



PERMANENT DELEGATION OF NORWAY
TO THE OSCE

**STATEMENT BY THE NORDIC-BALTIC COUNTRIES ON THE ELECTIONS
IN GEORGIA**

As delivered by ambassador Ellen Svendsen at the Permanent Council,
Vienna, 31 October 2024

Madam Chair,

We, the Nordic-Baltic countries, are alarmed by credible reports of multiple violations and irregularities that have tainted the 2024 parliamentary elections and Georgia's democratic trajectory.

International observers, including ODIHR, have reported widespread irregularities, intimidation tactics, and unequal conditions, with clear advantages for the ruling party during the campaign.

We join the international calls for a thorough and impartial investigation of reported irregularities. Such investigations are fundamental in addressing the doubts that have been cast about the integrity of the electoral process, restoring public trust in the electoral process and upholding the integrity of democracy.

Violations of electoral integrity are incompatible with the standards expected from a candidate to the European Union. Any such violations betray the Georgian people's legitimate European aspiration.

Georgia's European and Euro-Atlantic integration goals, enshrined in its constitution, reflect the overwhelming support of its citizens for a European future. This commitment requires governance that aligns with democratic norms and values that we the participating States have pledged to uphold, affirmed in the 1990 Copenhagen Document, highlighting the essential role of free elections in fostering democratic societies.

Together with multilateral partners, we will continue to monitor the developments in Georgia, support democratic reforms, and the strengthening of human rights, and civil society.

Once again, we urge the Georgian government to withdraw the so-called "law on transparency of foreign influence" and the amendments banning "LGBT propaganda." These laws are restricting civil society and limit human rights such as freedom of expression and freedom of assembly.

We remain ready to support Georgian society on its path towards a European future, based on the principles of democracy, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law. We remain committed to strengthening and supporting Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders.

The path to Europe demands not only ambition but also a firm adherence to democratic principles, including the integrity of the electoral system, which is why we urge Georgian leaders to demonstrate the vision and responsibility necessary to meet the aspirations of their people. We will continue to follow events in Georgia closely and will judge the Georgian government based on their actions.

Thank you.