



ევროკავშირი
საქართველოსთვის
The European Union for Georgia



Eastern Partnership
Civil Society Forum
Georgian National Platform

**Minutes of 8th General Meeting of
Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum
Georgian National Platform**

On 28th of February, 2017, 8th General Meeting of Georgian National Platform of Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum was held. The meeting was attended by 108 representatives of 93 Platform member organizations and other invited guests.

The meeting was opened by Mr. Kakha Gogolashvili. He greeted members of the platform and invited guests. Afterword, he addressed main objective and purpose of Platform, briefly introduced members with the agenda and proceeded with moderating the first session of the meeting.

Along with the chairman of Platform, first deputy state Minister of Georgia on European and Euro-Atlantic Integration - Mr. Archil Karalashvili, chair of European Integration Committee of Parliament - Ms. Tamar Khulordava, and Program Manager of EU Delegation in Georgia - Ms. Dominika Skubida also addressed the meeting with the greeting speech.

Mr. Archil Karalashvili addressed inclusive governance principle, as prioritized by Government, which on the other hand relies on active communication with non-governmental sector. He highlighted Cooperation Memoranda executed between Georgian National Platform and Government of Georgia and expressed readiness to actively cooperate with Georgian society, in order to make best use of their expertise. He also emphasized achievements made by Georgia on its euro integration way and addressed unanimous decision of EU Council in support of visa free travel for Georgian citizens. As stated by Mr. Archil non governmental sector made a huge contribution along with the government to achieve it. He once again expressed government's desire to continue its road towards euro-integration in close cooperation with the society.

Ms. Tamar Khulordava addressed comprehensive and complex reforms that the country is in need of. She also emphasized important role of civil society, along with executive and legislative branches. As committee chair, she stated civil involvement carries two main functions: to communicate more with citizens and to listen to the critical opinions and notes of civil society. She once again expressed desire to cooperate and addressed different ways for improving cooperation mechanisms. She mentioned that it is important for cooperation to be focused, to hold thematic meetings and make specific proposals

for the relevant policy-making and amending purposes. Lastly, she expressed hope that with joint efforts the country will reach success on its EU integration road.

Program Manager of EU Delegation in Georgia - Ms. Dominika Skubida thanked Georgian National Platform for monitoring activities prescribed by agenda provided in Association Agreement, for adopting documents on public policy and activities they have undertaken for raising awareness on eastern partnership program and Georgia-EU Association Agreement. She also greeted memoranda executed by Platform with Georgian Government, Georgian Parliamentary Committee on European Integration and expressed desire to strengthen cooperation between civil society and government.

Ms. Skubida emphasized that EU supports government as well as civil society in order to increase representative democracy in Georgia.

In the following section of the general meeting chairman of Platform, Mr. Kakha Gogolashvili, Georgian National Coordinator - Mr. Lasha Tugushi and groups' coordinators represented reports on activities undertaken by Platform in 2016. Presentations provided detailed overview of the activities undertaken within the working year, addressed existing challenges and their possible solutions.

During the meeting election of Platform chairman, coordinators for working groups and National Platform elections as prescribed by article 412 of the Georgia-EU Association Agreement was held.¹

Three candidates were nominated for Platform chairman position:

- Ms. Ketevan Vashakidze - European Fund
- Mr. Nikoloz Legashvili - Article 42 of Constitution
- Ms. Natia Loladze - Georgian Red Cross Society

According to the voting results, Ms. Ketevan Vashakide was elected as chair of Platform.

The working groups of organizations presented for coordinators election have selected the following candidates:

I working group

1. Mr. Lasha Tugushi - European Initiative Tbilisi Liberal Academy
2. Ms. Manana Bitsadze-Mikeladze - Free Choice

¹ For detailed information on election, the Election Committee Protocol is attached hereto.

II Working Group

1. Ms. Nino Elizbarashvili - Association “Woman and Business”
2. Mr. Tengiz Svanadze - Tra Producers Association of Georgia “Georgian Tea”

III Working Group

1. Mr. Tamaz Vashakidze - Enterprise Innovation Development Center
2. Ms. Nana Pirozmanashvili - Farmers' Rights Protection Association

IV Working Group

1. Ms. Nino Khukhua - Local Democracy Agency Georgia
2. Mr. Lado Bozhadze - Democracy and Civil Society Development Center

V Working Group

1. Ms. Raisa Liparteliani - Georgian Trade Union
2. Mr. Vitali Giorgadze - New Trade Union of Railway Workers

According to the results of Georgia-EU Civil Society Platform election, Platform is composed in the following manner:

Business Associations:

1. Giorgi Kacharava, EU-Georgia Business Council (EUGBC)
2. Nino Elizbarashvili, Association “Woman and Business”
3. Davit Tsiskaridze, International Business and Economy Development Center (IBEDC)

Trade Unions:

1. Irakli Petriashvili, Georgian Trade Unions
2. Vitali Giorgadze, New Trade Union of Railway Workers
3. Maia Kobakhidze, Educators and Scientists Free Trade Union

Non-governmental organizations:

1. Lia Todua, Strategic Research and Development Center (CSRDC)
2. Lasha Tugushi, European Initiative - Tbilisi Liberal Academy
3. Nino Chkhobadze, Georgian Green Movement

4. Aleksandra Kalatozishvili, Fund “Civil Education Development Multiethnic Resource Center”
5. Irina Putkaradze, Public Defender
6. Mariam Jorjadze, Biological Farming Association Elkana
7. Manana Devidze, Caucasus Environment Fund
8. Kakha Gogolashvili, Rondel Fund
9. Natia Kuprashvili, Regional Broadcasters Association

The member organizations expressed specific opinions on the meeting related to the improvement of the Platform’s activities, also regarding election procedures and Charter of Georgian National Platform. Representative of Energy Efficiency Fund made a brief presentation and declared that his organization is ready to provide written and specific recommendations targeted at reforming National Platform.

Newly elected Chair expressed her readiness to, in cooperation with Platform member organizations, maintain results achieved by Platform as of today and consolidate its strong sides; also to increase the existing possibilities and eliminate challenges Platform is facing today.