



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

**Azerbaijan
EXIT POLL**

September 15, 2005

**USAID AND PA CONSULTING GROUP TO HOLD PRESS CONFERENCE ON
EXIT POLL SEPTEMBER 16**

On September 16 at 4 PM at the International Press Center, representatives of USAID and PA Consulting will hold a press conference to officially introduce the Azerbaijani media to the details of the exit poll project.

The United States government, represented by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), is funding an exit poll to be conducted for the November 2005 Milli Majlis elections as part of its ongoing efforts to support the strengthening and expansion of democratic institutions in Azerbaijan. The exit poll will be designed and conducted by an international team of experts led by PA Consulting Group.

The PA Consulting Group exit poll is the only exit poll officially supported by the United States government, and is funded under a contract from USAID. The contract was awarded through an open, fully competitive tender.

For the purposes of the Azerbaijan exit poll, PA has formed a partnership with leading survey research organizations, both Azerbaijani and international, with an excellent history of professional, apolitical work in the field of sociological survey, exit polls, and data processing. Azerbaijani partners for this project include the SORGU research company and the International Center for Social Research – two organizations with an unquestioned reputation for apolitical, high-quality sociological research. Collectively, the PA exit poll team has worked on over 1500 exit polls in many countries.

Four main principles form the foundation of the exit poll. They are:

1. anonymity – all participation will be completely anonymous
2. neutrality – the exit poll is apolitical, and favors no political party or movement
3. transparency – the methodology and execution of the exit poll is transparent and standardized
4. professionalism – the exit poll will be conducted in a professional manner by trained personnel.

At least 65 randomly selected constituencies will be covered by the exit poll. In other words, every constituency in Azerbaijan has an equal chance to be selected for the exit poll, regardless of operational, practical, or political considerations.

PA Consulting is one of the world's leading international development, management, systems and technology consulting firms. PA operates in approximately 100 countries, and maintains permanent corporate offices in 35. PA Consulting Group has been implementing projects in sectors as diverse as energy, information technology development and strengthening democracy for over 60 years.

NOTE TO MEDIA: All members of the Press are invited to attend the press conference. Please confirm your participation with the U.S. Embassy Press Office at 498 03 35/36 and arrive at the event by 3:30 p.m.