

The International Strategic Studies Association



DEDICATED TO STRATEGIC POLICY PROFESSIONALISM WORLDWIDE

PO Box 320608, ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22320, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

TELEPHONE +1 (703) 548-1070; +1 (703) 909-4167/8.

WWW.STRATEGICSTUDIES.ORG, WWW.GISRESEARCH.COM, AND WWW.DFAONLINE.NET

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

EMAIL: GRCOPLEY@STRATEGICSTUDIES.ORG

DIRECT TELEPHONE: +1 (703) 909-4167

Embargoed: Not for release until 15.00 hrs, Tashkent time, October 25, 2021

Statement of The International Strategic Studies Association Observer Mission Presidential Election in the Republic of Uzbekistan October 24, 2021.

The International Strategic Studies Association (ISSA) considers that the Presidential election held in Uzbekistan on October 24, 2021, was free, fair, and legitimately representative of the will of the electorate. The elections were conducted in accordance with the law, and with the maximum transparency of process and maximum attention to the avoidance of voter fraud. They were conducted peacefully, and without significant procedural protest.

ISSA was pleased to be invited to observe the October 24, 2021, election, and visited random polling facilities in Tashkent and in regional areas, focusing on a wide sampling of locations particularly in the Ferghana Region.

In every instance in the many polling and electoral facilities visited we observed a strong commitment to ensuring a voting environment which allowed for the free and unchallenged ability of voters to cast their votes without being subject to any influence.

As with the 2019 Parliamentary elections, Electoral rolls were prepared and available well in advance of election day, and early voting was available and used by voters when required. Insurance against voter fraud was of an extremely high quality by international standards, with photographic identification of all voters, and verified confirmation of each voter, so that duplicate voting could be strictly avoided. The absolute requirement for appropriate voter identification did not in any way inhibit voter turnout, which was above 80 percent. The strict process, conducted uniformly in all polling stations we observed, clearly enhanced and reflected voter trust in the electoral process.

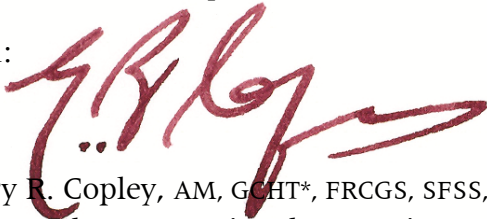
Again, as with the 2019 Parliamentary elections, the total commitment of volunteers from the electorates to preparing and manning election facilities and voting stations, as well as the ability of those local officials and Mahalla (grassroots organization) representatives to undertaking vote counting post-election under scrutiny from officials from each of the five political parties, as well as from monitors from international and other observer teams, ensured that the process was as free as possible from potential distortion or manipulation.

The continuity of the process and its transparency meant that, once again, the greatest guarantor of the success and free exercise of electoral authority by Uzbekistan voters was the ownership which the Uzbek population took of the electoral process.

Significantly, the outgoing Administration did not take advantage of its incumbency to dominate media coverage of the election, and this ensured that each candidate had equal access to the electorate in the increasingly sophisticated Uzbekistan media environment.

ISSA has monitored elections worldwide for the past half century, and can say that the elections in Uzbekistan were again among the most transparent and free of any elections our organization has observed. The commitment of the Uzbekistan society to its democratic process is clearly a reflection of the increasing freedom sensed by the population.

Signed:



Gregory R. Copley, AM, GOHT*, FRCGS, SFSS, FRSN
President, The International Strategic Studies Association

October 25, 2021