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EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW
OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE
(VENICE COMMISSION)

GEORGIA

**Law on Foreign Agents Registration, amendments to the Law on
Grants, and other laws relating to “foreign influence”**

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I. Georgian Law on Foreign Agents Registration Act (N399-III06-XI03)

Article 1. DEFINITIONS

As used in and for the purposes of this subchapter--

(a) The term **"person"** includes an individual, partnership, association, corporation, organisation, or any other combination of individuals;

(b) The term **"foreign principal"** includes--

(1) a government of a foreign country and a foreign political party;

(2) a person outside of Georgia, unless it is established that such person is an individual and a citizen of and domiciled within Georgia, or that such person is not an individual and is organised under or created by the laws of Georgia or of any State or other place subject to the jurisdiction of Georgia and has its principal place of business within Georgia;

(3) a partnership, association, corporation, organisation, or other combination of persons organised under the laws of foreign country or having its principal place of business in a foreign country.

(c) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, the term **"agent of a foreign principal"** means--

(c.a) any person who acts as an agent, representative, employee, or servant, or any person who acts in any other capacity at the order, request, or under the direction or control, of a foreign principal or of a person any of whose activities are directly or indirectly supervised, directed, controlled, financed, or subsidised in whole or in major part by a foreign principal, provided that such a person meets one of the following conditions--

(c.a.a) engages within Georgia in political activities for or in the interests of such foreign principal;

(c.a.b) acts within Georgia as a public relations counsel, publicity agent, information-service employee or political consultant for or in the interests of such foreign principal;

(c.a.c) within Georgia solicits, collects, disburses, or dispenses contributions, loans, money, or other things of value for or in the interest of such foreign principal; or

(c.a.d) within Georgia represents the interests of such foreign principal before any agency or official of the Government of the United States; and

(c.b) any person who agrees, consents, assumes or purports to act as, or who is or holds himself out to be, whether or not pursuant to contractual relationship, an agent of a foreign principal as defined in clause (c.a) of this subsection.

(d) The term "Agent of a Foreign Principal" does not include: A mass media outlet engaged in the fair dissemination of news, a union of persons engaged in mass media activities, a print media outlet, or a union of persons engaged in print media activities that are established or formed under Georgian legislation. Additionally, it does not apply to newspapers, magazines, periodicals, or publications that are issued in Georgia in the course of bona fide news dissemination or journalistic activities. This includes advertising, subscription offers for products or services, or other forms of remuneration. This paragraph applies only to mass media outlets, unions engaged in mass media activities, print media outlets, or unions engaged in print media activities, as well as newspapers, magazines, periodicals, and publications, whose beneficial owners and managers (if applicable) are Georgian citizens and where at least 80% of ownership is held by Georgian

citizens. Furthermore, such an entity must not be owned, managed, controlled, supervised, subsidised, financed, or have its policies determined by a foreign principal as defined in subparagraph "b" of this Article or by an agent of a foreign principal registered under this law.

(e) The term "**government of a foreign country**" includes any person or group of persons exercising sovereign de facto or de jure political jurisdiction over any country, other than Georgia, or over any part of such country, and includes any subdivision of any such group and any group or agency to which such sovereign de facto or de jure authority or functions are directly or indirectly delegated. Such term shall include any faction or body of insurgents within a country assuming to exercise governmental authority whether such faction or body of insurgents has or has not been recognised by Georgia;

(f) The term "**foreign political party**" includes any foreign organisation or any other combination of foreign individuals, or any unit or branch thereof, having for an aim or purpose, or which is engaged in any activity devoted in whole or in part to, the establishment, administration, control, or acquisition of administration or control, of a government of a foreign country or a subdivision thereof, or the furtherance or influencing of the political or public interests, policies, or relations of a government of a foreign country or a subdivision thereof;

(g) The term "**public-relations counsel**" includes any person who engages directly or indirectly in informing, advising, or in any way representing a principal in any public relations matter pertaining to political or public interests, policies, or relations of such principal;

(h) The term "**publicity agent**" includes any person who engages directly or indirectly in the publication or dissemination of oral, visual, graphic, written, or pictorial information or matter of any kind, including publication by means of advertising, books, periodicals, newspapers, lectures, broadcasts, motion pictures, or otherwise;

(i) The term "**information-service employee**" includes any person who is engaged in furnishing, disseminating, or publishing accounts, descriptions, information, or data with respect to the political, industrial, employment, economic, social, cultural, or other benefits, advantages, facts, or conditions of any country other than Georgia or of any government of a foreign country or of a foreign political party or of a partnership, association, corporation, organisation, or other combination of individuals organised under the laws of, or having its principal place of business in, a foreign country;

(k) The term "**registration statement**" - A statement that must be submitted to a public legal entity—the Anti-Corruption Bureau (hereinafter referred to as the "Anti-Corruption Bureau")—in accordance with paragraph 1 of Article 2 of this law, along with any necessary additional documents. This includes all required and supplementary documents as well as any other referenced documentation.

(l) The term "**prints**" means newspapers and periodicals, books, pamphlets, sheet music, visiting cards, address cards, printing proofs, engravings, photographs, pictures, drawings, plans, maps, patterns to be cut out, catalogs, prospectuses, advertisements, and printed, engraved, lithographed, or autographed notices of various kinds, and, in general, all impressions or reproductions obtained on paper or other material assimilable to paper, on parchment or on cardboard, by means of printing, engraving, lithography, autography, or any other easily recognisable mechanical process, with the exception of the copying press, stamps with movable or immovable type, and the typewriter;

(m) The term "**political activities**" means any activity that the person engaging in believes will, or that the person intends to, in any way influence any agency or official of the Government of Georgia or any section of the public within Georgia with reference to formulating, adopting, or changing the domestic or foreign policies of Georgia or with reference to the political or public interests, policies, or relations of a government of a foreign country or a foreign political party;

(n) The term "**political consultant**" means any person who engages in informing or advising any other person with reference to the domestic or foreign policies of Georgia or the political or public interest, policies, or relations of a foreign country or of a foreign political party.

Article 2. REQUIREMENTS AS TO REGISTRATION

1. No person shall act as an agent of a foreign principal unless he has filed with the Anti-Corruption Bureau a true and complete registration statement and supplements thereto as required by sections 1 and 2 of this article or unless he is exempt from registration under the provisions of this law. Except as hereinafter provided, every person who becomes an agent of a foreign principal shall, within ten days thereafter, file with the Anti-Corruption Bureau, in duplicate, a registration statement, under oath on a form prescribed by the Head of the Anti-Corruption Bureau. The obligation of an agent of a foreign principal to file a registration statement shall, after the tenth day of his becoming such agent, continue from day to day, and termination of such status shall not relieve such agent from his obligation to file a registration statement for the period during which he was an agent of a foreign principal. The registration statement shall include the following:

(a) Registrant's name, principal business address, and all other business addresses in Georgia or elsewhere, and all residence addresses, if any;

(b) Status of the registrant; if an individual, nationality; if a partnership, name, residence addresses, and nationality of each partner and a true and complete copy of its articles of co-partnership; if an association, corporation, organisation, or any other combination of individuals, the name, residence addresses, and nationality of each director and officer and of each person performing the functions of a director or officer and a true and complete copy of its charter, articles of incorporation, association, constitution, and bylaws, and amendments thereto; a copy of every other instrument or document and a statement of the terms and conditions of every oral agreement relating to its organisation, powers, and purposes; and a statement of its ownership and control;

(c) A comprehensive statement of the nature of registrant's business; a complete list of registrant's employees and a statement of the nature of the work of each; the name and address of every foreign principal for whom the registrant is acting, assuming or purporting to act or has agreed to act; the character of the business or other activities of every such foreign principal, and, if any such foreign principal be other than a natural person, a statement of the ownership and control of each; and the extent, if any, to which each such foreign principal is supervised, directed, owned, controlled, financed, or subsidised, in whole or in part, by any government of a foreign country and/or foreign political party, and/or by other foreign principal;

(d) Copies of each written agreement and the terms and conditions of each oral agreement, including all modifications of such agreements, or, where no contract exists, a full statement of all the circumstances, by reason of which the registrant is an agent of a foreign principal; a comprehensive statement of the nature and method of performance of each such contract, and of the existing and proposed activity or activities engaged in or to be engaged in by the registrant as agent of a foreign principal for each such foreign principal, including a detailed statement of any such activity which is a political activity;

(e) The nature and amount of contributions, income, money, or thing of value, if any, that the registrant has received within the preceding sixty days from each such foreign principal, either as compensation or for disbursement or otherwise, and the form and time of each such payment and from whom received;

(f) A detailed statement of every activity which the registrant is performing or is assuming or purporting or has agreed to perform for himself or any other person other than a foreign principal and which requires his registration hereunder, including a detailed statement of any such activity which is a political activity;

(g) The name, business, and residence addresses, and if an individual, the nationality, of any person other than a foreign principal for whom the registrant is acting, assuming or purporting to act or has agreed to act under such circumstances as require his registration hereunder; the extent to which each such person is supervised, directed, owned, controlled, financed, or subsidised, in whole or in part, by any government of a foreign country or foreign political party or by any other foreign principal; and the nature and amount of contributions, income, money, or thing of value, if any, that the registrant has received during the preceding sixty days from each such person in connection with any of the activities referred to in clause (e) of this subsection, either as compensation or for disbursement or otherwise, and the form and time of each such payment and from whom received;

(h) A detailed statement of the money and other things of value spent or disposed of by the registrant during the preceding sixty days in furtherance of or in connection with activities which require his registration hereunder and which have been undertaken by him either as an agent of a foreign principal or for himself or any other person or in connection with any activities relating to his becoming an agent of such principal, and a detailed statement of any contributions of money or other things of value made by him during the preceding sixty days (other than contributions the making of which is prohibited under the Georgian law) in connection with an election to any political office or in connection with any primary election, convention, or caucus held to select candidates for any political office;

(i) Copies of each written agreement and the terms and conditions of each oral agreement, including all modifications of such agreements, or, where no contract exists, a full statement of all the circumstances, by reason of which the registrant is performing or assuming or purporting or has agreed to perform for himself or for a foreign principal or for any person other than a foreign principal any activities which require his registration hereunder;

(j) Other statements, information, or documents pertinent to the purposes of this law as the Anti-Corruption Bureau, having due regard for the national security and the public interest, may from time to time require;

(k) Such further statements and such further copies of documents as are necessary to corroborate the statements made in the registration statement and supplements thereto, and the copies of documents furnished therewith.

2. Every agent of a foreign principal who has filed a registration statement required by the first section of this article, within thirty days after the expiration of each period of six months succeeding such filing, file with the Anti-Corruption Bureau a supplement thereto under oath, on a form prescribed by the head of the Anti-Corruption Bureau, which shall set forth with respect to such preceding six months' period such facts as the head of the Anti-Corruption Bureau, having due regard for the national security and the public interest, may deem necessary to make the information required under this section accurate, complete, and current with respect to such period. In connection with the information furnished under clauses (c), (d), (f), and (i) of subsection (a) of this section, the registrant shall give notice to the Anti-Corruption Bureau of any changes therein within ten days after such changes occur. If the Anti-Corruption Bureau, having due regard for the national security and the public interest, determines that it is necessary to carry out the purposes of this law, he/she may, in any particular case, require supplements to the registration statement to be filed at more frequent intervals in respect to all or particular items of information to be furnished.

3. The registration statement and supplements thereto shall be executed under oath as follows: if the registrant is an individual, by him/her; if the registrant is a partnership, by the majority of the members thereof; if the registrant is a person other than an individual or a partnership, by a majority of the officers thereof or persons performing the functions of officers or by a majority of the board of directors thereof or persons performing the functions of directors, if any.

4. The fact that a registration statement or supplement thereto has been filed shall not necessarily be deemed a full compliance with this law and the regulations thereunder on the part of the registrant; nor shall it indicate that the Anti-Corruption Bureau has in any way passed upon the merits of such registration statement or supplement thereto; nor shall it preclude prosecution, as provided for in this law, for willful failure to file a registration statement or supplement thereto when due or for a willful false statement of a material fact therein or the willful omission of a material fact required to be stated therein or the willful omission of a material fact or copy of a material document necessary to make the statements made in a registration statement and supplements thereto, and the copies of documents furnished therewith, not misleading.

5. Under this law, the head of the Anti-Corruption Bureau, having due regard for national security and the public interest, may determine that registration and furnishing of such information is not necessary to carry out the purposes of this law by reason of the nature of the functions or activities of such person, and permit the following exemptions:

(a) from registration, or from the requirement of furnishing any of the information required by this section, of any person who is listed as a partner, officer, director, or employee in the registration statement filed by an agent of a foreign principal under this law;

(b) from the requirement of furnishing any of the information required by this section of any agent of a foreign principal

6. Under this article, the registration statement and supplements thereto must be filed electronically and in other forms that the Anti-Corruption Bureau may require.

Article 3. EXEMPTIONS

1. The requirements of the first section of Article 2 of this law shall not apply to the following agents of foreign principals:

(a) A duly accredited diplomatic or consular officer of a foreign government who is so recognised by Georgian law, while said officer is engaged exclusively in activities which are recognised by Georgian law as being within the scope of the functions of such officer;

(b) Any official of a foreign government, if such government is recognised by Georgia, who is not a public-relations counsel, publicity agent, information-service employee, or a citizen of Georgia, whose name and status and the character of whose duties as such official are of public record in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, while said official is engaged exclusively in activities which are recognised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia as being within the scope of the functions of such official;

(c) Any member of the staff of, or any person employed by, a duly accredited diplomatic or consular officer of a foreign government who is so recognised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, other than a public-relations counsel, publicity agent, or information-service employee, whose name and status and the character of whose duties as such member or employee are of public record in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, while said member or employee is engaged exclusively in the performance of activities which are recognised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia as being within the scope of the functions of such member or employee;

(d) Any person engaging or agreeing to engage only in private and nonpolitical activities, in the soliciting and collecting funds:

d.a) in furtherance of the *bona fide* trade or commerce of such foreign principal;

d.b) in other activities not serving predominantly a foreign interest;

d.c) in the soliciting or collecting of funds and contributions within Georgia to be used only for medical aid and assistance, or for food and clothing to relieve human suffering, if such

solicitation or collection of funds and contributions is based upon and is in accordance with Georgia's international agreements, and follows regulations and procedures prescribed by such agreements.

(e) Any person engaging or agreeing to engage only in activities in furtherance of bona fide religious, scholastic, academic, or scientific pursuits or of the fine arts;

(f) Regarding the defense of foreign country that is of significance for the defense of Georgia:

f.a) Any person, or employee of such person, whose foreign principal is a government of a foreign country the defense of which the Government of Georgia deems vital to the defense of Georgia. Such person or employee is exempt from registration duty if:

f.a.a) such person or employee engages only in activities which are in furtherance of policies, public interest, or national security both of such government and of the Government of Georgia, and are not intended to conflict with any of the domestic or foreign policies of the Government of Georgia;

f.a.b) Each communication or expression by such person or employee which he/she intends to, or has reason to believe will, be published, disseminated, or circulated among any section of the public, or portion thereof, within Georgia, is a part of such activities and is believed by such person to be truthful and accurate and the identity of such person as an agent of such foreign principal is disclosed therein;

f.a.c) Such government of a foreign country furnishes to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia the identity and activities of such person or employee to be kept on record at the Anti-Corruption Bureau for the period defined by the Anti-Corruption Bureau.

f.b) The head of the Anti-Corruption Bureau, having due regard for the public interest and national defense, may, with the approval of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, and shall, at the request of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, terminate in whole or in part the exemption described in the subsection (f) of the first section of this Article.

(g) Any person qualified to practice law, insofar as he /she engages or agrees to engage in the legal representation of a disclosed foreign principal before any court of law or any agency of the Government of Georgia: Provided, That for the purposes of this law legal representation does not include attempts to influence or persuade Georgian agency personnel or officials other than in the course of judicial proceedings, criminal or civil law enforcement inquiries, investigations, or proceedings required by the Georgian law.

(h) Any agent of a person described in the subsection (b.b) or (b.c) of the Article 1 if the agent has engaged in lobbying activities and has registered under the Georgia Law on Lobbying.

Article 4. FILING AND LABELING OF POLITICAL PROPAGANDA

1. Every person within the Georgia who is an agent of a foreign principal and required to register under the provisions of this law and who transmits in Georgia mails or by any means or instrumentality of international relations or foreign commerce any informational materials for or in the interests of such foreign principal in the form of prints, or in any other form which is reasonably adapted to being, or which he/she believes will be, or which he/she intends to be, disseminated or circulated among two or more persons shall, not later than forty-eight hours after the beginning of the transmittal thereof, file with the Anti-Corruption Bureau two copies thereof.

2. It shall be unlawful for any person within Georgia who is an agent of a foreign principal and required to register under the provisions of this law to transmit or cause to be transmitted in Georgia mails or by any means or instrumentality of domestic or foreign commerce any informational materials for or in the interests of such foreign principal without placing in such informational materials a conspicuous statement that the materials are distributed by the agent on behalf of the foreign principal, and that additional information is on file with the Anti-

Corruption Bureau. The Head of Anti-Corruption Bureau may by rule define what constitutes a conspicuous statement for the purposes of this law.

3. The copies of informational materials required by this law to be filed with the Anti-Corruption Bureau shall be available for public inspection under such regulations as the Head of Anti-Corruption Bureau may prescribe.

4. It shall be unlawful for any person within the Georgia who is an agent of a foreign principal required to register under the provisions of this law to transmit, convey, or otherwise furnish to any agency or official of the Government for or in the interests of such foreign principal any political propaganda or to request from any such agency or official for or in the interests of such foreign principal any information or advice with respect to any matter pertaining to the political or public interests, policies or relations of a foreign country or of a political party or pertaining to the foreign or domestic policies of Georgia unless the propaganda or the request is prefaced or accompanied by a true and accurate statement to the effect that such person is registered as an agent of such foreign principal under this law.

5. Whenever any agent of a foreign principal required to register under this law appears before a committee, including an ad hoc inquiry committee or any other committee, of the Parliament to testify for or in the interests of such foreign principal, such person shall, at the time of such appearance, furnish the committee with a copy of his most recent registration statement filed with the Anti-Corruption Bureau as an agent of such foreign principal for inclusion in the records of the committee as part of his testimony.

Article 5. DOCUMENTS AND RECORDS

Every agent of a foreign principal registered under this law shall keep and preserve while he/she is an agent of a foreign principal such books of account and other records with respect to all his activities, the disclosure of which is required under the provisions of this law, in accordance with such business and accounting practices, as the Head of the Anti-Corruption Bureau, having due regard for the national security and the public interest, may by regulation prescribe as necessary or appropriate for the enforcement of the provisions of this law and shall preserve the same for a period of three years following the termination of such status. Until regulations are in effect under this section every agent of a foreign principal shall keep books of account and shall preserve all written records with respect to his/her activities. Such books and records shall be open at all reasonable times to the inspection of any agency charged with the enforcement of this law. It shall be unlawful for any person willfully to conceal, destroy, obliterate, mutilate, or falsify, or to attempt to conceal, destroy, obliterate, mutilate, or falsify, or to cause to be concealed, destroyed, obliterated, mutilated, or falsified, any books or records required to be kept under the provisions of this article.

Article 6. PUBLIC MONITORING OF OFFICIAL RECORDS, TRANSMISSION OF RECORDS AND INFORMATION

1. The Head Anti-Corruption Bureau shall retain in permanent form one copy of all registration statements furnished under this law, and shall be open to public examination and inspection at such reasonable hours, under such regulations, as the Head Anti-Corruption Bureau may prescribe. Copies of these registration statements shall be furnished to every applicant at such reasonable fee as the Head Anti-Corruption Bureau may prescribe. The Head Anti-Corruption Bureau may withdraw from public examination the registration statement and other statements of any agent of a foreign principal whose activities have ceased to be of a character which requires registration under the provisions of this law.

2. The Head Anti-Corruption Bureau shall, promptly upon receipt, transmit one copy of every registration statement filed hereunder and one copy of every amendment or supplement thereto filed hereunder, to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia for such comment and use

as the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia may determine to be appropriate from the point of view of the foreign relations of Georgia. Failure of the Head Anti-Corruption Bureau so to transmit such copy shall not be a bar to prosecution under this law.

3. The Head Anti-Corruption Bureau is authorised to furnish to government agencies such information obtained in the administration of this law, including the names of registrants under this law, copies of registration statements, or parts thereof, or other documents or information filed under this law, as may be appropriate in the light of the purposes of this law.

4. To create a public repository of registration statements and updates thereto, the Head of the Anti-Corruption Bureau must:

a) Ensure that, within existing technical capabilities, there is a searchable, categorisable and downloadable free database hosted online containing registration statements and updates thereto filed under this law, and this information can be searched, categorised and filed, at the very least, in accordance with the categories listed in the first section of Article 2 of this law.

b) Ensure that each registration statement and its updates, filed electronically under section 6 of Article 2 this law, are publicly available online within reasonable times after such registration statements and updates are filed.

Article 7. LIABILITIES OF PERSONS HIRED BY FOREIGN PRINCIPLE

Each director or officer of an agent of a foreign principle which is not an individual, or each person performing the functions of a director or officer of an agent of a foreign principal which is not an individual, shall be under obligation to file a registration statement and supplements thereto as required under sections 2 of Article 2 of this law, and shall also be under obligation to cause such agent to comply with all the requirements of sections 2 and 5 of Article 4 of this law, and all other requirements of this law. Dissolution of any organisation acting as an agent of a foreign principal shall not relieve any officer, or person performing the functions of an officer, or any director, or person performing the functions of a director, from complying with the provisions of this section. In case of failure of any such agent of a foreign principal to comply with any of the requirements of this law, each of its officers, or persons performing the functions of officers, and each of its directors, or persons performing the functions of directors, shall be subject to prosecution under Georgian law.

Article 8. ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES

1. Any person who

a) willfully violates any provision (article, section or subsection) of this law,

b) in any registration statement or supplement thereto or in any other document filed with or furnished to the Anti-Corruption Bureau under the provisions of this law willfully makes a false statement of a material fact or willfully omits any material fact required to be stated therein or willfully omits a material fact or a copy of a material document necessary to make the statements therein and the copies of documents furnished therewith not misleading, shall, upon conviction thereof, be punished by a fine of not more than **10,000 GEL** or by imprisonment for not more than **five years**, or both, except that in the case of a violation of sections 2, 4, or 5 of Article 4 of this law or of section 6 or 7 of this Article the punishment shall be a fine of not more than **5,000 GEL** or imprisonment for not more than six months, or both.

2. In any proceeding under this law in which it is charged that a person is an agent of a foreign principal with respect to a foreign principal based abroad, proof of the specific identity of the foreign principal shall be permissible but not necessary.

3. Any alien who shall be convicted of a violation of, or a conspiracy to violate, any provision of this law, shall be subject to removal pursuant to Georgian law.

4. Failure to file any such registration statement or supplements thereto as is required by section 1 and section 2 of Article 2 of this Law shall be considered a continuing offense for as long as such failure exists, notwithstanding any statute of limitation or other statute to the contrary.

5. If in the judgment of the Head of the Anti-Corruption Bureau any person is engaged in or is about to engage in any acts which constitute or will constitute a violation of any provision of this law, or regulations issued thereunder, or whenever any agent of a foreign principal fails to comply with any of the provisions of this law or the regulations issued thereunder, the Head of the Anti-Corruption Bureau may make application to the appropriate Georgian court for an order enjoining such acts or enjoining such person from continuing to act as an agent of such foreign principal, or for an order requiring compliance with any appropriate provision of this Law or regulation thereunder. The district court shall have jurisdiction and authority to issue a temporary or permanent injunction, restraining order or such other order which it may deem proper.

6. If the Head of the Anti-Corruption Bureau determines that a registration statement does not comply with the requirements of this law or the regulations issued thereunder, he/she shall so notify the registrant in writing, specifying in what respects the statement is deficient. It shall be unlawful for any person to act as an agent of a foreign principal at any time ten days or more after receipt of such notification even if filing an amended registration statement in full compliance with the requirements of this law and the regulations issued thereunder.

7. It shall be unlawful for any agent of a foreign principal required to register under this law to be a party to any contract or agreement with such foreign principal pursuant to which the amount or payment of the compensation, fee, or other remuneration of such agent is contingent in whole or in part upon the success of any political activities carried on by such agent.

Article 9. RULES AND REGULATIONS

The Head of the Anti-Corruption Bureau may at any time make, prescribe, amend, and rescind such rules and regulations as he/she may deem necessary to carry out the provisions of this law.

Article 10. REPORTS TO THE PARLIAMENT OF GEORGIA

The Head of the Anti-Corruption Bureau shall every six months report to the Parliament of Georgia concerning administration of this law, including registrations filed pursuant to this law, and the nature, sources and content of political propaganda disseminated and distributed.

Article 11. ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THIS LAW

This law shall enter into force on the 60th day after its publication.

President of Georgia

Mikheil Kavelashvili

Tbilisi, 1 April 2025

N399-II06-XI03

II. Amendments to the Criminal Code of Georgia (400-იღბ-ქიღ)

Article 1. The Criminal Code of Georgia (Legislative Herald of Georgia, No. 41(48), 1999, Art. 209) shall be supplemented with Article **355²** with the following content:

Article 355². Violation of the Law of Georgia “On the Registration of Foreign Agents”

1. Failure to comply with the requirements established by Paragraph 2, 4, or 5 of Article 4, or Paragraph 6 or 7 of Article 8 of the Law of Georgia “On the Registration of Foreign Agents” –
shall be punishable by a fine of up to 5,000 GEL or by imprisonment for up to six months, with or without a fine of up to 5,000 GEL.
2. Failure to fulfill or improper fulfillment of an obligation defined by the Law of Georgia “On the Registration of Foreign Agents” (except for the requirement provided for in paragraph 1 of this Article) –
shall be punishable by a fine of up to 10,000 GEL or by imprisonment for up to five years, with or without a fine of up to 10,000 GEL.

Note: A legal entity shall be punishable by a fine for actions stipulated by this Article.

Article 2. This law shall enter into force on the 60th day after its publication.

President of Georgia

Mikheil Kavelashvili

Tbilisi, 1 April 2025

No. 400-იღბ-ქიღ

III. Law of Georgia on Grants (331-II) - *consolidated version* with the amendments

Chapter I General Provisions

Article 1. Scope of Application

This Law determines the general principles of granting, receiving and using grants in Georgia.

Article 2. Grant

1. A grant is a targeted amount of money or in kind awarded free of charge by a grantor (donor) to a grantee, which is used for the implementation of specific humanitarian, educational, scientific-research, health care, **defence and security**, cultural, sports, ecological, agricultural development and social projects, as well as programs of state or public importance.

1¹. A grant is also considered a grant awarded by a legal entity of public law - the Georgian Innovation and Technology Agency - for the implementation of innovative activities specified in the Law of Georgia "On Innovations".

1². A grant awarded by the non-profit (non-commercial) legal entity "Peace Fund for a Better Future" for entrepreneurial purposes in accordance with its statutory objectives shall also be considered a grant.

1³. **Technical assistance provided by the grantor (donor), as outlined in subparagraph "a" of paragraph 1 of Article 3 of this Law, to the grantee defined in Article 4 of the same Law, in the form of sharing technologies, specialised knowledge, skills, expertise, and/or other types of assistance for the purpose specified in paragraph 1 of this Article, shall also be considered as a grant.**

2. Funds issued to achieve entrepreneurial goals shall not be considered a grant, except for funds allocated to a legal entity that has been granted the status of an agricultural cooperative in accordance with the Law of Georgia "On Agricultural Cooperatives", and funds issued to achieve political goals.

Law of Georgia No. 819 of July 12, 2013 - Website, 05.08.2013

Law of Georgia No. 5502 of June 22, 2016 - Website, 12.07.2016

Law of Georgia No. 2987 of 31 May 2023 - Website, 13.06.2023

Law of Georgia No. 663 of 12 June 2025 - Website, 12.06.2025

Article 3. Grantor

1. A grantor (donor) may be:

a) an international charitable, humanitarian and other public organisation (including an international sports association, federation and committee), **another international organisation**, a financial and credit institution, **as well as** a foreign government or its representative, a foreign entrepreneurial (if the grant recipient is the state or the Government of Georgia) or non-entrepreneurial (non-commercial) legal entity;

b) a Georgian non-entrepreneurial (non-commercial) legal entity, the main statutory purpose of which is the accumulation of property for the promotion of charitable, social, cultural, educational, scientific-research or other socially beneficial activities;

c) a legal entity under public law determined by the Government of Georgia, the purpose of whose statutes/regulations is: providing grants to improve the quality of education and training

in the field of education; providing grants to finance study-related expenses; providing scientific grants; providing grants to promote the integration of citizens living in densely populated and mountainous regions with national minorities; providing grants to finance youth and public projects; providing grants to promote employment; providing grants to ensure access to livelihoods for the socio-economic integration of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and families affected by natural disasters and subject to displacement (eco-migrants); providing grants for the local integration of persons with international protection in Georgia, aliens seeking asylum in Georgia, and stateless persons with status in Georgia, and for reintegration assistance for migrants returning to Georgia; popularising reforms and innovations implemented in Georgia and promoting their establishment in the international community; providing assistance to the governments of Georgia's partner countries in the fields of education, healthcare, social security and sustainable development, in the elimination of the consequences of natural and man-made disasters; implementing state support measures for agricultural cooperatives; providing grants to support public organisations;

d) Ministry of Georgia; Office of the State Minister of Georgia; Ministries of the Autonomous Republics of Abkhazia and Adjara;

e) Legal entity of public law established by a normative act of the Government of Abkhazia or the Autonomous Republic of Adjara and determined by the said Government, the purpose of the charter/regulations of which is to implement youth projects and promote employment.

1¹. The head of a legal entity under public law determined by the Government of Georgia is authorised, if necessary, to issue a normative act and/or an individual administrative-legal act regarding the issues of awarding a grant for the purpose of supporting a public organisation specified in subparagraph "c" of paragraph 1 of this Article.

2. In the case specified in subparagraph "d" of paragraph 1 of this Article, the relevant ministry of Georgia shall submit the draft document on awarding a grant for consideration to the Government of Georgia before its signing, and the relevant ministry of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia or Adjara shall submit it to the relevant government of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia or Adjara for preliminary assessment of the purpose of awarding the grant, the volume of the grant and the specific directions of use of the funds, in cases and in accordance with the procedure established by legal acts of the Government of Georgia, the Government of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia or Adjara.

Law of Georgia No. 1166 of March 25, 2005 - Official Gazette, No. 11, 29.03.2005, Art. 73

Law of Georgia No. 3974 of December 22, 2006 - Official Gazette, No. 48, 22.12.2006, Art. 341

Law of Georgia No. 2959 of April 20, 2010 - Official Gazette, No. 23, 04.05.2010, Art. 133

Law of Georgia No. 5125 of October 13, 2011 - Website, 27.10.2011

Law of Georgia No. 6172 of May 15, 2012 - Website, 29.05.2012

Law of Georgia of November 11, 2015 No. 4497 - Website, 24.11.2015

Law of Georgia of March 4, 2016 No. 4843 - Website, 14.03.2016

Law of Georgia of December 16, 2016 No. 103 - Website, 27.12.2016

Law of Georgia of September 20, 2017 No. 1287 - Website, 27.09.2017

Law of Georgia of November 30, 2017 No. 1393 - Website, 08.12.2017

Law of Georgia of March 23, 2018 No. 2085 - Website, 05.04.2018

Law of Georgia No. 5469 of December 11, 2019 – Website, 19.12.2019

Law of Georgia No. 1483 of April 12, 2022 – Website, 19.04.2022

Law of Georgia No. 307 of February 20, 2025 – Website, 21.02.2025

Law of Georgia No. 663 of 12 June 2025 - Website, 12.06.2025

Article 4. Grantee

A grantee may be:

- a) the State of Georgia in the form of a body (organisation) authorised by the Prime Minister of Georgia;
- b) the Government of Georgia in the form of a body authorised by the Government of Georgia;
- c) a body or municipality of the state government of Georgia or an autonomous republic;
- d) a resident or non-resident non-entrepreneurial (non-commercial) legal entity of Georgia, its representative office, branch, department;
- e) a legal entity of public law;
- f) a citizen of Georgia;
- f¹) a person with a neutral identity card or a neutral travel document;
- f²) a citizen of a foreign country – for the purposes of grant competition(s) announced by the Shota Rustaveli Georgian National Science Foundation, a legal entity of public law;
- f³) a person legally residing in the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia or the Tskhinvali region (former South Ossetia Autonomous Region), who is registered in accordance with the procedure established by the legislation of Georgia and who has been assigned a personal number;
- g) an accredited higher educational institution;
- h) an international organisation, an entrepreneurial or non-entrepreneurial (non-commercial) legal entity of another state;
- i) a legal entity with the status of an agricultural cooperative as defined by the Law of Georgia “On Agricultural Cooperatives”;
- i¹) an entrepreneurial entity registered in Georgia - in the case of a grant awarded by a legal entity of public law - the Georgian Innovation and Technology Agency - for the implementation of innovative activities as defined by the Law of Georgia “On Innovations”;
- i²) An entrepreneurial entity registered in Georgia - in the case of a grant awarded for entrepreneurial purposes by the non-profit (non-commercial) legal entity “Peace Fund for a Better Future” in accordance with its statutory objectives;
- j) (repealed - 21.07.2018, No. 3293);
- k) Business Ombudsman of Georgia.
Law of Georgia of December 22, 2006 No. 3974-CJSC, No. 48, 22.12.2006, Art. 341
Law of Georgia of July 21, 2010 No. 3566-CJSC, No. 46, 04.08.2010, Art. 298
Law of Georgia of July 1, 2011 No. 4996 - Website, 15.07.2011
Law of Georgia of May 15, 2012 No. 6172 - Website, 29.05.2012
Law of Georgia of July 12, 2013 No. 819 - Website, 05.08.2013
Law of Georgia of September 6, 2013 No. 1047 – website, 23.09.2013
Law of Georgia of August 1, 2014 No. 2642 – website, 18.08.2014
Law of Georgia of May 28, 2015 No. 3615 – website, 04.06.2015
Law of Georgia of June 22, 2016 No. 5502 – website, 12.07.2016
Law of Georgia of December 16, 2016 No. 103 – website, 27.12.2016
Law of Georgia of June 28, 2017 No. 1114 – website, 10.07.2017
Law of Georgia No. 1394 of November 30, 2017 - Website, 08.12.2017
Law of Georgia No. 2477 of June 6, 2018 - Website, 21.06.2018

Law of Georgia No. 3293 of July 21, 2018 - Website, 09.08.2018

Law of Georgia No. 4240 of December 27, 2018 - Website, 29.12.2018

Law of Georgia No. 4589 of May 8, 2019 - Website, 08.05.2019

Law of Georgia No. 6892 of July 15, 2020 - Website, 28.07.2020

Law of Georgia No. 2987 of May 31, 2023 – Website, 13.06.2023.

Chapter II

General Principles of Grant Award

Article 5. Legal Basis for Grant Award

1. The legal basis for awarding a grant is a written agreement between the grantor (donor) and the grantee (regardless of whether it is presented in a single document or in several, interconnected documents, and regardless of its specific name), as well as a written decision of a foreign grantor (donor), including an official written decision of an international sports organisation on the allocation of material and intangible assets (including cash) for a specific purpose to a Georgian sports federation or club. The agreement in question must indicate the purpose of awarding the grant, its volume, the specific direction for using the funds, the terms of their use and the main requirements that the grantor (donor) sets for the grantee.

2. The grant shall be used only for the purposes specified in the agreement. The use of the grant for other purposes shall be permitted only with the consent of the grantor (donor) and the Government of Georgia or an authorised person/body designated by the Government of Georgia.

3. The sale of assets received as a grant is permitted only if such action was previously provided for in the grant agreement.

Law of Georgia No. 496 of April 16, 2025 – website, 16.04.2025.

Law of Georgia No. 663 of 12 June 2025 - Website, 12.06.2025

Article 5¹. Rules for Grant Award by a Foreign Grantor (Donor)

1. The grant awarded by the grantor (donor) provided for in subparagraph “a” of paragraph 1 of Article 3 of this Law to the grantee provided for in Article 4 of this Law requires the consent of the Government of Georgia or an authorised person/body designated by the Government of Georgia. Acceptance of a grant provided without the aforementioned consent is not allowed. The use of a grant in violation of the requirements of paragraph 2 of Article 5 of this Law shall also be considered as the award of a grant without consent.

1¹. The rules established by the Organic Law of Georgia on “Local Self-Government Code” and/or the relevant normative act of the Government of Georgia shall apply to the award of a grant by a foreign grantor (donor) to a budgetary organisation.

2. In order to obtain consent for the grant, the grantor (donor) shall submit a draft written agreement provided for in Article 5 of this Law to the Government of Georgia or an authorised person/body designated by the Government of Georgia. The Government of Georgia or an authorised person/body designated by the Government of Georgia has the right to request the grantor (donor) to submit additional documentation in order to make a decision on the award of a grant.

3. The rule established by this Article shall not apply to grants awarded by an international sports association, federation and committee, to individual financial assistance provided for general education, higher education and scientific work outside Georgia, as well as to grants awarded within the framework of the European Union's research and innovation programme ("Horizon Europe"), the European Union's program "Erasmus+", the German Academic

Exchange Service (DAAD) and the "Creative Europe" program between Georgia and the European Union.

4. The rule established by this Article and the effect of Articles 6¹ and 6² of this Law shall also apply to funds transferred free of charge in monetary or in-kind form, which are grants by their nature, but are issued on the basis of a fictitious or hypocritical transaction different from that specified in Article 5, paragraph 1 of this Law.

5. The Government of Georgia shall establish the rules and conditions for the agreement between the foreign grantor (donor) and the Government of Georgia or an authorized person/body designated by it on the award of a grant provided for in this Article.

Law of Georgia No. 496 of April 16, 2025 – website, 16.04.2025.

Law of Georgia No. 663 of 12 June 2025 - Website, 12.06.2025

Article 6. Violation of the terms of the agreement and liability

1. The parties shall be liable for the violation of the terms of the agreement in accordance with the applicable legislation.

2. In the event of disagreement, a dispute arising between residents or citizens of different countries shall be resolved by the court of the country chosen in advance by the parties. If such an agreement is not stipulated by the agreement, the dispute shall be resolved in accordance with the legislation of Georgia.

Article 6¹. Monitoring of Grant Award and Receipt Without Consent

1. The monitoring of grant award and receipt without consent shall be carried out by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (hereinafter referred to as the Anti-Corruption Bureau), a legal entity under public law.

2. The Anti-Corruption Bureau shall establish the procedure for monitoring the award and receipt of grants without consent, as provided for in this Law, if necessary.

3. For the purpose of monitoring the award and receipt of grants without consent, the Anti-Corruption Bureau shall be authorised to:

- a) request a financial report from a person if there is a reasonable suspicion of non-fulfilment (violation) of the obligations provided for in Article 51 of this Law;
- b) question a natural person in accordance with the procedure established by this Law;
- c) interrogate a natural person before a magistrate judge in accordance with the procedure established by the Code of Administrative Procedure of Georgia;
- d) request necessary information from a public institution, an individual, a legal entity (including a payment service provider), or another entity, including special categories of personal data, other personal data and information containing secrets (except for state secrets provided for by the legislation of Georgia);
- e) exercise other powers specified by law.

4. If there is a reasonable suspicion of a violation of the requirements established by this Law, state bodies shall provide information about this to the Anti-Corruption Bureau.

5. The Anti-Corruption Bureau shall request information provided for in subparagraph "d" of paragraph 3 of this Article that is not public information, based on a court decision. For this purpose, the Anti-Corruption Bureau shall submit a motion to the court in the case of a legal entity - according to the address of registration of the legal entity, and in the case of an individual - according to the place of residence of the individual. The court shall make a

decision within 48 hours of the submission of the said motion. The motion of the Anti-Corruption Bureau shall be substantiated. It shall indicate the grounds and purpose of the request for information, the period and volume of the requested information. In case of granting the motion, the court decision shall indicate the grounds and purpose of the request for information, the period and volume of the requested information, as well as the validity period of the said decision.

6. A subject that the Anti-Corruption Bureau requests to submit information provided for by this Law shall be obliged to submit the information available to it.

7. The Anti-Corruption Bureau shall conduct administrative proceedings for no more than 3 months when exercising the powers provided for by this Law. The Head of the Anti-Corruption Bureau has the right to extend this period for no more than 3 months if necessary.

Law of Georgia No. 496 of April 16, 2025 – website, 16.04.2025.

Article 6². Questioning a Natural Person Regarding the Acceptance of a Grant Without Consent

1. A natural person who may have the information necessary for the Anti-Corruption Bureau to monitor the acceptance of a grant without consent may be voluntarily questioned by the Anti-Corruption Bureau. Forcing the person being questioned to present evidence or provide information shall not be allowed.

2. The person being questioned has the right to use the services of a lawyer at his/her own expense and not to provide information against him/herself and/or his/her close relative. The Anti-Corruption Bureau must explain these rights to the person being questioned before the beginning of the questioning. For the purposes of this paragraph, a close relative of the person being questioned shall be a parent, adopting parent, child, foster child, grandfather, grandmother, grandchild, sister, brother, and spouse.

3. Before questioning a person, his/her identity and other necessary information must be established. This information must be noted in the questioning protocol.

4. The Anti-Corruption Bureau is obliged to explain to the person to be questioned that his/her questioning is voluntary. This explanation must be noted in the questioning protocol.

5. The questioned person is obliged to provide the Anti-Corruption Bureau with correct information during the questioning.

6. The Anti-Corruption Bureau is obliged to warn the questioned person in writing about the expected liability for providing false information. This warning must be noted in the interrogation protocol.

7. The Anti-Corruption Bureau is obliged to explain to the interrogated person that he may be summoned for interrogation before a magistrate judge.

8. When questioning a person to be questioned, it is permissible to use a technical device for recording sound and/or images. The person to be questioned must be notified in advance of its use.

9. The person to be questioned may be questioned remotely, using electronic means.

Law of Georgia No. 496 of April 16, 2025 – website, 16.04.2025.

Article 6³. Procedure for Imposing Liability for Receiving a Grant Without Consent

1. In connection with the commission of an administrative offence provided for by this Law, an authorised person of the Anti-Corruption Bureau shall draw up a protocol of the administrative offence. It shall be immediately sent for consideration to the district (city) court.

2. If there are circumstances that may impede the execution of the penalty provided for by law for the commission of an administrative offence, the Anti-Corruption Bureau shall be authorised, together with drawing up a protocol of the administrative offence, to seize the property of the offender (including bank accounts) in proportion to the penalty provided for the commission of the said administrative offence. The seizure shall be effective immediately and shall be submitted to the district (city) court for confirmation, together with the administrative offence protocol.

3. The district (city) court shall consider the issue of confirmation of the administrative offence protocol provided for in paragraph 1 of this Article and shall make a decision on the said issue within 15 days from the receipt of the case materials. The decision of the district (city) court shall be appealed once to the court of appeal within 10 days from its delivery. The court of appeal shall make a decision no later than 15 days from the filing of the complaint. This decision shall be final and shall not be appealed.

4. During the pre-election period, the district (city) court shall consider the issue of confirming the protocol of the administrative offence provided for in paragraph 1 of this Article and shall make a decision on the said issue within 5 calendar days from the submission of the case materials. The decision of the district (city) court shall be appealed once to the Court of Appeal within 72 hours from its submission. The Court of Appeal shall make a decision within 5 calendar days from the submission of the complaint. The decision of the Court of Appeal shall be final and shall not be appealed. The Court of Appeal shall be obliged to deliver the reasoned decision and the case materials to the party no later than 12 o'clock on the day following the day of the decision.

5. The district (city) court shall consider the issue of seizure in connection with the commission of an administrative offence provided for in paragraph 2 of this Article and shall make a decision on the said issue within 48 hours from the submission of the case materials. The decision of the district (city) court shall be appealed once to the court of appeal within 48 hours from its submission. Appealing the seizure shall not suspend its effect. The court of appeal shall make a decision no later than 48 hours from the submission of the appeal. This decision shall be final and shall not be appealed. The court of appeal shall be obliged to transfer the reasoned decision and the case materials to the party no later than 12 o'clock of the day following the day of making the decision.

Law of Georgia No. 496 of April 16, 2025 – website, 16.04.2025.

Article 6⁴. Liability for receiving a grant without consent

1. Receiving a grant by a grantee without consent –

shall entail a fine of double the amount of the grant in question.

2. Providing false information by a natural person during a questioning by the Anti-Corruption Bureau or during a questioning of a natural person before a magistrate judge upon the request of the Anti-Corruption Bureau –

shall entail a fine of 2,000 GEL.

3. Repeated commission of an act provided for in paragraphs 1 or 2 of this Article –

shall entail a fine of double the amount of the fine provided for in the relevant paragraph of this Article.

4. The offender may be held liable under this Article within 6 years from the date of the relevant act.

Law of Georgia No. 496 of April 16, 2025 – website, 16.04.2025.

Chapter III Grant Taxation

Article 7. General Rules for Grant Taxation

The rules for grant taxation are determined by the current legislation of Georgia.

Article 8. (Repealed)

Law of Georgia No. 5419 of June 10, 2016 - website, 17.06.2016.

Chapter IV Transitional and Final Provisions

Law of Georgia No. 5419 of June 10, 2016 - Website, 17.06.2016

Article 9. Transitional Provision

Funds issued to an entrepreneurial entity/group of entrepreneurial entities within the framework of the micro and small entrepreneurship part of the state program "Produce in Georgia" approved by the Resolution No. 365 of the Government of Georgia of May 30, 2014 on the approval of the "Produce in Georgia" state program by the legal entity under public law within the system of the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia - "Produce in Georgia" during the term of this resolution shall also be considered a grant.

Law of Georgia No. 5419 of June 10, 2016 - Website, 17.06.2016

Law of Georgia No. 189 of December 22, 2016 - Website, 29.12.2016

Law of Georgia No. 849 of May 17, 2017 - Website, 02.06.2017

Article 10. Retroactive Effect

The effect of Article 9 of this Law shall apply to legal relations arising from January 1, 2015.

Law of Georgia No. 5419 of June 10, 2016 - Website, 17.06.2016

Article 11. Entry into Force of the Law

This Law shall enter into force upon its publication.

Law of Georgia No. 5419 of 10 June 2016 - Website, 17.06.2016

**Eduard Shevardnadze
President of Georgia**

**Tbilisi, 28 June 1996.
No. 331-II**

IV. Amendments to the Organic Law of Georgia “On Political Associations of Citizens”

A. Amendment N495-III-XI

Article 1. The following amendment shall be made to the Organic Law of Georgia “On Political Associations of Citizens” (Parliamentary Gazette, No. 45, 21.11.1997, p. 76):

1. Subparagraph “b” of paragraph 1 of Article 26 shall be worded as follows:

“b) from a legal entity or/and other type of association of persons registered in Georgia or outside Georgia;”.

2. Paragraph 5 of Article 26¹ shall be deleted.

3. Paragraph 4 of Article 32 shall be worded as follows:

“4. A party shall be obliged to reflect in its annual financial declaration the expenses incurred by a person subject to the restrictions provided for in Article 26¹ of this Law, which were used for the party’s election goals and activities.”

4. Paragraph 4 of Article 34¹ shall be worded as follows:

“4. The Anti-Corruption Bureau shall request the information provided for in subparagraph “c” of paragraph 2¹ of this Article, which is not public information, on the basis of a court decision. For this purpose, the Anti-Corruption Bureau shall submit an application to the court in the case of a legal entity - according to the address of registration of the legal entity, and in the case of a natural person - according to the place of residence of the natural person. The court shall make a decision within 48 hours of the submission of the said application. The application of the Anti-Corruption Bureau shall be substantiated. It must indicate the grounds and purpose of the information request, the period and volume of the information to be requested. In case of satisfaction of this motion, the court decision shall indicate the ground and purpose of the request for information, the period and volume of the requested information, as well as the validity period of the said decision.”

5. Paragraph 14 of Article 34² shall be worded as follows:

“14. During the pre-election period, the district (city) court shall consider the issue of approving the administrative offence report provided for in Paragraph 11 of this Article and shall make a decision on the said issue within 5 calendar days from the submission of the case materials. The decision of the district (city) court shall be appealed once to the Court of Appeal within 72 hours from its delivery. The Court of Appeal shall make a decision within 5 calendar days from the submission of the complaint. The decision of the Court of Appeal shall be final and shall not be appealed. The Court of Appeal shall be obliged to transfer the reasoned decision and the case materials to the party not later than 12 PM on the day following the day when the decision was made. ”

Article 2. This Law shall enter into force upon its publication.

**President of Georgia
Kavelashvili**

Mikheil

**Tbilisi, 16 April 2025
N495-III-XI**

B. Amendment N553-III-XI

Article 1. Article 36 of the Organic Law of Georgia “On Political Associations of Citizens” (Parliamentary Gazette, No. 45, 21.11.1997, p. 76) shall be worded as follows:

“Article 36

1. The Constitutional Court of Georgia may ban a party that aims to overthrow or forcibly change the constitutional order of Georgia, or to infringe on the independence and territorial integrity of the country, or to propagandise war or violence, or stir up national, ethnic, religious, or social strife or that is forming or has formed an armed group.

2. The Constitutional Court of Georgia may ban a party whose declared purpose and/or the essence of its activities (including its personnel composition and/or the composition of the party list submitted to the Election Commission) essentially repeats the declared purpose and/or essence of the activities (including the personal composition) of the party banned by the Constitutional Court of Georgia on the basis of paragraph 1 of this Article.”

Article 2. This Law shall enter into force upon publication.

President of Georgia
Kavelashvili

Mikheil

Tbilisi, 13 May 2025
N553-III-XI

V. Amendments to the Law of Georgia "On Broadcasting"**C. Amendment N390-III-XI**

Article 1. The following amendment shall be made to the Law of Georgia “On Broadcasting” (Georgian Legislative Gazette, No. 5, 18.01.2005, Art. 19):

1. Article 2:

a) Subparagraph “k” shall be worded as follows:

“k) Private broadcasting – broadcasting carried out by a commercial or non-commercial entity under private law, in accordance with the procedure established by this Law, which is neither public broadcasting, nor community broadcasting, nor university broadcasting, nor cultural-creative radio broadcasting;”;

b) After subparagraph “z²⁴”, subparagraphs “z²⁵” and “z²⁶” shall be added with the following content:

“z²⁵) Cultural-creative radio broadcasting - radio broadcasting carried out by a non-profit (non-commercial) legal entity of private law or a legal entity of public law - a cultural organisation, in accordance with the procedure established by this Law, which ensures the popularisation of various fields of culture, the provision of cognitive information related to the sphere of culture and information about current events in this sphere to broad segments of society, and the purpose of which is not to make a profit;

z²⁶) Cultural organisation - a cultural organisation defined in subparagraph “f” of Article 5 of the Law of Georgia “On Culture.”

2. Paragraph 2 of Article 37:

a) Subparagraph “a” shall be formulated as follows:

“a) An administrative body, except for a higher educational institution and a cultural organisation of the organisation;”;

b) Subparagraph “c” shall be worded as follows:

“c) a legal entity with a relationship with an administrative body, except for a cultural organisation;”.

3. Paragraphs 3 and 4 of Article 38 shall be worded as follows:

“3. Types of broadcasting are: community broadcasting, private broadcasting, university broadcasting, cultural and creative radio broadcasting.

4. Sub-types of private broadcasting are general broadcasting and specialised broadcasting. The subject/topics of broadcasting programs shall be indicated during licensing/authorisation for private specialised broadcasting. University broadcasting is specialised broadcasting, the subject/topics of broadcasting programs shall be indicated during authorisation. Cultural and creative radio broadcasting is specialised broadcasting, the subject/topics of broadcasting programs shall be indicated during licensing/authorisation.”

4. Article 38¹ shall be supplemented with the following paragraph 4:

“4. A radio broadcaster licensed/authorised to provide cultural and creative radio broadcasting in Georgia shall broadcast programs in the state language of Georgia, except for cases specified by the legislation of Georgia and/or the Commission.”.

5. Article 41, paragraph 2, subparagraph “a” shall be amended as follows:

“a) an extract from the register of entrepreneurs and non-entrepreneurial (non-commercial) legal entities; in the case of a legal entity under public law – identification data and the name and surname of the person authorised to represent; in the case of a natural person – a copy of the relevant identification document;.”

6. The first paragraph of Article 45¹ shall be worded as follows:

“1. A person wishing to carry out community broadcasting, private broadcasting, university broadcasting, cultural-creative radio broadcasting or on-demand audiovisual media services shall apply to the Commission with an application, the form of which shall be approved by the Commission.”

7. Paragraph 82 of the following content shall be added to Article 63:

“82. Teleshopping, advertising and product (goods/services) placement by a radio broadcaster carrying out cultural-creative radio broadcasting, as well as sponsorship in favor of this radio broadcaster, shall be prohibited.”

8. Article 66¹ shall be supplemented with the following paragraph 41:

“41. Cultural and creative radio broadcasting carried out by a cultural organisation may be financed by the relevant administrative body.”

9. Paragraph 1 of Article 75 shall be formulated as follows:

“1. The broadcasting frequencies (channels) of the holder of a private broadcasting, community broadcasting and/or cultural and creative radio broadcasting license carrying out on-air broadcasting shall be determined by the private broadcasting license, community broadcasting license and/or cultural and creative radio broadcasting license.”

Article 2. The Georgian National Communications Commission shall ensure the compliance of relevant subordinate normative acts with this Law by November 1, 2025.

Article 3

1. This Law, except for Article 1, shall enter into force upon publication.
2. Article 1 of this Law shall enter into force on 1 November 2025.

President of Georgia

Mikheil Kavelashvili

Tbilisi, 1 April 2025

N390-IIIობ-XIოპ

D. Amendment N394-IIIობ-XIოპ

Article 1. The following amendment shall be made to the Law of Georgia “On Broadcasting” (Georgian Legislative Gazette, No. 5, 18.01.2005, Art. 19):

1. Article 14: a) Paragraph 5 shall be worded as follows:

“5. In the event of a broadcaster violating the requirements of the legislation of Georgia, as well as the license conditions and authorisation conditions, the interested person shall have the right to apply to the Commission in accordance with the procedure established by the legislation of Georgia.”;

b) Paragraph 6 shall be deleted;

c) Paragraph 13 shall be added after paragraph 12 with the following content:

“13. This Article shall not limit the right of a person to apply to the court with a claim for defamation in accordance with the procedure established by the legislation of Georgia and to demand compensation for damages.”.

2. Article 52 shall be worded as follows:

“Article 52. Due accuracy of facts and the right of reply

1. The broadcaster shall be obliged to broadcast news and factual information with due accuracy and impartiality.

2. The broadcaster shall be obliged to take all reasonable measures to prevent the dissemination of false or misleading information.

3. Significant factual errors shall be corrected openly and immediately, by proportionate means and in a manner appropriate to the broadcast time, after the broadcaster becomes aware of the error.

4. When providing statistical information, the broadcaster shall indicate the source of the information.

5. The use of staging and reenactment in news and socio-political programs shall be prohibited, except in cases where it is clearly explained that it is a staging or reenactment. Every broadcast reconstruction of documentary or real facts shall be clearly specified.

6. The broadcaster must identify the source of the information. In the case of reporting information based on an anonymous source, the broadcaster must clearly indicate the anonymity of the source.

7. An interested person whose legitimate interests, in particular, reputation and name, have been violated by the presentation (broadcast) of an incorrect (false) fact in the broadcaster's program, has the right to respond in accordance with the procedure established by this Article.

8. An interested person has the right, within 10 days from the date of making the initial statement (including the presentation of the fact), to request the relevant broadcaster to provide him with the opportunity to correct or refute the incorrect (false) fact stated in the initial statement on the broadcaster's airwaves by proportionate means and in a form consistent with the duration of the initial statement and approximately at the time when the initial statement was made.

9. The broadcaster is entitled to deny a person the right to reply if:

- a) a request to correct or deny a fact has not been submitted within 10 days of making the initial statement;
- b) the initial statement concerns an indefinite circle of persons or the complainant is not unambiguously identified in the statement;
- c) the correction or denial of a fact has no direct connection with the initial statement, or the extent, form and content of the correction or denial of a fact exceeds the scope necessary to correct or deny the fact stated in the initial statement by proportionate means and form, or the opinion expressed in the initial statement, and not the fact stated therein, is corrected or denied;
- d) the correction or denial of a fact will result in the imposition of civil liability on the broadcaster, contains defamation, signs of an administrative offense or crime, or obscenity;
- e) the correction or denial of a fact unreasonably concerns a third party;
- f) the complainant cannot substantiate his/her legitimate interest.

10. The right of reply provided for in this Article exists only in the case of the presentation (broadcasting) of an incorrect (false) fact in the broadcaster's program and does not apply to the broadcast of an opinion/view.

11. The broadcaster's refusal to grant the right of reply may be appealed to the Commission or to the court.

12. At the request of an interested party, the Commission is authorised to impose liability for the violation of the due accuracy of the fact and to order the broadcaster to provide the interested party with the opportunity to exercise the right of reply provided for in this Article.

3. Article 54 shall be worded as follows:

"Article 54. Fairness and Impartiality

1. When broadcasting news, the broadcaster shall ensure compliance with the principles of fairness and impartiality.

2. In a news program, the broadcaster shall ensure a clear separation of fact and opinion.

3. It is not permissible for a political official or a member of a political party to participate in a news or information program as a presenter, interviewer or journalist.

4. When covering a political or other dispute in a news or socio-political program, the broadcaster shall ensure that balance is maintained in each program or throughout the program cycle. In the event that, due to the format of the program, balance is planned to be maintained throughout the program cycle, the audience shall be informed about this on the very first day of the program.

5. It is not permissible for the broadcaster to In a socio-political program, information reflecting political or other types of controversy or current issues of public policy are covered based on the personal attitude or opinion of the broadcaster. It is not permissible for a broadcaster to express a position in support of or against any political party, public, religious association or other interest group in news and socio-political programs.

6. When broadcasting an authorial program, the audience must be informed immediately before the program begins that the program is authorial. In an authorial program, the audience must be provided with a wide range of opinions, distortion of facts and misinterpretation of different opinions must be avoided. The host of an authorial program must not use his or her position to disseminate his or her own opinion in a manner that may violate the impartiality of the program.

7. The broadcaster is obliged to treat each person participating in the program with due fairness and respect.

8. The person against whom allegations have been made in the program must be given the opportunity to respond in a timely and appropriate manner.

9. Inviting only one interested party to the program for the purpose of fully exploring a specific position on a current issue cannot be used as a means of attacking groups that do not participate in the program.

10. Calls received during the live broadcast must be selected in accordance with the principle of fairness and it is not permissible to express only one point of view in order to avoid manipulation of public opinion through these calls.

4. Articles 54¹ and 54² of the following content shall be added to the law:

"Article 54¹. Inviolability of private life

1. Violation of a person's right to inviolability of private life by a broadcaster shall be prohibited.

2. Interference by a broadcaster in a person's private life and/or in the activities of a legal entity may be justified only if it aims to protect the legitimate interests of society, is a proportionate means of achieving this goal, and the benefit protected outweighs the harm caused.

3. When preparing a video-audio recording on the territory of a public or private institution, the consent of an authorised person of the relevant institution is necessary, except for cases when the unauthorised preparation of the material is justified by public interest. Obtaining permission is not mandatory from a person who accidentally got into the recorded material, or if it is impossible to unambiguously identify him.

4. In an educational institution, hospital, penitentiary In order to prepare a story in an institution, police station or ambulance, it is mandatory to obtain consent from both the authorised person and the persons present at the scene who are being filmed, except in cases where the unauthorised preparation of the material is justified by public interest. Obtaining permission is not mandatory if it is impossible to unambiguously identify a person in the recorded material.

5. Information about a person's place of residence, telephone number and/or other personal contact details may be disclosed only if there is a public interest.

6. In public places, a broadcaster may interview, photograph and/or record people for news programs without prior warning.

7. Before broadcasting, the broadcaster is obliged to ensure that a shot, word or action taken in a public place does not contain such elements of private life that it would require the prior consent of the person.

8. A broadcaster shall not film or distribute material depicting persons who have suffered an accident or suffered a personal tragedy, including material obtained in public places, if this results in an invasion of privacy, except in cases where there is the consent of the relevant person. A broadcaster shall exercise particular care in respecting the right to privacy. Broadcasters shall not show a victim, a corpse or a mutilated body, blood or other similar scenes without significant editorial justification. They shall be filmed only from a certain distance so that it is impossible to identify the victim.

9. It shall not be permitted to identify a deceased person, a victim of an accident or a victim of violence until the fact becomes known to the family members, unless the dissemination of such information is justified by the public interest.

10. The broadcaster must take all reasonable measures to ensure that the use of its own or other material obtained from others for a purpose other than the original one or in another program does not result in an unjustified invasion of privacy.

Article 54². Obtaining and/or transmitting information by a broadcaster using covert methods

1. Obtaining and/or transmitting information by a broadcaster using covert methods is justified in the following cases:

a) when the event is a subject of public interest, there is a reasonable assumption that new evidence will be obtained, and, at the same time, this is necessary to ensure the accuracy of the program;

b) for conducting sociological research on issues of public interest, when it is impossible to reveal the attitude or opinion that is the subject of the research in any other way;

c) for preparing comedy and entertainment programs, where covert recording is one of the usual methods, does not constitute a gross interference in a person's private life and does not cause significant irritation, tension or inconvenience. In entertainment and comedy programs, material obtained by covert methods shall not be used without the consent of the person(s) recorded. Consent is not required if it is impossible to identify the person(s) captured in such material.

2. Covert recording by a broadcaster on private property without the consent of an authorised person may be justified only in the public interest, including where there is a reasonable suspicion that evidence of a crime will be discovered.

3. Covert recording shall be deemed to be the use or leaving of recording equipment or a switched-on video camera on private property without the full and informed consent of the occupant or his representative. The above-mentioned methods may also include recording a telephone conversation without informing the respondent or deliberately continuing the recording when the other party believes that the process has already ended.

4. Covert recording may only be broadcast if such action is justified. The fact that occurred as a result of the editing of the covert recording must be accurately and fairly reflected in the program.

5. The broadcaster has the right to record a telephone conversation with the other party if, before recording the telephone conversation, the respondent has introduced himself, explained the purpose of the call and explained that the call is being recorded and may be

published. If, at the time of the call, the broadcaster was not aware of the possible publication of the conversation, the broadcaster must obtain the respondent's consent before broadcasting the material, unless otherwise justified.

6. It is not permissible to record an interview or telephone conversation for the purpose of broadcasting without prior warning, except in cases where there is a presumption that openly recording will hinder the progress of a journalistic investigation (this rule does not apply to public opinion polls based on the principle of random sampling).

5. The following article 55³ shall be added to the law:

“Article 55³. Coverage of armed conflict, accident and/or other emergency situation

1. The broadcaster shall cover armed conflict, accident and/or emergency situation with special caution, shall respect the emotions of the audience and maintain a balance between the public interest and the legitimate expectation of the inviolability of a person's private life.

2. The broadcaster shall take all reasonable measures to prevent the public from receiving information that may endanger the life of a kidnapped, hostage or besieged person or the measures aimed at the release of such a person.”

6. The following article 56⁴ shall be added to the law:

“Article 56⁴. Certain issues of protection of minors participating in the program

1. The broadcaster shall pay special attention to the inviolability of the private life of persons under the age of 18.

2. The consent of a parent, guardian or caretaker is necessary for the participation of a person under the age of 18 in the program. Regardless of consent, persons under the age of 18 shall not be required to express an opinion on a matter to which giving an adequate answer exceeds their physical or mental capabilities.

3. Consent is not necessary for the participation of a person under the age of 18 in the program if the person's participation in the program is insignificant or if acting without consent is justified by the public interest.”

7. Article 59¹:

a) Paragraphs 1 and 2 shall be worded as follows:

“1. Response to violations of the requirements of Article 59 of this Law, as well as those ethical norms and professional standards that are established only by the Code of Conduct, may be implemented only within the framework of the broadcaster's self-regulation mechanism defined in Article 14 of this Law.

2. Appealing a decision made within the framework of the broadcaster's self-regulation mechanism on the issue provided for in Paragraph 1 of this Article to a court, commission or other administrative body is not permitted.”;

b) After paragraph 4, paragraph 5 shall be added with the following content:

“5. The broadcaster shall also be liable for violation of the requirements of Articles 52, 54-54², 55² and 55³-56⁴ of this Law for posting information through its Internet domain and/or Internet hosting intended for Internet media, as well as in its application or on a third-party information sharing platform (including social networks).”

8. Article 76⁴ of the following content shall be added to the Law:

“Article 76⁴. Temporary rule for imposing liability and enforcing sanctions for violation of certain norms of this Law by a broadcaster

In case of violation of the requirements of Articles 52, 54, 54¹, 54², 55³, 56 and 56⁴ of this Law by a broadcaster before June 1, 2025, the Commission shall consider the issue in accordance with the procedure established by this Law. The Commission shall be authorised to impose on the broadcaster the relevant sanction provided for by this Law, which shall not be subject to enforcement. In case of violation of the requirements of Articles 52, 54-54², 55³, 56 and 56⁴ of this Law by a broadcaster after June 1, 2025, the Commission shall consider the issue and The broadcaster shall be subject to appropriate sanctions in accordance with the procedure established by law.”

Article 2. This law shall enter into force upon its publication.

President of Georgia

Mikheil Kavelashvili

Tbilisi, 1 April 2025

N394-IIIოს-XIოს

E. Amendment N407-IIIოს-XIოს

Article 1. The following amendment shall be made to the Law of Georgia “On Broadcasting” (Georgian Legislative Herald, No. 5, 18.01.2005, Article 19):

1. The following paragraph 3 shall be added to Article 65:

“3. It is prohibited for a broadcaster to receive direct or indirect funding in exchange for placing social advertising.”

2. Paragraphs 11 and 12 of the following content shall be added to Article 66¹:

“11. It is prohibited for a broadcaster to receive direct or indirect funding (money or other material benefit of property value) from a foreign power (except for commercial advertising, teleshopping, sponsorship and product (goods/services) placement in a program). In addition, it is prohibited for a foreign power to purchase services from a broadcaster (except for commercial advertising and product (goods/services) placement in a program) and/or to directly or indirectly finance and/or co-finance the preparation and/or broadcasting of a program.

12. For the purposes of this Article, a foreign power is:

- a) a constituent entity of the government system of a foreign state;
- b) a natural person who is not a citizen of Georgia;
- c) a legal entity not established on the basis of the legislation of Georgia;
- d) an organisational formation (including a foundation, association, corporation, union, or other type of organisation) or another type of association of persons that is established on the basis of the law of a foreign state and/or international law.

3. The following Article 76⁵ shall be added to the Law:

“Article 76⁵. Temporary rule for imposing liability and enforcing sanctions for violation of the requirements of Article 65, Paragraph 3 and Article 66¹, Paragraph 11 of this Law by a broadcaster

In case of violation of the requirements of Article 65, Paragraph 3 and Article 66¹, Paragraph 11 of this Law by a broadcaster before 1 June 2025, the Commission shall consider the issue in accordance with the procedure established by this Law. The Commission shall be authorised to impose the relevant sanction provided for by this Law on the broadcaster, which shall not be subject to enforcement. In case of violation of the requirements of Article 65, Paragraph 3 and Article 66¹, Paragraph 11 of this Law by a broadcaster after 1 June 2025, the Commission shall consider the issue and impose the relevant sanction on the broadcaster in accordance with the procedure established by law.”

Article 2. This law shall enter into force upon publication.

President of Georgia

Mikheil Kavelashvili

Tbilisi, 1 April 2025
N407-III-XI

F. Amendment N434-III-XI

Article 1. The following amendment shall be made to the Law of Georgia “On Broadcasting” (Georgian Legislative Gazette, No. 5, 18.01.2005, Article 19):

1. Subparagraph “h” of paragraph 1 of Article 16 shall be worded as follows:

“h) reflect in programs the ethnic, cultural, linguistic, religious and age diversity existing in society;”.

2. Subparagraph “b” of Article 45⁴ shall be worded as follows:

“b) which incites violence or hatred against a person or group of persons on the basis of disability, ethnic or social origin, gender, nationality, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, skin colour, genetic characteristics, language, political or other opinion, membership of a national minority, property, place of birth or age (hate speech), except when this is necessary taking into account the context of the video clip, programme or audiovisual advertising communication and there is no intention to spread hate speech. A video clip, programme or audiovisual advertising communication cannot be considered to contain hate speech as provided for in this subparagraph solely because of its offensive or critical content;”.

3. Article 55², paragraph one, shall be worded as follows:

“1. It is prohibited to broadcast a program or advertisement that incites violence or hatred against a person or group of persons on the basis of disability, ethnic or social origin, gender, nationality, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, skin color, genetic characteristics, language, political or other opinion, membership of a national minority, property, place of birth or age (hate speech), except when this is necessary taking into account the context of the program and there is no intention to spread hate speech. A program or advertisement may not be considered to contain hate speech as provided for in this paragraph solely because of its offensive or critical content.”

Article 2. This Law shall enter into force upon its publication.

President of Georgia

Mikheil Kavelashvili

Tbilisi, 2 April 2025
N434-III-XI