

Delegation of the Russian Federation

**STATEMENT BY MR. ANDREY RUDENKO,
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RUSSIAN FEDERATION, AT THE 1049th MEETING OF THE
OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

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On the presidential election in Kazakhstan

Mr. Chairperson,

We should like to congratulate our Kazakh colleagues on the successful holding of last Sunday's presidential election.

In his congratulatory telegram, Russian President Vladimir Putin noted that the results of the vote confirm the high authority that President Nursultan Nazarbayev enjoys among the citizens of Kazakhstan. This was shown by their choosing to give broad support to the course taken by the Head of State to accelerate the country's socio-economic development, participate actively in Eurasian integration processes, and strengthen the strategic partnership and alliance with Russia.

The data on voter turnout and the conclusive results of the vote attest that the recent election was characterized by a high degree of responsibility on the part of the citizens who exercised their political will. Kazakhstan succeeded in holding an election in strict conformity with the law, openly and honestly, with broad participation by national and international observers.

We took note of the preliminary findings of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) mission. Besides the ODIHR, other observers, including some from the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), monitored the election. From 30 March to 26 April, the CIS observer mission, composed of 410 people from eight States, the Interparliamentary Assembly and the Executive Committee of the CIS, closely observed the preparations for and holding of the election. Most of the observers have solid experience in monitoring elections, both within and outside the CIS, and are governed by the principles of objectivity and impartiality in their work.

In the opinion of the CIS observer mission, Kazakhstan's legislation meets the standards of international electoral law and is constantly improving. The authorities and the election commissions at all levels took the steps needed to suitably prepare for and hold the election. Despite the limited time they had to prepare, the election proceeded in an orderly

fashion; the procedures for nominating and registering candidates were open, and took place in accordance with legal requirements. The media closely followed the election campaign.

As a result of its observation, the CIS mission found that the election, conducted in accordance with local law, “was transparent, open, and conformed fully to the principles of a democratic election”. It took note of the record voter turnout and high level of activity. According to the mission, this was motivated by the high degree of political awareness on the part of the citizens of Kazakhstan and their desire to maintain and consolidate the country’s course, aimed at preserving friendship and co-operation, especially with neighbouring countries.

Once more, we must point out that the ODIHR’s assessments are again not devoid of politicization. The assertions that additional reforms are needed to hold “genuinely democratic elections” do not square with the results of the Kazakh people’s vote. This again confirms the need to boil international observation methods down to a common denominator, and to formulate a single methodological basis, agreed on within the OSCE format, and procedures for election observation.

Thank you for your attention.