



EASTERN PARTNERSHIP
CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM
GEORGIAN NATIONAL PLATFORM

May 18, 2017

Address of the Member Organizations of the Georgian National Platform of Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum to the Parliament of Georgia

Unfortunately, turns out that reaching the consensus is impossible within the frames of constitutional discussions on the issues important for institutional democracy, among which are the competencies of the leader of the state and election to the office.

Many parliamentary republics have both, the principle of indirectly electing a president, which is offered by the present constitutional project, as well as, the constitutional principle of directly electing a president. The countries choose appropriate procedure based on their needs, historical experience or political context.

We, the Member Organizations of the Georgian National Platform of Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum believe that the proposed procedure for forming electoral college may strongly precondition the dependency of the President of Georgia on specific political subjects. Furthermore, the proposed parliamentary election model in the constitutional project ensure that one political force dominates everyone else, which gives high probability to the threat that the indirectly elected President of Georgia is biased. Simultaneously, we would like to note, that the competencies of the President of Georgia, despite current limitations, is highly diversified, requires high level of legitimization and it remains important that Georgia has a nonpartisan leader of the state.

For Georgian state, it is crucial that institutions are enhanced, additional checks and balances are established for the purposes of excluding the possibility of one political force dominating on every field of social and political life, for developing political pluralism and pluralistic democracy. This is only achieved through diverse governing institutions, that are formed through elections.

Given all of the above mentioned, we the signatory organizations believe that it will be appropriate if the pursuit of weakening the competencies of the President of Georgia and amending how the President is elected are abandoned and if the leader of the state is elected in universal, equal and direct suffrage.

Signatories:

1. European Initiative - Liberal Academy Tbilisi
2. Europe Foundation
3. Georgian Young Lawyers' Association
4. International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy
5. The Center for Strategic Research and Development of Georgia
6. Human Rights Centre
7. Article 42
8. Tbilisi Human Rights House
9. Civil Society Institute
10. Economic Policy Research Centre
11. World Experience for Georgia
12. Association for the Farmers' Rights Defence
13. International Organizations for Human Rights Protection and Prisoners's Social Welfare
14. "School-Family-Society" Association
15. Cultrual Humanitarian Fund Sukhumi
16. Women's Political Resource Center
17. Fund for Women Entrepreneurs
18. Youth Alternative
19. Media Monitoring Centre of Georgia
20. LEPL "Caucasian Mosaic"
21. Association Toleranti
22. Association of Tea Producers Georgia "Georgian Tea"
23. Energyefficiency Foundation
24. International Center of Geopolitical research
25. Repatriates' Union
26. Peaceful and Business Caucasus
27. Teachers' Union "Education and Universe"
28. Foundation Caucasus Environment
29. Imereti Union of Science - "SPECTRI"
30. Caucasus Environmental NGO network
31. Caucasian House Georgia
32. Bridge of Friendship – Kartlosi
33. Georgia's Reforms Associates
34. International Center for Civic Culture
35. Rehabilitation Centre for Victims of Torture, Violence and Pronounced Stress Impact –
EMPATHY
36. Association for the efficient use of the Georgian energy resources
37. IDP Association "Consent"
38. Journalism Research Centre
39. Association „Healthy Children“
40. Levan Mikeladze Foundation
41. Enterprise Innovation Development Center
42. Save The Future Generation

43. New Generation for Democratic Georgia
44. Georgian Association "Woman in Business"
45. Junior achievement Georgia
46. Women's Initiatives supporting Group
47. Union "Ecotech"
48. International Business and Economic Development Centre
49. European Integration Forum
50. Association "Imedi"
51. Foundation "Multi- Ethnic Resource Centre on Civic Education Development"
52. Association "Atinati"
53. Union "Anti-Violence Network of Georgia"
54. Penal Reform International
55. Association European Studies for Innovative Development in Georgia
56. The Greens Movement of Georgia
57. Georgia Press Association
58. Association "Psychea"
59. Research-Intellectual Club "Dialogue of Generations"
60. Youth Union Euro Club
61. Association DEA for Disabled Women and Mothers of Disabled Children
62. Studio "Re"
63. Public Advocacy
64. Railway Workers New Trade Union
65. Energy Efficiency Centre Georgia
66. Partnership For Road Safety