MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between

the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe

and

Municipality of Tskaltubo

for the implementation of the project

Strengthening participatory democracy and human rights at local level in Georgia

under the

Council of Europe Action Plan for Georgia 2020-2023

We, the signatories to this memorandum, hereby:

Acknowledge the principles of the European Charter of Local Self-Government and its Additional Protocol on the right to participate in the affairs of a local authority, ratified by Georgia, in 2004 and in 2019 respectively;

Recognise that local authorities are one of the main foundations of democracy, where human rights can be most directly exercised and are key partners of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe (hereinafter the Congress);

Take into account the steps made in Georgia to strengthen local self-government and advance human rights at local level.

Express our readiness and commitment to:

Improve the quality of local democracy in Georgia by strengthening institutional frameworks and mainstreaming human rights in local decision-making, and promoting a citizen-oriented, open, inclusive and gender-sensitive local governance.

The signatories to the Memorandum of understanding commit to:

The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

- **Support** the institutional capacities of the municipality of Tskaltubo for protecting human rights, improving social inclusion, promoting equal opportunities and incorporating a gender perspective in local political action, in order to eliminate discrimination;

- **Provide** a forum of peer exchange and knowledge-sharing at domestic and European levels for developing local strategies and policies to promote human rights and gender equality, diversity and inclusion, as well as transparency and citizen participation;

- **Foster** constructive dialogue and effective multilevel governance and involve relevant actors to enhance local resilience and sustainable development.

Municipality of Tskaltubo

- **Promote** and integrate European standards for local democracy and human rights in the strategies, policies and practices, in particular Council of Europe and Congress recommendations related to human rights, gender equality,

open government and antidiscrimination;

- **Intensify** local political action to protect human rights and foster participatory and inclusive local decision-making;

- **Contribute** to the implementation of the Council of Europe project "Strengthening participatory democracy and human rights at local level in Georgia" and participate in peer-to-peer exchanges to develop new strategies, innovative practices and tools that address local challenges and citizens needs.

Signed in Tbilisi, Georgia, on 9 December 2021, in English and Georgian language, both texts being equally authentic.

Genadi Balanchivadze
Mayor
Municipality of Tskaltubo

Andreas KIEFER
Secretary General
Congress of Local and Regional Authorities
of the Council of Europe