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GOOD GOVERNANCE FORUM 2020

Political Integrity and Elections: Challenges and Innovative Solutions

October 02, 2020

PROGRAM

ONLINE
#GGForum2020





WELCOME

TO GOOD GOVERNANCE

FORUM 2020!

The Good Governance Forum (GG Forum) is an international high-level conference on good governance to be held on October 2, 2020. The Forum is organized by the Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI), in cooperation with the Open Government Partnership (OGP), with the support of the global philanthropic organization, Luminate. It is the second series of GG Forums held annually in Georgia since 2019 and gathers international experts, representatives of governments, civil society, the private sector and international community to advance the good governance reform agenda by raising awareness, exchanging best practices and fostering debate.

The 2020 GG Forum aims to explore innovative mechanisms and the most cost-effective approaches to ensuring political integrity, especially at a time of upcoming Georgia's parliamentary elections planned in October, 2020 in Georgia. The conference intends to do this by engaging local and international experts and stakeholders around several key related issues: electoral legislation and practice, political donations and political party financing, use of administrative resources during the election campaign, lobbying and international transparency standards.

The Forum gathers experts and representatives of international and civil society organizations from different countries with best practices of developing integrity mechanisms as well as journalists and activists with the aim to exchange regional and international practices of ensuring political integrity. Such information and experience exchange will lay the foundation for future ambitious advocacy efforts in the region and beyond.



CONTEXT

As it is acknowledged globally, political corruption is the use of powers by government officials or their network contacts for illegitimate private gain. This type of corruption is very much related to political elections, as it involves the following category of illicit acts committed by decision-makers: illegal political finance, undue influence of policy-making, state capture, election fraud, vote buying, abuse of state resources during elections, etc.

Political corruption is a global challenge affecting all governments to a varying degree. For instance, it is argued that corruption related to political finance is relevant for both developed and developing countries, while abuse of office seems to be more prevalent for countries from East Europe and Central Asia and other regions.

Even in Georgia, which managed to achieve significant progress in eliminating petty corruption and introducing political party funding transparency standards over the past years, incidents of misuse of administrative resources, use of social and financial

initiatives to attract votes, problems related to effectiveness of campaign¹ finance framework were identified among other shortcomings of the latest presidential election campaign. Georgia's case is not unique across the globe, suggesting that there is a real need to figure out efficient and innovative mechanisms that have the potential for ensuring electoral integrity.

Considering the fact that political will to implement new approaches to ensuring political integrity is hard to come by, especially on the high level, it is especially important to keep this conversation going and explore innovative, efficient and proper mechanisms that can be replicated relatively easily in different jurisdictions.

The conference will focus on the following key topics: electoral legislation and practice, political donations and political party financing, use of administrative resources during the election campaign, lobbying and international transparency standards. The reasoning behind the selection of these topics is as follows:

¹ Georgia, Presidential Election, 28 October and 28 November 2018: Final Report. OSCE. Available at: <https://www.osce.org/odihr/elections/georgia/412724>

1

TRANSPARENCY STANDARDS OF POLITICAL FINANCE:

In order to ensure fair competition between political parties, both campaign finance and routine party funding should be effectively regulated and enforced. The mentioned regulations should promote accountability, preserve the responsiveness of political parties and candidates, ensure that all parties have equal opportunity and minimize the danger of corruption, in particular, state capture and influence peddling. The Forum will focus on the effectiveness of oversight mechanisms ensuring transparency of political party funding, what are best practices in this direction, challenges, current trends and opportunities.

2

USE OF ADMINISTRATIVE RESOURCES:

One of the major influences on electoral processes is typically the use of administrative resources. There is no commonly accepted definition of an administrative resource and its misuse for electoral purposes either in Georgian or in international law. However, based on various international standards and reports several types can be highlighted: use of human and non-monetary as well as budgetary resources of the central or local government institutions, to support election campaign of certain political party or candidate, use of legislative, executive and judicial branches in favor of/against the electoral interests of a certain political party or candidate, increase in the funding of budgetary programs and social assistance to particular vulnerable groups for the upcoming election period, etc². Otherwise the line between the state and the party is considered blurred and weak. Therefore, it is important to overview international best practices, legislative frameworks and different solutions (e.g. effective complaint mechanism, existence of impartial and competent oversight authority, relevant enforcement measures) to address this challenge.

3

CORPORATE INFLUENCE ON DECISION-MAKING AND LOBBYISM:

There are several ways through which interest groups and large corporations try to influence the decision-making process. Interest group influence, commonly known as lobbying, is defined as "any direct or indirect communication with public officials, political decision-makers or representatives for the purposes of influencing public decision-making carried out by or on behalf of any organised group"³. In most cases, interest group influence is not a corrupt or illegitimate activity per se, but when opaque and disproportionate it may lead to undue influence, corruption and even state capture. To avoid these challenges, several integrity measures are advisable: regulations on lobbying, regulations on conflict of interest, regulations on political finance, rules on private sector competition, rules on transparent decision-making and access to information, etc. The Forum participants will overview contemporary trends, tendencies, challenges and best practices to cope with this problem.

2 Misuse of Administrative Resources during Georgia's 2018 Presidential Elections. TI-Georgia. Available at: <https://transparency.ge/en/post/misuse-administrative-resources-during-georgias-2018-presidential-elections>

3 Transparency International. Forthcoming. Lifting the lid on lobbying. Available: <https://www.transparency.org.uk/publications/liftthelid/>

AGENDA

GOOD GOVERNANCE
FORUM

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 02, 2020



WEBINAR REGISTRATION LINK:
<https://bit.ly/2S08XeI>



LIVE

FACEBOOK LIVE LINK:
facebook.com/IDFI.official



ALL TIMES ARE LISTED IN GET (UTC/GMT +4 HOURS)

13:00–13:15

OPENING REMARKS



MR. GIORGI KLDIASHVILI

Executive Director, Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI)



MS. OLENA BOYTSUN

Investment Director, Central and Eastern Europe, Luminate

13:15–14:50

POLITICAL PARTY FUNDING AND POLITICAL DONATIONS: LEGISLATION AND PRACTICE



MODERATOR

MS. LAURA THORNTON

Director for Global Programme,
International IDEA



MS. EKATERINE GHAZADZE

Deputy Auditor General, State Audit Office of Georgia



MR. YUKIHIKO HAMADA

Senior Programme Officer, Political Participation and Representation, International IDEA



MS. MARIAM MAISURADZE

Anti-Corruption Direction Head, Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI)



MR. LEVAN NATROSHVILI

Program Manager, Transparency International Georgia (TI-G)



DR. MAGNUS OHMAN

Director, Regional Europe Office and Senior Political Finance Adviser, International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES)



14:50–15:00 – BREAK



15:10–16:30

LOBBYISM: INTERNATIONAL TRANSPARENCY STANDARDS AND CURRENT TRENDS



MODERATOR

MS. HELEN TUREK

Regional Lead, Europe, Open
Government Partnership (OGP)

MR. RAJ CHARI
Professor, Trinity College Dublin

MR. DANIEL FREUND
Member of the European Parliament,
European Parliament

MS. MARIE LINTZER
Head of International Partnerships, High
Authority for Transparency in Public Life
(HATVP)

MR. VITOR TEIXEIRA
Advocacy Officer EU Integrity, Transpa-
rency International EU

MR. JULIO BACIO TERRACINO
Acting Head of Division, Public Sector
Integrity, Directorate for Public Govern-
ance, OECD

16:30–16:40 – BREAK

16:40–17:50

USE OF ADMINISTRATIVE RESOURCES AND PRE-ELECTION AMENDMENTS TO THE STATE BUDGET



MODERATOR

MR. JOSEPH FOTI

Chief Research Officer, Open
Government Partnership (OGP)

MS. KATHERINE ELLENA
Senior Global Legal Advisor, Internatio-
nal Foundation for Electoral Systems
(IFES)

MS. JOY LANGSTON
Professor of Political Science, Center for
Research and Teaching in Economics,
CIDE, Mexico City

MR. VAKHUSHTI MENABDE
Democratic Institutions Support
Program Director, Georgian Young
Lawyers' Association (GYLA)

MS. NINO RIZHAMADZE
Lawyer, International Society for Fair
Elections and Democracy (ISFED)

17:50–18:00 WRAP UP / FINAL REMARKS



Simultaneous English–Georgian translation will be provided during the conference

S P E A K E R S



MS. OLENA BOYTSUN

**INVESTMENT DIRECTOR FOR CENTRAL AND
EASTERN EUROPE, LUMINATE**

Olena Boytsun is the Investment Director for Central and Eastern Europe at Luminate, a global foundation. Olena is a member of the steering committee for Civitates, a philanthropic initiative for solidarity and democracy in Europe, and serves as a jury member at Seedstars' startup competitions in post-communist countries. Olena serves as a Trustee of the Aspen Institute Kyiv. Olena initiated and leads a project on bringing Diversity of Capital to the region with the aim to transform the funding system for innovative teams and also leads an impact investing club in Ukraine.



S P E A K E R S



MR. GIORGI KLDIASHVILI

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
INSTITUTE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (IDFI)**

Executive Director, Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI)

Giorgi Kldiashvili is a founding member and Executive Director of the Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI). He has over nine years of experience working on openness and transparency issues in Georgia and internationally. He has been carrying out projects, studies, assessments and trainings for different international organizations and foundations. Giorgi Kldiashvili is an author of a number of publications related to access to information, anticorruption policy and good governance, accountability and transparency, e-Governance and e-Democracy, open data, civil service and public administration, media and internet.

In addition to his work in applied policy research with IDFI, as a historian by specialty, he has academic credentials as a researcher, undertaking studies in American and Soviet Studies. He is professional archive researcher, working in the history archives of Georgia and abroad for more than a decade. Giorgi holds graduate degrees in Contemporary History and worked as a professor of American Studies at the Institute of American Studies at Tbilisi State University.

Giorgi Kldiashvili is a CSO Steering Committee Member of the Open Government Partnership (OGP). He is fluent in Russian and English languages.

S P E A K E R S



MS. LAURA THORNTON

**DIRECTOR FOR GLOBAL PROGRAMME,
INTERNATIONAL IDEA**

Laura Thornton leads and manages a portfolio of programmes that supports democracy world-wide through the development and application of global comparative knowledge resources and tools, supporting democratic reforms, as well as actively contributing to shaping the global and regional policy agendas by bringing the democracy lens and perspective to debates at that level. This portfolio includes Electoral Processes, Constitution-Building Processes, Political Participation and Representation, and Democracy, Assessment, Analysis and Advisory Unit—a unit responsible for the Institute's work on citizen-led assessments of democracy—and the integration of Gender, Diversity, and Conflict sensitivity into the work of the Institute.

Prior to joining International IDEA on 1 April 2020, Thornton joined the National Democratic Institute in 1998 and served as a global associate and senior director in Georgia since 2014. In Georgia, Thornton managed multiple complex programmes including public opinion research and disinformation research and analyses, technical assistance to parliament and local government bodies, security sector reform and oversight, civil society advocacy, political party democratization and development, and election monitoring, analysis and reform efforts.



S P E A K E R S



MS. EKATERINE GHAZADZE

**DEPUTY AUDITOR GENERAL,
STATE AUDIT OFFICE OF GEORGIA**

Ekaterine Ghazadze has been Deputy Auditor General since October 2017.

Prior to her appointment, she had successfully worked in the banking and financial sector for many years.

In 2017, she worked as a consultant at the Georgian Stock Exchange (GSE), then held the position of Financial and Operations Director and was involved in the work of the Georgian Central Securities Depository, as well as Securities Registrar "Kavkasreestri".

In 2016, as an investment expert, she worked on DCFTA's External Communication Strategy (GE16) and, as part of that strategy, assisted the Georgian government in attracting foreign investments. In 2015, Ekaterine Ghazadze was a consultant for the Asian Development Bank and coordinated a high-level international conference organized by the Government of Georgia - the Tbilisi Silk Road Forum.

In 2012-2015, Ekaterine Ghazadze worked at the Bank of Georgia (hereafter Galt & Taggart), where she headed the Research Department. Prior to that, in 2007-2012, she was a Renaissance Capital Analyst in Kazakhstan and the UK. In 2009, she also worked for Da Vinci Capital Management and ORIS Consortium in Kazakhstan, where she held the position of Chief Analyst for Central Asia.



S P E A K E R S



MR. YUKIHIKO HAMADA

SENIOR PROGRAMME OFFICER IN THE POLITICAL
PARTICIPATION AND REPRESENTATION PROGRAMME,
INTERNATIONAL IDEA

Hamada's research and work focuses on money in politics, anti-corruption and political finance. He provides technical support and policy guidance to advance the political finance reforms in a number of countries. His areas of expertise include legal analysis of political finance systems, gender and political finance, and digital reporting and disclosure. Most recently, he led the development of International IDEA's Political Finance Database in 2018 as well as authored a number of policy papers and news articles including *The Integrity of Political Finance Systems in Asia* (International IDEA 2019) and *The Integrity of Political Finance Systems in Africa* (International IDEA 2019).

Prior to joining International IDEA, Hamada was a policy analyst at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in Paris where he led various projects on political finance, lobbying, conflict of interest and other public sector integrity issues. He also has a wide range of public sector experience both in Japan and the UK, working at the Embassy of Japan in London and the British Embassy in Tokyo.



S P E A K E R S



MS. MARIAM MAISURADZE

**ANTI-CORRUPTION DIRECTION HEAD,
INSTITUTE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (IDFI)**

Since April 2019, Mariam Maisuradze has been the member of the team of IDFI as the Manager of the project “Promoting Prosecutorial Independence through Monitoring and Engagement” (PrIME). Before that, Mariam worked as an expert for the project “EU for the Interagency Commission on Gender Equality, Violence against Women and Domestic Violence”.

In 2014-2018, Mariam was a senior adviser on criminal law, juvenile justice and anti-corruption policy at the Analytical Department of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia; she was an expert/evaluator for the CoE Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) and member of the Georgian delegation to GRECO and the European Committee on Legal Cooperation (CDCJ).

Before 2014, Mariam worked at the LEPL Academy of Ministry of Finance, NGO Human Rights Priority, and other organizations.

Mariam Maisuradze has a Bachelor’s Degree of Law and a Master’s Degree in International Law from Tbilisi State University. In 2013-2014, she studied LLM in European Law at the University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom.



S P E A K E R S



MR. LEVAN NATROSHVILI

**PROGRAM MANAGER,
TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL GEORGIA (TI-G)**

Levan Natroshvili joined Transparency International Georgia in 2012. He leads the election monitoring program. He, with his team, observed six general elections held in Georgia mainly focusing on the monitoring of abuse of state resources and political finances. He is a co-author and editor of dozens of election monitoring reports of Transparency International Georgia. Levan has conducted numerous pieces of training for CSOs and journalists in Georgia and abroad on how to monitor abuse of state resources and political finances during elections.

Levan also is a visiting professor at two universities in Georgia. He holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees in international relations from Georgian and US universities. At present, he is a Ph.D. candidate in international relations. He has worked in the parliament of Georgia, National Democratic Institute (NDI), and has been writing analytical essays for different magazines.



S P E A K E R S



DR. MAGNUS OHMAN

**DIRECTOR OF THE REGIONAL EUROPE OFFICE AND SENIOR
POLITICAL FINANCE ADVISOR, INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION
FOR ELECTORAL SYSTEMS (IFES)**

Dr Magnus Ohman has worked with political finance issues since the 1990s. Serving as Director of the Regional Europe Office and Senior Political Finance Advisor for the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), he has worked with political finance initiatives in over 35 countries, and his writings on political finance have been translated into 20 languages. Among others, he has advised the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters at the Australian House of Representatives, the Parliament of Montenegro, the National Election Commission of Liberia and the Free and Fair Election Foundation of Afghanistan.

His research includes both country analyses and macro-level studies of trends and experiences in political finance oversight and related areas, such as abuse of state resources, gender equality and electoral violence. Dr Ohman was lead writer of the BRIDGE module on political finance and the IFES *Political Finance Oversight Handbook*, which is part of the Training on Detection and Enforcement curriculum. He also co-edited the International IDEA *Funding of Political Parties and Election Campaigns*, and the IDEA database on political finance regulations worldwide.

Dr Ohman's practical work includes assistance to legislators, implementing agencies, civil society, media and political parties. Dr Ohman holds a PhD in Political Science from the University of Uppsala in Sweden.



S P E A K E R S



MS. HELEN TUREK

**REGIONAL LEAD, EUROPE,
OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP (OGP)**

Helen joined the Open Government Partnership Support Unit in 2016, and works for the Country Support Team. She is responsible for strategic leadership and team management for the Support Unit's work in the Europe region. She is also working directly with a number of OGP members to support the development and implementation of open government reforms.

Prior to joining OGP, Helen worked at Transparency International Secretariat where she managed projects related to political corruption. She focused on lobbying reform, aiming to bring greater transparency and ethics to political influence activities. She holds a BA in Russian and French and an MA in Politics, Security and Integration, both from University College London. Helen is based in Berlin, Germany.



S P E A K E R S



MR. RAJ CHARI

**PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE,
TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN**

Raj is a Professor in Political Science in TCD. Born and raised in Canada, he earned his BA (hons.) and MA from the University of Saskatchewan, and his PhD from Queen's University (Canada) carrying out his doctoral research work in the Juan March Institute (Madrid). He studies comparative public policy, with a focus on the relationship between business and politics and the regulation of lobbyists. He has advised and presented expert evidence throughout the globe on the development of lobbying laws, where some of these governments/institutions advised include: the UK, Scotland, Ireland, the Czech Republic, Serbia, New South Wales (Australia), Finland, the European Parliament, and the Council of Europe. He has also served as an independent researcher for Open Government Partnership, evaluating Ireland's commitment to transparency policies between 2014-2018. His five books have been published with leading presses such as Oxford University Press, Manchester University Press and Routledge, and he has written over 35 papers and book chapters.



S P E A K E R S



MR. DANIEL FREUND

**MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT,
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT**

Daniel Freund (from Aachen, 35 years old) has been an MEP for The Greens/EFA since July 2019. Daniel Freund studied politics, economics and law in Leipzig, Paris and Washington. After working for the German Foreign Ministry and the EU institutions, he headed the European work of Transparency International for 5 years, working on the fight against corruption and publishing on issues such as transparency in legislation, conflicts of interest and lobbying. Since his election to the European Parliament in 2019, he is now continuing this work in Parliament. He is a member of the Committees on Constitutional Affairs and Budgetary Control. He is the Green Group's negotiator for the Conference on the Future of Europe and chairman of the European Parliament's cross-party working group on anti-corruption. Daniel Freund met his Italian wife during his Erasmus studies. Together they have a son.



S P E A K E R S



MS. MARIE LINTZER

**HEAD OF INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS,
FRENCH HIGH AUTHORITY FOR TRANSPARENCY
IN PUBLIC LIFE**

Marie Lintzer is the Head of international partnerships at the French High Authority for transparency in public life, which aims at promoting the integrity and exemplarity of public officials and manages the lobbying transparency registry in France.

She is an anti-corruption and public sector transparency expert with more than ten years of international experience. She worked on governance issues in the oil, gas and mining sector, first in London for the consulting firm Resource Consulting Services, then in New York for the Natural Resource Governance Institute, formerly part of the Open Society Foundations.

Marie graduated in law from the University of Paris II and Oxford, and in public management from the London School of Economics.



S P E A K E R S



MR. VITOR TEIXEIRA

ADVOCACY OFFICER EU INTEGRITY,
TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL EU

Vitor joined Transparency International EU in 2017. He works in the EU integrity team, where he focuses mainly on issues related with the transparency and accountability of the EU Institutions. Prior to joining Transparency International EU he worked as Advocacy Policy Officer in Brussels promoting better health in Europe, as Project Manager for Transparency International Portugal in the area of local government transparency, and as a registered nurse. Vitor holds a MSc in International and European Relations from Linköping University, a BSc in European Studies from Maastricht University and a BSc in Nursing from Coimbra University.



S P E A K E R S



MR. JULIO BACIO TERRACINO

**ACTING HEAD OF DIVISION, PUBLIC SECTOR INTEGRITY,
DIRECTORATE FOR PUBLIC GOVERNANCE, OECD**

Julio has more than 15 years of experience in anti-corruption, and regularly advises countries in the design and implementation of policies that ensure public integrity and prevent corruption. He has contributed to the design of analytical frameworks for the creation of public integrity systems, building a culture of integrity and ensuring accountability. He also has expertise in addressing corruption in public procurement and mega infrastructure projects, as well as promoting transparency and integrity in political processes.

Previously, Julio was an independent consultant on anti-corruption, a human rights and governance officer at the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and a legal adviser in the private sector. Of Argentinian and Italian nationality, Julio obtained his PhD and Master's degree in International Law at the Graduate Institute of International Studies, Geneva and his Bachelor of Laws at the University of Buenos Aires.



S P E A K E R S



MR. JOSEPH FOTI

CHIEF RESEARCH OFFICER,
OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP (OGP)

Joseph Foti is the Chief Research Officer of the Open Government Partnership, a broad international partnership that includes members at the national and local level and thousands of civil society organizations. Through the Partnership, these powerful forces work together to co-create two-year action plans with concrete steps – commitments – across a broad range of issues. Joseph leads the Analytics and Insights team which is responsible for major research initiatives, managing OGP's significant data resources, and ensuring the highest quality of analysis and relevance in OGP publications.

He has over a decade leading research and accountability teams across a range of sustainable development issues. With over 30 publications to his name, he has expertise in environmental policy, impact assessment, justice reform, civic space, and access to information. His most recent major work was as the Chief Editor of OGP's first global report, Democracy Beyond the Ballot Box. Before his current role he was the founding director of a well-reputed international accountability mechanism, OGP's Independent Reporting Mechanism. Prior to his work at OGP, he was a Senior Associate for the Access Initiative, a network led by the World Resources Institute (WRI). Prior to this, he worked as a public school teacher.



S P E A K E R S



MS. KATHERINE ELLENA

SENIOR GLOBAL LEGAL ADVISOR, INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR ELECTORAL SYSTEMS (IFES)

As the International Foundation for Electoral Systems' (IFES) senior global legal advisor, Katherine Ellena is responsible for providing strategic oversight and technical assistance to IFES' work globally on legal and regulatory frameworks for elections, electoral dispute resolution, electoral integrity, and anticorruption. Ellena provides direct technical legal assistance to IFES' field programs, and has worked with election commissions, anticorruption bodies, tribunals, courts, government interlocutors and civil society in over 20 countries over the past 15 years.

Ellena has developed various practitioner tools, and published opinion pieces, blogs and academic papers. Recent papers focus on electoral integrity and election audits, the effective management of elections disputes and violations, a holistic approach to cybersecurity in elections, comparative approaches to election annulments, COVID-19-related electoral legal issues, and countering corruption in crises.

Before joining IFES, Ellena has served as the acting vice president of the United States New Zealand Council; research associate with the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School's Department of Defense Analysis; and diplomat with the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Ellena holds a master's degree in law with honors from the University of Canterbury, bachelor's degrees in law and philosophy from the University of Canterbury, and a diploma for graduates in international development from the University of London. She was admitted to practice in the High Court of New Zealand in 2004.



S P E A K E R S



MS. JOY LANGSTON

**PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE,
CENTER FOR RESEARCH AND TEACHING
IN ECONOMICS, CIDE, MEXICO CITY**

Professor Langston is a Professor of Political Science at the Center for Research and Teaching in Economics, CIDE, in Mexico City. She specializes in political parties, campaigns, candidate selection, and the survival of authoritarian parties after democratization. Recently, she published *Democratization and Authoritarian Party Survival: Mexico's PRI* with Oxford University Press. She has also published in *Journal of Politics*, *Comparative Politics*, and *Comparative Political Studies*. She is currently engaged in a research project on clientelism in Mexico.



S P E A K E R S



MR. VAKHUSHTI MENABDE

**DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS SUPPORT
PROGRAM DIRECTOR, GYLA**

Vakhushti Menabde is a specialist in political law. GYLA General Assembly elected him as a member of the Board in November 2018 and in January 2019, the Board approved him as Director of Program of Support for Democratic Institutions.

In 2016-2017 he was the head of Human Rights Direction at Georgian Institute of Public Affairs (GIPA).]

In 2013-2015, Vakhushti held the position of director of the Institutional Reform Support Program at Human Rights Education and Monitoring Center (EMC), before that in 2010-2013 he worked at the Georgian Young Lawyers' Association for the position of a lawyer in the Project of Transparency and Accountability;

In 2008-2010 he worked at the Public Defender's office on the position of the specialist of the Freedom and Equality Rights Division, and later he became the Head of the Center of Rights for Persons with Disabilities.

Vakhushti Menabde received a Bachelor's degree in law at Tbilisi Ivane Javakhishvili State University and Master's degree in sociology at Ilia State University.



S P E A K E R S



MS. NINO RIZHAMADZE

**LAWYER, INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR FAIR
ELECTIONS AND DEMOCRACY (ISFED)**

Nino Rizhamadze holds LLM degree in Public International Law and Human Rights from Riga Graduate School of Law (2014) and Master's Degree in Constitutional Law from Georgian Technical University (2012).

Nino has more than 7 years of working experience in the NGO sector. She has served as a lawyer and project coordinator International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy – (ISFED) since 2011. While working at ISFED she participated in several working groups in legislative attempts to change electoral legislation and the justice system in Georgia. In the meantime she was coordinator of Long Term Observers (LTO) monitoring mission during six nationwide elections.

Nino has extensive experience of monitoring elections not only in her home country - Georgia, but also in Ukraine - she was an STO for 2012 parliamentary elections in Ukraine, Crimea (ENEMO); an LTO for 2014 Early Parliamentary Elections in Ukraine (ENEMO) and for 2015 local self-government elections in Ukraine (ENEMO) and legal expert of ENEMO EOM CT in Ukraine for 2019 presidential election.

Currently she is senior researcher of the Social Media Monitoring project carried out by ISFED.



CONTACTS

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