



CSF Armenian National Platform Statement

On CSF ANP's Strategic Approaches post September 3, 2013

November 9, 2013

The Armenian National Platform (ANP) of the Civil Society Forum (CSF) reconfirms its disagreement (expressed in the September 17, 2013 statement) to the RA President's September 3, 2013 declaration on membership to the Customs Unions and participation in the formation of the Eurasian Union. ANP evaluates the following failure to pre-sign the Association Agreement with the European Union as a serious blow to democratic development and reforms in various fields in Armenia.

Remaining faithful to its mission, established in the ANP Founding Assembly and its Organizational Principles, and in the light of a newly-emerged situation in Armenia, CSF ANP has initiated some modernization of the priorities and practices in its Operational Strategy.

The changes seen in the political sphere, public opinion and orientations assume the revaluation of the principles, adopted by ANP, particularly regarding the dialogue with the authorities and ANP member's inclusiveness. Besides, the dialogue with the RA authorities will be implemented from the positions, dictated by the ANP agenda and its priorities. The ANP agenda will remain aligned with the EU-Armenia relations, the directions established in the Eastern Partnership Road map, and Armenia's policy for association to the European Union.

CSF Armenian National Platform, as a platform of free, unrestrained and multi-lateral discussions and debates, will hereafter be more consistent and vigilant in applying the ANP organizational principles, implementing its aims and priorities and selecting/mandating its representatives.

Main Directions of ANP activity

1. Public awareness raising that entails extensive information on European integration processes, EU-Armenia relations, Eastern Partnership promotion, Association Agreement ratification or the probable implications of joining the Customs Union. From this perspective we believe it highly necessary to publish the Draft Association Agreement and to bring it to broad public debates. ANP also prioritizes the role of the civic society as an initiator in the process of democratic reforms. This includes the usage of the

Platform's potential in political, economic and social analyses, research, expert work, their publication, dissemination and popularization. At that, taking into consideration the current levels of traditional mass media dependence, it is necessary to make maximal use of the new media to raise public awareness, ascribing specific significance to open public debates through social media.

2. Monitoring of democratic reforms in Armenia based on criteria stemming from EU – Armenia relations. This requires the continuation of studies being conducted by civic non-governmental organizations, identification of areas and targets under question, and usage of ANP member civic NGOs' participatory potential. The effective realization of reform monitoring objectives largely depends on their proper presentation to both the Armenian society and international organizations.
3. Active ANP participation at regional level within the framework of Eastern Partnership priorities and EaP CSF and the effective implementation of the Association Agreement with other countries in EaP multilateral initiatives, as well as the incorporation of EU-RA agenda to the RA legislation and public consciousness.
4. Special attention is to be paid to the assistance, provided by the EU to the Republic of Armenia, especially regarding the efficiency of budget support funds, we aim at discovering and publicizing imitation processes. Working towards instilling in public perception that the inconsistent and superficial approach to reforms is an impediment to real progress.
5. “Inventory” of projects, implemented in the Republic of Armenia for civic society support and European integration, evaluating their efficiency and actual facilitation to the deepening of EU-Armenia relations.
6. Organization of broad public debate towards and during negotiations on Armenia's affiliation with the Customs Union to exclude any provisions, principles, and obligations, jeopardizing the sovereignty of the Republic of Armenia.
7. Consolidation of the Armenian public around European values, European integration ideas, and the democratic reforms imperative jointly with all supportive organizations and individuals. Inclusion of formal and informal civic society groups and leading youth in the Armenian National Platform as key partners, development and implementation of a general Strategy, and resource support. This requires unification of active forces in the society, clear job division and planning in joint activities.

8. Active dialoguing with RA Government representatives and political forces, as well as close cooperation with the expert community on questions and approaches of common interest within the ANP agenda.

The strategic approaches included in this statement are envisaged for the present stage of uncertainty in EU-Armenia relations. They may be revised and readjusted after the clarification of the format and content of those relations.