



EMBASSY OF GEORGIA TO THE REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA  
PERMANENT MISSION OF GEORGIA TO THE OSCE AND OTHER  
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN VIENNA

OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting  
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Working Session 17: Democratic Institutions

Statement of the Georgian Delegation

Mr. Moderator

Let me update you with the developments in Georgia in respect to the Reform of Election Code:

Based on the initiative of the Chairman of the Parliament, a cross-party working group with participation of the ruling party, parliamentary and non-parliamentary opposition parties, relevant international organizations and NGOs, has been established. Mandate of the group is to draft a new election code in line with general political consensus and recommendations of relevant international organizations, taking into account an experience of the recent elections.

The group launched its activities by political parties signing code of conduct. The document enforces following principles:

- Constructive cooperation;
- Consensus based decisions;
- No preconditions prior to discussions.

The code is signed by seven political parties represented in the Parliament and three parties which have no representation in the Parliament. Non-governmental organizations, as well as International organizations such as COE, OSCE, NDI, IRI, embassies of US and EU countries, participate in work of the group with Observer status. Central election commission is invited to group meetings. Council of Europe Venice Commission and OSCE Office for Democracy and Human Rights provide expert assistance.

Code of conduct is open for signatures for other political parties. At later stage extra parliamentary opposition joined the group, namely Our Georgia-Free Democrats, New Rights, Republicans and Traditionalist party. Remaining extra-parliamentary opposition political parties can join group at any time.

Participants of the group have already reached following agreements unanimously:

- Increase time-frame for complaints application, clarify some procedural issues regarding complaints;
- Assigning leading role to opposition in elaboration and monitoring voter list.

Government expressed readiness to allocate finances for monitoring of voter lists by oppositional parties. Group is on the stage of discussing methods and logistics of monitoring.

Based on consensus timeframe of working group was agreed. First draft should be finalized and sent to Venice commission and other international organizations by the mid of November. After three hearings in Parliament draft is planned to be adopted by the mid of January in order to have adequate time to implement new provisions until May self-government elections.

Thank you