



November 20, 2017

Statement of Georgian National Platform member organizations on the recent Structural Changes connected to the Office of the State Minister of Georgia on European and Euro-Atlantic Integration

Georgia sees its future in Europe. The process of European integration assists the country in improving living standards for all citizens, helping them to achieve economic prosperity and social justice. The existence of the Office of the State Minister of Georgia on European and Euro-Atlantic Integration shows that European Integration is a national priority and shared institutional starting point.

Against this backdrop, it is unacceptable to merge the Office of State Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration into the Ministry of Foreign Affairs without prior consultations with the public, experts, and other stakeholders. Apart from this non-transparent decision on structural changes, the Government of Georgia has yet to issue a statement on which Government agencies will carry out the many functions of the Office, specifically, the coordination and monitoring of the reforms carried out in the framework of the European integration by various ministries and state agencies. Given that both the Association Agreement between Georgia and the European Union and the expectation of the majority of Georgian population toward the European integration process are concerned with implementing social and economic reforms within the country, it is questionable how the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, which is tasked to conduct foreign policy, can coordinate the various activities implemented by various state agencies as part of the country's European integration commitments.

We call upon the Prime Minister of Georgia, the Government of Georgia, the Parliament of Georgia and other stakeholders to hold open discussions about the political role and functions of the Office of the State Minister of Georgia on European and Euro-Atlantic Integration to make sure that suggested structural changes will not hinder strategically important Euro-Atlantic integration of Georgia.

Signatory organizations:

1. Europe Foundation
2. Open Society Georgia Foundation
3. Levan Mikeladze Foundation
4. Fund of Women Entrepreneurs

5. Foundation Caucasus Environment
6. European Initiative – Liberal Academy Tbilisi
7. Oxfam in Georgia
8. Georgian Association Women in Business (GAWB)
9. Georgia's Reforms Associates (GRASS)
10. Georgian Railway Workers New Trade Union
11. Youth Alternative
12. Association Imedi for Peace Movement of IDP Women
13. IDP Women Association "Consent"
14. Farmers' Rights Association
15. Association DEA
16. International Business and Economic Development Centre
17. Georgia International Development Agency
18. International Center for Environmental Research
19. Disarmament and Non-Violence
20. Caucasus Mosaic
21. New Generation for Democratic Georgia
22. Association Tolerant
23. Charity Humanitarian Center "Abkhazeti"
24. International Organization of Human Rights protection and Prisoners social welfare
25. Save the Future Generation