



EU Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum

Azerbaijani National Platform

Membership policy

Baku 2021

1. General Provisions

- 1.1. This document reflects the guiding principles and rules that the EU Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum Azerbaijani National Platform (hereinafter the National Platform) uses in relation to its members.
- 1.2. This document has been prepared taking into account the main principles and rules of the Charter of the EU Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum Azerbaijani National Platform, the Charter of the EU Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum and other documents concerning membership.
- 1.3. The membership policy was adopted by the General Meeting of the National Platform and is a guiding document on the membership policy for the National Platform, its members, governing bodies and other structural units as an institution.
- 1.4. The membership policy can be changed only by the General Meeting in accordance with the rules provided for in the Charter.
- 1.5. Every member of the National Platform may submit proposals to the governing bodies of the National Platform, the General Meeting on the membership policy document and other issues related to membership policy.
- 1.6. In case of any conflict between the membership policy documents and the Charter, the provisions of the latter shall prevail.

2. Main Principles of the Membership Policy

- 2.1. **Voluntariness** - Membership in the National Platform is voluntary, based on the free will of each organization;
- 2.2. **Equality** - Equality of all members is guaranteed. All members of the National Platform have equal rights and bear equal responsibilities;
- 2.3. **Inclusiveness** - No member shall be discriminated against regarding the use of all the resources, opportunities, and rights granted by the National Platform, and no decision, instruction, etc. shall be adopted containing the opposite;
- 2.4. **Independence of the Members of the National Platform**- Membership and activity in the National Platform are based on the will of each organization to freely express its position and make decisions in this regard. Membership, participation, and prejudice in organizations that hinder the implementation of the goals and objectives of the National Platform, its independent activity are considered inadmissible. Members of the National Platform should avoid situations and relationships that could make influence by and create any form of dependence on the public and private sectors, local self-government bodies, religious organizations, institutions and sects. Members of the National Platform cannot receive instructions from the public and private sectors, local self-government bodies, religious organizations, institutions and sects, as well as political parties and movements.

- 2.5. Provision of the Restoration of Violated Rights** - Procedures for receiving and reviewing complaints should be accessible to each member. The applicant's personal participation in the complaint procedure must be ensured;
- 2.6. Ensuring the Openness of Information** - All information related to the documents and decisions of the National Platform must be open. Methods and tools should be accessible in this regard.

3. Membership in the National Platform

- 3.1. Membership in the National Platform is open. Public associations, foundations, non-profit organizations, media, professional associations, trade unions that share the goals and values of the National Platform can become its members. Member organizations must be free from the influence of the public and private sectors, local governments, religious organizations, institutions and sects.
- 3.2. State and municipal bodies, local authorities, political parties and movements, religious organizations and organizations created by them may not be members of the National Platform.
- 3.3. Heads of state and municipal bodies and organizations created by them and members of the governing body, civil and municipal servants, persons in the leadership positions of political parties and religious organizations can not be represented in the governing bodies of the National Platform.
- 3.4. Persons who are closely related to each other, as well as to the heads of state and municipal bodies, organizations created by them, in the leadership positions of political parties and religious organizations can not be represented in the governing bodies of the National Platform.
- 3.5. Persons not living in the Republic of Azerbaijan cannot be representatives of member organizations of the National Platform.
- 3.6. Organisations wishing to become members of the National Platform shall apply to the Forum after the announcement by the Forum Secretariat of the application for the participation at the Annual Assembly of the EU Eastern Partnership Countries Civil Society Forum. Consideration of applications and election of new members are conducted in accordance with the rules adopted by the Forum. In this case, the principles and rules for the election of members provided for in the Charter of the EU Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum shall be taken into account. A representative of an organization whose application has been endorsed and whose participation in the Annual Assembly of the Forum has been confirmed shall obtain the status of a Representative of the National Platform at the Annual Assembly of the Forum for 2 years, and the organization shall become a member of the National Platform.

- 3.7. The Coordinator of the National Platform shall ensure the dissemination of the rules for the election of representatives to the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum among the members of the National Platform in the Azerbaijani language and with the necessary explanations two weeks before the elections.
- 3.8. Persons elected as representatives to the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum can be recalled by member organizations only after a decision has been made in case of violation of the requirements of the Charter of the National Platform and the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum, Code of Ethics and other internal documents.
- 3.9. The member organizations of the National Platform should identify the persons responsible for communication with the National Platform and inform the Board in writing. In case of on temporary and permanent replacement of these persons written information must be provided.
- 3.10. Member organizations shall submit information on the members representing them in the General Meeting of the National Platform to the Board in writing five days prior to the date of the General Meeting.
- 3.11. Member organizations shall provide the Coordinator with the appropriate e-mail address for communication, monitor its working condition and notify the Coordinator of any change in writing within three days.
- 3.12. The restrictions provided for only in the Charter and in this document can be applied to member organizations. Any interference with the activities of the members of the National Platform concerning the National Platform is inadmissible. When such cases are detected, the relevant bodies of the National Platform take immediate, effective measures.

4. Rights of the Members of the National Platform:

- 4.1. Elect and be elected to the governing bodies of the National Platform and the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum;
- 4.2. Participate freely in defining the policy of the National Platform and discussing issues related to its activities;
- 4.3. Participate in events held by the National Platform;
- 4.4. Use the protection provided by the National Platform;
- 4.5. Freely discuss and criticize issues related to the activities of the National Platform and all practical matters concerning its bodies;
- 4.6. Express one's opinion openly before and after the decision is made;
- 4.7. If necessary, get acquainted with all documents of the National Platform, including financial documents;
- 4.8. Withdraw from the membership of the National Platform;

4.9. Comply with the requirements of the Charter, Code of Ethics, Membership Policy and other internal documents of the National Platform.

5. Obligations of the Members of the National Platform

5.1. Assist in the implementation of the policy of the National Platform through its practical activities;

5.2. Follow the basic principles of the National Platform;

5.3. Comply with the provisions of the Charter, Code of Ethics, Membership Policy and other internal documents of the National Platform and act in accordance with its organizational principles;

5.4. Take an active part in the work of the National Platform;

5.5. Take care of the reputation of the National Platform, promote its shared values and ideas;

They are obliged to comply with the provisions of the National Platform's Charter, Code of Ethics, Membership Policy and other internal documents.

5.6. Depending on the nature of the violation, disciplinary measures such as "warning", "reprimand" and "expulsion from the National Platform" are taken against members who violate the Charter and the Code of Ethics of the National Platform. The disciplinary measure is applied by the Control and Inspection Group of the National Platform;

5.7. Disciplinary action against a member of the National Platform can be appealed in accordance with the law.

6. Termination of the Membership in the National Platform

6.1 Membership in the National Platform is terminated in the following cases:

6.1.1 In case of termination of the National Platform;

6.1.2 Voluntary withdrawal from the National Platform;

6.1.3 Expulsion from the membership of the National Platform;

6.1.4 Failure to attend the General Meeting of the National Platform twice in a row without good reason.

6.2 When a member of the National Platform voluntarily withdraws from the National Platform, it shall submit a written application to the Board of the National Platform. The application is considered by the Board and a relevant decision is made.