



## United States Mission to the OSCE

### **Statement on the Azerbaijan Presidential Election**

As delivered by Political Counselor Bruce Connuck  
to the Permanent Council, Vienna  
November 20, 2003

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The United States welcomes the Final Report of the International Election Observation Mission on the October 15, 2003 Presidential Election in Azerbaijan.

The report confirms the results of the Mission's preliminary statement, noting that the election "failed to meet OSCE commitments and other international standards for democratic elections."

The Final Report lists 26 recommendations for specific action by the Azerbaijani authorities to improve the current situation and ensure that the next election will meet OSCE commitments.

The recommendations include modifications to the Law on the Freedom of Assembly and the Election Code, as well as the procedures governing election administration. Important reforms are also recommended in the field of freedom of the media.

The United States calls for the Azerbaijani authorities to implement the recommendations of the International Election Observation Mission as soon as possible.

Prompt action on these recommendations would demonstrate the political will of the new government and its intention to abide by its OSCE commitments.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.