

**INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS MISSION OF THE PARLIAMENTARY  
ASSEMBLY OF TURKIC-SPEAKING COUNTRIES**

**Presidential Elections, Republic of Turkey – 10 August, 2014**

**STATEMENT**

The TurkPA International Observers Mission conducted a short-term monitoring of the presidential elections held on 10 August, 2014 in the Republic of Turkey, which was held for first time in the history of Turkey by direct nationwide vote of the country's citizens.

At the referendum held in Turkey 2007 the citizens decided to elect the country's president by popular vote starting from 2014 (amendment to the Constitution, 21/10/2007-5678/1). According to the information of Turkey's Grand Election Council, the relevant legislative framework for these elections is reflected in the Law on Election of the President of the Republic of Turkey from 19.01.2012 (law №6271).

Casting of ballots lasted from 8 am till 5 pm local time. According to Grand Election Council's information on the preliminary results of the held elections the turnout was 73%.

Within its visit the TurkPA International Observers Mission, which was headed by Mr. Nizami Jafarov, member of Milli Mejlis of the Azerbaijan Republic, held meetings with Chairman of the Grand Election Council Mr. Sadi Güven, Chairman of the Constitutional Court Mr. Haşim Kılış, member of the Millet Meclisi (Parliament), Chairman of TurkPA Commission on Legal Issues and International Cooperation Haluk İpek and other Turkish parliamentarians-members of TurkPA, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Naci Koru as well as other dignitaries. During these meetings the observers were given detailed information as regards the measures taken on preparation for presidential elections and ensuring internationally recognised election standards.

The Turkish officials said that the nationwide presidential elections were being organised for the first time and therefore the government took all the steps to ensure that all the citizens could use their right to vote. For example, from 31<sup>th</sup> July to 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2014 abroad Turkish citizens cast their ballots at Turkey's diplomatic missions and points that were rented by the Turkish government. Total number of registered voters consisted of 52 894 115, including nearly 2.7 mln registered voters abroad.

The electoral legislation provides for international observation of the entire election process. TurkPA observers addressed outstanding issues directly to Grand Election Council.

In Turkey the members of the Grand Election Council and provincial election councils are appointed by the judicial authorities amongst the judges. Elections in Turkey traditionally are held under the supervision of the political parties, which have

nominated candidates. The political parties, which have nominated their candidates, can take part in the work of provincial election councils and have status of observers in the district election commissions. Citizens and the representatives of Mass Media can be present during the counting of ballots.

As the TurkPA International Observers Mission has been informed, the pre-election period lasted for one month and all the presidential candidates had equal opportunities to carry out election campaigns and media access. Election campaigning by the presidential candidates was in compliance with the country's electoral legislation.

The monitoring mission has not observed any significant violations or deviations from the regulations highlighted in the Code of Conduct for International Observers approved in 2005 by the United Nations and other international legal instruments. They were acquainted with the documents of the polling stations, had conversations with the voters as well as with representatives of candidates.

TurkPA Observers Mission monitored voting process at the polling stations at Chankaya, Kechioren, Yenimahalle and Altyn Dag districts of Ankara. The observers were present at the opening of polling stations, witnessed sealing of ballot boxes, could get acquainted with the official documents, such as voters' lists, blank ballots, etc., talked to the voters and representatives of political parties. The TurkPA observers were present at the vote counting at a polling station in Altyn Dag district.

Certain technical shortcomings can be characterised as isolated cases and could not have any significant impact on the entire voting process.

Observers have noted that voting process at the polling stations were calm, where election procedure was administered within the framework of national legislation and international norms.

The first ever nationwide presidential elections in Turkey held on 10 August, 2014 were in compliance with the international election standards.