

Ashgabat, 24 February 2025: The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Turkmenistan, in partnership with the Central Commission for Holding Elections and Referendums in Turkmenistan (CEC), organized a four-day BRIDGE (Building Resources in Democracy, Governance, and Elections) training on “Introduction to Election Administration” from 19 to 21 February 2025 in Ashgabat. This initiative is part of the joint project “Assistance in Capacity Building of the Central Election Commission for Holding Elections and Referendums in Turkmenistan.”



Facilitated by internationally accredited BRIDGE experts, Ms. Natia Kashkashvili and Mr. Shalva Tskhakaia, the training brings together participants from the CEC, velayat election commissions, election officials from Ashgabat and Arkadag cities, as well as representatives from political organizations and the media. The training follows BRIDGE's interactive methodology, combining group exercises, case studies, and practical assignments to enhance the skills and knowledge of election administrators.

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Over the course of four days, participants will explore key aspects of the electoral process, including the election cycle, electoral planning, internationally recognized election standards and principles, election management body models, and the use of electronic technologies in voter registration. A dedicated session will focus on gender equality in the electoral process, highlighting the importance of inclusive and gender-sensitive electoral administration.

"This BRIDGE training equips election administrators with essential skills and knowledge to enhance the efficiency and integrity of electoral processes," said Mr. Tomica Paovic, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative in Turkmenistan, in his opening remarks. ***"UNDP remains committed to supporting Turkmenistan's efforts to strengthen electoral institutions and foster greater civic participation as part of its broader efforts to support democratic governance and inclusive political participation in Turkmenistan."***