

**C O N C L U S I O N**  
**of the Observer Team from the Interparliamentary Assembly  
of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States  
at the elections to Majlisi namoyandagon of the Majlisi Oli  
of the Republic of Tajikistan  
March, 1 2020**

According to the Constitution of the Republic of Tajikistan, the national electoral legislation and the Decree of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan № 1380 dated December 4, 2019 "On setting the elections of the new call to Majlisi Oli of the Republic of Tajikistan and local majlisis of the people's deputies", the regular elections to the Majlisi namoyandagon of the Majlisi Oli of the Republic of Tajikistan took place on March 1, 2020.

Following the invitation from Speaker of the Majlisi namoyandagon of the Majlisi Oli of the Republic of Tajikistan Shukurjon Zuhurov, received in December 2019, IPA CIS Secretariat formed a group of international observers from IPA CIS to monitor the preparation and conduct of elections to the Majlisi namoyandagon of the Majlisi Oli of the Republic of Tajikistan.

According to the order of Chairperson of the Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States Valentina Matvienko, Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan Ulugbek Inoyatov was appointed as a coordinator of the group from IPA CIS for observation the elections to Majlisi namoyandagon of the Majlisi Oli of the Republic of Tajikistan.

The MPs and representatives of the supreme legislative authorities of the parliaments of eight Member Nations of IPA CIS joined the group: the Republic of Armenia, the Azerbaijan Republic, the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Uzbekistan, as well as the staff members of IPA CIS Council Secretariat and experts of the International Institute for Monitoring Democracy Development, Parliamentarianism and Suffrage Protection of Citizens of IPA CIS Member Nations.

The activity of the IPA CIS international observers was carried out according to the principles of political neutrality, impartiality, non-interference in the internal affairs, observation of the electoral legislation of the Republic of Tajikistan.

In their activity, the observers were governed by the documents, determining the procedure for the organization of the international observation of elections, adopted by the Commonwealth of Independent States.

### **The legislation of the Republic of Tajikistan, regulating the organization of elections to the Majlisi namoyandagon of the Majlisi Oli of the Republic of Tajikistan**

The legal framework for the organization of elections to the Majlisi namoyandagon of the Majlisi Oli of the Republic of Tajikistan is: the Constitution, the Constitutional Law "On elections to the Majlisi Oli of the Republic of Tajikistan", the laws of the Republic of Tajikistan "On Central Commission for Elections and Referenda of the Republic of Tajikistan", "On political parties", "On public associations", "On gatherings, protests, demonstrations, and street processions", "On state guarantees for equal rights of men and women and equal opportunities of their realization", "On appeals of the citizens", "On printed media and other mass media", "On television and radio broadcasting", other national and international pieces of legislation.

The changes in legislation, adopted according to the results of the referendum of 2016, led to a better reflection of the standards of democratic elections, electoral rights and freedoms in its provisions.

The legislation of the Republic of Tajikistan, regulating the electoral process, determines:

- the procedure for the election of deputies to the Majlisi namoyandagon of the Majlisi Oli of the Republic of Tajikistan";
- the requirements to a person, who can be an elected deputy of the Majlisi namoyandagon;
- the authorities, administrating the elections to Majlisi namoyandagon;
- the procedure for preparation and conduct of elections.

The Central Commission for Elections and Referenda of the Republic of Tajikistan (hereinafter referred to as CCER RT) was granted authorities to explain and clarify particular aspects of the preparation and conduct of elections. It develops and approves instructions and guidance documents.

On the basis of the analysis of the national electoral legislation, regulating the elections to the Majlisi namoyandagon of the Majlisi Oli of the Republic of Tajikistan (Annex №1), the IPA CIS international observer team came to a conclusion that it complies with the international democratic standards, ensures that parliamentary elections are organized and conducted on the basis of universal, equal, direct voting by secret ballot, and ensures observation of the electoral rights and freedoms of the citizens of the Republic of Tajikistan.

### **Administrative and organizational support of elections to the Majlisi namoyandagon of the Majlisi Oli of the Republic of Tajikistan**

The preparation and conduct of elections to the Majlisi namoyandagon of the Majlisi Oli of the Republic of Tajikistan are carried out by the electoral commissions, which unified system consists of: CCER RT, which carries out its activity on a professional basis, district and precinct electoral commissions (hereinafter referred to as DEC and PEC), which are established in the period of elections of deputies to the Majlisi namoyandagon and act as public associations.

The procedure for the formation of electoral commissions, requirements to their members and the setting of collegial principle of work of commissions are defined in the articles 10-20 of the Constitutional Law "On elections to the Majlisi Oli of the Republic of Tajikistan".

The Calendar Plan of the main activities on the preparation and conduct of elections of the members of the Majlisi Milli of the Majlisi Oli of the Republic of Tajikistan, the deputies of the Majlisi namoyandagon of the Majlisi Oli of the Republic of Tajikistan and local Majlisis of the people's deputies (hereinafter referred to as the Calendar Plan), approved by the decree of the Central Commission for Elections and Referenda of the Republic of Tajikistan № 14 dated December 7, 2019, became the document, on the basis of which the activities on the preparation and conduct of the regular parliamentary elections of 2020 are carried out and the procedure and time of their organization are determined.

The mixed majority-proportional system of the Republic of Tajikistan includes 41 single-member constituencies and a unified nationwide constituency for the election of 22 deputies according to the proportional representation of secret lists with an electoral threshold of 5%. Voter turnout is required to be at least 50% for the election to be declared valid. The candidate, who has received more than 50% of votes of people, who participated in elections, is considered to be elected in a single-member constituency.

To ensure free will expression of citizens during the elections of 2020, 3410 polling stations were working within the Republic of Tajikistan. In addition to that, 35 polling stations were organized in the embassies and consulates of the Republic of Tajikistan in 29 countries: Afghanistan, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, China, Germany, Great Britain, Egypt, France, India, Iran, Japan, Kazakhstan (embassy in Nur-Sultan, consulate general in Almaty), Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Pakistan, Qatar, Russia (embassy in Moscow, consulate general in St Petersburg, Novosibirsk, Yekaterinburg, Ufa), Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Switzerland, Turkey (embassy in Ankara, consulate general in Istanbul), Turkmenistan, UAE, Ukraine, USA, Uzbekistan.

According to the opinion of the IPA CIS Observer Team, based on the long-term observation data, DEC and PEC were formed in full compliance with the requirements of the electoral legislation of the Republic of Tajikistan, within the time limits, set by the Calendar Plan, without conflicts. The local executive authorities, CCER RT and DEC took necessary actions to fully complete DEC and PEC on non-party basis within the established time limits.

The activity of CCER RT, DEC and PEC on the preparation and conduct of elections on March 1, 2020 was financed from the funds of the state budget of the Republic of Tajikistan within the time limits, set by law, and in the amount, sufficient to timely perform all the required procedures. The budget of the Republic of Tajikistan for 2020 provided for the funds, which amount is sufficient to arrange and organize regular elections.

The international observers from IPA CIS make a point that CCER RT made grand-scale efforts to arrange and organize the elections to the Majlisi namoyandagon on March 1, 2020. The administrating bodies drew special attention to the organization of awareness raising activities of all the categories of the election participants and the provision of information about the elections, rights and duties to them.

Over the period from May 2019 to February 2020, five stages of the educational seminars were organized, which focused on electoral rights, preparation and conduct of elections, where about 35 thousand people participated. Before the activities started, CCER RT and the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Tajikistan trained and certified experts-trainers among the political scientists, lawyers, who specialize in constitutional and electoral law, to improve the quality of education, with a vision that they could test the knowledge and skills, received by the members of DEC and PEC, and their application in the real world. Legislative acts and other documents, determining the procedure for elections of the deputies of the Majlisi

namoyandagon, lists of questions, included in the minutes of CCER RT meetings, corresponding decisions taken, as well as legal documents and information-and-reference materials were published at the official web page of CCER RT. This information was available in Tajik, Russian, and English languages. In order to ensure unilateral application of the national electoral legislation, the instruction booklets were made and distributed, which were targeted at different categories of the participants of elections, including law enforcement bodies, judicial authorities, mass media, national observers. A total of more than 25 different instruction booklets and information brochures were published by CCER RT.

To inform the voters about the current elections and about the candidates to the deputies of single-member constituencies and party lists, during the preparation for the elections on March 1, 2020, CCER RT published articles in newspapers and magazines, rotated visuals and informercials on television and radio, which explain the electoral legislation in short and easily-understandable form; opportunities for voting for different groups and categories of the voters, provided within the framework of law; the rights of the participants of elections and their limitations; requirements for the equipment of voting premises and navigational information in the polling stations. CCER RT Press Center coordinated awareness raising activities among the voters about the upcoming elections and provided the information about the candidates and their political platforms to the voters.

The IPA CIS international observer team attributes the activity plans, targeted for specific categories of voters, which were approved with a number of governmental and non-governmental organizations (Committee for the Matters of Women and Families, Committee for the Matters of Young People, Sport and Tourism, Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting under the aegis of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Youth Union of Tajikistan, non-governmental organizations of people with limited abilities) to the specific methods of information provision and improvement of electoral activity of voters, used by CCER RT during the elections.

CCER RT worked with the voters, located outside of the Republic of Tajikistan, with the help of Internet, including a series of online-meetings with the youth organizations of students abroad.

According to the opinion of the IPA CIS international observer team, the diversity of forms and methods of education and awareness raising of all the participants of elections during the current election campaign ensured its high organizational level and had a positive influence on the activity of voters.

CCER RT, DEC and PEC with assistance of local executive bodies of state authority carried out the works on equipping the rooms for voting with necessary furniture and technical equipment, created electronic channels of communication for information sharing with CCER RT, equipped polling stations with ramps and organized special voting booths for people with limited abilities, within the time limits, set by the Calendar Plan. CCER RT timely formed and specified the lists of voters, which total number at the elections on March 1, 2020 was 4.3 million people; made ballot papers and delivered them to the polling stations.

The IPA CIS international observer team believes that the performed activities on administrative and organizational support of the elections to the Majlisi namoyandagon of the Majlisi Oli of the Republic of Tajikistan on March 1, 2020 ensured high organizational level of the elections, while successfully field-proven innovations, aimed at raising awareness among the voters, can be disseminated in the Republic of Tajikistan and beyond its borders. There were no violations of the national legislation identified during the establishment of DEC and PEC and the organization of activity of the election participants.

### **The stage of nomination and registration of candidates to the deputies of the Majlisi namoyandagon of the Majlisi Oli of the Republic of Tajikistan**

The nomination of candidates from the political parties and self-nomination started on the day, when the Calendar Plan was approved – December 7, 2020. Then, according to the time limits, set by the Calendar Plan, CCER RT accepted the electoral documents from the candidates to the deputies of a unified nation-wide constituency, DEC fulfilled these functions in relation to the self-nominated candidates, as well as handed out subscription lists for the collection of signatures in support of the candidates; then, the electoral commissions made a compliance inspection of the submitted electoral documents and signatures in support of the candidates for authenticity, integrity and completeness.

The approval of lists by CCER RT and the registration of the candidates of single-member constituencies by DEC were carried out without the violations of the established time limits and finished on January 15; the candidates to the deputies and political parties timely formed pre-election funds; CCER RT transferred the monetary funds to the candidates, who had passed the registration, to organize the election campaign in the amount and within the time frame, stipulated by the national legislation.

According to the results of the registration, 241 candidates were allowed to participate in the elections to the Majlisi namoyandagon of the Majlisi Oli on March 1, 2020.

176 candidates registered in 41 single-member constituencies, 26 of them are women (14,7%), including those, representing political parties and those, who organize their electoral campaigns as independent self-nominated candidates.

The following parties were represented by 65 candidates, nominated by seven political parties on the basis of a unified nationwide constituency, including 22 (33,8%) women:

- Agrarian Party of Tajikistan (13 candidates);
- Democratic Party of Tajikistan (4 candidates);
- Communist Party of Tajikistan (5 candidates);
- People's Democratic party of Tajikistan (26 candidates),
- Party of Economic Reforms of Tajikistan (7 candidates);
- Social Democratic Party of Tajikistan (5 candidates);
- Socialist Party of Tajikistan (5 candidates);

Thus, by the beginning of the campaigning period, the average number of candidates for one deputy's seat was more than three persons, which is a testimony to the fact that the scheduled elections to the Majlisi namoyandagon had competitive nature and that the voters had a real opportunity to make a choice, which was created on the multi-party basis of the political system of the Republic of Tajikistan.

The IPA CIS Observer Team did not find any violations of the national legislation at the stage of nomination and registration of the candidates to the deputies of the Majlisi namoyandagon of the Majlisi Oli of the Republic of Tajikistan.

### **Campaigning period**

According to the provisions of the national electoral legislation of the Republic of Tajikistan, the pre-election campaign to the Majlisi namoyandagon of the Majlisi Oli of the Republic of Tajikistan began after the registration of the candidates and secret lists from the political parties on January 16, 2020 and finished on February 28, 2020. On the day, prior to the day of elections, the campaigning activities shall be prohibited. The violations of this legal norm were not identified during the observation.

According to the electoral legislation of the Republic of Tajikistan, the resources of state television and radio companies were provided to all the registered

candidates free of charge within a certain limit of broadcasting time for the organization of pre-election campaign: up to 40 minutes for political parties, up to 20 minutes for self-nominated candidates. Four national and 19 regional newspapers gave an opportunity to publish the information about the registered candidates and lists of candidates and to inform people about the bullet points of the pre-election campaigns of the candidates on their pages, up to 8 pages of computer text were published free of charge. The candidates to the deputies of the Majlisi namoyandagon of the Majlisi Oli of the Republic of Tajikistan had equal opportunities to publish campaigning material on a paid basis. To ensure equal rights and a uniform format of information about the candidates to the deputies, CCER RT adopted instructive documents, setting the standards of campaigning materials and the procedure of work with mass media for the candidates to the deputies and political parties.

Within the framework of the long-term observation, the IPA CIS Observer Team discovered that the leading TV-channels of the Republic of Tajikistan informed the citizens of the country about the progress of preparation for the organization of elections on a daily basis with detailed coverage of the stories, related to the activity of CCER RT, DEC, PEC and the role of parliament in the political life of the country.

The candidates actively used the following methods to draw the attention of voters during the campaigning period:

- publishing of the information materials in support of the candidates in the printed and electronic mass media;
- publishing of campaigning booklets and posters;
- trips around the constituencies to meet with the voters, organization of local public events;
- organization of pre-election campaign on the Internet through social media accounts, blogs and messengers.

A well-established and progressing practical experience on increasing the share of campaigning activities on the Internet stands to mention. A specific feature of the current election campaign was that a number of candidates organized online-meetings with the voters, working or studying abroad.

During the whole campaigning period, the candidates had equal opportunities to demonstrate their campaigning materials.

The violations of the rights of some candidates to the advantage of other candidates were not identified. The international observers did not receive any complains or appeals regarding the use of advantages of administrative offices and



creation of unequal conditions for the provision of rooms and places for meetings with the voters, free broadcasting time, page spaces of printed media.

The campaigning materials of the candidates were located in the crowded places of the settlements, designated by the electoral commissions, at the specifically installed stands, giving all the citizens an opportunity to get familiar with their content.

The IPA CIS international observers did not identify any facts of interference of state authorities into the process of pre-election campaign or other violations of the electoral legislation of the Republic of Tajikistan at the stage of pre-election campaigning.

### **Long-term Observation**

At the stage of long-term observation, the IPA CIS international observer team from among the staff and experts of the International Institute for Monitoring Democracy Development, Parliamentarianism and Suffrage Protection of Citizens of IPA CIS Member Nations analyzed the electoral legislation of the Republic of Tajikistan for its compliance with the international standards of democratic elections and provisions of the international legal acts (Annex 1).

In course of the long-term monitoring of the preparation and conduct of the regular elections to the Majlisi namoyandagon of the Majlisi Oli of the Republic of Tajikistan, the IPA CIS observers made a trip to the Republic of Tajikistan from January 28 to February 1 to collect and analyze the information and prepare the reports for the member of the group of international observers, representing the parliaments of Member Nations of IPA CIS. A number of activities, related to the assessment of the election campaign in the regions and districts of the Republic of Tajikistan, were organized in a remote way.

During the period of monitoring, the IPA CIS observers met with the leaders of five political parties, which nominated their candidates to the elections to the Majlisi namoyandagon of the Majlisi Oli of the Republic of Tajikistan. The questions of the results of nomination and registration of the candidates, plans of campaign organization, including - within the territory of constituencies, specification of the lists of voters, training of the members of district and precinct electoral commissions, as well as readiness of the premises of precinct electoral commissions for elections were discussed at the meetings, which took place. The leaders of political parties did not express any claims against the organizers of elections, did not inform about the violations of legislation, which can influence the free expression of will of the

citizens of the Republic of Tajikistan and final results of elections. During the trip to Dushanbe, the IPA CIS international observers from among the staff and experts of the International Institute for Monitoring Democracy Development, Parliamentarianism and Suffrage Protection of Citizens of IPA CIS Member Nations, received detailed information about the measures to ensure the enforcement of the right to be elected for people with limited abilities.

On January 29, 2020, there was a meeting between the observers and Chairman of CCER RT Bakhtiyor Khudoyorzoda, where they discussed the reform of the commission, which took place in 2019, advantages of transition of CCER RT to the activity on a professional basis, prospects and specific features of the organization of work of DEC and PEC in the context of requirements, related to the non-partisanship of its members. Bakhtiyor Khudoyorzoda spoke about the specifics of working with the lists of voters, gave a number of explanations of requirements for the candidates, the process of voting, established during the introduction of changes to the legislation and applied for the first time during the current elections.

According to the opinion of the IPA CIS observers, the preparation for elections on March 1, 2020 was carried out in a calm atmosphere, within the framework of the current legislation of the Republic of Tajikistan and international standards on elections. The observers noted that the district and precinct electoral commissions were ready for the elections to the Majlisi namoyandagon, the premises for voting and their equipment complied with the requirements of legislation, CCER RT and lower electoral commissions quickly reacted to the information inquiries from the representatives of the candidates, as well as national and international observers. The representatives of the IPA CIS Observer Team were provided assistance to receive informational, instructive materials, samples of instruction booklets, posters, brochures. The assistance with the translation into the Russian language was organized in a timely manner. The actions of CCER RT on accreditation of the international observers were carried out in full compliance with the statutory regulations.

In course of the long-term monitoring, the members of the international observer team did not find any violations during the organization of elections to the Majlisi namoyandagon of the Majlisi Oli of the Republic of Tajikistan by state authorities, organizers of the elections, candidates to the deputies at all of the stages. The diversity of forms and methods of work, targeted at the provision of information to the voters, improvement of the legal culture and provision of guidelines for different categories of the participants of elections, used by CCER RT, ensured high organizational level of elections.

## **Short-term observation of the elections to the Majlisi namoyandagon of the Majlisi Oli of the Republic of Tajikistan**

The IPA CIS international observer team, composed of 39 persons, including the members of the parliaments from eight Member Nations, the staff members of IPA CIS Council Secretariat and experts of the International Institute for Monitoring Democracy Development, Parliamentarianism and Suffrage Protection of Citizens of IPA CIS Member Nations organized a short-term observation of the elections to the Majlisi namoyandagon of the Majlisi Oli of the Republic of Tajikistan at their final stage, including visits to polling stations on the day of elections in the period from the February 27 to March 1, 2020.

27 members of the group observed the elections in Dushanbe, four regions in the Republican subordination and Khatlon Region, the rest observed the elections on March 1, 2020 at polling stations abroad.

From February 27 to 29, 2020, the IPA CIS international observer team made a series of meetings with the heads of the bodies of legislative power and election administrating bodies of the Republic of Tajikistan, as well as with the leaders of the political parties that participated in this election campaign.

Chairman of the Democratic Party of Tajikistan Saidjaffar Usmonzoda said that the party was registered in 1990, has about 35 thousand members and has representatives in the majority of regions and districts of Tajikistan. The party is moderately opposition-leaning, it is represented by the chairman in the parliament, its voters are entrepreneurs and rural population. In the renewed program of the party, top priority is given to the accelerated economic development through the creation of jobs in small and medium enterprises, development of strategic partnership with CIS countries and Eurasian Economic Union.

The party registered four candidates on a party-list basis and eight candidates in single-member constituencies for the participation in the parliamentary elections. Saidjaffar Usmonzoda did not voice any complains or made any comments about the organizers of elections and his political opponents. According to his opinion, the election campaign was carried out in a calm atmosphere, with the provision of information to the public at large and open access to mass media.

Chairman of the Socialist Party of Tajikistan Abduhalim Gafforov told that the party was established in 1996 in the north of Tajikistan, now it is operating within the whole territory of the country, it has more than 21 thousand members, has representatives in five regions of Tajikistan, as well as its own printed media, web

pages on the Internet and accounts in social networks, it is moderately opposition-leaning. Its voters are workers of the budget-financed sector, groups of population, which require state support. The program is aimed at the eradication of social inequality, support of low-income groups of population using the budget funds, increase of expenses for the sectors of social sphere. Gender equality is a strategic point of the party's politics.

Five candidates were nominated on a party-list basis and four – in the single-member constituencies for the participation in the parliamentary elections. Five of the nine candidates, nominated by the party, are women. The party did not face any difficulties at the stage of nomination and registration of its candidates, had access to mass media and rooms for meetings with the voters on an unrestricted basis. During the campaign organization, a number of activities were focused on the voters, who temporarily live in the Russian Federation and the Republic of Kazakhstan. Abduhalim Gafforov noted that CCER RT and diplomatic representatives of the Republic of Tajikistan provided assistance in their organization.

First Deputy Chairman of the People's Democratic Party of Tajikistan (party of the parliamentary majority) Abdudzhabor Azizi informed the IPA CIS Observer Team about the program of the party and its main goal - consolidation of healthy resources of society to improve the well-being of the citizens of the Republic of Tajikistan. The members of the party are about 500 thousand people, which belong to 661 primary party organizations, 41% of them are women, 40% - young people. Abdudzhabor Azizi told about a systematic work of the party, aimed at involvement of women into a social and political life of the country, creation of social lifts for the youth. On the basis of the National Development Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan till 2030, approved by the President of the Republic of Tajikistan, the party has developed and is implementing specific programs, aimed at the growing role of women in society, attraction of young people for participation in the social and political life of the country. The youth wing "Builders of the Home Country" plays a substantial role in the life of the party. People's Democratic Party nominated 26 candidates on a party-list basis for 22 seats for participation in the upcoming elections. Besides the candidates, who are members of the People's Democratic Party, the party also supports 18 non-party candidates, who share the key points of the party's program, at the elections in the single-member constituencies.

PDP rolled out a large-scale campaign in January-February 2020: 20 options of brochures, posters, and calendars were prepared, where the main points of the party's pre-election program were reflected. The candidates and party activists conducted about 7000 pre-election campaigning activities, covering 60% of voters of the

Republic of Tajikistan. 15 thousand volunteers participated in the campaign. The election campaign team did not identify any violations, made by the organizers during the arrangement of elections or by the political parties, which participated in the pre-election campaign.

At the meeting with Chairman of the Agrarian Party of Tajikistan Rustam Latifzoda and other leaders of the party, the IPA CIS observers were informed that the party was founded in 2005, it participates in all the parliamentary and presidential elections, has a fraction in the lower chamber of the parliament, having five deputies. The main electoral base of the party is the agricultural population of Tajikistan, people from rural areas and small settlements. The activity of voters in the rural area has historically been higher than in the cities, and this trend has not changed in the present time, that is why the campaign in the rural areas at the final stage of the pre-election campaign is especially important.

The party nominated 43 candidates: 30 in the single-member constituencies and 13 on a party-list basis. Rustam Latifzoda made a point that the district electoral commissions did not violate the current legislation in the process of the registration of candidates and the organization of campaign by them.

The talk with Chairman of the Party of Economic Reforms of Tajikistan Rustam Kudratov was a final one in a series of meetings between the observers and the leaders of the political parties of the Republic of Tajikistan. He said that the party was established in 2005 by a group of prominent Tajik academic economists, committed to the idea of democratic market reforms in the country. The party's motto is "Ensure decent life through economic reforms". The party has currently three deputies in the parliament, it hopes to increase its presence there according to the results of elections.

At the current elections, the Party of Economic Reforms nominated 12 candidates in the single-member constituencies and seven candidates on a party-list basis. All the candidates have scientific degrees of doctors or candidates of sciences. The main message of the program is the implementation of the Development Program, approved by the UN, which includes 17 integrated ideas, covering economic, social, and political spheres. To achieve these goals, the Republic of Tajikistan has to create a qualitatively new institutional environment, and the Party of Economic Reforms announces specific legislative initiatives in its pre-election program. The Chairman of the party made a point that the parties, participating in the pre-election campaign, acted in compliance with the legislation, not violating it.

According to the results of the meetings with the leaders of the political parties, the IPA CIS international observers state active efforts of the parties, aimed at the improvement of the role of women and young people in society.

On February 29, the IPA CIS international observers met with Speaker of Majlisi milli of the Majlisi Oli of the Republic of Tajikistan Makhmadsaid Ubaydullov. The questions about the importance of the upcoming elections for strengthening and development of democratic model of the society, emerging role of women in social and political life of the country, interparliamentary cooperation in the field of elections and measures, undertaken by state authorities to arrange and organize the elections, were discussed during the meeting.

During the meeting with Chairman of CCER RT Bakhtiyor Khudoyorzoda, the observers were informed about the commission's activity starting with the moment, when the date of elections was set, till the actual day of elections, readiness of all polling stations for the elections and their accessibility for people with limited abilities. Addressing the IPA CIS Observer Team, he highlighted the importance of the international observation missions, especially those, representing the Member Nations of CIS, and called on the IPA CIS observers to make an objective assessment of the elections.

On the day of elections on March 1, 2020, the IPA CIS international observers were present at different stages of the elections - from the opening of polling stations till the vote count by the precinct electoral commissions. During the observation over the process of elections and vote count, the observers visited eight district electoral commissions and 93 polling stations, located in Dushanbe, four regions in the Republican subordination and in the settlements of Khatlon Region.

All the polling stations, which the observers visited and monitored, opened in accordance with the electoral legislation no later than 6.00 AM local time. The voting procedures were executed in full compliance with the electoral legislation of the Republic of Tajikistan. Each voter had the right to have equal and unhindered access to a polling station to exercise his/her right. The voting was performed in the properly-equipped booths, which ensured the observation of the principle of secret voting and the requirement on zero external influence on the voter's choice.

The IPA CIS international observers noted active participation of voters in the elections, demonstrated by them on the day of elections, on March 1, 2020, and the efforts of the precinct electoral commissions to create a favorable environment for the voting of families with children (organization of play-rooms for children in close vicinity to the premises for voting).

The facts of interference of administration or law-enforcement bodies in the work of electoral commissions were not identified at any of the polling stations, where the observation was carried out.

**According to the results of the performed observation, the IPA CIS Observer Team states that the electoral legislation of the Republic of Tajikistan ensured necessary conditions for the organization of democratic elections and observation of the rights of all the participants of the election process.**

**At the stage of preparation for the elections, the electoral commissions acted according to the national legislation of the Republic of Tajikistan and the undertaken international obligations, on the principles of transparency and openness.**

**Mass media of the Republic of Tajikistan comprehensively covered the process of preparation for elections. The candidates to the deputies of the Majlisi namoyandagon of the Majlisi Oli of the Republic of Tajikistan were provided with equal access to the printed and electronic mass media.**

**High-quality professional activity on the preparation and conduct of elections, carried out by the Central Commission for Elections and Referenda of the Republic of Tajikistan, ensured high organizational level of elections.**

**During the preparation and conduct of elections, the state authorities of the Republic of Tajikistan strictly observed the status of the IPA CIS international observer team and assisted in the fulfillment of their duties.**

**The IPA CIS international observer team states that the elections to the Majlisi namoyandagon of the Majlisi Oli of the Republic of Tajikistan, which took place on March 1, 2020, were conducted according to the national legislation, complied with the generally recognized democratic principles and rules for the preparation and conduct of free and fair elections, as well as international obligations of the Republic of Tajikistan.**

Annex 1: "Conclusion about the compliance of the legislation, regulating the elections to the Majlisi namoyandagon of the Majlisi Oli of the Republic of Tajikistan on March 1, 2020, with the international standards of the democratic elections."

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Dushanbe, March 1, 2020