

Government Program

For Strong, democratic, United Georgia

General Provisions

Georgian population expressed its distinct will and supported implementation of radical changes in the country by Parliamentary Elections of October 1, 2012.

The newly elected Georgian government will implement large-scale reforms in all strategic directions; it will carry out constitutional reform by active participation of people; change legislative framework significantly; operate balanced and well-adjusted model of state bodies, actual self-government; provide existence of multiparty political system; free public services from political pressure; determine the nearest, medium and long-term development policy of the country.

Institutes based on liberal-democratic values will be developed in Georgia. Inviolability of constitutional rights of citizens, inevitability of punishment for crime, inadmissibility of political persecution will be provided, for which rule of law will be established. Legal and law enforcement bodies will set free from political pressure.

Security of the country and solidification of regional positions will be provided, for which integration into the European Union and NATO will be deepened. Unification process of the country will start and become irreversible, for which ways of dialogue with Abkhazian and Ossetian people will be found out; specific results will be achieved in negotiations with Russia due to the assistance of the International Commonwealth.

The economic policy of Georgian government will be based on principles and values of free market economy. The government will overcome unemployment and poverty; create conditions of wealth and welfare for skillful and working citizens, for which it will develop small and medium businesses, agriculture, protect private property and labour rights, provide integration of the country into the world economic system; create respectable conditions of life to disabled citizens, for which it will establish safe social environment and develop social solidarity system; take care of national-cultural heritage and support educational and social-economic modernization.

Independence of media and transparency of its funding, demonopolization of advertisement market will be provided; Mast Carry and Mast Offer principles will be legalized; National Communications Commission and Public Broadcaster will be depoliticized; the State will support spreading of press, especially in regions.

Funding system of political parties will be changed so that there activities and proper conduct of election campaign is provided.

Condition created due to total violation of right of ownership will be studied and ways of its improvement will be planned, considering actual financial abilities of the country; Apart from this, scales and mechanisms of "Elite Corruption" expanded in Georgia during the last years, will be studied and the ways of its eradication will be planned.

The government policy will be based on distinctly expressed interests of Georgian population. Involvement of citizens will be the main basis of planning and implementation of the government policy.

Program Directions

Constitutional Arrangement of Georgian State

In order to exclude authoritarian (individual or one-party) government, this is necessary, at the very beginning stage, to change respective part of the constitution and establish appropriate model of government. This will be implemented on the basis of vast consultation with the public.

Majority of subjects united in Georgian Dream prefers parliamentary government. Although, final decision on constitutional arrangement will be made on the basis of a large civil agreement, which will provide maximal consideration of all reasonable ideas and interests.

Such model of government will be established by the constitution, which will, on the one part, provide stability of government, and, on the other part, give political organization real lever to implement effective and timely control on government activities.

Territorial State Arrangement and Self-government

Territorial self-government is of significant importance for effective operation of government. Strong self-government provides reflecting interests of citizens in the state government.

Self-government bodies will be assigned their respective own (exclusive) rights, finances and property, they will have elective representative and executive bodies. The very self-government bodies will provide main part of public service of each citizen and common and infrastructural environment, instead of individual and unthought projects. Service center will be opened at every self-governing unit, which will have functions of rendering public service to citizens.

Budget incomes of self-governments will be increased several times; state property of local significance, including a great part of non-privatized agricultural, as well as non-agricultural land resources will be transferred to self-governing units into ownership.

At the first stage, legal status of every community (village, settlement, and town) will be determined. Land (arable lands, pastures, and forests), water, and real estate, necessary for existence and development will be transferred to them into ownership. More or less self-sufficient communities with a view of resources will be created by way of cooperation with local population, taking into consideration local specifics.

In the course of the reform, local human and material resources, intercompatibility of villages for creation of communities and other factors will be studied as thoroughly as possible. Local self-governments, represented by city assemblies and Mayors/Governors will be created in cities, as well as in communities, correspondingly with creation of communities, observing subsidiary principle. Villages included in self-governing communities will have not assigned, but elected Foreman.

Regional self-government establishment process will start, while at transitional stage, the following will take place: assignment of territorial-legal status to regions, transferring actual rights to them and providing them with resources, establishing democratic forms and mechanism of government; regions will be assigned a status of territorial unit. They will be provided with stable budget incomes and rights.

Effective system of training of self-government officials will be established; continuous training, re-training and improvement of skills of officials will be provided; financial stimulation system for development of high-mountain zone of Georgia will become operative.

Judiciary

The concept of judicial reform will become the foundation for release of the court from the influence of political authority; justice will be independent and impartial; the effective constitutional control will be implemented.

Judicial organization and judicial disciplinary responsibility will be implemented by the judicial authorities themselves. Judicial institutional independence will be ensured, including financial independence of the court. The full transparency of administration process of judicial process and publicity of the whole process of justice will be ensured.

The authorities of the Constitutional Court will be expanded and an effective national human rights protection mechanism will be created.

Criminal Justice System Reform

The policy of fair punishment will be actually implemented; imposing the punishment on the unity of crimes by rule of gathering will be excluded and the best models of imposing fair punishment will be applied; the upper limit of money penalty used as a punishment will be established; the criminal liability for using drugs will be revised, as well as for purchase or/and storage of drugs for personal use; the regime of serving the sentence will comply with international standards and human rights will be fully protected.

Plea-bargain agreement will be fair and the interests of the victim will be taken into account. At the same time detection and investigation of organized and other crime will be enhanced. Concluding the plea bargain agreements with juveniles will be banned; preference will be given to implementation of restorative justice and re-socialization policy; conditional sentence will be applied not only when concluding plea bargain agreement, but by the court, towards severe or less severe offender who has committed a crime against the laws, on the fair basis defined by the law. Preterm termination of the conditional sentence and removing criminal record will be the prerogative of the court only.

The unlimited authorities of the arbitrary prosecution will be restricted. The summary proceedings documents will be investigated and at the stage of criminal prosecution, for the purpose of protection of the rights of the accused and the victim, will be appealed in the court; the advocacy institution will be strengthened in order to fully implement competition principle and eliminate the prosecutor dictate at the investigation stage and litigation process; in order to restore the violated rights of the thousands of imprisoned, their cases will be reviewed within the reasonable timeframe.

Reform of the public prosecution

The prosecutor's office will become established as an independent law enforcement agency of the system of the Ministry of Justice. It will be chaired by the Chief Prosecutor and not the Minister of Justice. The Chief Prosecutor will be appointed for a specified period (at least 5 years) by the President of Georgia with the consent of the Parliament, and his release from the office will be performed by impeachment or a reasonable resolution of the President of Georgia, on the basis of the consent of the Parliament.

The function of the prosecutor's office will be protection of the public from crime, protection of legal rights of the defendant and the accused, as well as the victim and ensuring legitimate functions of the investigating authorities by supervision of their activities.

Reform of the Ministry of Internal Affairs

It is necessary to transform the Ministry of Internal Affairs into the Ministry of Domestic Affairs and its formation into the civil service, which will be governing in the important spheres of the domestic policy. It is necessary to ensure the public control mechanisms of the activities of the police. The policemen will be released from the political pressure and legal guarantees of inviolability of their activities will be established. Depoliticization of agencies ensuring law and order and their independence is a significant guarantee of the citizens, as well as of these agencies.

As a result of reorganization of the MIA system, 2 important departments having the function of police will be formed: the police department, which will include two important sub- structures-(1) patrol and criminal police and (2) the border police department.

The Ministry of State Security will be separated from the Ministry of Internal Affairs and a unified independent State Security Service will be set up, with new content, structure and form, with the optimal number of highly qualified personnel, which will be under certain civil control. It is important to ensure independence of the activities of the mentioned service, which, first of all, must be expressed in the policy of appointment of its chief; the head of the State Security Service shall be approved by the Parliament by the nomination of the President. The activities of the service include obtaining of the confidential information, its analysis, systemization and realization. The prosecution must not fall under the authorities of the State Security Service.

Civil Service Reform

A model of the state service will be set up, under which employment and dismissal of the public servant will not depend on the politics. The law will implement the main principles of activities of a public servant- appointment with no fixed term, political impartiality, career principle, the obligation of the state to care, protection from unauthorized dismissal and so on. The change of the government will not cause dismissal of the personnel from the public service. The law will exactly define the legal basis for dismissal of the servant from the work.

Civil Integration and Minority Rights Protection

The representatives of national minorities will be actively involved in current events of the country and decision-making processes; all national programs related to the national minorities will be implemented with participation of their representatives; the state will support protection and popularization of the culture, language, traditions and values of the national minorities; the state will implement the system of a multilingual education system wherever there will be a need for that.

All state agencies shall provide information to the regions populated with the national minorities in the language they can understand; the state will facilitate the process of study of the Georgian language; all interested persons will be afforded an opportunity to study Georgian.

In order to keep the identity of national minorities historic sites and museums will be protected and developed, culture will be promoted. Georgian media will regularly cover the problems, achievements, culture and other important themes of the representatives of the national minorities; the organizations working on protection of the minority rights and civil integration will be supported.

Foreign Political Relations

The basis for foreign relations will be ensuring the national security and taking into account the current geopolitical reality. The determination to join the EU, Euro-Atlantic orientation and integration with NATO are the stated priorities of the government. Georgia is aware of its responsibilities in the fight against the challenges which the world is facing. Participation in the international efforts in this regard, in particular, contribution to military operations, is seen as one of the most important components of the protection of national interests.

Georgia within its peacemaking policy will become a reliable and predictable partner for the International Community. A favorable environment will be created for development of foreign – economic relationships and attracting direct foreign investments. Fulfillment of the conditions, which hamper the ongoing negotiations with the EU for the purpose of association, will be accelerated. Georgia will maintain relations with the United States as its main ally, according to the terms defined by the charter of strategic partner. Georgia considers the charter to be its obligation before the society.

Strengthening democratic institutions and ensuring involvement of the civil society will promote the success of full-scale conflict resolution process.

Georgia will try to initiate a dialogue with Russia using international mechanisms, with the objective to work out the strategy of gradual reduction of crisis in the bilateral relations.

Through its balanced regional policy Georgia must acquire the function of unifier of Caucasian interests. It is important to strengthen economic and political relations with neighboring Armenia, Azerbaijan, Turkey. Taking in view the favorable geopolitical location for transnational projects, development of relations between the regions of Black and Caspian Sea and Central Asia states must become one of the priorities of foreign policy of Georgia.

Economic Policy

The economic policy of the government of Georgia is based on the free market general economic principles and the modern approaches that highlight the role of the state in the issue of ensuring the social welfare and social security.

The economic policy will be based on a model of sustainable development. In the process of system transformation, the state which should determine the development strategy at the level of the main objectives and relevant indicators, will be assigned the key role; within the framework of the development of strategy all functions required for sustainable development and social welfare will be defined. The government of Georgia is interested not only in GDP, but in the parameters of welfare of the population.

The Constitution determined that the State Statistical Office is an independent, accountable to the Parliament agency; its director is elected for the term of 5 years, with the consent of the majority of the Parliament, including the consent of the majority of Parliament opposition, and appointed at the position by the President. Due to great importance of population census we consider that it is important to stipulate in the Constitution such obligation to be fulfilled at least once in 10 years. For the purpose of ensuring global competitiveness of Georgian economy structural modernization of economy will be performed. It will be based on the reasonable application of the comparative advantages of the country. Export will be stimulated and import will be substituted, which is an integral part of structural modernization.

The state will ensure establishment of a fair, free and competitive market environment; a modern and flexible infrastructure, which will be accessible for all economic subjects equally, will be formed. Agricultural production will increase, which will ensure a stable income of the significant part of the labor resources of Georgia, as well as increase of food safety and export potential of the country. Development of small and medium business sectors will ensure overcoming of the economic crisis of the country, reduction of unemployment, poverty and improvement of social background, establishment of numerous and strong middle class. The market will become competitive, free entrepreneurship will be promoted.

Modern standards of efficiency and transparency will be established in the sphere of management of the public funds; taxes paid by the population will be spent purposefully and transparently; high inequality of income distribution will be overcome and all families will feel the success of economy.

The main objective of the government of Georgia is establishment of optimal, demonopolized market system. A free market economy- based vision includes: drawing a distinct boarder between the government and private sector and separation of their actual functions; minimal participation of the public sector, and adequate and efficient realization of its functions. The government will ensure specific environment, it will not interfere with the private sector and market, which have a definite function in terms of growth of welfare.

The priorities of the actual targeted priorities of the state are: agriculture, small and medium entrepreneurship, rural - agricultural products processing industry, social sector - pension reform, public health area reform, system of support of the miserable.

Implementation of investments in the real sector of Georgia is one of the most important factors of economic development. The state will create favorable environment for internal, as well as foreign investments, which implies security of investments, creation of stable and predictable business environment. The policy will also be directed towards increase of savings and reinvestments.

The state policy will be oriented on saving and increase of capital rather than consumption, which will perform the determining role in the long-term sustainable development.

In terms of foreign - trade policy, significant expansion of export market area is a priority issue for Georgian government, introduction of a free trade system with EU and the USA, restoration of trade relations with the Russian Federation.

The governmental strategy of development stipulates a more active role of the family. Within the framework of family support this strategy will be based on: events supporting involvement of a family in commencing a small business; implementation of a deductions system in the taxable database of the income tax; regular benefits for large families; granting opportunity to the citizens to realize abilities through stimulation of employment; harmonization and optimization of tax system.

The government strategy implies development of small and medium business for provision of employment, support of agriculture, attracting of investments and support of production. As a result of the employment policy developed by the government it will become possible to find the workplace relevant to the qualification and experience and realize knowledge and skills; additional income will be generated and the social status of the population will improve; mass exodus of population abroad will reduce; the number of crimes committed on the grounds of hardship will reduce; demographic indicators will improve.

The government's priority direction is formation of efficient and civilized labor market.

Harmonization of the labor legislation with European legislation is an important component of performance of the mentioned task. The utility rates will be based on realistic calculations, will become relevant to the rendered service and available for the population of the country.

Accordingly, new and fair recalculation of the rates will be performed within the shortest possible

time, with the aim of reduction of the rates; rates will not grow on the basis of unfair and unreasonable decisions, as well as establishment of enslaving rates for the business, which raises the price of the goods and prevents business from development. Benefits for low-income and socially vulnerable layers of population will be introduced.

Healthcare and social policy

At the very first stage of reforming the system of healthcare system, all citizens of Georgia will receive a universal basic package of health insurance.

The universal basic package of health insurance provides high quality medical service, protection from financial risks, prevention of diseases and basic coverage of emergency care. For the objective of improvement of funding of health care system, mechanisms approved in the world will be adopted. A non-state non-profit institute will be established. The private insurance companies will be involved in provision of additional services besides those, stipulated by the basic package. Georgian hospital sector will be presented by state, municipal and private hospitals. Besides, the program funding of health care will increase.

Pension and social family support

An accumulative pension system will be established, in which the basis for a citizen to receive a pension will be funds accumulated by contributions. It is planned to implement in Georgia a new system of state and non-state pension insurance, based on the unified legislation, which is enacted in EU, and will gradually make the country an organic component of the social space. The basis for new system are principles recognized in the world, such as justice, solidarity and guarantees.

The substantial reform of the pension system, which implies adoption of the accumulative principle of this system, will be based on the compulsory pension insurance. As a result of the reform, private pension institutions will perform a significant role in the system. The amount of the pension will depend only on the record of insurance and the amount of insurance contributions. The state will have a distinct regulatory function, for the system to maintain stability. Besides, the citizens, who will have incomplete record and insurance contributions, will receive a social pension.

As for the pensioners, who, at the initial stage of the reform are or reach the pension age, will receive a pension from the state not less than the subsistence minimum, which will be stipulated by the relevant legislation.

The state labor pension (by age), the pension of I and II group of people with disabilities and families who do not have a bread-winner, politically repressed, victims of Chernobyl disaster, war and military veterans and state pension of other specific contingent will equal to the subsistence minimum; the discrimination of the pension of the law enforcement servants dismissed in 2005 will be eliminated, their pensions will be recalculated on the basis of current standards. The amount of social assistance of extremely vulnerable people will be doubled. The number of people receiving

assistance will increase. Despite the fact, that the system of social assistance will be federal and unified, nationwide assessment, service and administration of vulnerable people, will be delegated to municipal authorities.

Specialized institutions -homes and day hospitals for vulnerable children, elderly people and people with disabilities, as well as other specialized institutions will be an important component of social service. Development of the network of institutions for social service will be based on the principle of geographic access.

Development of agriculture

Development of agriculture will be one of the main priorities of the government of Georgia, which will be guaranteed by clear rural and regional policy and increasing of financing of agriculture.

The source of financing of agriculture will be the state budget, loans and grants, private investments (local and foreign) made by international organizations and certain donor-countries. The share of private investments will gradually increase in the structure of funding at the expense of reduction of other types of funding. 1-billion fund of “ development of agriculture” will be established

Within the framework of implementation of agriculture policy strategy: the issues of land use will be regulated; the agricultural sector will be provided with service and raw materials; small and medium farmers will be provided with available cash funds; production, profitability and competitiveness in the agriculture sector will increase; revenues received from agriculture production will increase; a modern system of agriculture education and science and consulting will be established; Georgian products will return to the domestic market; Georgia will establish itself a worthy place at the international market; business environment in the regions will be recovered and stimulated; the living conditions of the population of the regions will improve. Food safety, healthy food and maintenance of agro biodiversity will be ensured.

As a result of this policy, in the coming years, tens of thousands of workplaces for hired employees will be created in the agriculture sector; the welfare of the self-employed will increase, their revenues will exceed significantly the subsistence minimum, the hidden unemployment in the villages will reduce.

Small and Medium Business Development

SME development support policy is one of priority directions of the economic policy of the country. Georgian government will encourage small and medium-sized businesses, which will provide increase of investments and innovations in the private sector.

Family and Small Business Development Fund will be established; reforms ensuring cost-reduction will be implemented, that is, the monopoly prices for raw material and resources will reduce; risks in the business environment of the state policy will reduce and measures ensuring creation of healthy

competitive environment will be taken; by limitation of cartel agreements a competitive environment will be established, tax procedures will be simplified.

Institutions supporting business incubators and other small businesses will be set up and promoted; the representatives of small and medium business will receive information-consultation services nationwide; cooperation with international finance organizations will be activated, in order to review the terms of use of allocated targeted credit lines, for the credit lines to really become the mechanism of stimulation of small and medium business development, which has a significant importance for the development of agriculture.

On the one hand, a fair competition policy and, on the other hand, support of small and medium enterprises will ensure growth of the volume of their goods and revenues. This is followed by the increase of the indicator of employment in this sector, which will be one of the basis for improvement of social status.

The State will ensure that the development of Georgian economy must be based on the development of local industry and stimulation of the savings. The opportunities of the business development will be expanded and long-term state programs will be implemented. The policy implemented by the government will ensure partner cooperation between the banking sector and business structures. A special agriculture fund will be set up, which will serve the agriculture sector, in addition, a special fund for financing family, small and medium business will be established. A special attention will be paid to the commencement of business and availability of credits for those young people, who want to start a business. The relevant changes will be introduced to the legislative database, according to which protection of the rights of the borrowers will be paid special attention, and the sanctions and restrictions implemented towards them by the creditors will be relevant to the standards approved by the international practice.

Property and transaction security

With the objective of the protection of the right of property a fair, depoliticized, free court will be established; efficiency and timely decision-making of the court system will be ensured; the “elite” corruption will be eliminated; the judiciary will be released from the influence of the state agencies; conditions will be established, when it will be impossible to confiscate the justly acquired property.

Competition and consumer protection

A sustainable economic environment will be established in the country, which will be based on the principle of fairness and protection of consumer rights. The policy promoting free trade and competition will be implemented: a truly independent competition agency will be established; the agency will be assigned the function of the market monitoring, which implies implementation of the relevant research.

The area of vertical and horizontal transactions monitoring will significantly increase (most part of such transactions do not fall under the sphere of regulation of the current legislation, which does not comply with EU models); the National Bank of Georgia will impose a strict control, in order to prevent commercial banks from non-competitive environment and conflict of interests.

The prices on fuel, pharmaceutical products and other goods will decrease, which will be achieved by a healthy competition; the representatives of small and medium business will be given the opportunity to operate in the spheres artificially closed for them today, which will have a positive impact at the business activity, as well as on the employment figures. The relations between business sector and state will become transparent, which will have a positive impact at the budget revenues; purchase of food and services will not be hazardous to health; consumer rights violation facts will significantly reduce.

Tax policy

The government policy is based on the principle of ensuring an equitable mechanisms of taxation, every year the non-taxable minimum of income tax will be determined, which will not be less than the minimum wage. In addition, the reasonable system of deductions for physical persons will be adopted (fees related to health, insurance and performance of professional activities); the system of deductions from the income tax will be regulated; the nomenclature of the excise goods will be reviewed and mainly the items of luxury will be taxed; the property tax assessment system will be cancelled and the actual 1% rate will be maintained; the guarantees of stability of taxation will be created (the stable tax environment will be established and frequent changes in the tax system will be debarred); the law will not allow new changes instantly into action and reasonable timeframes will be established for their enactment after adoption; the vague provisions in the tax code and the possibility of their double interpretation will be regulated, tax standards will be simplified and the disputable norms will be resolved in favor of the entrepreneurs; the dominant role of the state in the tax disputes will be reduced and a specialized judges will be appointed in the Administrative Chamber; an optimal model of taxation of small business will be set up with the simple model of accounting and alternative mechanisms of taxation; certain violations of the tax system will be decriminalized; the fees and penalties in the tax and administrative sphere will be reduced and put within reasonable limits; in case of imposing sanctions, the reserves of the company will not be sealed and its business activities will not be limited; the fees and taxes for services rendered by administrative authorities will be reduced; only technical issues related to tax administration will be regulated by means of bylaws (orders, instructions).

Foreign investments and balance of payments

With the objective of reduction of socio - economic crisis, attraction of investments and rectification of the balance of payments, the government of Georgia will: create a stable legal

environment for investors; release the investors from the influence of the government and create firm guarantees of their property security; exempt entrepreneurs from the "obligation" to finance events conducted by the government and carry out "charity" forced by the government; the cooperation with EU and the USA will be enhanced for the purpose of concluding an agreement on free trade. For this purpose, in compliance with international requirements, changes in the labor code will be made, a true legislation about competition and the mechanisms of regulation will be introduced, the mechanisms of standardization and certification and food safety will be implemented, which is a necessary precondition for conclusion of the mentioned agreements; antidumping activities of regulations of protection from interventions of foreign trade will be implemented; protection from low quality goods and dumping prices at the local market according to the regulations of the World Trade Organization; employment opportunities will be provided; employment conditions will be improved and the citizens will not be forced to work hard abroad.

Monetary Policy

The monetary policy will be directed at adopting of a long-term target orientations; the main priorities of money-and-credit and currency policy will be defined, where issue of money will be relevant to the economic growth of the country; increase of confidence in the national currency will be promoted and reduction of the dollarization scale will be provided; the National Bank will be released from political pressure; commercial banks will be encouraged for healthy competition; the system of insuring deposits will be implemented, which will become a reliable mechanism for increase of savings and growth of investing.

Fiscal Policy

The government of Georgia will increase the efficiency of budget expenditure, cancel the unreasonable expenses, by way of reduction of the scale of administrative expenses and shadow economy, will accumulate significant funds in the budget, which will finance priority areas-health and social care, education and agriculture.

An effective mechanism of determination of budget priorities will be developed, which will be oriented at identification of the problems of society; the budget will be published in a simplified format and its public hearing will be conducted; administrative expenses will be optimized; an efficient mechanism of protection of public servants will be worked out; the scale of shadow economy will be reduced and, as a result, the budget revenues will increase; the Chamber of Control of Georgia (State Audit Office) will actually become involved in the budget process. Its main activities will be the audit of financial compliance and performance audit.

Environmental protection and rational use of natural resources

The sphere of environmental protection will be one of priority directions of the government activities. Environment protection standards and legal-normative base will be developed in

compliance with the requirements of EU; Georgia will gradually perform obligations undertaken by bilateral and multilateral environment protection agreements; a modern principle-based system of strategic assessment of environmental impact and environmental monitoring will be set up; the network of air condition observations will be expanded and modernized, sanitary zones will be created/recovered; the quality of fuel, activities of auto park and enterprises will comply with the modern standards of environment protection.

The mechanisms of sustainable use of land resources will be worked out, for soil erosion reduction, prevention of desertification and preservation of soil fertile layer; the complex of actions required for protection and maintenance of biodiversity will be performed, modern methods will be implemented in forestry, import of genetically modified seeds and nursery will be prohibited, obligatory labeling of finished genetically modified products will be introduced, preservation of local cultural varieties will be promoted, as well as development of organic farming; an infrastructure required for collection of waste will be arranged in the cities, the system of prognosis natural disasters and timely warning of population will be set up, protection-restoration works of the Black Sea coastal line and rivers will be ensured; taking into account environmental issues in the process of urban planning and construction activities will be obligatory; development of the infrastructure of environmentally sound transport will be promoted.

Conflict Resolution

The issue of conflict resolution is the most important component of the foreign political relations problems of the government. For the preparation of the grounds for comprehensive settlement of conflicts, creation of a stable secure environment, formation of firm mechanisms of prevention of the danger of provocations and involvement of international organizations in the process of provision of solid guarantees.

Despite fundamental differences in the positions related to the issues of political settlement of conflicts, Georgian, Abkhaz and Ossetian communities must take the responsibility for the security of the region, as well as future generations. It is necessary to start negotiations regarding guarantees of the security, whose mechanism must be created in OSCE or UN format.

The public diplomacy, economic rehabilitation and business projects will be given way. Family, marital and personal relations, which are maintained by the population residing on both sides of the “dividing line” will be encouraged. By participation of the friendly countries and international organizations, projects of the NGO sector, which will contribute to the dialogue of political experts of the parties, set up of businessmen, journalists, farmers, ecologists, MD workers, students and other “interest groups” will be supported.

The social and economic development of the regions surrounding the conflict, Samegrelo and Shida Kartli, is a strategic focus; for this purpose a special foundation of support of rehabilitation projects will be established. The population of Abkhazia and South Ossetia/Tskhinvali will have the right to freely enjoy any advantages and services rendered to the citizens of Georgia; The principles of activities of the government of autonomous republics of Abkhazia and South Ossetia will be changed. They will take over from the central structures the management of the issues related to IDPS, and the representative authorities of refugees will be staffed by way of elections.

For the success of conflict resolution building of democratic institutions and speeding up of resolution of social and economic development problems will be decisive. The success of state policy in this direction must convince the communities of Abkhazia and South Ossetia/Tskhinvali region in the advantages of living in the united state.

Defense system and armed forces

The government of Georgia will develop a national security strategy and conduct national security policy in compliance with Western standards and methods.

The mechanism of social control of military forces will improve, the participation of the Parliament in the issue of development and control of the armed forces will increase. The Ministry of defense shall be obliged to submit a public report to the Parliament, including financial issues.

The main objective of the government is complete depoliticization of the Ministry, personnel provision of the armed forces only on the grounds of professionalism; distribution of the functions between the Ministry of Defense and the Joint Staff shall be performed in view of the international standards, the military service and civil political functions shall be clearly differentiated.

The mechanisms of management, coordination and control with relevant specific functions and obligations will be established. The political vertical will be established so that in determination of the defense policy of the country the political spectrum will take active part, as the defense and security of the country are not a narrow commitment or an interest of any political force or party. Due to threats and challenges that the country faces, existence of a strong military reserve system is required. Complete reform of compulsory military service will be performed and its reserve service will be transformed into potential, in which the department of the National Guard will perform the major role. An efficient system of civil defense will be developed, which will be a component of the defense system of the whole country and the local self-government bodies will take an active part in it.

An information security doctrine will be established, which will be based on the main principles of the concept of national security and will develop these principles with respect to the information sphere; for military men decent working conditions will be ensured and adequate social guarantees for them and former military personnel will be provided.

A Western-style military career system will be introduced. Considerable attention will be paid to the gender balance and the issue of provision of equal opportunities in the army. The contracts will equally take into account the rights and obligations of the state, as well as of the military personnel. Particular attention will be paid to the education and increase of qualification. The development of the National Defense Academy and its formation into the high institution of NATO standards will become one of the main priorities. The state will help the military servant to study modern professions and acquire skills. After completion of military service the state will take over the obligation to train the military personnel with the objective of their further employment.

Fundamental reforms will be performed in the system of provision of rights and interests of military and war veterans. It will provide social assistance, professional qualification and employment components. The military-parliamentary ombudsman institute will be established, all cases of violation of rights of military servants will be reviewed, the claims regarding legitimacy of allocation of pensions will be reconsidered.

Taking in view the priority of integration in NATO, cooperation with partner countries will continue for ensuring the relevant recommendations.

Education and Science

Education is a priority direction for the government of Georgia. Depoliticization of the system of education will be carried out. The system of education will be based on internationally recognized, modern standards. High level of academic, administrative and financial autonomy of higher and vocational educational institutions will be guaranteed.

The content of the institute of resource officers at schools will change; resource officer, as a school employee will protect security of the school, according to the regulation of the school and agreement concluded by the administration.

The mechanism of effective management of the system of education will be established. Management of the system of education will not be based any more on façade plans, but coherent and results-oriented short-, medium and long-term strategic planning; the competences of local self-government in the sphere of education will increase and be differentiated from the central government.

For preservation/attraction of qualified personnel to the educational institutions an objective, transparent and efficient mechanism will be set up, for administrative positions, as well as academic and other positions; the labor right of a teacher, professor, scientist will be protected and nobody will release them due to personal or political motives.

Efficient participation of parents in the life of the school, discussion and evaluation of the school performance report will be ensured.

Maintenance of objective and reliable statistics of the system of education will be performed, relevant international practice and methodologies will be implemented; unified methodologies of drawing strategic plans of the educational institutions and preparing the report of activities will be implemented; impartial monitoring and evaluation of the system of education will be performed; disclosure of relevant documents will be provided.

Effective mechanism of financing of the education will be established. Expenditure on education in relation to GDP will increase; availability of education will grow. The quality of education will be high. The scientific potential of the higher educational institutions will increase. The state policy in terms of scientific and scientific-research institutes will be developed; science will become the basis of economy based on knowledge; funding of science will substantially increase on the basis of the priorities of the government.

New, European system of organizing and support of fundamental and applied research will be formed; an efficient system for provision of scientific research meeting modern requirements will be set up, which will promote maximum realization of scientific potential of Georgia, permanent development of science and its integration into unified scientific environment.

Development of scientific infrastructure will be ensured, increase of the quality of research, involvement of young people into scientific-research activities, integration of the science of the country into the international scientific environment; a result-oriented grant financing system will be established in the sphere of science.

Georgian science and research institutions will be integrated into the international scientific and academic space, including joint research activities, in the form of participation in the international projects; the system of science will be based on the existing potential of research institutes. The representatives of the institutions will participate in the management of these institutions; one of the key objectives of the country will be attraction of talented young people to science.

Culture and Sport

As a result of measures in the field of culture, Georgia will become a worthy member of modern world. With this objective a strategic plan of cultural development will be worked out, which will take into account such principles, as: free activities of the citizens of Georgia in the sphere of culture and ensuring non-interference of the government into the creative process.

Individual decisions from the officials will be excluded. Georgian culture will be integrated into the world cultural space. The cultural heritage will be protected in compliance with world recognized standards, UNESCO and recommendations of other international organizations.

Special measures will be taken for protection of the Georgian language as the state language. The state will take care of the state language, in order to guarantee protection of constitutional status of Georgian language. The law on state language will be developed and enacted.

The main priorities of sport reform are: drafting a new law about sport; depoliticization and decentralization of sport; creating conditions for the sport to become accessible for all layers of population; modernization of sport infrastructure; development of highest academic and secondary sport education; development of sport science; implementation of modern technologies.