



ISFED

Preliminary Statement **On the January 5, 2008 Extraordinary Presidential Elections and** **Plebiscite**

Tbilisi, January 6, 2008 - International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy (ISFED) observed the entire process of Election Day including the voting, counting of votes and summarizing the polling results in almost all election precincts of 75 District Election Commissions of Georgia. ISFED conducted the monitoring via deploying approximately 3400 impartial and non-partisan observers. Experienced observers of ISFED also carried out the Parallel Vote Tabulation (PVT) of the January 5, 2008 extraordinary presidential elections. This is already the fifth time that the organization has successfully conducted the PVT.

ISFED is grateful to all members of its observation mission for their contribution which enabled the organization to make its preliminary statement on the Election Day and the results of PVT.

The Results of Parallel Vote Tabulation (PVT)

PVT results are calculated based on used ballots. ISFED determined the representative sample of the PVT with 95% confidence level. The results of the PVT conducted in 394 Precinct Election Commissions are as follows:

- #1 Levan Gachechiladze (United Opposition): 27.2%
- #2 Arkadi (Badri) Patarkatsishvili (Independent Candidate): 7.3%
- #3 Davit Gamkrelidze (New Rights): 4.3%
- #4 Shalva Natelashvili (Labor Party): 7.0%
- #5 Mikheil Saakashvili (United National Movement): 50.8%
- #6 Gia Maisashvili (Independent Candidate): 1.0%
- #7 Irina Sarishvili-Chanturia (Independent Candidate): 0.2%
- Invalidated Ballots: 2.3%

It should be mentioned, that the margin of error is +/- 2.2%

Accordingly, it is crucial the election administration to summarize the final results of the election accurately and follow up on each complaint in a proper manner.

ISFED also calls upon each party to express the maximum extent of responsibility towards the final stage of the election process – summarizing of the results.

Parallel Turnout Tabulation

On the Election day ISFED also conducted the parallel turnout tabulation of those voters who participated in the elections. The results of the abovementioned activity are as follows:

- 12:00 – 15.7%
- 17:00 – 46.1%
- 20:00 – 55.7% (Final number)

Violations Observed on the Election Day

ISFED states, that the January 5, 2008 elections were conducted in a proper manner which first of all is the result of dedication of Georgian electorate to express their will and get involved in the governance of the country. The observers also contributed to the integrity of the elections. However, several serious violations should be mentioned, where the proper follow-up actions are necessary not only for ensuring the high level of legitimacy of January 5 elections, but also to limit similar violations in the future. The special attention should be drawn to the following serious violations: attempts or cases of ballot stuffing (such cases were observed at 10 Precinct Election Commissions), intimidation of observers (such cases were observed at 10 polling stations), voting without ID cards and multiple voting (observed at 7 polling stations), taking away of a ballot box as well as cases of pressure by Precinct Election Commission (PEC) members or policemen.

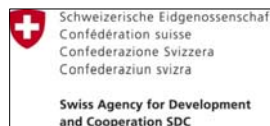
Besides the abovementioned violations, technical problems were revealed during the extraordinary presidential elections. Specifically, in number of cases the PEC members were not prepared for the elections; UV lamps for checking inking were broken at several PECs; voters were not properly inked in number of polling stations. Some PECs were not provided with the sufficient number of the envelopes of different size and color; there were cases of filling in the protocols with pencils due to the fear of the so called misbalances were observed and these protocols were signed and stamped by the PEC members.

The inadequacies of the voters' list became more apparent on the Election Day. Duplications and deceased voters as well as under-age citizens were observed in the regular list.

ISFED continues the monitoring and calls upon the election administration, candidates and all the stakeholders of election process to contribute to the fair and free conduct of the next stage of the election process as the finalization of election results, reviewing of complaints and implementing of the follow-up steps are crucial elements of the election administration. The comprehensive evaluation of the January 5, 2008 elections will be available only after the in-depth analyses of the pre-election period, Election Day and the post-election procedures.

January 6, 2008

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