



Adopted by the Conference of the Belarusian National Platform
of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum

Minsk, 24 February 2018

RESOLUTION
of the Conference of the Belarusian National Platform
of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum

**Participation of citizens in the decision-making at the local level is an important link
in formation and development of local self-government in the Republic of Belarus.**

We, the participants of the Belarusian National Platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum, being guided by the interests of developing local self-government in general and forms of citizens participation in problems solving at the local level – in particular based on part 1 of Article 3 and part 1 of Article 5 of the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus, seeking to develop dialogue and partnerships between local authorities and civil society organizations and on the basis of accumulated experience of interaction at the local level, address the House of Representatives and Council of Republic of the National Assembly, the Presidential Administration of the Republic of Belarus, local Councils of deputies and local Executive committees with the following proposals:

- To intensify the awareness-raising activities aimed at the involvement of citizens in decision-making and problem-solving at the local level, as well as to promote best practices of civil participation at the local level;
- To facilitate raising the culture of dialogue and setting new joint fora to discuss and solve local problems (organization of regular meetings within the local Councils/Executive committees with representatives of civil society organizations, establishment of joint expert Councils on current issues and activities);
- To seek creating atmosphere of trust in relations between civil society organizations and local authorities (avoiding politicization of civic initiatives, providing organizational and administrative assistance in their implementation, promotion of social activists, etc.);
- To ensure the implementation of the principle of openness and transparency in the activities of local authorities (declarative application procedure for visiting local councils, free access to information concerning the legitimate rights and interests of citizens, the right to receive and disseminate information about the activities of local authorities, improving the content of local authorities' web-sites, etc.);
- To prepare proposals and a legal framework for practical implementation of "participatory budgeting" of local budgets for financing civil initiatives on a competitive basis;
- To prepare proposals on how to improve the legislation on citizens' participation forms in local self-government (forms of direct democracy) with the aim of reducing bureaucracy and increasing efficiency.

Belarusian National Platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum and its member-organizations are ready to actively participate in the development and implementation of these proposals in cooperation with national and local government bodies, as well as with international organizations.