

The OSCE Secretariat bears no responsibility for the content of this document and circulates it without altering its content. The distribution by OSCE Conference Services of this document is without prejudice to OSCE decisions, as set out in documents agreed by OSCE participating States.

PC.DEL/152/24
15 February 2024

ENGLISH only



United States Mission to the OSCE

Right of Reply on Early Presidential Elections in Azerbaijan

As delivered by Acting Deputy Chief of Mission Tracey Newell
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
February 15, 2024

The United States fully supports the work of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and the election observation missions it conducts. We value the thorough, professional, and impartial assessments of the observers and we take their recommendations seriously. The aim of ODIHR's election observation missions is "to assess the extent to which elections respect fundamental freedoms and are characterized by equality, universality, political pluralism, confidence, transparency and accountability." These are objectives that all participating States should strive to achieve.

We share ODIHR's observations and concerns that the February 7 presidential election in Azerbaijan occurred in a restrictive environment with a lack of genuine competition. Azerbaijan has expressed its commitment to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms and democratic processes in its constitution and international commitments. We encourage Azerbaijan to implement these commitments and ODIHR's previous and forthcoming recommendations.

###