



## GEORGIAN NATIONAL PLATFORM

EASTERN PARTNERSHIP CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM

To Anri Okhanashvili, Chairman of the Legal Issues Committee of the Parliament of Georgia

CC: Givi Mikanadze, Head of the Working Group on Revision of the Election Code

The Georgian National Platform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum (EaP CSF GNP) considers important the launching of a working process on August 18 by the working group on the revision of the Election Code. We believe that the representative participation of the civil sector in relation to the aforementioned issue will contribute to the transparency of the process and the efficient performance of the working group. This is especially crucial considering the European Commission's recommendation (#10), according to which the involvement of civil society in decision-making processes at all levels should be ensured. The Parliament of Georgia is responsible for ensuring the realization of given recommendation.

As you know, the Georgian National Platform (GNP) presented two member organizations to the working group. Unfortunately one of them was refused by you to participate in the process and a negative position was publicly expressed.

We believe that such an attitude contradicts the tenth point of the EU's 12-point recommendations, hinders the full-fledged and inclusive involvement of civil society in the working process and deepens polarization, which should be overcome according to one of the European Union's key recommendations.

We consider that all non-governmental organizations with relevant qualifications, experience and willingness to cooperate have the right to participate in parliamentary working groups, while the working process regardless possible diversity of opinions, should be conducted in a constructive format. We consider it inadmissible to hinder the process by any involved party, that first of all, will negatively affect Georgia's interests.

We think that it is crucial to continue consultations with the EaP CSF GNP, which actively participates in the working groups through nominated civil societal representatives that at this stage can be evaluated as effective cooperation between the legislative body and the civil sector.

We would like to once again express our hope that the Parliament of Georgia will ensure that the process is held in a peaceful and result-oriented environment, also use all the levers that will encourage professional communication among the parties, consider the position of the EaP CSF GNP and expand the representation of civil society in the working groups to ensure more inclusiveness and pluralism of the process.

Taking into account all the aforementioned, we suggest to include the following EaP CSF GNP member organizations in the working group on electoral reform<sup>1</sup>: International Society for Fair

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<sup>1</sup> In the decision-making process it is crucial to take into account the specifics of activity of PMMG monitoring elections in regions densely populated by ethnic minorities; activity of ISFED, whose main profile is elections and is

Elections and Democracy (ISFED), Georgian Young Lawyers' Association (GYLA), Public Movement “Multinational Georgia” (PMMG) and Public Advocacy.

We believe that the mentioned organizations are highly proficient, being also members of the Technical Working Group (TWG) functioning in the Central Election Commission of Georgia under the auspices of the European Union (EU) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) as well as have a multiyear experience of involvement in the electoral processes.

We would like to ask you to hold a consultation meeting to discuss all the challenges and possible solutions in order to ensure that the current situation does not hinder the whole process.

Sincerely,

Coordination Council of the EaP CSF GNP

20 August, 2022

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one of the key actors in this process; GYLA, which is also qualified in electoral issues and the Public Advocacy, who has carried out an observation mission in regions bordering conflict zones.