

Observers note genuine choice amid foreign pressure, uneven opportunities in Armenia's elections



Post-election press conference in Yerevan, 8 June 2026



Farah Karimi and Jevrosima Pejović speak to the media on election day in Yerevan, 7 June 2026

The 7 June parliamentary elections offered voters a genuine choice among political alternatives in a well-run process, although direct pressure from abroad, in the form of escalating trade restrictions and security threats aimed at unduly influencing voters in favour of the opposition, were observed during the campaign, international observers said in a preliminary statement released Monday.

The campaign was highly confrontational, with divisive rhetoric, and was marked by allegations of vote-buying and other electoral violations that led to numerous criminal proceedings against opposition candidates and activists, resulting in many opposition supporters refraining from actively engaging in the campaign. This, along with pressure on public sector employees to attend ruling party events, and recently introduced social and economic measures, raised concerns about the equality of opportunity to campaign, the statement says.

"The concentration of arrests and criminal prosecutions against opposition figures contributed to perceptions of selective justice, while a polarized media landscape, inflammatory rhetoric, misinformation, and persistent foreign pressure and interference challenged Armenia's democratic resilience and the integrity of public debate," said Farah Karimi, Special Co-ordinator and leader of the short-term OSCE observer mission.

"The importance of these elections, combined with polarizing rhetoric throughout the campaign, created a tense atmosphere for both voters and election officials," said Jevrosima Pejović, Head of the OSCE PA delegation.

The process was governed by revised election-related laws

and regulations that provide a sound basis for democratic elections. Changes in recent years were mostly introduced through extensive consultative process and worked to improve the legal framework, but some gaps and ambiguities persist, and a number of previous recommendations remain unaddressed.

The election administration managed technical preparations professionally and efficiently, and enjoyed stakeholders' trust. Election day proceedings were assessed overwhelmingly positively in the vast majority of polling stations observed.

Online campaigning was extensive, and its regulation is limited, reducing transparency and oversight. The online campaign was confrontational and divisive. Overall, the authorities took steps to address disinformation, but the transparency and effectiveness of these efforts were limited by the lack of publicly available information.

Amendments to campaign finance rules expanded the definition of campaign expenditures, increased donation and expenditure limits, and redistributed oversight responsibilities. Still, a number of gaps remain, limiting transparency, accountability and integrity of party and campaign finance.

Despite gender quotas for the election administration and parliament, as well as financial incentives for parties maintaining gender-balanced governing bodies, women's participation in public and political life remained low. Women comprised 37.3 per cent of candidates.

The OSCE PA delegation consisted of 93 members and worked closely with colleagues from ODIHR, PACE, and the European Parliament.

List of valid Annual Session supplementary items online

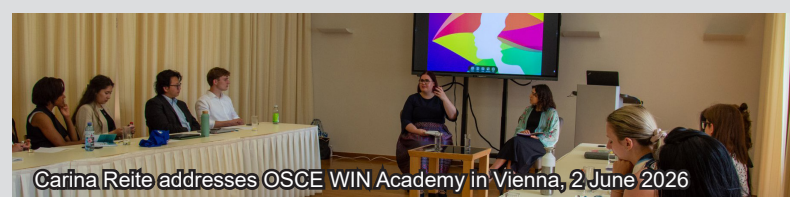
The list of valid supplementary items to be considered at the 33rd Annual Session in The Hague has now been posted on the website at the following link: <https://bit.ly/43WuxoG>

Please scroll down past the draft programme and the general committee documents to see the list. In the coming days the International Secretariat will be uploading the texts of the valid supplementary items and translations into French and Russian as they become available.

Young Parliamentarian Carina Reiter addresses OSCE WIN Academy

Last week, at the OSCE WIN Academy – Youth Edition in Vienna, OSCE PA Network of Young Parliamentarians member Carina Reiter (Austria) engaged with students on leadership and gender-sensitive policymaking. In her remarks on 2 June, Reiter focused on the importance of overcoming barriers to equality, with a particular focus on the importance of youth participation in democratic decision-making, sharing the PA's experience of incorporating youth perspectives in its work.

The OSCE's WIN project offers targeted training academies (including Youth Editions and regional Dialogue Academies)



Carina Reiter addresses OSCE WIN Academy in Vienna, 2 June 2026

designed to equip young professionals, peacebuilders, and women leaders with skills in conflict resolution, gender equality mainstreaming, inclusive project work, and digital research.

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