

STATEMENT

11 February, 2020 Year

Center for Development and Democracy (CDD) responds to the Supreme Court of Georgia's judgement conviction on one of the leaders of the political party "European Georgia" Gigi Ugulava on February 10th, 2020.

Ongoing political dialogue between the ruling party and the opposition, aimed to reach a consensus on the electoral system and improvement of the election environment, unfortunately has been disturbed by this decision and raised number of questions around the timing and the process in a wider society.

Considering the tensed political environment in Georgia, instead of finalizing the process of dialogue with tangible results based on the recommendations and expectations of the stakeholders, strategic partners and general public, increase of political polarization has been observed.

We sincerely hope that there is still a room and resources for political dialogue in order to improve the election environment and perform election code reform, which will be an important precondition for conducing legitimate, free and fair Parliamentary Elections in Georgia in 2020.