



United States Mission to the OSCE

Parliamentary Elections in Azerbaijan

As delivered by Ambassador Daniel B. Baer
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
November 5, 2015

The United States notes that Azerbaijan held parliamentary elections on November 1.

We regret that the government of Azerbaijan did not allow the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) to field its necessary number of observers, and therefore ODIHR was not able to monitor the elections. Without ODIHR participation, it is impossible for us to say that Azerbaijan has made progress on ODIHR's previous election observation recommendations, which identified and sought to address limitations to fundamental freedoms.

We continue to have concerns about the restrictive political environment in Azerbaijan and urge the government of Azerbaijan to respect the freedoms of peaceful assembly and association, and independent voices, including the media, as part of its international commitments, and to work with the OSCE, including ODIHR, to this end. We remain committed to working with the government and people of Azerbaijan in their effort to ensure a strong, stable, democratic, and prosperous future.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.