



## United States Mission to the OSCE

### **Statement on Electoral Law Amendments in Tajikistan**

As delivered by Charge d'Affaires Douglas Davidson  
to the Permanent Council, Vienna  
May 20, 2004

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The United States notes that the Parliament of the Republic of Tajikistan is debating further amendments to the existing Election Law that would bring the law into closer conformity with international standards. Important elements being considered include independent election commissions and provisions for election monitoring.

We commend President Rahmonov's April 30 speech to the nation in which he advocated that Parliament - and here I quote - "pass a law meeting the requirements of modern democracy and ensure fair and transparent elections."

We applaud the spirit of cooperation and commitment to democratic principles by the diverse political parties in Tajikistan. They are working together to promote an election law that would create the conditions for elections that conform to international democratic practice and that are in line with Tajikistan's OSCE commitments.

We call on the Parliament of the Republic of Tajikistan to pass further amendments to the Election Law that will continue to strengthen democratic practice and build Tajikistan's reputation of respecting political pluralism.

We urge Tajikistan to take full advantage of the assistance offered by the OSCE's election experts in the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights throughout the process of developing this legislation.

Thank you.