



Address to the Prime Minister of Georgia and the Chairman of the
Parliament of Georgia on the Merging the Youth Agency with the Ministry
of Culture, Sports and Youth of Georgia

We, representatives of the Georgian National Platform Coordination Council and member organizations believe that the youth sector is inter-sectoral and needs to be properly positioned. The Youth Agency operating under the Prime Minister's Office will be under serious threat. Due to the structural changes envisaged by the draft law, the youth sector will face an excessively complicated administrative procedure as it will be merged with the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth of Georgia. The current status allows the Agency to make flexible decisions. If it is merged with the Ministry, it will have to operate under the bureaucratic system, which will significantly compromise flexible decision-making.

The reorganization of the government agency responsible for youth undermines the sector itself, the youth and damage the country in general. The only flexible structure that can maintain value of the youth sector is an independent, highly legitimate agency.

The Agency is a youth policy-maker and its existence as an independent structure greatly facilitates the implementation and monitoring of youth projects and programs planned by various ministries.

It is noteworthy to mention that the European Commission and the Council of Europe positively assess the current model of Georgia, provide unprecedented support to the country and urge other countries to follow the example of Georgia. It is crucial to support the process due to the fact that Georgia is preparing to apply for full EU membership in 2024.

We believe that the maintenance of the Youth Agency under the Prime Minister's Office will facilitate the youth engagement, support for relevant policies, monitoring and effective cooperation in the implementation of youth programs by different ministries. This will ensure further development of the sector and make the reforms irreversible. Therefore, we consider that the Youth Agency should not become a subunit of the Ministry of Culture and Sports as envisaged by the draft law!

To address the challenges facing young people, the Government of Georgia and the Parliament of Georgia must actively cooperate with local and international

organizations working in the youth sector. Meanwhile, structural change to the youth sector should be implemented with their engagement and in consultation with them. We, representatives of various areas of the civil sector, express our readiness to actively cooperate and contribute to the accelerating youth policy development in Georgia and the timely fulfillment of Georgia's commitments under the EU-Georgia Association Agenda.

We hope that the newly elected Prime Minister will meet with youth organizations to discuss challenges in the area and will pay paramount attention to and share the desire of civil society to remain the Youth Agency under the Prime Minister's Office.