



# Election Update

Georgia Election Update Is a Service of the Government of Georgia

## President Saakashvili Sets October 1 as Date of Parliamentary Elections

President Mikheil Saakashvili has set October 1 as the date for parliamentary elections. "Parliamentary elections have been for October 1, 2012, as have elections for the Supreme Council of the Adjara Autonomous Republic, via a decree of the President of Georgia," Manana Manjgaladze, the President's spokesperson, told the media today.

"The President of Georgia has stressed many times the government's commitment to holding free and fair parliamentary elections this fall and that the election campaign must be open and transparent," she underscored in making the announcement. "Today, we once again want to express our belief that this campaign and the elections will be exemplary."

"I would like to remind you again of the steps that have been taken in this regard," Ms. Manjgaladze said. "First, back in April, the President issued invitation to long-term election observation missions. Immediately afterwards, the Government began actively consulting with the EU, the OSCE, the relevant bodies of the Council of Europe, and other authoritative international organizations.

"The next important step related to verifying the voters' list," she said. "We think that the work of the relevant commission has yielded concrete results. Just yesterday, a number of international observers expressed their satisfaction with the work that the Commission has carried out."

According to Ms. Manjgaladze, the Inter-Agency Task Force on Free & Fair Elections, headed by the National Security Council, is working intensively and is promptly reviewing every election-related complaint. She also underscored the importance of Parliament's new legislation obliging all cable operators in Georgia to carry all news-based TV stations during the election campaign.

The Press Speaker also focused on the code of conduct that has been developed in cooperation with NGOs and that commits political parties to adhere to a set of norms of behavior during the campaign.

"Today, we retain hope that every political force will join and sign this document, which was created through, and has generated a broad consensus among, political parties and the nongovernmental sector," she said.

In closing, Ms. Manjgaladze said: "The President is convinced that the October elections will offer further proof of the maturity and viability of Georgia's democracy and that very

important steps will be made on the road to further strengthening our statehood. Additionally, the President calls on all citizens of Georgia to participate actively in this process that is so important for our country's development."