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United States Mission to the OSCE

Presidential Elections in Uzbekistan

As delivered by Ambassador Daniel B. Baer
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
December 15, 2016

The United States congratulates President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, who was elected the new President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on December 4.

We note the OSCE observation mission's preliminary finding of increased transparency in the December 4 electoral process, services to disabled voters, and access for some 600 international observers.

Regrettably, we agree with the OSCE election observation mission's assessment that there were still significant irregularities and shortcomings in the conduct of the December 4 vote.

We encourage the Government of Uzbekistan to utilize the observations of the OSCE mission's assessment to undertake reforms of the electoral system that will strengthen the electoral process consistent with Uzbekistan's international obligations and commitments and thereby enhance respect for democratic principles in Uzbekistan.

We would welcome follow-up engagement by the Government of Uzbekistan with ODIHR. The United States notes the new government's focus on regional stability and looks forward to advances in other areas, including human rights, to sustain Uzbekistan's sovereignty and independence and accelerate its progress towards broad economic, political and social reforms.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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