



*11 March, 2014*

**Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum Georgian National Platform**

**STATEMENT**

**On Russian Federation's Aggression Against Ukraine**

Georgian civil society condemns the aggression unfolded by Russian Federation against the sovereign European country of Ukraine.

The Russian government started interfering with the internal affairs of Ukraine earlier during the mass protests going on in Kiev and other cities. The Russian law-enforcement bodies, advisers, consultants and high rank officials directly participated in planning and implementing the anti-protest measures.

The Russian Federation did not recognize the legitimacy of the new Ukrainian government and put into operation the propaganda machine to fuel Russian ethnic separatist sentiments in Crimea and other Ukrainian regions. The separatist forces controlled by the Russian government occupied state buildings in these regions. The newly elected supreme council and its leader, grossly violating the Ukrainian state constitution, subjugated the Crimean law-enforcing bodies, declared full independence and called a referendum on secession from Ukraine. Parallel to that, despite absence of the facts of "violence and tyranny", the buildings having the state and military importance had yet been controlled by direct assistance and participation of Russian military divisions since February 21, 2014.

Following the appeal made by Russia's president, the Russian State Duma gave permission to the Commander-in-Chief on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March, 2014 on deployment of the "limited military contingent" to Ukraine to conduct military actions there. This decision made by the State Duma allows the Russian army to wage military actions on the whole territory of Ukraine. In response, the Ukrainian acting president put the Ukrainian armed forces on alert and called for a full-scale mobilization. This situation looks very much like Russia's preparatory actions before the 2008 August war which were followed by the military aggression against Georgia and occupation of its territories.

By such actions, the Russian Federation not only violates the sovereign rights of Ukraine and the norms of the international law, which Russia also does recognize, but puts the regional peace and stability under risk and abuses human rights on the territory being under its control.

We call on:

**Civil society in Eastern Partnership countries** to express the loud protest and strongly condemn the actions of the Russian Federation;

**Russian civil society and people of good will** by expressing the civil protest, to confront the reckless policy of their government which will bring an irreparable damage to Russia itself;

**Georgian government** to provide help to the Ukrainian people and its government in all possible means including political, financial, economic and humanitarian support. Also, we call the Georgian government upon to register its united position with the EU and act in full coordination with the Euro-Atlantic partnership countries;

**International community** to apply all possible means to stop the attempts of full-scale intervention and further occupation of sovereign Ukraine, and annexation of a considerable part of its territory planned by Russia, by imposing adequate sanctions against the Russian Federation;

**Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe** to suspend the Russia's vote in the Council of Europe and consider its dismissal from the Organisation;

**EU and NATO** to suspend all formats of cooperation with Russia including Russia-Nato Commission and EU-Russia Cooperation Council;

**The United States of America and EU** to extend the Magnitsky Act to those members of Russian State Duma who voted for the decision on deployment of Russian troops to Ukraine, as well as to the Russian government officials who elaborated and submitted to the State Duma the draft resolution based on false arguments;

**G7 Member States** to refuse Russia to hold the G8 summit in Sochi and stop the preparation activities for the meeting planned in June;

**International Financial Institutions** to review suspension of the programs aimed for Russia, both planned and those being in-progress;

**Ukrainian government** to continue the way towards EU in line with the Ukrainian people's choice, accelerate steps focused on countries' stabilization and formation of inclusive and representative state structures; ensure holding elections planned in spring in transparent way and according to the high standards.

**Signatory organisations:**

1. Georgian Association of Regional Broadcasters
2. Public advocacy
3. Healthy World
4. Georgian Civil Development Association
5. Association European Studies for the Innovative Development of Georgia
6. Women's Information Centre
7. Association "Green Alternative"
8. Georgian Foundation for Strategic and International Studies
9. Liberal Academy Tbilisi
10. Georgian press association
11. Levan Mikeladze Foundation
12. Samtskhe-Javakheti Regional Association "Toleranti"
13. Repatriates' Union
14. International Centre for Geopolitical Studies
15. Economic Policy Research Center
16. Institute for the Study of Nationalism and Conflicts
17. Caucasian Institute for Economic and Social Research
18. "Caucasian Mosaic"
19. World Experience for Georgia
20. International Business Development and Investment Promotion Centre
21. Gori Information Center
22. Article 42 of the Constitution
23. International Business and Economic Development Centre
24. United Public Movement "Multinational Georgia"
25. "Multi- Ethnic Resource Centre on Civic Education Development"
26. Open Society Georgia Foundation
27. Civil Society Institute
28. Caucasus Environment
29. Association for Farmers Rights Defense
30. International Center for Advancement of Research, Technology & Innovation
31. Europe House Georgia
32. Association "MERKURI"
33. Institute for Development of Freedom of Information
34. Center of Development and Democracy
35. "School-Family-Society" Association
36. Free Choice
37. International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy
38. Fund of Women Entrepreneurs
39. Cultural-Humanitarian Fund "Sukhumi"
40. Georgian Trade Unions Confederation
41. Association "Atinati"
42. Women's Initiatives Supporting Group

43. Human Rights Centre
44. Peaceful and Business Caucasus
45. Student-Youth Council
46. Youth Alternative
47. Energy Efficiency Centre Georgia
48. ECOVISION
49. Transparency International Georgia
50. Association of Young Professionals in Energy of Georgia
51. International Centre for Geopolitical Studies
52. Media Development Foundation
53. The Greens Movement of Georgia
54. Georgian Association "Woman in Business"
55. Junior achievement of Georgia
56. Caucasus Institute for Peace, Democracy and Development
57. Center of Development and Democracy
58. Union of Teachers "Education and Universe"
59. International Organization of Human Rights protection and Prisoners social welfare
60. Biological Farming Association "Elkana"
61. Save The Future Generation
62. Association of Tea Producers Georgia "Georgian Tea"
63. Association DEA
64. Energy Efficiency Foundation
65. International Center on Conflict and Negotiation
66. Center for Strategic Research and Development of Georgia