



AZERBAIJAN

Elections REPORT

International Parliamentarians' Congress (IPC)

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY GENERAL INTERNATIONAL PARLIAMENTARIANS' CONGRESS (IPC)



Abdel Rahim Maaia
President IPC



Senator Sitara Ayaz
Secretary General IPC

On behalf of the International Parliamentarians' Congress (IPC), H.E. Mr. AbdelRahim Maaia, the President, and Senator Ms. Sitara Ayaz, Secretary-General, we present our compliments to H.E. Mr. Mazahir Panahov, Chairperson of the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan, on the successful conduct of the presidential as well as Parliamentary elections of Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan, strategically positioned at the crossroads of Eastern Europe and Western Asia, holds significant importance in regional and global affairs. As a nation with a rich historical and cultural heritage, Azerbaijan has demonstrated remarkable progress in governance, economic development, and political stability.

During our official visit to Azerbaijan, we had the opportunity to observe the country's dynamic electoral processes, shaped by its transition from a post-Soviet republic to a modern, independent state with a strong governance framework. Since regaining independence in 1991, Azerbaijan has undertaken significant political and electoral reforms, reinforcing its commitment to democratic principles and electoral integrity.

The IPC Election Observation Missions (EOM) assessed the elections based on Azerbaijan's legal framework and international commitments. Our missions comprehensively evaluated the electioneering process, including the role of electoral authorities, civil society, and national and international observer organizations.

This report presents the findings and recommendations of the IPC Election Observation Missions in Azerbaijan for both elections, offering insights into electoral practices and the democratic framework of the elections.

Our presence as election observers in Azerbaijan underscores IPC's commitment to promoting transparency, fairness, and adherence to democratic principles in electoral processes worldwide. The observations and recommendations in this report aim to contribute positively to ongoing discussions on electoral integrity among international parliaments.

The experience of overseeing this significant electoral event has further strengthened the importance of international cooperation in upholding democratic standards. We look forward to continuing our efforts in supporting and promoting democracy globally.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The **International Parliamentarians' Congress (IPC)** is a global legislative organization that serves as a unique platform for elected parliamentarians worldwide to collaborate and exchange best practices. By extending membership to members of parliament (MPs) from national legislatures across the globe, the IPC fosters a global network focused on promoting peace, prosperity, and sustainable development through collective action and effective dialogue.

Central to IPC's mission is the promotion of democracy, regional connectivity and international cooperation, with election observation being one of its key areas of focus. The International Parliamentarians' Congress (IPC) is dedicated to promoting democratic processes globally through its organized Election Observation Missions (EOMs). Accredited by various election commissions, IPC deploys delegations to observe elections, ensuring transparency and adherence to democratic standards. Recent EOMs conducted by IPC include:

- **2019: United Kingdom General Elections**
- **2020: Jordan General Elections**
- **2021: Netherlands General Elections**
- **2022: Colombia Presidential Elections**
- **2023 (May): Thailand General Elections**
- **2023 (July): Uzbekistan Presidential Elections**
- **2023 (September): Maldives Presidential Elections**
- **2024 (January): Bangladesh General Elections**
- **2024 (February): Azerbaijan Presidential Elections**
- **2024 (March): Russian Federation Presidential Elections**
- **2024 (July): United Kingdom General Elections**
- **2024 (September): Azerbaijan Parliamentary Elections**

In February and September 2024, the Government of Azerbaijan accredited IPC to observe both the Presidential and Snap Parliamentary elections. This report offers a thorough analysis of both elections, including an examination of the electoral systems in the context of the 2024 elections. It concludes with a series of recommendations to enhance the integrity of Azerbaijan's electoral processes, supporting the country's ongoing efforts to strengthen its democratic institutions and practices. These recommendations reflect IPC's commitment to promoting democracy and ensuring fair electoral practices worldwide.



This report presents the findings of the International Parliamentarians' Congress delegation, which undertook official visits to Azerbaijan to observe the Presidential Elections held on February 7, 2024, and the Parliamentary Elections conducted on September 1, 2024.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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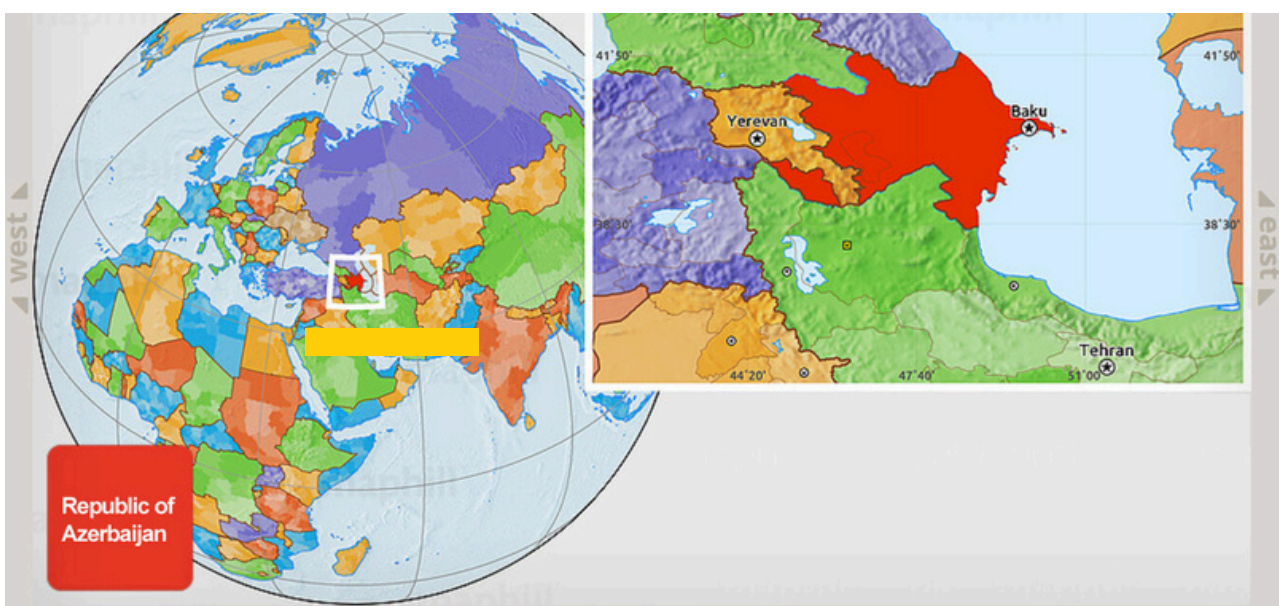
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1. INTRODUCTION

Azerbaijan, officially known as the Republic of Azerbaijan, is strategically situated at the crossroads of Eastern Europe and Western Asia, serving as a vital link between diverse civilizations and trade routes. Bordered by the Caspian Sea to the east, Russia to the north, Georgia to the northwest, Armenia to the west, and Iran to the south, Azerbaijan's unique geography encompasses the high Caucasus Mountains, fertile lowlands, and the energy-rich Caspian Sea, which together underscore its geopolitical and economic importance.

Known for its rich natural resources, especially oil and natural gas, Azerbaijan has leveraged these assets to drive economic growth and strengthen its geopolitical position. Since gaining independence from the Soviet Union in 1991, Azerbaijan has operated under a presidential system of governance, with the President serving as both the head of state and government. The President is elected by popular vote and wields significant executive authority, including the power to appoint key officials, oversee domestic and foreign policies, and guide the legislative process. The legislative branch, represented by the Milli Majlis (National Assembly), is a unicameral body tasked with enacting laws and providing parliamentary oversight. Baku, the vibrant capital of Azerbaijan, is the nation's political, economic, and cultural epicenter, reflecting its historical and modern significance.



Azerbaijan's electoral processes, including presidential and parliamentary elections, are pivotal in shaping its political and governance framework. These elections not only reinforce the legitimacy of its institutions but also serve as a measure of the country's commitment to democratic principles, transparency, and adherence to international electoral standards. Through these processes, Azerbaijan's progress in fostering political inclusivity and institutional reforms is both demonstrated and assessed on the global stage.

2. HISTORY AND EVOLUTION OF AZERBAIJAN ELECTORAL SYSTEM

Azerbaijan's electoral system has evolved significantly since the country gained independence following the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. The establishment of a new electoral framework was a critical step in transitioning from a centrally planned, single-party Soviet system to an independent republic with democratic aspirations.

Azerbaijan's electoral history is characterized by significant events and structural changes that have shaped its presidential and parliamentary election systems. These developments reflect the country's evolving political landscape and governance framework.

2.1 History of Azerbaijan's Electoral System

Azerbaijan held its first presidential election in 1992, a year after declaring independence. This marked the beginning of multi-party politics in the country. The initial electoral framework was based on the Soviet model, but efforts were made to introduce universal suffrage and multi-candidate elections. However, the political landscape during this period was turbulent, with frequent changes in leadership, armed conflict with Armenia over Nagorno-Karabakh, and social and economic challenges.

In 1995, Azerbaijan adopted its first post-independence Constitution, which laid the groundwork for the country's current electoral and governance systems. The Constitution established Azerbaijan as a unitary presidential republic, granting the President significant executive powers. It also created the Milli Majlis (National Assembly), a unicameral parliament responsible for legislative functions.

The parliamentary elections in 1995 introduced a mixed electoral system, combining proportional representation and single-member districts. This system aimed to ensure representation for political parties while also providing opportunities for independent candidates. During this period, Azerbaijan began engaging with international organizations to strengthen its electoral processes.

2.2 Transition to a Majoritarian System (2005):

In 2005, Azerbaijan transitioned to a fully majoritarian electoral system for parliamentary elections. Under this framework, all 125 members of the Milli Majlis are elected from single-member constituencies. The switch was justified as a means to simplify the electoral process and strengthen the connection between voters and their representatives.

2.3 Presidential Elections:

The President of Azerbaijan serves as both the head of state and government, elected for a seven-year term through a direct popular vote. The electoral process is based on general, equal, and direct suffrage, conducted by secret ballot. A candidate must secure more than 50% of the votes to win. If no candidate achieves this majority, a runoff between the top two candidates is held. Notably, a 2009 constitutional referendum removed the two-term limit for presidents, allowing incumbents to serve multiple consecutive terms.

In the most recent presidential election held on February 7, 2024, President Ilham Aliyev was re-elected for a fifth term, securing over 92% of the vote. The election was marked by limited opposition participation and allegations of electoral irregularities.

2.4 Parliamentary Elections:

The National Assembly (Milli Majlis) is a unicameral body comprising 125 members, each elected for a five-year term. Since 2005, all members are elected from single-seat constituencies using a majoritarian system, where the candidate with the highest number of votes wins. This system replaced the previous mixed electoral system, which combined proportional representation and single-member districts.

Azerbaijan held snap parliamentary elections on September 1, 2024. The ruling New Azerbaijan Party maintained its majority, securing 67 out of 125 seats. The elections were characterized by low voter turnout, approximately 37.3%, and were criticized for lacking genuine political competition. International observers noted the absence of a level playing field for opposition parties and restrictions on fundamental freedoms.

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2.5 Referenda and Constitutional Changes:

Referenda have played a significant role in shaping Azerbaijan's electoral and governance systems. The 2009 referendum removed term limits for the presidency, enabling continuity of leadership. In 2016, another referendum introduced constitutional amendments that extended the presidential term, created the positions of First Vice President and Vice Presidents, and granted the President the authority to dissolve parliament under specific circumstances. These amendments were presented as measures to strengthen governance and stability amidst regional and global challenges.

2.6 Connection to Current Electoral Practices:

The historical evolution of Azerbaijan's electoral system highlights its efforts to develop a framework that balances stability and democratic principles. The system reflects the leadership's priorities of maintaining strong executive authority while gradually incorporating institutional reforms. These historical milestones provide essential context for understanding the dynamics of Azerbaijan's presidential and parliamentary elections, as well as the broader political developments that shape its governance today.

3. ELECTION ADMINISTRATION

3.1 Central Election Commission (CEC):

The CEC is the central authority responsible for organizing and overseeing national elections, including candidate registration, campaign oversight, polling logistics, and result certification. Although the CEC is structured to be an independent body, it is often criticized for its lack of impartiality, with significant influence from the executive branch.

3.2 Regional Election Commissions (RECs): RECs operate within Azerbaijan's administrative regions and are tasked with coordinating election activities at the regional level. They report directly to the CEC and help manage polling stations and enforce election laws in their respective jurisdictions.

3.3 Local Election Commissions (LECs):

LECs function at the municipal level to implement voting logistics, manage voter registration, and ensure the proper conduct of elections within local communities.

4. ELECTORAL SYSTEM OF AZERBAIJAN

4.1 Presidential Elections:

The President is directly elected by the people through a majority vote, and the election process is governed by Azerbaijan's Constitution and the Election Code.

4.1.1 Eligibility to Vote:

- All Azerbaijani citizens who are 18 years or older are eligible to vote in presidential elections, provided they are registered in the electoral roll.
- Individuals who are declared legally incompetent or have been convicted of certain criminal offenses may be excluded from voting.

4.1.2 Eligibility to Stand for President:

- The candidate must be an Azerbaijani citizen who is at least 35 years old.
- The candidate must have resided in Azerbaijan for at least 10 years before the election.
- Candidates must not have been convicted of serious criminal offenses or be under a sentence.
- Political parties or independent citizens can nominate candidates, and candidates must gather a minimum number of signatures from eligible voters to officially run.
- A candidate must secure more than 50% of the vote to win outright. If no candidate achieves this, a runoff election is held between the top two candidates.

4.1.3 Registration Process:

- Citizens wishing to vote must be registered on the electoral list. This is typically done automatically during national population registration but can also be verified or updated at local election offices.
- Political parties or independent candidates must submit a formal application to the Central Election Commission (CEC) along with the required number of signatures (minimum 40,000) to officially register as a presidential candidate.

4.1.4 Voting Process:

- Voting in Azerbaijan is done through secret ballots, and the process is overseen by election commissions at various levels.
- The election is held across single-member constituencies. Each voter casts one vote for a presidential candidate.
- Voters can cast their ballots in designated polling stations or by absentee ballot under certain circumstances.

4.2 Parliamentary Elections:

4.2.1 Eligibility to Vote:

- All Azerbaijani citizens who are 18 years or older are eligible to vote in parliamentary elections, provided they are registered in the electoral roll.
- As with presidential elections, individuals who are declared legally incompetent or have been convicted of certain criminal offenses may be excluded from voting.

4.2.2 Eligibility to Stand for Parliament:

- Candidates must be 21 years or older to run for parliament.
- Candidates must be Azerbaijani citizens and have lived in the country for at least five years before the election.
- They must not have been convicted of serious crimes or be under sentence.
- Political parties and independent candidates can run for office. Independent candidates must gather a minimum number of signatures from eligible voters in their constituency to formally register.

4.2.3 Registration Process:

- Political parties must submit a formal list of candidates to the Central Election Commission (CEC) in accordance with established rules.
- Independent candidates must gather signatures of at least 450 voters from the constituency they wish to represent.
- Once the party or candidate is registered, they are eligible to campaign and participate in the election process.

4.2.4 Voting Process:

- Parliamentary elections are held in single-member constituencies. Voters in each constituency elect one representative through a majoritarian system, where the candidate with the most votes wins the seat.
- Voting occurs through secret ballots. Voters cast one vote for their preferred candidate, and the process is managed by local election commissions.
- The Central Election Commission (CEC) oversees the entire parliamentary election process, including vote counting and ensuring the legality of the election.

5. ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS:

Voter Registration: Voter registration is generally automatic through national population records. However, citizens are encouraged to verify their registration status ahead of elections to avoid any complications.

Election Observers: Azerbaijan permits both domestic and international election observers to monitor the election process to ensure transparency and adherence to election laws. Observers are granted access to polling stations and are encouraged to report on the fairness of elections.

Election Disputes: The Central Election Commission (CEC) is responsible for handling disputes and complaints related to the election process. In cases of alleged electoral violations, the CEC can invalidate certain ballots or annul the results in specific constituencies if necessary.

6. MAJOR PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES OF AZERBAIJAN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS AND POLITICAL PARTIES OF PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS

6.1 Mr. Ilham Aliyev:

The President is directly elected by the people through a majority vote, and the election process is governed by Azerbaijan's Constitution and the Election Code.

- **President of Azerbaijan (2003–present)**
- **Chairman of the New Azerbaijan Party (2005–present)**
- **Prime Minister of Azerbaijan (2003)**

Ilham Aliyev, President of Azerbaijan since 2003, succeeded his father, Heydar Aliyev, a pivotal figure in the country's modern history. Repeatedly re-elected, he is recognized for prioritizing economic development, stability, and regional security. Under his leadership, Azerbaijan has achieved significant growth through energy resources and strategic investments, while he has played a key role in shaping the nation's foreign policy and international partnerships.



6.2 Mr. Zahid Oruj

- **Member of the National Assembly (2003–present)**
- **Independent Candidate**

Zahid Oruj is a prominent presidential candidate in Azerbaijan elections, known for his extensive experience in public service and a clear vision for the country's future. As a candidate, he is focused on driving economic growth, enhancing social equity, and implementing reforms in key sectors such as education, healthcare, and infrastructure. Oruj's leadership approach prioritizes inclusivity, social justice, and sustainable development, positioning him as a dynamic figure ready to lead Azerbaijan into a prosperous future.



6.3 Fazil Mustafa

- **Member of the National Assembly for the 26th Sabunchu constituency (2005–present)**
- **Member of the Great order party**

Fazil Mustafa, a seasoned politician and member of the National Assembly, is a presidential candidate in the upcoming Azerbaijani elections. With a strong focus on governance reforms, transparency, and economic development, Mustafa aims to strengthen democratic institutions, promote social equity, and drive sustainable growth for Azerbaijan's future.



6.4 New Azerbaijan Party (Yeni Azərbaycan Partiyası, YAP)

Founded in 1992 by former President Heydar Aliyev and father of current President Ilham Aliyev. YAP has been the predominant voice in Azerbaijani politics and its ruling party for three decades. A conservative party, YAP promotes Azerbaijani nationalism and is considered Eurosceptic.

6.5 Civic Solidarity Party (Vətəndaş Həmrəyliyi Partiyası, VHP)

The second largest party in Azerbaijan, founded in 1992 by former poet Sabir Rustamkhanli, VHP is a conservative, nationalist party, with a small showing in the Assembly.

6.6 Justice, Law, Democracy Party (Ədalət, Hüquq, Demokratiya Partiyası, ƏHD)

Originating in 2004 after splitting from the Popular Front Party, ƏHD was a member of the European Conservatives and Reformists Party until 2022, and aligns with socially conservative and economically liberal policies.

7. ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSIONS BY INTERNATIONAL PARLIAMENTARIANS CONGRESS (IPC)

The International Parliamentarians Congress (IPC) observed both the Presidential and Parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan in 2024. IPC was accredited by the Government of Azerbaijan to carry out election observation for these significant democratic exercises.

For the Presidential elections held on February 7, 2024, IPC deployed a three-member delegation led by H.E. Soro Fobeh, Member IPC from Côte d'Ivoire, and included H.E. Asmou Berry, Member IPC from Guinea, and Ms. Mehk Butt, Manager of Communications at IPC. The delegation monitored the electoral process in Baku and Sumqayit, visiting over ten polling stations to assess its conduct and integrity.

For the Parliamentary elections conducted on September 1, 2024, IPC sent a four-member delegation led by Senator Sitara Ayaz, Secretary-General of IPC, and comprised Mr. Fida Hussain Malik, Special Advisor on Climate Change and SDGs at IPC, Mr. Duarte Pacheco, Ambassador at Large for IPC and former President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), and Ms. Mehk Butt, Manager of Communications at IPC. The delegation focused its observation on polling stations in Baku and the districts of Sabunchu, visiting over ten stations.

While the observations for both elections shared many similarities, notable differences were observed in terms of the allocation and language capabilities of polling station officials and the exit poll presence which has been explained in detail further. Despite this, the presence of liaison officer designated with the IPC delegation by the Government of Azerbaijan ensured effective facilitation of the delegations during both missions.

7.1 Process Overview

The election process for both the Presidential and Parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan was transparent, well-organized, and effectively managed by the Election Commission and the Government of Azerbaijan. The voter identification and registration systems operated efficiently, safeguarding the integrity of the elections.

Upon arrival at polling stations, voters' thumbs were scanned under ultraviolet light to detect any ink marks, preventing multiple voting. Their names were verified against the voter list before they received a ballot paper. Election staff ensured that each ballot paper was cut from one corner before handing it to the voter. After casting their vote, voters' thumbs were marked with ink as proof of participation.

7.2 Inclusivity in the Election Process

Azerbaijan implemented significant measures to ensure that citizens with disabilities, including blind voters, could exercise their right to vote. Disabled and blind voters were registered before election day, and special arrangements were made for ballot boxes to be sent to their homes. These voters were permitted to seek assistance from a family member to understand the ballot but were required to fill it out themselves. Ballot boxes were delivered to their residences under the supervision of an official from the Central Election Commission (CEC) and at least one designated observer.

7.3 Security and Transparency

Security personnel were stationed near polling stations but were not present inside, aligning with international best practices to avoid influencing voters. Their presence near the stations ensured readiness to respond to emergencies. Ballot papers were securely placed in lockboxes at the polling stations before being transported to district offices. These lockboxes ensure the safe handling of ballots, and the district offices prepare reports based on the ballots received, which are then sent to the Central Election Commission for further processing.

7.4 Language Proficiency of Polling Staff

During the Presidential elections, many polling station staff were proficient in English, facilitating smooth communication. However, during the Parliamentary elections, the delegation faced occasional language barriers due to fewer English-speaking officials at some polling stations.

7.5 Exit Polls and Voter Turnout

A key distinction between the two elections was the use of exit polls. Exit polls were placed only during the Presidential elections at every polling station, where voters anonymously shared their chosen candidate by gender without revealing their identities. The polling staff recorded these responses to assist with verifying results. Conversely, no exit polls were present during the Parliamentary elections. The delegation observed high voter turnout during the Presidential elections, reflecting robust citizen engagement. However, turnout during the Parliamentary elections was notably lower.

7.6 Polling Station Operations

Each polling station registered observers to monitor the number of individuals visiting the stations. Election Commission officials were prohibited from interacting with voters or approaching the polling booths. The polling staff, typically composed of teaching personnel from the host institutions, were well-versed in the rules and procedures. They were attentive, helpful, and ensured that voters have the necessary assistance to cast their votes properly.

7.7 Media Campaign Regulations

The media campaign concluded three days before election day, with all campaign materials, including posters and advertisements, removed from the polling stations to maintain the neutrality of the election process.

7.8 Press Briefing and Media Engagement

On election day and the following morning, press briefings are typically held for observation organizations to present their statements to the media. The IPC delegation attended these briefings for both elections and shared their observations.

7.8.1 The statement delivered by H.E. Soro Fobeh, IPC member from Côte d'Ivoire and Head of the IPC Delegation for the Presidential Elections, is as follows:

The International Congress of Parliamentarians (IPC) has deployed a three-member delegation to Azerbaijan to observe the presidential election on February 7, 2024.

Thus, our delegation is made up of myself, Soro Fobeh, head of delegation, I am a member of the Ivory Coast, Ms. Asmaou Barry, a member of the Guinean parliament and the head of communications of the IPC secretariat Ms. Mehk Butt, which comes to us from Pakistan.

Our observation mission visited a total of 10 voting centers, including 5 in Baku, and five in Sumqayit.

During the voting process, we noted a high rate of participation in all the polling stations observed. This demonstrates the civic engagement of Azerbaijani citizens. Voters of all ages (young people, adults and seniors) participated with enthusiasm, demonstrating a commendable awareness of their right to vote and a strong desire to contribute to the future of their nation. Polling station staff at all sites visited played a central role in the success of election day. Their welcoming approach to our observers and their willingness to engage and respond to our requests contributed significantly to our understanding of the electoral process. It was clear to us that the staff was knowledgeable and competent regarding election procedures, ensuring a smooth and orderly experience for voters. We did not observe any cases of confusion, dispute or disruption, which testifies to the efficient organization and conduct of the electoral process.

One aspect that particularly caught our attention during this election was the inclusion and accessibility offered to people with disabilities, thus guaranteeing their active participation in the democratic process. The measures put in place to make it easier for people with disabilities to vote were not only effective but also respectful, ensuring full support for their right to vote. The procedure for assisting people with disabilities was explained to us in detail, and we congratulate Azerbaijan for this initiative, which we believe should serve as a model for other countries.

The observations of the IPC delegation lead us to conclude that the 2024 presidential elections in Azerbaijan were held in a way that allowed free, fair, and enthusiastic participation of the electorate. The high participation rate and the orderly and inclusive nature of the vote underline a laudable attachment to democratic principles.

We express our gratitude to the Election Commission of Azerbaijan and the Milli Majlis of Azerbaijan for inviting the IPC to an observation mission, to the polling station staff for guiding us through the process. The IPC remains committed to supporting and observing electoral processes around the world, and we look forward to continuing our engagement with Azerbaijan in the future.

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7.8.2 The statement delivered by Senator Sitara Ayaz, Secretary-General of IPC and Head of the IPC Delegation for the Parliamentary Elections, is as follows:

It is an honor to address you today following our observation of the Snap parliamentary elections of Azerbaijan on 1st September 2024. As the Secretary-General of the International Parliamentarians Congress (IPC), I would like to begin by commending the state authority and the people of Azerbaijan for the well-organized and efficient conduct of this election.

Our delegation, which included Ambassador at Large Mr. Duarte Pacheco (Former President of IPU), Special Advisor of IPC global Think tank on climate change and SDGs Mr. Fida Hussain Malik, and Ms. Mehk Butt Manager Communications IPC are deeply overwhelmed by the professionalism and transparency demonstrated throughout the electoral process. I can confidently say that today's parliamentary elections were conducted in an exemplary manner.

We started our observation mission at 10: 00 am today, and we visited nearly 10 polling stations across Baku and other districts, including Sabunchu and settlement Mastaga. Our overall experience has been both productive and positive. We have observed a healthy turnout, with the citizens of Baku showing great interest in exercising their right to vote.

We are pleased to report that the elections have been peaceful, with no signs of pressure or coercion. Representatives from various political parties were present at the polling stations, and it was encouraging to see them participating peacefully. The presence of these representatives contributed to the transparency of the process, which we observed throughout the election day.

The staff at the polling stations were well-prepared, and with only two exceptions out of the 10 stations we visited, there was sufficient English-speaking staff present, which greatly facilitated our observation efforts. Furthermore, we particularly appreciate the providence of accessibility measures in place for persons with special needs. The polling stations are equipped with the necessary facilities, and there are special arrangements for disabled individuals to cast their vote from home. This is a commendable effort that reflects inclusivity and respect for all voters.

The commitment to democratic principles and the dedication to ensuring a fair electoral process were evident at every stage, reflecting the strength of Azerbaijan's democratic institutions. We are grateful to the Milli Majlis for inviting us to observe this important event. The cooperation and hospitality extended to our delegation were truly admirable.

The International Parliamentarians Congress remains committed to supporting and promoting democratic processes worldwide. We look forward to continued collaboration with Azerbaijan in the future.



8. RESULT OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS OF AZERBAIJAN – 7TH FEBRUARY 2024

In the 2024 Azerbaijani presidential election, incumbent Ilham Aliyev won a fifth term with over 92% of the vote, while his closest competitor, Zahid Oruj, secured around 2%. The election saw a voter turnout of 76.26%, marking a slight increase from the 74% turnout in the 2018 presidential election. Despite concerns over democratic integrity, with opposition parties urging abstention, Aliyev's decisive victory reflects the current political landscape in Azerbaijan.[1]

Candidate	Party	Votes	%
Ilham Aliyev	New Azerbaijan Party	4,567,458	92.12
Zahid Oruj	Independent	107,632	2.17
Fazil Mustafa	Great Order Party	98,421	1.99
Qüdrat Hasanquliyev	Whole Azerbaijan Popular Front Party	85,411	1.72
Razi Nurullayev	National Front Party	39,643	0.8
Elşad Musayev [az]	Great Azerbaijan Party	32,885	0.66
Fuad Aliyev [az]	Independent	26,517	0.53
Total		4,957,967	100
Valid votes		4,957,967	99.8
Invalid/blank votes		9,828	0.2
Total votes		4,967,795	100
Registered voters/turnout		6,514,222	76.26

[1] Central Election Commission of Azerbaijan.

9. RESULT OF PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS OF AZERBAIJAN – 1ST SEPTEMBER 2024

Party	Votes	%	Seats	+/-
New Azerbaijan Party	1,200,314	50.42	68	-2
Civic Solidarity Party	33,722	1.42	3	0
Justice, Law, Democracy Party	32,220	1.35	2	1
Republican Alternative Party	17,993	0.76	1	New
Musavat	15,278	0.64	0	0
Great Azerbaijan Party	14,636	0.61	1	1
Motherland Party	14,466	0.61	1	0
Azerbaijan National Independence Party	13,961	0.59	1	1
White Party	13,564	0.57	0	0
Azerbaijan Hope Party	12,858	0.54	0	0
National Front Party	11,554	0.49	1	New
Democratic Reforms Party	10,698	0.45	1	0
Azerbaijan Democratic Enlightenment Party	10,432	0.44	1	0
Great Order Party	8,651	0.36	1	0
Classic People's Front Party [az]	7,466	0.31	0	New
Azerbaijan People's Party	5,351	0.22	0	0
Free Homeland Party	4,886	0.21	0	New
Unity Party	3,159	0.13	0	-1
Right Justice Party [az]	2,833	0.12	0	New
Modern Musavat Party	2,599	0.11	0	0
Justice Party	2,323	0.1	0	0
New Time Party	2,031	0.09	0	New

Azerbaijan Democrat Party	2,013	0.08	0	0
Future Azerbaijan Party [az]	694	0.03	0	New
National Revival Movement Party	178	0.01	0	0
Independents	936,915	39.35	44	3
Total	2,380,795	100	125	0
Valid votes	2,380,795	99.55		
Invalid/blank votes	10,743	0.45		
Total votes	2,391,538	100		
Registered voters/turnout	6,421,960	37.24		

Figure 1: Graphical Representation of Presidential Elections of Azerbaijan 2024

Cast votes: 4,967,795
Valid Votes: **4,957,967**
Invalid Votes: **9,828**
Registered Votes: 6,514,222

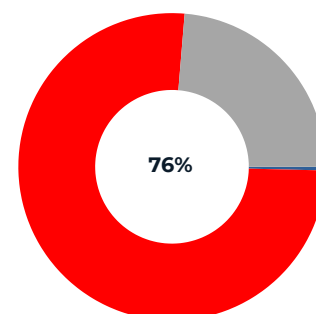
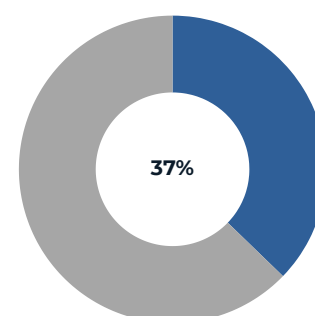


Figure 2: Graphical Representation of Parliamentary Elections of Azerbaijan 2024

Cast votes: **2,395,510**
Valid Votes: None
Invalid Votes: None
Registered Votes: 6,433,184



10. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1.The presence of exit polls at polling stations during the presidential elections provided valuable insights into voter trends and public sentiment. However, their absence in the general elections highlighted an opportunity to enhance electoral analysis. Conducting exit polls in a manner that respects voter privacy, such as offsite or after-result announcements, can further strengthen the transparency and inclusivity of the electoral process.
- 2.The delegation observed a limited presence of English-speaking polling staff, which created challenges for effective communication with international observers and non-native speakers. It is recommended that a balanced distribution of multilingual staff be ensured across polling stations to facilitate smoother interactions and provide comprehensive guidance to all stakeholders.
- 3.The manual voting system was efficient and well-organized, ensuring a smooth process. To enhance efficiency and align with global trends, the government could consider introducing an electronic voting system to reduce human error and improve transparency.
- 4.The delegation noted the strict adherence to electoral rules and regulations, which contributed to the credibility of the process. Transparency in ballot handling and the visible presence of election officials at key checkpoints were particularly reassuring.
- 5.The delegation observed that the vote-counting process was timely and organized but lacked transparency, as ballots were not shown to observers, and results were solely based on officials' internal counts. Greater transparency, such as allowing observers to witness individual vote counts or implementing verification mechanisms, is recommended to build trust.

11. CONCLUSION

Azerbaijan successfully conducted both its parliamentary and presidential elections in 2024, a remarkable achievement that highlights the nation's commitment to its democratic process. Holding two major elections within a span of just six months required significant effort and meticulous planning, which was evident in the seamless execution of both events. The citizens of Azerbaijan expressed satisfaction and contentment not only with the organization of the elections but also with their outcomes, reflecting the trust and confidence they placed in the electoral process.



PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS PHOTO GALLERY







GENERAL ELECTIONS PHOTO GALLERY









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