

General Conclusions and Recommendations
“Local Democracy in the South Caucasus”
Regional Workshop organized by International IDEA
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The participants of the seminar discussed the local democracy problems of the South Caucasus countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia). They reiterated the need for improving the forms and methods of democratic development and unanimously adopted the following recommendations, which are common for all three of the South Caucasus countries.

1. Improving the election system

- To amend the electoral legislation to define requirements on a “mixed” (party-proportionate with majoritarian) systems of local self-government elections;
- To stimulate the participation of the civil society, in particular that of the youth and women in local self-government elections;

2. Stimulating the participation of civil society in the local-level governance decision-making process

- To introduce arrangements for enhancing the publicity and transparency of local self-government activities;
- To implement the advanced techniques and arrangements of citizens’ and civil society stakeholders’ participation in the governance of communities;
- To strengthen the accountability of and control over the activities of local self-government;
- To train civil society representatives in the area of democracy and civic participation;

3. Implementing conditions for realizing a form of local self-government

- To strengthen the financial-economic bases of local self-government (legislative amendments concerning public ownership and adequate funding for the communities);
- To optimize the administrative-territorial division (enlargement of communities, introducing a two-tier system of local self-government, and creating inter-community associations);
- To make rational use of the human resource potential of local self-government (drafting and passing a Law on Municipal Service);
- To optimize the decentralization of powers (achieving a rational balance between centralization and decentralization of powers).

These recommendations were presented to and approved by the participants of the seminar.