

## Türkiye – South Caucasus: New Peaceful Space

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### **Abstract**

One of the most important perspectives of Türkiye's foreign policy can be considered the geopolitical format developed by it, which will create a new reality for the South Caucasus countries. This format, in the history of Turkish diplomacy, creates a new foreign perspective for the South Caucasus countries.

Since the beginning of the 1990s, the international order has changed, and consequently, the geopolitical reality for the countries of the South Caucasus has changed. After the conflict in Abkhazia, in the analysis of the new international situation, our idea was born to create a new geopolitical format in which the countries of the Caucasus would be involved. We have emphasized that the new geopolitical format may have taken the form of a tercet, quintet, quartet, or sextet, that is, one that would have adapted to the situation in the region at some point in history. This format would not be similar to Suam, as it would include the United States, Turkey, and Russia, along with Georgia, Azerbaijan, and Armenia. This format was to serve in resolving the conflicts in the small countries of the newly declared South Caucasus and to facilitate their integration into the international community. We republished this idea in detail in 2013 in the trilingual edition "Georgia's Choice," the large-scale presentation of which was held at the Georgian Academy of Sciences, where the rationality and goodness of the idea were voiced in detail for the South Caucasus countries and the world in general. This idea, in a way, is similar to the opinion of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on the creation of a new geopolitical six, but the difference

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between them is that we consider the US as one of the main actors in this format.

Even in the distant 90s and today, we think that the world will benefit if it is able to open up and unite the South Caucasus geopolitical space to solve the problems in the region, including the resolution of unresolved conflicts. This format will not only contribute to the rapprochement and development of the countries of the South Caucasus but will also resolve many other problems created by the new world order.

**Keywords:** South Caucasus, Georgia, Türkiye, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Geopolitics, New Format.

The establishment of Georgia as a fully recognized State is an urgent need; it necessitates a comprehensive appraisal of our country's role in the global world and the acquisition (partial recovery) of additional international functions. To attain our aims, we adhered to the fundamental principles of geopolitics, focusing on determination and the identification of present and anticipated threats, objectives, and strategies. This is the situation, the status quo, that not only impacts and influences, but also determines the fate and destiny of the country within the system of international politics. This includes its own geographical location, space, action, time, area, relationship with other states, political image, and more. Unfortunately, in recent history, a particular geostrategic location has served as a kind of obstacle for Georgia. The reasons are as follows:

Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, during the onset of post-communist transformation, none of the Governments of Georgia was able to (i) acquired for a country the place, commensurate with its natural-historical features or make the adequate step tailored with time and space; (ii) had been able to identify Georgia's future, external factors traditionally involved in the fate of the country as well as the congenital confrontational forces, prediction and envisagement of the roles and interests of two major geopolitical centers – the USA and Russia in the modern stage (in the short or long term), also the threat of substitution of one centre by another; (iii) managed to understand that based on the conflicting nature of the United States and Russia, the territory of Georgia was insufficient space to match their interests, even more so, to bring the latest in line with the State interests of Georgia.

Based on the complexity of its neighborhood, Georgia is not a self-contained, closed system; religiously, historically, and geographically, it is situated in the epicenter, at the crossroads of geopolitical and geo-economic and military-political interests, and the name of this epicenter is not only Georgia but the whole South Caucasus, all Caucasian socio-cultural and political space. The definition of destiny and the implementation of public tasks (including one of the greatest challenges—restoration of territorial integrity and the unity of the country) are beyond the borders of our state, and gaining regional and global dimensions cannot depend only on Georgia, Russia, or Russian-Georgian relations. Since the historical era of the Big Silk Way, this region, with its strategically hub location (current potential energy corridor, highway transport, trade, etc.), is the place of conflict of interests related to the emergence of a new world order of the XXI century for certain groups with certain interests, such as America, Russia, Europe, Türkiye, Iran, Asia, and others.

The international community, because of the inefficient and inconsistent activities of the former Governments of Georgia and primarily as a result of its state policy tailored with some private interests (including and in respect of the CIS, which has become a sacred theme), also because of the host mode of confrontation with the Russian energy empire, strengthening of the Russian factor in the international system, and greater interest of the countries of the East, could not or did not fully realize the real causes of the provocation of ethno-political conflicts and their transformation into global problems, the mines laid by the Soviet Empire in our country against our sovereignty. It, appearing to be left without any function due to a lack of sufficient motivation and commitment to the Georgian State as well as due to the formal internationalization of the domestic problems, is not capable not only of resolving them but also of realizing the perspectives of reality after the period of the Cold War or understanding the perspectives of the further fate of closely interrelated destinies of the region as a whole. It failed to see the role of Georgia that has lost its functions and thus to view the future of the Caucasus and Europe in general.

ssssThe modern world does not give the country the opportunity to exist independently, in isolation, and to conduct effective control over all internal and external threats, even by orienting toward any world or civilization. Based on this, Georgia urgently needs to assume its international responsibilities. Following an in-depth study, the only real way for us to achieve the goal

(if we do not want to live oriented on only the interests of a foreign state) is to extend the range of the space of its existence (not territories) by the Georgian state, to conduct peaceful coexistence with other nations, to form the correct geopolitical system by maintaining the balance of forces ruling the world, and additional interest—the main regulator of world politics—it should have the ability to integrate into the system of international relations with its own regional boundaries.

Approach, acquisition of additional and region-unifying functions (transfer of public policy in the context of regional policy), a kind of alternative and effective weapon of self-defense of a sovereign nation—is a Georgian mission, which, along with the goal of transformation of the problem country into a progressive state, would stipulate the awarding of the major assignment for Georgia—international functions.

At the regional level (as a rule, Caucasian, East and West synthesis), one must take into account only the South Caucasus, in which the priority significance of the organizing center originally was assigned to Georgia. As for the Caucasus—the cradle of civilizations of the peoples of the world and its amenities—certainly this single region and Georgia are also the parts of history referred to as the Caucasian Unity. However, the fact remains that since the IV century to the present day, despite its evidencing code (similar facts are numerous in the history of Georgia and many peoples of the Caucasus), the idea of such unity could not be implemented; so, instead of clutching at the old idea, it is better – especially now (when even Caucasian solidarity is unacceptable for some external forces, especially for Russia – the country that should be taken into consideration) to consider the Caucasus only in the terms of cultural and civilized unity of the Caucasian peoples and to consider the southern Caucasus as the common regional space consisting of sovereign states, which will be represented in whole before the major world geopolitical centers—the United States, Türkiye, the Russian Federation and the European Union.

Further prospective, that space and the relationship with it show much more reality while its future offers more attractiveness. The necessity of forming the South Caucasus as a unified (rather than isolated and closed) single space in the new realities is stipulated by the following factors:

- i. The overall geo-strategic location of Georgia, Azerbaijan, and Armenia at the intersection, connecting European and Asian countries;

- ii. Established political borders (it, i.e., the region of severe risks, separated from its neighbors—Türkiye, the Russian Federation, and Iran);
- iii. Geographical term (corresponds to Russian “Caucasus” and implies for Russia “on the other side of the Caucasus Ridge”—and for Georgia, in contrast, “on this side of the Caucasus Mountains”—the whole Caucasus);
- iv. Natural regularity (the Caucasus Mountains divided the Caucasus into two organic parts—the North and South Caucasus);
- v. Location to the political center (the geopolitical center—the South boundary line of Russia found itself on the wrong side of the Northern Caucasus, in the borders of the South Caucasus, in particular in Georgia);
- vi. The international community, particularly in Europe, viewed Georgia as a protective shield between the Islamic world and adopted a politically driven stance towards the South Caucasus as a unified entity.
- vii. The cultural environment differs from that of the North, which is Slavic, and the South, which is Turkish and Iranian, but it shares similar political subcultures.
- viii. The increasing external ambitions of the United States and Russia, as well as Europe, Türkiye, and Iran, and their action plans based on their ambitions.
- ix. Georgia’s, Azerbaijan’s, and Armenia’s fates and fortunes have been interconnected for centuries; each region has a complicated relationship with at least one of its neighboring countries: Georgia-Russia, Azerbaijan-Iran (with Russia), Armenia-Türkiye;
- x. Creation of the balancing mechanisms for external forces and the mentality of the joint struggle developed in the people residing in the region to survive their originality;
- xi. The use of the common areas of Georgia, Azerbaijan, and Armenia in the manner that will provide with overall benefit/profit from possible additional benefits;
- xii. Initiation of the real settlement processes of ethno-political, political, or inter-state conflicts in the South Caucasus countries; external and internal threats; new challenges; and more.

The future of the Southern Caucasus (still obscure without resistance immunity), together with the states of the region, is more dependent on the common and individual interests of the United States and Russia, as well as the European Union, Türkiye, and Iran. The interests of the major players should be considered, at least in terms of general trends, based on the common ownership of space and the purposes for which it is used. For example, restoration/rebuilding of its strategic influences in the context of military-political geography is perceived by Russia as a natural and regular phenomenon; perfectly combining with each other the security policy and energy interests, it tries to introduce and adopt its principles in the Caucasus and Central Asia, to take over energy resources in tandem with Armenia and Iran, to achieve control over the East- West transit corridor, to avoid confrontation with the Islamic world (though it must be recognized that this factor increases directly in the Russia), it (Russia) cannot put up with the growing role of Türkiye in the region, with an attempt of Georgia to release from its political orbit range, approaching of the NATO and intensification and strengthening of Asia to the East, it cannot also put up with the expected energy- independence of Europe, with the loss of control over transit routes, moreover, it manipulates the independence of Abkhazia and so-called South Ossetia and shows its reaction to the border instability by moving the boundaries. It is not shying away from the use of military force and does not refuse to use all available forces (including the Caucasus) against Georgia. The goal of Russia is to change the security architecture created in Europe after the Cold War in its favor; it tries to implement a new *EURAZE* project in order to make the international community adapt to the *new reality* and to return to the strategy shown in its National Emblem: a double-headed eagle with one head looking at Europe and the other at Asia.

The USA, which has firmly settled on the springboard of European democracy, aims to overcome Russia's imperial ambitions in the new world order and to send its energy ambitions in the western direction. In Georgia, America protects its own specific interests; for this, it needs strong states, particularly in the region of the southern Caucasus. Thus, the territorial integrity of independent Georgia is important for the United States, and therefore, the unacceptable thing for the USA is the rise of the concentration of military forces of Russia, both in Abkhazia and so-called South Ossetia. At the same time, America is not interested in supporting the neighbors'

confrontational diplomacy toward Russia. Certainly, the geopolitical interest in the region for the United States is more important than economic (as in the case of Russia), and the objective is to establish strategic control in the Caucasus and Caspian Sea areas. To achieve this goal, the United States tries to manage the progressive integration of the countries of the region in NATO, to distribute liberal values, to form the pro-Western elite, and, inter alia, to implement the Western-Eastern energy projects and periodically to inactivate “Iranian subjects.” The USA also tries to meet its goals by recognizing Türkiye as a regional leader and by expanding its spheres of influence.

The strategic interest of the European Union (major countries are Germany, France, Italy, the United Kingdom) remains the preservation of mutual cooperation with the United States and Russia, the security of the region, the diversification of the energy projects, reducing the influence of the United States on the European continent, the creation of a Russian-European Alliance; of course, involvement of the EU in the Russian-Georgian armed conflict has a positive role, but since the European Union in the long run do not perceive Russia as a threat, the desire of unconditional support for Georgia was defeated by pragmatism and the reins of manager in the South Caucasus were once again transferred to Russia. Europe is not single and integrated politically, ideologically, or ethnic-culturally; the separation line passing the eastern border of Western Christianity separates West Catholic, Protestant, Eastern Orthodox, and Muslim parts. No such binding ties exist between the European Union and NATO; the issue of the expansion of the Alliance (at the expense of the states of our region) has not been inserted in the agenda of these states. This issue is relevant only for small European states, mainly oriented to the United States. However, with the ongoing geopolitical changes, the EU, as an independent player and one of the most important mechanisms of the international security system, can now be considered a stabilizing factor and even a guarantor of peace in this region.

Türkiye, one of the independent player states in the region, has become one of the most important centers of regional forces. In some ways, Türkiye’s interests align with the geostrategic goals of the United States and the West, who aim to counterbalance the dominance of Iranian and Russian influence in the region. The current change process in Türkiye will significantly lessen the influence of aggressive Pan-Turkism and the legacy of Turkish nationalism. This, coupled with an increase in Eurasian preferences from the Atlantic, is



expected to have a positive impact not only on the South Caucasus but also on Türkiye's status as a transit state and its role as a mediator in Russian-Georgian relations. However, we least expect a compromise on the issue of joint Russian-Turkish influence in the region, which serves as a guarantor of our security. The reason lies in the fact that, like other forces, in the interest of both parties, it aims to avoid reinforcing each other through sole control (including major Georgian-Azerbaijani space), in contrast to the expressed position of Russia, Türkiye, and the NATO member's attempt to introduce a member of the Georgia Alliance, "Armenian genocide," the Kurdish question, and the so-called "Turkish Brotherhood" due to the patronage of Azerbaijan. Also, what is the most important, "the idea of Pan-Turkism," which is still alive and provides for the unification of all peoples of Turkic origin from the Mediterranean to the North coast of the Arctic Ocean and the creation of so-called Pan-Turkish States (the population of the Central Asian countries, with the exception of Tajik people, refers to a group of Turkish peoples), is in contradiction with the state interests of Russia, etc.

Despite its close proximity to the southern Caucasus, Iran plays a less significant role in the region; however, underestimating the state's role is unjustifiable. Iran continues to refer to Azerbaijan as the "Baku Republic." Despite the fact that the number of ethnic Azerbaijanis in the country is approximately three times greater than the total population, Iran did not provide assistance to Azerbaijan during the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Tehran maintains a good-neighbor policy with Azerbaijan and a strategic partnership policy (particularly in the area of trade and economic relations) with Armenia, based on the principle of the common border, Russian, and domestic religious factors. While it's challenging to forecast the course of events, it's crucial to emphasize that Georgia doesn't require an adversary to confront Iran. Based on the stability of the northern region, Iran, at least today, can prevent the deployment of NATO military bases in the territory of the region, and consequently, change the status quo in the southern Caucasus so that the role of the United States would be increased unilaterally—this fact is the great concern for Iran, unlike Türkiye, and it is worried about not only ethnic and economic threats but also the possible military threats from the mismatch of interests of two superpowers in the region, in particular the United States and Russia. The above-mentioned open or other secret interests (including gradually increasing interests of China), as well as the relationship quality (joint coexistence is complicated, but individually



impossible) between the United States and Russia, as well as between other influential forces interested in the region, exclude the existence of any one-sided strategy for Georgia and a regional space in general, which stipulates their participation and joint decision-making; in other words, it conditions the real possibility of constructive cooperation.

The South Caucasus, which almost never will lose its geostrategic importance, certainly is a single, common house for the people of his country, but respected the historical and moral point of view that the only one of them, namely Georgia, can change its own destiny and the destiny of its neighboring states and play a crucial role in the creation of a new common regional model and make other participants at this stage. Despite the political game of “who’s who,” the identity of unity in a common space will be fully regulated only in the format of Georgian-Azerbaijani and Georgian-Armenian relations. The whole external force interested in the region assigns a priority to Georgia. In fact, the current situation clearly shows the following:

- i. The peoples of the South Caucasus were as free as Georgia was strong in the capacity of the leader. Based on the geographical location and history, Georgia should undertake to implement this mission—numerously justified—in the future as well.
- ii. The South Caucasus has always had an anti-imperialist aspiration at its core. The National Patriotic Movement’s revival and attempts to break free from Russia’s political orbit are gradually enhancing separatism in the common space.
- iii. Instability in the South Caucasus is a direct threat to the intraregional North Caucasus (Russia) and a hidden threat to Europe. One needs to think about the possibilities of peace and similar integration processes, to which Europe is committed for several decades.

Georgia’s historic responsibility is to maintain its dominance in the region. The passive leader policy of Georgia, its omission in the international initiatives, can contribute to the loss of the country’s functions of interconnection of ethnic, religious, and cultural trends in the Caucasus, the unique geopolitical status, and turn the country into a geopolitical appendage.

Thus, the objective of transforming Georgia into a full-fledged State has identified our task – the country needs to return to its original trajectory, the achievement of which is the establishment of a global world not only for

Georgian (albeit based on the restoration of historical justice, which will be of interest to no one but ourselves), and this kind of balancing the common values and interests and cause related to additional benefits regional - global project, which will be based on a historical, natural and geographical factors; with the expected result, the stability of the southern Caucasus, new, peaceful long-term relationship, common approach to common interests and guaranteed participation of international cooperation there will be able to determine:

- i. Georgia's aspiration to return its unique function as a natural standard-bearer of the southern Caucasus, and in view of the past (the fear of making mistakes will not bring the result) to take on responsibility and actively participate in the process of settling the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict; transition from passive to active player (psychology plays a huge role in politics) will change the attitude toward our country, suspend the desire of the political elite, not the people of our neighboring states, including the dynamics of the so-called putting South Ossetia and Abkhazia out of Georgia's, and Georgia out of context of the South Caucasus and the whole Caucasus, caused by an attempt to transfer the "Centre" in the region, and attempt to restore the jurisdiction of Georgia. And most importantly, it will accelerate the process—back to the past (return of Georgia with its orientation lost to the South Caucasus and the whole Caucasus, in general, and the occupied territories of Georgia to the bosom of the country (Georgia)) as well as it will support resolving of the common regional problems—the conflicts in Abkhazia and so-called South Ossetia and Karabakh—with joint efforts and sober assessment of reality.
- ii. Define not only individually each, but also common, existing, and yet unused resources of the countries of the South Caucasus—Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan—economic potential (space, taking into account the risk factors, is functioning within only 6-7% of capacity), on the basis of mutual interests to create a regional model of sustainable economic development of a new relationship, military-political and trade-economic convergence. In recent times, the South Caucasus has become a single, secure space in the global economic processes of the world. With the restoration of trade and transit centers and the implementation of specific projects, the region's potential has increased by at least ten times.

- iii. Based on a new platform of peaceful neighborly policy to form the inside-national and foreign – collective unified, regional system of security and defense of the countries of the South Caucasus, on the one hand, ensuring the security of the South Caucasus regional space (and, if necessary, the establishment of military-political Alliance of the three countries, and the need for peaceful coexistence of the Georgian-Abkhazian and Georgian-Ossetian, Azerbaijani-Armenian societies), to turn into a subject of general interest, taking into account the world's dominating country – the United States, and regional leaders – Russia, Europe, Türkiye, Iran, and Central Asia, and on the other hand – to show them in general the needs for a new role for Georgia, new functions and the need to integrate the region as a single space in the international security system.

All remaining attempts to achieve the goal to this day (without overall regional union, in conditions of disconnection, the lack of general interest) as well as in the future will be insufficient, but it will move us away from regional security and solutions, organically related problems (conflicts); besides, it will facilitate the emergence of new threats that would require unacceptable concessions on the sovereignty of Georgia, for example, “Peace at the expense of the territories” or provisional application of Georgia for membership in the new Russian draft—Eurasian Economic Union (EURAZES), etc.

Creation of the absolutely new reintegration project, based on the effect of the powerful appeal of the general welfare, the radical sentiments (including possible military-political confrontation) in the South Caucasus will be replaced by the balanced interests of regional states and the external forces that have to be considered. The result is not a victory over anyone, but on the contrary, a new approach to world trade and integration in the global community (instead of just declaring level support) will increase the role of Georgia in the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict; it will address turning the non-Georgian population living in Georgia to our common historical destiny and the South Caucasus (as the bridge between the Christian and Islamic worlds, key West to East, North to South Gates, to Central Asia and the Middle East) without any legal status—the Confederation, Federation, etc.—one huge family, a single space of common shared interests.

The unstructured model “South Caucasus – geopolitical space,” as the idea is neither new nor a copy of old, not fully realized vision of our great ancestors

(particularly I would like to mention David Agmashenebeli—(David the Builder)). This idea (all new is well forgotten old) is significantly different from the old Georgian ideas “Caucasian House”, “Peaceful Caucasus”, the more common ownership of the Caucasus, the old “Trans-Caucasian Seim”, “the Trans-Caucasian Democratic Federative Republic, Confederation of Caucasus”, “Trans-Caucasian Socialist Federative Republic”, as well as the ideas of dismemberment of the unified Georgian state in multi-stakeholder units – new Russian idea (with the same dominance), in the format 1+3, Russia + Georgia-Azerbaijan - Armenia parliamentary foursome; 3+3 format-Russia-Türkiye-Iran + Georgia-Azerbaijan-Armenia, the Caucasian Confederation “, the “Eurasism Theory”, the so-called “Emerson format - Stability Pact for the Caucasus“, Turkish format (the format that existed before the August war: Georgia- Azerbaijan-Armenia +Türkiye-Russia and in the future together with Iran “platform of stability and cooperation in the Caucasus”), Armenian “South Caucasus Confederation”, “Armenian-Georgian Federation“, the idea of “Georgian-Azerbaijan Confederation”, voiced by Mikheil Saakashvili, and other non-Georgian projects. The new regional approach (scales for the balance of interests of Georgia) will prepare one of the three Caucasian States for the actions, the satisfaction of true certain interests of which will be admitted not separately, independently from all, but together, only on the basis of the partnership by the formula: I. Format 3 = 1 +1 +1; in the case of necessity—by the formula I. Format of 3 = 2 +1.

- i. Format 3 = 1 +1 +1 means Georgia + Azerbaijan + Armenia;
- ii. Format 3 = 2 +1 means the initial format 2, Georgia + Azerbaijan, that is those two States that complement each other, combine the Black and Caspian Seas covering 80% of the total territory and population of the South Caucasus, a strategic stretch of the Euro-Atlantic space and the Eurasia Corridor, geographic area of huge energy potential; later it will be joined by a friendly neighboring state, + 1 Armenia (which cannot be isolated); as a result, we receive the total space of Georgia + Azerbaijan, together with Armenia (even at a later stage), with its intraregional union (even in the case of tandem Georgia + Azerbaijan) the main partners, the United States, the EU, Türkiye, Iran and the largest neighbor – Russia will start to create closely related collaborative components designed in format - 3 +3 +2. (Georgia + Azerbaijan + Armenia + Russia - Türkiye - Iran + United States - EU), that is to

form a stable Group (in the absence of any kind of divisions and strife) and to strengthen the overall system of international cooperation, either security, turning the “Georgia problem” into the factor solution of collective security, crisis management, and national and regional security.

It would be a mistake to miss this chance (untapped potential), which logically connects the past, present, and future of our country (and not just our country). In addition to those uses of the opportunities (new functions) that take into account the main factors (interests), it also meets the new paradigm that has formed at the intersection of military-political, social-economic, religious, and ecological processes happening at this time, specifically the principles of global thinking, local activity, and efficiency.

With regard to foreign policy guideline-vector of the States of the region, on the basis of domestic, international and global (racial, under the guise of religious violence, threats to the civilization, intercultural differences), with the constant hope of outside support, influence interests of each state, manipulation of the pro- Russian, pro-American, pro-Western themes differentiation established in Georgia stereotypes and a minute sympathy-dislikes (United States or Russia, with America or with Russia, “NATO”, “neutrality”, “NATO or neutrality”, “NATO or Russia, not NATO, not the neutrality”, etc.), division of the political spectrum and society is not a tactical but strategic error, it is based on the temporary fate of junior partner, it cannot guarantee by resolving the underlying problem to achieve the goal regarding restoration of unity and integrity, settlement of the conflict, on the contrary-it is only misleading and false expectation. Is it really so hard to understand that caring for statehood does not mean orienting the country solely to the north or west?

In our case (perhaps hardships and difficulties, though this time will make us wiser), any one-sided communication in one direction only, in other words, all kinds of “Pro,” except “pro-Georgian” as the unknown model, cannot serve as a leisure of Georgian statehood. However, any suitable Georgian system, if the parties would not be major geopolitical centers—the United States and Russia together—as well as Europe, that is, countries that we need, “will not work.” Assume that once and for all, we put an end to the era when we favoured foreign interests over our own state interests and when setting benchmarks to begin guided by a new approach: in particular, the deepening of relations with the United States and Russia at the expense of mutual advantage and benefit from the mutual consistency of the guideline

on the west and make it uniform. So, for example, entry into the military and political block of NATO (as well as the neutrality and not-fighting status of the country or another) is a universally acceptable common external rate for any single country and ruling *elite*, and for the absolute majority of the population of the regional area (including the Abkhazians and Ossetians), we must make in the means to achieve its own interests and goals.

Such an approach, moreover, that will alleviate the factors that pose threats to the United States, Russia, and Europe, will form the states in the region to have a real sense of perception of full participation in one region, will enhance the ability to transform the South Caucasus into a demilitarized space, based on new Georgia, and make a significant contribution to the strengthening of the Euro-Atlantic or UM international security.

South Caucasus – the geopolitical space is not only the Georgian project; this project – according to governmental mission of our State, which has small territory and special spatial conditions – is the result of many years search, struggles and agreements; its systemic and consistent realization will serve to the governmental interests of Georgia, creation of a good image of the state (inside it and outside); it will enable to integrate the social strata, our youth and Diaspora and the civil society in general into the peaceful national-moral idea (not only western-liberal or Russian-chauvinistic or Georgian-ultra-national) in spite of their ethnic origination, religion; it will benefit the country, in particular Georgia, Türkiye, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Europe and the world in common.

In the strong belief of the author, this general Georgian idea—goal—will be achieved only with the joint efforts of the Georgian government, the Georgian church, and Georgian society. Even in the distant 90s and today, we think that the world will benefit if it is able to open up and unite the South Caucasus geopolitical space to solve the problems in the region, including the resolution of unresolved conflicts. This format will not only contribute to the rapprochement and development of the countries of the South Caucasus but will also resolve many other problems created by the new world order.

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