



Statement by the Azerbaijan National Platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum regarding the Presidential Elections of 9 August 2020 in Belarus

17 August 2020

We, the signatories of this statement, as the Azerbaijan National Platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum, express our solidarity with the Belarusian National Platform and its citizens in the aftermath of the August 9, 2020 presidential elections in the Republic of Belarus, find any interference in the voters' will unacceptable and demand that the election results be determined freely and fairly.

As a National Platform, we believe that the protection and enforcement of political rights must be ensured in accordance with the UN Convention and national legislation adopted by Belarus, the conditions for freedom of assembly, the immediate release of detained citizens and political dialogue must continue for the future and development of the country.

In addition, we share the OSCE/ODIHR and EU's concern about the election results, condemn the violence and inhumane treatment of citizens on and after election day, and call for the immediate release of those arrested and the punishment of officials who have committed human rights violations.

Thus, as the National Platform of Azerbaijan, we state that a free and fair election is essential for the election of political power and the rule of law, democratic reforms and political dialogue are key for European integration.