

**Statement of Georgian National Platform Member Organizations Regarding the so-called Presidential Elections and Referendum held in Tskinali Region**

We hereby would like to address the issue of presidential elections and referendum held in the occupied territory, namely in Tskinali region, which aim at granting the title “Republic of South Ossetia – State Alania”.

In the light of the circumstances when even after 9 years from the end of the active phase of the conflict tens of thousands of people are still unable to return to their homes and peaceful life, it is impossible for the *so-called* elections held in these territories to have anything in common with the democratic processes.

The attempt of changing the name of the mentioned territory is even more alarming. Its goal could be annexation of territories by Russia in the future.

We welcome the assessment provided by international community regarding illegitimate elections, which, based on our observation, is unequivocally built on the principle of respect for Georgia's territorial integrity.

In addition, we would like to once again call on the parties to strengthen their efforts towards peaceful resolution of the conflict and safe return of the internally displaced persons to their homes.

*Undersigned organizations:*

1. Georgian Young Lawyers Association
2. Rondeli Foundation
3. Liberal Academy Tbilisi
4. Institute for Development of Freedom of Information
5. World Experience for Georgia
6. International Development Agency of Georgia
7. Local Democracy Agency Georgia
8. Public Defender
9. International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy
10. Human Rights House Tbilisi
11. Economic Policy Research Center
12. Georgian Energy Resources Effective Usage Association
13. Human Rights Center
14. Association “Atinati”
15. Youth Alternative
16. Association of Business Consulting Organizations of Georgia

17. Association “School-Family-Society”
18. Transparency International – Georgia
19. Caucasus Environmental NGO Network
20. Georgian Association of Regional Broadcasters
21. EU-Georgia Business Council
22. Free Choice
23. Cultural Humanitarian Fund "Sukhumi"
24. Civil Council for Defense and Security
25. Association “European Studies for Innovative Development of Georgia”
26. Georgian Institute of Geostrategic and EURO-Atlantic Integration Studies
27. New Generation for Democratic Georgia
28. Georgian Institute of Politics
29. Young Socialists of Georgia
30. British International Organization Oxfam
31. Youth Association DRONI
32. Bridge of Friendship “Kartlosi”
33. Rural Communities Development Agency
34. Student Youth Council
35. Imereti Scientists Union Spectrum
36. Association for Farms Rights Defense
37. Anti-violence National Network of Georgia
38. Coalition for Independent Living
39. Women's Initiatives Supporting Group
40. Civil Society Institute
41. IDP Women's Association Consent
42. Institute for the Study of Nationalism and Conflicts
43. Article 42 of the Constitution
44. Association “Woman and Business”
45. International Center for Geopolitical Studies
46. Georgian Tea Producers Association “Georgian Tea”
47. Fund “Caucasian Ecology”
48. Foundation “Multi-Ethnic Resource Centre on Civil Education Development”
49. Association "Mercury"
50. Union for Sustainable Development "Ecovision"
51. Center "Empathy"
52. Repatriates Union
53. Energy Efficiency Foundation
54. Junior Achievement Georgia
55. Georgia Alliance for Safe Roads