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# **2010-2011 ACTIVITY STRATEGY OF THE CENTRAL ELECTION COMMISSION OF GEORGIA**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The main purpose of the present document is to develop the two-year activity strategy of the Central Election Commission (CEC) of Georgia. The implementation of the activities mentioned in the strategy document will ensure the deepening of democratic processes and sustainable development of electoral system in Georgia within 2010-2011.

This document has been developed on the basis of the advice and recommendations, present at the final report on the Parliamentary Elections of May 21, 2008 by OSCE/ODIHR (Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights) Observation Mission to Georgia.

### **THE MISSION STATEMENT:**

The Central Election Commission of Georgia is a public body; the mission of the CEC is to be an independent arbiter and conduct the elections in accordance with the law. The election administration is not to be involved in the political discussions.

### **POSSIBLE OUTCOMES**

Based on the final report of OSCE/ODIHR the CEC considered to develop the strategy for the following two-year period. The possible outcomes of the strategy are as follows:

- To increase the level of transparency and accountability of the election administration in the society.
- To increase the level of trust to the election administration and election processes from the society.
- By 2011, to make the electoral system in full compliance with the Venice Commission Code of Good Practice in Electoral Matters;

## THE STRATEGY GOALS

**A) Short-term Objectives** – it is planned to achieve the short-term objectives before the end of the 2010 self-governmental elections, i.e. till the end of June of the current year.  
The short-term objectives envisage:

1. Basic improvement of the voters list formation process.
2. Developing the mechanisms of resolving election disputes in the framework of existing election legislation.
3. Improving working with vulnerable groups (ethnic minorities, prisoners, physically disabled people) of voters.
4. Improve communication within the interested groups.
5. Increase the level of using the informational and communication technologies.
6. Promote public monitoring of election environment.

**B) Long-term Objectives - are planned to be achieved during 2011**

Long-term goals are as follows:

1. Full compliance of electoral system with the Venice Commission Code of Good Practice in Electoral Matters for the end of 2011.
2. Improve the governing structure of election administration based on the modern management technologies and practice;

## SHORT-TERM OBJECTIVES

1. **Qualitative improvement of the quality of voters list preparatory process.** In order to achieve the mentioned goal the following objectives should be met:
  - To decrease the factual errors in the voters lists (duplicate or omission/not-including the voters in the voters list, insertion of deceased and inaccuracies in the voters list) to the minimum - less than 1 % point.

- To integrate the voters list database with the databases of the respective entities (Civil Registry Agency, Ministry of Refugees and Accommodation, Supreme Court of Georgia, Ministry of Probation and Legal Assistance of Georgia, Ministry of Internal Affairs).
- To maintain maximum accessibility to the public versions of the voters list.
- To expand searching parameters of the voters list on the CEC web page.
- To provide complete information to the society and all interested stakeholders concerning the voters list formation procedures and existed problems;
- To create the group, consisting of the CEC members appointed by the political parties, public organizations and experts (as a request of the group), to work on issues related to the voters list. The group will provide the Central Election Commission with the advices and recommendations concerning the issues of the voters list. To provide detailed information related to the group working to interested international organizations and media.

**2. To improve mechanisms of resolving electoral disputes in the framework of existing election legislation.**

In order to achieve the mentioned goal the following objectives should be met:

- a. To elaborate the procedures, for improving the quality of election disputes resolution process;
- b. To create a group for working on the above mentioned issues; the group to be composed in the similar way as a group working on voters lists.

**3. To intensify working with vulnerable groups (ethnic minorities, prisoners, the disabled)**

For this purpose, the following activities should be implemented:

- To develop a detailed action plan in order to include the vulnerable voters in the election processes.
- To create a group for working on the above mentioned issues; the group to be composed in the similar way as a group working on voters lists.

**4. To intensify the communication with interested groups of society**

- During the regular meeting and permanent dialogues to deepen the cooperation with the political parties, international and non-governmental organizations, media and civil society representatives and involve them in the working groups.

- To improve the transparency of the CEC activities (Open Door, the policy of providing information publicly) and accountability (publication of implemented activities, strategy plan, the budget and the expenses) to the society.
- To elaborate the detailed communication plan, that will guarantee providing the society with the information about the activities of election administration;

#### **5. To increase the functions of informational and communication technologies in the election process**

- To develop recommendations and action plan regarding the installation of the video cameras at election precincts, upgrading the CEC servers and installation of the intranet for the election administration bodies.
- To create a group for working on the above mentioned issues; the group to be composed in the similar way as a group working on voters lists.

#### **6. To create supportive conditions on promoting civil monitoring of election related processes**

- In order to promote civil monitoring on the election related process, to maintain close contact and hold regular meetings with the media and civil society representatives concerning the specifications of election environment (implementation of the successful practice of fair coverage of election processes, violation of the rules on using administrative resources, violence/influence on the participants of election processes);
- To conduct proactive information policy, in order to provide the media and civil society representatives, without any restrictions, with any kind of information related to the elections.

### **LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES**

#### **1. The election system should be made in full with the Venice Commission Code of Good Practice in Electoral Matters;**

For this purpose, the following activities should be carried out:

- To create a joint group with the participation of the representatives of the CEC and civil society; the group, together with the representatives

of the Parliament of Georgia and the Venice Commission, to participate in adopting the amendments to the legislation.

- The CEC special department to create working conditions for the group and provide information coverage of its activities;

**2. To improve the governing structure of the election administration with modern management practices.**

In order to achieve the goal the CEC:

- To create a special group what will work on developing a package of recommendations on internal procedures and system mutual control system, taking into account the specifications of accountability of various branches of the commission.
- To discuss and adopt the mentioned package of recommendation at the session.