

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
“IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN CONVENTION
ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN GEORGIA”**

24-25 MAY 2016, FUNICULAR, TBILISI

CONCEPT PAPER

In 1999, when signing and ratifying the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) Georgia took the responsibility to fulfil its primary obligation - ensure that the rights and freedoms set forth in the Convention and its protocols are fully secured at the national level, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity.

The 2015 Brussels Declaration provided for the shared responsibility between the States, the Court and the Committee of Ministers to ensure the effective implementation of the ECHR and the case law of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR). Besides the implementation of the ECHR at the national level, it also recalls the states parties' obligation to ensure the full, effective and prompt execution of the judgments of the ECtHR.

The Brussels Declaration reiterates the subsidiary nature of the supervisory mechanism established by the ECHR and underlines the primary role played by the national authorities, namely governments, courts and parliaments, and their margin of appreciation in guaranteeing and protecting human rights at national level, while involving National Human Rights Institutions and civil society where appropriate.

Since 1999, the cooperation between the Council of Europe and the Georgian authorities has steadily grown, amounting today to a significant number of bilateral programmes aimed at supporting democratic reforms, advancing fundamental rights and consolidating the rule of law. Among them, special attention is paid to the reform of judiciary, as well as to the support to legal professionals in the application of the fundamental principles of the ECHR.

The conference will highlight the impact of the ECtHR on the life of ordinary citizens in Georgia, stress the importance of the execution of the ECtHR judgments and underline the significance of the direct application of the ECHR at the national level. Moreover, the Conference will attempt to highlight the role national institutions in Georgia play in ensuring the effective enjoyment of the Convention rights in the country, preventing and rectifying violations. The Conference will provide a highly visible national forum for discussing both progress and lapses in performing these roles by the national institutions. It will also seek the input from international participants and experts to further advance the discussion of potential solutions.