

STATEMENT

**of International Observers Mission
of Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic-Speaking Countries
on the nation-wide referendum on the Changes into Constitution,
Kyrgyz Republic, December 11, 2016**

The TURKPA International Observers Mission conducted a short-term monitoring of the referendum held on 11 December 2016 in the Kyrgyz Republic. The mission included members of the parliaments of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Turkey as well as the representatives of the TURKPA Secretariat.

The mission was led by Mr. Nurlan Dulatbekov, member of the Majilis of Parliament of Kazakhstan and included Mr. Musa Guliev, member of the Milli Mejlis of Azerbaijan Republic, Mr. Erkan Aydin and Mr. Ekrem Erden, members of the Great National Assembly of Turkey.

Conduct of referendum in Kyrgyzstan is regulated by the 2010 Constitution, 2011 Law on Election Commissions to Conduct Elections and Referendum, Law on appointment of the referendum on the draft Law of the Kyrgyz Republic on the Changes to the Constitution of the Kyrgyz Republic signed in 3rd of November 2016. The legal framework also includes regulations and decisions of the Central Election Commission.

Within the visit's framework, TURKPA observers' mission headed by Mr. Nurlan Dulatbekov, held meetings with the top officials of the Central Election Commission as well as with the Chairman of the Jogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic. During these meetings, observers were given detailed information as regards the measures taken on preparation for the referendum. According to the information of the Central Election Commission, about 2 million 851 thousand 952 voters are registered to vote. Out-of-country voting has been organized for 14 thousand registered voters.



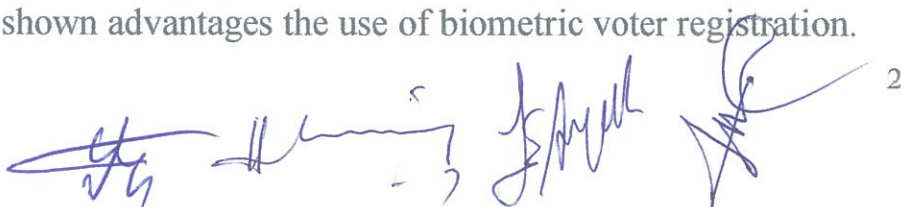
Technical and procedural aspects of elections were well organized, including adoption of working calendar, voter registration and preparation of training materials for the members of lower election commissions.

These are the first referendum held under the 2011 Law on Election Commissions to Conduct Elections and Referendum. Amendments to the given law adopted in April 2015 accommodate mandatory biometric voter identification and the use of ballot scanners. Finger print scanners were used to identify and verify voters, and ballot scanners provided an automated vote count in all polling stations. However, official voting results are based on the manual count. The voter list was based on the new Unified Population Register, which includes biometric data of all citizens registered.

Central Election Commission informed observers that 13 groups on Pro and Cons (4 Cons and 9 Pro) have been formed for agitation during campaign in the framework of referendum. Mass media provided an extensive coverage of the campaign and TURKPA observers emphasize that media corporations and commercial broadcasters abode by the principles of impartiality, truthfulness and accuracy. During the campaign, groups were granted free airtime on the public broadcaster. The groups were granted equal conditions to conduct campaigning work through the mass media and the observers didn't encounter any obstacles for the groups to organize meetings on the entire territory of the Kyrgyz Republic.

TURKPA mission had the opportunity to monitor a voting process at all stages. Polling stations on referendum day were open from 8:00 until 20:00. According to the information of the Central Election Commission, voter turnout was approximately 42%. Members of the mission visited 11 polling stations in Bishkek and outside. The observers monitored vote cast, having talked to voters and representatives of groups and polling officials. Members of Mission visited dozen polling stations and participated at the counting of votes. Mission once again welcomed the use of innovative technologies and biometric identification in the voting process.

Voting process has shown advantages the use of biometric voter registration.



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At the evening of 11 December 2016, the CEC announced (as for 10.00 pm of local time) the preliminary results of the referendum:

- For -79, 58 %
- Against -15, 40%

All the legal and logistical conditions were provided for international observation of referendum in Kyrgyz Republic. The observers adhered to the objectivity, transparency and impartiality principles confirmed in Code of Conduct for International Observers approved in 2005 by the United Nations Organization, recommendations of Venice Commission of the Council of Europe and other international legal instruments.

The mission has not observed any significant violations or deviations from the legal framework and voting procedure was administered in conformity with national legislation of Kyrgyz Republic and international norms. Occasional technical shortcomings can be characterized as isolated cases and could not have any significant impact on the entire voting process.

TURKPA International Observers Mission concludes that the referendum in the Kyrgyz Republic was held in compliance with the national legislation of Kyrgyz Republic and international democratic standards.

Head of the TurkPA
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Musa Guliev



Erkan Aydın



Ekrem Erden