

PARLIAMENT OF GEORGIA

Resolution on Basic Directions of Georgia's Foreign Policy

Based on the Georgian constitution, existing legislation and international treaties;

Being guided by the interests of Georgian society, including by the will expressed in the results of the 2008 plebiscite [on NATO];

Considering that ensuring national security, de-occupation and restoration of territorial integrity represents a priority and that the implementation of these tasks are the shared responsibility of political forces;

Confirming Georgia's commitment for the non-use of force, pledged by the President of Georgia in his address to the international community from the European Parliament in Strasburg on November 23, 2010;

Expressing an aspiration to foster Georgia's reputation on the international arena as a reliable partner with a foreign policy built on the principles of international law;

Considering that the state strategy, built on the basis of cooperation and multilateral consultations between political forces, is essential for pursuing efficient policy and ensuring continuity in the sphere of foreign relations;

The Parliament of Georgia declares the basic directions of the country's foreign policy:

1. The foreign policy course of Georgia is defined by Georgia's national interests, stemming from the goal to ensure the wellbeing of its citizens;
2. Creating security guarantees for the country; protecting its independence and sovereignty; de-occupation of its territories and restoration of the country's territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders represent Georgia's foreign policy tasks;
3. Integration into the European and Euro-Atlantic structures represents the main priority of the country's foreign policy course. For the purpose of achieving strategic priority and gaining membership in the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Georgia will take further steps for building and strengthening democratic institutions; establishing a governance system based on the principle of the rule of law and supremacy of human rights; and ensuring the irreversibility of sustainable economic development. Georgia will not join such international organizations, whose policies contradict these priorities;

4. Georgia's European and Euro-Atlantic foreign policy course, first and foremost, serves sustainable democratic development and the country's security and is not directed against any other state;
5. Georgia will pursue a consistent policy for the implementation of the decisions made at the Bucharest [2008] and the following summits of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization concerning Georgia. The most immediate task is to achieve an agreement on the modalities and timeframe;
6. Georgia fully shares the commitment to be part of international efforts reacting to challenges facing the world. In this respect, Georgia's contribution to international peacekeeping, police and civilian operations represent one of the important components for protection of national interests;
7. The Georgian authorities will provide implementation of all those conditions, which will allow Georgia to successfully complete negotiations with the European Union on the Association Agreement, the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area and the Visa Liberalisation Action Plan;
8. Cooperation with the EU within the frames of the Eastern Partnership and European Neighborhood Policy will develop in four main areas: democracy and human rights; approximation to EU legislation; environmental protection and energy security; people-to-people contacts. Cooperation in the development of peace processes is also considered a priority area;
9. Georgia carries out its relations with the United States under the terms defined by the Strategic Partnership Charter. Four key areas are involved in the frames of this Charter:
 - Cooperation in defense and security, including implementation of an enhanced program of defense cooperation, which aims at strengthening Georgia's capabilities and preparing for NATO membership, as well as implementing the train and equip program for the armed forces;
 - Economic, trade and energy cooperation, including reaching an agreement on free trade;
 - Strengthening of democracy;
 - Deepening people-to-people contacts, including reaching an agreement on a visa-free regime;
10. Georgia considers implementation of the tasks set in agreements with the United States and the EU, its main strategic partners, first and foremost as a commitment undertaken before its own society;
11. Georgia carries out a dialogue with Russia using international mechanisms available in the Geneva [International Discussions], as well as in a bilateral framework. The goal of this dialogue is to resolve the conflict, to establish and to develop good neighborly relations;
12. Georgia will support the rapprochement of the positions of the United States, EU and Russian Federation, as well as of other states in the South Caucasus in line with the interests of our country and principles of Helsinki [Final Act];

13. Georgia will foster political dialogue in the Caucasus and economic cooperation for the purpose of a concurrence in the basic interests of the states of the region. Relations with the peoples of the North Caucasus will be based on historic experience and traditions of good neighborly, cultural and humanitarian cooperation;
14. Broadening bilateral political and economic relations with neighboring Armenia, Azerbaijan and Turkey are important. Georgia should become the space for the implementation of mutually beneficial political and economic relations, as well as business opportunities for these countries;
15. Taking into account the beneficial geopolitical location for trans-national projects, one of the priority areas of Georgia's foreign policy is to broaden economic relations with the countries of the Black Sea and Caspian regions and Asia;
16. Georgia will actively cooperate with the Baltic States. Experience and support of these countries is important for Georgia regarding European and Euro-Atlantic integration;
17. Deepening of economic and political relations with the countries of Central and South-Eastern Europe, as well as with Scandinavian countries, and their support for Georgia's ongoing reforms and sovereignty is important for Georgia;
18. Georgia should not have diplomatic relations nor be in a military, political, or customs alliance with states, which recognize the independence of Abkhazia and South Ossetia/former autonomous district of South Ossetia or occupies Georgia's territories. Georgia will carry out a consistent foreign policy in order to secure unwavering international respect to its territorial integrity and sovereignty;
19. Pursuant to strengthening national and regional interests, and also for the purpose of securing the irreversibility of the development of the peace process and 'non-recognition policy', Georgia will significantly deepen multilateral diplomatic relations in the frames of the UN, OSCE, Council of Europe, European Union, GUAM, and Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation.

March 7, 2013

Kutaisi, Georgia