

**Inter-Agency Task Force for Free and Fair Elections**

**Recommendations**

**(5 May 2014)**

The Inter-Agency Task Force for Free and Fair Elections (IATF) within the Ministry of Justice of Georgia,

Having been tasked with facilitating transparent and fair conduct of the local self-government elections in 2014 and being in charge of preventing and reacting to violations of the election legislation committed by public servants,

Welcomes the report of 2 May 2014 prepared by the pre-election delegation of the National Democratic Institute (NDI) and taking into consideration their opinions,

Recommends to:

**1. Political parties participating in the election:**

For the purpose of strengthening internal discipline and preventing violations of the electoral law, to adopt and publish the Code of Conduct containing mandatory rules of conduct for their members and all of those taking part in the pre-election campaign and to ensure adherence to it; Furthermore, to communicate the provisions prescribed by the Code of Conduct to every member (activist) of the party and to ensure monitoring of the compliance with the rules determined by these provisions.

**2. Local authorities:**

1. to refrain from significant personnel changes during the pre-election period, in particular dismissing senior officials (Gamgebeli, Sakrebulo chairperson), including through impeachment, in order for the dismissals not to be perceived as dismissals on political grounds or an attempt to influence the election results.
2. to refrain from holding competitions and/or certifications of public servants during the pre-election period in order to rule out any possibility that their dismissal is, or might be regarded as, politically motivated. Self-government authorities that may have already started certification procedure should suspend it until the polling day.