

**CENTRAL ELECTION COMMITTEE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN**

**FOREIGN EXPERTS
ON ELECTORAL SYSTEM AND
ELECTION LEGISLATION
OF THE REPUBLIC
OF UZBEKISTAN**

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•UZBEKISTAN•
2010

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This collection was prepared on the basis of materials of the international conferences, seminars, round-tables held in 2009 by the Central Election Committee jointly with public and state institutions of Uzbekistan, international organizations related to discussion of the topical issues of democratic renewal of the society and modernization of the country, development of the electoral system and the legislation of elections according to the generally accepted international norms.

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INTRODUCTION

The distinctive features of preparation and holding of elections in 2009 to the Oliy Majlis, regional, district and city Kenghashes of People's Deputies are the significantly increased political and social activeness of people, their awareness of involvement in everything, which takes place around, significant increasing of their self-awareness and civic responsibility, strengthening the role of political parties and inter-party competition. The President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov notes: «The power of any political party in a society is estimated by its influence, the effectiveness of proposed and implemented program in the socio-political, cultural and spiritual spheres, the number of its supporters.» And today political parties, expressing the interests of various strata of the society, ever more effectively and visibly impact on socio-political and socio-economic life and the future of the country, as well as the system of adopting decisions in the state and public construction, including development of parliamentarism.

The year of elections is marked by further strengthening of role and place of the legislative and representative bodies of power in democratic renewal

and modernization of the country, further liberalization and improvement of the national election legislation. At that all the dynamic processes in socio-political, economic and daily life are coordinated and correlated giving a powerful impetus to renovation and development of the country.

These and several other conclusions have become the result of widespread discussions in the course of preparation and holding of elections, as well as the processes in political, state and legal systems, at international conferences, seminars and round-tables held in Uzbekistan on the eve of 2009 elections.

Thus only in May-September of 2009 according to the Conception on preparation and holding of elections to the Oliy Majlis, regional, district and city Kenghashes of People's Deputies, approved by the Central Election Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan, five international conferences, seminars and round-tables have been organized:

International standards of holding democratic elections and the election legislation of Uzbekistan;

Elections and the issues of development of modern parliamentarism: Uzbekistan's experience;

Legal aspects of ensuring openness, publicity and transparency in organization and holding of elections: the world experience, norms and standards;

Institutes of civil society and elections to representative bodies of power;

Political parties and elections: international practice and the legislation of Uzbekistan.

These forums were organized by the Central Election Committee, the Institute for Civil Society Studies,

Tashkent State Institute of Law, University of World Economy and Diplomacy, Academy of State and Social Construction, Institute of Strategic and Interregional Studies under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan, Charity Fund «Mahalla», other organizations, and OSCE institutions, international foundations, non-governmental organizations of a number of foreign countries.

The main objective of the above stated international forums was to consider the Uzbekistan experience in the systemic, gradual and coherent implementation of democratic reforms, progressive development and liberalization of the election legislation, practice of holding elections, and their conformity to the universally recognized international norms and standards.

Measures on further perfection of the election legislation and generally the electoral system approved in Uzbekistan for the recent years have also been discussed during the forums. The discussion of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan «On introducing amendments and additions into certain legislative acts of the Republic of Uzbekistan due to perfection of the election legislation», which came into force on July 1, 2009, was of particular interest in reports and speeches by participants of conferences, round-tables and seminars.

The issues of strengthening role of political parties, self-governing and other civil society institutions on preparation and holding of elections, implementing democratic reforms in Uzbekistan have been viewed in detail, in the context of the world experience. The issues of democratization of the mass media, their

coverage of elections, the practice of canvassing, participation in elections and law-making activity of Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan were of particular interest for participants of conferences, seminars and round-tables. Introducing of a new institution to the election legislation — an authorized representative from political party, increasing the number of proxies of candidates to deputies, measures aimed to ensure transparency of elections committees' activity and several other innovations of the election legislation and practice of holding elections are considered as an important step in further democratization of the electoral system.

The legal-organizing conditions for local and international observers' participation in elections arranged in the country were discussed during forums as well.

Members of the Senate and deputies of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan, representatives of political parties, Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan, leaders and activists of non-governmental non-commercial organizations and self-governing bodies participated in international conferences, seminars and round-tables. These forums were attended by over 100 experts from 30 countries, international organizations, in particular political scientists, lawyers, experts on election legislation from Belgium, UK, Germany, Egypt, Israel, India, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Malaysia, Netherlands, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Russia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, United States, Turkey, Ukraine, France, Czech Republic, Japan and other countries, representatives of local and

foreign mass media, including non-state. Experts from UN, EU, OSCE, CIS and other international organizations, as well as heads of diplomatic missions, accredited to Uzbekistan also participated.

The collection contains evaluations, comments on Uzbekistan election legislation and electoral system, democratic renewal and modernization processes in the country as well as information materials of scientific forums, reports and speeches made by foreign experts during conferences, seminars and round-tables.

**I. INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
«INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS OF HOLDING
DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS AND THE ELECTION
LEGISLATION OF UZBEKISTAN»**

(June 10–11, 2009 Tashkent)

On June 10—11, 2009 Tashkent hosted the International Conference “International standards of holding democratic elections and election legislation of Uzbekistan», organized by the Central Election Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Tashkent State Institute of Law and the Institute for Civil Society Studies jointly with Nagoya University (Japan) and the Office of OSCE Project Coordinator in Uzbekistan. It was attended by experts, specialists and scientists from Germany, India, Italy, Lithuania, Republic of Korea, Russia and Japan.

Conference participants reviewed the experience of Uzbekistan on perfecting the legislative basis of electoral system and practice of holding elections to representative bodies of power. It was noted that in the country, which from the beginning determined for itself the policy of building a legal democratic state and strong civil society, progressive and gradual democratization of elections, an effective legislative basis for elections corresponding to the international norms and democratic requirements, were created. Organizational and legal, material and technical conditions for free and active participation of citizens in elections, reliable guarantees for full realization of their voting rights have been created.

It was emphasized during the Conference that the forthcoming elections in Uzbekistan in late December 2009 will be held taking into account all amendments and additions introduced into the election legislation which ensure further liberalization and democratization of the electoral system. According to the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan «On introducing amendments and additions into certain legislative acts of Uzbekistan due to perfection of the election legislation» dated July 1, 2008 the number of deputies in the Legislative Chamber was increased from 120 to 150 in order to further strengthen the role of the supreme legislative body of the country, the local representative bodies of power in democratic renewal and modernization of the country.

Participants of the Conference pointed out that in Uzbekistan the opportunities for institutions of civic society to participate in elections were increased. Candidates to deputies will be nominated only by political parties. Based on the tremendous importance of environmental issues, the struggle for the improvement of ecological environment, human health, including problems that are of interest for all strata of the society, regardless of their political orientation, 15 seats in the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis are provided for deputies elected from Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan.

The institute of an authorized representative of a political party, who shall be empowered to participate in counting of votes at polling stations, verification of correctness of compiling of subscription lists, is

introduced into the election legislation. The possible number of proxies of candidates to deputies is increased from 5 to 10.

The participants paid much attention to the consideration of the Conception on preparation and holding of elections to the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan, regional, district and city Kenghashes of People's deputies, approved by the Central Election Committee. The Conception, which defines the main principles, objectives, priorities, main phases and events of the election campaign, was assessed by foreign experts as a document, the implementation of which will contribute to holding of the forthcoming elections at the highest democratic level.

The Conception clearly states that the activities of election committees, as well as political parties involved in elections process, will be directed to ensure strict and unconditional following the requirements of the acting legislation during elections. Only the Central Election Committee is the principal body to organize the election campaign, and nobody will be allowed to interfere in.

The Conception includes requirements of legislation that exclude provision of any benefits and preferences to any of the participants during the election campaign. The procedure and rules for preparation and holding of elections defined by the law and the Conception are obligatory and equal for all. These and other provisions of the Conception were assessed by foreign experts as an example of the high democratic level of electoral system in Uzbekistan testifying to the deep democratic transformations taking place in the society.

Conference participants noted that the electoral system, the practice of elections to the representative bodies of power in Uzbekistan are an important factor in raising political culture, legal awareness of the population, deepening the process of construction a democratic, legal state and the basis of civil society.

It was underlined that just as there is no universal, equal for every country model of democracy, there are no similar models of electoral system. In Uzbekistan, the electoral system and legislation in this area are developing, on the one hand, according to the generally accepted international principles and standards, on the other — taking into account the level of public awareness, legal and political culture, traditions and mentality of the people of the country.

Prior to the Conference meetings of its participants were organized in the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis, the Central Election Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Tashkent State Institute of Law, the Institute for Civil Society Studies and the Institute for Monitoring Current Legislation under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan. During these meetings foreign experts familiarized with the activities of political parties factions in the Parliament of Uzbekistan, discussed the issues of ensuring the democratic elections, organizational and public aspects of their preparation and holding, as well as mechanisms for informational, analytical and regulatory support for elections in the country.

**FROM REPORTS AND SPEECHES
OF FOREIGN PARTICIPANTS OF THE
CONFERENCE**

Evgeniy SLOBODA
Responsible officer,
CIS Secretariat

«... CIS member-states constantly improve election legislation and practice of its implementation.

The Republic of Uzbekistan is of no exception.

The Law «On introducing amendments and additions into certain legislative acts of the Republic of Uzbekistan due to perfection of the election legislation» has been adopted recently. It is aimed at raising the role of political parties in the activity of the highest legislative body and the local representative bodies of power.

Adoption of the Law contributes to further democratization of the election legislation of Uzbekistan, creates the conditions for active participation of political parties and other public organizations in solving important problems of socio-political and socio-economic development of the country.

All this shows the government's commitment to hold the forthcoming elections in accordance with generally accepted standards of democratic elections. And such steps should only be welcomed...»

Kadama SHIGERU
Professor, Mie University
(Japan)

«One of the priorities of legal development, implemented within strengthening democratic institutes in Uzbekistan, is further perfection of the national election legislation and formation of modern electoral system. Free and transparent elections promote increasing socio-political activeness of the population, renovation of the country, formation of representative powers according to the principles of democracy.

In this regard, one may say that a balanced electoral system has been created in Uzbekistan which provides each citizen of the country with the right to express his will, to elect and to be elected, and thus to directly participate in adoption of important government decisions.

Initiated by the President of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov the Constitutional Law «On strengthening the role of political parties in the renewal and further democratization of the state governance and modernization of the country», come into force in 2008, is of great significance on deepening democratic reforms, developing a multi-party system, strengthening social and political activeness of the population. Clearly defined legal status of parties in the parliament and significantly increased their role on raising effectiveness of law-making activity the Constitutional Law has created legal-organizing conditions for active influence of political parties on formation of central and local bodies of executive power, public control over their activity. All

of this has positively affected the process of transformation in Uzbekistan.

At the same time the electoral system is a mechanism which has to timely react to the processes in the country and to be transformed in direction of further modernization and improvement. In this regard of special significance is regular perfection of legal and judicial norms of the election legislation implemented in Uzbekistan.

Proceeding from the situation, the Law «On introducing amendments and additions into certain legislative acts of the Republic of Uzbekistan due to perfection of the election legislation» was adopted. Its objectives were liberalization and democratization of the election legislation, increasing the role and strengthening influence of political parties as well as ensuring the Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan an opportunity to participate in realization and observation of citizens' rights for favorable environment and health protection, rational using of natural resources and ensuring ecological security of the country.

In general the mentioned innovations should ensure transparency and universality of elections and act as an additional factor of strengthening public control by political parties over activity of election committees...»

Aykyio MASANORI
Director, Center for Asian Law Exchange
(Japan)

«... Free democratic elections and referendum testify to the highest and direct manifestation of the principle of democracy. That is why the legislation on elections and its improvement should be considered as an important component of democratic reforms implemented in Uzbekistan. Moreover it should be noted that suffrage in Uzbekistan having accumulated international election standards taking into account the national peculiarities responds to the modern requirements of the electoral system.

... Democratic principles of elections are reflected in the Laws «On elections to the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan», «On elections to regional, district and city Kengashes of People's Deputies», «On guarantees of citizens' suffrage», «On the Central Election Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan». They reflect such principles as universality of elections, equal suffrage, direct and secret ballot, voluntary participation in elections, publicity of their holding, public and expert control.

Compliance of the national electoral system and the international standards is of special significance. It is necessary to note here that Uzbekistan recognizes the primacy of norms of the international law, international treaties ratified by Uzbekistan which formulate principles and conventional norms of the international law in this field with regard to provisions of the national legislation.

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... Today one may state that constitutional and election legislation of Uzbekistan are inseparably linked with the modern election standards and taking them into account are intensively developing.

... Election legislation created in Uzbekistan corresponds to the basic international standards and requirements of further democratic development.

... The Constitution of Uzbekistan containing a special chapter related to the electoral system proclaims a number of fundamental principles which have to guarantee real political pluralism. This system has passed several stages of development being influenced by different factors.

The adopted by the Parliament of Uzbekistan at the end of 2008 the Law «On introducing amendments and additions into certain legislative acts of the Republic of Uzbekistan due to perfection of the election legislation» is very significant. This Law introduced amendments and additions into 13 laws and the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Due to this we see an additional important step toward to the consistent liberalization and democratization of the election legislation of the country.

In Uzbekistan the Constitution and the election legislation thoroughly and democratically regulate elections process and therefore create legal basis for fair and responsible formation of bodies of state power.»

Emi MAKINO
Expert, Nagoya University
(Japan)

«Since gaining state independence Uzbekistan is steadily and consistently going along the chosen way of democratic development, formation of strong civil society and deepening of market reforms.

The process of further democratization of elections to representative bodies of power is being carried out step by step. The role of political parties, other institutions of civil society, mass media is strengthening in raising social and political activeness of citizens. Inter-party competition and struggle for their electorate is developing.

One should note that Uzbekistan has gained considerable experience in formation of representative bodies of state power during the past elections of the President and Parliament of the Republic of Uzbekistan that were held on a constitutional basis with consideration of the international standards.

Elections are the indicator of democratic character of society. Legislation in this field in Uzbekistan is being developed taking into consideration universally recognized international principles and requirements as well as the level of legal and political culture of citizens, mentality of the people.

... It is worth to note that the Republic of Uzbekistan being the first among the CIS states on May 5, 1994 adopted the law «On guarantees of citizens' suffrage.»

The law established mechanisms of practical implementation of active suffrage and freedom of expression by citizens their will according to the standards defined in the fundamental international documents on human rights.

... On the whole, the analysis of the acting legislation in Uzbekistan through the prism of implementation of the international standards allows to asses unequivocally the electoral system in Uzbekistan as a modern balanced democratic procedure, providing reliable guarantees of free expression of will and creation of appropriate conditions for development of democratic institutions in the country.»

Shahid TASLEEM
Doctor, Academy of Studies
of the Countries of the Third World
(India)

«Elections are an important part of the democratic system which should be free and fair. The government ought not to interfere in. Nobody has the right to influence the course of elections by any means. In order to make elections impartial there should be a committee such in Uzbekistan which makes its utmost for realization of this goal.

... Today Uzbekistan is on the threshold of elections, and I am sure that it once again will prove to the world community the ability to hold elections freely and fairly. In my opinion and of numerous foreign experts, which have visited Uzbekistan during the last election campaign, in your country everything is being done to hold elections according to the world norms.

... Mass participation of people in the process of ballot always has great value. It is necessary to note the high level of literacy of the population of your country, therefore I think in the future citizens of Uzbekistan will actively take part in elections. I and all of us believe in wisdom of the people of Uzbekistan which strive for democracy. For this reason the future of Uzbekistan is very bright.»

Leyla JANUZAKOVA
Deputy Director, Institute of Systemic
Research of Turan University,
Senior researcher, State and Law
Institute of Al-Farabi Kazakh National University
(Kazakhstan)

«... Uzbekistan did not set up a proportional electoral system during elections to the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis preserving the system of overall majority. One hundred thirty five deputies of this chamber are

elected on the basis of general, equal and direct suffrage by secret ballot within territorial one-mandatory electoral districts on a multi-party basis. Exclusively parties have the right to nominate candidates, and within each electoral district a party may nominate per one candidate, and it is especially important. Such an order guarantees real multi-party system in the country parliament.

With a view to provide representation of women in the highest legislative body the Law «On elections to the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan» stipulates a norm for women to be not less than 30% of the general number of candidates to deputies nominated by a political party.

Beside 135 deputies from political parties, 15 candidates to deputies to the Legislative Chamber shall be elected from Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan. Its representation is important for realization of the rights of citizens with an aim of environment improvement and health protection, rational use of natural resources and maintenance of ecological safety.

According to amendments in the election legislation the authorized representatives of a political party may take part in checking by the Central Election Committee of correctness of compiling of subscription lists. This norm creates additional guarantees of objectivity and transparency of elections, realization of the rights of political parties during holding of elections...»

A.S. IBRAEVA
Professor, Al-Farabi Kazakh
National University
(Kazakhstan)

«The analysis of the election legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan shows that the Law «On introducing amendments and additions into certain legislative acts of the Republic of Uzbekistan due to perfection of the legislation on elections» promotes further democratization of the country. Elections to the Legislative Chamber of 15 deputies from Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan is valuable. The order of elections of these deputies is interesting — they are elected by the supreme body of the given movement (Confederation) in the terms defined by the Central Election Committee. It defines an order of their nomination and election. Preparation and holding of elections of deputies to the Legislative Chamber from Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan are conducted openly and publicly. Thereby additional conditions are being created for active development of institutes of civil society in Uzbekistan.»

**FROM FOREIGN PARTICIPANTS' INTERVIEWS
MADE AT THE CONFERENCE TO
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NATIONAL
INFORMATION AGENCY OF UZBEKISTAN — UZA**

**Kadama SHIGERU
Professor, Mie University
(Japan)**

«The election legislation of Uzbekistan is inseparably linked with the international election standards and is intensively developing on a basis of mutual enrichment and harmonization. In the Constitution of your country there is the special chapter related to the electoral system. It is remarkable that such chapter is not included into constitutions of many states.

... A new article is introduced into the Law «On elections to the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan». According to it a political party nominated his candidate to deputy has the right to appoint an authorized representative from among its members for participation in counting of votes at polling stations as well as in checking by the Central Election Committee of correctness of compiling of subscription lists. It is defined that the minutes of polling station committee signed by its chairman, deputy chairman, secretary and its other members shall be announced by chairman or deputy chairman, and its copy shall be posted in the premises of polling station committee for general familiarization for a term of not less than 48 hours. Certainly, these norms will allow to ensure ever more objectivity and transparency of elections. The rights of

political parties during elections will be stronger protected.

Moreover, amendments were introduced into the election legislation according to which persons, appealed with compliance about infringements during elections, have the right to participate directly at its consideration. This will also ensure ever more objectivity and transparency of elections.

The mentioned innovations and provisions of the Conception of the Central Election Committee on preparation and holding of elections, other representative bodies of state power ensure transparency and universality of elections, serve as a factor of strengthening public control by civil institutions.»

Shakhid TASLEEM
Doctor, Academy of Studies
of the Countries of the Third World
(India)

«Analysis of the legal basis and the electoral system of Uzbekistan confirms availability of guarantees for holding free and honest elections. Holding of true democratic elections and adequate, transparent and integral system of elections process, indifference and professional qualification of election bodies with equal access for candidates to mass media, efficiency of legal and other guarantees for protection of suffrage and freedoms of participants of the election campaign are ensured.

... Views and thoughts of Uzbekistan citizens have strongly changed, their political and legal consciousness raised. The society struggles for democratic ideas and values. And it may be seen in all places.

I can reliably assert that for the last 18 years Uzbekistan has reached great success in all spheres, created strong basis for activity of the new electoral system and favorable atmosphere for the international collaboration. Laws and documents on conducting elections completely correspond to the international standards which ensure constitutional right of voters, democratic principles accepted by the world community.

According to the legislation of Uzbekistan, political parties express political will of different levels and groups of the population, and also they participate in formation of government through their democratically elected representatives.

Creation of all necessary conditions for activity of observers shows that the forthcoming elections in Uzbekistan will be held on the basis of democratic principles, openly and freely, according to the international norms.

Uzbekistan, undoubtedly, is going along the road of democratic development. The results of social and economic reforms may be observed in the growing well-being of the people, ensuring their freedoms.

The nearest elections will mean a new stage of democratic development, social progress and dialogue between the state and civil society.

And as result, there will be debates on issues of social development, parliamentary control over activities

of the government will be strengthened, and activities of political parties will become more intensive.»

◆

Sugiura KAZUTAKA
Dean, Higher School of Nagoya University
(Japan)

«The party competition is developing in Uzbekistan, the accurate interrelation between political parties and society was put up and, above all, state itself is interested in active participation of the population in social and political processes.

... A notable feature of the election legislation of Uzbekistan is a system of state and, at the same time, justified financing of activity of political parties and candidates to deputies of the parliament. In reality it is «a protective wall» of civil society from intervention of different ambiguous forces, including commercial sphere which can be used by parties in mercenary corporative interests. For example, in Japan, from the middle of the 1990s private enterprises and commercial organizations subsidize political parties. In reality this infrequently violates legal aspects of electoral system.

... For the years of independence Uzbekistan has implemented positive transformations in all spheres of life, including state and public construction, and confidently is going along the way of democratic development. For a short time a number of changes took place, including electoral system which is more and more improving.

Having familiarized with the election legislation of Uzbekistan, we may make a conclusion that it completely meets the international standards and reflects the norms of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Thanks to the strong legal foundation, this year elections are to be held at a high level, on the basis of the legislation, according to democratic principles.

Elections are an important political event which is of great significance for deepening democratic reforms in state and public construction. Thorough preparation for is necessary, and this work is being carried out in Uzbekistan. I think that personal participation of each voter in elections and voting for a candidate, holding of elections on a multi-party basis will testify to correspondence of the shaped electoral system of the country to the international norms.

Spirit of magnanimity, decency and mutual respect which is inherent for the Uzbek people, peace and well-being in the country cause a satisfaction. We think that peaceful life in the country, consent and unity of the people will be one of achievements of elections in Uzbekistan. We are sure that elections in Uzbekistan will be held on the basis of principles of publicity, equality and democracy.»

Eva-Maria HENCKEL
Executive Program Manager,
ABU Consult Berlin GmbH
(Germany)

«The system of the election legislation of Uzbekistan meets all requirements and standards of the international law on human rights. The state guarantees realization of citizens' suffrage. Judicial protection, the possibility to appeal in the court against illegal actions of election committees, state bodies and officials are ensured to everybody.

... Appropriate standards of elections are being fully realized in Uzbekistan as well as practice of preparation and assistance to democratic elections.

I already worked earlier in Uzbekistan, and it is a great honour for me to be present here today and to see how Uzbekistan has been developing for several years. Your country is going forward very quickly on the way of integration with the world community. We see that by the current legislation as well.

The fact that the Uzbek and international experts will work further jointly is also important. I would like to note that the European experts can study certain achievements of Uzbekistan.

... I am convinced that for such a short period your country has implemented a lot of positive from the international experience of democratic development.

... There are political competitors in the Republic of Uzbekistan who participate in elections process on equal terms. This is the most important element of holding democratic elections. Citizens of Uzbekistan can make a free choice, decide whether to take part in

elections or not, and all of this are the principles of realization of international standards of holding democratic elections.»

Yosuke SHAMOTO
Teacher, Nagoya University
(Japan)

«Democratic character of the electoral system and its compliance with the international standards are characterized by five factors: general elections, equal elections, free elections, direct elections and secret ballot. The Republic of Uzbekistan has all these elements, and its electoral system is genuine democratic.

... Democratization reforms in Uzbekistan go ahead of Japan in some issues. Women in our parliament make only 4.4% of the general number of deputies, whereas in Uzbekistan it makes 18%. Similar world average indicator is 17%. Uzbekistan legislation of elections is more democratic and accessible...»

Laura Giuseppina MAJJI
Professor, La Sapienza University of Rome
(Italy)

«Qualitatively high level of the electoral system is typical for Uzbekistan. The country in elections goes along the road of transparency, in other words, is on growth road.

I think that, first of all, mass media should be free in any democratic state. Mass media in Uzbekistan have large, than earlier, possibilities to express thoughts of the people. I was convinced of that having been in Uzbekistan during elections to bicameral parliament, attended presidential elections as international observer, having been not only in Tashkent, but also in districts, in makhallas.

... Increasing of deputies' seats in parliament for representatives of political parties is a sound decision.

As for ecology, it is a serious problem for the countries of the region, including Uzbekistan. Moreover, this is one of the global problems. Cooperation in resolving this issue should be obligatory in any society. Though not only parties and movements, but also the state and society as a whole should participate in this process.

... Further democratization of elections to the representative bodies of power is noted in Uzbekistan. In my opinion, today role of political parties, other institutes of civil society and mass media in strengthening social and political activity of citizens is increasing in your country.

It is significant that despite of a short historical period of state sovereignty, the accurate electoral system corresponding to the universally recognized international and legal standards was created in Uzbekistan.

I know that in Uzbekistan there are some political parties with clear programs of actions representing interests of one or other groups of the population of the country. There is a real competition between parties based on upholding interests of that part of electorate which voted for them in elections. Opposition has been

formed, a number of projects aimed at raising political culture of citizens are functioning in parliament. The electoral system meets the level of social development and legal competence of the population. Thus Uzbekistan has an immense potential for further development.

It is necessary to notice that all conditions for activity of local and international observers, in particular to monitor the course of ballot, have been created in your country.

The forthcoming parliamentary elections are a political process which, undoubtedly, will be held in the spirit of openness and publicity, one more proof of the fact that Uzbekistan confidently goes along the way of construction a democratic, legal state.»

◆

Evgeniy SLOBODA
Responsible officer, CIS Secretariat

«All necessary legal and technical-organizational conditions for monitoring preparation of elections and ballot have been created in Uzbekistan for observers, including from political parties.

Of 56 OSCE member-countries 26 ones have no institution of international observers in their national legislations. So, on the average every fifth observer from the OSCE represents Poland, whereas this country does not permit international observers to take part in the election campaign on their territory.

... Adopted by the Central Election Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan Conception on preparation and holding of elections to the Oliy Majlis, local representative bodies of state power, approaches and principles that set forth in it shall ensure holding of forthcoming elections within strict framework of the acting national legislation, without any interference from outside to elections processes. It is remarkable that according to this Conception granting of any privileges and preferences to any participant of the election campaign is excluded. It is necessary for maintenance of competitiveness, using by political parties and candidates of civilized forms of political competition, creation of wide and equal possibilities for political parties, candidates to deputies in using mass-media etc. In one word, the Conception underlines the strict will of the Committee to ensure original, fair, open and transparent democratic elections... »

Aykie MASANORI
Director, Center for Asian Law Exchange
(Japan)

«The law, which introduced amendments and additions into certain legislative acts and the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, has become another important step on the way of consecutive liberalization and democratization of the election legislation of the

country. The representation of political parties in parliament is extending.

The new institute was introduced into the legislation — quotas for deputies' seats for ecologists. I consider it is right. At the present stage issues of preservation of environment, struggle for improvement of ecological conditions, protection of the population's health are exclusively important and have a nationwide character.»

♦

Vaidotas VAYCHAYTIS
Professor, Law Department of Vilnius University
(Lithuania)

«The Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan foresees the most important principles — universal, direct, equal elections, and everyone has one voice, elections are held on a regular basis.

The main thing is all these principles of democratic elections have to be applied. It is good that they are reflected in the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan. It is pleasant, the Central Election Committee (CEC) is acting and this body has the constitutional status. Thus various political parties will not easily influence elections. By the way, not all countries have CECs...»

**II. INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
«ELECTIONS AND ISSUES OF DEVELOPMENT
OF MODERN PARLIAMENTARISM:
EXPERIENCE OF UZBEKISTAN»**

(July 1–2, 2009 Tashkent)

Development of modern parliamentarism in Uzbekistan is one of the key directions of the state policy on further democratization and modernization of the country. Reforms in the most important sphere, including the perfection of the electoral system, are realized taking into account the national features of political development and international electoral standards on the basis of self-experience, the richest historical and cultural heritage, values and traditions of the Uzbek nation. As a result of such a complex approach, the system of formation of representative bodies of power in the country by a number of parameters does not only concede, but also surpasses similar systems of the countries to be considered developed and democratic. The activity of the formed bicameral parliament by the result of 2004 clearly confirms this fact.

On July 1—2 of 2009 in Tashkent the International Conference «Elections and issues of development of modern parliamentarism: experience of Uzbekistan» was held. It has become the so-called platform for exchange of opinions between representatives of domestic and foreign research and expert-analytical circles concerning development of modern parliamentarism, as well as for presentation of Uzbekistan

achievements in becoming and developing the parliamentary system, the election legislation.

The Central Election Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Institute for Civil Society Studies, Institute of Strategic and Interregional Researches under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Academy of State and Social Construction under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Office of OSCE Project Coordinator in Uzbekistan and the regional Representative Office of F. Ebert's Fund in Central Asia (Germany) performed as organizers of the Conference.

More than 20 experts and analysts from Belgium, Germany, India, China, Malaysia, Republic of Korea, Singapore, USA, Ukraine, France, countries of Central Asia, Japan and representatives of the diplomatic corps in Tashkent and a number of international organizations participated in the Conference work.

Experience of Uzbekistan in deepening public and political reforms in the context of realization of democratic transformations, i.e. reforms in the parliamentary and government administration systems, increasing the role of political parties in democratic renewal of the country and development of institutes of civil society were discussed at the Conference.

During the Conference the participants expressed the following basic provisions:

First. During the years of independence in Uzbekistan a modern parliamentary system has been created as a result of systematic, consecutive, interrelated transformations in the sphere of state and social construction. Nowadays the Parliament of Uzbekistan

influences actively preparation and realization of state decisions, increasing of political and legal culture of the population, activity of different institutions of civil society. One may observe the analogous active work of political parties in parliament and local representative bodies of power.

Second. In Uzbekistan from the first years of independence on the basis of proclaimed in the Constitution of the country supremacy of law, strengthening the role and influence of the legislative branch of power have been defined as the most important target of formation and development of the national statehood and governance. In the course of its solving the parliamentary system is constantly perfecting. Amendments and additions made at the initiative of the President of Uzbekistan in the legislation on elections raised the process of liberalization of the electoral system to a qualitatively new level. Nowadays the election legislation of our country corresponds to the international standards in the sphere of organization and realization of democratic elections.

Third. In the Republic of Uzbekistan the activity of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis functioning on professional basis is ensured, its powers and rights are expanded. Quality of law-making has essentially improved. The work of the Senate, members of which are elected from membership of deputies of local, Kenghashes and represent interests of the regions, ensure coordination of state and regional interests while approving decisions of important significance for development of the country.

Fourth. All conditions for participation in elections of the representative bodies of power, i.e. state governance have been created for self-governing bodies of citizens which in Uzbekistan are one of the major institutes of civil society. All it has become a strong basis to expand the scales of participation of the population in public and political life.

Fifth. Realization of the Constitutional Law adopted on the initiative of the President Islam Karimov «On strengthening the role of political parties in the renewal and further democratization of the state governance and modernization of the country» impacted on development of pluralism, competition between political parties, their factions in the parliament. The legislative basis of parties has been created, and the parties become the effective forces of transformations, the active participants of formation of bodies of representative and executive branches of power.

Sixth. The reliable system of guarantees for realization of citizens' suffrages, all necessary organizational-legal and material conditions for free, active participation of the population and political parties in election process is created in Uzbekistan. Preparation and holding of elections to the representative bodies of power on the basis of principles of publicity, honesty and transparency are ensured by the complete independent system of election committees at the head of independently acting body of the Central Election Committee. This is impacted also by Conception accepted by the Central Election Committee on preparation and holding of elections to the Oliy Majlis of the Republic

of Uzbekistan, regional, district and city Kenghashes of People's Deputies.

Seventh. The universal model of democracy, including formation of parliamentary system, does not exist. Each country has the right to use those democratic tools which fully reflect features of its development, originality, historical and national traditions, and also level of legal and political culture of the population, their social activeness. Uzbekistan has a considerable experience of democratic construction, including formation and development of modern parliamentarism, perfection of the election legislation and electoral system, holding of free and open elections which may be of practical value for many countries.

**FROM REPORTS AND SPEECHS
OF FOREIGN PARTICIPANTS OF THE
CONFERENCE**

**Richard GLAUB
Representative of the National
Democratic Institute
(USA)**

«Being in Uzbekistan, I observed successful steps on the way of strengthening the role of political parties and parliament in the country. We also were witnesses of realization of the legislation on political parties, including creation of the new conditions for the work of faction in the Parliament. I saw creation of bicameral Parliament. All this is the progress in development of democracy leading to strengthening of the two most democratic institutions — political parties and parliament.

... We are very inspired by that fact that Uzbekistan pays too much attention to its political parties, increasing the role of the Parliament in the life of society and reforming judicial law. We all should support and encourage this testimony of understanding the needs of citizens of Uzbekistan and expanding the possibilities of the parliament for introducing the issues of care on satisfaction of these needs into the political side of the society.»

Ajay Kumar PATNAIK
Director, Russian and Central
Asian Studies Program of the School of J. Nehru
International Studies University
(India)

«It is very complicated to compare the Indian parliamentary system with the parliamentary system of Uzbekistan; there are a lot of differences. In India numerous political parties compete for seats in the parliament. The analogous battle exists in Uzbekistan elections.

... The fact, that during the parliamentary elections in 2004 almost in the half of single-mandatory electoral districts (in 58 of 120) there was held the second round of elections, testifies to a serious competition between political forces participated in elections, and there were no obstacles for this. Uzbekistan democracy began to transform to «multi-party», consensual model.

... At present in the parliament (in the lower chamber) of Uzbekistan there is a fair balance between parliamentary majority and minority — parliamentary opposition which helps to support the political competition in the course of law-making activity.

... Formation of the parliamentary factions of parties has marked the beginning of true competition in the legislative body, the constructive competition not only in law-making, but in elaboration of important decisions as well directed to continuation of political and socio-economic reforms.

... An important stage in strengthening the legislative basis of democratic transformations was adoption of the Constitutional Law «On strengthening the role

of political parties in the renewal and further democratization of the state governance and modernization of the country» and the Law «On introducing amendments and additions into certain articles of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan» that are directed to further increasing social and political activeness, initiative, responsibility of political parties, expansion of possibilities of their influence, realization of reforms and objectives of political, economic and humanitarian construction. These laws create conditions for active participation of parties in formation of bodies of the representative and executive branches of power, realization of the internal and external state policy.»

♦

Chan BIN
Editor-in-Chief,
«RStudies of Russia, Eastern Europe
and Central Asia» magazine
(China)

«Every parliamentary election in Uzbekistan signifies that democratization in this state is deeply developing, and its political system is constantly developing.

... Creation of bicameral parliament is the most important step towards its professionalism and democratization. It allows to increase capability of deputies and effectiveness of the parliamentary activity.

... Formation of bicameral parliament has strengthened the activity of political parties and as well became a reflection of successful reforms implemented step-by-step in all spheres of life in Uzbekistan.

... The multi-party system strengthens the basis of the policy of democratization in Uzbekistan. The legislative acts were adopted in the country related to creation of the multi-party parliament. All political parties participated actively in the parliamentary elections, accomplishing step-by-step an effective internal reformation which reflects the democracy of the parliament as the highest legislative body.

... Referendums held on the issues of formation of the bicameral parliament and elections demonstrated high activeness of voters, most of them support the acting political and social systems and course conducted by the leadership of Uzbekistan.

... The electoral system of Uzbekistan meets the international standards and previous elections were held in accordance with democratic principles of publicity, justice and openness. The forthcoming elections as well will promote political-economic and social development of the country.»

♦

Silvi d'IZARY
Editor-in-Chief,
«Les milieux des Empires»
Electronic Edition
(France)

«Reforms in the field of the election legislation of Uzbekistan and new initiatives in this sphere became real thanks to prosperity of the country, safety and well-being improvement of citizens which are the fundamental targets in activity of Uzbekistan parliament...»

**FROM FOREIGN PARTICIPANTS' INTERVIEWS
MADE AT THE CONFERENCE
TO THE NATIONAL INFORMATION AGENCY
OF UZBEKISTAN — UZA**

Ishtvan VENCZEL
Coordinator, OSCE Projects
Coordinator Office
in Uzbekistan

«The forthcoming elections in Uzbekistan is the next phase in democratization of the country, state and social construction. The present Conference gave possibility to consider issues of development of political culture, citizen's participation in political and social activity, exchange of experience and opinions on perspectives of development of new democracies.»

Li Yung YUNG
Senior researcher, Institute of Political
Studies under the National University
(Singapore)

«The parliament system in Uzbekistan is developing enough rapidly. Organization of the International Conference on this subject with experts from different states makes it clear the serious attitude of your country to formation of the modern parliament system.

I tried to get much information as possible from different sources before my journey to Uzbekistan, and

I can say that your country has achieved many success for own development. Appropriate measures on liberalization and democratization of the society will assist the progress and raising of the living standard of the people. Ensuring social and political stability ever more raises the efficiency of reforms and assurance of citizens in the day of tomorrow.»

◆

Sylvi d'IZARY
Editor-in-Chief,
«Les milieux des Empires»
electronic edition
(France)

«Thesis, stating that parliament serves civil society, confirms the consecutive reforms realizing in your country.

The international community highly appreciates the activity of the present Parliament of Uzbekistan. A number of international documents were ratified, the new laws were adopted, much attention is paid to perfection of the election legislation. Thanks to the above mentioned the efficient judicial mechanism was created in the country, and it guarantees protection of rights and interests of citizens.

These laws being implemented in overall give the key to success, provide political diversity, pluralism of opinions. Politics and economics are interrelated. In

this issues the Anti-crisis program given in the book of the President Islam Karimov «The global financial-economic crisis: ways and measures to overcome it in the conditions of Uzbekistan» may become an example for other countries.»

◆

Hoe JONG-HA
Former deputy, the National Assembly
(Republic of Korea)

Uzbekistan has a good parliament system. Different parliament systems function in the world, but there exist the general tendencies of democracy development. Citizens must know what the democratic society is, must learn to understand each other and respect another opinion. The important conditions for preservation consent in the society are education and the normal level of living standard of the people. I consider correct that much attention is paid for this in Uzbekistan. The alterations in the election legislation, parliamentary and electoral systems of the country testify to aspiration for development. Availability of different political groups allows the people to make their free choice. Your country has a very strong leader, and I think under such leadership Uzbekistan will further realize reforms including the sphere of parliamentarism.»

Hendric LAKNER
Representative of Hamburg
Administrative Court
(Germany)

«In my opinion, there in Uzbekistan exists the potential for progress. It is important that pluralism of political parties' opinions is ensured in the Parliament. Interest of parties and the government of Uzbekistan in mutual exchanging of experience with other countries is a positive factor, which is confirmed by the present Conference. Uzbekistan government ensures political parties equal financing and other conditions during the election campaign.»

Ajay Kumar PATNAIK
Director, Russian and Central Asian
Studies Program of School of
International Studies of J. Nehru University
(India)

«I was in Uzbekistan two years ago, and I have very positive impressions of the changes which take place in the country. Passing much authority to the parliament is the requirement of democracy. And we see it in Uzbekistan. Moreover, the population possesses much more information about activity of political parties and their factions in the parliament. This fact says that

during elections there will be large competition. Among the significant changes is participation in elections of only political parties. Besides it should be mentioned of a new norm — participation of Ecological Movement in the work of the parliament. We also try to obtain representation of social organizations, defining fixed quota for women in the Indian Parliament.

After gaining independence Uzbekistan puts special emphasis on development of civil society institutions.

Uzbek leadership realizing the significance and meaning of a multi-party system encourages formation of political parties supporting stable and consistent development. Uzbekistan undertook a number of steps as well with a view of strengthening the legislative basis of multi-party system.

Notable are the new rules according to which political parties of Uzbekistan are granted authorities in the structure and functions of the Parliament in Uzbekistan. Creation of legal bases for effective public control by political parties over the activity of the government and local bodies of power facilitate strengthening their role and practical sense in the public life. These organizational-legal changes allow political parties to clearly formulate interests of their voters and realize their political programs.

Political parties are the means that assist the people to take part in adoption of decisions, they represent their interests, opinions etc.

Uzbekistan has chosen its way of democracy. There is no single, complete model of democracy. Each society should choose its way to democracy in accordance with acting socio-political reality and own perception.

Uzbekistan with each parliamentary elections is achieving progress on the way to multi-party democracy. Balance between different branches of power is ever more raising. In important issues, including appointment to state positions, the executive power takes into consideration opinions of the parliament. The legislative body effectively considers minority of opinions as well.»

Sergey TOLSTOV

**Leading researcher, Institute of World Economy
and International Relations
of the National Academy of Sciences
(Ukraine)**

«The course of democratic process on the former Soviet area depends on the conditions in the country. Each country has its own way to democracy, stability and successful development. As practice shows the evolutionary way is the most efficient. And Uzbekistan has chosen this way. If the positive dynamics of

economic growth further continues in your country, then it will be a concrete indication of effectiveness of the taken measures and a pledge for subsequent development.»



Chan BIN
Editor-in-Chief, «Studies of Russia,
Eastern Europe and Central Asia» magazine
(China)

«For the first time I was in Uzbekistan 10 years ago, now I see very large changes in the country. The living standard has visible raised.

Democracy and the electoral system in Uzbekistan have their specific character, and it is very important. Each country develops according to its own peculiarities. Uzbekistan has its experience of democratic construction. Granting to political parties and their candidates to deputies equal rights to use mass media during canvassing is rather a positive factor, because each party has its pre-election program, and the people make their choice. This contributes to calm, practical atmosphere in the society, and testifies to development of democracy and ensuring human rights and freedoms in the country.»

Wulf LAPINS
Regional representative of F. Ebert Fund
in Central Asia
(Germany)

«Democracy is the dynamic process and it is always developing. The same process is going on in Uzbekistan. The national election legislation responds to all international standards. We also support the modern parliamentary system of Uzbekistan and measures on its perfection.»



Santappu Radkhakrishnan
Honorary Secretary, Malaysian Law
Association of ASEAN

«From the early years of Uzbekistan's Independence the fundamental right guaranteed by the legislation for all citizens to elect and to be elected was defined. I have participated as an international observer in elections to the bicameral Parliament in 2004 and the Presidential Elections in 2007. I could observe the course of elections not only in Tashkent but in Samarkand, Bukhara, Khiva and was convinced of mass activity of the population during elections. Those elections were truly free.

As a result of democratic development, political parties are getting more and more rights and authorities. The participants of elections process are provided with equal rights in using mass media for agitating, that

gives the people the opportunity to evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of candidates' programs and to make their own choice. One of the most important factors of democratic development in Uzbekistan is freedom of thought.

The democratic process going on in the country is based on step-by-step principle which ensures balance and consistency of ongoing reforms.»



Timur KOZYREV
Leading researcher, Institute of Strategic Studies
under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan

«The level of development in the election legislation, parliamentary and electoral systems in Uzbekistan comply with the main international norms. However there are no unified standards for all, and each country proceeds from its actual demands of society. It is necessary to note that Ecological Movement has been integrated with the parliamentary system without being transformed into political structure. Ecological issues are very important in Central Asia, especially taking into account the Aral crisis. In general, implementation of amendments of the election legislation in practice will promote transparency and dynamics of the political system development in Uzbekistan.»

Aynura UMETOVA
Senior researcher,
Institute of Strategic Studies and Assessment
under the President of Kyrgyz Republic

«Each country has its own experience of democratic development, and the most important thing is to ensure citizens the guaranteed opportunity to elect and to be elected. Introducing into the legislation of Uzbekistan the institute of authorized representatives from each political party is the right decision, they will participate in verification of correctness of compiling of subscription lists and counting of votes.

Besides, granting quotas to Ecological Movement means that civil initiative has get real support at the level of state and the Parliament. All these factors are the positive steps for Uzbekistan towards development of democracy.»

**III. INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR
«LEGAL ASPECTS OF ENSURING OPENNESS,
PUBLICITY AND TRANSPARENCY IN
ORGANIZATION AND HOLDING OF ELECTIONS:
WORLD EXPERIENCE, NORMS AND
STANDARDS»**

(August 25—26, 2009 Bukhara)

International Seminar «Legal aspects of ensuring openness, publicity and transparency in organization and holding of elections: the world experience, norms and standards» was held in Bukhara city during August 25—26, 2009. The Seminar was organized by the Central Election Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Institute for Civil Society Studies, National Human Rights Center of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Uzbekistan Agency for Communication and Information, National Association of Electronic Media, Public Fund of Support and Development of Independent Mass Media and Information Agency of Uzbekistan, OSCE Projects Coordinator's Office in Uzbekistan.

The experts from UK, Egypt, India, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Russia, Ukraine, France and several international organizations, representatives of political parties and other public organizations have participated in the Seminar.

The participants of the Seminar have widely discussed the Uzbekistan experience in development of legislative bases and practical implementation of the principles of openness, publicity and transparency in the course of the election campaign as well as raising the role of civil society institutes in holding democratic elections.

It was highlighted that in the framework of vast democratic reforms in Uzbekistan, systematic and consistent democratization of the elections legislation and election processes are undergoing. The State has created all necessary conditions for ensuring openness, publicity and transparency in organization and holding of elections. The Central Election Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan, civil society institutes and mass media are playing an important role in this process.

The participants of the Seminar have pointed out that amendments introduced into the election legislation on the initiative of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan H.E. Mr. Islam Karimov are in full compliance with international standards and have given new impetus to the liberalization process of the electoral system of the country.

According to experts' assessment, in Uzbekistan mass media is taking a more active part in covering political and socio-economic processes and formation of public opinion. Political parties and their candidates are ensured with equal access to mass media in their election campaign.

The upcoming elections to the Legislative Chamber and local representative bodies of power in Uzbekistan in December 2009, as it was underlined by international and local experts, will be held in the conditions of further development of independent mass media, information sphere, and growing level of journalists' professionalism and more active participation of mass media in the election process.

**FROM REPORTS AND SPEECHES
OF INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPANTS
OF THE SEMINAR**

Sergey LEBEDEV
Chairman, CIS Executive
Committee

«The mission of observers from CIS has several times monitored parliamentary and presidential elections in Uzbekistan recognizing their democratic character and has given positive assessment.

The electoral system satisfying democratic norms has been created during the years of Independence as a result of consistent modernization of political, state and legislative systems in Uzbekistan.

With great pleasure we notice the high level of preparation and holding of elections to the Oliy Majlis and local representative bodies of power which will be held in December this year. Conferences and seminars on the issues of elections have been organized since May. The representatives of international organizations and foreign election institutions are actively engaged in these forums. This seminar is one more proof for my words.

It is noteworthy to mention that the upcoming elections will be held in accordance with the introduced amendments to the legislation which are aimed at further democratization of the electoral system. Thus, the parliamentary candidates to deputies to the Legislative Chamber will be nominated by political parties,

and it will raise their role in formation of the legislative body of the state power.

The opportunities for participation of civil society institutes in elections have been increased. For instance, the institute of authorized representative of a party has been introduced which is entitled to participate in counting of votes at polling stations and checking of correctness of compiling subscription lists; the possible number of proxils of candidates to deputies has been raised from 5 to 10.

Taking into account the abovementioned factor we can state the fact that consistent improvement of democratic electoral system is going on in Uzbekistan, which enables to conduct free and transparent elections.

We hope that the upcoming elections will have significant importance in the democratic transformation of Uzbekistan and its consistent transition to a strong civil society.»

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Vitaliy KULIK
Head of division, the National Institute
of International Security Problems under the
National Security and Defence Council
(Ukraine)

«... Uzbekistan's practice is remarkable because here the Central Election Committee is independent from the Parliament and the President of the country. It upholds and controls the electoral process, and can appeal to court in case of any violation of elections legislation.

Thus the process provides full freedom for enjoying right to vote by citizens.

... While many countries developed their electoral systems with experiments-and-errors methods, Uzbekistan has implemented various innovations enabling to avoid those mistakes which for example have been made in Ukraine.

If to compare with the early 2000s, we can obviously observe the strong legal basis for the development of free mass media. There is Public Fund for Supporting Independent Mass Media and Information Agencies. There is an all-round support by the President of Uzbekistan to the promotion of independent mass media being an important instrument that will help the society to be informed about candidates and their programs, and the most important about the elections process.

Besides, high political responsibility of journalists can be mentioned, and concionsness of their role in the society. There is no feeling in Uzbekistan that you are being manipulated from the television screens.

... Amendments in the election legislation confirm the transitional path of Uzbekistan towards democratization, formation of multi party system and ensuring representation of the people's interests in the supreme legislative body. Gradual strengthening the role of political parties is taking place in the country, and the amendments in the election legislation related to nomination of candidates to deputies only by political parties, promotes further development of the parties.

Quotas exist in the countries with definite differences in the society, for instance confessional or ethnic. However in Uzbekistan quotas provided to Ecological movement

are motivated by high importance of these issues for the citizens. These problem are related to Aral Sea, water management and land ecology. It is necessary to create legal basis which would drastically improve the ecological situation in the country. This is why providing quota to Ecological Movement enables to strengthen ecological legislation in general and will create strong ecological lobby in the Parliament of Uzbekistan.

The problem of Aral Sea is a mater of concern not only of the Republic Uzbekistan. There is a necessity for inter-parliamentary cooperation, inter-parliamentary dialogue. The presence of 15 deputies in the Parliament, who are well aware of ecological issues, will not only ensure new legislation and innovations, but also will provide foreign parliamentary activities aimed at establishing and development of contacts, inter-parliamentary discussions between Uzbekistan and neighboring countries. This work will allow Uzbekistan to become a moderator for solution of the ecological problems which concern the whole Central Asian region.



Sidhard Shanker SAKSENA
Chairman of Cambridge Forum
on Central Asia
(UK)

«If you observe over social life in Uzbekistan you will see the activities of several institutes of civil society, which are yet to be noticed by international organizations due to differences in cultural values. For instance,

«makhalla» is very remarkable, where vital problems of ordinary people are solved. This enables the people to exchange opinions of their wish to have their leadership.

There are also other questions of preserving integrity of the state and trust to its institutions, and the issues of ensuring in the countries institutes with traditional entities of civil society, which are peculiar to the culture of these nations. Uzbekistan's experience is interesting in this way to deeply analyze. I think these very factors — stability of the state and trust in the society — are the main criteria which should be taken into account by international organizations. In western society there exist also «areas» for debates, as well where international participants can be engaged.

According to our researches in Uzbekistan I can say that this country is open for partnership and exchange of opinions. It is important that the country is ready for cooperation, learning new experience and new practice, but at the same time it has its own position, its own understanding of civil society and its own historical peculiarities.»

✦

Mohan DHAR
Editor and political observer
of «Political Events» magazine
(India)

«As for mass media activity in Uzbekistan on ensuring transparency in elections, no doubt they are ready to deliver effectively this task. The main point is that all candidates to deputies are provided with equal access

to mass media in the course of their election campaign on legislative basis.

... I think there is no need of copying everything from western election technology and somehow try to make upcoming elections similar to their election campaign. Uzbekistan has its own experience, and mentality, traditions and customs should be taken into account. First of all, elections are held for the people, in their interests and aspirations.»

**FROM FOREIGN PARTICIPANTS' INTERVIEWS
AT THE SEMINAR TO REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE NATIONAL INFORMATION AGENCY
OF UZBEKISTAN — UZA**

Sergey LEBEDEV
Chairman, CIS Executive
Committee

«Each country has its own legislation to regulate the election process. Naturally it takes into account the peculiarities of each country. At the same time there are general democratic norms of holding the elections, and in this context I'd like to say that legislation of Uzbekistan meets those norms.

I headed the mission of CIS observes at the elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan in December 2007 and its officers analyze the legislation of Uzbekistan among many tasks which they were assigned with. And I would like to note that its principles ensure free expression of will by citizens.

Analysis of the latest amendments introduced into the legislation of Uzbekistan shows that the country's leadership and those who are responsible for holding the elections process to perfect the election legislation and include new norms to be fully comply with the necessity to observe the rights of voters, ensure their right to freedom of expression of their will. Among them is introduction of the institute of authorized representative of political party who directly observes

the elections process and participates in counting of votes. Thus, more transparency of elections process and its final stage, i.e. counting of votes is guaranteed.

... Upon introduction of the institute of authorized representative of political party in Uzbekistan and increasing the possible number of proxies of candidates to deputies the transparency of elections process shall be yet more enhanced.

Granting 15 seats in the Legislative Chamber for the representatives of Ecological Movement has become an important step for Uzbekistan. For instance or anything related to water, means life itself. That is why the quota granted for Ecological Movement will promote the ordinary people's rights to pure ecology, allow to take measures on strengthening environment protection and will meet wishes of the nation.

... The Central Election Committee has elaborated and started implementing an unique Conception on preparation and holding the elections to the legislative and local representative bodies of power. I am quite sure that the Conception will allow to hold the elections process in appropriate manner and, above all, will provide free expression of will by the citizens of Uzbekistan.

... In our work we always feel support of Uzbekistan bodies of power, officials of electoral committees of all levels. We do not face any obstacles in getting the materials or responses to our requets, visiting polling stations, meeting with officials or law enforcement structures. We, CIS observers, indeed feel full support of Uzbekistan leadership in solving our tasks.

I am pleased to be in Uzbekistan and see how the country has changed. I see the growing cities, new buildings, gardens, clean streets. I enjoy those pleased faces of the Uzbek people, and all this can not be glad.»

Fred PONSONBY
Member of the House of Lords
(UK)

«Independent system of election committees headed by the Central Election Committee in Uzbekistan provides the atmosphere of real freedom, transparency and fairness in the course of elections. Parties and their candidates freely express their views, assessments, platforms. They are guaranteed an equal access to mass media.

The people of Uzbekistan believes that democratic process is moving ahead. Voters's expectations are the main thing above all. It is important a voter who ballots for a candidate or a party will believe and accept the results of elections.»

KIM YENG GU
Deputy, the National Assembly
(Republic of Korea)

«The multi-party system is effectively operating in Uzbekistan providing alternativeness of choice for the citizens.

... Upcoming elections are very important for development of the country since parliament in Uzbekistan is gaining significance and further democratization, level of human rights observance, enhancing political activeness of people will to significant extent depend on the activity of the parliament, professionalism of its members.»

Sidhard Shanker SAKSENA
Chairman, Cambridge Forum
on Central Asia
(UK)

«Its' worth noting that Uzbekistan has created the structures which organize elections process taking into account the local peculiarities — the national idea, history, traditions. The Uzbek society is open for exchange of ideas and partnership. The country has its own understanding of civil society, experience of building a democratic state. One of the important elements of the electoral system is citizens' gatherings — they serve as a venue where people discuss urgent issues.

Head of your state calls upon political parties and mass media to be more active and have a strong civil position and journalists — to raise their qualification. This means that the process of democratization of mass media have strong political and legal basis.

Discussion of various issues and pluralism of opinions are the signs of yet strengthening democracy.

... Makhalla, a democratic institution, plays a significant role in Uzbekistan. It is of special interest for experts, who observe the processes of civil society formation. From the ancient times social issues used to be solved in makhallas. Issues of family matters up to municipal problems are solved by makhalla veterans councils. I myself witnessed such processes. There is no single citizen in Uzbekistan who doesn't live in makhalla. During elections numerous polling stations are located in the premises of makhalla councils. The bodies of self-governance in Uzbekistan are entitled to nominate their candidates to deputies to local representative bodies. The citizens also nominate their candidates through political parties which may conduct canvassing.

I think that during elections foreign observers should take into account the national values and ethnic peculiarities of this nation. The world community should be informed about such a unique institute as makhalla which is peculiar only for the Uzbek nation.»

Vitaliy KULIK
Head of division,
National Institute of International
Security Issues under the National Security
and Defence Council
(Ukraine)

«The Central Election Committee of Uzbekistan is an independent structure. Thus full independence of the entire elections process of observing over right to elect by citizens is ensured. Granting the seats in the parliament to Ecological Movement on quota basis will promote solving the issues which are of great concern for everybody, as well as adopting the laws related to the problems of using natural resources. Recent amendments in the election legislation of Uzbekistan foresee nominating candidates to deputies only by political parties, thereby creating conditions for development and strengthening this institute of civil society which is of paramount importance.»



Mohan DHAR
Editor and political observer,
«Political Events» magazine
(India)

«One of the positive points of innovations introduced into Uzbekistan's election legislation is the increase of the total number of seats in the Oliy Majlis. It shows the increasing role and professionalism of the parliament

and people's trust in it. The country has achieved significant results in shaping the market of free mass media. The institute of party mass media which plays a role of promoter of party programs and positions has also been established.»

◆

Laurent TAIYEBA
Director,
«L'Essentiel des Relations
Internationales» newspaper
(France)

«National characteristics, lifestyle, culture, including political should be certainly taken into account in holding of elections. Social institute of makhalla is a distinctive feature which is peculiar only for Uzbekistan. This is the most important and interesting tool in the course of election campaign and elections.

Another feature is a geopolitical position of the country where elections are held. Unstable political and economic situation in neighboring countries and moreover the open war against terrorism, unconditionally, influence the mood of voters who will be more interested in the issues of stability and security included into the programs of competing parties.»

Bushra SHALASH
Member, the Council
of National Assembly
(Egypt)

«All conditions are created for freedom of speech in Uzbekistan. The representatives of mass media have all opportunities for fulfilling their rights and obligations. We are convinced that the election campaign is organized in strict compliance with the legislation without any interference from outside. This is the guarantee of holding the upcoming elections on a democratic basis.

... We spoke about ensuring the principles of democracy during elections. Transition from a single-party system to a multi-party one is one of them. The necessary conditions for developing economy and democracy are being created for 18 years in Uzbekistan. I believe that Uzbekistan will become a great country in the future. Political parties can participate in preparing and holding of elections, they are granted equal opportunities for promoting their ideas and programs through mass media. I would like to note that women are granted 30% quota at nominating candidates to deputies to parliament by political parties.»

Sajjad MALIK
Senior editor,
«Daily Times» newspaper
(Pakistan)

«The number of newspapers, TV and radio channels has rapidly increased for the last 18 years. I think mass media is the fourth power, and the more mass media you have the broader will be the scope of freedom of speech, democratization and other positive changes.

I think that the government and people of Uzbekistan have recognized the role of mass media during elections. Mass media will play a positive role in election campaign and contribute to enhancing the people's awareness on importance of elections and everybody's participation. The government facilitates the development of free mass media, makes no restrictions and I hope that these elections will prove the fact that mass media will cover all events through openness, fairness and transparency.»

**IV. INTERNATIONAL ROUND-TABLE
«INSTITUTES OF CIVIL SOCIETY AND
ELECTIONS TO REPRESENTATIVE
BODIES OF POWER»**

(September 9–10, 2009 Samarkand)

On 9—10 September of 2009 Samarkand city hosted an international round-table «Institutes of civil society and elections to the representative bodies of power» which was organized by the Central Election Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Institute for Civil Society Studies, Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan, National Fund «Makhalla» along with National Democratic Institute (USA) and OSCE Projects Coordinator Office in Uzbekistan. The meeting of the round-table was attended by experts from United Kingdom, India, Pakistan, Russia, Turkey, Ukraine, Japan and other countries, several international organizations, representatives of public organizations of Uzbekistan.

They exchanged views on implementation of the conception of «transition from a strong state to a strong civil society» elaborated in Uzbekistan. The participants discussed the experience of Uzbekistan in raising the role of the institutes of civil society in democratic renovation and modernization of the country as well as in forming and organizing the activity of representative bodies of power. They dwelled upon the peculiarities of election legislation of Uzbekistan, issues of participation of civil society institutes in preparation and holding of elections.

Participants noted that the analysis of active preparation for elections to the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan, local Kenghashes of People's Deputies, as well as the national election legislation witnesses deep, dynamic transformations carried out in the country. Upcoming elections will be held in the conditions of growing activeness of institutes of civil society. It was pointed out that this is provided by amendments and additions introduced into the election legislation and is aimed at further liberalization and democratization of electoral system, strengthening the role of legislative and local representative bodies of power, institutes of civil society in implementing the large-scale democratic reforms and state governance. The experts have common opinion that increasing the number of seats from 120 to 150 in the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis, granting 15 seats to deputies elected from Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan, introduction of the institute of authorized representative from political party and other innovations of the legislation raise the level of democratic transformations in Uzbekistan to a qualitatively new level.

As the experts noted, the consistent measures taken in the country to increase the role of political parties, gradual perfection of the national election legislation, implementation of the Conception on preparation and holding of elections to the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan, regional, district and city Kenghashes of People's Deputies adopted by the Central Election Committee will become an important condition for holding the upcoming elections on the basis of democratic principles.

In the courses of the meeting it was pointed out that unique institute of makhalla occupies a special place in the system of formation of civil society in Uzbekistan. It has not only revived but transformed into an active participant of democratic reforms being implemented in the country, elections to the representative bodies of power for the years of Independence. Independent mass media, including regional printing and electronic, have also raised their activities.

In conclusion the experts stated the general opinion that Uzbekistan has taken all measures on ensuring openness, transparency of elections both to the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis and local representative bodies of power, as well as active participation of the institutes of civil society in the election campaign.

FROM REPORTS AND SPEECHES OF FOREIGN PARTICIPANTS OF ROUND-TABLE

Ishtvan VENCZEL
Coordinator, OSCE Projects
Office in Uzbekistan

«Our task today is to discuss the standards and practice relating to role of institutes of civil society in the process of elections to the representative bodies of power. It is undoubtedly a significant political event for Uzbekistan.

It is recognized that effective activity of non-government sector aimed at full expressing of people's interests is important in the development of the country. Successful functioning of the civil society depends to what extent it cooperates with the government. The latter will be in favorable situation if there is close interaction between the government and the institutes of civil society.

This round-table meeting gives an opportunity to international and local experts to exchange of achievements in building a democratic society with strong civil institutes. On the basis of discussion and analysis of remarks, I think we shall elaborate definite proposals concerning social and economic reforms.

The basic OSCE standards in the area of democratic elections are contained in the so-called Copenhagen document adopted in 1999. It is recognized as one of the main documents determining the principles of

holding democratic elections in OSCE member-countries. The states which have signed it have stated of their adherence to promote the people's aspiration to express their will freely in elections.

I believe that today's event will allow to exchange of opinions, discuss the tasks, professional assessments taking into account the perspectives of development of the institutes of civil society and their role in forming the representative state.»

Barbara POTRATA
Expert, Forum on Central Asia
at Cambridge University
(UK)

«Following independence Uzbekistan claimed to adhere democratic values and during nearly two decades has been moving towards building a civil society. Traditional social and civil institutes play a special role in this process. There are a lot of such institutes in Uzbekistan. But one should take into account that approaches of certain NGOs are not ordinary and they not always work with the government.»

Nalin Kumar MOHAPATRA
Expert, School of International Studies
of J. Nehru University
(India)

«... The profound democratic processes are going on both in state and social construction spheres. The first and the most essential objective of political elite is consolidation of these processes, assistance to transition from the previous command system to market oriented economy. It's necessary to note as a positive experience that political modernization of society and economic development in Uzbekistan are successfully realized under the leadership of the Uzbekistan President.

In Uzbekistan from the very beginning the significance of social structure of community governing as a special sphere that should not be overlook and given to third forces was clear. By social structure of governing mahalla is implied, considered as its basic unit. Those, who worked out the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, have strived to combine the traditional form of governing, i.e. mahalla with modern one, which is called by western politicians as «civil society».

Understanding the social significance of mahalla institution in self-governing at the local level, a number of provisions were included into the Main Law, necessary for civil society development. Along with granting legal status to mahalla the Uzbek government creates necessary conditions for its prosperity. One of the significant positive aspects of cration of civil society in

Uzbekistan is functioning of such local self-governing bodies in all administrative and territorial units of the country. In this regard one should evaluate establishing process of civil society in Uzbekistan from institutional view point.»

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Vladimir LAFITSKI
Deputy Director, Institute of Legislation
and Comparative Law Studies
under the Government of the Russian Federation

«Voters' attendance still remains high in the countries who preserve traditional self-governing institutions, in particular mahalla in Uzbekistan. This obviously proves that without civil society institutes it is impossible to solve an objective, formulated in many international and legislative acts — ensuring general elections ...»

♦

Bogdana BABICH
Director, Institute of Practical Policy
(Ukraine)

«While forming civil society and shaping a new tradition of elections process in Uzbekistan an effective system of institutional, moral and cultural immunity of Uzbekistan society against various strains and

manipulations is being created in Uzbekistan. This is about development of civil society primary structures, from which it grows itself.

Formation of strong civil society in Uzbekistan is being guided by the national traditional institutions, and independent development of non-government non-commercial organizations is ensured. Civil society is firstly self-governance of citizens. The unique self-governing institution revived in Uzbekistan, i.e makhalla is that very ground where a strong civil society is created in the country.

As Indian expert Nalin Kumar surely noted, mahalla has a significant impact on political processes in Uzbekistan. It is able to influence shaping public opinion. Since the ancient times makhalla provides relevant conditions to educate the young people and constitutes the foundation of social organization, because it is based on the conception of «family» and traditional family values.»

✦

Mukhammad Asif NUR
Editor-in-Chief, «Diplomatic Insight» magazine
(Pakistan)

«After independence Uzbekistan has inherited unsteady administrative and command economy and authoritarian political system. Deep market reforms and democratic transformations have been implemented

in the country under the leadership of President Islam Karimov.

... Factors, which promoted creation of the basis of civil society in Uzbekistan, started to act more effectively since realizing the complex of political and economic reforms proposed by the President. The process of political and economic liberalization is going in Uzbekistan. Many experts particularly note the fact that very process is going on consecutively, and stability in the country is ensured. This is of vital importance for whole region.

... The President of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov gave the following definition of conception of «civil society»: «Civil society for us is a social space where the law is superior and which does not counter, but promotes human self-development, realizing the interests of a person, the maximum functioning of his rights and freedoms.» Today these issues have actually become priority in activity of civil society institutions in Uzbekistan, which actively participate in elections process.

... It is well-known that creation of civil society is of great significance for democratic development of society. Today it is obvious that Uzbekistan is steadily going along this way, strengthening democratic values and never will turn this way off.»

Talkha BALIK
Editor-in-Chief, «Bosporus» newspaper
(Turkey)

«Uzbekistan is a world-scale historical and cultural center, the homeland of eminent persons of the ancient history. This is a land, where public administration is deeply rooted to antiquity. Probably in this is the force that has enabled the Uzbek people to establish the electoral system which meets the democratic requirements as a result of consecutive, step-by-step reforming of political, state, legal systems during the years of independence.

To be impartial it is necessary to note that not everything is going swimmingly. But above all the country leadership has an aim, and clear directions are defined. On the part of hardworking Uzbek people — comprehension and aspiration to achieve this purpose. Certainly, someone wanted the western democracy to be maintained worldwide at once.

... I have used above two words — «consecutiveness» and «stageness». The Uzbekistan leadership stresses just these processes. Yes, one can make dozens of laws and establish relevant government structures within short time. But will they work? Will they be acceptable for wide society groups, if there is no relative ground?

In Uzbekistan by enhancing the role and expanding opportunities for contribution of civil institutions to social life and elections, are created conditions for

adaptation of society to democratic changes and draw people to settle issues, which interest all its groups, irrespective of their political orientation. I know that 15 seats in Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis are assigned for deputies elected from Uzbekistan Ecological Movement.

Construction of democratic and legal state, forming civil society, extending market reforms and strengthening democratic values in people's mind, realizing the principle «from a strong state — to a strong civil society», put forward in due time by the President of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov as a priority objectives which are implemented consistently and stepwise, certainly, is right and acceptable decision in transition period.

I also draw attention that stated thesis is based on the specific of such institution peculiar to Uzbekistan as «Makhalla». On the one hand, this is traditional institution, on the other — a local governing body.

Makhalla — the union of people, linked on commonness of territory, where they live. This is a specific form of Eastern democracy, which gives an opportunity to develop interaction ways between society and state. Over centuries makhalla has been keeper of spiritual and moral principles of Uzbek people, their culture and traditions, which bring young generation up today.

Having proceeded from the foregoing, one may insist with confidence that makhalla is effective enough civil society institution.

Uzbekistan is expected parliamentary elections this year. They draw people of new formation, with modern worldview, which build up during reforms. The starting point of very process was the National Program of Personnel Training, adopted at the initiative of Uzbek President in 1997. It has designed on the ground of the Law «On education» and defined a strategy — upbringing of new generation with high cultural, creative and social activity, able to self-orientation on social and political life, to set further goals and to solve them.

Having proceeded on necessity of upbringing young people in spirit of universal and national values, commitment to the national idea a new 2009—2010 year in Uzbek national education system has defined as the year of the effectiveness of spiritual and enlightens arrangements.

According to the State national program of school education textbooks and training manuals are published in the languages of various nations living in Uzbekistan, enabling thus each young citizen of the country to study on their native language. This Uzbek experience — is unique for the whole Central Asia.

Perhaps, that is wisdom of the East — unlike some countries, where interests aimed at business, making money and the young generation, which must strength democratic values, is forgotten.»

Parwiz MOREWEDGE
Professor of philosophy and social sciences
of New York State University
(USA)

«The Republic of Uzbekistan for over 18 years of independence has reached an impressive economic growth, political and civil stability, as well as economic, political and social freedom.

The results of my long-term studies have revealed that the backgrounds of civilization and ideas of global leadership should not be search in the history of Greece, Rome, India, etc., but namely in the history of Uzbekistan and other Central Asian countries. Is is necessary to note the creative role of the Uzbek nation in origin of theories of democracy, society and civilization in Asia and Europe.

Political philosophy. Uzbek thinkers were pioneers in the development of this conception. Examples can be given from Ibn Sina's (Avicenna) political philosophy to the structure of Amir Temur's government.

Theory of reality. Referring to President Islam Karimov, I would like to underscore his rejection of the myth of «natural self-reliance and self-regulation of economy and unacceptability of state support». Uzbekistan leadership's critical position toward dogmatism and blind idealism illustrates the present-day conception and vision according to which the social system is being reorganized and renewed.

Theory of Society. The universally notion of democracy and social order implemented by the government of President Islam Karimov contains four

important insights that can serve as a paradigm for other countries faced the challenges of globalization.

As the President of Uzbekistan has mentioned, the government should pay attention to achieving balance among legislative, executive and judicial powers to reform and modernize the life of the country. President Islam Karimov declared that the long-term target of the country was to implement the principle of «transition from a strong state to a strong civil society». The country is cardinally strengthening the role of political parties and civil institutes in adoption of important state decisions. Members of the parliament, political parties and NGOs serve as the main tool of public control over the activity of state structures.

Democracy. President Karimov's vision of democracy includes the view, i.e. responsibility of his government to provide social security for the citizens of Uzbekistan who have the right for labor, medical service, social provision etc.

Economy. While the majority of the countries clash with economic problems, Uzbekistan, thanks to its leadership, has turned into a model of economic growth and progress. In July this year the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund Dominic Stross-Kahn stated that the anti-crisis steps, undertaken by the government of Uzbekistan, are the most effective among the countries of the region. Uzbekistan has been innovative in mitigating the impact of the global financial crisis.

It should be emphasized that the Uzbekistan' economic model of development is one of the most

efficient in the world. It actually did not suffer from the global financial crisis.

The unique economic model of Uzbekistan, in its turn, promotes the development of democracy in the country. In this regard it must be said that the international community celebrates the uniqueness of the methods used in Uzbekistan to conduct public affairs.

The implementation of the principle «from a strong state to a strong civil society» directly promotes the development of democracy in the country. In this regard the special role is given to the traditional democratic institution — makhalla. This is an unique social institution among others that is the foundation of civil society.

It may be noted that the Uzbekistan's achievements may be observed not only in economic development, but establishing mechanisms to ensure perfection of elections processes in the country.

Education. An important part of democracy according to President Karimov's view, are the rights of citizens for education. After graduating the middle school, Uzbek children have the right to training as professionally skilled workers as well as to higher education. If to speak about the country's development in social sphere, then we should note that 51 percent of the state budget are allotted for social purposes, and particularly healthcare and education.

The significant changes in the judicial system of Uzbekistan during its Independence have served protection of fundamental human rights, freedoms and security. Uzbekistan abolished the death penalty.

In this manner, the country is facing successfully the challenge of globalization. In order to comprehend

the essence of Uzbekistan economic progress led by President Karimov's government, we need to come back Uzbekistan's intellectual contribution to the world development. Uzbek theories of society always were based of wisdom of great ancestors and the national traditions of the people. Great philosophers, scientists and religious thinkers — Ibn Sino, al-Khorezmi, al-Beruni, Imam al-Bukhari, Naqshbandi and many others, as well as the statesman Amir Temur have been a symbol of continuous historical heritage of Uzbek statehood.»

♦

Alexander TSINKER
President, International
Expert Center for Electoral Systems
(Israel)

«In the process of democratic reforms in any country, including the Republic of Uzbekistan, it is very important to develop such institutions of civil society as political parties. Their effective functioning should provide protection of the interests and rights of various strata of the population and support pluralism in society and ultimately lead to significant democratic reforms in the country.

... Speaking of the process of establishing a multi-party system in Uzbekistan, it is necessary to note the importance of the Constitutional Law adopted on the initiative of President Islam Karimov «On strengthening the role of political parties in the renewal and further democratization of state governance and modernization of the country» which established the legislative

framework to structure political interests of voters and parliamentary groups.

... Today we can speak about certain results — there has been activeness of groups in the Legislative Chamber of Parliament and parliamentary groups in the local Kenghashes of People's Deputies. This, undoubtedly, enhanced the role and importance of the representative government and contributed to fuller realization of the functions of public control over the government activities.

... I would like to note several important points of the elections process.

Legislation. The electoral system and legislation in Uzbekistan are developed on the one hand, in accordance with generally recognized international principles and standards, on the other — with a level of social consciousness, traditions and mentality of the people of the country.

Organization and professionalism. The day before the election, I visited many polling stations in Samarkand and talked with the leaders of the committees. All my attempts «to paint them into a corner» by creation of non-standard situations there were not successful. Members of the committees were very well-prepared, and I felt that those were not their first elections.

... It is necessary to note the work of the Central Election Committee, which has adopted the Conception on preparation and holding of elections to legislative and representative bodies of power at all levels. Its implementation will allow to hold the upcoming elections at high democratic level. The Conception clearly defines that work of the system of electoral committees, bodies of power as well as of political parties involved into the

electoral process will be aimed at ensuring steady and unconditional observance over the legislation during the elections.

Undoubtedly, along with legislative base, organizational, legal, material and technical conditions that ensure free and active participation of citizens, political parties in electoral processes, reliable guarantees for full implementation of their electoral rights have been created in Uzbekistan. Modernization of the electoral system, elections to the representative bodies in Uzbekistan have become the important factor for improving political culture, sense of justice among population, for deepening the processes of formation of the democratic, legal state and bases for civil society.»

♦

Mehmet EROL
Director, Institute of Strategic Studies
(Turkey)

«The Republic of Uzbekistan is one of the regional powers that sincerely aspires to build the democratic state and civil society. More than five thousand HGOs specialized in various fields are working in Uzbekistan. The Public Youth Movement «Kamolot», Funds «Makhalla» and «Nurony», the National Association of Electronic Mass-Media, Committee of Women and others can be considered as initiatives of the civil society that enjoy support from the state. Creation of the Parliamentary Commission on Management of the Funds of the Public Fund to Support and Development

of Civil Society institutions testifies to the interest of the state in modernization of these institutions.

... Makhalla, which plays an active role in today's Uzbekistan, is the sequential of ancient traditions. After gaining Independence, importance of makhalla in population's political mobilization has been highly evaluated. The Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan contains a legal norm encouraging mahalla's activity.

The role of mahalla in rallying the state and society in the process of democratization is great. We should consider this institute as a form of development of eastern democracy. The system of makhalla provides a platform, which reflects traditions, history, culture, mentality and expectations of the people. In this respect, Uzbekistan can introduce the model of eastern democracy.

As it has been remarked by Islam Karimov, President of Uzbekistan, democratic institutes should reflect mentality and peculiarity of culture of the people. It is known that models of western democracy are based on the philosophy of individualism and extreme politization of masses. The East builds democracy on the basis of ideas of collectivism and importance of social convictions.»

**FROM FOREIGN PARTICIPANTS' INTERVIEWS
AT «ROUND-TABLE» TO REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE NATIONAL INFORMATION AGENCY
OF UZBEKISTAN — UZA**

Parwiz MOREWEDGE
Professor of philosophy and social sciences
of New York State University
(the United States)

«Mass-media are highly developed. That is important for a democratic state. I consider that this is concrete result of the reforms carried out in Uzbekistan.

The literacy level of electorate is very significant for holding of free elections. The head of your state pays particular attention to education and professional training. It is a question not only of schoolboys and students, but also of numerous mass-media, through which electorate receives all necessary information.

... Today Uzbekistan is very developed economically, but at the same time it faces an objective to develop in the sense of holding of democratic elections. Democracy is that when the people understand what they want.

Uzbekistan has correctly chosen its way. A great number of Muslims and adherents of other religions live here, peace is secured. Uzbekistan has its own features of democratic development. The institute of mahalla, where interests of various groups of the population at the local level are, is a vivid example of these features. Makhalla promotes ideas of democracy among citizens, it is one of the important democratic

mechanisms of their participation in elections, expression of interests of the people.

In Uzbekistan, the government does not distinguish one of the parties, it does not make any selections among them, and it is right. The existing parties reflect interests of your multi-million population, and each of them should take its definite position in order to express interests and will of the people.»

◆

Mukhammad Asif NUR
Editor-in-Chief,
«Diplomatic Insight» magazine
(Pakistan)

«18 years of independence for a country is a small term, but much has been done in Uzbekistan in respect of democratic transformations.

Civil society institutes play a large role in social democratization, and it should be noted that the development of these institutes is specifically valued in your country. This can be seen in the development of the institute of makhalla.

There is the similar institute in Pakistan. It is a community of citizens joined to solve actual problems or to express their own opinion. This institute plays an important role in formation of the civil society.

I was glad to know about the establishment of the Ecological Movement in Uzbekistan. Yet, there is no such a movement in many countries. The results of its work will not keep you waiting. I am sure it will be a strong institution in the emerging civil society.

It should be emphasized that there are 15 seats in the Parliament granted to Ecological Movement. This gives people involved in issues environment, the opportunity to lobby vital interests of the population on a higher level and to solve the problems through their representatives in the Parliament.

I believe that the forthcoming elections will be held in open and fair way, in conditions of strong competition between political parties. Changes and amendments made to the electoral law are the positive experience of Uzbekistan. They extend and improve efficiency of the political parties' participation in elections.

The electoral legislation in the country is being improved that meets the standards of international law. The principles of democratic elections are respected, such as openness, transparency, growing role of the media, provision of each deputy with time in the air and print media to explain their programs and to bring to their electorate the largest amount of information. All this is a compelling evidence of democratization of the electoral process.»

Clark PLEXICO
Director, Office of the
National Democratic Institute
(USA) in Uzbekistan

«... Large changes in the political system of Uzbekistan are obvious and undeniable. Visiting your country, I see how much has been achieved in creation of the political foundations of democracy and strong

civil society institutes, first of all, political parties. The fact that the Central Election Committee creates equal opportunities for candidates to deputies to participate in the elections is also positive. Thus the media become an effective intermediary between candidates and the electorate.

... Makhalla became a basis for further advance of democracy in Uzbekistan. This institute, which has been created on elected basis, can be considered as a school of democracy and people's power. As a whole, the evolutionary approach to the development of electoral and political systems chosen by Uzbekistan is very remarkable.»

✦

Nalin Kumar MOHAPATRA
Expert, School of International Studies
of J. Nehru University
(India)

«The deep democratic reforms are being implemented in Uzbekistan. Thus it is mostly important to avoid any imposition of values from the outside. Each state has its own values, which are to be taken into consideration in the process of democratization.

The Republic of Uzbekistan creates the conditions for the development of civil society, making great achievements on this path, and the state's policy of gradual reforms takes into account the important role of its institutes, that in its turn provides the stability of democratization processes. The growth of economy

and the modernization of economical and political life of the country are indicators of its sustainable development.

The civil society plays an important role in support of democratic processes in the country. It stabilizes the political system, acting as a necessary pillar component of the institutional structures of governance. Non-governmental organizations in Uzbekistan help to maintain a balance between power and society, and operate in many spheres of public life.

Another important issue is the enhancement of education and legal knowledge of Uzbekistan's population. This policy contributes to the successful development of political system and allows engaging in constructive dialogue with other countries. There are more than five thousand non-governmental organizations in Uzbekistan that address women's issues, problems of environment, youth, and business. The Public Fund of Support and Development is established, and there is a constant interaction between the state and civil society. This is a great success.

... The study of Uzbekistan's experience shows that, along with giving the special legal status to the institute of makhalla, the necessary atmosphere for its development is created, so that makhalla could become an initiator in addressing and solving many problems. It is important that with this the national traditions and conventional democratic principles are taken into account. I am sure that in the future the institute of makhalla, taking into consideration its significant role in the process of formation of the civil society, will help to achieve the higher level of democracy. All this can be a good example for other countries.

... It is difficult to overestimate the importance of independent media. The better development of media is, the more active is development of democracy in the society. The government of Uzbekistan pays due attention to this issue, and I believe that in the future you will achieve good results in this sphere.»

◆

Talkha BALIK
Editor-in-Chief, «Bosporus» newspaper
(Turkey)

«We see, that by increasing the role of institutes of civil society, the state creates conditions for expansion of participation of the citizens in the decision of many questions. It's pleasant, that in Uzbekistan close interaction of civil society and state is provided».

◆

Barbara POTRATA
Expert, Forum on Central Asia
at Cambridge University
(UK)

«Studying Uzbekistan experience of building a civil society, you come to conclusion: when public institutes are formed consistently, become more and more stable, they can participate more actively and fruitfully in political, including elections, processes.»

Bogdana BABICH
Director, Institute of Practical Policy
(Ukraine)

«The quota system in the legislation of Uzbekistan is introduced for the first time. Unique possibilities for the decision at parliamentary level of environmental problems are given to Ecological Movement. I understand why in Uzbekistan this quota has been introduced — nowadays ecology problem is on the first place in the world. Therefore activity of such organizations and their state support are positive factors. Clearly, that the future of any country is, first of all, health of its citizens. If citizens are healthy, they can develop the state. Uzbekistan confirms interest in health of their citizens, and it's an example for other countries.

... Creation in Uzbekistan of the Parliamentary Commission on means management of Public Fund of Support and Development of non-state non-commercial organizations and other institutes of civil society I consider as a correct step. It provides independence of public associations, objectivity in distribution of assignable means of the state.»

Minori OKOCHI
Professor Assistant of law department
of Nagoya University
(Japan)

«Introduction of deputy quota for Ecological Movement was necessary in connection with ecological situation in the region. It will possess the same rights in the higher legislative body of the country, as well as

political parties. It will give, in its turn, possibility to solve more effectively issues of ecology and public health service.»

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Vladimir LAFITSKI
Deputy Director, Institute of Legislation
and Comparative Law Studies under
the Government of the Russian Federation

«Profound studying of makhalla institute shows that throughout many centuries it was the keeper of spiritual-moral principles of the Uzbek nation, its culture and traditions due to which today the young generation is educated. Mahalla is an original form of interaction between society and state.

... We were convinced that in Uzbekistan the network of non-state tele- and radio companies which inform the population of the processes occurring in the country are successfully developing. There are all conditions in Uzbekistan for non-state mass media to actively and responsibly participate in social life, including elections.

... Speaking about quota seats in the parliament for Ecological Movement, it is quite right taking into account the environmental problems which have arisen in Uzbekistan, and importance of direction of creative activity of the people in their decision.

I consider, that introduction of this quota corresponds to any standard. It exists in some countries. Under the Constitution of Ireland, in upper chamber of the parliament there are quotas of deputy seats for Academy of Sciences, in the Scandinavian countries and France while establishing the European parliament there exist quotas for industrial associations, women to provide gender equality. The fact that Uzbekistan granted quota for ecological organization is a step, very justified from my point of view, on creation of the balanced structure of representative bodies of power, and I support such decision.

... Mass-media may either provide normal course of elections or break it. In my opinion, there should not be any politically engaged reportings and extremist appeals. Concerning cancellation of initiative groups, I consider that there are no violation of human rights, because in many countries there are cases when a candidate is elected from a political party, but he is not concerned in it.»

♦

Ishtvan VENCZEL
Coordinator, OSCE Projects Office in Uzbekistan

«The current election legislation of Uzbekistan meets the international standards. It concerns also the elections to local representative bodies of power. In my opinion,

the given circumstance will positively be reflected in holding of forthcoming elections.

... The main target of a series of international arrangements on the initiative of the Institute for civil Society Studies jointly with the Central Election Committee of Uzbekistan is acquaintance of participants of elections process with the international standards of elections.»

**V. INTERNATIONAL MEETING AT ROUND-
TABLE: «POLITICAL PARTIES AND ELECTIONS:
WORLD PRACTICE AND LEGISLATION
OF UZBEKISTAN»**

(September 29–30, 2009 Tashkent)

On September 29—30 international meeting at round-table «Political parties and elections: world practice and legislation of Uzbekistan» took place in the city of Tashkent. It was organized by the Central Election Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Academy of State and Social Construction under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Institute of Civil Society Studies, Tashkent State Institute of Law, Office of Coordinator of OSCE projects in Uzbekistan, Representation of the National Democratic Institute (USA) in Uzbekistan and non-governmental organization «Regional dialogue» (Slovenia).

Experts and scientists from UK, India, Poland, South Korea, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, USA, Ukraine, Czech Republic, Japan, international organizations as well as representatives of Diplomatic Corps in Tashkent participated in round-table.

During the meeting participants considered the experience of Uzbekistan in multi-party system development, legislative ensuring participation of political parties in election campaign on elections to representative bodies of power, increasing their role in raising the political culture of voters, socio-political activity of citizens, their participation in the forthcoming

elections, the process of democratic renewal and modernization of the country.

Foreign experts mentioned as an example of democratism of Uzbekistan's electoral system the regulations of the Central Election Committee's Conception on preparation and holding of elections, in particular, the activity of election committees and institutions involved will be directed to ensuring steady observance of the current legislation requirements during elections.

The participants of the round-table noted the consecutive measures taken in Uzbekistan on increasing the role of political parties, stage-by-stage improvement of the national election legislation.

According to opinions of the experts, elections planned for December 27th, 2009 will be held in the conditions of increasing activity of civil society institutes, and, first of all, political parties. It will be provided by amendments and additions introduced in December last year to the election legislation which are directed to further liberalization and democratization of the electoral system, strengthening the role of legislative and representative bodies of power, civil society institutes in realization of democratic reforms and state governance.

Experts noted that Uzbekistan has taken necessary measures to ensure openness and transparency of elections to the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis and local representative bodies of power.

At the meeting participants emphasized that within the years of independence in the framework of consistent

and stage by stage reforms on modernization and liberalization in all spheres of life, sustainable and dynamic political system and bicameral parliament that is functioning on a professional basis has been established in the country.

There was stated that the law on political parties meets the highest democratic standards. Its implementation and further development influence on strengthening of a real multi-party system in the country, enhancing the role of parties in implementation of socio-political and socio-economic reforms.

Summarizing the discussion, held in the spirit of free exchange, foreign experts pointed out that the electoral system established in Uzbekistan corresponds to the strong mechanism for a truly democratic, open, free and transparent elections. Political parties are given broad rights and opportunities foreseen by the legislation for active participation in the elections process, shaping the legislative and representative bodies of state power and in general — implementation of reforms for the further democratization of society.

FROM REPORTS AND SPEECHES OF FOREIGN PARTICIPANTS OF ROUND-TABLE

Myusha SEVER
Director, SPA «Regional Dialogue»
(Slovenia)

«This year Uzbekistan is on the threshold of a major political event — elections to the parliament and local bodies of power. Elections are a very important step in the democratic renewal, ensuring to citizens participation of political processes, governance of the country, possibility of expressing free will. I'm sure it will be held at a high level.

Respect for human rights, political pluralism, implementation of democratic reforms are important components of the process of transition to democracy, that was not possible under the previous regime based on monopoly of political views. Our meeting is an opportunity for cooperation between parties and international organizations. Only through interaction and experience exchange mistakes in civil society construction could be avoided.

In recent years much has been achieved by Uzbekistan, but this is not the limit, and reforms in Uzbekistan are dynamic.»

Jan Dirk BLAAU
Consultant on political
and economic affairs
(Netherlands)

«Uzbekistan achieves significant success in many spheres, in particular it achieved great progress in strengthening the role of political parties.

The bicameral system, functioning in several developed countries, in any cases doesn't meet requirements and expectations of electorate. In this case elections turn into so-called «rotation» one of the two parties in their seeking to get more votes and eventually rule over the country. In addition they leave few options for electorate.

In case of Uzbekistan the situation is quite different: multi-party system is created and is successfully functioning, which creates the opportunities and alternatives to give preference to the program and positions of that or another political party.»

Yevgeniy BOIKO
Rector, Siberian Academy
of Public Administration
(Russian Federation)

«At the present time all the former Soviet countries try to move from monopoly of the single big party. The economic reforms are being continued, social structure is being enhanced.

But interesting in assessment is not the parties' development process and their quantity, but the fact that legislative structure has already been set up, and Uzbekistan has significant results in this respect.»

Ajay Kumar PATNAIK
Director, Russian and Central Asian Studies
Program of the School of International Studies
of J. Nehru University
(India)

◀It should be underlined that every country has its' own development experience and way. We appreciate the experience of other countries and including of Uzbekistan during the years of its independent development on building democratic state and civil society. This kind of experience requires great attention and comprehensive analysis.

Many of my colleagues have visited Uzbekistan before and often shared by their positive impression with me.

There are dynamic positive changes in Uzbekistan. There is a democratization process in all living spheres. Vivid examples of this are formation of the bicameral parliament, multi-party system, creation of the conditions for active participation of women in political life by giving them 30 % quote during nomination of deputies bodies of power of all levels. These reforms testify to much attention to attract all strata of the population to state governance.

It is also necessary to note considerably the increased political activity of voters. High level of interest of the population of elections is observed in Uzbekistan, and this tendency remains in the course of all elections. For the past 18 years, the legislative basis of the activity of political parties and their participation in election campaign is formed in Uzbekistan. In your country this

participation is financed from the state budget that gives the chance to parties to be free and independent of «unscrupulous» sources of financing.»

Inkeri Aornio LVOFF
Head, Management on Human Dimension,
OSCE Mission in Georgia

«No democracy exists without political parties and pluralism. They act as intermediaries between the government and voters. Besides, parties possess the main role in selection of political elite, consolidation of society by mobilization of spirit of collective identity. I think that political parties in Uzbekistan are gaining similar lines and properties.»

Toshio TOURA
Honorary Consul of the Republic
of Uzbekistan to the city of Osaka
(Japan)

«Despite the world financial and economic crisis of the last year, Uzbekistan is confidently acting on softening its influence on the national economy. Successful implementation of the Anti-crisis program allows to assert that it will not be very difficult for Uzbekistan to overcome this crisis. Raising of life standards of the people in Uzbekistan testifies to correctness of the chosen course of constructing a democratic state.»

**FROM FOREIGN PARTICIPANTS' INTERVIEWS
AT ROUND-TABLE TO REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE NATIONAL INFORMATION AGENCY
OF UZBEKISTAN — UZA**

Dimitar DIMITROV
OSCE Expert on Elections

«Political parties in the state play rather important role in elections. All four parties should actively participate in forthcoming parliamentary elections in Uzbekistan. They should deserve trust of the population. It is necessary to provide competitiveness of political parties, because only this will allow to hold full and fair elections.»



Ajai Kumar PATNAIK
Director, Russian and Central Asia Studies
Program of the School of International Studies
of J. Nehru University
(India)

«Throughout 18 years Uzbekistan has been gradually modernizing its own political system. Nowadays in the country there is a full-fledged legislative framework for the activity of political parties and elections to bodies of power, participation of women in political life becomes more active — quota at elections to the parliament

and local bodies of power was granted, Ecological Movement has got an opportunity to participate in law-making activity. All these changes demonstrate that in Uzbekistan much attention is paid to the development of political parties and increasing the role of non-government organization in the society.

... Some critics declare that the Government of Uzbekistan supervises actions of political parties. But if to study the latest history, the similar statements will be unreasonable. Only the state can play a role of the main reformer. The government should care of parties to be confident, to get experience, to become independent, and then they may act with initiatives in the field of state and public construction. I consider, that political parties of Uzbekistan act surely, they are given large authorities to resolve numerous issues.

Jan Dirk BLAAU
Consultant on Political
and Economic Affairs
(Netherlands)

«Political process in Uzbekistan develops stage by stage, and normally. We already see a competition between political parties.

My general evaluation on democratization in Uzbekistan is very high. There are important political processes which were not observed during the previous

pre-election campaigns. We feel democratic transformations.

Political parties propagandise own objectives, and therefore can be useful both for the government and the people. At the same time I think that the competition between political parties is not a goal of democracy. Really, such competition exists in many countries, but it is not always a pledge of prosperity in the society. Parties, first of all, should be sincere in relation to its electorate.»

◆

Inkeri Aornio LVOFF
Director, Management on Human Dimension
of OSCE Mission in Georgia

«I would like to point out that the role of political parties in democratization of state and conducting of elections is very significant.

In my country political parties actively struggle during election campaign, each of them has its aims. From this point of view I can say that creation of competitive environment will also facilitate holding of fair elections.

Adoption of laws on political parties tesifies to much. I think that Uzbekistan is on the right track. Measures, taken by your very young independent country, on increasing political mentality of electorate strengthens the role of civil institutions in informing and

acknowledgement of the population about election campaign and legislation — the important element in democratic development.»

Sangtu KO
Professor, Yonsey University
(Republic of Korea)

«Democracy can not be created within one day. After gaining independence, Uzbekistan is gradually conducting reforms in political system. For the last years activeness of political parties in the country is raising. The legal basis of elections and activity of political parties is constantly improving and serving for development of democracy in Uzbekistan.

I witnessed hot debates between representatives of different political parties. It proves how active parties' members are and how clear they define and lobby their views. The political range of programs must be various. And according to submitted documents and today's discussion between political parties of Uzbekistan this is how they differ from each other.

... The institution of authorized representative of political party is introduced into the legislation of Uzbekistan. It will ensure transparency and justice of the elections. Such changes will accelerate democratization and strengthen the role of political parties.»

Shirin AKINER
Fellow, Royal Institute
of International Relations,
Professor of the School of Eastern and African
Studies of London University
(UK)

«The ongoing reforms in Uzbekistan in the political sphere as well as in democratization of society are fruitful. In my opinion, important result of these reforms are peace and stability for the period of 18 years.

Created legislative framework contributes to strengthening the role of political parties in the country and meets international standards. However, the question is by what means political parties will conduct their activities defending the interests of voters, and it concerns the goals and objectives of their programs. In this context, the existing political parties should pay attention to the content of their programs, which is a crucial factor in strengthening the role of parties in the society. In these circumstances, political parties must become a bridge, a connecting link between state and society.

As far as foreign experience is concerned, primarily European, the attention should be paid to the problems that exist today in the West. By studying the negative aspects of European experience, one can avoid mistakes and build a more flexible and perfect political system. I am amazed when the European political system with its flaws is advertised or considered as an example for the countries of Central Asia.»

Clark PLEXICO
Director, Office
of the National Democratic Institute
(USA) in Uzbekistan

«Every nation has its own traditions and proceeding from this its political system is formed. Uzbek nation deals with this question taking into account their cultural traditions and characteristics. The same thing happens in Europe or the United States. Regardless of the political system it is important to maintain stability. In this sense, Uzbekistan gives an example.

The main point is that the situation in Uzbekistan is stable and safe. Uzbek experts talk about reforms, which take place in the country, in particular the establishment of bicameral parliament. One can add that this reform contributed to the development of the political system. It is reflected in the elections process. Changes in the political system of your country are obvious for American side. The US is ready to support these efforts of Uzbekistan.»

Evgeniy SLOBODA
Responsible officer, CIS Secretariat

«It should be noted that a large-scale laborious and stable work is being done in Uzbekistan in reforming the political system. Analyzing the actions that have been taken in recent times, one can say that Uzbekistan

has studied the experience of foreign countries, and got the best of it what is acceptable for your country. Round-table meetings, conferences, seminars are being organized, where the issues related to improving the political system are actively discussed. All this suggests that the election process is open and transparent.

Everything is being done in Uzbekistan to make the party system work successfully. The Constitutional Law «On strengthening the role of political parties in the renewal and further democratization of state governance and modernization of the country», adopted on the initiative of President Islam Karimov, shows that Uzbekistan pays great attention to improving the political system.»

◆

Kadama SHIGERU
Professor, Mie University
(Japan)

«Today's meeting at the round-table on the urgent issues of reforming the political system of Uzbekistan, considering its experience in the development of political parties and their participation in elections to representative bodies of power, strengthening the role of parties in raising the electorate's political culture.

The legislative basis established in Uzbekistan is operating successfully. The necessary legal basis for holding open, fair elections to representative bodies of

power has been elaborated. And this system fully complies with the international standards. Four existing political parties fairly compete for the electorate. This once again proves that an active work on political modernization of society and state is being carried out in the country.»

Ishtvan VENCZEL
Coordinator, OSCE Projects
Office in Uzbekistan

«The upcoming elections in Uzbekistan will play an important role in the political life of the country. They will ensure the citizens' participation in state governance and political processes. This is especially important, because full-scale reforms in Uzbekistan are continuing to be implemented. Role of political parties in formation of the civil society significantly increases in these conditions.»

CONCLUSION

International conferences, seminars, round-tables on urgent issues of the electoral system and election legislation of Uzbekistan were held in the spirit of constructive dialogue and free exchange of views.

Foreign experts have noted that considerable experience in democratic development has been accumulated in Uzbekistan, including creation of the modern parliamentary system, perfecting the electoral legislation, the practice of holding free and transparent elections. Most of the participants have noted that the election legislation of Uzbekistan fully corresponds to the accepted international standards and requirements and is a reflection, mechanism of realization of deep, systematic and democratic reforms in the country.

Members of the international scientific-practical forums noted that in Uzbekistan the unique model of socio-political development has been developed and successfully implemented for the years of independence which finds its concrete expression in the electoral processes and institutions. In this case foreign experts expressed their confidence in the fact that in Uzbekistan has created all necessary conditions to make the whole process of preparing and holding elections to the Oliy Majlis and local representative bodies in 2009 to be held at a high democratic level.

The outcomes of the international forums and the opinions of foreign experts are eloquent testimony to the fact that Uzbekistan attaches great importance to the further development of electoral legislation and electoral practices and the activity of professional bicameral parliament. And this in its turn confirms the correctness carried out in Uzbekistan since the early years of independence policy of consistent, systemic democratization of the electoral system, which has become the most important area of large-scale reforms on the democratic renewal and modernization of the country, its consistent promotion of a strong state towards a strong civil society.

LIST
of foreign participants who made speeches
at international conferences, seminars
and round-tables held in 2009 on the issues
of perfection electoral system
and election legislation of Uzbekistan

	Belgium
Irnerio Seminatore	President of the European Institute of International Relations
	China
Chan Bin	Editor-in-Chief of «Studies of Russia, Eastern Europe and Central Asian» magazine
	Czech Republic
Pavel Oul	Expert on public issues of the University of Masoryk
	Egypt
Ala Jaber	Member of the Youth Wing of the People's Democratic Party
Bushra Shalash	Member of the Council of the National Assembly
	France
Silvi d'Izari	Editor-in-Chief of «Les milieux des Empires» electronic magazine
Laurent Taiyeba	Director of «L'Essentiel des Relations Internationales» newspaper

Wulf Lapins	Germany Regional representative of the F. Ebert Fund in Central Asia
Eva-Maria Henckel	Executive Program Manager, «ABU Consult Berlin GmbH»
Hendric Lakhner	Representative of Hamburg Administrative Court
Ajay Kumar Patnaik	India Director of Russian and Central Asian Studies Program, School of International Studies of J. Nehru University
Mohan Dhar	Editor and political observer of «Political Events» magazine
Nalin Kumar Mohapatra	Expert of the School of International Studies, J. Nehru University
Nasir Raza Khan	Expert of Lal Bahadur Shastri Indian Culture Centre in Tashkent
Shahid Tasleem	Academy of Studies of the Countries of the «Third World»
Alexander Tsinker	Israel President of the International Expert Center for Electoral Systems
Laura Giuseppina Majjy	Italy Professor of the La Sapienza University in Rome

Japan

- Aykie Masanori** Director of the Center for Asian Law Exchange
- Yosuke Shamoto** Teacher of Nagoya University
- Kadama Shigeru** Professor of Mie University
- Koji Ono** Professor of Nagoya University
- Minori Okochi** Professor Assistant of law department of Nagoya University
- Noriko Tanaka** Teacher of Nagoya University
- Sugiura Kazutaka** Dean of Higher School of Nagoya University
- Toshio Toura** Honorary consul of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the city of Osaka
- Emi Makino** Expert of Nagoya University
- ## **Kazakhstan**
- Leyla Januzakova** Deputy Director of the Institute of Systemic Research of «Turan» University, Senior researcher of the State and Law Institute of Kazakh National University named after Al-Farabi
- A.S. Ibraeva** Professor of Kazakh National University named after Al-Farabi
- Ilyas Karsakov** Deputy Director of Alternativa Center
- Timur Kozirev** Leading researcher of Kazakhstan Institute of Strategic Studies under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan

**Durbolon
Japarov**

**Aynura
Umetova**

**Vaidotas
Vaychaytis**

**Santappu
Radhakrishnan**

Jan Dirk Blaau

**Mukhammad
Asif Nur**

Sajjad Malik

Kim Yeng Gu

Kim Yung Sik

Kyrgyzstan

President of the Public Academy
of Sciences of Kyrgyz Republic

Senior researcher of the
Institute of Strategic Studies
and Assessment under the
President of Kyrgyz Republic

Lithuania

Professor of Law Department
of Vilnius University

Malaysia

Honorary Secretary of
Malaysian Law Association of
ASEAN

Netherlands

Consultant on political and
economic affairs

Pakistan

Editor-in-Chief of «Diplomatic
insight» magazine

Senior editor of «Daily Times»
newspaper

Republic of Korea

Deputy of the National
Assembly

Chairman of the Company
«Shin-dong Enercom» and
«Shindong Engineering &
Construction», former Deputy of
the National Assembly of the
Republic of Korea

Sangtu Ko

Hoe Jong-ha

Professor of Yonsei University
former Deputy of the National
Assembly of the Republic
of Korea

Russian Federation

**Vladimir
Lafitski**

Deputy Director of the Institute
of Legislation and Comparative
Law Studies under the
Government of the Russian
Federation

Evgeniy Boyko

Rector of Siberian Academy
of Public Administration

**Olga
Litstenberger**

Deputy Rector of Povoljskaya
Academy of Public Administration

Elena Kuzmina

Senior researcher of the
Institute of International
Economic and Political Studies
of the Russian Academy
of Sciences

Singapore

Li Yung Yung

Senior researcher of the
Institute of Political Studies
under the National University

Slovakia

Peter Juza

Head of the Department for CIS
countries of the Ministry of
Foreign Affairs

Slovenia

Myusha Sever

Director of SPA «Regional
Dialogue»

- Katya Gersac** Deputy Director of SPA
«Regional Dialogue»
- Mehmet Erol** Director of Strategic Studies
Institute
- Talkha Balik** Editor-in-Chief of «Bosporus»
newspaper
- Bogdana Babich** Director of the Institute
of Practical Policy
- Vitaliy Kulik** Head of division of the National
Institute of International
Security Issues under the
National Security and Defense
Council
- Mikhail
Pogrebinskiy
Roman Syrinskiy** Director of Kiev Center of
Political and Conflict Studies
State expert of the National
Institute of International
Security Issues under the Council
of National Security and Defense
- Sergey Tolstov** Leading researcher of the
Institute of World Economy and
International Relations of the
National Academy of Sciences
(Ukraine)
- Aleksey
Sherstoboev** Political scientist, Director
adviser of the Center for
Eastern European Studies
- Barbara Potrata** Expert of Forum on Central Asia
at Cambridge University
- Sidhard
Shanker
Saksena** Chairman of Cambridge Forum
on Central Asia

Fred Ponsonby	Member of the House of Lords
Shirin Akiner	Fellow of the Royal Institute of International Relations, Professor of the School of Oriental and African Studies of the University of London
	USA
Gerald Loftus	Writer, consultant on defense and diplomacy issues
Parwiz Morewedge	Professor of philosophy and social sciences of New York State University
Clark Plexico	Director of the Office of the National Democratic Institute (USA) in Uzbekistan
Richard Glaub	Representative of the National Democratic Institute (USA)
	OSCE
Ishtvan Venczel	Coordinator of OSCE Projects Office in Uzbekistan
Bernar Ruo	Senior Adviser of Project Coordinator in Uzbekistan
Dimitar Dimitrov	Expert on Elections
Inkeri Aornio Lvoff	Head of Management on Human Dimension of OSCE Mission in Georgia
	CIS
Sergey Burutin	Head of Chairman Office of CIS Executive Committee
Sergey Lebedev	Chairman of CIS Executive Committee
Evgeniy Sloboda	Responsible officer of CIS Secretariat

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**ЦЕНТРАЛЬНАЯ ИЗБИРАТЕЛЬНАЯ КОМИССИЯ
РЕСПУБЛИКИ УЗБЕКИСТАН**

**ЗАРУБЕЖНЫЕ ЭКСПЕРТЫ
ОБ ИЗБИРАТЕЛЬНОЙ СИСТЕМЕ
И ЗАКОНОДАТЕЛЬСТВЕ О ВЫБОРАХ
РЕСПУБЛИКИ УЗБЕКИСТАН**

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