



## THE MISSION AND THE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES OF THE UNION

The Union of Communities of Armenia is the joint and representative voice of its members in Armenia and abroad led by the principles of autonomy, protection of rights, collegiality and non-partisanship of its members and based on strong institutional foundations and structures. The Union strives to ensure that the local self-government bodies of the Republic of Armenia have a vocal and trustworthy voice in the country's political system, with an aim of influencing the political agenda and defining that agenda in collaboration with national authorities for the sake of the Armenian citizens, communities and local democracy.

*The mission of the Union demonstrated its commitment to becoming a prime organisation with an ambitious agenda and to be ready and capacitated to address the current challenges that local governments face in Armenia.*

*The main goal of the Union is to advance the rights of its members while contributing to the development of local government, building the capacities of the local authorities and promoting cooperation between member communities.*

## **ADVOCATING INTERESTS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS**

Development of local government and local democracy in Armenia, as well as further efficient decentralisation of powers and finances, are the important components of the advocacy vision of the Union.

The Union attaches great importance to the right of the communities to be heard as an important of local democracy and advocates for setting up a formal legal mechanism in Armenia for consultations between the higher levels of Government and local authorities as a tool for effective communication of the unified voice of the communities, as well as means to adding value to the relationships between the Government and the Union and expanding its scope of influence.

The advocacy efforts of the Union are not limited to lobbying at local and national levels. The Union also works at the international arena and represents the interests of its members in several international organisations (e.g. the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, the Conference of the Regional and Local Authorities for the Eastern Partnership).

To make the voice of its members heard and to be successful at policy advocacy, the Union strives to put its lobbying and advocacy work on a more professional ground by making use of new advocacy tools, strengthening its expertise and analytic capacities and adapting participatory approaches to the joint policy position development processes.

## *BUILDING LOCAL GOVERNMENT CAPACITIES*

Increasing the effectiveness of the local governments through building their capacities is the other key objective of the Union. To this end the Union works with its members – mayors, councillors and municipal servants to develop their skills and capacities. The Union also offers needs-oriented professional support to its members through advisory services and sharing of best practices within its network.



## *INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND VISIBILITY*

To be able to carry out its mission and strategic objectives the Union recognised the need for further developing its institutional capacities and human resources. The management of the Union pays specific attention is to the capacity development of the Secretariat, modernisation of the governance and management structures and fostering financial sustainability of the Union.

The Union works on increasing its visibility to public at large as a representative body striving to contribute to the development of local democracy in Armenia. The Union uses a number of tools and platforms – social media, press and TVs, as well as [www.caa.am](http://www.caa.am) web-site - to present its activities and to inform the public and the policy-makers on its viewpoints and positions.



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