

STATEMENT ON MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS HELD IN GEORGIA ON 4 OCTOBER 2025

As delivered by Minister Councillor Knut-Are Sprauten Okstad at the Permanent
Council, Vienna, 9 October 2025

Mr. Chair,

We note with serious concern the reports of unrest and use of force in the immediate aftermath of the recent local elections, and reiterate our call on all sides to reject any violence. The elections were held amid credible accusations of restrictions on civil society, media and opposition participation. Regrettably, the OSCE/ODIHR was not issued a timely invitation to observe the elections, and their recommendations remained unaddressed.

Norway condemns any repression of peaceful dissent, particularly noting the arbitrary arrests of peaceful protesters and opposition leaders since the parliamentary elections in 2024 and supports statements by ODIHR urging Georgian authorities to adhere fully to their OSCE human rights commitments.

Norway calls on Georgian authorities to respect the fundamental rights of assembly and expression, to halt arrests of peaceful protesters, and to release all those arbitrarily detained.

We urge the Georgian Dream authorities to cease any agenda to ban opposition parties, which would mark a further step toward autocracy.

Norway stands ready to support inclusive dialogue, democratic reform, and monitoring of future elections.

Thank you.

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