



**3rd Association Exchange Forum,
Kyiv, Ukraine, 13 November 2019**

**Joint Declaration of Georgian, Moldovan, Ukrainian Civil Society Platforms on Cooperation
in Striving for European Integration**

The civil society platforms representing civil society organisations from Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine:

Having regard to:

- The **Joint Declaration of the Prague Eastern Partnership Summit**, 7 May 2009, which launched the Eastern Partnership with the main goal to create the necessary conditions to accelerate political association and further economic integration between the EU and interested partner countries;
- The **Association Agreements between the EU and Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine**, concluded in 2014 to promote political association and economic integration while leaving open the way for future progressive developments in relations with the EU;
- The **common European choice, values and aspirations of Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine**, as acknowledged by the EU in the preambles of respective Association Agreements;
- The **Joint Declaration of the Brussels Eastern Partnership Summit**, 24 November 2017, in which participants agreed to introduce an enhanced dialogue between the EU and the associated partners on AA/DCFTA implementation;
- The **Charter of the Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine Inter-Parliamentary Assembly**, signed in Tbilisi on 5 October 2018;

Agreed on the following:

1. Profound changes have happened in Eastern Europe in the last decade that require **establishing a new format for cooperation of Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia** on the way of European integration, to promote peer-to-peer exchange, policy coordination and mutual support in Association Agreement implementation and the dialogue with the EU institutions.
2. This **trilateral format should be** further **institutionalised** and include regular consultations and joint actions on the governmental, parliamentary and civil society levels. It should exist in parallel to and without jeopardising the existing Eastern Partnership multilateral structure.
3. To help each other to **meet the political criteria for EU membership**, the three countries should conduct discussions, experience exchange, and comparative assessments of their progress in democracy, the rule of law and good governance.

4. Based on EU rules and in alignment with EU policies, the three countries should **facilitate trade and build a common market** with free movement of goods, services, capital and persons; develop connectivity, transport and communication infrastructure; cooperate in energy, environment and social policies.
5. Based on their shared interests, the three countries should conduct regular consultations on the issues **of regional security**; develop military and law enforcement cooperation; exchange experience and cooperate **to raise resilience** against hybrid threats.
6. In the short-term, EU policy towards the three associated countries should be **upgraded to offer full de facto integration** in line with the 'everything but institutions' promise. Legislative screening, integration into the Single market, inclusion in the cohesion policy (access to structural funds), extension of the infrastructure networks, and strengthened CSDP and JLS cooperation are among the key elements.

Based on the above, they call on:

- The **Governments** of the three countries: to **launch trilateral high-level cooperation** formats and thematic consultations, and a joint secretariat;
- The **Parliaments** of the three countries: to intensify **cooperation within the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly**, and to focus it on peer learning in Association Agreement legislative implementation;
- The **EU**: to support the trilateral cooperation and **institutionalise the enhanced dialogue in the EU+3 format**.

In their turn, the national parts of the three bilateral **civil society platforms** established under Association Agreements and the three EaP CSF national platforms shall engage in **structured cooperation**, hold regular joint meetings and promote **common projects and initiatives** among civil society organisations of the associated countries.

Georgian Side of the EU-Georgia Civil Society Platform

Moldovan Side of the EU-Moldova Civil Society Platform

Ukrainian Side of the EU-Ukraine Civil Society Platform

Georgian National Platform of the EaP CSF

Moldovan National Platform of the EaP CSF

Ukrainian National Platform of the EaP CSF