

# FW: Election Observation Report

Hawwa Ziuna

Mon 9/18/2023 4:06 PM

To: Info Email Shared <info@elections.gov.mv>;

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1 attachment

Elections\_Maldives\_Report.pdf;



Entry



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**From:** Commissioner's Bureau <bureau@elections.gov.mv>

**Sent:** Saturday, September 16, 2023 1:41 PM

**To:** Hawwa Ziuna <ziuna.2490@elections.gov.mv>; Mariyam Zuha Abdul Sattar <zuha.2362@elections.gov.mv>

**Subject:** FW: Election Observation Report

**From:** [bkuchkarov@elections.uz](mailto:bkuchkarov@elections.uz) <[bkuchkarov@elections.uz](mailto:bkuchkarov@elections.uz)>

**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 12:00 PM

**To:** Commissioner's Bureau <[bureau@elections.gov.mv](mailto:bureau@elections.gov.mv)>

**Subject:** Election Observation Report

Dear Madam/Sir,

Greetings from the Central Election Commission of Uzbekistan.

I wish to thank the Election Commission of Maldives for the opportunity to participate in the presidential election held on 9 September 2023 as an international observer and for the provided hospitality.

Attached is the election observation report prepared by myself based on my observations and findings.

Please kindly note that this report may not be considered as the position of the CEC of Uzbekistan or related to it.

Best regards,

Bakhrom Kuchkarov,

Deputy Chairman,

The CEC of the Republic of Uzbekistan

# **PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES**

**9 September 2023**

## **Election Observation Report**

by Bakhrom Kuchkarov, Deputy Chairman of the Central Election Commission  
of the Republic of Uzbekistan

### **I. INTRODUCTION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Following an invitation from the A-WEB and the Election Commission of Maldives, Bakhrom Kuchkarov, Deputy Chairman of the Central Election Commission of Uzbekistan, visited Maldives to participate in international observation of the Presidential Election, 2023.

The representative of the CEC of Uzbekistan arrived in Maldives on 7 September 2023 and remained in the country until 10 September 2023.

The CEC of Uzbekistan wishes to thank the Election Commission of Maldives for its invitation to observe the election and hospitality, particularly H.E. Fuwad Towfeek, the Chairman of the Elections Commission. It also expresses appreciation to other Elections Commission members and staff for their assistance.

This report is based on the sole observations and findings made by the international observer and may not be related to the CEC of Uzbekistan.

### **II. LEGAL FRAMEWORK**

The elections are primarily regulated by the 2008 Constitution, the 2008 Elections Commission Act, the 2008 Election (General) Act, the 2008 Presidential Elections Act, and the Presidential Elections Rules and Regulations.

The legal framework provides an adequate basis for the conduct of democratic elections. The Rules and Regulations stipulate detailed provisions regarding the functions of the electoral officials.

### **III. ELECTORAL SYSTEM**

The Maldives has a presidential system of government where the president is both the head of state and government. The president is elected via direct and secret vote every five years and can only be elected for a maximum of two terms, which is the limit allowed by the Constitution.

In the elections, the candidate who receives a majority (more than 50%) of the valid votes cast is elected president. Otherwise, a second round between the two candidates with the most votes are held within 21 days following the initial election day. The candidate who receives more votes in the second round is elected.

The EC registered eight candidates for this presidential election.

#### **IV. ELECTION ADMINISTRATION**

Elections are managed by the Election Commission (EC) of Maldives (EC). The EC of Maldives was established on 7 August 2008 as an independent and impartial institution to conduct and supervise all state elections and public referendums and monitor the regulatory framework on the functioning of political parties. Under the Elections Commission Act (2008), five members are appointed by the president for a 5-year term with approval by People's Majlis.

The EC set up 574 ballot boxes for this election, including eight overseas. Ballot boxes are managed by officials appointed by the EC. The EC trained 4,968 election officials, including reserve. In observed polling stations, most election officials were women.

The first round of the election was generally administered in a timely, efficient, and professional manner at all levels. The EC accredited numerous observers, representatives of contestants, and media, including international observers and foreign media representatives.

As observed, the work of the election administration was transparent.

To provide more information about the current election for the international community, it would be recommended to update the English version of the official website of the EC.

#### **VI. VOTER REGISTRATION**

Citizens 18 years of age or older by election day have the right to vote, except those serving a prison term of more than five years.

The EC revealed that a total of 282,395 individuals are eligible to vote in the election. 138,196 of whom are women, and 144,199 are men.

Voters were given ample opportunity to verify their data on voter lists and request corrections. As observed, voter lists were posted adequately at polling stations. Voters were also able to check their data online.

## VI. ELECTION DAY

On 9 September, voting took place in 574 polling stations. The representative of the CEC of Uzbekistan visited several polling stations located in Male and observed the polling process, the system and procedure of voter registration and identification, and the arrangements of booths for polling and noted many initiatives taken by the EC of Maldives.

The opening is observed in one polling station at Aminia School. The polling station observed opened on time. The opening was assessed positively. Procedures were generally followed.

Voting procedures were followed in all the polling stations observed, and voting was evaluated positively.

No voters were refused the right to vote due to inappropriate reasons.

The current regulation requires the verification of a voter three times at the polling station. This might seem reasonable, although it creates long queues outside the polling station.

Polling stations were accessible for voters with physical disabilities. All polling stations observed were properly equipped.

The counting was transparent, efficient, and orderly.

The counting of the votes was done on the same day, i.e., 9 September 2023, and as per the result none of the candidates could get over 50 percent of votes. The second round of the election is scheduled on 30 September 2023 to be contested only by the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes in the first election.

