparation process and elections that favourably reflected the atmosphere of elections and contributed to the free expression of will by the voters. Political maturity of the society has been emphasized as impressive.

Observers have stressed that democratic voting process in Turkey is one of the developed ones. At the same time, in accordance with the electoral legislation of Turkey a maximum participation of 300 voters at each polling station gave the opportunity for precise representation and calculation of votes. Each voter was given an unobstructed and equal access to the polling station, including access to the premise for voting and expression of right to participate in free elections.

Facts of direct or indirect restrictions of the rights for participation in elections irrespective of race, nationality, sex, language, origin, property status or official capacity, residence, religion, beliefs and membership in public associations have not been registered.

TURKPA International Observers Mission concludes that parliamentary elections in the Republic of Turkey on 12 June 2011 were held in democratic conditions with observation of rights and freedoms of all participants of election process conforming fully to the national legislation of Turkey and international democratic standards.