

## OBSERVATION REPORT

Our basic evaluations regarding the elections held in the Maldives are as follows:

- The elections started on time at the polling stations.
- Election officials at the polling stations took security measures related to the ballot area.
- The ballot box was securely sealed with seals, showing it to be empty.
- Sufficient chairs were provided for political party representatives and observers to monitor the elections.
- Adequate chairs were also provided for voters waiting in line.
- Voter identities were checked at the entrance of the election center. Identity verification was done via a tablet, and the order of voting was loudly announced, with the voting sequence written on a paper starting from number 1 to ... and given to the voter.
- Voters went to the polling station table with this paper.
- The first official found the voter's name from the list and marked it with a highlighter. Women were marked with pink, and men with blue.
- The next official marked the voter's thumbnail with an indelible pen.
- Another official tore off the ballot paper with a stub and handed it to the voter.
- The voter, after marking the ballot paper in the voting booth, placed it in the ballot box under the supervision of the polling station official.
- The voting process ended on time.
- The counting board checked and consolidated the remaining materials, documented them, and placed them in a plastic, sealed bag.
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- Subsequently, political party representatives, election observers, press members, and voters watched as the seals of the ballot box were broken, and the ballots were placed on the table.
- First, the ballots were counted to find the total number.
- Then, officials separated invalid ballots from valid ones based on candidates.
- Next, both invalid and valid ballots were individually counted first in Dhivehi by the chairperson, then again in English by another official.

- As the counting was nearing completion, I had to leave because it was time for the boat that provided transportation to the island where I was staying.

- Up until the moment I left, the counting process was being conducted very transparently.

- The elections took place in a peaceful environment without any chaos.

- Voters casted their ballots secretly. There was a good control system in polling stations.

- So far, it's been proceeding very securely.

- There was a low turnout in the early hours of the morning. But participation increased towards the final hours. More people came to the polls in the last hours and the turnout rate has risen.

I wish the elections, bring blessings, prosperity and happiness to the people of the Brother Country of Maldives.

Ali Ürker

Member of Supreme Election Board of Türkiye