



EMBASSY OF GEORGIA TO THE REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA  
PERMANENT MISSION OF GEORGIA TO THE OSCE AND OTHER  
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN VIENNA

**2010 OSCE Review Conference - Human Dimension Session**

Warsaw, 1 October 2010

**Statement of the Georgian Delegation**

Working Session 1: Democratic Elections

Mr. Moderator,

Georgia stresses the importance of democratic, free and fair elections in ensuring democratic governance, sustainable security and stability. Thus, we express our appreciation to the OSCE/ODIHR, a leading actor in election observation for the immense assistance it is continuously providing to the participating States, including Georgia, in order to conduct elections in compliance with OSCE commitments and international standards for democratic elections.

Let me brief you on elections-related activities in Georgia and therefore try to touch upon some topics that were itemized in the annotated agenda of the Review Conference.

The recent municipal elections held on May 30, 2010 marked an important step in Georgia's democratic development. Practically all monitoring missions – OSCE/ODIHR, CoE, European Parliament, assessed the elections as a significant and evident progress towards the consolidation and entrenchment of Georgia's democracy. More concretely, international and domestic observers concluded that political campaigns, organization and administration of elections were conducted in calm, transparent manner and in more competitive environment. Monitoring missions noted substantial progress in election procedures and recognized the strong commitment by the Government of Georgia to electoral reforms.

However, in the context of the evident progress, shortcomings were noted. Since then further steps have been taken to address the deficiencies listed in the report:

Immediately after the elections, all mainstream political parties, including the ruling party, pledged to work together in order to continue electoral reform and further improve the electoral environment. It was agreed that work on these issues will continue within the format of the electoral working group. Political groups will discuss possible new amendments to the electoral code taking into consideration the recommendations provided by the OSCE/ODIHR, the Venice Commission and other observer organizations.

We believe that the follow-up to the recommendations of the OSCE/ODIHR, to which we committed at the Istanbul Summit, is a fruitful and efficient instrument. Together with some participating States, Georgia was one of co-sponsors of FFT put forward in the framework of the Corfu Process, which underlines the importance of follow-up to the recommendations. In this line, I would like to inform you that Georgia was one of those few countries that volunteered to brief the Human Dimension Committee on post electoral activities in 2009.

In order to make better use of ODIHR's recognized expertise in assisting participating States in the implementation of election-related commitments, Georgia will host the OSCE/ODIHR group of experts in the second half of October. Exploration of recommendations of the ODIHR Election Observation Mission Report on 2010 Municipal Elections will help to identify ways to address remaining challenges in the conduct of elections in Georgia. We deem such practice very constructive and are ready for further deep and productive cooperation with the OSCE.

Thank you.