



GEORGIA

Resolution tabled by United National Movement UNM of Georgia at the IDU Executive Meeting on 29th July 2020

Whereas:

the Georgian people continue to show strong support for the country's Western aspirations and its European and Euro-Atlantic integration, and the Government of Georgia has taken alarming steps to remove Georgia from this path, while backsliding on multiple democratic reform issues, including on the independence of courts and freedom of media;

the Russian Federation continues to occupy Georgia's Abkhazia and Tskhinvali (South Ossetia) regions, in violation of Georgia's territorial integrity and the EU-brokered 2008 ceasefire agreement, hampering the fundamental rights of the people living in this occupied territories and areas adjacent to the occupation line, installing additional barbed wire fences in Georgia-controlled areas ("borderization") and kidnapping Georgian citizens;

taking into consideration the March 8th Agreement between the opposition and the government facilitated by the Embassies of the United States, the European Union, Germany, and the Council of Europe, aimed at breaking the political deadlock precipitated by the government's unwillingness to implement constitutional reforms and free political prisoners in the run-up to decisive parliamentary elections in October 2020; and,

recalling the report and recommendations of the OSCE/ODIHR-led International Election Observation Mission for the 2018 presidential elections highlighting the misuse of administrative resources, undue pressure and intimidation of voters, vote buying (in particular, the announcement of a massive debt

relief by a private financial institution linked to the chair of the ruling party), violation of vote secrecy, undue tracking of voters and impunity of violence against opposition;

The International Democrat Union:

Encourages the Government of Georgia to reverse democratic backsliding and undertake policies that strengthen Georgia's democratic credentials in order to advance its Euro-Atlantic aspirations, while remaining committed to implement the Association Agreement (AA) with the European Union and uphold common values and principles such as democracy, human rights and the rule of law;

Emphasizes in particular the importance under the AA of the commitment to the highest standards of judicial independence and fair trial, currently being under serious threat in Georgia;

Urges the Georgian government to fully implement the March 8th Agreement, including the release of political prisoner Giorgi Rurua, shareholder of the opposition TV channel Mtavari;

Urges the Georgian authorities to ensure a democratic conduct of the upcoming parliamentary elections in line with international standards and OSCE commitments and recommendations, while expressing hope that the pre-election campaign will be held in a competitive, violence-free environment, offering a level playing field to all political contestants, and including the absence of political arrests, the use of law enforcement for intimidation of opposition activists and voters, undue pressure on voters, in particular those working in state budget organizations, use of organized crime in electoral processes, vote buying and interference in the work of civil society, media organizations, and election observers; and,

Calls on the Russian Federation to implement the 2008 ceasefire agreement, allowing the EUMM entrance to the occupied territories of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali, while condemning Russian-sponsored cyber-attacks on Georgian institutions and the spreading of disinformation and interference in the electoral process.