



Joint declaration
of the National Association of Local Authorities in Georgia
and the Association of Local Authorities in Lithuania

National Association of Local Authorities in Georgia, hereby dully represented by its president Mr. Mamuka Abuladze,

and

Association of Local Authorities in Lithuania, hereby dully represented by its president Mr. Ričardas Malinauskas,

- taking into account the historical links between the Lithuanian and Georgian nations;
- acknowledging the critical importance of sharing knowledge as well as of partnerships on Decentralized Governance in completing governance transformations;
- recognizing the common environmental, economic development, equity and social inclusion challenges that municipalities of both countries confront and the potential which could derive from fruitful synergy which partners have potential to produce;
- noting the mutual interest in establishing and strengthening cooperation between Georgian and Lithuanian local authorities;
- recognizing this Forum as the next step in the ongoing efforts of Georgian and Lithuanian local governments to mobilize local action in greater international recognition of the importance of local governments' role in all sectors of contemporary life from the services needed in daily life of each citizen up to the building of international peace and stability;
- acknowledging the major role that local authorities in Georgia and Lithuania play in the development of local economy, first of all in the area of promoting jobs and employment at the local level;
- desirous of contributing to the goals of the Lithuanian-Georgian Charter on European and Euro-Atlantic integration, signed in Vilnius on April 28, 2009;

Have decided the following:

- to further foster the development of bilateral twinning links, aiming for each one country's municipality to have a twinning partner in the other;
- to cooperate in exchanging best practices in all the fields of municipal competences and to promote such exchanges between all local actors;
- to promote the identification, review and application of innovative regional and local strategies and actions aimed to sustainable and climate-friendly development, including but not limited to greenhouse



- gas reduction, energy efficiency, renewable energy, sustainable transportation and land use, communal services and “green” building policies;
- to jointly participate in the European Union Climate actions, including such initiatives as the Covenant of Mayors;
 - to combine efforts in promoting exchange of best practices in the field of public-private and community partnerships in decentralized service delivery;
 - to work together in the promotion of mutual local level investment;
 - to capitalize on and further share existing policies on gender equality at the local level;
 - to strengthen the bilateral cooperation in various international formats, starting from, but not limiting to the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe;
 - to exchange best practices in trans-frontier cooperation and building of Euro-regions;
 - to promote grass root cooperation in all vital fields of building civil society, starting from, but not limiting to school cooperation, libraries exchanges, joint youth activities;
 - to promote the cooperation between both Associations and local authorities in the field of e-governance and building digital municipal services;
 - to strengthen mechanisms for promotion exchanges of activities and best practices;
 - to support the exchange of legislative instruments, experiences and best practices aiming to develop a virtual network for capacity building of local authorities;
 - to jointly promote the usage of international donor’s instruments for cooperation among the both associations of local authorities, as well as between individual municipalities;
 - to commit to organizing regularly bilateral forums of local authorities, bringing together elected municipal representatives, municipal administrative officials, experts and representatives of local civil society non-governmental organisations, with a view of establishing permanent cooperation structures;

Mamuka Abuladze

President of National Association of Local Authorities
in Georgia

Ričardas Malinauskas

President of Association of Local Authorities in
Lithuania

Done in Tbilisi, on 30 April 2012