



United States Mission to the OSCE

Tajikistan's Decision Against Accrediting ODIHR Election Observers

As delivered by Chargé d'Affaires Katherine Brucker
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
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We were disappointed to hear that the Government of Tajikistan withheld accreditation of the ODIHR election observation team, which had arrived to observe the March 2 parliamentary election. Timely facilitation of accreditation is an essential part of the process; without it, ODIHR had no choice but to cancel its mission. Restricting a mission's size or format compromises ODIHR's ability to conduct a comprehensive and meaningful observation using its proven methodology.

The OSCE offers the highest standards in election observation with ODIHR conducting over 400 election activities in 56 countries since 1996, including many in the United States.

We had welcomed the Government of Tajikistan extending an invitation to ODIHR to observe its March 2 parliamentary elections. Inviting ODIHR election observers is a signal of a participating State's commitment to conducting free and fair elections and transparency.

We encourage Tajikistan to invite ODIHR to observe future elections, and to provide accreditation of election observers in a timely manner, which will ensure a systematic, accurate, and credible observation in line with ODIHR's mandate and established methodology. The OSCE's expert support to Tajikistan in implementing its commitments on democracy and human rights can assist Tajikistan on its envisioned path to prosperity and security.

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