



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

Statement by Georgia on the presidential election in Georgia

As delivered by the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the OSCE
Ambassador Konstantin Zaldastanishvili
at the 969th session of the OSCE Permanent Council

Vienna, October 31, 2013

Mr. Chairman,

I am pleased to make few remarks on the presidential elections of 27 October 2013 in Georgia. As you are aware, according to the early official results Mr. Giorgi Margvelashvili has won these elections.

From the outset, let me once again reiterate that the utmost priority of the Government of Georgia has been to hold transparent, free and fair presidential elections in full compliance with the international standards and the best democratic practices. In order to ensure the transparency of the whole pre-electoral process, the Government of Georgia sent early invitations to the ODIHR and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly already in February. Subsequently, in July, when the date of elections was announced, the official invitations were also extended to the Council of Europe, the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, the European Parliament, the GUAM and the BSEC Parliamentary Assembly, League of Arab States and partner countries, as well as to acclaimed non-governmental organizations, such as the International Republic Institute and the National Democratic Institute. As a result, a fairly large number of observers – more than 20 000, 1 241 international and 19 746 local – have

monitored the elections. On behalf of the Government of Georgia, I would like to once again express our sincere gratitude to the ODIHR, OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and other international organizations and partner countries for their strong interest and active engagement in the election process. Their presence has ensured a comprehensive electoral monitoring of Georgia's presidential elections.

We welcome the statement of preliminary findings and conclusions of international observation missions of the ODIHR, OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, NATO Parliamentary Assembly, Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly, EU Parliament that have unanimously assessed the presidential elections as transparent and efficiently administered, which took place in an amicable and constructive environment. We are extremely glad that our efforts have borne fruit and been translated into concrete outcome. The positive assessment of the Election Day, as well as the pre-election environment that was noted from the international actors is evidence to this.

The Government of Georgia particularly values the findings and recommendations provided by the ODIHR and other institutions and is looking forward to the final report. Let me assure you that all relevant stakeholders in Georgia will carefully study the recommendations with the view to further enhance the electoral procedures.

In the end, I would like to stress that the elections, which were conducted in a transparent and open manner, once again illustrate our unwavering commitment to the democratic values and practices that underpins a solid foundation to our European and Euro-Atlantic aspiration. These elections mark Georgia's irreversible shift from electoral democracy to institutional democracy.

Thank you.