Strasbourg, 23 November 2015

EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW (VENICE COMMISSION) in co-operation with THE CENTRAL ELECTION COMMISSION OF GEORGIA

REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON GENDER EQUALITY IN ELECTORAL PROCESSES

Venue:
Rooms Hotel
14, M. Kostava St., Tbilisi

Tbilisi (Georgia)
25 (9:30) – 26 November 2015 (16:15)

DRAFT PROGRAMME
### 25 November 2015

#### 09:30-10:00 Opening session

- **Ms Tamar Zhvania**, Chairperson of the Central Election Commission of Georgia
- **Ms Khatuna Totladze**, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs
- **Mr Cristian Urse**, Head of the Council of Europe Office in Georgia
- **Ms Herdís Thorgeirsdóttir**, Vice-President of the Venice Commission, past President of the European Women Lawyers’ Association (EWLA), Iceland
- **Mr Shombi Sharp**, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative in Georgia

#### 10:00-10:30 Coffee break

#### 10:30-12:30 Working session 1 – Gender Equality and elections: international standards and recommendations

**Moderator:** **Ms Ketevan Makharashvili**, Project Manager, UNDP/UN Women Joint Programme in Georgia “Enhancing Gender Equality”

- *International standards in the field of elections, Ms Herdís Thorgeirsdóttir*, Vice-President of the Venice Commission, past President of the European Women Lawyers’ Association (EWLA), Iceland

- *The standards and work of the Council of Europe on balanced participation of women and men in political decision-making, Ms Raluca Popa*, Senior Project Officer at the Gender Equality Unit of the Council of Europe

- *Election Observation and Women’s Participation: International Standards, Methodology and Recommendations, Mr Richard Lappin*, Senior Election Advisor, Elections Department, OSCE/ODIHR

#### 12:30-14:00 Lunch break

#### 14:00-16:00 Working session 2 – Gender Equality, electoral processes and electoral systems

**Co-moderators:**

- **Mr Gaël Martin-Micallef**, Legal Officer, Elections Division, Venice Commission
- **Mr Nermin Nisic**, Chief of Party, International Foundation for Electoral Systems – IFES Georgia

- *The impact of electoral systems, including quotas, on women’s representation in parliament, Mr Michael Krennerich*, Senior Researcher on Human Rights Politics, Institute of Political Science, University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, Venice Commission, Germany
Assessing the impact of measures to improve women’s political participation, Ms Elena Centemero, member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, Rapporteur

The impact of electoral model and political system on women’s participation in Georgia, Mr Zurab Khrikadze, Head of the Gender Equality Commission, Central Election Commission of Georgia

26 November 2015

09:00-11:00 Working session 3 – Gender Equality and political parties

Co-moderators:
- Mr Richard Lappin, Senior Election Advisor, Elections Department, OSCE/ODIHR
- Mr Zurab Khrikadze, Member of Central Election Commission of Georgia, Chair of the Standing Commission for Gender Equality of the CEC of Georgia

- Gender equality and intra-party democracy, Ms Marina Stavniychuk, ex-Advisor to President of Ukraine, Expert of the Venice Commission, Ukraine

- Gender equality and intra-party democracy – Experiences of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, Mr Levan Tsutskiridze, Director of South Caucasus Office, Netherland’s Institute for Multi-Party Democracy

- Comparative experiences in promoting gender equality in politics, Ms Nana Kalandadze, Programme Officer, Democracy and Gender Programme, International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA)

11:00-11:15 Coffee break

11:15-12:45 Working session 4 – Gender Equality and electoral processes: best practices

Co-moderators:
- Ms Marina Stavniychuk, ex-Advisor to President of Ukraine, Expert of the Venice Commission, Ukraine
- Ms Teona Kupunia, Programme Manager, National Democratic Institute, Georgia

- The Georgian experience in the implementation of a global strategy of gender equality, Ms Tamar Zhvania, Chairperson of the Central Election Commission of Georgia

- Gender Equality, best practices in Moldova, Mr Vitalie Modringa, Member, Central Election Commission, Moldova

12:45-14:00 Lunch break
14:00-15:30 Working session 4, continued – Gender Equality and electoral processes: best practices

Moderator: Ms Marina Stavniychuk, ex-Advisor to President of Ukraine, Expert of the Venice Commission, Ukraine

- Gender Equality in electoral processes in Azerbaijan, Mr Rashid Yusifbayli, Head of International Relations Department, Central Election Commission, Azerbaijan

15:30-15:45 Coffee break

15:45-16:15 Conclusions – Building a strategy on Gender Equality in elections, towards recommendations

Co-moderators:
- Mr Michael Krennerich, Senior Researcher on Human Rights Politics, Institute of Political Science, University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, Venice Commission, Germany
- Ms Teona Kupunia, Programme Manager, National Democratic Institute, Georgia