

## Roundtable *Role of Women in Public Life of Azerbaijan* Took Place in Baku

On 3 December 2018, the roundtable *Role of Women in Public Life of Azerbaijan*, organized by the IIMDD IPA CIS Baku Office, took place in the capital of the Azerbaijan Republic.



The event brought together members of the Milli Mejlis of the Azerbaijan Republic, representatives of the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly, the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic-Speaking Countries, public authorities, prominent public figures, scientists, as well as representatives of civil society and journalists. IIMDD IPA CIS Baku Office also invited staff members of the IIMDD IPA CIS Bishkek and Chisinau offices for sharing work practices.

The participants of the roundtable discussed the issues on the ongoing gender equality reforms in the Azerbaijan Republic, also related to legislative acts adopted and ratified as part of Azerbaijan's gender policy, state programs being implemented and their outcomes, as well as specific issues of participation of women in the public life of the Azerbaijan Republic.

Deputy Secretary General of the IPA CIS Council— Plenipotentiary Representative of the Milli Mejlis of the Azerbaijan Republic in IPA CIS Aidyn Jafarov delivered a report on the *Role of Women in the Public Life of Azerbaijan*, Director of the IIMDD IPA CIS Baku Office Elman Imamaliev spoke about the role of state bodies in the implementation of the gender policy in the Azerbaijan Republic, Director of the IIMDD IPA CIS Bishkek Office Islambek Mursabekov informed the audience about the features of the gender policy in the Kyrgyz Republic. IIMDD expert Dmitry Baryshnikov presented the report on *The origins of the formation of women's movement and cooperation of women-led non-governmental organizations in the CIS*.



The participants received concise brochures prepared by the IIMDD IPA CIS Baku Office.

As an outcome of the discussion, the participants made proposals for the development of quality indicators related to gender issues in the CIS, in particular, by keeping record of statistical indicators of female workers, students, and entrepreneurs; the women/men ratio in authorities, etc.

## IPA CIS Observer Team Took Part in the Monitoring of the Early Elections to the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia

On 7–10 December 2018, the IPA CIS International Observer Team as a part of the CIS Observer Mission held short-term monitoring of the elections to the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia.

On 7 December 2018, the Observer Team visited several polling stations in Yerevan and checked their readiness for the voting day. The observers reviewed the

procedure of distributing voter lists, talked with heads and members of election commissions.

On the same day, the Observer Team met with Head of Passport and Visa Service of the Police of the Republic of Armenia Mnatsakan Bichyakchan, who gave a detailed account of the work on drafting and verifying voter lists.



On 8 December 2018, a meeting of the international observers with Chairman of the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Armenia Tigran Mukuchyan took place in the capital of the Republic of Armenia. The IPA CIS Team Coordinator, Deputy Chair of the Jogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic Mirlan Bakirov informed the CEC leadership on the outcomes of the long-term monitoring, carried out by IIMDD experts, and described the short-term monitoring plans for the election day. Mr. Mukuchyan informed the observers about the status of readiness of the electoral system for the voting day, drew their attention to the features of the voting system in Armenia and the availability of control mechanisms for the protection of citizens' electoral rights.

The observers met with representatives of HQs and candidates of *My Step* bloc, the Republican Party of Armenia and the *Enlightened Armenia* party. They told the observers about specific features of the election campaign.

On 9 December 2018, IPA CIS international observers monitored the elections of members to the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia in accordance with individual routes.



The observers visited the opening of the polling stations in various districts of Yerevan and reviewed the voting set-up, the operation of identification equipment, and the video surveillance system.

During the day, the team monitored the voting at 89 polling stations in Yerevan, Ararat, Aragatsotn, Gegharkunik and Kotayk regions. In addition, the observers visited two district election commissions, where they collected general data on the voting process in the districts at the time of visit.



During the final meeting, the IPA CIS International Observer Team concluded that the early elections to the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia were carried out in accordance with the Constitution and the Electoral Code of the Republic of Armenia. Electoral management bodies and other public authorities of the Republic of Armenia had done significant work on the preparation of the voting in the context of tight election campaign periods.

On 10 December 2018, the Coordinator of the IPA CIS International Observer Team Mirlan Bakirov presented the monitoring findings at the press conference of the CIS Observer Mission held in Yerevan.



## IIMDD IPA CIS Chisinau Office Held a Roundtable *Impact of Institutional Changes on Citizens' Electoral Behavior*

On 13 December 2018, the roundtable *Impact of Institutional Changes on the Citizens' Electoral Behavior*, organized by the IIMDD IPA CIS Chisinau Office, took place in Chisinau. The meeting brought together members of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova, members of the Central Election Commission, Deputy Secretary General of the IPA CIS Council—Plenipotentiary Representative of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova in IPA CIS Ion Lipciu, IIMDD IPA CIS staff members, leaders of political parties and political organizations, scientists, experts, and the media.



Opening the event, Director of the IIMDD IPA CIS Chisinau Office Evgeny Shtirbu stressed that the topic on the agenda was of paramount importance. In recent years, it has been increasingly presented as one of the main factors for improving the efficiency of public institutions, both at the central and the local levels.

IIMDD IPA CIS Deputy Director Ekaterina Goloulina addressed the participants of the roundtable on the

behalf of IIMDD IPA CIS. She noted the importance of the topic and the systematic approach of the Office in organizing roundtables, and the high profile and professionalism of the experts.

Reporting on the results of the eponymous research, its authors, Chairman of the Association of Sociologists and Demographers of the Republic of Moldova Victor Mocanu and J.D. Nikolai Osmokescu, described the topic from sociological and legal perspectives.



The participants of the roundtable discussed the institutional changes in Moldova since the country gained independence, the influence of the set-up of the electoral system on the electoral preferences of citizens, the current socio-political situation in Moldova, and the prospects for the development of citizens' electoral culture.

All recommendations developed in the framework of the study and proposed during the discussion will be systematized and submitted to the public authorities of the Republic of Moldova.