

FOUNDATION FOR CIVIL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Authors and Editors

Samvel Mkhitarian
Chairman of the Foundation, Project initiator and Guidebook Editor in Chief

Working and expert group

Mkrtich Anushyan
Roman Melikyan
Armen Grigoryan
Marine Papyan
Karine Mkhitarian
Ruben Gasparyan
Sonia Hakobyan
Sevak Hakobyan
Ashot Mirzoyan
Tamar Azarbaryan
Taguhi Khachatryan
Naira Aharonyan

**POLITICAL PARTIES
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA
PARTICIPATING IN THE NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS 2012 UNDER
PROPORTIONAL SYSTEM**

**VOTER'S GUIDEBOOK
2012**

YEREVAN

“POLITICAL PARTIES OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA PARTICIPATING IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS 2012 UNDER PROPORTIONAL SYSTEM” VOTER’S GUIDEBOOK -Yerevan

“FOUNDATION FOR CIVIL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT”, YEREVAN, 2012 – 132 pages.

Authors and Editors

Samvel Mkhitarian, Mkrtich Anushyan, Roman Melikyan, Armen Grigoryan, Marine Papyan, Karine Mkhitarian, Ruben Gasparyan, Sonia Hakobyan, Sevak Hakobyan, Ashot Mirzoyan, Tamar Azarbaryan, Taguhi Khachatryan, Naira Aharonyan

This Voter’s Guidebook presents brief, unbiased, comparative information on activities, objectives, goals and program fundamentals of political parties participating in RA National Assembly elections 2012 under proportional system.

This Guidebook is developed on the basis of responses as provided by political parties in the questionnaire developed within the scope of the grant project "Political Parties of the Republic of Armenia Directory and Voter's Guidebook" implemented by the Foundation for Civil and Social Development, non-governmental organization (Foundation) and fundamentals included in official public documents of political parties.

The Guidebook is designed to be widely disseminated among the public, political scientists, students, NGOs and international organizations, political parties, education institutions, foundations, state authorities.

Publication of the Guidebook was supported by the OSCE Office in Yerevan.

Publication of this Guidebook was made possible by Counterpart International’s Civic Society and Local Government Support Program, and the support of the American people through the Foundation for Civil and Social Development under DFD-A-00-09-00141-00 agreement of partnership agreement No AID-111-LA-10-00001.

The content, views and opinions expressed in this Guidebook are those of the political parties and the Foundation of Civil and Social Development, and within the scope of their responsibility and do not necessarily reflect the views of Counterpart International, USAID, US Government, OSCE and OSCE office in Yerevan.

This Guidebook is not meant for sale.

ISBN 978-99941-2-661-3

© FOUNDATION FOR CIVIL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT 2012

Dear Reader,

It is unquestionable that availability of unbiased, comparative, comprehensive and up-to-date information on ideological distinctions, program goals and objectives of political parties, as well as their positions on critical issues in the focus of public attention plays a decisive role in formation of a conscious political stance among the citizens.

Unfortunately, the population of RA is mostly deprived of the opportunity of receiving unbiased and comparative information on RA political parties and their activities, which diminishes the ability of citizens to think independently, shape rationalized opinion and make self-determined conscious decisions. This phenomenon, being a motive for political indifference among wider segments of the population, in addition hinders sustainability, enhanced responsibility and accountability of political parties and development of political society.

Consequently, political orientation of citizens disorientated in actual differences of positions of innumerable political parties and political figures and indigent of personal conscious attitude is more often influenced by advertisements, fame of parties and their leaders, differing persuasions and elections bribes.

Solution to the above issues and provision of unbiased, comparative and accessible information on activities, objectives, goals and program fundamentals of political parties to the general public was endeavored by the Foundation of Civil and Social Development supported by the U.S. Embassy in Armenia back in 2004 and in 2007 within the framework of project "Political Parties of the Republic of Armenia", which included development of the database on RA political parties, created in 01.09.2004 and active as of 10.01.2007, as well as development, publication of the Directory on Political Parties of the Republic of Armenia, publicly available in both English and Armenian languages.

However, the political field is constantly changing in line with amendments in the legal framework regulating the field, as a result of which appear new political parties, some parties get liquidated, others - merge, change their political standpoints, etc. Consequently, the information on political parties should be regularly revised and updated, especially on the threshold of RA National Assembly and Presidential elections, and the democracy and further development of our country largely depends on whether these elections are going to be free, just, transparent and legal.

Thus, the main purpose of development and publication of this guidebook, which presents information on political parties participating in RA National Assembly elections 2012 under proportional system, as well as development of updated database and website on all political parties of RA, is to increase awareness of population on RA political parties through regular provision of systematic, comparative, impartial, accessible and up-to-date information and enhanced responsibility and accountability of political parties. The latter will contribute to enhancement of RA citizens' civil activity and responsibility, formation of justified political orientation and conscious decision making.

Samvel Mkhitarian,
Chairman of the Foundation for Civil and Social Development,
Project Initiator and Editor in chief

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION.....	5
POLITICAL PARTIES OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA PARTICIPATING IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS 2012 UNDER PROPORTIONAL SYSTEM*	6
1. "PROSPEROUS ARMENIA" PARTY	6
2. "HERITAGE" PARTY.....	18
3. "ARMENIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS" PARTY ALLIANCE.....	28
3.1. "FREEDOM" PARTY.....	28
3.2. "DEMOCRATIC HOMELAND" PARTY	34
3.3. "DEMOCRATIC WAY" PARTY	39
3.4. PEOPLE'S PARTY OF ARMENIA.....	46
3.5. LIBERAL PARTY OF ARMENIA	52
3.6. GREEN (SOCIAL-ECOLOGICAL) PARTY OF ARMENIA.....	59
3.7. "ARMENIAN NATIONAL MOVEMENT" PARTY	62
3.8. ARMENIAN FATHERLAND PARTY ("HAYOTS HAYRENIK").....	68
3.9. "REPUBLIC" PARTY	72
3.10. CONSERVATIVE PARTY.....	77
4. "ARMENIAN REVOLUTIONARY FEDERATION DASHNAKTSUTYUN" PARTY	84
5. ARMENIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY	91
6. COMMUNIST PARTY OF ARMENIA.....	96
7. REPUBLICAN PARTY OF ARMENIA.....	101
8. "UNITED ARMENIANS" PARTY	110
9. "COUNTRY OF LAWS" PARTY	117
COMMENTS ON RESPONSES OF POLITICAL PARTIES INCLUDED IN THE GUIDEBOOK.....	123
BLANK QUESTIONNAIRE.....	124

* Political parties participating in the National Assembly elections 2012 under proportional system, as well as parties of "Armenian National Congress" Party Alliance are presented in Armenian alphabetical order for the purpose of providing simple usage of the Guidebook.

INTRODUCTION

The Foundation for Civil and Social Development (FCSD) in continuation of its activities initiated in 2004 and developed in 2007 of publishing the unbiased, comparative and up-to-date information on activities, program goals and objectives of political parties, as well as their views on addressing the critical issues disturbing our country, presents this Guidebook on political parties participating in the National Assembly elections 2012 under proportional system to the attention of the general public.

The Guidebook was developed on the basis of responses completed by parties in the questionnaire designed by the Foundation, and comparison of information included in their official public documents. This Guidebook is the successive outcome of the Foundation's Project to provide the public with unbiased, comparative and accessible information on activities, objectives, goals and program fundamentals of political parties, within the scope of which Foundation's information database and website on all political parties of the Republic of Armenia are being updated.

The purpose of development and publication of the Voter's Guidebook on political parties participating in the National Assembly elections 2012 under proportional system as well as constant update of the information database and website is primarily the increase of awareness of population on RA political parties through regular provision of systematic, comparative, impartial, accessible and up-to-date information, and enhancement of responsibility and accountability of political parties. The latter will contribute to enhancement of RA citizens' civil activity and responsibility, formation of justified political orientation and conscious decision making.

It is an open secret that in Armenia parties are generally recognized by the voters in the face of their leaders, without even having slightest opinion about their ideologies, program goals and fundamentals. Ideally, for the majority of voters parties differ by their political orientation: ruler/opposition. Thus, program approaches and ideological differences of parties are not only drawn backwards but sometimes even totally neglected. This is largely influenced by the fact that RA population is deprived of the opportunity of receiving unbiased and comparative information on RA political parties and their activities, which diminishes the ability of citizens to think independently, shape rational opinion and make self-determined conscious decisions.

It was this gap that the Foundation tried to fill back in 2004 by developing and publishing the U.S. Embassy supported Directory on Political Parties of the Republic of Armenia and created the corresponding electronic database and website. However, given the regular changes of the political and legislative fields, departure and emergence of separate forces or displacement of their political positions, the already scarce information on their activities and goals should be constantly revised and updated. Taking into consideration the above stated circumstances with the support of Counterpart International's Civic Advocacy Support Program (CASP) and the OSCE Office in Yerevan within the framework of project "Political Parties of the Republic of Armenia" developed the database on RA political parties as of 10.01.2007, published the Directory on Political Parties of the Republic of Armenia, as well as the Voter's Guidebook on the political parties participating in the National Assembly Elections 2007, which are publicly available in both English and Armenian languages.

At present the, the Foundation, taking into consideration the above-mentioned and pursuant to its mission, presents the public with the this new "Voter's Guidebook" on the political parties taking part in RA National Assembly Proportional Elections 2012.

The list of political parties taking part in RA National Assembly Proportional Elections 2012, presented in this guidebook, in the electronic database and webpage to be published, and general information of relevant parties corresponds to the information presented in the official webpage of the state register of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia.

Based on the above list and data included therein, the Foundation has developed a questionnaire and distributed it among the official representatives of political parties. The questions included in the questionnaire were composed taking into consideration program fundamentals of parties in their priority, as well as urgent and crucial issues related with country's development, the comparison of which allows distinguishing the parties by their official position on this or that issue.

The responses completed in the questionnaire by party representatives, sometimes together with the Foundation experts have been compared with the provisions included in charters, programs and other official documents of respective parties. All questionnaires containing discrepancies detected as a result of comparison (different interpretations to the same question, omissions, meaning differences, incomplete sense of the sentence, etc) were re-edited and revised, separate points and paragraphs including discrepancies were highlighted in accordance with the criteria developed by the Foundation and submitted to the respective parties for review and approval for the purpose of revising, ensuring accuracy and impartiality of the final text to be published. Discrepancies between the final responses in the questionnaire and standpoints stipulated in official documents of respective parties still present in the published Guidebook are classified and depicted with relevant comments and explanations in the Guidebook, Directory and the webpage.

The general text and structure of this Guidebook differs in the format from that of the working version of the questionnaire designed for comparison and introduction. The difference in formats is initiated to make the text easily comprehensible and readable. The questionnaire form is included in the Guidebook.

Because of the limited volume of the Guidebook, in case of absence of answers or relevant standpoints in the official documents of the party on any question, the empty sections of the questionnaire have been omitted maintaining the general structure and sequence (numbering) of questions. The brief and short presentation of the list of issues and volume of information is preconditioned by limited volume of the Guidebook.

The authors hereby thank all organizations and political parties, individuals participating in the project and express deep appreciation for their understanding of the significance of publishing this Guidebook and information materials on political parties, as well as cooperation and support.

**POLITICAL PARTIES OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA PARTICIPATING IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ELECTIONS 2012 UNDER PROPORTIONAL SYSTEM**

1. “PROSPEROUS ARMENIA” PARTY

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

- **Address of the head office:** 12 Davit Anhaght, Yerevan
- **Telephone, fax:** (+37410) 24-83-96, (+37410) 24-83-97
- **E-mail:** info@bhk.am
- **Website:** www.bhk.am
- **Foundation date:** 30.04.2004
- **State registration date:** 18.06.2004
- **State re-registration date:** 15.02.2011
- **Charter and Program approval date:** approved on 15.02.2007 during the third Congress of the Party. Amendments to the program were made on 12.02.2011
- **Last Congress date:** 17.03.2012թ.
- **Number of separate territorial subdivisions:** 59
- **Participation in the National Assembly Elections 2007:** participated
- **Number of deputies at the 4th convocation of the National Assembly:** 29 deputies.

2. GOVERNING BODIES OF THE PARTY AND PARTY LEADER

2.1. Names of the governing bodies of the Party, number of Party members and the Party leader

- Congress
- Political Board: 209 members
- President: Gagik Tsarukyan

2.2. Party membership procedure, including membership fees and payment peculiarities

A Party member may become any RA citizen who is above 18, as well as all other persons who have voting rights in Armenia (but have no right to be elected as Party leader or a member of the supervising body), accept the Party charter and program and are not a member to another Party. Membership fees are paid on voluntary basis and without restrictions.

3. IDEOLOGICAL PLATFORM, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PARTY

3.1. Ideology

The Party was created for the purposes of serving the nation, ensuring respectful life as well as supporting the prosperity of our country. Members of the Party are united by ideologies of freedom, justice, friendship and patriotism. It is possible to resolve all problems facing Armenia only through unification and cooperation of all individuals and political forces that follow high values, have high ideologies, honest objectives and the trust of nation. In the political system of Armenia the Party’s mission is within that context and the Party acts based on principles of civil unity and solidarity. “Prosperous Armenia” is a party of civil agreement. Being led by the famous truth, that a person is the highest value, the Party directs its activity to realization of the slogan: “Alongside people, through people and for people”. The Party has assisted and will assist in strengthening of democratic principles in our country, formation of civil society and protection of human rights and basic freedoms. The Party is a centrist political force, the activity of which is based on reality and rationality. Denying extremes, political adventurism and dogmatism, the goal of the Party is fundamental resolution of all problems facing the society. The Party is sure that the most important guarantee for the development of society is the existence of moral and spiritual value system. With democratic and liberal principles, as well as with the desire to assist in forming a new value system, the Party is for preservation of national traditional values among which it underlines the family, church and statehood.

3.2. Goals and objectives

The goal of the Party activities is to participate in political life of the society and the state. In order to meet its goals, the Party gives priority to the following issues:

- have its representatives in the RA state government and local self-government bodies through democratic elections and thus participate in the formation of state authorities, development and application of state policy,
- assist in full realization of human rights and freedoms by people,

- contribute to the establishment of a legal state,
- assist in the formation of social justice system,
- contribute to the stability of internal political life,
- assist in real separation of legislative, executive and judicial powers and establishment of balance among them.

3.3. Type of the Party (according to the Party's opinion)

Centrist

4. PROGRAM STANDPOINTS OF THE PARTY ON THE FOLLOWING ISSUES:

4.1. Three priorities of foreign policy

1. Ensure the right of self-determination for Artsakh population;
2. Systematized development of Armenia-Diaspora relations;
3. International recognition of the Armenian Genocide.

4.2. Fundamentals of foreign policy, including:

- Establish friendly, mutually-beneficial relations with all countries according to the principles and norms of international law, and based on this, develop foreign policy and a system of preparation and training of diplomats;
- Implement the RA international responsibilities, realize the active foreign political course, ensure favorable condition for the country's stable economic and social development, create conditions for energy security and integrate into world and regional economic and political institutes;
- Cooperate with other states and International organizations in combating against terrorism and other crimes, and if necessary, participate in peacekeeping activities of International organizations in the regions of war.

a. European Integration

The Party will continue its constructive participation in the processes of European integration. The Party figures within the frames of the "Eastern partnership" program in order to bring the RA political, economic, social infrastructures into compliance with European criteria.

b. CIS

It is necessary to enhance cooperation within CIS in order to create a general economic and cultural territory.

c. Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO)

The Party will continue its constructive participation in CSTO.

d. NATO

It is necessary to assist in development of mutually-beneficial relations with EU countries in all spheres. It is also necessary to enhance and deepen cooperation with the main organization ensuring European security, which is the NATO.

e. USA

Future development of friendly and mutually-beneficial relations with the USA, as well as essential increase of cooperation level in political, economic, military, security, spiritual-cultural, as well as social and other spheres should be directed to comprehensive involvement of the USA in realization of democratic and socio-economic reforms, resolution of regional security problems, establishment and strengthening of stable and long-term peace in South Caucasus and the RA participation in regional and International programs which are performed or coordinated by the USA.

f. Russian Federation

Enhance traditional, friendly Armenian-Russian relations based on principles of mutually-beneficial cooperation and military partnership in political, socio-economic, military, regional security, spiritual-cultural and other spheres.

g. Recognition of Genocide and Armenian-Turkish relations

The Party is for the establishment of normal relations between Armenia and Turkey without preconditions. The Party is for the establishment of bilateral diplomatic relations, opening of borders and exploitation of communication means. The Party believes that the regulation of Armenian-Turkish relations should not be conditioned by Karabakh issue, international recognition of the Armenian Genocide and any compromise during condemnation process.

h. Karabakh issue and Armenian-Azerbaijan relations

The ultimate objective of the Karabakh conflict resolution is the international recognition of the Karabakh Republic. This conflict should be resolved through peaceful negotiations on bases of mutual agreement and compromise. The future of Karabakh cannot be determined without full participation of Karabakh. The most important factors for the existence of the Artsakh state are the following: economic strengthening, development of its state government bodies and local self-government systems, improvement of political institutes, strengthening of democracy and growth of standards of living.

i. Iran

For realization of joint programs related to creation of energy systems and communication ways in the spheres of transportation and energy, as well as in cultural and other spheres, it is necessary to deepen friendly, mutually-beneficial and traditional relations with Iran. Construction of “Iran-Armenia” gas pipeline as well as of other communication ways should be continued (particularly, it is necessary to undertake the construction of Iran-Armenia railway).

j. Georgia including the Javakhs Armenians’ issues

It is necessary to develop traditional, friendly, mutually-beneficial relations with Georgia in political, economic, energy, regional security, communication ways, religious-cultural, humanitarian and other spheres. In Armenian-Georgian relationships, we also consider important Georgian approach to security issues with regard to Armenians living in Georgia, particularly, Georgian program approach to Javakhs Armenian, their security and self-determination rights, as well as to resolution of socio-economic and religious-cultural problems facing Javakhs. Within this context, Armenia, in a way agreed with Georgian authorities, should constantly assist Georgia in its steps directed to resolution of Javakhs problems.

k. Armenia-Diaspora: enhanced links and efficient cooperation

The Party gives importance to the consistent development and expansion of Armenia-Diaspora relations as a dominant direction in the RA foreign policy regarding Armenian identity and unification of Armenians spread all over the world. The Party believes that Armenia-Diaspora relations should be based on the ideology that the pan-Armenian religious-cultural center is the Republic of Armenia, which should undertake the role of a leader in uniting Armenians around Armenia and a guarantee of national identity.

l. Other

It is also necessary to develop bilateral relations with other post-Soviet countries. It is necessary to undertake cooperation in order to restore the economic, religious-cultural relations, as well as raw material and consumption markets of the past.

4.3. Three priorities of domestic policy

1. Effective economic and social policy; in particular, consistent policy aimed at the increase of standards of living;
2. Creation of a legal state;
3. Development of civil society.

4.4. Fundamentals of financial and economic policy, current obstacles to stable economic development and solutions thereto, including:

- Ensuring economic growth,
- Acceleration of structural reforms and establishment of production relations on the basis of productivity and competitiveness,
- Ensuring stable, systematic and transparent tax-budget and monetary policies.

a. Monetary policy

As main directions for improvement of monetary policy, the Party considers the following:

- develop and implement an efficient monetary policy which will enhance economic growth;
- enhance non-cash money circulation volumes and ensure AMD convertibility;
- completely restore trust towards banking system, and assist banks in attracting savings;
- decrease loan interest percentages, increase long-term loans, ensure availability of loan resources;
- establish mechanism for voluntary guarantee of loans and improve the system of deposits guarantees made by population;
- improve currency regulation and strengthen supervision over enforcement of laws on currency regulation;
- ensure flexibility of inflation management under inflation targeting regime;
- improve of clearing and settlement relations;

- improve the legal field which regulates the sphere.

b. Budgetary policy and state debt

Complex budget changes are necessary in the following directions:

- creation of an efficient system of state resource management;
- improvement of legislation regulating budgetary relations, including, development and adoption of budget Code;
- development of treasury system;
- ensuring stability and transparency of budgets and budgetary procedures, installation of software budgeting system;
- development and establishment of methodological bases for prediction of state budget macroeconomic proportionality and budgetary expenses;
- improvement of procedures with regard to budget reporting and supervision;
- increase of coordination level between different directions of financial-economic policy (particularly, tax-budgetary and monetary policies);
- strengthening financial discipline.

c. Tax and customs reforms

According to the Party, in order to increase tax policy efficiency, the following should be done:

- increase the efficiency of tax administration and raise the professional level of employees engaged in tax bodies (particularly, in their territorial subdivisions);
- ensure compliance to legislation requirements, transparency and predictability of tax policy, and improvement of methodological bases for prediction of policy results;
- ensure stability of tax legislation and tax policy, as well as constantly improve taxing mechanisms;
- exclude negative influence of lobbying on development and implementation of tax policy;
- exclude tax debts and accumulation of ungrounded tax overpayments;
- increase favorable conditions of tax environment for development of local production as well as small and medium business;
- simplify legislative field and establish effective supervision mechanisms of law enforcement;
- refuse to implement mandatory social insurance premiums and minimum mandatory payments of profit tax after favorable conditions are created;
- ensure optimal ratio between direct and indirect taxes in the structure of tax incomes.

d. Development of industry⁴

The main goal of the Party is to build a prosperous country which is based on a dynamically developing economy and is formed on liberal relations, productivity and competitiveness. In this sense, the Party gives importance not only to quantitative, but also qualitative development of economy which will affect every citizen in the sense that they will see opportunities in their country to create material goods and raise the living standards of their families. In this regard, the Party does not single out any special branch of economy and is for development of liberal economic relations, which will lead to rapid development of those branches of economy, which have real potential of competitiveness and productivity. At the same time, the economy should not be centralized in the capital city, and its development must contribute to decrease of territorial disproportion.

e. Development of agriculture⁴

For the development of RA rural communities there are a number of social-economic, institutional, legislative, sub-structures, moral, psychological and various obstacles, the collective “burden” of which forces to talk about the rebirth of rural communities, rather than development of villages.

In this sense, as an essential strategic goal, the Party gives importance to the increase of work productivity and efficiency in agriculture, complete establishment of market mechanisms and modern methods of state support, as well as settlement of social issues. For this it is necessary to:

- develop and implement a strategic plan for agricultural growth with state support program as its constituent part (by applying state purchase, subsidy, loan and other mechanisms), due to which it will be possible to perform indirect price regulation of agricultural products,
- support rural economies by ensuring availability and affordability of credits, stimulate pledging of land and contribute to ‘reduction of prices’ of loan resources (in this case it is necessary to ensure that rural economies are able to take loans or conclude agreements mainly on expected crops),
- apply insurance mechanisms which exist in the sphere of agriculture and provide state guarantees to banks if loans are not paid back in force majeure situations,

- stimulate land leasing process so that privatized and state reserve lands, which have not been used so far, are included in civil circulation and land use,
- raise the goods level of production of rural and rural collective economies as well as create conditions for gradual decrease of product exchange of agricultural products and raise the cashing level of those products,
- stimulate the development of various agricultural cooperatives and the establishment of unions of various economic entities engaged in production of agricultural products,
- provide state support to exporters of agricultural products, exclude as much as possible the presence of various intermediaries not only in the circulation of the products of a specific branch, but also in production processes, as well as establish wholesale markets of agricultural products,
- pay special attention to the rebuilding and development of production, engineering and social infrastructures of rural communities,
- lead systematized combating against reketting, permissiveness of officials and monopolies, due to which vital interests of producers and consumers of agricultural products will be protected.

f. Information technologies and innovative development

The Party gives importance to Armenia's participation in those modern processes and tendencies, which are targeted at the increase of general living standards as well as establishment, enhancement of mutually-beneficial ties among various civilizations and nations. Taking into account the potential of Armenia in the IT sphere, the Party is assertive in undertaking measures for the establishment of basis for the future society. For this purpose the Party considers important to do the following:

- Development of complex state programs which will be targeted at improvement of state and social government based on the priority of education, given that information society is build;
- Multiplication of the country's potential in the IT sphere and its efficient usage,
- Implementation of programs targeted at complete usage of educational, scientific and professionals skills,
- Integration to international information systems and increase of service level in the sphere,
- Increase of the availability level of goods of information society and continual expansion of users of information networks,
- Creation of a favorable investment, organizational and institutional environment for the development of IT.

g. Energy and provision of energy security

According to the Party, energy security, which is the protection of the state, citizens, society and economy from threats in the sphere of energy, is one of the most important factors of the RA national security. Consequently, according to the Party the state policy regarding energy security must be based on strategic plan of energy development and must be targeted at the following:

- Prediction of treats to the country, society and economy during provision, production, distribution and transfer stages of raw materials with regard to all types of energy; reduction of energy dependence and increase of self-sustenance level of the sphere, including the following: diversification of imported and local energy reserves and maximum use of production potentials, construction of a new nuclear station which complies with modern requirements;
- Efficient use of local energy reserves and alternative energy sources; application of economic and legal mechanisms for their provision; elimination of external and internal economic, anthropogenic and environmental threats, as well as weakening of various de-stabilizing negative factors,
- The energy system should meet internal and external demands with acceptable prices and corresponding quality and efficient use of energy resources.

h. Development of tourism⁴

The Party gives importance to the policy of initiating and developing liberal economy and does not put any significant difference among the branches of economy. Those branches of economy should be developed in the RA, which have significant potential of competitiveness and productivity, and tourism is one of those branches.

i. Stimulation of investments

Analysis of current situation of the country's investment sphere shows that despite relative macroeconomic and internal political stability, existence of legislative field which regulates investments and certain supporting and stimulating infrastructures, as well as existence of a significantly powerful Diaspora, investment levels are still far from being sufficient.

The Party believes that the main objective of the RA investment policy must be stable economic growth due to increase of economic activity, creation of favorable investment environment, increase of attraction level of investments and increase of investment volumes.

According to the Party, main directions for the improvement of investment policy are:

- Improvement of innovation policy and stimulation of innovative initiatives,
- Development and improvement of legislative and legal-agreement field which regulates the investment sphere,
- Protection of investments and investor rights,
- Equal economic conditions for foreign and local investors,
- Strictly regulated privileges in dominant spheres and territories of military significance for voluminous investments and economic growth,
- State support to the development and implementation of investment programs,
- Construction and development of infrastructures which stimulate investments,
- Implementation of complex state investment programs.

j. Improvement of business environment and development of small and medium business⁴

The Party believes that every citizen with entrepreneur capabilities must have an opportunity to freely realize its business potential, create work places for him/her and others and ensure better life through legal activities. According to the Party, such an environment may be created due to the following: healthy competitiveness, active anti-monopoly policy, protection of legal interests of investors, equal conditions for local and foreign economic entities, partnership relations between business society and state bodies. Small and medium business in this country should be available to those who are able and want to take care of material, religious and cultural needs of their families by self-employment. The state should not consider small and medium businesses as tax payers. Rather, the state should view them as its reliable partner in settlement of social, economic issues, provision of work places and development of national mentality. There should be no obstacles and unjustified restrictions for this layer of society. On the contrary, all necessary conditions must be provided for them to express their creative and innovative ideas, to implement them and receive state support and to act under favorable conditions. Moreover, weaker forms of state involvement must be defined and applied. In this sense, according to the Party, it is very important to provide at least 0.5-2.0 percent of the annual state budget expenses to small and medium businesses as state support, as well as individual entrepreneurs, who do not provide payment jobs, should be tax-exempt.

k. Reduction of shadow economy

According to the Party, strategic directions in reduction of shadow economy the following are important and primary:

- Development and implementation of complex program combating shadow economy, as well as replenishment and improvement of the legislative field;
- Combination of administrative and economic methods of combating by giving priority to elimination of economic stimuli which cause shadow economy;
- Differentiation of administration with regard to combating shadow economy, through implementation of responsibility measures and mechanisms equivalent to the losses carried by society;
- Expansion of tax base, elimination of privileges causing abuse and reduction of businessmen's economic interests of acting in shadow economy due to relevant legislative, administrative and organizational measures;
- Development and implementation of a program directed to simplification of tax and customs administration;
- Release from legal responsibility as if economic entities or citizens come out of the shadow economy on volunteer basis;
- Activity of mutual cooperation with other countries (particularly with those which are the main trade partners) with regard to tax and custom administration; in particular, related to tax and customs information exchange, as well as to issues about combating economic crimes and corruption;
- Centralization of all forces combating shadow economy and creation of a complete data base;
- Implementation of public awareness activities, including, period publication of information related to usage of budgetary means;
- Development and persistent application of a strategy combating money laundering and corruption.

l. Eradication of corruption

With regard to overcoming corruption, the Party considers the following to be necessary:

- increase efficiency of state administration;

- eliminate possibilities of making arbitrary decisions by state officials and state servers, ensure that persons perform activities that are defined by the law;
- conduct a complex examination of laws and legal acts in terms of their loopholes permitting corruption, take out such provisions, eliminate contradictions and ambiguities existing in laws;
- subject officials to responsibility as envisaged by law if corruption is disclosed irrespective of their status and position;
- improve and tighten declaration mechanisms related to equipment, incomes and expenses;
- perform persistent and complex combating against phenomena closely related to corruption, such as extortion, shadow economy, trafficking, bribery, etc.
- simplify appeal procedures of officials and state servants due to judicial reforms;
- establish an institution of administrative courts and assist their sustainability;
- develop and adopt anti-corruption legislative package.

4.5. Fundamentals of social policy and solutions to current problems, including:

a. Overcoming poverty⁴

Main part of current social problems is due to inadequate payments for the volume, quality and value of the work performed, as well as insufficient pension given to retired citizens to provide for their normal living conditions. The Party believes that this is one the main problems of our country, as a social state, which requires primary and fundamental solution. The Party will perform consistent activities in this sphere with regard to improvement of state policy, development and application of mechanisms of increasing salaries and pensions. The Party will also ensure that Armenia perform its responsibilities in this sphere in accordance with international requirements. Every employee in Armenia must receive a decent salary and every pensioner must receive a decent pension.

Main directions of the country's social policy should be the following:

- raise financial incomes of population and reduce its polarization due to salary increase, enlargement of salary share in GDP, improvement of pension insurance and increase of social support to population;
- overcome income and human poverty, ensure social security of citizens;
- ensure availability of the most important social goods such as healthcare, social service and education;
- improve state policy with regard to solution of problems related to refugees and prisoners, as well as develop and apply relevant plan;
- ensure dominance of investments in human capital, as well as rapid growth of state expenses directed to social development;
- protect such layers of population, which are socially vulnerable, are unable to resolve problems on their own and need state support;
- apply insurance principles of social security of population;
- create necessary conditions for economic activity of people who able to work, which will give citizens an opportunity to improve their living standards at their own expense;
- create necessary conditions for efficient employment of population, ensure demand and supply balance in labor market and increase the competitiveness level of labor force;
- undertake measures for the development of rural areas;
- improve demographic situation due to creation of necessary preconditions for death rate decrease and birth rate increase;
- develop efficient schemes aimed at population settlement of frontier territories for their rapid growth.

b. Reduction of polarization of society and reformation of social justice

The Party will assist to reduction of polarization in society and increase of living standards of population.

c. Ensuring employment and reducing unemployment

The Party believes that main directions of state policy with regard to labor market are the following:

- develop and apply employment plans, as well as implement evaluation procedures of their efficiency,
- increase unemployment subsidies and improve calculation, distribution and payment procedures,
- assist women, young people and handicaps in professional education, qualification training and job placement,
- increase crediting volumes for the growth of self-employment in small and medium businesses,
- assist citizens of socially vulnerable group in job placement.

d. Improvement of healthcare system

The main issue of this sphere is to provide high quality and affordable healthcare services to all groups of population. Healthy population is one the guarantees of the development of our country, and in order to

ensure that every citizen must have an opportunity to receive a high quality medical service. The primary measures of the Party in this sphere are the following: expansion of free medical services and improvement of their quality, balance between state guarantee volumes and financial resources of the state for the provision of free medical services, as well as application of a mandatory medical insurance system.

According to the Party, the main directions and primary issues in the sphere of healthcare and medical assistance are the following:

- development and implementation of “Strategic plan of healthcare system development”,
- quality improvement of free medical services, balance between state guarantee volumes and financial resources of the state for the provision of free medical services to population, decrease of shadow circulation and corruption risks in the sphere, as well as application of medical insurance system,
- improvement of healthcare system management, organizational efficiency and financing, application of various medical service and compensation types (government support, partial payment, medical insurance, etc.),
- provision of affordable and high quality medical services to population, protection of health of mother and child,
- implementation of a special state policy for the settlement of handicap problems, due to which handicap people will have opportunities to overcome certain restrictions, realize their rights, as well as adoption of a complex program of social security of handicap people,
- provision of free medical services to socially vulnerable people and people involved in special groups,
- provision and improvement of first medical assistance in rural areas,
- increase of affordability and security of medicine.

e. Social security and insurance systems reforms

The goal-oriented, targeted and efficient social policy of the RA is an important factor for the balance of economic alterations, stability and irreversibility of democratization processes, as well as improvement of demographic situation, prevention of emigration, increase of birth rate and settlement of a number of other social issues.

The Party believes that the main objectives of social policy should be the following: persistent increase of living standards of population, reduction of social inequality, general availability of basic social goods and services.

4.6. Reformation and development of education system

The primary goal of the Party in this sphere is to provide high quality and affordable education and increase the competitiveness of the education system. Every member of society must have an opportunity to receive education and get profession-related job with a decent salary. The Party believes it is necessary to provide social targeted support to socially vulnerable students and students who have lost their parents. This support includes the following: total or partial payment of tuition fee, provision of tuition loans without interests and ensure persistent increase of scholarship.

Highly educated citizens are the strategic intellectual potential of our country. The Party believes that the strategic goal of our country’s state policy must be the development of an education system which will give opportunity to every citizen to receive high quality knowledge of social demand and will guarantee the decent position of educated citizens in the society.

To achieve these goal the issues which should receive primary solution within the frameworks of state complex and targeted programs, are the following:

- development of an education system which will ensure a generation with high qualities, national spirit, comprehensive development and moral values,
- continual increase of salaries of pedagogues, professors and lecturers,
- significant improvement of education quality, use of free textbooks, improvement of legislation related to education, as well as targeted social assistance to socially vulnerable students, orphans and students who have lost their parents, including partial or full payment of tuition fees,
- establishment of private charitable foundations which give scholarships to students as well as development of other scholarship mechanisms (additional or targeted scholarships, provision of free textbooks, payment of tuition fees in foreign countries, tuition fee compensations, etc.),
- public participation in education management processes and real sovereignty of universities,
- continual increase of education scholarships,
- updating content of education, stimulating the knowledge of computer skills and foreign languages,
- legal equality of graduates from state and accredited non-state institutions; in particular, with regard to employment rights.

4.7. Development of science⁴

High quality education should be the basis for development of science and technical progress, without which it is impossible to imagine the formation of an educated society. According to the Party, the primary issue for scientific progress is to ensure necessary conditions, develop infrastructures, stimulate motivation of being involved in science, enhance the ties between economy and science, increase budget allocations to the sphere and improve mechanisms of financing science.

One of the primary issues of the Party is to ensure necessary conditions and develop infrastructures for scientific and technical progress. It is necessary to develop a relevant complex plan, which will cover the following:

- Efficient management system of science,
- Improvement of financing mechanisms of science and increase of their efficiency,
- Clear definition of priorities of state scientific and technological policy and dominant directions of scientific progress, as well as development of ‘Armenology’,
- Mechanisms of preparing high quality scholars,
- Enrichment of technical and technological equipment of the sphere of science,
- Active innovation policy, including development of industrial park,
- Active participation in development and application of international and regional programs related to scientific progress,
- Development and implementation of State support system to talented young scholars.

Development of science requires not only a comprehensive state assistance to competitive scientific organizations, but also direct financial participation in their activity. In this regard, the Party believes that it is necessary to give the scientific sphere at least 3% of state budget, which will ensure both internationally accepted minimum level of economic security and creation of opportunities for acceleration of scientific progress.

4.8. Culture and sport

The Party gives great importance to the persistent and dynamic development of culture, preservation of cultural heritage, as well as increase of the potential of organizations which perform their activities in this sphere. The Party will continue its policy of assisting arts, as the Party’s goal is to raise the reputation and fame of artists, intellectuals, amend and improve the legislative basis of cultural activities, as well as strengthen and expand the logistic base of the sphere.

One of the important directions of forming a healthy society is the development of physical preparedness and sport, as well as public involvement in the sphere. To achieve this it is necessary to create affordable infrastructures and conditions for the implantation of healthy lifestyle. According to the Party, it is primary that schools have gyms which correspond to modern standards.

4.9. Territorial government and local self-government

The main directions of RA territorial policy for the Party continues to remain the following:

- Expansion of communities on substantiated principles and criteria, new division of administrative territories of the republic and two-level system of state government,
- Homogeneous social-economic development of administrative territorial units of the republic,
- Resettlement of strategic regions.

a. Enlargement of communities

Taking into account that local-self government is the basis of civil society as well as adhering to principles of European charter of local self-government and considering the establishment of an economically powerful local self-government as a strategic goal, the Party gives importance to the following: strengthen constitutional guarantees of local self-government by legislation, clarify authorities and responsibilities of state government and local self-government bodies, raise the significance of local elections and ensure democratic representation in local self-government bodies, gradually shift to the majority and proportional election system of council in communities (later to 100% proportional system), as well as expand opportunities of increasing budgetary incomes of communities and establish new mechanisms of financial equalization for homogeneous development of communities. To achieve all this the Party is for the policy of community expansion.

b. Enhancing the role of council

According to the Party, it is necessary to raise the significance of local elections and ensure democratic representation in local self-government bodies, gradually shift to majority and proportional election system of the council (later to 100% proportional system), and thus enhance the role of the council.

c. Creation of inter-community units and clarification of legislation

The Party is for the creation of inter-community unities. At the same time, the Party believes that these unities should not be financed from relevant community budgets, as it is envisaged by the law. These unities must be formed for a certain period of time for a special purpose, which is to solve inter-community issues, and financing must be done basically from the state budget.

d. Promotion of financial independence of communities⁴

The Party believes that budget incomes of communities should be increased and financial equalization mechanisms must be improved for harmonic development of communities.

e. Transfer of additional authorities of the state to communities

According to the Party, today communities have more authorities defined by the law than they could if they were given since the formation of local self-government bodies, and moreover by taking into account their budget opportunities. With regard to this, although the Party agrees that the independence level of local self-government bodies should be raised, they should be given as many authorities which they are able to fully realize.

f. Proportionate development of marzes

The Party with regard to territorial development considers the following issues to be resolved:

- develop fundamental principles for administrative-territorial division of the republic and elaborate approaches which ensure harmonic development of territories,
- raise the efficiency of activities of local self-government bodies,
- enhance financial resources of communities and form a stable financial base of administrative territorial units,
- apply more flexible mechanisms of stimulating employment in marzes;
- clarify relations between state authority and territorial and local self-government bodies,
- ensure smooth decentralization process of state government;
- develop and implement of privilege system for the purposes of developing frontier territories as well as communities located in mountain regions and foothills;

4.10. Development of civil society, protection of civil rights, including

The Party plans to continue its policy of assistance and protection of civil society. The Party believes that based on national and universal values, huge development potential is accumulated in the forms of self-organization of citizens. The state should use that potential to its greatest extent and ensure activities of creative and cultural unions; public and legal organizations, property owners, consumers, employers, employees, national, religious and other unions.

a. Strengthening democratic institutes

Development of non-government organizations and state assistance to that process, apologist of which is parties, will allow resolving the following important issues:

- strengthen human factor, establish a dialog between authorities and public as well as acquire public consensus on different issues;
- enhance opportunities for public participation in reforms and activities of state and local self-government bodies, as well as stimulate participation process;
- develop the market of non-trading services, save substantial state financial resources due to transferring a part of social functions of the state to non-governmental organizations and creation of new work places in the non-trading sector of economy, etc..

For resolution of these problems, the following is necessary:

- create opportunities for non-governmental organizations to participate in state decision making and supervision of its enforcement, involve specialized non-governmental organizations in development of social and economic programs; as well as assist in resolution of problems related to orphans, elderly people, disabled and refugees;
- ensure active participation of non-governmental organizations in implementation of social programs financed by state budget.

b. Ensuring freedom of speech and information

In order to establish stable social-political relations based on civil consensus, The Party considers the following to be necessary:

- assist non-governmental organizations in preservation of their independence,
- improve conditions for free and unbiased activities of mass media as one of the most important tools of ensuring pluralism and formation of public opinion in democratization processes,

- assist citizens in realizing their right of conducting peaceful demonstrations, meetings and marches.

c. Consolidating human rights and basic freedoms

One of main objectives of the Party is to contribute to the establishment of a legal state based on civil society, protection of rights and basic freedoms of citizens and democratic institutes.

d. Reforming the judicial system

Activities of RA judicial system should be based on publicity and transparency of justice, protection of individual rights, as well as fair and public judicial examination of legal cases within reasonable deadlines. In order to clarify the status of the judge and guarantee his/her independence and impartiality, it is necessary to create legal, social and other necessary bases for the judge's personal immunity and inalterability and balance them with principles ensuring responsibility. Within the frameworks of prosecution reforms, one of the problems requiring prior resolution, is considered to be conferring rights to Prosecutor's Office to realize supervision with regard to law enforcement in case of sue for human rights protection and assurance of proper and impartial implementation of competencies of prosecutor bodies.

e. Improving the election system

It is necessary to create conditions for 100% shift to proportional election system of National Assembly. It is also necessary to contribute to transparent activities of election committees and enhancement of responsibility level of political powers involved in them.

f. Formation of parties and development of political field⁴

The Party believes that it is important to enhance the role of political parties in state affairs, to establish multi-party traditions, as well as to lead civilized and correct inter-party disagreements.

g. Formation of non-governmental organizations and regulation of the field⁵

The Party believes that the role of non-governmental organizations in the settlement of various problems between the public and the state should be enhanced. NGOs should be seen as partners of state authorities and their objective is to participate in publicity and transparency of decision enforcement.

h. Protecting women's rights and combating violence against them⁴

The Party is for the enhancement of women's role in political life. It is important that women participate in political decision making and their enforcement.

4.11. National security issues and solutions thereto

Main objectives of the sphere are the following:

- ensure the RA territorial integrity and sovereignty, undertake operative and program measures for prevention and elimination of external and internal threats, create a regional security system, where Armenia will have a serious role and its security will be guaranteed to greatest extent;
- strengthen the country's protection, prediction, disclosure, prevention, counteraction and elimination of internal and external threats to national security;
- establish friendly, balanced, legally equal and mutually beneficial cooperation with other states and International organizations;
- development of the country's economy and implementation of economic policy having social orientation, protection of economic interests, reduction of scientific-technical and technological dependency, regulation of demographic processes, improvement of the country's ecological and natural usage;
- ensure security of citizens, his Constitutional rights and freedoms within the territory of RA, improvement of state and local self-government bodies, establishment of legality and order, socio-economic and political stability of society, compliance of citizens, officials, state and local self-government bodies, political parties, public unions, religious and other organizations to legislative requirements.

4.12. Demographic problems, including emigration and birth problems and solutions thereto

Goal-oriented, targeted and efficient social policy is one of the most important factors for the balance of economic alterations, stability, and irreversibility of democratic processes, improvement of demographic picture, prevention of emigration, increase of birthrate and solution of a number of other social problems.

It is necessary to undertake radical measures to overcome problems related to aging and decrease of natural growth of population due to decline of birthrate and average life expectancy, as well as improve the unfavorable demographic reality as a result of the above-mentioned.

4.13. Environmental problems and solutions thereto⁴

Everyone must protect nature, restore and treat it with care just like he would treat his own house. The Party believes it is necessary to implant this absolute truth both in state policy and in the conscious of every citizen.

The Party will perform its activities on this basis. The Party gives importance to country's economic development but cannot accept that economic development be performed at the expense of irreversible loss of the environment, decrease of the country's ecological security and abuse of natural resources. With respect to state policy on reasonable use of natural resources, the Party will enact an active policy in the following directions:

- clarify the problems connected with preservation and rational use of natural reserves, including land, water, forest and other natural resources in the sphere of natural reserve use;
- ensure program basis for the protection of air pools and increase of their efficiency level,
- pay special attention to lake Sevan as a resolution of the RA ecosystem problems which has ecological, economic, social, scientific, historical-cultural, aesthetic, healthcare, climate and re-creative value,
- develop and implement annual complex and targeted programs for restoration of natural level of lake Sevan, reproduction of its ecosystem natural reserves, their preservation and use.

4.14. Moral, psychological, youth problems and solutions thereto⁴

The Party gives importance to the upbringing of a young generation which adheres to national and human values and undertakes responsibility to his country and nation. The Party gives priority to solving employment problems of young people, state assistance to young couples in apartment purchase, education and sport, state awards to the talented. The Party will not limit its activities by the programs it has already implemented in this sphere; moreover, will continue its activities related to unification of young people, their self-expression and rewarding. The Armenian young man must feel protected and secure, must receive high quality education and have a decent job. He should not pursue his fortune in a foreign country, but should rely on his country, government and state. It is necessary to enhance the role of young workforce, trust them serious spheres and create a healthy competitiveness to full realization of their own powers.

2. “HERITAGE” PARTY

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

- **Address of the head office:** 31 Moskovyan 76a, Yerevan
- **Telephone, fax:** (+37410) 53-69-13, 53-26-97
- **E-mail:** office@heritage.am
- **Website:** www.heritage.am
- **Foundation date:** 14. 08.2002
- **State registration date:** 14. 08.2002
- **State re-registration date:** 10.11.2003
- **Charter and Program approval date:** 30.05.2005
- **Last Congress date:** 02.03.2012
- **Date of the latest publication of the Party’s Program and Charter and the name of mass media:** 27.10.2008, www.heritage.am
- **Official mass media of the Party:** “Zharangutyun” periodical
- **Number of separate territorial subdivisions:** 43
- **Number of the Party members at the time of completing the questionnaire:** 6450 of which:
 - **Women:** 35%
 - **Youth:** 30%
- **Participation in National Assembly elections in 2007:** participated
- **Number of deputies at the 4th convocation of the National Assembly:** 7 deputies

2. GOVERNING BODIES OF THE PARTY AND ITS LEADER

2.1. Names of the governing bodies of the Party, number of Party members and the Party leader

- Congress
- Board: 41 members
- Administration: 11 members
- Administration Chair
- Charter committee: 5 members
- Inspection committee
- Territorial subdivisions
- Party President: Raffi Hovhannisyan

2.2. Party membership procedure, including membership fees and payment peculiarities

Party membership is open to all capable RA citizens over 18 years old, who accept the Party Charter on a voluntary basis. The member of the Party shall not at the same time be a member of another party, or registered in more than one territorial subdivision of the Party. Party membership may be obtained by other persons with suffrage in the Republic of Armenia without the right to be elected in Party governing or supervision bodies. The member of the party is to pay a membership fee, and the Board of the Party certifies the amount of the fee, as well as the payment procedure upon the presentation of the Administration.

3. IDEOLOGICAL PLATFORM, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PARTY

3.1. Ideology

“Heritage” Party is national, from the economical standpoint liberal political power, a supporter of government democratic system which has a priority of making Armenia a developed republic, a democratic and legal country which constructs its foreign and internal policies on the basis of national and sovereign interests. The party holds an opinion that the guarantee of a person’s dignity, spiritual and material freedom, well-being, securing of human freedom and rights, as well as sound and efficient functioning of government system is democracy. The people of the country bear the state and national interests.

3.2. Goals and objectives

The principal objective of the Party is to contribute to the establishment of a prosperous and honorable life for Armenians and to inherit a free, powerful and prospering homeland to future generations based on universal and national values as well as the past political heritage. The Party has resolved to take part in the organization of state and local self-government elective institutions and their activities, as well as in social, political, civil, economic, cultural life of the country.

In perspective “Heritage” Party views Armenia as a state where:

- a human with its rights and freedom is the supreme value;
- state structures serve the people and are a means of their self-organization and realization of their desires; their top objective is to ensure the realization of the main rights and freedom of a person and a citizen.
- a citizen is the basis of a state, people are the source of power, a nation is the anchor of statehood, consequently their freedom is the pledge of sovereignty;
- democracy is guaranteed by Constitution, laws, civil society, crystallized democratic ways of state government
- everyone and every political power realizes his/her responsibilities for the past, the present and the future that lies ahead.

3.3. The type of the party (according to the party's opinion)

National-liberal, right-winged centrist

4. PROGRAM STANDPOINTS OF THE PARTY ON THE FOLLOWING ISSUES

4.1. Three priorities of foreign policy

1. A balance in the foreign policy as fundamental principle to foreign policy, which will eliminate the threat of becoming an annex to any country.
2. Integration with European organizations, establishment of bilateral relations with European countries, and EU integration as a key direction of foreign and internal policy.
3. Cooperation with Russia, CIS and other countries, USA, Western neighbors, as well as large countries like China, India, Japan, Canada, etc.

4.2. Fundamentals of foreign policy, including

For the sake of foreign policy's line of force, "Heritage" Party considers the obligatory and simultaneous usage of the following three components:

1. Regional component, where Armenia establishes itself in its territory as a sovereign, legal, democratic country capable of ensuring minimal self-satisfaction.
2. Competitive component, which concentrates on the external environment and presupposes clarification of Armenia's functional "role", mission and 'specialization' in the region. In party's vision, Armenia's mission should be the role of an island of democracy and sustainability, as well as an epicenter of progressive development.
3. Networking component for which the well-known tenet "there are no eternal relatives and foes, there are interests" should serve as a starting point. Speaking about networking component will be justified only in case of being fully satisfied with regional and competitive components.

a. European Integration

The party holds an opinion that integration is not a final goal for Armenia; it is a tool for improved well-being, prosperity and security. By saying integration the party means mutually beneficial cooperation, mutual understanding and enhanced level of mutual aid.

b. CIS⁴

Friendly relations with former Soviet Republics on mutually beneficial basis.

c. Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO)⁵

The party believes that as far as we have membership to CSTO, the contractual obligations should be fulfilled.

d. NATO⁵

Irrespective of Armenia's possible membership to NATO, depending on its security needs, current challenges require army modernization in accordance with NATO standards, which have proved their vitality in resisting both global and inter-state challenges.

e. USA⁴

To be able to withstand economic, social, foreign policy challenges, extend and improve the quality of material and strategic maintenance services to the army, apart from keeping the traditional economic, political and strategic cooperation with Russia, it is crucial to cooperate with new partners such as EU and NATO, and especially the USA with which close collaboration is viewed by the party as fruitful.

f. Russian Federation⁴

It is necessary to maintain close cooperation with our traditional ally - Russia, yet reconstructing it on the basis of mutually agreed and respected interests. Within the scope of that cooperation the formula of

“property in return of debt”, as well as sale of strategic fields of Armenian economy to Russia or any other country are deemed unacceptable.

g. Recognition of Genocide and Armenian- Turkish relations⁴

Armenia-Turkey relations presuppose an open, honest dialogue through cultural, economic and social cooperation. The two nations should gradually amend the archetypes governing over them, adopt universal and pan-European values, recognize their own history and resolve the Genocide and the issue of its heritage, as well as regulate all separating disputes and relations in a comprehensive and complex way, open all closed borders and establish diplomatic relation without any precondition.

h. Karabakh issue and Armenian-Azerbaijan relations

Excluding a possibility of return of Nagorno-Karabakh Republic to Azerbaijan, after the peaceful regulation of Artsakh conflict, a trilateral agreement with Azerbaijan should be concluded, where the third party being Nagorno-Karabakh Republic as a full and equal party of the negotiations. The Party aims at reinforcing the sovereignty and political independence of Nagorno-Karabakh Republic for the oncoming years and meanwhile securing economic, cultural, scientific, educational fusion with the Republic of Armenia as well as conformity of legislation.

i. Iran⁴

On the basis of the existing friendly relations, the Party attaches utmost importance to enhancing the economic cooperation with Iran for the purpose of ensuring transport, energy and other forms of security for both countries. The Party considers the construction of a wide-diameter Iran-Armenia-EU gas pipeline as a high priority.

j. Georgia including the Javakhk Armenians' issues⁴

It is necessary to establish friendly relations with Georgia on the basis of mutual trust, while paces of economic cooperation should be passed to political sphere as well. The latter will be possible especially taking into consideration common priorities of the two countries in EU membership. Javakhk is an inseparable part of national heritage, at the same time being a security bond for Armenia and Georgia. The oncoming characteristic traits of mutual collaboration of these two countries will be conditioned by the efficiency of those measures which will reflect this realization and secure basic freedoms for Armenian-Georgian community and its institutions.

k. Armenia-Diaspora: enhanced links and effective cooperation⁴

The Republic of Armenia should assist to the retention of Armenians in Diaspora, promote straightforward relations between Armenians in Diaspora and become a link between Diaspora communities, serving a focal point of communication. Diaspora, in its turn, should serve as a paramount bridge of cultural, economic, political relations and cooperation between Armenia and the rest of the world. With this regard, a special governing body should be created within the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

l. Other

The party is inclined to establish friendly relations with the neighboring countries and create peaceful atmosphere in the region and worldwide. It is essential to tend to resolve all the conflicts with the neighbors in the spirit of cooperation.

4.3. Three priorities of domestic policy

1. Legal reforms;
2. Establishment of civil society;
3. Economic and social policy.

4.4. Fundamentals of financial and economic policy, current obstacles to stable economic development and solutions thereto, including:

The government shall be more effective in undertaking regulatory functions conferred to him in economy, including those calling for anti-monopoly, free competition, justice and resolution of economic disputes.

a. Monetary policy⁴

- Improvement of National Assembly supervision mechanisms over the Central Monetary body of Armenia;
- Development and introduction of an effective deposit guaranteeing system, which is an important step towards consolidation of public trust in banks;
- Creation of favorable environment for formation of private and state insurance and pension funds and companies;

- Ensuring more liberal monetary policy to promote mortgage lending;
- Increase volumes of lending to real economic sector by banks, defining operative supervision over use of loans;
- Implement a feasible program of returning all funds deposited in the former "Armsavingbank", as well as other 33 banks and credit organizations that went bankrupt or got liquidated during early 90s. The following principles should be used as implementing the programs: all deposits should be registered as domestic state debt to its citizens, proceeds gained from the privatization of state assets should serve funds for return of deposits, as well as funds obtained through confiscation of the wealth pilfered from the public and enormous taxes concealed from the state by a number of business entities.
- Possible reduction of microeconomic risks and implementation of up-to-date principles of corporate governance.

b. Budgetary policy and state debt⁴

- Budget processes should be more open and transparent;
- Transfer to development budgets, making clear distinctions between expenses to be dedicated to implementation of long-term development programs;
- Increase efficiency of budget expenses; reduce state maintenance costs for the administrative staff;
- State and community budget expenses shall be programmed and performed on the basis of final result-driven program budgeting;
- Ensure the budget deficit not to exceed the maximum 3%.

c. Tax and customs reforms⁴

It is necessary to create a tax system operating on the principles of justice and equality, combat shadow economy, increase inflows from direct taxes (profit, income), reduce rates of the main types of taxes, struggle against the defective practice of showing false losses, beared by business entities. It is necessary to permanently improve and enhance the level of tax administration. Encourage domestic production and import of high value added products through customs policy. Ensure increased transparency of administration in customs houses, eradicate the corruption deeply rooted therein, and guarantee equal legal conditions for all importers and exporters. For the purpose of promoting domestic production, it is necessary to implement protective customs policy, which anticipates moderate customs regime over exported domestic production and relatively stringent customs regime over similar foreign products imported.

It is necessary to permanently improve and enhance the level of customs administration.

d. Development of industry⁴

The economic policy of the state must be directed towards the encouragement of developing the economy's scientific, innovative branches, at the same time taking into account the country's energy, military, economic, transport, food and ecological security. The party attaches prior importance to the development of high technology sphere (including the innovative one) and processing industries, stimulating the export of their products, creating closed cycles of products, encouraging creation of clusters. It is necessary to pay particular attention to the enhancement of competitive products which is possible on condition that the product quality is in conformity with international standards. It is essential to increase the role of industry in the process of organizing the country's GDP.

e. Development of agriculture⁴

The party believes that rich and sustainable rural areas are serious guarantee for sovereignty and security of the state. With this regard, it is of crucial importance to:

- Contribute to production and export of agricultural goods;
- Create favorable conditions for implementation of investment and loan programs in rural economies. It is necessary to adopt an efficient lending system for the sector, taking into account the characteristics of the given field as defining the maturity dates and interests rates for loans, accepting land and other assets used in agriculture as collateral. It is crucial to apply privileged loan conditions against agricultural enterprises operating in high mountainous and frontier zones;
- Create favorable conditions and mechanisms for formation of different forms of agricultural co-operations on voluntary basis;
- Develop flexible system of agricultural insurance and have the state actively participate therein first of all in the form of undertaking indemnification of some losses.

f. Information technologies and innovative development⁴

Armenia may defeat challenges of both regional and world scale natural competition, developing innovative economy, i.e. economy based on knowledge and high technologies. In this respect, the party considers a number of legislative initiatives which will:

- Provide for privileged tax conditions for such branches of economy as high technologies, including information and nanotechnologies;
- Considerably increase financing for science and education sectors in the Republic of Armenia;
- Secure financing in the form of annual subsidization from the state budget for technical, technological upgrade of relevant faculties in state and private education institutions preparing human resources for the above sectors, trainings for the lecturer staff conducted in the best foreign education university and study internships of best students in the best education institutions;
- Donate funds from the state budget for equipping the secondary and vocational education systems with modern material and technical bases, increasing their current share in the budget expenses up to 5 times. 100% computerization of all schools in Armenia at the expense of state funds, appropriate state orders in state and private institutes for preparation of relevant teachers;
- Increase the threshold of minimal salary for scientists, regardless of the field, up to 50-fold of minimal salary in the country;
- Budget funds will be increased for covering expenses required for participation of relevant Armenian companies in international exhibitions on the above sectors and organizing such international exhibitions in Armenia.

g. Energy and provision of energy security⁵

The vital activities and the development of the country's strategic energy infrastructures must be carried out under vigilant supervision of the state, meanwhile increasing energy security and independence. It is necessary to diversify energy-carrier sources, increase energy producing capacities, while as a long term objective – close the Metsamor Nuclear Power Plant, given availability of new and modern energy sources capable of substituting it, promote renewable energy, more active participation of Armenia in regional energy programs, boost vigorous policy targeting implementation of the initiative on constructing the Iran-Armenia-EU gas pipeline. Selling of Iran-Armenia pipeline or handing it in to another country in any format is unacceptable. In view of ensuring energy independence of the country, it is of crucial importance to satisfy the main portion of country's pivotal part of energy demand through utilization of natural alternative sources of energy (solar energy, water from almost 150 mountain rivers, wind power, gases from solid waste, gravity force).

h. Development of tourism⁵

It is necessary to increase the volumes of budget resources directed towards the development of tourism taking into consideration the preservation of socio-economic development of residences, interrelated resolution of engineering – transportation infrastructures and ecological issues, as well as national, historic-cultural, urban development and landscape values.

i. Stimulation of investments

Ensuring favorable climate for investments largely depends on combined activities of the state, enterprises and commercial banks directly relating to investment, in the context of general investment policy.

Key instruments for the state investment policy include anti-corruption, additional payment, tax-budgetary, monetary and anti-monopoly policies, structural reforms, etc.

j. Improvement of business environment and development of small and medium business

The party believes that it is important to ensure consistency in implementing small and medium business sector reforms. The party considers small and medium business to be one of the key points for formation of the middle class in Armenia, which will promote economic growth during its gradual development, create new jobs, enhance territorial development and reduce poverty.

Current share of small and medium business in GDP of Armenia is too small and does not correspond to its potential. This situation was created as a result of overwhelming corruption in state administration and judicial systems, with artificially created excessive concentration of economy in the hands of certain people, monopolized markets, and flourished shadow economy.

Significant increase in small and medium businesses will be possible as ensuring the following:

- Legislative and administrative reforms;
- Fair competition in tax, customs, financial, credit and other sectors;
- Anti-corruption actions;

- Development and implementation of innovative policy;
- Promotion of investment policy;
- Development of territorial infrastructures.

k. Reduction of shadow economy⁴

Shadow economy constitutes 50%-60% of Armenia's economy, the elimination of which requires elementary political will from the authorities, rather than sophisticated legal mechanisms. The party attaches importance to the creation of effective mechanisms for protection of ownership rights, regardless of ownership form, restriction of monopolistic activities in the internal market, provision of equal rights for all business entities, taking drastic and effective steps to reduce corruption, patronage and as a result of them shadow economy, and last of all providing transparency for companies' activities.

l. Eradication of corruption⁴

The party believes that corruption cannot possibly be overcome through institutional measures only, as far as the authorities do not have the political will to do so. Following the formation of legitimate authorities elected by people's votes, we should hunt for arrest and punishment of high rank corruptions in all the severity of the law, requiring compensation for all losses caused by them. It is necessary to carry out a process of economic crime assessment and amnesty. In combating corruption it might be essential to create a single independent republican power structure, in the governance of which the role of the representatives of civil society should be central.

m. Other

Taking into account the small volumes and under-accomplishment of Armenia's economy and financial market, the party finds it appropriate to continually consider the issues of economic and financial stability and security in foreign economic relationships.

4.5. Fundamentals of social policy and solutions to current problems, including⁴

Under present circumstances in many sphere of RA equal rights for citizens are legislatively provided for, however, the opportunities for making use of these rights are essentially different. The present situation in the social sphere is as follows: the state refuses to fulfill its social commitments which are constitutionally fixed. Consequently there are urgent demographic problems, low salaries and pensions, unavailable medical services, ineffective social security.

a. Overcoming poverty⁴

- Moralize and conduct supervision over social protection mechanisms and administration;
- Define minimal salary in the amount of minimal consumer basket;
- Increase benefits and pensions and define them in the amount of minimal consumer basket;
- Create jobs with wages exceeding the minimal consumer basket in 40%-50%.

b. Reduction of polarization of society and reformation of social justice⁴

- Reduce unemployment and implement effective employment policy;
- Ensure real growth of population's incomes and consolidate the social protection system.

c. Ensuring employment and reducing unemployment⁴

For reduction of unemployment and increased level of employment the party finds it necessary to:

- Undertake urgent revision of the Labor Code;
- Trigger operation of employment services for the purpose of creating new jobs, providing re-specialty services and developing the self-employment market;
- Develop and implement certain policy for rural labor force, eliminate labor abuse, conduct legislative supervision over employer/employee relations, give legal verification to non formal relations;
- Ensure real protection of labor right of the vulnerable society;
- Legalize shadow market employees, protect their rights and give social guarantees.

d. Improvement of healthcare system⁴

Affordable and high quality healthcare requires:

- Improve health services all over Armenia to become physically and financially affordable;
- Increase and ensure target use of the state budget funds allotted to the health care system;
- Improve healthcare system management and internal administration;
- Apply efficient mechanisms for state regulation over tariffs in private medical care and services;
- Ensure appropriate use of the medical equipments and pharmaceuticals delivered to Armenia in the form of aid;
- Render sustainable, free medical care services to the vulnerable population;

- Revise the policy for import of pharmaceuticals, equipping the market with efficient, safe and high quality pharmaceuticals;
- Take serious measures against forged pharmaceuticals; enhance customs control, reduce and totally eliminate the smuggler import of pharmaceuticals;
- Recover the VAT privilege over circulation of pharmaceuticals, which was cancelled in January, 2001;
- Immediately reduce and totally eliminate shadow circulation of pharmaceuticals (this is assessed within the limits of 70%-75%);
- Develop efficient policy for providing pharmaceuticals to the vulnerable population.

e. Social security and insurance systems reforms⁴

For the purpose of ensuring the constitutional social rights of country's population, the party attaches importance to the following:

- Urgently introduce mandatory medical insurance;
- In order to encourage medical insurance, allow business entities operating in the Republic of Armenia reduce their profit and count as expense medical insurance payments, if they undertake to pay 30% of employees' medical insurance;
- Switch to accumulative methods of social insurance;
- Ensure high quality housing and public utilities, as well as quality transport services;
- Protect the family, motherhood, childhood.
- Those who have devoted their lives and health to freedom of Armenia and Artsakh, including those in the frontier sentry duties deserve the utmost attention and care of the state.

f. Other

Emigration is already threatening RA's existence as a sovereign state, therefore, the party thinks that it is possible to drastically reduce emigration, repatriate the already emigrated and to provide for the immigration solely through improving the moral-psychological atmosphere of the country, restoring the faith towards the future, reducing the social polarization within the society, accomplishment of effective system of justice, drastic reduction and total elimination of corruption as a result of combat and provision of ideal economic competition. The Party believes that formation of new legitimate power shall be aimed to ensure the above mentioned.

4.6. Reformation and development of education system⁴

The party suggests developing long-term and target programs for training narrow-specialty professionals in higher, secondary and vocational education sectors.

The party believes that it is necessary to impose more stringent requirements against higher education, which will eliminate or mitigate manifestation of mediocrity and motivation of just holding an education diploma.

Lending mechanisms should be applied in higher and vocational education systems.

It is necessary to apply much stricter certification criteria for private higher educational institutions, and regulate the process of preparing human resources necessary for the economy of the Republic.

It is essential to promote vocational education as an important factor to country's economic development.

To "Heritage" party the following objectives are of high priority: defining secondary education by constitution as a civil obligation, considering education dismissal as an illegal act in accordance with the law on education, safeguarding education right of children, who need extraordinary conditions for education in all cities and villages of the country and covering education costs for children of the disabled and other vulnerable families.

All sources of corrupt affairs and practices in all layers of education should be fiercely struggled over.

4.7. Development of science

The party believes that development of science is not just a matter of national dignity, it is a serious pledge to economic development.

For the purpose of equipping scientific institutions with modern facilities, increasing remuneration of scientific workers, extending funds for development of scientific topics, it is necessary to gradually increase the allocation of funds therein up to 4%-5% of budget expenses, as well as find alternative financing solutions and sources for them.

Development of applied science should be under special attention, considering it as an important guarantee for economic development of the country.

4.8. Culture and Sport

Culture has played a leading role throughout the life of Armenian people not only on the level of general civilization but also from the point of national guardianship. Consequently, development of national culture

through formation of relevant legislative framework should be a priority objective for the state, including creation of favorable conditions for satisfaction of residents' cultural needs.

Sport should be filtered from corruption, since it is one of the most important aspects of manifestation of Armenian citizens' potential, health protection and ensured military efficiency. It is necessary to develop a complex state policy targeting development of sport.

4.9. Territorial government and local self-government

One of the most important directions of reducing poverty and developing the economy is the development of small and medium business in marzes. The party suggests increasing business activities in marzes due to business plan and special regional management approaches involving local self-government bodies and business community representatives in this process.

a. Enlargement of communities⁴

Taking into consideration the peculiarities of communities, the party suggests realizing administrative – territorial reformations which are directed towards the enlargement of economically substantiated communities. This will provide for the following: it will be possible for the population to provide services, it will be available for the population to make use of public services, possibilities for transportation communications.

b. Enhancing the role of council⁴

Attaching importance to the role of the council the party believes that it is necessary to implement the institute of “committees of community council” in the system of local self-government. This will help the council to effectively carry out its authorizations and reform the decision-making process. The establishment of committees and the effective organization of their activities will boost certain privileges, especially for those councils which have an extended staff. In order to establish cooperation with the electorate, aldermen must encourage the citizens to take part in the sessions of the council, thus involving them in the process of making decisions which have communal significance.

c. Creation of inter-community units and clarification of legislation⁴

The party finds it necessary to create inter-communal units in order to solve certain problems jointly and cut expenses. The quality of community development projects is mainly conditioned by the conformity of present issues and the wants of the population of the community.

d. Promotion of financial independence of communities⁴

The party believes that it is necessary to reform the methodological basis for the creation of local budgets and effective management of expenditure. This will contribute to the increase in financial independence of communities and their stable development. It is necessary to increase the financial independence of communities which will contribute to a more effective fiscal policy. Under present conditions, the budgets of most of the communities, in fact almost all the communities of towns, depend on subsidies received from the centre.

e. Transfer of additional authorities of the state to communities

The party believes that transferring additional authorities to communities must be accomplished through endowing the communities to define certain local taxes and enhancing authorities to make decisions concerning ecological issues. All these will contribute to the improvement of communities' financial independence and the eco-security of the populations.

f. Proportionate development of marzes

The issues of proportionate development of marzes are high priority in RA today. It is necessary to reduce the economic, administrative, social and cultural over-centralization and to direct the stream of investments into the marzes. This will contribute to the reduction of poverty and encourage the countries stable development.

4.10. Development of civil society, protection of civil rights, including

For the purpose of building a democratic and lawful state that is anchored to national and universal values the Party attaches importance to the development of a civil society. In this respect, the high degree of sovereignty and self-organization of a civil society may be a guarantee for giving quick solutions to urgent issues. Meanwhile it is a complete guarantee for protection of an individual and a society from state negligence and delinquency.

a. Strengthening democratic institutes

The party thinks that sufficient grounds have been put on paper in Armenia for establishment and consolidation of democratic institutes. Nevertheless, the latter, first of all, requires political will of

authorities and effective participation of the civil society. Practical enforcement of theoretical opportunities for consolidated democratic institutes should be one of the highest priorities of the coming legitimate authorities.

b. Ensuring freedom of speech and information

Pursuant to the law on mass media the freedom in mass media activities shall not be restricted but instead – regulated, whilst regulation may not restrict the rights for receiving and disseminating information, freedom of speech and other basic freedoms of mass media representatives and journalists. Provision of electronic means of communication should be maximum transparent.

Consequently, according to the party, it is necessary to:

- Develop a law on regulation of relations associated with the ownership of mass media, which will prohibit the right for ownership of TV companies by any political party;
- Create favorable conditions for development of private mass media companies, simplify the licensing procedures for mass media companies, clearly define requirements;
- Increase the level of journalists' social and legal protection;
- Create an independent commission for regulation and supervision of mass media activities with participation of all political forces present in the National Assembly.

c. Consolidating human rights and basic freedoms

The opportunity for enjoying rights and freedoms stipulated by the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia should be guaranteed for everybody without gender, racial, skin color, language, religious, political and other forms of discrimination depending on the beliefs, social origin, national identity, financial status, place of birth, etc.

The role of Ombudsman should be enhanced, creating proper legal and functional conditions to ensure his/her independent and impartial operation.

d. Reforming the judicial system

Judicial reforms should target affordability of justice, creation of fair and impartial judicial power, which will be competent to ensure establishment of democracy and implementation of economic reforms.

e. Improving the election system⁴

- Gradually introduce the system of 100% proportional National Assembly elections;
- Create competent, balanced election commissions;
- Ensure legal equality mechanisms among election units;
- Extract any opportunity of authorities to have influence over elections results;
- Establish real social supervision over election commission activities, complete transparency of election process;
- Define and enforce more stringent sanctions over crime against voting rights;
- Ensure equal conditions for all candidates in state funded mass media;
- Adopt and implement all-state program targeting enhancement of voting culture of citizens.

f. Formation of political parties and development of political field⁴

The party believes that it is necessary to ensure free, fair elections, which will promote revival and enlargement of political parties. Allot state financing to political parties or their coalitions, which have passed to the National Assembly. Allow commercial banks to provide secured financing to political parties for election campaigns. Only proportional system should be applied for the National Assembly Elections. Develop rules of ethics for RA National Assembly deputies and an effective mechanics of recall.

g. Formation of non-governmental organizations and regulation of the field

The party believes that the government that does not communicate or take into account the will of the population, conveys and compels a vicious spirit and quality to Non Governmental Organizations which aim at bringing out and realizing the interests of different layers of the society.

The legislation which regulates the activities of NGOs should:

- Secure their advantageous place in the civil and political field
- Allow them to bring forward their mission on a public and not state power scale.
- Create most favorable conditions of independence, freedom, sovereignty for their activities.
- Make the puppet status of authorities undesirable and not advantageous, and on the other hand make the avocation of serving the society desirable and advantageous.
- Increase their participation in the spheres of public control and supervision.
- Prepare favorable grounds for initiating grants and funds in order for the private sector to develop the public sector which will free the businessmen and benefactors from the atmosphere of fear.

h. Protecting women's rights and combating violence against them

It is necessary to define legislatively guarantees providing for women's equal rights and equal opportunities in political, social, economic, cultural, public and other spheres, as well as to regulate the relations arising in this connection.

By the state policy providing gender equality, it is necessary to secure equal just and real opportunities for women and give them the right of electing state and local self-governing bodies and be elected.

i. Public participation in legislative processes

The balanced and harmonic interaction of state and society requires continuation of reformations aimed at allocation of the civil society from the state. This will lead to the creation of such a society and define its control over the activities of authorities. Modern democracy is inseparable from an influential and organized civil society. A state like this implies comprehensive opportunities for citizens to protect their rights, make political decisions and directly influence the process of public participation in legislative procedures.

4.11. National security issues and solutions thereto

In order to provide national security, The Republic of Armenia must rely on its own power, first of all the power of armed forces. This can be achieved due to general military training, regardless of gender. The regular RA army is aimed to protect the borders of our country from foreign encroachments. The army is the guarantee for the independence and territorial integrity of the state. In case of necessity, the army can become the guarantee for Armenia's vital interests outside the state, according to the RA defensive-offensive provision.

4.12. Demographic problems, including emigration and birth problems and solutions thereto⁴

The guarantee for effective activities of preservation of Armenian identity and gathering of the nation, issues of ethnography, as well as emigration, birthrate and the ways of their resolution, is the realization of united, consolidated and systematized strategy with the united participation of the state, Diaspora communities, centers of Armenian studies, religious structures and Armenians around the world. At present it is a high priority to adopt audacious political positions which will provide for a stable, secure and peaceful future for Armenia. This position will have a priority of strategic projects, avoid the tragic experiences of history, as well as prevent their repetition.

4.13. Environmental problems and solutions thereto⁴

The best policy of environmental protection is evasion of tense pesthole from the very beginning, rather than struggling against in the future. The Republic of Armenia should formulate such legislative mechanisms, which will make undertaking of environmental activities profitable for entrepreneurs. In tax, investment and lending policies the state entities should demonstrate diversified treatment against initiatives contributing to environmental protection. It is hereby suggested to grant tax privileges over specialized enterprises engaged in production of environmentally-friendly products as compared to polluting producers. There should be diversified practice of collecting ecological fees.

4.14. Moral, psychological, youth problems and solutions thereto⁵

The party believes that the future of RA largely depends on the young generation. The young must be instructed in the spirit of our dream state and society.

The following must be consistently evolved in the behavior and spirit of our young generation:

- Priority of spiritual values over materialistic ones;
- Priority of the value of freedom over non freedom;
- Priority of the value of right over arbitrariness;
- Priority of the value of democracy over monopoly power.

The party views the new Armenian young generation as having an application of occupying a dominant position in the region and worldwide. The party thinks that they are in the struggle of finding their self-recognition and self-determination, in religious activities, scientific, socio-cultural spheres, the world of sport, in the front lines defending the sacred boundaries of the country (in accordance with the RA defensive – offensive provision), in the internet. Taking into account the new demands that an individual must meet in accordance with the paces of universal development, it is possible to contribute to the creation of such characteristic traits in young generation, the criteria of which can be evaluated by the future of civilization, and which can become the basis for the economic and social development of the society. In this respect, young generation should be viewed as a major power developing a new civilization parallel to the development of post-industrial, and informative social system.

3. "ARMENIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS" PARTY ALLIANCE

3.1. "FREEDOM" PARTY

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

- **Address of the head office:** 33-12 Sayat Nova St., Yerevan
- **Telephone, fax:** (+37410) 54-18-29
- **E-mail:** hrant.bagratyan@gmail.com
- **Foundation date:** 29.05.1997
- **State registration date:** 04.06.1997
- **State re-registration date:** 25.11.2003
- **Charter and Program Approval date:** 29.05.1997
- **Last Congress date:** 14.01.2011
- **Date and mass media of the last publication of the Party's charter and program:** "Menk" periodical, in 1997
- **Number of separate territorial subdivisions:** 11
- **Number of the Party members at the time of completing the questionnaire:** 2641, from which
 - **Women:** 32%
 - **Youth:** 44%
- **Participation in National Assembly elections in 2007:** not participated

2. GOVERNING BODIES OF THE PARTY AND ITS LEADER

2.1. Names of the governing bodies of the Party, number of Party members and the Party leader

- Congress
- Republican Board
- Party President-Chairman of the Board: Hrant Bagratyan
- Party Secretary: Karine Petrosyan

2.2. Party membership procedure, including membership fees and payment peculiarities

All citizens of the Republic of Armenia over 18 years old, who accept the Party's Charter and Program and are not members of other social and political organizations, are eligible for party membership. Every member of the Party is involved in a structural or regional subdivision, participates in its activities and pays a membership fee, which is not less than the 0.5 part of the minimum monthly salary.

3. IDEOLOGICAL PLATFORM, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PARTY

3.1. Ideology

The Party is a social-political organization established by the free will of the RA citizens. The ideological bases of the Party are the following main principles:

- The objective of the state is to ensure conditions for the development and freedom of people.
- The role of the state is to regulate but not organize social life.
- National ideology must be the important factor of nation's way of life, social progress and state existence. National ideology also includes human values.
- National values do not only refer to what has already been achieved in the past. It is first of all the long-term and diligent efforts to prepare a generation with modern mentality, to create a progressive society and perform state construction.
- Mediating in development processes of infrastructures necessary for the progress of society the state must minimize its role of being an owner of production results.
- The state can undertake the function of a goods producer only by law.
- All other spheres of social life must be organized by free people, groups of people and economic subjects.
- Political and economic rights and responsibilities of the same subject must be balanced.

3.2. Goals and objectives

The goal of the Party is to contribute to the political and economic strengthening of the RA, establishment of a democratic system, creation of private ownership based on efficient economy and normal living standards for the people.

One of the main objectives of the Party is to create a political power based on the liberal ideologies of the RA internal political life and undertake responsibility to of protecting human rights from abuse. The Party aims at creating economic and social systems, which should adhere to the following principles:

- There should be no division of political and social-economic reality,
- Ensure freedom of economic activities of people and drastically restrict the concept of state care,
- Contribute to drastic increase of private ownership, role of private entrepreneurs and density,
- Reject the role of the state as a goods producer unless stipulated by the law.

3.3. Type of the Party (according to the party's opinion)

Liberal

4. PROGRAM STANDPOINTS OF THE PARTY ON THE FOLLOWING ISSUES

4.1. Three priorities of foreign policy

1. Political unilateral orientation is dangerous.
2. The more the number of economic relations, the more countries we depend on economically, the more independent is the state.
3. The geopolitical situation in Armenia is such that the territorial security system integrated in a greater geopolitical system would be more efficient and admissible.

4.2. Fundamentals of foreign policy, including:

- The main objective of the RA foreign policy is the country's military-political security and the self-determination right of Artsakh.
- Today there is a tendency of globalization and shift from multi-polar world political centralization to unipolar centralization. This does not ensure happy and carefree future, but means that unipolar political centralization is dangerous.
- Progressive economic integration and comparison of economic and political interests related to it are important. Our activities should be based on the principle of "the more economic relations we have and the more countries we are dependent upon economically, the more independent is our country".
- The main criterion of selecting strategic partners is the society's unity in our state. By giving high importance to the issues of territorial security, it is necessary to remember that the geopolitical situation in Armenia is such that the territorial security system integrated in a greater geopolitical system would be more efficient and admissible.

a. European Integration⁵

It is urgent to commence a scientific-technological cooperation with Europe.

b. CIS⁵

The Party gives importance to cooperation with CIS.

c. Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO)⁵

The Party gives importance to cooperation with CSTO.

d. NATO⁵

The Party gives importance to cooperation with NATO.

e. USA⁵

The Party gives importance to cooperation with the USA.

f. Russian Federation⁵

It is urgent to commence cooperation with Russian Federation.

g. Recognition of the Genocide and Armenian-Turkish relations⁴

The Party gives importance to the recognition of the Genocide and regulation of Armenian-Turkish relations.

h. Karabakh issue and Armenian-Azerbaijan relations⁵

According to the Party it is important to recognize the self-determination right of Karabakh and establish three-lateral relations between Armenia, Azerbaijan and Karabakh.

i. Iran⁵

It is important to ensure progress in investment markets of Iran, Russia and Georgia and achieve significant positions.

j. Georgia, including the Javakhs Armenians issues⁵

According to the Party, it is important to preserve the cultural identity of Javakh Armenians.

k. Armenia-Diaspora: enhanced links and effective cooperation

The collective potential of Armenians all over the world is a great power for the Armenian nation to solve national and economic issues. The party emphasizes the importance of establishing Goodwill Ambassador

Institute within the scope of the Diaspora. This is the only way to increase Diaspora's confidence in making investments in their homeland. No state organization or institute under state support must have monopoly right to cooperate with the Diaspora. No Diaspora representative can have a monopoly to communicate with Armenia. The Republic of Armenia must assist and encourage the creation of elective Goodwill Ambassador's institute with territorial principle in the colonies of Diaspora, taking into account the great number of Diaspora colonies, objective variety of these colonies, unity of the Diaspora with millions of political and economic ties.

4.3. Three priorities of domestic policy⁵

1. Separation of ownership from the state.
2. Release of business from government.
3. Separation of the president, government members and deputies from business activities.

4.4. Fundamentals of financial and economic policy, current obstacles to stable economic development and solutions thereto, including:⁵

The goal of economic development is to ensure harmony between consumption of reproduction and supply. Consequently, too much centralization of wealth results in decrease of consumption and economic decline.

There are tools in financial system (multiple insurance, "hedge funds", etc.) which lead to unreasonable increase of additional GDP. In this case the rapid development of financial sphere often takes place on the background of decline of real sector of economy.

a. Monetary policy⁵

Monetary system must be based on the economic growth. To achieve this, it is necessary to increase Armenia's currency reserves, sterilize transfers, weaken requirements to bank capital, exclude re-crediting and writing off of loans, shift from universal bank system to specialized one, exclude comparative and relative valuation of national currency, separate bank regulation and supervision, take the responsibility of regulating stock exchange and insurance activities from the authorities of the Central Bank.

b. Budgetary policy and state debt⁵

The incomes must be not less than 24% of GDP, including tax incomes: 22%. It is necessary to exclude subsidies given to suppliers, prohibit deposits of budgetary organizations, increase financing of healthcare up to 4% of the GDP, education - up to 5%, science - up to 1% (and increase by 0.25% every year). It is necessary to finance by the object to be financed and not by service-rendering organization. It is necessary to perform at least half of the state purchases through SME, as well as create opportunities for the 40% of the RA population or 500000 people to be entrepreneurs.

c. Tax and customs reforms⁵

The Party excludes the privileges in this field. Reports should be done only on electronic basis, it is necessary to ensure the return of VAT; individuals can receive their VAT at the airport. It is necessary to establish an alternative (private) customs house. It is necessary to strictly differentiate between tax rates of corporate business and SME, define a system of progressive income tax and tax up to 35% of high incomes, profit tax should be lower than income tax. It is necessary to raise significantly the specific share of property tax in the budget.

d. Development of industry⁵

It is necessary to stop careless use of mines, ensure development of high technologies, pharmaceuticals, and medical equipment, as well as prosperity of knowledge-based branches. The Party gives importance to the following as well: establishment of business incubators/ industrial parks (priority is given to industrial parks), development of perspective clusters (the state must participate in establishment of new perspective clusters as stipulated by the law, which later must be disposed), increase of value added (priority must be given to those branches, where value added is dominant) and industrial development.

e. Development of agriculture

It is necessary to ensure development of agricultural cooperatives (on the basis of mutual assistance) and application of the theory of 4 "seasonal clothing". The Party considers important the following as well:

- The peasants, whose lands will be developed, must be involved in these spheres,
- Create ubiquitous network of cooperatives of mutual assistance, which will solve problems related to watering, agro servicing, plantation and sales of produced agricultural products,
- Stimulate small, partial agriculture, restrict creation of corporate agricultural organizations.

f. Information technologies and innovative development⁵

The development of information and 'soft' technologies is necessary.

g. Energy and provision of energy security⁵

The Party believes that it is very important to build a new nuclear power station, use wind energy and build hydro-accumulation stations. Based on this, the Party underlines the following directions:

- Use of solar energy in economy with state co-financing. The Party believes that it is possible to receive energy of 40-50 billion annually with the help of solar energy.
- Reconstruction of nuclear power station by restoring the previous power. The Party believes that today there are no alternative opportunities with the same power as nuclear power stations. Consequently, the Party gives importance to strategic significance of nuclear energy.
- Energy saving – with decline of outflows up to two times.

h. Development of tourism⁵

The number of tourists must be increase from 600000 to 4 million. It is also necessary to exclude the monopoly of national airline and abolish all types of licenses and privileges in leisure areas.

i. Stimulation of investments⁵

It is necessary to enact a policy of equal stimulation of investments (both internal and external). It is also necessary to stimulate internal investments. Expenses made on major capital must be exempt from profit tax, all tax deposits must be abolished and business environment must be improved.

j. Improvement of business environment and development of small and medium business⁴

First of all, it is necessary to exclude privileges of corporate entrepreneurs and monopolies, always reduce the margin of small business due to simplified tax mechanisms and thus enhance the role of SME in economy, as well as tax up 50-90% of the 'monopoly' super-profit from monopolies.

k. Reduction of shadow economy⁴

The Party believes that the main solution to the problem is the de-centralization of economy, as well as tax reforms and improvement of functions of tax administration.

l. Eradication of corruption⁵

It is necessary to create alternative courts and perform division of business, ownership and government.

4.5. Fundamentals of social policy and solutions to current problems, including:

The social policy of the state must be directed to provision of targeted assistance to socially vulnerable people by degree of poverty, upbringing of youngest generation, solution of problems related to women and birthrate.

a. Overcoming poverty

The goal of state social policy is to support the insolvent layer of society, and not to cause the rich layer become poor. By taking from one person and giving it to another, we get two poor people instead of two rich people.

b. Reduction of polarization in society and improvement of social justice⁵

The Party gives importance to the following:

- The principle "high income – high taxes"
- Significant approximation of minimum and average salaries. The Party believes that the minimum salary must be more than the minimum consumer basket and comprise not less than the 70% of the average salary.

c. Ensuring employment and reducing unemployment⁴

Social policy can never be targeted at solution of living problems of lazy and unemployed people. It is wrong to implant in people the idea that the state must take care of their needs. In relation to this, the Party believes that it is necessary to provide trainings on continual basis related to issues on how to ensure employment and reduce unemployment, establish principles and ideology of social coherency, perform public activities and drastically increase the opportunities of private entrepreneurship.

d. Improvement of healthcare system⁵

The contribution must be made to patients instead of institutes of medical aid. The state subsidies in the public health care system are implemented in the framework of the programs approved by the budget.

e. Reforming social security and insurance system⁵

- Life insurance must be based on the will of the businessmen irrespective of the type of ownership.
- Pension funds must not be allocated as bank deposits; they must be invested in infrastructures of social production under state support.

4.6. Reformation and development of education system⁵

The system of higher education needs radical reforms. The subject of state government must be education itself instead of the institutions (irrespective of the type of ownership).

- It is necessary to adopt the approach of non-permanent state compensation; state compensation should depend on student's progress during the session.
- It is necessary to differentiate teaching from evaluating.

4.7. Development of science⁵

Thematic funding is necessary. It is necessary to increase the financing of science from the current 0.25% of the GDP to 3%. It is also necessary to perform unification of higher education institutions and academies on university basis. It is also important to ensure a third-party international examination.

4.8. Culture and sport⁴

Powerful economy and culture are the main victories of 20th century's end. The main welfare of Armenians is the skill of creating, the capacity to be close to new technologies and the ability to increase the achievements. Armenia, as a country with comparatively poor natural resources, must compensate this deficit with diligence of Armenians, and great cultural and scientific-technological potential. The Party believes that program financing of culture is important. It is also necessary to differentiate between artistic and administrative administration as well as to establish the system of community evaluation.

4.9. Territorial government and local self-government⁵

The Party believes that it is important that during the elections of local self-government bodies in certain cases officials of certain living areas be appointed (taking into consideration local peculiarities). The Party also gives importance to the role of the council based on the quota system. The Party believes that the council should have more authorities than the Village.

a. Enlargement of communities

The Party is against the expansion of communities.

b. Enhancing the role of council⁵

The Party gives importance to the enhancement of the role of the council. The Party believes that the council should have more authorities than the mayor of village (City).

d. Promotion of financial independence of communities⁵

The Party believes that it is important to enhance the financial independence of communities as much as possible, and at the same time underline the importance of state subsidies.

e. Transfer of additional authorities of the state to communities

According to the Party, a part of income tax should be delegated to the systems of local self-government.

f. Proportionate development of marzes⁵

The Party believes that:

- Property tax should be classified by the location of the property,
- State investments must be done in marzes to the maximum,
- Buildings in the center of Yerevan must be subject to additional taxing.

4.10. Development of civil society, protection of civil rights, including:

a. Strengthening democratic institutes

The multitude of parties, the multitude of opinions, as well as the freedom of speech, press and good faith are the key points of democracy. The real guarantee of democracy is the separation of powers in state government: legislative, executive, judicial.

b. Ensuring freedom of speech and information

Ensuring freedom of individual and its development conditions are the main issue of the state.

c. Consolidation of human rights and basic freedoms⁵

It is necessary to implement constitutional changes.

d. Reforming the judicial system⁵

It is necessary to establish outside judicial offices.

e. Improving the election system⁵

It is necessary to perform reforms of election system and eliminate majority election system.

f. Formation of political parties and development of political field⁵

The Party attaches great importance to providing state funding to parties.

g. Formation of non-governmental organizations and regulation of the field

The Party believes that this sphere needs strengthening and legislative regulation.

h. Protecting women's rights and combating violence against them

The Party approves the projects related to protection of women's rights and fight against abuse of women.

i. Public participation in legislative procedures⁵

According to the Party, public participation in legislative processes may be ensured only through elections.

4.11. National security issues and solutions thereto

The state is responsible for the protection of the country and its citizens. The sufficient armed forces and resources to ensure this protection are the duty of the state. The state excludes military and semi-military structures, armed forces out of state government, guerilla groups and other armed structures for the upbringing of the young.

4.12. Demographic problems, including emigration and birth problems and solutions thereto

It is necessary to eliminate reasons for emigration. The Party puts an emphasis on adopting a policy which stimulates birth rate and natural growth.

4.13. Environmental problems and solutions thereto⁴

The Party underlines the balance of land, water and mineral resources, application of usage concession of natural resources and voluminous afforestation.

3.2. “DEMOCRATIC HOMELAND” PARTY

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

- **Address of the head office:** 12 Vagharsh Vagharshyan, Yerevan
- **Telephone, fax:** (+37410) 27-53-09, (+37493) 13-32-92
- **Email:** zhoghghay@gmail.com
- **Foundation date:** 07.03.1998
- **State registration date:** 20.03.1998
- **State re-registration date:** 04.09.2003
- **Charter and Program approval date:** 07.03.1998
- **Last Congress date:** 10.04.2010
- **Date and mass media of the last publication of the Party’s charter and program:** “Haykakan Zhamanak” daily newspaper, 07.03.1998
- **The number of separate territorial subdivisions:** Regional structures: 11, Branches: 38
- **Number of the Party members at the time of completing the questionnaire:** 4874 of which:
 - **Women:** 27%
 - **Youth:** 33%
- **Party’s participation in National Assembly elections in 2007:** participated
- **Number of deputies at the 4th convocation of the National Assembly:** 0

2. GOVERNING BODIES OF THE PARTY AND ITS LEADER

2.1. Names of the governing bodies of the Party, number of Party members and the Party leader:

- Congress
- Political Board: 19 members
- Inspection committee
- Party President: Petros Makeyan

2.2. Party membership procedure, including membership fees and payment peculiarities

The citizens of RA over the age of 18, who accept the program and Charter of the Party, can become a member of the Party and participate in its activities. The membership should be based on application personally completed by the applicant and based on the decision of Political Board of the Party or its territorial subdivision, which is authorized by the Political Board. The party member himself/herself decides the amount of his/her membership fee.

3. IDEOLOGICAL PLATFORM, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PARTY:

- Establishment of a democratic legal state. The key condition for its sustainability is the expression of free will of the people.
- Provision of protection of human rights and freedoms from infringements by state bodies and others through introduction of judicial and other contemporary legal mechanisms.

One of the means of fulfilling these aims is to drastically reform the election system. A contemporary, realistic, systemized political alternative should be made comprehensive based on the way passed during the period of Movement and Independence, and it should be presented to the public. The public consolidated to that alternative will be able to directly participate in the procedures of state administration.

3.1. The type of the party (according to the party’s opinion)

Right-winged centrist

4. PROGRAM STANDPOINTS OF THE PARTY ON THE FOLLOWING ISSUES:

4.1. The three priorities of foreign policy

1. Armenia should form part of such a security system, which indeed can ensure its security and comply with its political positions;
2. It is necessary to abolish the influence of foreign countries, political and other forces directed from outside, on the foreign policy of Armenia;
3. It is necessary to develop long-term foreign policy concept.

4.2. Fundamentals of foreign policy, including

Servicing the economy, particularly communications, provision of foreign markets and defense should become the issues of foreign policy.

a. European Integration

Considering Armenia as part of Europe and adopting the system of universal values as a strategic goal, record Armenia's membership to the European Union.

b. CIS

Within the frame of CIS collaboration, deepen Armenia's integration processes in international and regional economic systems.

c. Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO)

It is unacceptable for Armenia to participate in any military and political systems, which are in the crossroads of different security systems.

d. NATO

NATO or other systems under the auspices of NATO can become a system of ensuring Armenia's security.

e. USA

The party thinks that the relations with the USA should be consistently developed.

f. Russian Federation

It is necessary to diversely deepen relations with Russian Federation, expand and develop economic relations.

g. Genocide Recognition and Armenian -Turkish Relations

Like any crime committed against humanity, the Armenian Genocide which was committed by Ottoman Turkey in 1915 as well, must be condemned by the global community. It is necessary to form mutually beneficial economic relations with Turkey in order to create real prerequisites for establishing normal relations with Turkey and for opening the borders.

h. Karabakh conflict and Armenian-Azerbaijan relations

Regarding the issue of settlement of Karabakh conflict, there should be shift back to the approaches based on national self-determination principle by proving that the competitive principle of territorial integrity is not applicable with regard to Nagorno Karabakh.

i. Iran

It is highly necessary to deepen good neighborly and mutually beneficial relations with Iran.

j. Georgia including the Javakhk Armenians' issues

Relations with Georgia should be deepened in economic and other fields, aimed at getting them to the level of relations of a strategic ally. This will lead to the regulation of Javakhk Armenians' issues.

k. Armenia-Diaspora: enhanced links and effective cooperation

Through participation of representatives of Armenia and Diaspora it is necessary to develop the concept of Armenia-Diaspora relations by emphasizing on clarifying general national goals and forming workable structural mechanisms: All Armenians should be united not based on political viewpoints and parties, but national culture and common interest about the development of Armenia.

4.3. The three priorities of domestic policy

1. Re-establish and develop processes aimed at sustaining democratic institutions.
2. Ensure legal protection, the property rights and ownership inviolability of individual;
3. Increase responsibilities and work efficiency of executive branch by removing extra administrative units;

4.4. Fundamentals of financial and economic policy, current obstacles to stable economic development and solutions thereto, including

For the purpose of economic development it is necessary to identify the priorities of economic strategy as the economic system continues to consume the 1990-98 reformation results. This is recorded in the evaluations of international organizations as well.

a. Monetary policy

It is important to exclude financial flows having nothing to do with the market, re-establish market mechanisms of formation of real currency exchange rate by excluding the influence of separate economic groups on the activities of Central bank.

b. Budgetary policy and State debt

Considerable increase in the proportion of direct taxes in the entries of state budget has key significance for economic development.

c. Tax and customs reforms

The tax policy should be directed on one hand to the promotion of industry and encouragement of investment, and on the other hand to the implementation of budgetary entries. It is necessary to considerably decrease the rate of value added tax by removing its collection in the regions close to the borders. It is necessary to reduce the customs duty on exported products which are not manufactured in Armenia.

d. Development of industry

The priorities for industrial development should be specified and the production of goods which are competitive in international markets should be supported through state guarantees.

e. Development of agriculture

It is of importance to apply zone-based tax policy in the sphere of reprocessing of agricultural production, and maintain tax privileges provided for agriculture.

f. Information technologies and innovative development

Genetically having intellectual potential, a policy must be adopted which will be not imitative but innovative and investment. This will prevent the outflow of young specialists to developed countries.

g. Energy and provision of energy security

The state must control the spheres which have strategic significance guaranteeing their security.

h. Tourism Development

Armenia must be a tourist attraction the main prerequisite of which should be the priority of law. Communications must conform to international standards.

i. Stimulation of investments

The inflow of foreign capital is one of the important priorities of Armenian development and state security, so the efficient usage of invested loans through targeted development project is an overall order of the public.

j. Improvement of business environment and development of small and medium business

For the establishment of economic market system, the monopolies must be eradicated and a free economic competitiveness must be provided. State legal guarantees with improvement of tax system are needed for the development of small and medium business.

g. Reduction of shadow economy

In its classic meaning, there is no shadow economy in Armenia, since shadow tax system and shadow budget exist in the country.

h. Eradication of corruption

Combating the corruption based on the principle 'fish is caught from the head' by strictly regulating activities of oversight structure in compliance with the letter and spirit of the law, to eradicate corruption and the atmosphere of being unpunished.

i. Other (Inflation)

The party finds that insofar the market mechanism is non-functional, that is the consumer cannot be protected from growing of prices; the National Assembly should undertake the role of the body, which should limit the inflation.

4.5. Fundamentals of social policy and solutions to current problems, including

The cornerstone of the Party's social policy is formation of the middle class as soon as possible especially at the expense of poor people. The pensions should be increased up to the 70% of an average budgetary salary.

a. Overcoming poverty

Along with creation of workplaces, it is necessary to gradually create a basis for formation and development of non state pension system.

b. Reduction of polarization of society and reformation of social justice

The illegal enrichment should be prevented by the state by making the activities of business entities more controllable.

c. Ensuring employment and reducing unemployment

It is necessary to develop comprehensive program for population employment, create new workplaces based on state loans and private investments.

d. Improvement of healthcare system

The State should guarantee real free of charge healthcare support and services for vulnerable population.

e. Social security and insurance systems reforms

The state must be the guarantee for the welfare of the children, the old and the disabled.

4.6. Reformation and development of education system

Through national educational program, it is necessary to educate an Armenian individual, who will be carrier of universal values, can quickly be oriented and act efficiently in the contemporary world.

4.7. Development of science

The priorities of prospective sectors should be clarified in the sphere of science taking account the past heritage and contemporary requirements.

4.8. Culture and sport

The state should take under its auspices the sphere of culture and the wealth which are national values.

4.9. Territorial government and local self-government

The state must be entrusted the control functions.

a. Enlargement of communities⁵

The enlargement of communities must be realized evolutionarily taking into account the peculiarities of each community.

b. Enhancing the role of the council⁵

It is possible to increase the role of the council only if democratic elections are provided for.

c. Creation of inter-communal units and clarification of legislation⁵

The financial resources and the governing body, as well as mechanisms of realization must be taken into account.

d. Promotion of financial independence of communities⁵

It is necessary to enhance the budget creation field.

e. Transfer of additional authorities of the state to communities

It is necessary to reduce the state intervention as much as possible and to perform control functions.

f. Proportionate development of marzes

Implementation of priority economic development projects in the localities neighboring the borders through creating free economic zones and providing state support.

4.10. Development of civil society, protection of civil rights, including

Establishment of democratic, legal state is one of important programmatic provision of the Party.

a. Strengthening democratic institutes

In order to strengthen democracy, it is necessary to:

1. introduce a system ensuring free and fair elections;
2. ensure neutrality of state, especially law enforcement bodies, in electoral processes.

b. Ensuring freedom of speech and information

It is necessary to lower tax rates to ensure freedom and real independence of mass media.

c. Consolidating human rights and basic freedoms

The judicial power is the reliable and legal way for protection of rights and freedoms of RA citizens, but it does not function in Armenia.

d. Reforming the judicial system

It is essential to create a judicial system, which will be independent from the executive and legislative branches of the government and to restore the public trust in this system by taking real efficient measures.

e. Improving the election system

The main condition for sustaining the democratic state is the formation of power based on the demonstration of people's free will. The way for implementation of that goal is the radical reformation of electoral system. It is necessary to:

- change the logic of formation of National Assembly;
- form central electoral commissions by the state and let the state take responsibility of elections

- change the system of electoral commissions.

f. Formation of political parties and development of political field⁵

The role of parties should become important in state and public life. The state should support the process of parties' sustainability, particularly specifying by the law funding mechanisms for parties and funding sources.

g. Formation of non-governmental organizations and regulation of the field

In view of increasing the role of NGOs, it is necessary to reform the legislative field.

h. Protecting women's rights and combating violence against them ⁵

The party finds it important to provide equal opportunities. Combating violence against both men and women must be realized within the frame of present legislation.

i. Public participation in legislative procedures

It is realized through public discussions and referendums.

4.11. National security issues and solutions thereto

Army is one of the components of the external security system of the country. Other components are participation in the regional and international security systems, regional and international economic integration, establishing good friendly relations with neighbors.

4.12. Demographic problems, including emigration and birth problems and solutions thereto

The party aims at creating favorable conditions to resolve these issues due to the principle "Everybody is equal before the law".

4.13. Environmental problems and solutions thereto

Regulation of environmental issues is only possible by implementing comprehensive and systemized policy.

4.14. Moral, psychological, youth problems and solutions thereto⁵

The predominant role should be entrusted to the state.

3.3. "DEMOCRATIC WAY" PARTY

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

- **Address of the head office:** 18 Aharonian St., Yerevan
- **Telephone/Fax:** (+37410) 24-79-23
- **E-mail:** demoway@yandex.ru
- **Date of foundation:** 23.08.2005
- **Date of state registration:** 20.09.2005
- **Charter and program approval date:** 23.08.2005
- **Last congress date:** 15.11.2009
- **Date and mass media of the last publication of the Party's charter and program:** "Aravot" daily newspaper and "Irvunk" newspaper: 08.11.2007. The same year it was published with a separate booklet (with modifications and additions) in "Tigran Mets" publishing house. Changes to the Charter were made at the third congress of the party in 15.11.2009.
- **Number of separate territorial subdivisions:** 22
- **Number of members of the party at the time of completing the questionnaire:** 4875, out of which:
 - **Women:** 27%
 - **Youth:** 36%
- **Party's participation in National Assembly elections in 2007:** participated
- **Number of deputies at the 4th convocation of the National Assembly:** 0

2. GOVERNING BODIES OF THE PARTY AND ITS LEADER

2.1. Names of governing bodies of the party, number of members involved in them, and party leader

- Congress
- Administration: 21 members
- Political Counsel: 9 members
- Chairman of the Party: Manuel Gasparyan
- Deputy Chairman of the Party: Vardan Grigoryan

2.2. Membership procedures, including membership fees and payment peculiarities

Any citizen of the Republic of Armenia over 18 years old, who accepts the program and charter of the party, participates in the activities of the organization and pays the membership fee, may become a member of the party.

3. IDEOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PARTY

3.1. Ideology

The principal objective of the party is to promote complete victory and development of democracy in Armenia, establishment of a multilevel system, provision of real guarantees of universal values, human rights and freedoms.

3.2. Goals and objectives

Contribute and support to:

- Development and strengthening of the country, ensuring security of the people;
- Formation of legal and civil society in the Republic of Armenia, strengthening the fundamental principles of democracy and human rights and freedoms;
- Strengthening scientific and academic, industrial, agricultural and cultural potential in the country, as well as enhancing and developing new technologies.

3.3. Type of the party (according to the party's opinion)

Social-democratic

4. PROGRAMMATIC STANDPOINTS OF THE PARTY ON THE FOLLOWING ISSUES:

4.1. Three priorities of the foreign policy

1. The key issue of the foreign policy of the Republic of Armenia is to strengthen the state and increase international reputation of Armenia, for the sake of protection of national interests of all Armenians.
2. Solution of the Artsakh issue, with all its aspects, is considered the key issue of the foreign policy of the Republic of Armenia, primary to all other issues.
3. A priority direction of the Armenian foreign policy is to develop close relations with the Armenian Diaspora.

4.2. Fundamentals of foreign policy, including

In the national security concept it is necessary to allocate a special place for the armed forces, its structure, preparedness, quality of armaments, military-patriotic and moral education issues. The national army must be formed by a professional principle and have its appropriate place in the society. At the same time, it is necessary to teach the subject of “Military Studies” as a mandatory curriculum in high schools and other advanced educational institutions, without gender discrimination.

a. European Integration

Considering the position of Europe and USA in the modern world, and based on the accumulated experience and new proposals for cooperation by European countries, first of all France, it is necessary to develop and implement concrete projects for strengthening relations with these countries and increasing efficiency, which will lead to integration with European countries.

b. CIS

It is necessary to conduct multidisciplinary activities with CIS countries to restore collapsed economic and cultural ties, deepen integration and completion process, as well as establish effective completion structures similar to Western European ones.

c. Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO)⁵

It is necessary to continue active cooperation with CSTO.

d. NATO⁵

It is necessary to have active cooperation, within the framework of individual partnership cooperation.

e. USA⁵

It is necessary to develop bilateral cooperation with the USA, including the military sector and within the framework of the millennium challenge program.

f. Russian Federation⁴

We should establish equal partnership relations with Russia and restore the control over the Armenian share in the energy sector.

g. Recognition of Armenian Genocide and Armenian-Turkish relations⁴

The issue of the Armenian Genocide should be an integral part of the foreign policy. The party will decisively fight against those domestic and foreign powers, which use the issue of the Armenian Genocide for hidden purposes. The issue of the Armenian Genocide should be pursued so that its solution should be more realistic and avoid damaging strengthening of the Armenian State. It is necessary to establish relations with Turkey without preconditions, including diplomatic relations, open the border and reopen Gyumri-Kars railway.

h. Karabakh conflict and Armenian-Azerbaijan relations

Artsakh issue will play a decisive role in the foreign and domestic policy for a long time. Recognizing the need for cooperation with foreign powers, it is necessary to support the decisions which can be controlled and ensured by own resources. It is necessary to contribute in all ways to preservation of the obtained cease-fire, and fixing the created de facto situation.

i. Iran⁴

Based on traditional amicable relations and strong cultural interrelation with Iran and Arabic countries, it is necessary to ensure a qualitative progress and strengthen cooperation in all directions. Strengthening cooperation and economic ties, it is necessary to have real opportunities for alternative energy and fuel supply and processing with these countries, in addition to Russia, as well as establishing joint companies within the territory of Armenia. After the first stage operation of Iran-Armenia gas pipeline, it is necessary to initiate the second stage construction of a more capacious pipeline, making Armenia a transit country. At the same time, it is necessary to negotiate on construction of an oil pipeline, creating an opportunity for development of the oil refining industry in Armenia and ensuring withdrawal of Armenia from the regional blockade.

j. Georgia including the Javakhk Armenians' issues⁵

It is necessary to develop multilateral cooperation and deepen good-neighborly relations with Georgia, including the strategic area.

k. Armenia-Diaspora: enhanced links and effective cooperation

Review the attitude towards the Diaspora potential. Policy is not a collection of donations and aids. It is a process of defining issues around solution of which Armenians could be united. For example, international recognition of the Genocide, as well as protection of rights of those who migrated from Western Armenia.

l. Other (dual citizenship)⁵

The party is considering adoption of dual citizenship, as implementation of concrete actions. The party assumes that awarding citizenship could be done in two ways:

- The applicant gets a right to choose a citizenship, if he/she transfers 1% of his revenues into the budget of the Republic of Armenia;
- The applicant gets citizenship, without having a right to elect.

4.3. Three priorities of the domestic policy

1. Rule of law.
2. Global protection of human rights.
3. Elimination of bribery, corruption and shadow field.

4.4. Fundamentals of financial and economic policy, current obstacles to stable economic development and solutions thereto, including

Economic development can be ensured by presence of all forms of property and free market relations and competition among them, except the sectors which play a vital and strategic role in the country.

The party considers that the following should be implemented in the economic field:

- Restoring the devastated economy, due to new technologies and innovative frameworks;
- Suspending privatization;
- Activating the trade union movement.

a. Monetary policy⁵

Bank assets (loans) can become a source of financing modernization of economy, since sustainable development and growth of transformational investments through population's savings and companies is achieved due to the banking system and stock market. However, there is no banking system, as it is, in Armenia. The evidence of this is that the RA banking system practically does not have competition in the economic life of the country or slightly participates in it.

b. Budgetary policy and State debt⁵

The state budget is in permanent deficit situation, which does not allow solving not only investment, but even social problems.

c. Tax and customs reforms⁴

It is necessary to introduce a differentiated system for taxation of the sectors. The main principle of the tax system is that none of the taxes should suffocate producers and companies. The task of the party shall be to logically reduce the tax burden and simplify the tax policy. It should be excluded that the customs authorities make decisions on establishing a duty rate on arbitrary basis.

d. Development of industry⁴

Armenia is one of the few countries of former USSR, where high-tech branches of industry were developed, particularly development and production of powerful computers, electric equipment etc. Thus, Armenia still has the required scientific, technical and personnel potential for development of informational technologies and high-tech industries. It simply needs to follow the example of other countries to develop and introduce an economic promotion policy, which will include the system of tax and investment privileges.

Identifying priorities of development of Armenian industry is necessary for elaborating a modern industrial policy and defining the "locomotive" branches, which will lead the whole economy and ensure its progressive development.

e. Development of agriculture⁴

In order to develop agriculture and prevent emigration of rural population, it is necessary to increase state support to agricultural producers, creating conditions for effective and complete land use, as well as strengthening the role of the state in the agricultural branches, which meet the strategic requirements of the country, particularly food safety.

To support rural economy, the state should take the following measures:

- Considering that the majority of rural economies does not have sufficient means for purchasing seeds, paying for irrigation of lands, these processes should be done through commodity loans;

- The state should introduce a simplified and privileged agricultural credit system;
- The state should support not only rural economies, but also establishment of elements of agricultural infrastructure, such as agrochemical, procurement, zoo-technical and other services;
- An effective system of insuring agricultural activity should be developed.

f. Information technologies and innovative development⁴

Movements and changes which occur in the world economy dictate the need for development of the following fields: information, computer and high technologies, biotechnology, pharmaceuticals and production of new materials, as well as electronics, equipment building, precise machinery construction, etc.

g. Energy and provision of energy security

It is possible to increase the level of energy security and independence mainly due to development of electroenergetics, which does not depend or slightly depends on import of energy carriers. Energy development in Armenia should have two main directions - hydropower and nuclear energy.

h. Tourism Development⁵

Promoting development of tourism, by preserving, restoring and modernizing historical monuments, as well as constructing new roads and residences.

i. Stimulation of investments⁵

The investment policy should be developed so as direct, portfolio and other investments will be aimed at forming a quality and modern economic framework.

Armenia, having no transport, telecommunication lines, should create favorable conditions for any serious foreign investor.

j. Improvement of business environment and development of small and medium business

It is necessary to establish a system of real economic stimulus, as well as meet all WTO requirements, by protecting interests of national producers.

g. Reduction of shadow economy⁵

Reducing the shadow economy can be achieved in three combined ways:

- Strengthening the administration;
- By economic means, due to which it is not profitable to work in the shadow, and it becomes profitable for the economic entity to enter the tax field;
- Amnesty in the field of tax and property.

h. Eradication of corruption⁵

In case of presence of government leverages, the party will lead an uncompromising, fierce and consistent fight against corruption, bribery and favoritism, and its positive and tangible results will be reflected in all fields even in 2012-2013.

i. Other (Increasing competitiveness of the Armenian production in the foreign economic market)⁴

Restoring the destroyed economy, it is necessary to solve the market issue, being oriented towards the European Union and markets of Russia and other CIS countries, considering their relative vicinity, traditional nature and competitiveness of the Armenian product in the international arena.

4.5. Fundamentals of social policy and solutions to current problems, including

The party believes that it is necessary to meet the priority social requirements, develop a reliable system of social guarantees, through equal distribution of the national income, so that the person will feel himself/herself an active and full citizen of his country.

a. Overcoming poverty⁴

In order to actually ensure citizens' right for life, it is necessary to adjust the salaries of public and other systems, pensions, benefits and other payments to the minimum level required for physical survival.

The party believes that the fight against poverty must not be aimed at forcing rich and successful businessmen to pay high taxes and then distribute these taxes among the poor, it is rather necessary to create conditions and opportunities, which would enable the poor to overcome their poverty.

b. Reduction of polarization of society and reformation of social justice

The minimum income level should be provided not by businesses and organizations, but directly the state. It is necessary to adopt a law which will make the state accountable to citizens. Each person should have the right to file a claim to the state and get recovery of damage.

c. Ensuring employment and reducing unemployment

The main component of the social policy, which ensures implementation of all other directions, is the citizen's right for free job. The latter provides the citizen with economic and political identity, and gives an opportunity to creatively realize in life.

d. Improvement of healthcare system⁵

It is necessary to expand the state guaranteed services and increase the scope of their coverage. Another step is to develop the concept of family doctors and introduce modern technologies.

e. Social security and insurance systems reforms⁵

It is necessary to pass from the public pension distributive system to private accumulation funds.

f. Other (Emigration)

The party believes that lack of job opportunities forces the RA citizens to mass emigration.

4.6. Reformation and development of education system

The main principle of the education sector should be ensuring availability of secondary and high education for all who have desire and capability to learn. Moreover, secondary education should be compulsory for all the RA citizens. In the higher education system it is necessary to combine free (state guaranteed) and paid education in private and state universities. The state should do all to enable intelligent children of poor families to continue their education in state and private universities.

4.7. Development of science

Preservation and development of traditional high scientific and educational level is one of the key issues of the Government. The state should have a clear concept on development of science, where all the priorities of development of science will be identified. These priorities should include theoretical branches, which have deep roots in Armenia, such as astronomy, mathematics, some branches of physics, chemistry, biology etc. Development of fundamental sciences is impossible without state sponsorship.

4.8. Culture and sport⁴

The state should have a clear cultural policy. It should be aimed at preservation and development of national peculiarities of the Armenian culture. One of the main points of the cultural policy should be establishing widest ties with other countries, without sacrificing the national face of culture. Sport is considered to be one of the most important factors for the health of the population. In this field it is necessary to provide access to sport and health complexes.

4.9. Territorial government and local self-government⁵

Making changes in the government structure; assigning a more active role to development of regional government; establishing a regional government board which will have wide authorities and implement the functions of the low chamber of the National Assembly, contributing to the development of local self-government.

a. Enlargement of communities⁵

The party has positive attitude towards enlargement of small communities, if they are located very close to each other, provided that representatives of all communities are mandatory involved in community councils.

b. Enhancing the role of the council⁵

Expanding the authorities of community council, to exclude illegitimacy of the community head, ensuring intent of positive solution of the problem in case of distrust.

c. Creation of inter-communal units and clarification of legislation⁵

The party encourages establishment of inter-community unions, if it contributes to community independence and development. To do this, it is necessary to promote relevant legislative changes by the National Assembly.

d. Promotion of financial independence of communities⁵

In order to ensure financial independence of communities, it is necessary to implement the decisions adopted by community leaders and community councils, for the well-being of community population and solution of community problems.

e. Transfer of additional authorities of the state to communities⁵

The party will request the government to transfer additional authorities to communities by the state, in order to make their work more effective.

f. Proportionate development of marzes⁵

Promote proportional regional development in all the ways possible.

g. Other (Improvement of irrigation network in rural communities)

Modernizing community irrigation networks, and, in case of availability of water resources, transferring the authorities of use to communities.

4.10. Development of civil society, protection of civil rights, including:⁵

Nowadays, there is no civil society in Armenia for two critical reasons - first of all, the government ignores the law, secondly, it is alienated from the people. The party is convinced that in order to build civil society, we have to establish moral atmosphere, justice, and ensure rule of human and spiritual values in the country. Without such a drastic movement, no political and economic problem will be solved.

a. Strengthening democratic institutes

The party is ready to support the alternative projects developed by various political powers of the country, which will actually ensure the balance of different branches of government.

b. Ensuring freedom of speech and information

The party intends to protect complete freedom of media.

c. Consolidating human rights and basic freedoms

The party views freedom first of all as a person's freedom, when every citizen has the right to choose and determine in any area of social life. Realization of human freedom depends upon democracy and social justice.

d. Reforming the judicial system

Complete independence of judicial and legal system, as well as balance and separation of power wings is needed.

e. Improving the election system

It is necessary to develop an electoral system, conduct elections and express political will, according to democratic standards.

f. Formation of political parties and development of political field⁵

The party believes that free and fair elections play a great role in strengthening of the state, and the party will be consistent to achieve this.

g. Formation of non-governmental organizations and regulation of the field

The party will conduct comprehensive activities aimed at strengthening of non-governmental organizations and further legal regulation of the sector.

h. Protecting women's rights and combating violence against them⁵

Promote protection of women rights and further fight against violence towards women, through competent authorities. Promote women participation in the social and political life of the country.

i. Public participation in legislative procedures

The party views public participation in legislative processes as public involvement in these activities. Mandatory meetings with voters, aimed at raising urgent issues and addressing them.

j. Other (clarification of the role of the parties)

It is necessary to instill the clear ideology in people that political parties are not institutions solving social issues, and the party funds cannot serve for charity.

4.11. National security issues and solutions thereto

While developing the national security concept, it is necessary to allocate a special place for the armed forces, their structure, preparedness, quality of armaments, military-patriotic and moral-psychological education of the armed forces. The national army should be formed by a professional principle and play its decent role in the society. At the same time, it is necessary to teach the subject of "Military Studies" as a mandatory curriculum in high schools and other advanced educational institutions, without gender discrimination.

4.12. Demographic problems, including emigration and birth problems and solutions thereto

It is necessary to support young people and new families, ensuring benefits for each third and more children in the family, until becoming adult.

4.13. Environmental problems and solutions thereto

Since the date of its establishment, the party has requested to develop an urgent concept paper on environmental protection, by declaring it a priority public interest and adopting a priority state legislation, which will prescribe provisions on public wealth of lands and green areas.

4.14. Moral, psychological, youth problems and solutions thereto⁵

Carry out comprehensive activities aimed at education of youth, starting it from primary education and academic institutions, inspiring love and respect towards the state and state symbols: anthem, state emblem and flag.

4.15. Other (The Church)⁵

It is necessary to transfer and delegated the civilian registrars' authorities from the State to the Church, as recognition of the role of the Church in keeping the native language, culture and spiritual values. This will lead to strengthening of ties among the Church and the people.

3.4. PEOPLE'S PARTY OF ARMENIA

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

- **Address of the head office:** 7 Ghazar Parpeci St., Yerevan
- **Telephone, fax** (+37410) 53-15-01, (fax) 53-77-01
- **E-mail:** nap_Armenia@yahoo.com
- **Web page:** www.ppa.am
- **Foundation date:** 23.05.1998
- **State registration date:** 15.05.1998
- **State re-registration date:** 02.06.2001
- **Charter and Program approval date:** 28.02.1999
- **Last Congress date:** 04.12.2010
- **Date of the latest publication of the Party's Program and Charter and the name of mass media:** 17.02.2007
- **The number of separate territorial subdivisions:** 49
- **Number of the Party members at the time of completing the questionnaire:** 23400 of which:
 - Women: 40%
 - Youth: 35%
- **Party's participation in National Assembly elections in 2007:** participated
- **Number of deputies at the 4th convocation of the National Assembly:** 0

2. GOVERNING BODIES OF THE PARTY AND ITS LEADER

2.1. Names of governing bodies of the party, number of members involved in them, and party leader

- Congress
- Administration: 81
- Party secretaries: Stepan Minasyan, Grigor Harutyunyan, Feliks Khachatryan,
- Party president: Stepan Demirchyan

2.2. Party membership procedure, including membership fees and payment peculiarities

A member of the Party may become any RA citizen over 18 years old, who accepts the Program and Charter of the Party, assists to the implementation of goals and objectives of the Party, participates in the activities of one of the organizations of the Party, pays membership fees on a voluntary basis and is not a member of another political party, as well as other RA citizens with suffrage may be Party members without the right to be elected in management and supervision bodies of the Party.

3. IDEOLOGICAL PLATFORM, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PARTY:

3.1. Ideology

People's Party of Armenia is a public, political organization (party) based on the ideology of democracy and people's socialism, which implements its activities under RA Constitution and laws, and it is united by the principle of RA citizens' volition.

Party's ideology is a system of up-to-date, leading ideas and views on the development of society, which are based on the combination of national and human values, on the people's patriotic feelings and desires, traditional disposition to social justice.

Principal values of the Party are national ideology, freedom of individuals, democracy, justice and solidarity.

3.2. Goals and objectives

The Party has an objective to contribute to strengthening of Armenia's statehood, economic and spiritual potentials, and people's social protection, their comprehensive, harmonious development and prosperity.

The Party is aimed to establish democratic and legal state based on the civil society and people's real power, which will focus on each member of the society, who will serve the people's interests.

The Party directs its practical activities to establishment of society governed by the human values of social justice, dignity, legality and morality and considers it a guarantee for people's welfare and national unification.

3.3. The type of the party (according to the party's opinion)

Centrist

4. PROGRAM STANDPOINTS OF THE PARTY ON THE FOLLOWING ISSUES:

4.1. Three priorities in foreign policy:

1. People's Party of Armenia considers the first priority in the foreign policy of the Republic of Armenia the creation of favorable conditions for the security of the Armenian and Artsakh population, free development and prosperity.

2. The Party considers European Integration the main direction in foreign policy
3. The strategic cooperation with Russia should be one of the main directions in the foreign policy of the Republic of Armenia.

4.2. Fundamentals of foreign policy, including

The Party considers that the protection of national interests in international sphere must be realized on a foreign political comprehensive concept.

a. European Integration

The Party considers necessary the integration into European organizations (European Council, OSCE). It is necessary to deepen bilateral relations with European countries by giving much importance to Armenia's future membership to the European Union as a goal of foreign and internal policy.

b. CIS

The party is for the mutual cooperation within the frame of CIS.

c. Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO)

The Party attaches importance to the issue of deepening the mutually -beneficial and efficient relations between RA and international organizations.

d. NATO

The Party attaches importance to the issue of deepening the relationships and efficient relations between RA and NATO.

e. USA

Armenia should establish neighborly relations with all the countries in the region, as well as develop and deepen the cooperation with the USA, European and other countries all over the world.

f. Russian Federation

The strategic cooperation with Russia should be one of the main directions of RA foreign policy. The traditional economic relations with Russia should be regulated.

g. Genocide Recognition and Armenian -Turkish Relations

The Party has always given much attention to unification of motherland and Diaspora related to efforts in Armenian Genocide recognition at the international level.

h. Karabakh conflict and Armenian-Azerbaijan relations

Party's position is that the issue should be fairly resolved in a peaceful way, through political negotiations. Nagorno Karabakh must be an equal party in these negotiations.

The settlement of Nagorno Karabakh must be based on the principle of self-determination right which is internationally recognized.

i. Iran

RA must establish friendly relations with all the countries of the region.

j. Georgia including the Javakhk Armenians' issues

RA must establish friendly relations with all the countries of the region.

n. Armenia-Diaspora: enhanced links and effective cooperation

The Party will always attach much importance to mutual strengthening and enhancement of links with Diaspora, to the national issues' resolution, to the motherland and Diaspora efforts joining for Armenian Genocide international recognition.

Adopting the principle of dual citizenship, the Party considers important the legal and practical procedures development. It is appropriate to create a corresponding state structure in order to bring Armenia-Diaspora relations to a qualitatively new level.

4.3. The three priorities of domestic policy

1. The Party is for the realization of efficient political, social, economic reformations which are aimed at the interests of the population. These reformations are sure to contribute to the increase in the standard of living, public solidarity and political stability.
2. The party considers the most important prerequisite of the country's democracy to be the realization of the principle of separating the legislative, executive and judicial bodies and their counterbalance.
3. The party will contribute to the realization of civil market relations. In the system of economy it is necessary to parallel the free market with the state regulation in the best possible way, to put the opportunities, given to the manufacturers by the free enterprise and the state, at best use.

4.4. Fundamentals of financial and economic policy, current obstacles to stable economic development and solutions thereto, including

The Party considers necessary to undertake economic and social activities in order to prevent the rural population's emigration, to stabilize the frontier settlements.

a. Monetary policy

It is necessary to support the enhancement of the banking system, reduction of interest rates, maximum simplification of crediting procedures.

b. Budgetary policy and State debt

The party considers one of the issues of its economic policy to be the reformation of banking system and gives much importance to ensuring the efficiency of budget expenditures and state procurement.

c. Tax and customs reforms

It is necessary to enhance and simplify the tax system. Taxes should be substantiated and compulsory; we should take into account the seasonal character of agricultural products enterprises activities, the necessity of providing them with irrigation water, fertilizers, seeds, fuel and technologies within the required timeframes and at reasonable prices. It is important to encourage the local producers through tax, financial and customs flexible policy, to contribute to the development of small and middle entrepreneurship.

d. Development of industry

The Party has a goal to make Armenia a developed industrial country, to provide the primary development of scientific and export-oriented production directions with up-to-date, high technologies, to encourage the intellectual activities.

We should wisely use the raw material and mining resources, human resources potential of the republic, as well as modern specialists training opportunities.

e. Development of agriculture

As far as the agricultural policy is concerned, the Party considers the reforms efficiency provision very important, emphasizes the necessity of new technologies in the agriculture and professional experience dissemination at the state level.

The experience of agricultural reforms, based on fragmentation of land parcels and privatization, could not ensure the efficiency of agricultural activities, since the ownership relations have been established in a hurry and in an unprepared way. The land parcels fragmentation caused the decrease of productivity of agricultural activities, expenditures' increase, production termination, as well as considerable decline of agricultural goods competitiveness. In view of removing the negative intents from agricultural sector, the Party proposes the following:

- to create the branch banks efficiently working network for necessary crediting of agricultural production;
- to provide credits for the upcoming goods;
- to develop long-term cooperation links by using the goods purchase by paying in advance;
- to establish a comprehensive system for agricultural goods production, refinement and delivery to the consumers;
- to create insurance system in order to protect the agricultural goods from natural disasters;
- to work out programs to foster irrigation systems restoration and development;
- to provide necessary conditions for seed-growing and livestock farming;
- to implement comprehensive activities so that to prevent epidemic, diseases and to cure them, as well as to fight against pests;
- to create utilization structures of modern agricultural technologies in rural settlements;
- to install the state orders practice of agricultural goods purchase well known all over the world.

The Party assumes that in order to protect the local market from foreign competitors' negative impact, we should control the quality of imported goods. In regard to selection of land use types, the Party rejects the dogmatic approaches. Coming from national traditions, geographical and climate characters, allocated production character, private and team land use types can be used. This or that type selection is not characterized by political-ideological preference, but by the guarantee of high productivity and efficient land use.

f. Information technologies and innovative development

The aim of the party is to provide Armenia with up-to-date high technologies and to primarily contribute to the development of science-intensive and export-oriented production.

g. Stimulation of investments

The Party holds the idea of stimulating capital investments through implementation of various activities directed to enterprises facilitated activities with the help of long-term credits.

h. Improvement of business environment and development of small and medium business

The Party emphasizes the importance of equally bolstering small and medium business, which is anticipated to carry out through state and other orders, credit and tax privileges.

i. Reduction of shadow economy

The Party presupposes serious activities against the rapidly increasing corruption and shadow economy.

j. Eradication of corruption

The state should create such a system, which will stimulate the authorities, state officials best and more flexible work by abolishing the volitional acts, bribery phenomena. It is necessary to develop and adopt anti-corruption legislative package.

4.5. Fundamentals of social policy and solutions to current problems, including

The party particularly emphasizes the importance of social maintenance issue.

a. Overcoming poverty

The Party emphasizes the issue of social protection in this field. It also focuses on the fact that poverty reduction programs should be associated with the struggle against corruption and shadow economy.

b. Reduction of polarization of society and reformation of social justice

The social position of a citizen must be conditioned by personal investments aimed at public welfare and development. Social justice must be fixed by laws and must not depend on the arbitrariness of authorities.

c. Ensuring employment and reducing unemployment

The Party considers the most important activity currently existing in this field is the employment and job protection right. The state should contribute to creating new job places in modern promising branches.

d. Improvement of healthcare system

In the health care system the Party protects each citizen's, regardless of personal incomes, right to receive medical services free of charge which is fixed by legislature. This service will be provided through state system of health care. The population health and average life span rates must serve as a basis for choosing the main directions of evaluating the authority activities and socio-economic policy.

e. Social security and insurance systems reforms

The Party considers it necessary to reform the social insurance system.

4.6. Reformation and development of education system

In this field the Party protects the equality principle, which is used for each schoolchild, student, regardless of family financial means, to get free of charge education in accordance with his/ her diligence, potentiality and skills.

The Party is for common free secondary education system, and as for institutions of higher education, free of charge education on a competitive basis, without excluding the payable principle.

It is necessary to create conditions for private institutions of higher education parallel with the work quality increase of higher education institutions, by providing strict control over the education programs relevant to state requirements and criteria. The variability of education programs and institutions must not exclude, but contribute to the preservation of education standards. The education system should be aimed at the training of highly qualified specialists, Armenian upbringing of new generation.

4.7. Development of science

The Party encourages the creation of favorable conditions for scientific development. The Party is eager to install the scientific achievements into the production, to strengthen university-science connection in order to ensure the state support to theoretical and Armenian Studies branches development.

4.8. Culture and sport

One of the main issues of social-economic policy is the establishment of conditions for spiritual life and culture renaissance.

At the time of up-to-date globalization, the Party emphasizes the unique importance of maintaining national independence, state support to national culture development and maintenance of cultural heritage.

The party pays attention to mutual relations with different countries cultures, stable values and objects fake culture dissemination, which offends our people's national dignity.

Coming from the simple truth, the Party asserts that we can multiply our investment of Armenian culture and science to the treasury of world's civilization only with the state contribution procedure.

4.9. Territorial government and local self-government

Taking into account the national traditions, geographic and climatic peculiarities, the nature of allocated production, three types of land use can be implemented: private, mixed and collective. The party finds it appropriate to reform the present system of administrative management, bringing the citizens closer to government and providing for the territorial government bodies to be optional.

4.10. Development of civil society, protection of civil rights, including

The party aims at best sustaining civil society and legal state, as well as establishment of democracy.

a. Strengthening democratic institutes

The People's Party of Armenia assumes that power formation through democratic elections is the cornerstone of democratic system. Any kind of outrage against the citizen's suffrage is a crime against the nation and the state. The election legislation and the results of elections violators must be punished as required by Law.

The Party considers important the separation of legislative, executive and judicial powers and the counterbalancing principle implementation.

b. Ensuring freedom of speech and information

The party is strongly for the full provision of individual's rights and basic freedoms, and is also for conforming the country's internal legislature and the whole system of public relations with the principles and norms of international rights and the demands of democratic society.

c. Consolidating human rights and basic freedoms

The Party supposes that the state should be the guarantor and defender of each citizen rights and freedoms. The Party struggles for human rights and freedom protection fixed in RA Constitution and international treaties.

d. Reforming the judicial system

Any outrage of pressure on the free market and competitiveness, entrepreneurship activities and working conditions dictating should be excluded. For this purpose, the Party gives much importance to judicial system reforms and the improvement of civil legislature.

e. Reforming the Election system

In order to eliminate any violations of RA citizens' right of free election The Party pays particular attention to the reformation of Election code, guarantee for realization of citizens' right to vote freely, tightening of sanctions against violating the Election Code and their mandatory imposition.

f. Formation of political parties and development of political field

The Party agrees to 100% proportional system of National Assembly elections and states that it will assist in establishing stable political system. The Party consistently joins the idea of political field formation and objects the criminal group creation.

g. Protecting women's rights and combating violence against them

The party believes that it is vital to create such living conditions where women may feel that they are respected equally by everybody, have a trustful view of their children's future and rediscover their irreplaceable role of courageous family guardianship.

h. Public participation in legislative procedures

The cornerstone of democratic society is the creation of power through democratic elections. Any violation of the citizens' suffrage is considered to be a crime against the state and the public at large. The violators of the Election Code and those who fraudulently misrepresent the results of the elections must be inevitably punished as required by law.

4.11. National security issues and solutions thereto

The protection of national interests in the international scene must be realized on the basis of the comprehensive concept of foreign policy. It is also necessary to develop and adopt a strategic concept of national security.

4.12. Demographic problems, including emigration and birth problems and solutions thereto

In order to solve the critical demographic situation, there should be some support to develop programs which will stimulate the birth increase and immigration, by paying special attention to young families and families having many children.

4.13. Environmental problems and solutions thereto

State programs on rational utilization of natural resources should be developed and implemented, Lake Sevan's water and environmental resources balancing activities should be carried out, preventing steps for Yerevan city's and other settlements' green territories abolishment and to undertake their restoration.

4.14. Moral, psychological, youth problems and solutions thereto

The party aims at establishing such a moral atmosphere in the country in which case any citizen will consider it a matter of his/her honor to serve the Motherland.

3.5. LIBERAL PARTY OF ARMENIA

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

- **Address of the head office:** 47a Hin Yerevanci, apt. 102, Yerevan
- **Telephone, fax:** (+37410) 53-47-09
- **E-mail:** hlk.lpa@gmail.com
- **Foundation date:** 16.08.2008
- **State registration date:** 15.10.2008
- **Charter and Program approval date:** 16.08.2008
- **Last Congress Date:** 30.10.2010
- **Date and mass media of the last publication of the Party's charter and program:** July, 2008, "Hajk" newspaper
- **The number of separate territorial subdivisions:** 14
- **Number of the Party members at the time of completing the questionnaire:** 4123 of which:
 - **Women:** 42%
 - **Youth:** 31%

2. GOVERNING BODIES OF THE PARTY AND ITS LEADER

2.1. Names of the governing bodies of the Party, number of Party members and the Party leader

- Congress
- Political Board: 9 members
- Inspection committee: 5 members
- Party President: Hovhannes Hovhanisyan

2.2. Party membership procedure, including membership fees and payment peculiarities:

Party membership is open to all RA citizens over 18 years old, who accept the Party Project and Charter. The member of the Party shall not at the same time be a member of another party. Party members are not anticipated to pay any membership fees.

3. IDEOLOGICAL PLATFORM, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PARTY:⁴

3.1. Ideology

Liberalism lies in the basis of the foundation of Armenian Liberal Party. The strongly believes that an individual, his/her interests, basic freedoms and rights must be of utmost importance in the activities undertaken by the state. All these supreme values must form the initial point of the activities of authorities, and their complete realization must be viewed as the main factor for the reinforcement of the state.

3.2. Goals and objectives

The main objective of Armenian Liberal party is the multilateral investment in the reinforcement of the independence of RA, as well as the construction of a legal, democratic, social, economically powerful, secure and sovereign state.

3.3. The type of the party (according to the party's opinion)

Liberal

4. PROGRAM STANDPOINTS OF THE PARTY ON THE FOLLOWING ISSUES:

4.1. Three priorities of foreign policy

1. Complete engagement and integration of RA in international political, economic, educational, scientific, cultural and other projects and structures being guided exclusively by RA interests;
2. Deepening of cooperation with the USA, as well as establishment of mutually beneficial, long term political and economic relationships ;
3. Building of traditionally developed multilevel relationships with RF on the principle of "Equality" (as well as with any other country) as equal and mutually beneficial relationships of sovereign states.

4.2. Fundamentals of foreign policy, including

The foreign policy of RA should be independent and serve for the interests of our country: the main objective of this policy should be the establishment of peace and stability in our region, the reinforcement of Armenia's international status, the promotion of authority and the provision of secure and democratic development. The agenda of the foreign policy of Armenia and the diplomacy that is carried out in different countries and international institutions must be developed taking into consideration these principles.

a. European Integration⁵

The Liberal Party of Armenia is for the European integration and considers the realization of all-round liberal and democratic reformations made in this respect a means of reaching the goal.

b. CIS⁵

The party considers CIS membership to be a mere platform for additional, high scale interaction with different countries.

c. Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) ⁵

The party believes that activities within CSTO must be made passive, moreover, such treaties that may hinder the sovereignty of RA must not be signed.

d. NATO⁵

The Liberal Party of Armenia is for the deepening and enhancement of multilateral cooperation with NATO.

e. USA⁵

The Party attaches great importance to the deepening of the cooperation with the USA, as well as establishment of long – term political, economic and mutually beneficial relationships.

f. Russian Federation⁵

The party strongly believes that building of traditionally developed multilevel relationships with RF on the principle of “Equality” (as well as with any other country) as equal and mutually beneficial relationships of sovereign states is important.

g. Genocide Recognition and Armenian-Turkish relations

The party is for the regulation of Armenian – Turkish relationships and the opening of the closed border. The responsibility of the country’s future must be superior to the dim memories of the past. No one can ever doubt the fact of the Genocide. However, the party is against setting up a committee of historians on this issue. Meanwhile, the party thinks that the Recognition of the Genocide must not be added in the Foreign Policy of RA. The regulation of this issue must be achieved through the efforts of Non Governmental Organizations of Armenia and Diaspora.

h. The Karabakh issue and Armenian-Azerbaijan relations⁴

The Party is for the peaceful settlement of Karabakh issue through mutual concessions. The Liberal Party of Armenia considers the following principles of the regulation of Karabakh issue:

- Realization of the Artsakh nation’s right to self-determination.
- Guaranteed provision of Artsakh nation’s security on their land.

Before the regulation of the Karabakh issue, the party attaches importance to the Armenian – Azerbaijani contacts within the EU Eastern Partnership, which may serve as a platform for further and deeper contacts and mutual trust.

i. Iran⁵

The Party believes that it is indispensable to deepen bilateral, economic, mutually beneficial and friendly relationships with Iran without conditioning them with the relations that we have with third countries and Iran.

j. Georgia including the Javakhk Armenians’ issues⁵

The Party strongly believes that it is necessary to establish high level close relationships with Georgia. Active measures must be taken in order to provide for Georgia to become our closest and most reliable ally in the region. The party thinks that Armenia must keep the Javakhk Armenians’ issues under constant and vigilant attention. Armenia must take high level measures so that Georgia will not be indifferent to Javakhk Armenians’ issues. Furthermore, Armenia must take the role of co-resolving the disputes. Everything possible must be done so that these disputes will not become a reason for confrontation between Armenian and Georgian nations. On the other hand, the Javakhk Armenians, without losing their national identity and character, must actively integrate with the Georgian society. The party finds it necessary to set up an Embassy Representation in Javakhk which will engage in systematizing all these issues.

k. Armenia-Diaspora: enhanced links and effective cooperation⁴

Diaspora has accumulated such a potential which at present can act as a powerful stimulus for the reinforcement of national and state development under the conditions of RA independent statehood. The role of Diaspora needs to be drastically revised, from financial sources up to the unification of experience,

business connections, professional skills, abilities and potential of Diaspora representatives, in favor of RA statehood strengthening.

4.3. Three priorities of internal policy

1. Creation of a legitimate government through elections based on democratic principles, which are free, transparent, trust-inspiring and are not falsified.
2. Implementation of effective mechanisms which will combat corruption, patronage, as well as clannish, shadow and monopolistic economies; realization of a competitive, free, market, economic system.
3. Strengthening of effective mechanisms which clearly distinguish between state power wings in view of eliminating intervention in other's business and in the same respect creating an independent system of justice as a guarantee for establishing law supremacy and equal responsibility before the law.

4.4. Fundamentals of financial and economic policy, current obstacles to stable economic development and solutions thereto, including

The party believes that creation of conditions that provide for economic growth must lie in the basis of the state's financial and economic policy, the top goal of which should be the rise in living standards. At present RA's economy is overwhelmingly consumer-oriented without providing grounds for real economic growth and actual surplus of national resources. A long- term strategy for the economic development must be drafted and consistently brought to life. With the help of all the levers of economic and financial governance, it is necessary to fully support businesses that are export-oriented and projects which develop economic diversification.

a. Monetary policy⁵

It is necessary to implement a balanced and smooth monetary policy eliminating the deflationary developments that hinder the country's export, keeping low and manageable rates of inflation, meanwhile improving the lever structure of monetary policy.

b. Budgetary policy and State debt

The party believes that a real fight against shadow economy and monopoly should be carried out as a result of which it is possible to enliven the economy and ensure budget incomes. On the other hand, it is necessary to reduce the state apparatus, as well as the expenditures made on it. Part of the resulted means must be directed towards paying off the state foreign debt, or at least not increasing the state debt.

c. Tax and Customs reforms

The overall point of tax and customs administration consists in the fact that no one should be in a privileged position and escape paying taxes. Bringing everybody to equally legal field must be a priority for the system. Regardless of status and position, all the subjects must be appropriately liable for not abiding the law. Customs duties in some product line, especially in the line of those goods and equipment which have further industrial importance, must be revised in customs administration.

d. Development of industry

In regard to industrial development, state economic policy must be directed towards the stimulation of scientific branches, innovative information technologies, as well as the development of recycling industry. Under stable political conditions in the region, the party considers possible the creation of multifarious cooperations and joint companies in the industrial sphere , as well as considerable investments made by major national and international companies, especially taking into account the cheap and educated workforce.

e. Development of agriculture

The party considers it a priority to replete the market with high-quality agricultural products and to provide for the creation of agro-industrial institutions and corresponding substructures, as well as the development of farming industries. At present agriculture faces a number of issues conditioned by various factors. In their depth and comprehensiveness these issues are difficult to be resolved solely by business entities engaged in agriculture, therefore rural population needs state comprehensive support.

f. Information technologies and innovative development

In spite of the fact that lately RA government pays considerable attention to the sphere of information technologies, the party believes that the state must make huge investments to prepare and train personnel in this sphere. Under the conditions of expensive transport lines, the party believes that for the Republic of Armenia this is the sphere that can provide competitive products in the international arena.

g. Energy and provision of energy security

In consequence of present conditions when almost 85% of RA energy system is in the hands of Russian companies and the government of Russian Federation is the main shareholder, Armenia needs

diversification of energy sources. Moreover, this must be done not only at the expense of different alternative energy sources, but also raw material imported from different countries. The increase in Iranian gas and energy production must especially be achieved.

h. Tourism Development

With regards to tourism development, the Party attaches importance to the development of substructures, increase in service etiquette and reduction of service tariffs. Through tax and financial tools reasonable prices must be defined in this sphere.

i. Stimulation of investments

The Party believes that the principal aim of investment policy must be the provision of favorable atmosphere for investments, protection of current investments, insurance of economic risks. Some targeted privileges must be defined in order to stimulate investments in separate long-term spheres, as well as in less developed districts.

j. Improvement of business environment and development of small and medium business

For the reformation of business environment it is necessary to provide equal competitive conditions for subjects engaged in business. Arbitrary activities of tax and customs administration have a negative effect on both reformation of business environment and the development of small and medium business, as well as on the prices of products and services.

k. Reduction of shadow economy

The Party attaches utmost importance to the activities directed towards the reduction of shadow economy. In this respect the party considers reformations in tax and customs sphere indispensable. Tax administration must equally, but not optionally work for everybody. The principal reason for shadow economy is the fusion of authorities and economy, therefore it is possible to combat it only through preventing authorities from taking up any business. The aim of reformations must be provision for conditions where a business entity has the least contact with tax bodies. On the other hand, the overwhelming amount of cash is circulated in shadow economy. Therefore, the party finds that it is necessary to take measures to reduce the circulating amount of cash.

l. Eradication of corruption

Corruption is manifested in a number of ways and has an extremely negative effect on the political, social and economic development of a country. The party considers the principal means of combating corruption to be transparent and effective governing system and the supremacy of law in all the scenes. The authorities must provide for lawfulness, justice, responsibility, consistency and adherence to principle in their activities.

4.5. Fundamentals of social policy and solutions to current problems, including

The party attaches importance to the full protection of social rights of all society groups and to the creation of honorable conditions for their activities. The social system must be able to give necessary and efficient support to socially vulnerable groups of people, to raise the living – standard of the population as much as possible and to reduce social inequality. Meanwhile the party is sure that it is necessary to create working conditions for those who are socially vulnerable but able in the first place.

a. Overcoming poverty

One of the Party's strategic objectives is the reduction of poverty. The latter involves realization of complex projects of which the most urgent ones are as follows:

- Reduction of shadow economy
- Efficient combat against corruption
- Stimulation of investments
- Reformation of competitive field
- Provision for the creation and development of small and medium business
- Measures providing for the realization of balanced developments of marzes

b. Reduction of polarization of society and reformation of social justice

Parallel with the increase in budget revenue, special attention should be attached to the resolution of problems concerning the population's normal living standards, increase of minimum wage and the support given to the socially vulnerable groups of people. Small and medium business development has a considerable significance in the social protection of the society and the creation of the medium stratum.

c. Ensuring employment and reducing unemployment

The party believes that it is necessary to lend credit providing for the development of small and medium – size business, to create special funds and insurance foundations. No doubt, favorable investment and business

conditions will have a fundamental role in creating employment within different spheres. On the other hand, in this yet unfavorable investment and transitional stage the government must take the initiative of launching the creation of certain economic powers in those spheres which are considered to be long-term ones and where huge amounts of investments are necessary. After the creation of such powers, the state can then take to turning them into open joint-stock companies and gradually sell its share-holds in secondary markets. Under such conditions the state will not have financial losses, businessmen will make more confident investments in already existing structures , and the problem of employment will be solved.

d. Improvement of healthcare system ⁵

The party views the maintenance of public healthcare as a supreme direction of the state policy. It is necessary to provide for the availability of first specialized aid for everybody, year by year to enhance the free medical assistance guaranteed by the state, as well as the list of services and the amount of its comprehensiveness. The party attaches importance to the implementation of medical insurance and the development of this sphere. .

e. Social security and insurance systems reforms

The party finds it necessary to create a social insurance system in RA which is characteristic of the civilized world. This social insurance system must protect all the groups of the population from various social risks: old age, disability, temporary loss of working ability, unemployment, etc.

4.6. Reformation and development of education system

The supporting pillars of nations security is the provision of maintenance and development of the education system, as well as its competitiveness in the international arena. It is necessary to realize substantiated and programmed reformations of the education system in view of conforming it with international standards and training of personnel with high quality specialization. The state must supervise the direction of the education development in accordance with today's market demands including the international one, due to which our country will be more competitive. Vocational education should also be given a special attention to, and highly qualified craftsmen must be trained in different spheres.

4.7. Development of science

The Party believes that it is necessary to support the increase of financial means directed towards science, revitalization of the scientific potential, integration in the international framework, creation of favorable conditions for the development of science, technical and technological equipment of scientific institutions, development of fundamental sciences through long –term state projects. It is indispensable to drastically increase the amount of financial means directed to science and to make them comparable with allotments made by developed countries. On the other hand science must penetrate into production and all the spheres of economy which will enable to be more presentable in international markets.

4.8. Sport and Culture⁴

Cultural policy must be directed towards the provision of creating freely, supporting cultural initiatives preserving and developing national values. The party attaches utmost importance to taking active measures and realization of development projects of physical training and sport, as well as providing the society's healthy lifestyle.

4.9. Territorial government and local self-government

The party attaches importance to the development of local self-government system considering it one of the fundamental institutions of democracy. With regard to efficient cooperation and clear-cut implementation of competences of territorial government and local self- government, the party finds it appropriate that the institute of the governor of marz (region) should also be developed through elections.

a. Enlargement of communities

The party believes that it is possible to unite some very small communities within the frames of one community which, anyhow, should be carried out on a voluntary basis according to the results of referendum held by the communities. The enhancement will contribute to the reduction of some finances.

b. Enhancing the role of the council/ aldermen

The council must control the financial currents of the community, present the efficient directions of these expenditures and not merely take the role of a consolidator and a lializer.

c. Creation of inter-communal units and precision of legislature

The party thinks that there is no hindrance, including legislative obstacles, in the creation of inter-communal units. From the economic point of view, if such units are needed, they can be created from today henceforth.

d. Promotion of financial independence of communities

Parallel with the economic development, the party believes that it may be necessary to implement local taxes in the future. On the one hand it will reinforce the communities' financial independence, on the other hand it will contribute to the development and resolution of communities' top issues. Other ways of developing local budget are also found possible.

e. Transfer of additional authorities of the state to communities

Communities must have an opportunity of not only raising their problems and taking the role of asking for means and support from the state, but also have a full participation in all the scenes and stages of community governance. In this respect, it will be necessary to assign additional authorizations to communities in many issues by the state.

f. Proportionate development of marzes

The party considers the overpopulation of the capital city next to the underpopulated settlement of the republic to be a serious issue. An unbalanced and unconnected development is taking place which endangers the protectiveness of the country. The party believes that one of the most important strategic issues of RA is the realization of measures taken to have a balanced development of settlements throughout the whole territory of the country, as well as provision of employment and normal living conditions there.

4.10. Development of civil society, protection of civil rights including

Without the development of a civil society it may be impossible to have serious achievements with regard to human rights, democratic values, ecological problems, free press, justice and other issues. In this arena the discussion of any dispute is far from being politicized as much as possible which enables to unite more people in favor of a just and lawful settlement of a given dispute.

a. Strengthening democratic institutes

The Party considers the most important factors of democratic reformations and socio-political stability to be the creation of a civil society. The role of non governmental organizations is extremely important in creating a civil society. The state must gradually delegate part of its functions to NGOs and bolster principles of self-regulation, self-organization, civil control over certain state activities.

b. Ensuring freedom of speech and information

The party attaches utmost importance to the independence of mass media and to providing freedom of speech and information. An individual has the right of getting free and unbiased information. In this respect public mass media, especially those which are financed by tax administrations, must guard themselves against spreading biased and ordered information. The level of democracy of Armenia must be estimated by the realization of the Fourth Power.

c. Consolidating human rights and basic freedoms

The Party attaches importance to the confirmation of liberal values and bolsters the protection of basic human rights and freedoms. Human life, freedom and inviolability of property must be protected not only by legislature, but also in real life. As a basis for a powerful statehood, the centre of the state's activities must be the prerequisite for provision of valuable conditions which will contribute to the realization of basic human freedoms and rights.

d. Reforming the judicial system

The Party believes that it is important to take measures in order to increase the role of the judicial system, its authority and the trust toward it. In this way the judicial system will become a reliable guarantee for human rights and justice. This can be achieved solely through provision of independence of judicial system which so far has depended on the executive body. The independence of the judge must be the result of both well-being and ethical-moral atmosphere of the society.

e. Improving the election system

The Party will pursue a goal of drastically reforming the election system. In this stage of RA development, the party finds it necessary to fully transit RA National Assembly to proportional electoral system. The party also attaches importance to remove the veto on the introduction of the votes of the electorate.

f. Formation of political parties and development of political field

In order to stabilize the parties, first of all it is necessary to raise their political role. In this respect, the party finds it necessary to fully transit RA National Assembly to proportional electoral system. Which will also solve the problem of expansion of the parties boosting their authority and influence on political activities.

g. Formation of non-governmental organizations and regulation of the field

The party attaches utmost importance to the role of NGOs in creating a civil society in the country. If the state does not want a great number of multifarious problems and unsolved issues to be particized and speculated by NGOs and if the state wants to get a more objective criticism, opinion or attitude on this or that issue, then the state must delegate part of its functions to NGOs, financially protect and regulate the legislative field of this sphere.

h. Protecting women's rights and combating violence against them

The party is strongly against showing discriminating attitude towards women. At present women comprise almost half of the population, however, they are not only inappropriately represented in state governance, but also in some cases are exposed to violence and discriminating attitudes in their homes and workplaces. Various NGOs created especially for this purpose have not registered satisfactory results yet, therefore the state must pay close attention to these issues and not blink at them or else treat them within the frames of the existing traditions.

i. Public participation in legislative procedures

Public participation in legislative procedures is realized through individuals delegated by the public, that is National Assembly deputies, and the party finds other interventions in the legislative field unnecessary. Anyhow, party does not eliminate and even finds it necessary to hold referenda on vital issues in order to get acquainted with public opinion and orient appropriately.

4.11. National security issues and solutions thereto⁴

The issues of national security must lie in the foundation of the concept of internal and foreign policy. The party divides them into a number of directions, namely strategic, economic, informative, social, socio-psychological and cultural.

The issues of the above-mentioned directions must be solved with the help of the following interrelated components:

- Strengthening of Armenia's (including Karabakh) security through all the directions, powers and means
- Building a democratic republic based on law and social justice, creation of civil society
- Provision of necessary minimal social guarantees, employment and well-being for normal standards of living
- Development of unique Armenian civilization using the advanced world experience
- Full integration in regional activities, establishment of stable, mutually beneficial, long-term, friendly relations with the immediate neighbors.

4.12. Demographic problems including emigration and birth problems and solutions thereto⁵

Continuous emigration, late marriages which are conditioned by unsatisfactory social status, divorces, low birth rate and high death rate have exposed Armenia to a demographic disaster. Emigration has become Armenia's number one challenge which is conditioned by a number of unsolved social, economic, democratic issues. In order to resolve these issues it is necessary not only to make Armenia a developed and democratic country, but also to realize concrete targeted projects in all the directions.

4.13. Environmental problems and solutions thereto

The party finds it necessary to regulate the exploitation of natural resources, as well as to improve the corresponding legislature. In view of preserving the ecological balance and increasing the efficiency of improving the situation of environment, it is necessary to realize complex projects strengthening the control over using ecological norms.

4.14. Moral, psychological, youth problems and solutions thereto

The party finds the ethical-psychological atmosphere of the country to be disturbing. People are generally disappointed and desperate and no longer cherish for the significant changes in their country. They emigrate because of unemployment and wide-spread injustice. The party attaches utmost importance to the attitude of the young towards the resolution of issues accumulated in the country. Therefore, under present conditions of almost completely corrupted system of values, where materialism, illiteracy, obstinacy overwhelm, the party finds it indispensable to rightly instruct the young in this respect: skillful, educated, gifted and intelligent young people, not finding their place in Armenia, emigrate. The role of mass media is significant with regard to this issue. The films which are of low quality, using non Armenian vocabulary, and showing violent scenes where problems are solved through force and money, senseless series, which are broadcast on TV channels have a completely negative effect on the instruction of young generation.

3.6. GREEN (SOCIAL-ECOLOGICAL) PARTY OF ARMENIA

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

- **Address of the head office:** 12 Davitashen 3rd district, apt. 55, Yerevan
- **Telephone, fax:** (+37494) 73-34-02
- **E-mail:** greenpartarmenia@yahoo.com
- **Foundation date:** 24.07.1998
- **State registration date:** 24.07.1998
- **State re-registration date:** 02.12.2003
- **Charter and Program Approval date:** 24.06.1998
- **Last Congress date:** 24.11.2007
- **Date of the latest publication of the Party's Program and Charter:** 24.11.2007
- **The number of separate territorial subdivisions:** 11
- **Number of the Party members at the time of completing the questionnaire:** 2300 of which:
 - **Women:** 61%
 - **Youth:** 20%
- **Party's participation in National Assembly elections in 2007:** did not participate

2. GOVERNING BODIES OF THE PARTY AND ITS LEADER

2.1. Names of the governing bodies of the Party, number of Party members and the Party leader:

- Congress
- Administration
- Territorial (community) organization
- Territorial Board
- Marz Board
- Party President: Armenak Dovlatyan

2.2. Party membership procedure, including membership fees and payment peculiarities:

Party membership is open to all RA citizens over 18 years old, who accept the Party Project and Charter, help to further and realize the Party's projects through their activities and pay membership fees. Other RA citizens with suffrage may also become party members, however, without the right to be elected in the governing and supervision bodies of the Party.

3. IDEOLOGICAL PLATFORM, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PARTY:

3.1. Ideology

Comfortable living conditions of people is a priority for the Party: this, as the Party thinks, can not be achieved through the solution to solely social-economic problems. The ideology of the Party is based on evaluation and adoption of national and universal values, creation and development of ecological and political management systems, development of market economy, national unification and security, assurance of human rights and freedoms, as well as on the principles of public awareness and political participation.

3.2. Goals and objectives

The party believes that a situation must be achieved where ecological problems are solved in accordance with socio-economic ones. Based on this approach, the party thinks that:

- a socio-ecological national project must be created providing a secure and comfortable life for the nation
- society consciousness must be competent of socio-ecological issues which have a national and universal nature
- a socio-ecological ideology must be developed, and the dynamics of "individual- nature- technology" interaction will be in its basis
- an economically powerful, politically sustainable, ecologically clean and comfortable state must be created, and the principles of priority in social justice, human rights and freedoms must lie in its foundation.

4. PROGRAM STANDPOINTS OF THE PARTY ON THE FOLLOWING ISSUES:

4.1. Three priorities of foreign policy

The party believes that ecology has no limits therefore there can not be merely local ecological issues. From this point of view, the party attaches great importance to the cooperation with socio-political, government and non-government organizations that are engaged in social-ecological issues in all states. The basis of this cooperation

must be the slogan “united people, united ecology”. Correspondingly, the priorities of the party’s foreign policy are as follows:

1. Cooperation with all socio-political, government and non –government organizations dealing with socio-ecological problems;
2. The Party believes that our country has political and economic potential and achievements to ensure a relevant position in international arena.

4.2. Fundamentals of foreign policy, including:

The base for cooperation in international arena should be the slogan: “United nation, united ecology”. Armenia-Diaspora link must be enlivened and purposefully directed towards the solution to national problems.

4.3. The three priorities of domestic policy

1. Resolution of social problems of population;
2. Active political participation of society.
3. Development of workable mechanisms, where all reasons generating socio-ecological problems will be clearly presented, which may make the state and the society avoid unnecessary major expenses which as a rule occur because of previously realized wrong ecological policy.

4.4. Fundamentals of financial and economic policy, current obstacles to stable economic development and solutions thereto, including:

a. Tax and Customs Reforms

One of the main cores of the state policy is the right tax policy. Tax privileges should be defined for those enterprises which have small wastes due to the investment of new technologies.

b. Development of industry

It is necessary to define tax privileges for those industrial enterprises which have small wastes due to investment of new technologies.

c. Information technologies and innovative development

The Party considers it necessary to realize scientific-research reforms, the core of which should be the main problems of generation’s education. The party believes that it is indispensable to contribute to the realization of investment of socio-ecological research initiatives, new high technologies which have a relation to the improvement of quality of the nation’s and generally peoples’ life.

4.5. Fundamentals of social policy and solutions to current problems, including:

Those countries, where the socially vulnerable groups of society form the overwhelming majority suffer most from natural disasters. Based on the above mentioned fact, the Party considers the solution to the population’s social problems to be urgent. It is more realistic under conditions of market economy which may guarantee economic freedom of citizens and property immunity.

4.6. Reformation and development of the education system⁵

The party believes that the artificial implementation of new educational technologies is totally unacceptable if there are no tendencies for education development. In the sphere of education and science, it is necessary to develop a harmonized development concept. It is necessary to preserve the state system of free education, however, parallel to the above mentioned it is also necessary to develop private education system.

4.7. Development of science

The party thinks that the artificial implementation of new educational technologies does not stimulate education development, it also generates not serious approaches of people. The party finds it necessary to realize scientific engineering – research improvements in the core of which lies the fundamental issue of generation instruction.

4.8. Culture and Sport

The base of natural generation change is restoration of cultural values. Their reproduction is an urgent problem, which requires a serious state program. There is no nation without culture, consequently there is no culture without its carriers.

4.10. Formation and development of civil society, protection of civil rights including:

The development and sustainability of legal state and civil society is the main characteristic of democracy. The Party supports the approach according to which civil society is viewed as a system of mediating requirements which is based on private property and general legal society.

a. Strengthening democratic institutes

Democratic and civil institutions act based on respect towards the state and not on stipulated sanctions. And in social life they should act as transferring and connecting institutions.

c. Consolidation of human rights and basic freedoms

The party considers the indifference of the state towards socio-ecological issues to be violations of human rights and freedoms. Arbitrary attitudes towards people's future, secure and comfortable life are unforgivable. The Party is against the development of autocratic and totalitarian manifestation within the state. Democratic authorities should direct the main part of their efforts to sustainability of legitimate state, as it is governed based on consent of population. Under conditions of legitimate authorities, each problem faced by the population deserves a special attention.

d. Reformation of the judicial system

Vitality of legal system mainly depends on the fear of enforcing acting laws. It is necessary to adopt laws which will principally regulate interpersonal relationships and communications. The essence of every law should be a unification of responsibilities and rights.

e. Improving the election system

Elections are factual proof for existence of democratic political system. At the same time, they are a tool of legitimacy of authorities. The Party accepts the general voting right, in the base of which there are the principles of freedom, equality and transparency. The Party considers the active political participation of people to be necessary. It will be a workable mechanism only in case it is based on ideological convictions.

Indifference towards elections, as a socio-political phenomenon may be eliminated under the conditions of emphasized ideological-political streams where the major role will be given to the principle of socio-political concept.

4.12. National security issues and solutions thereto⁵

The party finds it appropriate that it is necessary to contribute to the accomplishment of RA National Army in order to provide state security and sustainability.

4.13. Environmental problems and solutions thereto

It is necessary to develop such a system of ecology management which does not hinder social progress. From this point of view, it is important to conduct such audit due to which industrial enterprises and objects of strategic importance will be maximally prompt to acquiring new technologies minimizing the damages caused to the environment.

4.14. Moral, psychological, youth problems and solutions thereto

The party attaches importance to the involvement of the potential of the young in the accomplishment process of civil society and legal state.

4.15. Other /Legal government/

There is no democratic governance without establishment of legitimacy. It is an obligatory transition by the following three directions:

1. recognition of the state authority
2. adoption of the state authority
3. competency for the governance of state

If the sequence of this process is violated, then the whole political system changes to an autocratic government. In this way, the competency to govern the state is not based on the consent of society.

3.7. "ARMENIAN NATIONAL MOVEMENT" PARTY

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

- **Address of the head office:** 38 Saryan St., Yerevan
- **Telephone, fax:** (+37410) 53-50-34
- **E-mail:** armeniannationalmovement@gmail.com
- **Website:** www.anm.am
- **Foundation date:** 1989
- **State registration date:** 15.07.1991
- **State re-registration date:** 20.05.2005
- **Charter and Program approval date:** 05.11.1989
- **Last congress date:** 17.07.2010
- **Date and mass media of the last publication of the Party's charter and program:** 17.07.2010 on the www.anm.am website
- **Official mass media of the Party:** "Hayk" daily newspaper
- **Number of separate territorial subdivisions:** 48
- **Number of Party's members at the time of completing the questionnaire:** 7750 members, where:
 - **Women:** 32%
 - **Men:** 21%

2. GOVERNING BODIES AND THE LEADER OF THE PARTY

2.1. Names of governing bodies of the party, number of members involved in them, and party leader

- Congress
- Republican board: 72 members
- Administration: 29 members
- Party President: Aram Manukyan
- Deputy President of the Party: Samvel Abrahamyan
- Executive Secretary of the Party: Vahagn Hayotsyan

2.2. Membership procedures, including membership fees and payment peculiarities

- Those who want to become a member to the Party or come out of it must submit an application to the Board Chairman of the Party's corresponding territorial subdivision as defined by the law. Then the Board of the territorial subdivision makes a decision on it.
- The Party member pays membership fee in the territorial subdivisions of his/her registration. The amount should not be less than the minimum amount defined by the party; at the same time no maximum amount is defined, it is up to the member's discretion.
- Any RA citizen, who is 18 years old and above, may become a Party member, if he/she accepts the Party programs and charter, wants to participate in Party activities and is not a member to another party.

3. IDEOLOGICAL PLATFORM, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PARTY

3.1. Ideology

The Armenian National Movement is a Party of FREEDOM. It acts according to the principles of the country's independence, individual freedom, dignity and protection of basic human rights.

3.2. Goals and objectives

- The goal of the Party is to ensure political, economic and spiritual development of the RA based on liberal, democratic principles. According to the Party, the most important factor of Armenia's security and development is the establishment of good-neighborly relations with neighboring countries. In addition, according to the Party, contribution to regional and international peace is of principle importance.
- The Party acts according to the principles of legality, willingness, legal equality, self-governance and publicity. In order to implement its program the Party participates in the formation of the RA state authorities and local self-government bodies and their activities through elections.

3.3. Type of the Party (according to the Party's opinion)

Liberal-democratic

4. PROGRAM STANDPOINTS OF THE PARTY ON THE FOLLOWING ISSUES:

4.1. Three priorities of foreign policy

1. Implementation of foreign policy according to international law;
2. Normal interstate relations with neighboring countries;
3. Integration into international, and especially, European institutions.⁵

4.2. Fundamentals of foreign policy, including⁴

- The goal of the RA foreign policy is to ensure stable peace and economic cooperation in the region and throughout the world.
- According to the Party, it is necessary to forbid other countries using national issues of the RA state interests in international relations for their own interests and political will against other countries. It is unacceptable and at the same time hinders mutual understanding between the RA and neighboring countries.

a. European Integration⁵

Membership of Armenia to the European Union is one of the main objectives of the party.

b. CIS⁵

The Party finds it necessary to participate in initiations of the CIS institutions taking into account real interests of the RA.

c. Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO)

It is preferable to be included in the same security system with all neighbors.

d. NATO

According to the Party, the most important guarantees for the RA state independence and public security are morally stable and efficient army, which will ensure security, and membership to a powerful international security system with more perspective.

e. USA

The Party finds it necessary to establish normal interstate relations of equal partnership.

f. Russian Federation⁵

It is necessary to come out of a status of a vassal and retrieve interstate relations of equal partnership.

g. Recognition of the Genocide and Armenian-Turkish relations

The recognition of the Genocide must be transferred from the ideological and campaign plane to the political platform. The issue must be discussed in two-sided negotiations with Turkey. The recognition of the Genocide must not be a priority issue in the RA foreign policy.

h. Karabakh issue and Armenian- Azerbaijan relations

It is necessary to retrieve real negotiations around Karabakh issue, where Karabakh will be a real party to negotiations.

The Party finds that the only realistic way of the conflict regulation is phase-by-phase option. The war should be excluded. Thus, the issue should be regulated only by means of peaceful negotiations and mutual compromises.⁵

i. Iran

The Party finds it necessary to strengthen friendly relations with Iran.

j. Georgia including the Javakhk Armenians' issues

- The Party finds it necessary to strengthen friendly relations with Georgia.
- The best settlement to the problem of Javakhk Armenians will be their integration into the political, social-economic spheres of Georgia.⁵

k. Armenia-Diaspora: enhanced links and effective cooperation

Armenian communities in various foreign countries must unite around Armenia, which is the main axis. Armenia must establish relations with Armenian communities of various foreign countries on pan-Armenian issues based on harmony between the RA state interests and those of Diaspora. Armenia must contribute to close relations and active cooperation among Armenian community institutions in foreign countries and at the same time must not interfere in inter-community relations. In its turn, Diaspora must exclude its interference in the RA domestic political matters as well as show no influence on the RA foreign policy. Armenia must give immediate feedback to discrimination and any threat to Armenian community in any foreign country.

l. Other (obstacles to political, social and economic development)

Major obstacles to the political, social and economic development of Armenia are mainly related to foreign policy. Those are the absence of peaceful regulation of Karabakh conflict and the long-term blockade because of the conflict. The settlement of these problems must be the top priority of the country's foreign policy, because only in this case will the country's economic and social development be possible.

4.3. Three priorities of domestic policy

The Party signifies strengthening of statehood and establishment of a system that ensures and guarantees the following:

1. Inviolability of life and property of individuals;
2. Freedom of speech, conscience, ideas, and religion;
3. Superiority of the law and overall equality before it, separation of power and public control over it, as well as impartiality of the court.

4.4. Fundamentals of financial and economic policy, current problems of stable economic development and solutions thereto, including:

The basis of the RA economic system should be liberalism which assumes inviolability of private property and complete legal protection.

a. Monetary policy⁵

It is necessary to ensure provision of long term credits.

b. Budgetary policy and state debt⁵

It is necessary to ensure openness of state budget as enforcement of the RA law, cutting sharply expenditures of state governing bodies.

c. Tax and custom reforms⁵

- It necessary to lighten the tax load, due to which it will be possible to expand the tax base. It is necessary to simplify tax legislation to maximum.
- It is necessary to make changes in customs tariff policy in order to increase protection of importers and exporters.

d. Development of industry

Within its capacity Armenia must develop those branches of economy due to which Armenia will be able to integrate into world economy and hold its position in the world market. Coming years will be decisive in the sense that Armenia should get rid of its status as a goods attachment to other countries. It is necessary to create conditions for the establishment of a new industrial system and provide term privileges to enterprises which form the new system.

e. Development of agriculture

It is necessary to make liberalization of economy irreversible, abolish monopolies in all spheres and promote fair competition, revive competitive branches of industry and agriculture, and equip them with high technologies. It is necessary to create favorable conditions for drastic increase of competitiveness and substantiated decrease of prices of Armenia's agricultural product.

f. Information technologies and innovative development

- It is necessary to give priority to industrial branches which develop on the bases of science and new technologies.
- It is necessary to implement a policy of decentralization in economic, industrial, educational, cultural, social and other spheres.

g. Energy and provision of energy security⁵

The best way of developing energy is the use of alternative, ecologically safe sources. At the same time, there can be no superior-inferior relations in the sphere of energy, which has been established between Armenia and Russia since 1998 as it completely endangers the RA energy security.

h. Tourism Development⁴

The eradication of the main obstacles to the political, social and economic development of the RA (peaceful regulation of Karabakh issue and breaking of the long-term blockade) will enable the development of tourism. Today tourism is mainly based on decreasing sense of nostalgia of the Diaspora and on the more or less liberal celebrations of religious holidays of the citizens of the neighboring Iran.

i. Stimulation of investment

The basis of economic system should be liberalism, inviolability of private property, free competitiveness and full legal protection, which will stimulate foreign investments due to which unemployment will drastically fall and there will be economic growth.

j. Improvement of business environment and development of small and medium business

It is necessary to provide the irreversibility of the economic liberalism, abolish monopolies in all spheres and stimulate fair competitiveness.

It is necessary to ensure continual legislative improvement of tax and credit reinforcement for the development of small and medium business.

k. Reduction of shadow economy⁴

Political competition, which will contribute to formation of legitimate authorities, will enhance the role and responsibilities of political entities and give a possibility of minimizing shadow economy.

It is necessary to abolish economic monopolies and ensure free competition.

l. Eradication of corruption

Today, corruption is the main obstacle to the establishment of social justice in Armenia. Corruption damages the country's state institutions and separates society. Among various means of fight against corruption the most efficient one is the minimization of the citizen's dependence upon the authorities and employers as well as the daily fight against illegitimacy. Reduction of corruption is possible through enhancement of legitimacy and improved well being of society.

m. Other (World Trade Organization)⁵

Fulfillment of the WTO requirements. The RA is a full member to the WTO, which means that Armenia should consistently comply with the requirements of that reputable international organization.

4.5. Fundamentals of social policy and solutions to current problems, including:

Social policy must be based on the undisputable reality that the most important value, irreplaceable resource and the greatest wealth of every country is the man: its citizen. One of the main goals of the Party is to create necessary conditions for the continual progress of the well-being of its society and ensure a worthy lifestyle.

a. Overcoming the poverty⁵

Final peace is the only efficient way to reduce poverty. Only in this case will it be possible to break the blockade and create workplaces due to new investments.

b. Reduction of polarization of society and improvement of social justice

Eradication of shadow economy will enable the reduction of polarization of society as well as establishment and enforcement of a complete system of social justice policy. The constituents of this system are the employment rate of population, social security and pension security.

c. Ensuring employment and reducing unemployment⁴

To ensure employment, a sharp economic growth is required, which is possible to implement with the help of the legitimate authorities elected by the public.

d. Improvement of healthcare system⁵

The state should finance only preventive measures and treatment of epidemic, pediatric and a number of dangerous and widespread diseases. It is necessary to launch a wide network of medical insurance by cooperating with similar international institutions.

e. Social security and insurance systems reforms⁵

An alternative and flexible system of insurance and discounts is a must.

f. Other (benefits and charities)

According to the Party, it is impermissible and disgraceful that because of insufficient workplace a considerable portion of the Armenian society cannot earn enough money for its daily sustenance, is deprived of minimum living security and has lived on benefits, aides and charities for years.

4.6. Reformation and development of education system⁵

Public education should be a state monopoly, free of any political ideology, and should be provided only in Armenian language, ensuring full study of foreign languages. Private institutions of higher education should become serious competitors of the state sector.

4.7. Development of science⁵

Preservation of the scientific potential should be a strategic issue. All branches of science should be financed by independent foundations due to which together with the state it will be possible to stimulate all layers of society who are interested in scientific development. Investments in the spheres of technical and applied sciences are possible through development and application of proper domestic and foreign policies.

4.8. Culture and sport⁴

Culture should be free of any ideology. It should be partially supported by the state. Culture should tend to integration of human values, simultaneously maintaining and developing national values and culture.

It is necessary to differentiate between mass and professional sports. For the development of mass sport it is necessary to show state support and at the same time stimulate investments of independent organizations.

4.9. Territorial government and local self-government⁴

It is necessary to raise the role of territorial government and local self-government by refusing to use administrative-instructional methods. Bodies of territorial government and local self-government must act on the principle of priority of the law and ensure open performance of their functions.

a. Enlargement of communities⁵

It is necessary to regulate issues related to community expansion only through free expression of citizens' will of the given territory (referendum) and adopt relevant legislation for that purpose.

b. Enhancing the role of council⁵

It is necessary to adopt a complete strategy plan of local self-government reforms. In order to enhance the role of the council, it is necessary to define by law the authorities of the council relating to decision-making about issues of local significance.

c. Creation of inter-communal units and clarification of legislation⁵

Creation of inter-community unities and clarification of legislation must be performed together with large-scale democratic reforms by taking into account importance and delicacy of the issue.

d. Promotion of financial independence of communities⁵

The best way to enhance financial sustenance of communities is the de-centralization and enhancement of the role of the council.

e. Transfer of additional authorities of the state to communities⁵

Due to de-centralization communities should be delegated the authority of local toll collection among a wide number of state authorizes.

f. Proportionate development of marzes⁵

Balanced development of marzes must be implemented by taking into account demographic data of each marz and evaluating natural and material resources of each marz.

g. Other (authorities of local self-government bodies)⁵

From the point of view of public services, it is necessary to regulate by law the performance priorities of three main authorities of local self-government bodies: mandatory, voluntary and ordered by the state.

4.10. Development of civil society and protection of civil interests, including: ⁵

Reform of election system, enhancement of the role of political parties and stimulation of NGO activities are important contributors to development of social society.

a. Strengthening democratic institutes⁵

The state should stimulate development of democratic institutes, assist organization and self-expression of political parties, ensure the real freedom of speech, press and conscience, and root in the well-known norms of democracy.

b. Ensuring freedom of speech and information

Any individual should have freedom of speech, including freedom of searching, receiving and disseminating ideas and information through any kind of mass media, irrespective of state borders.

c. Consolidating human rights and basic freedoms

Rights and basic freedoms of any individual, which are not exhaustive and may not be interpreted as denial of other well-known human rights and basic freedoms of citizens, should be provided by Constitution.

d. Reforming the judicial system⁵

It is necessity to implement real legislative reforms which stimulate separation of judicial system from executive power.

e. Improving the election system⁵

The Party finds it necessary to form a new election system due to which political competition will be sustained in Armenia.

f. Formation of political parties and development of political field ⁵

The Party finds it necessary to form a new election system which will enable full political competitiveness and stimulation of activities of political parties.

g. Formation of non-governmental organizations and regulation of the field ⁵

It is necessary to expand the rights of NGOs by legislation.

h. Protecting women's rights and combating violence against them ⁵

It is necessary to involve wide layers of society in the protection of women's rights and fight against abuse of women. At the same time it is necessary to cooperate with interested international organizations.

i. Public participation in legislative processes

Public can participate in the development of legislation through MPs elected during fair elections as well as free public initiative.

j. Other (development of self-government principles of civil society)

Due to development of self-government principles of civil society it will be possible to settle the public's intentions of establishing legitimate authorities which is one of the main obstacles to national security.

4.11. National security issues and solutions thereto

The Party finds regional and international integration necessary. It is required to become involved in mostly efficient systems of security.

4.12. Demographic problems, including emigration and birth problems and solutions thereto⁴

Demographic, emigration and birth problems will be settled due to application of principles of social justice and reduction of corruption risks.

4.13. Environmental problems and solutions thereto⁵

Environmental problems may be settled under the conditions of society only if corruption risks are decreased.

4.14. Moral, psychological, youth problems and solutions thereto

The Party believes that the moral and psychological atmosphere of the society will improve only when trust and reliance on the state are restored.

4.15. Other

The Party believes that the public's intention of creating a legitimate state has become a main issue of Armenia's national security due to which many state-national problems will be settled.

3.8. ARMENIAN FATHERLAND PARTY (“HAYOTS HAYRENİK”)

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

- **Legal address:** 4 Lyuxemburg, 1 lane, ap.3, Yerevan
- **Address of the head office:** 4 Lyuxemburg, 1 lane, ap.3, Yerevan
- **Telephone, fax:** (+37410) 66-19-48
- **E-mail:** aeghoyan@mail.ru
- **Foundation date:** May, 2005
- **State registration date:** October, 2005
- **State re-registration:** May, 2005
- **Adoption of the Charter and Program:** May, 2005
- **Recent Congress:** August, 2010
- **Date and name of mass media through which the Party’s Program and Charter have been published:** “Hayastani Hanrapetyun” daily newspaper, April, 2005
- **Number of the Party’s territorial subdivisions:** 94
- **Number of the Party’s members at the time of completing the questionnaire:**
 - **Women:** 19%
 - **Youth:** 41%
- **Participation in elections in 2007:** not participated

2. GOVERNING BODIES OF THE PARTY AND ITS LEADER

2.1. Names of governing bodies of the party, number of members involved in them, and party leader:

- Congress
- Central Committee: 33 members
- Marz Committees, Yerevan Committee, Territorial (regional) Committees: 871 members
- Chairman of the Party: Arshak Baklachyan
- Deputy Chairman of the Party: Anahit Yeghoyan

2.2. Membership procedures, including membership fees and payment peculiarities:

- A member of the Party may be any RA citizen over 18 based on the application.
- Membership Fee: on volunteer basis

3. IDEOLOGICAL PLATFORM, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PARTY1:

3.1. Ideology

National, Left-Conservative

3.2. Goals and Objectives

- strengthening of the state bases, resolution of Armenian Cause, partial nationalization of small and medium production;
- development of middle class through state assistance to the establishment and development of sole entrepreneurs, family business and small enterprises;
- simplification of tax field and implementation of a clear tax policy;
- social justice, strengthening of national school and state sponsorship of science and education;
- prevention of emigration and stimulation of immigration;
- stimulation of birth and state sponsorship of agriculture;
- establishment of professional army and increase of social status of territories near the borders;
- assistance to national culture and its representation in international arena, activation and development of sport life, assistance to young families and assurance of happy childhood.

3.3. Type of the Party (according to the Party’s opinion)

National, Left-Conservative

4. PROGRAM STANDPOINTS OF THE PARTY ON THE FOLLOWING ISSUES1:

4.1. Three priorities of the foreign policy

1. Strengthening of Armenia’s role in international arena.
2. Complementary policy.
3. Stable and mutually-beneficial bilateral and comprehensive policy.

4.2. Fundamentals of foreign policy, including:

With regard to foreign policy, it is necessary to continue complementary policy.

a. European Integration

It is necessary to implement European integration preserving national identity.

b. CIS

It is necessary to restore and strengthen traditional economic, political and cultural relationships.

c. Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO)

The Party has a positive approach towards CSTO.

d. NATO

It is necessary to strengthen cooperation with NATO.

e. USA

It is necessary to become closer and strengthen political and economic relationships with USA.

f. Russian Federation

Strengthening RA citizens' security and maintaining relationships peculiar to a strategic partner.

g. Recognition of Armenian Genocide and Armenia-Turkey Relationship

The recognition of Genocide is mandatory.

h. Karabakh conflict and Armenian-Azerbaijan relations

The Republic of Karabakh has already settled that issue.

i. Iran

It is necessary to strengthen political, economic and cultural relationships with Iran. There is a need for mutual assistance in international arena. By no means Armenia shall not become a plattsdarm in case of implementing military actions against Iran.

j. Georgia including the Javakhk Armenians' issues

There should be real friendly relationships with Georgia.

k. Armenia-Diaspora: enhanced links and effective cooperation

Deepening of Armenia-Diaspora relationships should be in all spheres. Strengthening of economic and political relationships using not only our political position and economic potential but also the lobbying organizations functioning in the given countries as well as the assistance of Diaspora. We think that it's necessary to adopt law on dual citizenship in shortest possible terms. The Party will strive for each Diasporan Armenian to make them remain Armenians. The Party will also put efforts in promoting knowledge of Armenian language, history, literature and culture. In this regards, tthe Party is ready to cooperate with state bodies, NGOs of Armenia and Diaspora, political organizations, parties as well as with foreigners with pro-Armenian opinions.

4.3. Three priorities of the domestic policy

1. Partial nationalization (51%) of small and medium production enterprises.
2. Development of middle class through exemption of all sole entrepreneurs from taxes.
3. Social justice.

4.4. Fundamentals of financial and economic policy, current obstacles to stable economic development and solutions thereto, including:

The state's role in the process of regulating and developing economy is strongly necessary. In this regard, the Party expects a nationalization procedure. The state should directly participate in the whole management process of economy

a. Monetary policy

The state should acquire 51% of bank shares.

b. Budgetary policy and State debt

Approval of budget with social direction.

c. Tax and customs reforms

It is necessary to exempt sole entrepreneurs, family businesses and small enterprises form taxes. It is necessary to reduce the taxes for the export of local products and increase the taxes for the import of the same type of products.

d. Development of industry

The development of the sector is possible through implementation of market studies and re-specialization of industrial enterprises.

e. Development of agriculture

It is necessary to implement mutually beneficial cooperation between state-villager. The specified cooperation shall be regulated through agreements based on legislation. We consider it necessary to establish anti-hail system and restore agricultural aviation. It is necessary to implement mandatory insurance of agricultural products, which shall compensate the villager for the losses occurred. The villages located near the borders are the most active border guard of Armenia. The salary of the budgetary workers at the specified villages shall exceed the ones envisaged for workers in the capital city at least 1.5 times.

f. Energy and provision of energy security

It's necessary to develop and use alternative energy resources. It is necessary to provide state assistance to agricultural and industrial enterprises located on the territories along borders through simplification of tax field, reduction of taxes, and provision of privileged loans.

g. Stimulation of investments

The state should be the guarantor of investments without losses.

h. Improvement of business environment and development of small and medium business

It is necessary to ensure the development of small and medium businesses through exemption of the sole entrepreneurs from taxes.

i. Reduction of shadow economy

The direct intervention of the state into the production processes will exclude the development of shadow economy. In the result of partial nationalization, the mutual supervision: state-businessman will become more efficient. No one of the shareholders will have an opportunity to act in unfair manner, hide real profit and present unreal numbers of price formation. The tax field will also be more stabilized. This way it will be more difficult to evade taxes.

j. Eradication of corruption

State-businessman and state-citizen cooperation and mutual supervision will exclude corruption. In the result of partial nationalization there will be no need for so-called "roof". The corruption will be bitterly hit losing actual material base.

4.5. Fundamentals of social policy and solutions to current problems, including:

In the result of partial nationalization (51%) of production, stable budget entries emerged from the shares will be ensured.

a. Overcoming the poverty

Based on current problems, it is necessary to develop and implement a special strategy.

b. Reduction of polarization of society and reformation of social justice

Development of middle class through stimulation of sole entrepreneurship, creation of employment and reduction of poverty through partial nationalization policy, implementation of progressive taxes over super profitable enterprises.

c. Ensuring employment and reducing unemployment

It is necessary to ensure a welfare life of RA citizens through creation of jobs and improvement of social justice.

d. Improvement of healthcare system

It is necessary to ensure free medical service and mandatory medical insurance.

e. Social security and insurance systems reforms

The Party considers it necessary to restore insurance system and equal competition field, and grounding as well as redefinition of social standards by the state.

4.6. Reformation and development of education system

It is necessary to ensure free education in all state educational institutions, from kinder gardens up to high educational institutions. However, it is also necessary to stimulate the establishment of private educational institutions, and secondary colleges based on the list of specialists provided by major enterprises.

4.7. Development of science

There is a need for state sponsorship and 30% of budget allotments to science and education as a Constitutional norm. The professors shall be paid not less than officers in the army of Armenia, as this is also a battlefield which is the precondition of the creation of intellectual potential.

4.8. Culture and Sport

It is necessary to stimulate the development of national culture and its presentation in international arena including culture of national minorities. The Party considers it necessary to stimulate foreign investments and implement an efficient program in the sphere of sport.

4.10. Development of civil society, protection of civil rights, including:

There is a need for fundamental establishment of democracy and implementation of strategic policy by state bodies.

a. Strengthening democratic institutes

It is necessary to enhance the competencies of local government bodies.

b. Ensuring freedom of speech and information

Opposition mass media should be under state care and provided with material and financial assistance.

c. Consolidation of human rights and basic freedoms

The Party considers it necessary to develop and enforce legislation.

d. Reforming the judicial system

It is necessary to establish of jury system in RA. The Party shall put efforts in harmonizing the national values with the universal ones, ensuring the protection of safe and welfare life of RA citizens.

e. Improving the election system

It is necessary to establish internationally accepted standards in legislation and transparent elections. It is also necessary to impose more stringent responsibility for election frauds and violations of Election Code through amendments to the latter.

f. Formation of political parties and development of political field

It is necessary to assist political parties in the process of propagating their ideologies. The state shall assist in developing a real multi-political party system and political institutions. This way the state can stimulate the formation of civil society based on democratic principles.

4.11. National security issues and solutions thereto

It is necessary to strengthen the perception of patriotic and nationalistic ideology of individuals involved in the procedures related to education, national security service, police, army, culture and production.

4.12. Demographic problems, including emigration and birth problems and solutions thereto

The stimulation of childbirth, suspension of emigration and restoration of immigration as well as giving birth of many children shall be among the most important priorities of the state.

4.13. Environmental problems and solutions thereto:

The Party considers it necessary to ensure the preservation of green zones and animal world of RA, preservation of Lake Sevan. It is also necessary to ensure the implementation of standards concerning the industrial production.

3.9. "REPUBLIC" PARTY

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

- **Address of the head office:** 116 Nalbandyan, apt. 12, Yerevan
- **Telephone, fax: (+37410) 58-57-34**
- **E-mail: zartak69@yahoo.com**
- **Foundation date:** 27.02.2001
- **State registration date :** 27.03.2001
- **State re-registration date:** 02.12.2003
- **Charter and Program approval date:** 27.02.2001
- **Date of the latest publication of the Party's Program and Charter and the name of mass media:** 25.11.05 by the 11th resolution of the 5th by congress
- **The number of the Party's separate territorial subdivisions:** 50
- **Number of the Party members at the time of completing the questionnaire:** 5500
- **Party's participation in National Assembly elections in 2007:** did not participate

2. GOVERNING BODIES OF THE PARTY AND ITS LEADER

2.1. Names of governing bodies of the party, number of members involved in them, and party leader

- Congress
- Political Board: 11 members
- Party President: Aram Zaven Sargsyan

2.2. Party membership procedure, including membership fees and payment peculiarities:

A member of the Party may be any RA citizen in accordance with his/her application¹ by the decision of original organization. A member of the Party may be any RA citizen who accepts the program and Charter of the Party and by his/her activities assists to realize the Party's objectives and resolve problems. In addition, he/she may not be a member of another party.

3. IDEOLOGICAL PLATFORM, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PARTY:

3.1. Ideology

The Party considers human rights and freedoms, as well as strengthening and development of Armenia to be supreme. The Party prioritizes restoration of Constitutional rights in the country and realization of system reforms.

Principles employed by the Party, which are independence and territorial integrity of Armenia, democracy and freedom of speech, as well as freedoms and property rights of an individual, are the ideas which unify our nation.

The objective of the Party is strengthening and prosperity of Armenia, as well as unification of Armenian nation over RA citizens' welfare and national problems.

3.2. Goals and objectives

To achieve the above mentioned goal, the Party considers the following to be necessary:

- creation of a new political value system based on conservative ideas and world outlook;
- provision of free formation of the nation's political will and its manifestation, establishment of democracy and creation of a civil society in Armenia;
- provision of law supremacy guaranteed by RA Constitution and sustainability of legal state;
- clarification and strengthening of the state's role in economic procedures, as well as improvement of legal field regulating economic relations guaranteeing development of free competition and business activeness, as well as establishment of favorable conditions for investments and formation of market economy;
- harmonization of universal and national values in the RA, as well as guaranteed protection of human rights and freedoms;
- formation of an efficient system of state governance, provision of balanced and separated functioning of executive, legislative and judicial authorities;
- active participation of Armenia in regional and International integration processes, establishment and development of mutually-beneficial political, economic and cultural relations with other countries;
- development and implementation of national security program.

3.3. The type of the party (according to the party's opinion)

"Republic" Party is a conservative party.

4. PROGRAM STANDPOINTS OF THE PARTY ON THE FOLLOWING ISSUES:

4.1. Three priorities of foreign policy

1. Quick, respectful and peaceful settlement of Karabakh issue
2. Establishment of diplomatic relationships between Armenia and Turkey;
3. RA integration into regional cooperation and conventions.

4.2. Fundamentals of foreign policy, including

Under the conditions of limited internal market, Armenia's industry must be directed towards external markets providing production and export of Innovative technologies.

a. European Integration

The Party prioritizes EU integration of RA.

b. CIS

The cooperation within the frames of CIS must be organized in such a way as not to hinder the Euro-integration process which is more efficient, broader and more progressive.

c. Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO)

The Party considers that RA membership to CSTO must not in any way limit RA sovereignty and independence.

d. NATO

The Party attaches importance to the RA participation in creating a new system of regional security and broadening the cooperation with NATO.

e. USA

The Party attaches importance to development of RA-USA strategic cooperation.

f. Russian Federation

The Party considers it necessary to establish egalitarian and partner-based relationship with Russia.

g. Recognition of Armenian Genocide and Armenian-Turkish relations

The Party considers establishment of diplomatic relationships between Armenia and Turkey and the opening of the border, without any prerequisites, to be important.

h. Karabakh conflict and Armenian-Azerbaijan relations

The Party views NK issue within the context of regional cooperation and sustainability and development of democratic institutions.

i. Iran

The Party attaches importance to Armenian-Iranian relationships expressing trust towards an idea that international tension over Iran will have peaceful settlement.

j. Georgia including the Javakhs Armenians' issues

Georgia is the strategic ally of the RA.

k. Armenia-Diaspora: enhanced links and effective cooperation

The state should create favorable conditions for unification of Armenian nation to resolve the problems concerning Armenia's strengthening and preservation of Diaspora Armenians.

4.3. Three priorities of domestic policy

1. Independence of judicial system;
2. Restoration of election institutes; establishment of modern democracy.
3. Elimination of oligarch system;

4.4. Fundamentals of financial and economic policy, current obstacles to stable economic development and solutions thereto, including

b. Budgetary policy and State debt

The state must take the responsibility of fulfilling its political and economic arrangements and contracts, as well as make efforts in stabilizing the country's economy by improving the political, moral and economic situation.

c. Tax and customs reforms

The Party attaches importance to simplification of tax system, reduction of the number of tax types, exclusion of interference into entrepreneurship, as well as regulation and transparency of supervision mechanisms.

d. Development of industry

Developed state, as well as privatized and newly-created industrial enterprises should become the main objective of economic policy and the main factor of resolution of socio-economic problems. Under conditions of limited internal market, Armenia's industry should take a position towards foreign markets.

e. Development of agriculture

In the base of reforms realized in agricultural sphere should be an idea of complete and efficient use of lands. Reforms in agricultural sphere should be directed to the rise of peasants' well-being, prevention of their outflow and strengthening of frontier territories. The party attaches importance to crediting of farms, implementing insurance system, supporting the realization of agricultural products.

f. Information technologies and innovative development

This sphere should be considered to be a high priority, state and social means should be directed towards the process of its development. Under the conditions of limited internal market, Armenia's industry must be directed towards external markets providing production and export of Innovative technologies.

g. Energy and provision of energy security

One of the most important preconditions for economic development is energy security and assurance of alternative energy carriers.

In this regard, particularly, the Party attaches importance to provision of energy independence by building a new nuclear power station. This will contribute to the elimination of relationships which limit the sovereignty of Armenia.

h. Tourism Development

The party gives utmost importance to the increase of our country's attraction by developing the spheres of transport, information and service.

i. Stimulation of investments

The Party believes that the development of priorities and strategic spheres are of primary importance to economic development of the country. In order to develop these spheres it is necessary to create economic locomotives involving state and social means.

j. Reformation of business environment and development of small and medium business

The state must take up a controlling function stimulating the development of a free market, the creation of innovative economy and the organization of a favorable investment environment.

k. Reduction of shadow economy

The party finds it necessary to eliminate the oligarch system, create and develop mechanisms for free market economy.

l. Eradication of corruption

The party considers that it is important to combat corruption by means of manifesting authority's administrative will and re-delegating extra state functions.

4.5. Fundamentals of social policy and solutions to current problems, including

a. Overcoming poverty

Democracy cannot be of full value, if citizens of the state do not have a respectable life. Poverty gives birth to phenomena incoherent with democracy putting under doubt self-maintenance and freedoms of citizens, as well as their ability to elect legal authorities.

The Party believes that it is important to develop and implement a "National Program Against Poverty".

b. Reduction of polarization of society and reformation of social justice

The Party prioritizes the problem related to the formation of middle class, which is the base of modern state and society.

c. Creation of employment and reduction of unemployment

The main objective of economic policy is the country's socio-economic development, which is the main tool of creating employment and increasing real incomes of population.

d. Improvement of healthcare system

The Party should be persistent with regard to realization of reforms in public health care system, real provision of right to health and its efficient protection.

4.6. Reformation and development of education system

The Party should be persistent with regard to realization of reforms in education and pension systems.

4.7. Development of science

The party will pursue the goal of creating interrelated connections of education, science and production (realization).

4.8. Culture and Sport

The party attaches importance to the development, confirmation and realization of the new concept of nation's cultural development which, by the consideration of the party, is the main means of providing connection between the Armenian around the world and our country.

4.10. Development of civil society, protection of civil rights, including

The Party prioritizes restoration of Constitutional order in the country, functioning of electoral institutions, establishment of real democracy, formation of responsible executive authorities, sustainability of independent judicial system, creation of supervision mechanisms over police and national security service, including army. It is necessary to legislatively fix the right to public proceedings, as well as provide for civil society institutes the right to draw up a statement of administrative infringement against officials.

a. Strengthening democratic institutes

Democracy assumes assurance of citizens' cooperation, their respectable and comfortable life, security, freedoms of speech, media and politics, as well as immunity of property and protection of national minorities. Implementation of exclusively the above mentioned principles may ensure sustainability of electoral institutions and political field, as well as development of parliamentarism and a market having a social orientation.

b. Ensuring freedom of speech and information

One of the principles adopted by the Party is freedom of speech and information.

c. Consolidating human rights and basic freedoms

Fundamental values for the Party are the following: Armenia's independence and territorial integrity, as well as democracy, civil society and human rights and freedoms.

d. Reforming the judicial system

The Party attaches importance to reforms in judicial system, provision of real independence of courts, as well as the right of availability of judicial bodies, particularly Court of Appeals for citizens, elimination of obstacles hindering judges' social, internal independence and creation of legal regulatory mechanisms securing these guarantees. It is necessary to solve the disagreements in a productive way, by developing improved mechanisms of these legal procedures, to increase the public control over the functions of the prosecutor's office, the Ministry of internal affairs and the Ministry of national security. It is also necessary to strengthen parliamentary supervision mechanisms over them (to return the status of Ministry to the ministry of internal affairs and the service of national security).

g. Formation of non-governmental organizations and regulation of the field

The Party thinks that it is possible to sustain and strengthen the NGOs by introducing the institute of public proceedings, provide for NGOs the right to draw up a statement of administrative infringement against officials and suing them legislatively and to practically implement the institute of reimbursing NGOs' judicial expenditures and losses.

h. Protecting women's rights and combating violence against them

The party thinks that it is indispensable to decrease the discrimination of sex by means of increasing women's economic independence at home their participation in the shaping of family budget.

i. Public participation in legislative procedures

It is necessary to increase public participation in legislative procedures by involving representatives of civil society institutes in the process of developing legal acts, laws and bills. By the introduction of the institute of public proceedings public representatives must be given opportunities to litigate the legal measurability of normative legal acts of sub-legislative and main office, thus realizing negative lawful activities.

4.12. Demographic problems, including emigration and birth problems and solutions thereto:

Armenia faces a demographic disaster which, among others, is conditioned by emigration and low birthrate. One of the reasons for emigration is the absence of care of the state and the individuals who are authorized to represent the state, towards subject citizens. Another reason is the perception of Armenia as an unjust, small-minded state which is inappropriate with the real dignity of its name. Unemployment, the presence of

monopolies, the absence of competitive conditions, as well as the conviction that political authorities are unlikely to change due to elections, have no less negative effects. The reasons for low birthrate are the social conditions and the unsatisfactory health state of reproduction.

The solution to all the above-mentioned problems is to eliminate their causes, develop projects of immigration, improve the reproductive health state of the population, develop and implement projects of decreasing the infancy death and increasing the birthrate.

4.14. Moral, psychological, youth problems and solutions thereto ⁵

The tendency of the above-mentioned issues' solution solely will contribute to the initiation of reforming the moral atmosphere of the society.

3.10. CONSERVATIVE PARTY

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

- **Address of the head office:** 11/4 Gyulikekhyan, Yerevan
- **Telephone, fax:** (+37491) 40-97-37, (+37455) 29-97-37
- **E-mail:** conservative@conservative.am
- **Website:** www.conservative.am
- **Foundation date:** 10.06.1991
- **State registration date:** 10.06.1991
- **State re-registration date:** 24.11.2003
- **Charter and Program approval date:** 12.03.2000, 01.11.2003
- **Last Congress date:** 01.02.2010 (9th Congress)
- **The number of separate territorial subdivisions:** 12
- **Date of the latest publication of the Party's Program and Charter and the name of mass media:** is posted at: www.conservative.am; has been published in big volumes in 2001.
- **Official media of the Party:** www.conservative.am
- **Number of the Party members at the time of completing questionnaire:** 2700 out of which:
 - **Women:** 25%
 - **Youth:** 45%
- **Participation of the Party in the elections 2007:** participated
- **Number of deputies at the 4th convocation of the National Assembly:** 0

2. INTERNAL ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURES OF THE PARTY AND THE CHAIRMAN

2.1. Names of governing bodies of the party, number of members involved in them, and party leader:

- Congress
- Central Board: 7 members
- Chairman of the Party: Miqayel Hayrapetyan

2.2. Party membership procedure, including the volume of membership fees and their peculiarities

The membership to the Party is based on volunteer principles and is granted based on written notice upon decision of the Branch Meeting or Central Board. The volume of membership fees and the payment is defined by the Central Board of the Party, which did not specified a membership fee by now.

3. IDEOLOGICAL PLATFORM, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PARTY:

3.1. Ideology

The ideological basis of the party is conservativeness as values system and ideology. The CP is first of all a ideology and psychological identity, and then only a political party.

The conservativeness is a dual doctrine. The highest values of the party are the following: Republic of Armenia, state security, state language, which is Armenian, culture, morality, citizen rights, freedom of conscience, and property right. The Party prioritizes the security and welfare of citizens and society. The Republic of Armenia which is the fatherland of Armenians, in 21st century may exist and develop only in case of being integrated into the following: democracy, friendly relationships with neighbor countries, civil system and European legal model, highly developed education and scientific system, disciplined and organized army, economy directed by state policy and controlled by free market, without going forward or falling behind from world processes. The Party is combating to make all institutions which are of strategic value exclusively state owned.

3.2. Goals and objectives

Objectives of the Party are the following:

- strengthening of democratic, sovereignty, social and legal Armenian state;
- Creating of balanced political field, which will exclude the possibilities of changing authorities through reforms or establishing monarchy and/or dictatorship;
- Assisting in establishing civil society;
- Strengthening of social-political agreement environment;
- Rationalizing and adding value to national values;
- Developing programs for national development;
- Deepening and strengthening relationships between fatherland and Diaspora;
- Protecting national minority rights.

Targets of the Party are the following:

- Participation in the processes of Armenia's prosperity, establishment of high International rating and prosperity of society in accordance with RA Constitution and laws;
- Realization of provisions of Party program in accordance with RA Constitution and laws.

3.3. Type of the Party (according to the Party's opinion)

Conservative

4. PROGRAM STANDPOINTS OF THE PARTY ON THE FOLLOWING ISSUES:

4.1. Three priorities of foreign policy ⁵

1. freedom of Armenia from the Russian totalitarian regime and smooth integration to western civil system;
2. Assurance of a favorable field and market for Armenia in the region and the whole world;
3. Assurance of opportunity of compromised resolution of Karabakh issue.

4.2. Fundamentals of foreign policy, including

Armenian state and its citizens have a right and are obliged to: ensure a peaceful co-existence with states and nations of the region as well as International community; throw off the centuries-old isolating restrictions and become an element of civil humanity denying extreme, revolutionary nature and passive time-serving.

a. European Integration

The closest discipline to Armenian nation is European or Western civilization, thus it should be the last point as civil as well as political points.

b. CIS

CIS was a civil separation from SSSR. The place of Armenia is not there. It's just a matter of time.

c. Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO)

The CSTO is the remainder of Warsaw Pact. It cannot give anything positive to Armenia, however, it still preserves a huge potential of harming democratization procedures.

d. NATO

NATO is the security system of Western civilization. The sooner Armenia is involved in NATO the bigger will be Armenia's security guaranty.

e. USA

Since independence of Armenia USA is one of the countries which made the biggest investments. The CP considers USA as a natural and strategic partner for Armenia.

f. Russian Federation

Russian Federation may become a safe partner of Armenia only in case it refuses its authoritarian regime and will become a part of Western civilization. The Party believes that Russia, which is moving away from Caucasus, has put an imperative for Armenia to integrate into South-Caucasian and Near East. The future of Armenia is not Eurasianism.

g. Recognition of Genocide and Armenian- Turkish relations

The Party is for the international recognition of genocide, however, the Party believes that it shall not become the main priority of Armenia's foreign policy and in turn shall not be out of the foreign policy agenda. The Armenia-Turkey relationships shall be regulated in accordance with international laws. And based on these laws the occupation of Kars by nowadays Turkey is qualified as anoxia. Kars has been recognized by Armenia under the rude pressure of communist Russia in 1921. The only illegal point in Armenian-Turkish Agreement which is not signed is the recognition of former Russian-Turkish as well as Armenian-Russian-Turkish Agreements, despite the fact that these Agreements were signed with violations of International laws. This fact may be documents by International Court. The blockade of Armenia's state border by Turkey is also a violation of international law. With regard to Turkish-Kurdish issue, Armenian diplomacy shall be long-sighted and unemotional. There shall be no difference for Armenians whether or not there is a Turkish or Kurdish state located on the territories Western Armenia.

h. Karabakh issue and Armenian-Azerbaijan relations

The Karabakh issue is one of the most important points of the foreign policy of Armenia, which according to CP shall be resolved exclusively within the framework of international right: no use of arm, principle of self determination and territorial integrity. The answer to Karabakh issue is not in the circumference of Armenian Cause but in use of opportunities provided by geopolitical situation.

i. Iran

The Party, believing that Armenian state does not have any enemy, at the same time insists that while searching or changing allies it is necessary to be guided exclusively based on state interests. At least for coming decades natural ally of the RA may be Iran. Armenia is obliged to be very sensitive to all issues concerning Iran.

j. Georgia including the Javakhk Armenians' issues

The relationships with Georgia shall be based on gaining benefits from the experience of Georgia which got rid of the totalitarian regime of Russia. Within the frameworks of Armenian Cause occurrence of Javakhk problem is pregnant with unpredictable consequences. The Party views the above mentioned issue exclusively from the point of view of geopolitics. The only right that Armenia may require from Georgia is the protection of rights of Javakhk Armenians to get education instructed in Armenian.

k. Deepening of Armenia-Diaspora relationships and increase of effectiveness of cooperation

Armenia shall take a role of stimulating the preservation of Armenian nationality without intervening in inter-colonial activities. Diaspora is a facilitator of foreign policy implemented by Armenia. The CP is against the dual citizenship included in the Constitution. The Party shall put efforts to make sure that pretension is not state policy of Armenia, as it is out of realistic vies and will jeopardize the existence and development of Armenia. For now, the RA may protect only the demand of self-determination of Western Armenians' descendants, if the demanding part of Armenian citizens and Diaspora Armenians move to their predecessors' fatherland and settle there. The RA may ever have not just a territory but a territory for settlement.

l. Other (integration processes)

Within the frameworks of law, the Party will do everything to ensure that Armenia will not be out of regional and International economic, communicative, scientific-educational, cultural, industrial and military integration processes merely for the sake of certain ideologies.

4.3. Three priorities of domestic policy⁵

1. Fixing of civil values;
2. Ensuring freedom of democratic elections and respecting their results;
3. Eradicating corruption in accordance with Western criteria.

4.4. Fundamentals of financial and economic policy, current obstacles to stable economic development and solutions thereto, including

The Party protects self-maintenance of economic, scientific, educational and social institutions, where direct interference of the state should be minimized as much as possible. The Party is for implementation of anti-monopoly policy, except state monopolies ensuring national security (army, special services, etc).

The Party considers that Armenia may develop only incase there are tax, custom as well as financial and credit systems which will stimulate export and investments. Accordingly, with regard to this sphere as well, the Party is a right center-based liberal-conservative (neo-conservative) party.

a. Monetary policy

The Party is for the implementation of floating exchange rate policy and does not encourage the rude intervention of the Central Bank of Armenia.

b. Budgetary policy and state debt

The Party shall constantly strive for replacing the existence budgets with development ones. The state debt is not dangerous is it is within the framework of rational limits and the funds received are directed exclusively to the economy stimulating the export.

c. Tax and Customs reforms

The tax reforms shall be implemented in accordance with Western standards excluding the protectionism of corruption risks. The lion share of the tax burden shall be carried by the large businesses and importers. In reality there cannot be customs reforms before Armenia decides the directions of integration zones which are either EU or Russian-Eurasian. The Party is definitely for the integration into EU customs zone.

d. Development of industry

The party considers the following to be the priorities of Armenia's economy: high technologies, scientific-educational industry, energy, exploitation of water reserves, internal and external communications, extraction of useful minerals and organization of phase-based industry in place, industrial sub-structures of

agricultural products, banking system as well as tourism and trade. Inflow and circulation of foreign capital are the prior guarantees for development and state security of Armenia.

e. Development of agriculture

The basis for the development of agriculture might be the directions which require a lot of work and are based on the medium business.

f. Information technologies and innovative development

By now, Armenia has all chances to become a leader in the region with regard to information technologies and innovative development. For this to be realized the government lacks strategic thinking and political will.

g. Energy and provision of energy security

The energy security of Armenia is part of national security. To ensure the national security the Party considers that the following is necessary:

- To free the Armenian energy sector from Russian monopolization
- To stimulate the academic development and usage of alternative energy resources
- To make a priority of construction of transit gas and oil pipeline through the territory of Armenia

h. Development of Tourism

The only type of tourism in Armenia might be ecotourism for which it is not clever to limit the implementation of infrastructure only by the constructions of hotels.

i. Stimulation of investments

The inflow and circulation of foreign capital are the prior guarantees for development and state security of Armenia. However, the stimulation of foreign investments may be conditioned only by elimination of Armenian corruption, otherwise in Armenia there might be the circulation of criminal and shadow capital.

j. Improvement of business environment and development of small and medium business

the business environment might be improve only in case of eliminating corruption which can be realized only if Armenia stops replicating Russian Federation. The backbone of the development of Armenia's economy is small and specifically medium business which is now broken by Armenian oligarchy.

k. Reduction of shadow economy

The elimination of shadow economy in Armenia is a political issue and is conditioned by the existence of legitimate authorities which will not have complexes.

l. Eradication of corruption

The corruption in Armenia will be overcome only if there will be legitimate authorities in place which will finally resolve the issue of Armenia's choice of political and civil integration into Western system. Otherwise, Armenia cannot go further rather than implementing just cosmetic replacements.

m. Other (The connection of economy and politics)

In Armenia as in all CIS countries the economy is derived from politics, thus there is a need for political shift.

4.5. Fundamentals of social policy and solutions to current problems, including:

The party is the protector and advocate of the rights of middle class, intellectuals and soldiers. The Party will strive for equalizing living standards of poor people to those of middle class through creation of employment and assurance of free entrepreneurship.

The state is the guarantor of respectable existence of children and elderly people. Gradually, the social burden shall be transferred to the employer.

a. Overcoming poverty

The poverty is impossible to overcome poverty in under the conditions of today's political situation. It is also a political issue. The poverty will be overcome when there will be no oligarchy. And the oligarchy will be eliminated only if ever there will be free and fair presidential and parliament elections conducted in Armenia.

b. Reduction of polarization of society and reformation of social justice

The current system cannot provide opportunity for decreasing the distance between different layers of society. Certain cosmetic improvement of social justice is possible only through legislative reforms (transferring the social burden from the state to the employer). However, in essence, the improvements are possible to implement only in case of elimination of oligarchic system.

c. Ensuring employment and reducing unemployment

Currently, Armenia does not implement the functions of social state as envisaged by Constitution, as the clan-nomenclatural capital is over the law. Thus the state cannot cooperate with the employers in the field of employment provision and existing unemployment.

The issue of unemployment may be resolved only in case if:

- The state is not limited in actions by the shadow created by itself
- The state has a clear strategic program for economic development and a political will to implement it

d. Improvement of healthcare system

In order to ensure equal opportunity of using medical services for every RA citizen, there is a need for self-maintaining sustainability of medical institutions. The major obstacle today is the monopolization of the sector.

e. Social security and insurance systems reforms

The insurance system is one of those rare disciplines which is developing in Armenia not only formally but also in practice. The evidence for the above are the state insurances which are mandatory. Step by step it is necessary to transfer the insurance to private sector which would be function under the supervision of the state.

f. Other

The development and implementation of the policy for the nation's regeneration is a whole group of social matters, the most important of which are the following:

- State motivation of the newly created families
- Resolution of social issues for big families which have more than 3 children
- Decreasing of emigration

4.6. Reformation and development of education system

In the 21st century Armenian state may exist and develop only in case of ensuring developed educational and scientific system. The reforms shall be realized through localization of western experience.

4.7. Development of science

The development of science is conditioned by:

- Refusal to the old soviet education system
- Integration of Armenia into international academic family

4.8. Culture and Sport

First of all it is necessary to clarify the priorities of cultural policy. The culture being a part of civilization requires making a civil choice. The Party is definitely for the global western civilization. In the fields of culture and sport there is a need for the development of non-governmental system.

4.9. Territorial management and local government

The territorial management shall be democratized through conduction of direct elections of mayor and heads of marzes. Local government bodies shall be granted with multiple authorities centralized management.

a. Enlargement of communities

The enlargement of communities will lead to communism. It is necessary to grant more authorities to communities which would be protected by law till the establishment of intercommunity contract system.

b. Enhancing the role of council

The increase of the Role of council is possible:

- Localization of western practice
- Conduction of free and fair elections first of all presidential and NA

c. Creation of inter-community units and clarification of legislation

The creation of intercommunity units is an unnecessary beaurocratization, and the freedom of contract relationship will broaden the borders of democratization for which the Party stands.

d. Promotion of financial independence of communities

Increasing of self sustainability level of communities derives from the program provisions of the Party. And the management structures of the government shall be delegated the functions of supervision.

4.10. Development of civil society, protection of civil rights, including:

People are born with differences; the only equality exists with regard to state laws and God. Accordingly, the mentioned equality should be and is possible to ensure only through creation of civil society, legal state and moral fatherland, for which the Party will put all its efforts.

a. Strengthening of democratic institutions

The Party believes that the strengthening of democratic institutions is possible through assurance of their protection by laws and establishment of international supervision otherwise it will be of formal character or incomplete.

b. Ensuring freedom of speech and information

The right of freedom of speech and information is an important value for the Party which shall be regulated by laws.

c. Consolidating human rights and basic freedoms

The Party is obliged to be on the side of any political force which would protect human rights and fundamental freedoms.

d. Reforming the judicial system

Only legal state may be strong and stable, ensure universal welfare, justice, civil order and stability. According to the Party the legislative part of judicial reforms is almost perfect, it's just political will of authorities is missing there, which hinders the separation of judicial authorities from political ones.

e. Improving the election system

According to the Party there is no election system in RA, though the legislation is not bad. The organization and management of the whole election procedure shall be taken out from the responsibilities of the parties and transferred to state supremacies. The Party doesn't agree with the positive grades given by the international observers.

f. Formation of political parties and development of political field

The Party believes that the only condition of the strength and reputation of a political party is its ideology and the army of its members. The Party denies the society's politicization, especially corruption. The internal political future of Armenia is the formation of triple political three-sided: socialists, liberals and conservatives. Different disciplines established for the parties are the main obstacle for the development and sustainability of the sector. Other obstacles are conditioned by national psychology, soviet heritage and colonial dependence from Russia. In terms of classical meaning there is no political party in RA.

g. Formation of non-governmental organizations and regulation of the field

This is one of those rare sectors which is becoming sustainable. Here, the implementation of western experience and employment of the western game rules is more important than legislative regulation.

h. Protecting women's rights and combating violence against them

The protection of women's rights is one of the main issues in the political arena in Eastern countries, the clue of which is in the principle of equality.

i. Public participation in legislative procedures

Social participation in the legislative processes may be measured by the sustainability level of public institutions. It is necessary to have civil society which will fight for its rights and freedoms.

j. Other

For the formation and sustainability of civil society there is a need for value reform.

4.11. National security issues and solutions thereto

The national security is one of the highest values claimed in the Charter and Program of the Party. The main fundamentals are the following:

- A real institution of national security which would be Armenian instead of an attachment type structure to Russian State Security Committee, including the presence of separate state subdivision of hyper security;
- Decrease and regulation of emigration;
- Having a road map of integration to NATO;
- Granting a real freedom to e-media which became tool in terms of psychology and intelligence;
- Real reforms of the education system instead implementing just cosmetic ones;
- Energy diversification;
- Strategic plan of usage and maintenance of water resources;
- Clear policy of nature preservation;

- Decentralization Yerevan and development of perspective programs for the development of communities near the borders;
- Sustainability and development of public institutions best on western models.
- Gradual transmission of army to professional system;

The solutions for the above issues are concluded into two points:

- civil choice in favor of western system (reform of value system)
- formation of a culture of conducting free, fair and transparent elections.

4.12. Demographic problems, including emigration and birth problems and solutions thereto

The solution to the above problems is linked to the moral-psychological atmosphere in the country.

4.13. Environmental problems and solutions thereto

The Party claims in its Charter that in certain sense it is a political party of greens. Solution to dozen of problems may be the employment of democratic approaches to the issues concerning the preservation of the nature which are well-known in the West.

The positive impact of social organizations on the given matter is extremely limited, as:

- the current system is all-powerful
- the social organizations cannot become sustainable and make fundamental changes.

4.14. Moral, psychological, youth problems and solutions thereto

There are dozens of problems concerning the moral-psychological environment, the root of which is in the basis of political system. A real reform is possible exclusively in case of finding political and civil solutions.

4.15. Other

One of the main issues of national security is reevaluation of Armenian history and past. This process may be launched through the adoption of the law on the update of the archives of State Security Committee of USSR, identification of spying network (as in case of Georgia and Europe). This way it necessary to exclude the assignment of individuals to high rank state positions who serve the totalitarian regime.

4. “ARMENIAN REVOLUTIONARY FEDERATION DASHNAKTSUTYUN” PARTY

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

- **Address of the head office:** 30 Hanrapetutian St., Yerevan
- **Telephone, fax:** (+37410) 52-15-02, (+37410)52-04-26
- **E-mail:** gmarf@rambler.ru
- **Website:** www.arf.am
- **Foundation date:** 1890
- **State registration date:** 02. 07.1991
- **State re-registration date:** 28.11.2003
- **Charter and Program approval date:** 1892
- **Last Congress Date:** 04-06.06.2010
- **Date of last publication of the Party’s Program and Charter and the name of mass media:** Program (brochure): February 1998, Code of ARFD, (brochure): April 2006
- **The number of separate territorial subdivisions:** 58
- **Number of the Party members at the time of completing the questionnaire:** 6785 of which:
 - **Women:** 13.6 % (923)
 - **Youth:** 31.3 % (2124)
- **Party’s participation in National Assembly elections in 2007:** participated
- **Number of deputies at the 4th convocation of the National Assembly:** 16

2. GOVERNING BODIES OF THE PARTY AND ITS LEADER

2.1. Names of the governing bodies of the Party, number of Party members and the Party leader

- Supreme body: 9 members
- Marz committee: 5 or 7 members
- Committee or Special group office
- Group
- Supreme Body Representative: Armen Roustamyan
- Supreme Body President: Michael Manukyan
- Supreme Body Secretary: Hrach Tadevosyan

2.2. Party membership procedure, including membership fees and payment peculiarities

All citizens of the Republic of Armenia over 18 years old, with high morality, who accept the Party’s style of activities, Program and the Charter are eligible for ARC membership. They should apply to ARC regional bodies and receive answer in a 3-month period. The minimum amount of membership fee is specified by the Supreme Meeting. The amount of membership fee is correspondingly specified by Marz and Regional meetings and committees.

3. IDEOLOGICAL PLATFORM, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PARTY

3.1. Ideology

The Party has a goal of building free, sovereign and unified Armenia. In its essence, world vision and traditions, it is a national, socialist and democratic party pursuing protection of social, economic, political and cultural interests of Armenian nation. The Party argues the national-liberation movement of Armenian people by its ideology. The party promotes a free, overall and harmonious development of the Armenian nation through freedom of individual, national self-determination, independent statehood, and consolidation and welfare of society.

The Party seeks the settlement of the Armenian Cause and building of a whole homeland by the whole Armenian nation.

3.2. Goals and objectives

Creation of free, independent and united Armenia, dedication to Democracy and legal state, provision of people’s welfare, establishment of social justice. Based on this, taking the urgency of overcoming the internal and external challenges and threats the Armenians are currently facing into account, AR Dashnaksutyun Party’s fundamental goals for 2012-2017 are:

- drastically reduce poverty and eliminate destitution (providing for each citizen an income not lower than the minimum budget of vital security);
- establish middle class;
- create a competitive economy with stable development;

- create a modern, national-democratic state and establish a national-state section in accordance with the present challenges.

3.3. The type of the party: (according to the party's opinion)

National and Socialist.

4. PROGRAM STANDPOINTS OF THE PARTY ON THE FOLLOWING ISSUES:

4.1. Three priorities of foreign policy

1. International Recognition of the Republic of Nagorno Karabakh, provision of priority for the resolution of such problems as Karabakh's status and security;
2. Enactment of laws on fundamentals of state policy of recognition and condemnation of the Armenian Genocide, as well as criminal responsibility for repudiation of the Genocide;
3. Realization of an active policy fully involving Diaspora in the activities of Armenian statehood.

4.2. Fundamentals of foreign policy, including

The Party finds that foreign relations should be led exceptionally by national interests without taking into account intentions of any party, social group, politician or statesman. Based on this, the party attaches importance to the development of foreign policy doctrine based on the supremacy of Armenian security, existence of a lasting consistency, establishment of Armenia's independence and sovereignty.

a. European Integration

Purpose: Membership of Armenia in the European Union.

b. CIS

Cooperation in the CIS should be built around common interests.

c. Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO)

Cooperation within the frame of CSTO is necessary.

d. NATO

It is necessary to cooperate to promote regional security.

e. USA

Cooperation in political, economic and other fields is necessary.

f. Russian Federation

Cooperation in political, economic and other fields is necessary.

g. Recognition of Genocide and Armenian- Turkish relations

The regulation of the relations with Turkey must be realized taking into account the responsibility of not thwarting the strategy of national security, not endangering the prospect of our nation's existence, as well as the realization of the nation's goals. The Armenian side signature must be withdrawn from the Armenian-Turkish Zurich protocols.

The elimination of land blockade and the establishment of diplomatic relations on common grounds of international law without any prerequisites must be accepted as natural starting point the regulation of relations.

The issues of the international recognition and compensation of the Armenian Genocide must form an inseparable part of RA foreign policy agenda, any action tended to extenuate the procedure of the international recognition of the Armenian Genocide must be eliminated, at the same time neutralizing the Turkish policy trials to repudiate the genocide.

h. Karabakh issue and Armenian-Azerbaijan relations

According to the concept of regulating the conflict with Azerbaijan, it should be secured that the mutual concession of the Armenian sides (Armenia-Artsakh) is not recorded as a retreat from the wish which was already expressed by the referenda of Artsakh people independence in 1991 and the adoption of the Republic of Nagorno Karabakh in 2006, it should also be equivalent and proportionate to the simultaneous concessions of Azerbaijan.

It should be demanded that Artsakh, being the main and independent side of the conflict, is considered and recognized to be a legally equitable side of the negotiations, and Armenia should be demanded to be considered and recognized as the guarantor of Karabakh's independence and security.

It is necessary to sign an agreement of strategic alliance between Armenia and Artsakh, an issue of signing an agreement which will eliminate the enforcement of arms with Azerbaijan, must also be put forward.

Armenia's foreign policy must provide appropriate resistance against the anti-Armenian projects of Turkish-Azerbaijani tandem. The prerequisites put forward by Turkey must be evaluated as illegal and offending our nation's dignity. The interconnection between the current procedures of Armenian-Turkish relations and the regulation of Karabakh conflict must also be eliminated.

i. Iran

Iran is our strategic partner in the region. Our purpose is promotion of close and friendly relations and expansion of cooperation with this country.

j. Georgia including the Javakhk Armenians' issues

The strength and further development of Armenia-Georgia mutually beneficial relations will largely be conditioned by the fact that the security and political, social, cultural rights of our compatriots living in Georgia, as full citizens of that country, are respected and provided for. Complete support must be ensured for Javakhk which is mainly populated with Armenians in social, economic, educational and cultural spheres. It is necessary to implement complete projects of repatriation and transmigration of Artsakh.

k. Armenia-Diaspora: enhanced links and effective cooperation

The leading principle in RA foreign policy must be considered to be the one according to which Armenian statehood is not only the guarantor for realizing the national goals of the citizens of Armenia, but also of the Armenians around the world. Based on this, everything possible must be done to fully involve the Diaspora in the procedures of Armenian statehood.

A complete strategy must be enforced to overcome the challenges that Armenia and different Armenian-populated sections are facing, to expose and make use of the national potential.

l. Other (Nakhijevan)

Taking into account the fact that Nakhijevan is annexed to Azerbaijan, it is necessary for the idea of its Armenian belonging to make an unforgettable impression on our nation's consciousness. It is also necessary to raise this question in International Advisory Boards.

4.3. Three priorities of domestic policy

1. Perpetual fight for the political, economic, social, cultural interests of Armenian individual and nation.
2. Realization of systematic changes in all the spheres of public life, with the support of healthy forces, construction of a Just country for Free citizens.
3. Establishment of a competitive, steadily developing economy.

4.4. Fundamentals of financial and economic policy, current obstacles to stable economic development and solutions thereto, including:

Misconception of a liberal ideology, its extreme application, the ignorance towards the fundamentals of a social state, the underestimation of the state's role in regulating the free market have lead to the present economic situation where the financial monopolies govern the state. Therefore, the party believes that the fundamental problems of 2012-2017 social-economic policy must be provision of employment, increase of economic competitiveness, stimulation of export, introduction of honorable payment system, improvement of demographic situation, overcoming poverty.

a. Monetary policy

The competence of financial market's consistent regulation must be brought out of the domain of Central Bank's control separating the functions regulating the monetary policy and financial market.

The average inflation index must be defined as inflation target, and liability must be legally fixed for the Central Bank and other bodies in case of 50 % deviation from the targeted inflation index.

Stock exchange mechanisms must also be used to provide inflation targets for one-year term.

Export credit system must be introduced with the annual interest rate of five % to stimulate the export of Armenian products based on export agreement and invoices.

Credit interest rates must be within 8-10 % interval and the economic norms of credit system must be reviewed. The specific weight of credits must increase in GDP (especially in agricultural, industrial and mortgage lending markets).

b. Budgetary policy and state debt

The National Assembly must adopt control legislature of collecting the budget revenues, making expenses, efficiently using the resources involved from foreign states and international organizations.

Complete systems of program budgeting, as well as state and communal three-year and five-year budgets must be introduced.

c. Tax and customs reforms

Complete policy of super profit taxation must be implemented in some spheres (including mining industry). It is necessary to implement a system of declaration and taxation of profits received by residents from relocation in foreign states.

The new system of customs clearance of light passenger motor cars must be reviewed providing the availability of new, modern, economical, ecologically clean cars and complete modernization of the country's vehicles within 3-5 years.

The property tax legislature must be reviewed, the new system must best be suited to the principle of fair levy, as well as luxury tax must be defined (any accommodation per family that is more than 750 square meters must be levied by progressive property tax).

The Customs Code, rates and incentives must also be reviewed; they should become tools for active industrial policy, as well as be directed towards enhancement of domestic production amounts intended for export.

d. Development of industry

Through direct negotiations with government, well-known world companies, major Diaspora businessmen powerful industrial organizations must be established in Armenia which will have export orientation. National Assembly must enact special laws for each of these companies, namely on conditions, state support, privileges and mutual responsibilities.

e. Development of agriculture

According to regions and necessity state support must be directed towards the targeted use of land which has agricultural importance, increase in the amount of important foodstuffs' self-sufficiency, zone specialization, organization of zonal specialization, fish farming, bee keeping, local seed development and pedigree farming, organization of agricultural production in unfavorable climatic zones. With the aim of land cultivation and increase in the amount of involvement in economic circulation, the cadastral value of lands must be reviewed. It is necessary to stimulate the projects directed towards their cultivation. The credit interest rates on agricultural machinery obtained by rural economies by leasing must be fully subsidized. Guaranteed realization and intervention systems must be established for important foodstuffs' minimum profitable price.

f. Information technologies and innovative development

It is necessary to develop and implement industrial policy which is export oriented and presupposes an increase in state responsibility for procedures of restoration or creation of new technologically progressive sectors of industry.

g. Energy and provision of energy security

It is required to

- Take measures to increase the level of energetic safety of the country;
- Ensure maintenance and safety of Armenian nuclear power station, and its bringing out of exploitation stipulate by construction of a nuclear power station of equal capacity that meets the modern requirements for safety.

h. Development of tourism

Due to the fact that our republic is in a land blockade, it is necessary to take complex measures to bring down the prices of air tickets for the tourism to develop and for people to have the availability of moving.

With the aim of developing ethno and eco – tourism, it is necessary to organize training courses in marzes, give gratuitous counseling, create multi-language web pages for reserving rooms in the network of small hotels, provide preferential loans with full subsidization of credit interest rates for up to two years.

i. Stimulation of investments

The criteria for evaluating the work of each diplomatic representation must be the increase of exports from Armenia, protection of interests of Armenian companies in the region or country in charge, as well as increase of investments in Armenia from that country.

Large scale investments must be made to build inter-communal, cross-communal, interstate roads, to provide the availability of irrigation and drinking water, as well as gasification.

j. Improvement of business environment and development of small and medium business

The development of light industry can be considered from the viewpoint of organizing the production of a number of exported goods in Armenia, provision of employment (especially among women) giving support within the frame of state order, creating mechanisms for possible cooperation with foreign organizations.

With the aim of using the registered inventions, organizing innovative, research and experimental-designing activities, small and medium businesses must be given preferential loans with the amount of up to 50 million AMD, with full subsidization of credit interest rates for up to two years.

Small and medium businesses must be given preferential loans with the amount of up to 50 million AMD, with full subsidization of credit interest rates for up to two years for organizing the production of those goods the import amounts of which exceed the amounts of domestic products.

k. Reduction of shadow economy

The party believes that anti-monopoly legislature must be enacted, the artificial obstacles which limit the free access into the market must be abolished.

l. Eradication of corruption⁵

Eradication of corruption is among primary goals of the party. To achieve this goal, the Party develops and implements complex projects.

4.5. Fundamentals of social policy and solutions to current problems, including

The proposed economic system should be characterized by justice and should prevent social polarization.

a. Overcoming poverty

The poverty threshold must be defined by the size of the minimum living standard of the budget (63.000 AMD as of 2012, instead of the present 33.517 AMD), it is necessary to secure the right of each citizen to have an income not lower than the minimum living standard of the budget.

b. Reduction of polarization of society and reformation of social justice

The party believes that it is necessary to reduce the discrepancy of incomes and standards of living between the poor and rich classes of the society.

c. Creation of employment and reducing unemployment

With the help of full implementation of social-economic policy the GDP must be doubled, the state budget must be tripled, at least 200.000 new workplaces must be created.

It is necessary to adopt a unanimous strategy of defining salaries which will provide labor productivity growth, as well as distinction of average salaries according to economic priorities, specializations and work experience.

The minimum hourly wages must be defined each year in Armenia, together with the state budget project of the oncoming year which should be as much as 50% of average hourly wages of the first trimester of the current year; anyhow it should be no less than the minimum living standard of the budget, and its growth must not be lower than the index of inflation. If this system is properly implemented, the average salary for the year 2013 will be 63.000 AMD (it is currently 32.500 AMD).

d. Improvement of healthcare system

The party signifies the introduction of compulsory insurance state-cooperative payment system, to all intents and purposes, the amounts of insurance payments must be conditioned by the incomes of citizens, what's more, the insurance payments of those citizens which have an income lower than the poverty threshold, children, pensioners, socially targeted groups of people must be fully funded from the state budget.

Part of the insurance payments of those citizens that have an average income must be funded at the expense of state means, the well off section of the society must fully pay the insurance fees.

The minimum health care expense per person must be 150.000 AMD (at present the budget financing does not exceed 21.000 AMD).

It is necessary to grant privileges to medical staff working in marzez and far away settlements, to introduce mechanisms for the state regulation of medicine and prices of health care services. It is indispensable to provide state control and participation in pharmaceutical market.

e. Social security and insurance systems reforms

It is necessary to enhance and quintuple the social package of public services, including all the workers in the health care, cultural, educational and scientific spheres. The party is inclined to review the reform system of pensions ensuring a pension payment system which will be just and will guarantee the solidarity of generations. The party believes that in case of complete implementation of this system, the average employment pension will be about 63.000 AMD (at present it is 31.255 AMD).

4.6. Reformation and development of education system

Each young person must have a full opportunity of receiving a high-quality education, creating, working, setting up his/her own business and self-determination. All pre-school institutions must be free of charge throughout the territory of the country, and the average salary of their workers must be 110.000 AMD. It is necessary to review the availability of education, as well as the tuition fees, the amount of tuition fees in educational institutions must be connected with the incomes of beneficiaries, as well as the quality of education and knowledge provided there.

Students must be given opportunities of using the services of underground station at a discount (monthly subscription tickets must be given at the rate of 50% of the fare).

Students must be given scholarships according to their progress, which must be equal to the amount of 50-100% of the minimum salary.

4.7. Development of science

Stipulated by the reform of the sphere of science financing and improvement of organization of scientific research it is necessary to develop and implement appropriate concepts and projects.

4.8. Culture and Sport

The party attaches importance to the role of cultural policy as a guarantee for reforms taking place in the country, creation of moral atmosphere and modern competitive state. Based on this, strategic three-month and five-month projects of cultural security must be worked out which will be directed towards the preservation of national culture and communication of universal religious values. Every year budget funds and investments in the cultural sphere must be enlarged, and the international involvement of Armenian culture must be enhanced.

In the sphere of sport and physical culture, the activities of sports schools and sports clubs must be stimulated, the social conditions of the coaches must be improved; with the aim of securing preparation for Olympic games and European championships, as well as successful participation the national teams must be provided with modern conditions, Armenian traditional as well as mass sports must be encouraged.

4.9. Territorial government and local self-government

In the sphere of territorial government it is necessary to provide efficient state administration, balanced development of marzes, to expand the scope of authorities of regional boards, to clarify the interrelationships of state and local self government bodies.

d. Promotion of financial independence of communities

It is necessary to provide newly formed families living in communities which are more than 30 km. away from Yerevan, with gratuitous plots of land in order for them to build houses, as well as preferential loans on condition that they settle there for at least ten years.

4.10. Development of civil society, protection of civil rights, including

The socialist ideal of the party is formation of a society where an individual is liberated from any kind of racial, religious, national, political, social and economic discrimination, suppression, violence, and exploitation.

a. Strengthening democratic institutes

The Party is confident that it is in the way of socialism the political, economic, and social development of humanity is endowed by fair and solidarity relations.

b. Ensuring freedom of speech and information

It is necessary to provide a real guarantee for freedom of speech and pluralism. The creation of National Radio and TV counsels must be realized through the principles providing political balance and transparency of activities.

c. Consolidating human rights and basic freedoms

The independence and sovereignty of Armenia are considered to be absolute values for Armenian Revolutionary Federation party. Individuals, their honor and rights are absolute values.

d. Reforming the judicial system

Systematic, constitutional and legislative reforms must be initiated which will be directed towards

- creation of parliamentary government system supported with modern and transparent mechanisms of control, counterbalance and suppression, reduction of the number of National Assembly deputies, limitation of immunity, creation of opportunities for deputy recall;
- material provision of judges which secure the real independence of the judicial system, fixing mechanisms which counterbalance putting forward their candidature and their resignation, election of court chairmen by rotation;

- changes in the criminal law, especially those which will concern the compliance of punishments defined for a crime with the degree of public danger caused by the crime, elimination of ordered examination, reduction of cases when detention is used as a preventive measure, establishment of a complete system which has nothing to do with imprisonment and implements the punishment of suspended sentence, unloading of penal institutions;
- establishment of new code concerning administrative responsibility which will be in line with simplification and adjustment of independent statehood and administrative misdemeanor responsibilities;
- legislative elimination of using lawsuits which determine disproportionate penalties against mass media;
- creation of personnel policy eliminating the combination of political and economic combination, guaranteeing non discrediting of individuals, priorities of necessary capacities and properties of experience, securing the natural progress of public workers;
- establishment of civil society providing public control and intervention and endowed with special tools.

e. Improving the election system

The party strongly believes that 100 % proportionate selection system must be established, a new, independent, election body must be created which will act independently, provide the impartiality of election committees, and clearly distribute the liabilities. The central election committee must be appointed by the National Assembly, and the participation in elections must be defined as citizens' responsibility. Effective mechanisms must be adopted which will prevent the falsification of ballot papers, illegal turnover, double election, as well as provide the availability of election registers. Special authorizations and liabilities must be defined for corresponding bodies to prevent and expose election bribing.

f. Formation of political parties and development of political field ⁵

It is necessary to increase the role of political parties in establishment of plurality, ideological and political competition, and civil society.

g. Public participation in legislative procedures

The party attaches importance to the adoption of a new Code on administrative liability which will be in line with simplification and adjustment of independent statehood and administrative misdemeanor responsibilities, as well as to the creation of personnel policy which will eliminate the connection of political and economic functions, provide non discrediting of individuals, priorities of necessary capacities and properties of experience, securing the natural progress of public workers.

4.11. National security issues and solutions thereto

The fighting efficiency, discipline, modernization of the national army which is the guarantor of Armenia's independence and security must be increased. A foreign policy doctrine must also be developed based on the priority of Armenian security and existence, establishment of Armenia's independence and sovereignty.

4.12. Demographic problems, including emigration and birth problems and solutions thereto

An active demographic policy must be enforced directed towards the increase in the level of birth rate, reduction of the level of death rate, enhancement of life expectancy, prevention of emigration and stimulation of immigration. As a result of it, the number of the population will increase by 50.000 per year. Monthly subsidies must be defined for children up to 7 years old, 20.000 drams for the first -born, 25.000 for the second-born, 40.000 for the third-born, 60.000 for the forth, fifth, and following children. Those families which have five or more children must be given gratuitous flats. A law must be enacted according to which those women who care for a child which is less than 2 years old, and who do not work, this period will be counted as a general working experience.

4.13. Environmental problems and solutions thereto

Economic projects must be realized solely on condition that the expertise of their influence and a corresponding conclusion are available; the results of these projects must be available for public. A procedure limiting further accumulation of waste and garbage must be established. Accumulation of new wastes can occur only in case of implementing corresponding management mechanisms (processing, decontamination, isolation, export, etc.).

The access of vehicles to Armenia which do not correspond to the new norms of ecology must be limited.

The activities of electrical transport must be stimulated, new underground stations must be built.

The traffic of trucks in the larger center of Yerevan must be limited, the activities of those companies which impair the public health and violate the settled working norms (noise, dust, emissions) must be prevented, green territories and water basins must be enlarged, the number and the space of public parks must be enhanced saving them from being commercially exploited.

5. ARMENIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

- **Address of the head office:** 1/3 Buzand St., Yerevan
- **Telephone, fax:** (+37410) 52-52-73
- **E-mail:** arm_democracy@yahoo.com
- **Foundation date:** 18.09.1991
- **Charter and Program approval date:** 18.09.1991
- **State registration date:** 25.10.1991
- **State re-registration date:** 26.11.2003
- **The number of the Party's territorial subdivisions:** 27, out of which 9 are located in marzes
- **Number of the Party members at the time of completing questionnaire: 3700 out of which**
 - Women: 25%
 - Youth: 30%
- **Participation of the Party in the elections 2007: participated**
- **Number of deputies at the 4th convocation of the National Assembly: 0**

2. GOVERNING BODIES OF THE PARTY AND ITS LEADER

2.1. Names of governing bodies of the party, number of members involved in them, and party leader

- Congress
- Republican board: 41 members
- Presidency
- Chairman of the Party: Aram Gaspar Sargsyan

2.2. 2.3. Membership procedure, volume of membership fee and peculiarities of payment

Citizens of the RA over 18 years old that accept the Charter and the program of the party are eligible for Party membership. They may apply to initial organization. The membership fee is AMD 100 or more.

3. IDEOLOGICAL PLATFORM, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PARTY:

3.1. Ideology

The Party accepts the ideologies of social democracy based on which it created the "Program of Armenian model of democratic socialism", aiming at establishing a state carrying responsibility of social justice.

3.2. Goals and objectives

It is necessary to strengthen the sovereign statehood, ensure national-state security, replace the oligarchic regime with a system of democratic socialism, combat against the violations of national image and loss of national identifications, prevent social polarization of society in the result of which a middle class can be formatted.

3.3. Type of the party (according to the party's opinion)

Centrist

4. PROGRAM STANDPOINTS OF THE PARTY ON THE FOLLOWING ISSUES:

4.1. Priorities in foreign policy

While identifying the priorities of foreign policy, the democratic socialist state shall pay special attention to those countries the cooperation with which emanates from the national interests of Armenian nation. Based on the above the Party identifies the following priorities:

1. Establishment and maintenance of relationships with the core countries based on the principles of national security including, Russian Federation, China, EU, USA and neighbor countries. a concept of national security for Armenia that implies the doctrine of foreign policy, having the national interests in its base;
2. Maintain the relation of strategic partnership between Armenia and Russia in the doctrine of foreign policy;
3. Relying on principles of international law and pursue a fair solution to the Armenian cause.

4.2. Fundamentals of foreign policy, including

- Adoption of Armenian Cause;
- Development of national-state concept directed to resolution of Karabakh issue which would be officially presented to the member countries of UN.

a. European Integration⁵

The integration process of Armenia into the European Union shall correspond the state interests of the Republic of Armenia based on the development of civil society institutions.

b. CIS⁵

The membership to the CIS shall correspond the state interests of the Republic of Armenia based on the development of civil society institutions.

c. Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO)⁵

The party stands for membership of Armenia in CSTO and finds it necessary based on the necessity of ensuring our national-state security.

d. NATO

Expansion of NATO in the East is not aimed at the establishment of a global security system as it evades Russia and causes a NATO-Russia dilemma for Armenia. The Party rejects this kind of development of the situation and stands for cooperation between blocks, for example, in terms of combating against the spread of arms of mass elimination, drugs and international terrorism.

e. USA⁵

Relations with the USA shall be developed further taking into account the presence of a huge Armenian community in this country.

f. Russian Federation

Strategic partnership with Russia shall be developed further.

g. Recognition of the Genocide and Armenian- Turkish relations

The Party believes that the relationships with Turkey cannot be regulated at the expense of recognition Armenian genocide.

h. Karabakh issue and Armenia-Azerbaijan relations

The Party is for the peaceful resolution of Karabakh issue without any compromises in favor of Azerbaijan. The Party believes that any negotiations cannot be conducted having any format if Karabakh authorities are not involved in the process. The party will find the issue solved finally, once Karabagh is united with mother Armenia in result of an all-nation referendum. As a basis of the Karabakh issue the Party accepts the legal result gained during the national liberalization war of Artsakh people, which totally complies with the international law.

i. Iran⁵

Considering Iran as a country having an important role in the region, the Party considers it necessary to continue the development favorable and neighborhood relationships with Iran. It is required to develop friendly relations with Iran.

j. Georgia including the Javakhk Armenians' issues

It is required to further friendly relations with Georgia protecting the rights of Armenians living in Javakhk.

k. Armenia-Diaspora: enhanced links and increase of cooperation effectiveness

Having a small territory, Armenia may use its intellectual potential to achieve a decent position and role in the world.

4.3. Priorities of domestic policy⁵

1. Selection of economic system;
2. Planning of strategic development of the country;
3. Regulation of ownership and location relationships based on the conditions of market relationship opportunities and necessity of state regulation.

4.4. Fundamentals of financial and economic policy, current obstacles to stable economic development and solutions thereto, including

It is necessary to have a regulated market relationships prioritizing the establishment of a mixed economic system the results of which will assist in establishing of social justice.

a. Monetary policy

Credits shall be made strongly monitored and used for the purpose of economic development, organization of extended production, as well as for certain plans of restart or establishment of strategic and economic priority enterprises.

b. Budgetary policy and state debt

It is necessary to cut budgetary spending, Nevertheless, it should occur not at the expense of social spending but at the expense of the swollen state machine, or due to consistent struggle against corruption or, that is most important, due to making economy profitable.

c. Tax and customs reforms

Tax system should be revised and reconstructed radically. Progressive taxation must become a principle of democratic socialism. Tax and customs policy of government should have strategic and tactical directions. This will mostly assist stabilization and further development of economy. Instead of applying different taxes it is necessary to apply a unified tax.

d. Development of industry

Armenia must become a highly developed industrial country and not a serving one. For the development of industry, the state of democratic socialism should use every chance of providing for foreign markets, if those measures do not harm the state sovereignty.

e. Development of agriculture

In the field of agriculture, one of the characteristics of democratic socialism is state ownership of land. Making the land as a state ownership and using it only by rental will preserve the greatest national wealth – right to ownership of land – giving a number of advantages over private ownership which will be allowed by the state.

f. Information technologies and innovative economy

The Party finds it necessary to stimulate connection between science and production, particularly, formation of technopark-type infrastructures with financial involvement, development of a complex plan for 15-20 years stimulating development of perspective fields of science and technology.

g. Energy and provision of energy security

Considering the field of energy as one of fundamentals of economic independence and progress, the party envisages to develop and implement a national program of efficient use of water resources during the upcoming 10 years.

i. Stimulation of investments

Democratic socialism encourages foreign investments giving preference to businessmen from the Diaspora. Capital investments shall be made not only by foreign citizens but also the state which will help the Armenian business through the provision of cheap credits.

j. Improvement of business environment and development of small and medium business

Under the market relationships the economic system of democratic socialism simultaneously refuses an unlimited freedom and variety of ownership and entrepreneurship types. The healthy financial resources will allow the state maintain a credit policy in favor of the development of small and medium business. In any non-free economic discipline there is a truth and the Party prefers to take the most applicable one out of all concepts which would be easy to implement in practice. In the first stage of taking the country out of the crisis created the Party recommends to select the mobilized model of economy as an indicator. This will eliminate the loss caused to economy and its structures.

k. Reduction of shadow economy

It is necessary to eliminate the shadow, oligarchic monopoly system through the implementation of the state functions.

l. Eradication of corruption

Corruption, bribery and extortion are social evils completely incompatible with the morale of democratic socialism. The law must inexorably punish every incidence of them.

4.5. Fundamentals of social policy and solutions to current problems, including:

The main purpose of the Party is foundation of a real social state where there are no poor or socially vulnerable people, where everyone has access to health care services and required education, and where government finally assumes responsibility for social state of citizens.

a. Overcoming the poverty⁵

The Party believes that it is necessary to raise per capita income to the level of consumption basket through elimination of shadow economy.

b. Reduction of polarization of society and improvement of social justice

It is possible to reduce social polarization through implementation of progressive tax policy and provision of essential support to socially vulnerable groups.

c. Ensuring the employment and reducing unemployment

It is necessary to create jobs through state investments and provision of superiority of laws.

e. Improvement of public health care system⁵

It is necessary to restore the network of state health care institutions, increase the number of people eligible for health care services in the limits of state order.

f. Reforming social security and insurance system⁵

Pensions should be raised to the level of consumption basket. Young families should be provided by state support.

4.6. Reformation and development of education system

Reform of the system of education should become an organic part of the long-term (for 15-20 years) strategic plan of country's development. This assumes a systemized approach of the state. It is necessary to regularly add the proportion of funds envisaged by the state budget, which will ensure the innovation of the content of education and improve the education quality.

4.7. Development of science

The required support to science should become a primary object of government care. The party finds it necessary to identify priorities of government's policy on science and technology and determine superior directions in development of science, establish an efficient system of science administration based on the existing potential and, especially, on traditional schools, gradually increase the salaries of scientific researchers. It is necessary to quickly restore the production and scientific potential of Armenia.

4.8. Culture and Sport

It is necessary to increase finances provided for cultural purposes and give up residual financing in this sphere. Sport and physical culture should be accessible to public and especially to the youth.

4.9. Territorial government and local self-government

a. Promotion of financial independence of communities

The Party prioritizes the increase of mutual responsibility.

b. Transfer of additional authorities of the state to communities

The Party considers it necessary to create supervision mechanisms.

c. Proportionate development of marzes

The proportionate development of marzes is a supreme requirement for the Party.

4.10. Formation and development of civil society and protection of civil rights, including:

Democracy is not a grace granted by the state. It is a dominating way of living in all spheres of life. In political system, it should be expressed in a form of consolidation of the nation, building a prosperous state, and protection of human rights and basic freedoms.

a. Ensuring freedom of speech and information⁵

Responsibility of press should be increased. Authorities should respond to the raised issues.

b. Consolidation of human rights and basic freedoms

The Party believes that the parliamentary system shall ensure all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and first of all the right to life, right to work, freedom of speech, press, meetings, marches and protests.

c. Improving the election system

The Party believes that fair, not fraudulent and transparent parliamentary elections play a principal and decisive role. The highest legislative body of the country should consist of the best and professional representatives of society. In order to have this kind of parliament, it is necessary to make changes in electoral legislation and conduct elections exceptionally under the proportional system with party lists. Recall of deputies by parliamentary parties, in response to demands from voters, should become a constitutional provision.

d. Formation of political parties and development of political field

It is necessary to create equal condition for all political parties acting within the country.

e. Formation of non-governmental organizations and regulation of the field

It is necessary to clarify the number of such organizations and type of activity, as well as the taxes applied for these organizations.

f. Protecting women's rights and combating violence against them

The democratic socialism does not exclude the social differences between a man and a woman. Taking into consideration physiological peculiarities, the Party believes that it is necessary to set up privileges for women ensuring their role in the society as a mother, coach who strengthens the family.

4.11. National security issues and solutions thereto

Taking into account the threats to national security, it is necessary to develop new concepts of national security in the basis of which shall be foreign policy of a country having national interests in its base.

4.12. Demographic problems, including emigration and birth problems and solutions thereto

The Main objective of the Party is the strengthening of young families, ensuring credits for apartments, granting a financial reward for the newly born child and specifying motivation mechanisms for families having multiple children.

4.13. Environmental problems and solutions thereto

The system of democratic socialism, a human being is considered to be an integral part of the nature and should not oppose or ruin it by its scientific, technological and industrial activities pursuing self-interests.

4.14. Moral, psychological, youth problems and solutions thereto

The best way of improving the specified environment is the clarification of types of ownership and fund allocation, establishment of moral principles, equality in front of the law for moral actions and punishment for violations.

6. COMMUNIST PARTY OF ARMENIA

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

- **Address of the head office:** 10 Zakian, Yerevan
- **Telephone, fax: (+37410) 54-19-17**
- **E-mail address:** comparty.armenia@yandex.ru , comparty.armenia@mail.ru
- **Foundation date:** 1991
- **State registration date:** 29.07.1991
- **State re-registration date:** 24.11.2003
- **Charter and Program approval date:** 30.11.1997
- **Recent congress date:** 29.11.2010
- **Recent publication date and media of Charter and Program:** 05.11.2003, “Hayastani Communist”, “Pravda Armenii” periodicals
- **Number of the Party members at the time of completing the questionnaire: 19730 out of wich:**
 - Women: 22%
 - Youth: 17%
- **The number of the Party’s territorial subdivisions:** 45
- **Official mass media of the Party:** “Hayastani Communist”, “Pravda Armenii” periodicals
- **Participation of the Party in Elections 2007 of NA:** participated
- **Number of deputies in NA of IV hearing**

2. INTERNAL ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURES AND MEMBERSHIP PROCEDURE OF THE PARTY

2.1. Names of the governing bodies of the Party, number of Party members and the Party leader

- Congress
- CP Plenum: 81 members
- CP Bureau: 14 members
- 1st Secretary of Central Committee: Ruben Tovmasyan
- 2nd Secretary of Central Committee: Tachat Sargsyan

2.2. Party membership procedure, including membership fees and payment peculiarities

A member of the Party may be an RA citizen who completed his 18th years, who accepts and meets the requirements defined by the Party’s program and Charter, is involved in one of its territorial organizations and pays member fee.

3. IDEOLOGICAL PLATFORM, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PARTY:

3.1. Ideology

Armenian Communist Party is a social political union, which, creatively realizing provisions of Marxism-Leninism theory, unifies citizens of Armenia on volunteer bases for the sake of objectives’ realization.

3.2. Goals and Objectives

The Party protects interests of workers, peasants, intelligentsia and all other working people, strives for overcoming socio-economic, political and spiritual crisis, establishment of real democracy and restoration of socialist system for the sake of RA economic, political and spiritual revival and development, as well as protection of an individual’s social and political rights.

3.3. The Type of the Party (according to the party’s opinion)

Left

4. PROGRAM STANDPOINTS OF THE PARTY ON THE FOLLOWING ISSUES:

4.1. Three priorities of foreign policy:

1. Deepening of Armenia-Russia relationship and extending strategic cooperation
2. Assisting in the creation of Belarus-Russia Alliance and applying for membership
3. Fair and peaceful resolution of Karabakh issue

4.2. Fundamentals of foreign policy, including:

The Party’s activity shall be targeted to establishment and preservation of favorable relationships with the regional countries. In addition, it is necessary to establish other relationships through the state support.

a. European Integration⁵

The Party is against Euro integration.

b. CIS

The Party believes that it is necessary to deepen relationships with CIS countries.

c. Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO)⁵

The Party believes that from the point of view of Armenia's interests, it is necessary to cooperate with CSTO.

d. NATO⁵

The Party is against any type of cooperation with NATO.

e. USA⁵

The Party is strongly against any type of development of relationships with USA.

f. Russian Federation

The Party considers important strengthening historically friendly relationships with RF.

g. Recognition of Genocide and Armenian- Turkish relations

The Party believes that the world should recognize Armenian genocide of 21.01.05. By initiative of Armenian Communist Party, all Communist Parties of CIS have recognized Armenian Genocide. The Party is unequivocally against establishment of any types of relationships with Turkey.

h. Karabakh issue and Armenian-Azerbaijan relations

Karabakh issue should be settled based on requirement of nations' self-determination. The Party believes that relationships with Azerbaijan are possible only in case of negotiations in favor of Armenians.

i. Iran⁵

The Party believes that it is necessary to preserve and develop favorable relationships with Iran.

j. Georgia including the Javakhk Armenians' issues

The Party considers necessary to preserve and develop favorable relationships with Georgia which will assist in solving the issues raised in front of Armenians living in Javakhk.

k. Armenia-Diaspora: enhanced links and effective cooperation

The potential of Diaspora should be used for resolution of Pan-Armenian problems and development of Armenia.

l. Other (it is necessary not to distort the history)

The Party considers it necessary not to distort the history, present the history during Soviet times in fair and proper manner as the period of prosperity and pride of Armenian nation, after which the 3rd state of Armenia has been established.

4.3. Three priorities of domestic policy

1. Social justice;
2. return of authority to nation and assurance of fair elections;
3. prevention of immigration and creation of employment.

4.4. Fundamentals of financial and economic policy, current obstacles to stable economic development and solutions thereto, including:

The Party believes that the only way to overcome the crisis created in the country and to develop economy is the establishment of a unified financial system with CIS countries which will be based on Russian ruble.

a. Monetary policy

The monetary policy of the state shall assist in developing the production forces. It is important to implement a program of reducing cash flow, preserve the balance of monetary policy avoiding the market shocks and volatilities.

b. Budgetary policy and state debt

It is necessary to review the efficient expenditure policy of state funds, reduce the costs for maintenance of the state departments, forbid different abuses and waste of money. It is necessary to direct the funds to the economic sector and create and develop industrial sector. And the production means will ensure the return of monetary resources to the budget. It is also necessary to regulate the expenditures of the state budget based on the priorities of the development and prosperity of the state.

c. Tax and customs reforms

It is necessary to reform and regulate the tax system and tax administration, so that the shadow economy will be eliminated. It is also necessary to simplify and reduce the tax rates in favor of the population, reform

and regulate customs policy procedures so that it assists in eliminating the shadow economy, corruption and bureaucracy.

d. Development of industry

It is necessary to restore the former industrial powers continuing the complete development of the sector.

e. Development of agriculture

It is necessary to support the development of agriculture. The Party considers it necessary to increase the level of equipment and agro-technology.

f. Information technologies and innovative development

The Party considers it necessary the development of strategic scientific and economic complex projects which will be secured by small expenditures invested in the economy and will be directed to development of prospective directions of scientific production. The specified directions are the following: nano technologies, eco and information technologies. It is also necessary to develop innovative activity in sectors of scientific production and technology.

g. Energy and provision of energy security

The state should ensure energy security.

h. Development of tourism

The state shall support the development of tourism as a non-production sector of economy, which will assist in increasing the state budget.

i. Stimulation of investments

It is necessary to assist in increasing investment volumes preserving the general package under state control

j. Improvement of business environment and development of small and medium business

Within the framework of regulation of the sector there should be created mixed and venture enterprises which will assist in developing SMEs.

k. Reduction of shadow economy⁵

It is necessary to struggle against shadow economy crucially.

l. Eradication of corruption

In Armenia it is necessary to reform the economic policy which will assist in nationalizing all strategic sectors and returning to the nation the taken.

m. Other (the role of the state in the regulation and development processes of economy)

It is necessary to centralize in the hands of the state all sectors providing super profit and review the real value of privatized value. The Party considers important the restoration and strengthening of the state's economic role in terms of price and production regulation as well as product and profit allocation.

4.5. Fundamentals of social policy and solutions to current problems, including:

The direction of the social policy implemented by the state shall be the increase of security, welfare and living standards of Armenian population.

a. Overcoming the poverty

The supreme objective of social policy should be to overcome poverty. The Party will struggle for substantial increase of pensions, fellowships and other forms of social assistance.

b. Reduction of polarization of society and reformation of social justice

Through drastic steps, it is necessary to reduce and eliminate current difference between incomes of society. It is necessary to implement an efficient policy of creation and strengthening of employment and social security system of population.

c. Ensuring employment and reducing unemployment

Creation of employment is of strategic importance to Armenia, and clear state policy should be directed to its realization.

d. Improvement of healthcare system

In Party's opinion, restoration and development of free medical service which covers all layers of population is one of its prior targets.

e. Social security and insurance systems reforms

It is necessary to implement a clear state policy for reforming the social security and insurance system, which will assist in improving the living standards of population.

f. Other (Church)

The party attaches huge importance to activity of Armenian Catholic church, which is directed to preservation of the nation and strengthening of the whole Armenian nation all over the world.

4.6. Reforming and developing the education system

The Party believes that education in Armenia should be free of charge. The Party considers important to restore the system of high and specialized secondary education which will be affordable for everyone. The Party considers development and sustainability of national school to be important for education of growing generation. Elevation of teacher's reputation and improvement of their social status are important factors of reforms in education system.

4.7. Development of science

Armenia needs drastic development of science. Science should be subject of state care. The science shall be under the support of the state. The Party considers the development of fundamental, applied and humanitarian sciences to be an important state problem.

4.8. Culture and Sport

Armenia needs drastic development of culture. The culture should be subject of state care. Protecting Armenian traditions formulated through decades and considering development of culture as a prior problem, the Party considers that this sphere should be financed by state resources. Armenia needs drastic development of sport. Sport should be subject of state care.

4.9. Territorial government and local self-government

It is necessary to reform the state management and local government policies and clearly differentiate their authorities and responsibilities. It is also necessary to improve all mechanisms of management and make them a realistic procedure.

a. Enlargement of communities

The Party considers important ensuring the balanced socio-economic development of communities with the state support.

b. Enhancing the role of council

It is necessary to implement a clear state policy with regard to differentiation of authorities of local government and Council. This shall be stipulated by law.

c. Creation of inter-community unions and clarification of legislation

For the communities, the state shall develop an efficient territorial policy which shall be stipulated by law.

d. Promotion of financial independence of communities

It is necessary to reform the mechanisms of state subsidy given to the community budgets. It is also necessary to improve the financial mechanisms based on incomes or expenditure indexes.

e. Transfer of additional authorities of the state to communities

The state shall ensure the protection and self-sustainability of local government bodies extending their authorities. It is also necessary to stipulate by law the mechanisms of development.

f. Proportionate development of marzes

The Party considers equal and balance development of marzes to be a problem of state importance.

g. Other (development of production infrastructures)

Energy stations, city and inter-city, railway and air transportation, factories considered to be the base of the state development, scientific-industrial unions, as well as all scientific, medical and educational institutions should be subject of state control.

4.10. Development of civil society, protection of civil rights, including

The state shall create favorable conditions for the formation, strengthening and development of civil society.

a. Strengthening democratic institutes

The Party believes that it is necessary to transfer authority to the nation.

b. Ensuring freedom of speech and information

It is necessary to assure freedom of speech and information through implementation of concrete steps instead of formal approaches.

c. Consolidating human rights and basic freedoms

The state should be the guarantor of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

d. Reforming judicial system

It is necessary to completely change the judicial system and create an institution of democratic courts. It is also necessary to differentiate the judicial system from the authorities to ensure the implementation of justice in favor of the nation.

e. Improving the election system

It is necessary to reform the election system to exclude any type of election violations and abuses of election rights. The legislative body of the country shall be formed by professional representatives elected by the nation in the result of free and fair elections.

f. Formation of political parties and development of political field

The main factor of the sustainability of political parties and development of political field is ideology. The ideology of many parties in Armenia is plagiarism. The Communist Party of Armenia has a strong ideology and is the most opposite in the political field.

g. Formation of non-governmental organizations and regulation of the field

The sustainability of NGO as volunteer unions of citizens is necessary for resolution of issues raised in front of the nation. The state shall ensure the legislative regulation of the sector.

h. Protecting women's rights and combating violence against them

The protection of women's rights and fight against violations is being implemented by the International Democratic Federation of Women. The elimination of exploitation of a woman and assurance of women's equality as compared to men was ensured in Soviet Armenia. It is necessary to create relevant structures which would have state support.

i. Public participation in legislative processes

Public participation in the legislative processes is necessary.

4.11. National security issues and solutions thereto:

The Party considers important creation of necessary conditions to ensure national security of Armenian nation based on social society and democracy.

4.12. Demographic problems, including emigration and birth problems and solutions thereto:

It is necessary to put all efforts to eliminate emigration. The ways of solving the issues of childbirth are the following:

- to ensure relevant jobs for population,
- to create normal social-economic conditions for the nation,
- to initiate other complex actions for the formation of young families.

4.13. Environmental problems and solutions thereto:

The solution to the ecological issues shall be under attention of the state and stipulated by legislation.

4.14. Moral, psychological, youth problems and solutions thereto:

The Party considers it important to create child and youth organizations and make children and young people participate in the social life. It is also necessary to equip them with political and ideological skills which will assist in their multi-sided development including moral, working, physical and art education.

7. REPUBLICAN PARTY OF ARMENIA

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

- **Address of the head office:** 2 Melik Adamyan St., Yerevan
- **Telephone, fax:** (+37410) 56-21-51
- **E-mail:** hhk@hhk.am
- **Website:** www.hhk.am
- **Foundation date:** 02.04.1990.
- **State registration date :** 14.05.1991
- **State re-registration date:** 17.02.2003
- **Charter and Program approval date:** 02.04.1990
- **Last Congress date:** 10.03.2012
- **Date of the last publication of the Party's Program and Charter and the name of mass media:** 2009, www.hhk.am,
- **Official mass media of the Party:** "Hanrapetakan" periodical,
- **The number of separate territorial subdivisions:** 103
- **Number of the Party members at the time of completing the questionnaire:** 150.000 of which:
 - **Women:** 51%
 - **Youth:** 26%
- **Party's participation in National Assembly elections in 2007:** participated
- **Number of deputies at the 4th convocation of the National Assembly:** 64

2. GOVERNING BODIES OF THE PARTY AND ITS LEADER

2.1. Names of the governing bodies of the Party, number of Party members and the Party leader

- Congress
- Board: 142 members
- Executive body: 19 members
- Party President: Serzh Sargsyan

2.2. Party membership procedure, including membership fees and payment peculiarities

Citizens over 18 years old of the Republic of Armenia as well as any other individuals having the right to vote in the Republic of Armenia are eligible for Party membership without the right to be elected in the bodies of government and supervision.

According to the Charter of the party, members shall accept the Program of the party, act in the framework of the Charter and shall not simultaneously be a member of another party.

Party members pay a membership fee the amount of which is agreed upon on a voluntary basis.

3. IDEOLOGICAL PLATFORM, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PARTY:

3.1. Ideology

Comprehending its God-given existence, Armenian people have a supreme goal of sustaining in its homeland, confirming its vitality, genius and free will. The pledge of this is the Armenian national ideology in which Garegin Hrdze's philosophy plays an essential role. The Armenian national ideology is based on the system of values and historical and cultural experience of the nation, combining generally accepted universal and national values. It is aimed at strengthening the belief of Armenian people in its own power and future, and as an ideological system, has to evolve continuously.

3.2. Goals and objectives

- Strengthening and development of Armenian independent statehood;
- Development of a democratic, legal and social state;
- Participation in authority formation and state government within the framework of Constitution and laws of the RA;
- Strengthen and stabilize the political system of the RA;
- Bolster the development of civil society.

The Republican Party, as a conservative party, is guided by the idea that the state provide the best possible conditions for its citizens to live honorably and create. In order to achieve this it is necessary to build a society based on the following values:

- Security of individuals and nation
- Faithfulness to democratic values and independence
- Patriotism and preservation of Armenian identity

- Equal opportunities and equal rights
- Competitive environment and just evaluation of achievements
- Individual freedom and opportunity of choice
- Personal responsibility
- Steady family and unanimous community

The activities of the Republican party are directed towards an individual, each person, RA citizen. The economic increase will become concrete work for concrete people, and the provision of work and honorable payment will become a primary goal.

3.3. The type of the party (according to the party's opinion)

The Republican party of Armenia is a national conservative party the goals and activities of which emanate from the eternal idea of Nation and Motherland.

4. PROGRAM STANDPOINTS OF THE PARTY ON THE FOLLOWING ISSUES:

4.1. Three priorities of foreign policy

1. Regulation of Karabakh issue and international recognition of Artsakh nation's right to self-determination;
2. Increase in the efficiency of realization of contracts signed with Russian Federation in economic, military, energy, scientific, educational, cultural spheres. Deepen the relationships with the USA, EU, France, Democratic Republic of China, India, Japan and other countries. Enhancement of individual investments and competitive abilities; new market discoveries for Armenian products;
3. Unification of Armenians efforts for the international recognition of the terrible crime committed against humanity, for prevention of massacres in the future, for the elimination of repudiation, as well as for condemnation of the crime on the threshold of 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

4.2. Fundamentals of foreign policy, including

The foreign policy is directed towards strengthening the external security of the country, provision of favorable external conditions for the development of the state, presentation of Armenia's standpoints in the international arena, increase in the efficiency of protecting the interest of RA and its citizens abroad, deeper involvement in procedures and international organizations, stronger cooperation with friendly and partner countries, regulation of regional issues and creation of collaborative atmosphere.

a. European Integration

One of the fundamental directions of foreign policy is continuous cooperation with EU, which will serve to deepen political relations and economic relations, as well as reformation and perfection of institutions of the democratic and legal state. Within the frames of Eastern partnership with the help of multilateral cooperation, it is necessary to continue the cooperation for the purpose of deepening democracy, efficient governance, economic integration, energy security, as well as the relationship between people. It is also necessary to sign a comprehensive free market agreement with EU.

b. CIS

Within the frame of CIS, particular importance is attached to collaboration among member states for the purpose of providing international peace and security. In order for the citizens of the CIS member states to move and communicate freely in political, economic, ecological, humanitarian, cultural spheres, it is important to develop multilateral and balanced economic and social cooperation within the frame of general economic territory, as well as interstate cooperation and integration.

c. Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO)

The Party also signifies participation of the country in the CIS processes and gives priority to the CSTO as one of the most important components of security of Armenia. Within the frames of CSTO, it is necessary to continually make efforts in the first place to provide for the realization of member states responsibilities, namely, the collective protection principle, which emanates from the CSTO agreement in case of possible threatening of aggression and aggression act. The second aim is to receive support from CSTO member states on agenda issues of international organizations which have a vital importance for RA.

d. NATO

Active cooperation Armenia and NATO on issues of democratic, institutional and military reformations, which comprise different spheres including peacekeeping missions. The project of individual partnership activities outlines the project of cooperation between Armenia and NATO, as well as defines a broad spectrum of reformations. Armenia, not wishing to achieve membership to NATO, must deepen the economic and political cooperation with NATO.

e. USA

The USA plays an important role in the political and economic life of Armenia. Besides, the USA takes an active part in the activities of the Minsk group of OSCE directed towards the peaceful regulation of Karabakh conflict. Together with Russian Federation and France, the USA is the third co-president of the group. Meanwhile, the USA is a huge donor providing Armenia with humanitarian and technical support. It is necessary to promote relations with the USA and develop a healthy atmosphere of mutual trust and cooperation.

f. Russian Federation

A huge legal-contractual field of multilateral cooperation has developed between RA and Russian Federation. A number of interstate, intergovernmental, interoffice treaties and agreements regulating the relationships of political, military-political, economic and humanitarian spheres have been signed which provides good grounds for implementing various projects that have strategic importance. The achieved stable and mutually beneficial military – political allied relations are going to be preserved and deepened in the future as well. They will be guided with priorities of security provision. Measures will be taken to increase the efficiency of realization of agreements concerning the economic, military, energy, scientific, educational and cultural spheres.

g. Recognition of Genocide and Armenian- Turkish relations

The party views the recognition of genocide in the context of restoration of historical justice, reevaluation of the past by Turkey, and elimination of new encroachments. Continual efforts are going to be taken for prevention and condemnation of massacres, and for keeping the issues of elimination of their consequences in the agendas of international communities. The civilized humanity must manifest a unified and efficient ability of acting against this evil. It is necessary to unify Armenians efforts for the international recognition of the terrible crime committed against humanity, for prevention of massacres in the future, for the elimination of repudiation, as well as for condemnation of the crime on the threshold of 100dth anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

h. Karabakh issue and Armenian-Azerbaijan relations

The diplomatic efforts directed towards manifestation of any kind of dangerous aggression against RA and Karabakh are going to be multiplied. The regulation of Nagorno Karabakh issue is going to be anchored on the following principles:

- The foundation for the regulation of Nagorno Karabakh issue must be the recognition of realization of Karabakh nation's right to self-determination.
- The Republic of Nagorno Karabakh must have a land connection with Armenia which will be under the jurisdiction of the Armenian side.
- The security of the Republic of Nagorno Karabakh must be internationally guaranteed for.

i. Iran

The Party stands for maintaining the balanced relations between Armenia and Iran. Strategic and political cooperation with Iran is a most important part of policy of our country aimed at the establishment of a favorable atmosphere towards Armenia in Islamic world.

j. Georgia including the Javakhk Armenians' issues

The relations of our country with Georgia address strategic interests of both countries and are aimed at regional and European integration, sustainable and continuous development in economic, energetic, transportation, and military spheres, as well as at legal reforms regulating these spheres. The Party estimates Armenian-Georgian relations as an important factor in maintenance of stability in South Caucasus.

n. Armenia-Diaspora: enhanced links and effective cooperation

It is necessary to create favorable environment for the purpose of increasing the Diaspora Armenians involvement in Armenia's economy and stimulating investments by using the institute of dual citizenship and the state project of repatriation. It is also indispensable to support the unification of Diaspora communities around the idea of preservation of Armenians, our mother tongue, Armenian Identity, to strengthen the self-governing communal bodies, to establish intercommunal horizontal connections and to strengthen the connection of these structures with RA.

4.3. Three priorities of domestic policy

1. RA security
2. Creation of employment and economic growth
3. Combat against corruption.

4.4. Fundamentals of financial and economic policy, current obstacles to stable economic development and solutions thereto, including:

- Creation of guarantees for the establishment and development of small and medium business
- Increase of availability and affordability of financial means
- Provision of equal competitive conditions
- Elimination of violations by big business due to positional superiority
- Transition from economic growth targeting to economic development concept, based on new spheres of economy, new types of activities, new enterprises, manufacturing of new products and providing new services.

a. Monetary policy

- Provide stability, realization, solvency and natural activity for the financial system
- Provide the representation of new participants in the financial market and the introduction of financial funds in the financial system
- Provide price stability with the targeting of inflation (defining the interest rate of refinancing in order to keep the level of expected inflation to the purposeful target.)
- Efficient management of RA currency reserve, increase in the Armenian dram's reliability and international authority, creation of a favorable legal-economic field for current currency operations, capital movement and foreign investments.

b. Budgetary policy and state debt

- Provide stability and manageability of State debt by means of gradually decreasing the budget deficit and ensuring at least a stable level of the index of State debt/GDP in the medium - term.
- Superscription of social expenses directed towards indigent people within the frames of State expenditure policy, and continuous increase of the means.
- Complete implementation of internal audit system as a most important junction of efficient management of state finances and purposeful spending of money.
- Complete implementation of electronic system of state purchases as a main means of transparency of state expenditure, reduction of corruption and provision of justice.
- Complete introduction of financial system directed towards results providing an essential increase in targeted expenditure of money.

c. Tax and customs reforms

- Simplification of tax administration
- Gradual elimination of minimum threshold of income tax
- Definition of customs value and correspondence of customs clearance to European standards
- Provide an opportunity to present all types of tax reports, information, as well as applications by electronic means.
- Reduction of the number of inspection bodies by means of unification and elimination of repeated functions
- Continuous transfer of tax load to large taxpayers by increasing the relationship of taxes/GDP year by year.

d. Development of industry

- Realization of branch industry policy providing for increase in investments, creation of thousands of up-to-date workplaces, simplification of entrance into new markets, expansion of progressive rates of competitive branches and volumes of export.
- Creation of a unified platform for common dialogue with private sector by establishing a particular system of tools for each branch and defining mutual responsibilities.
- Operation of free economic zones, development of techno parks and business incubators contributing to the increase in economic competitiveness and becoming attractive for supranational corporations.

e. Development of agriculture

- Modernization of agricultural technology and machinery.
- Implementation of flexible mechanisms of affordable financing and service in order to obtain modern technology and equipment.
- At least triple expansion of the territories of greenhouse farms contributing to the reduction of seasonal price fluctuations of some agricultural products, increase in the volumes of export, creation of at least 30.000 new workplaces.
- Introduction of the best and up-to-date technologies in the sphere of fish-farming, creation of modern means of processing fish products providing for at least triple increase in the annual production of the product.

- Essential improvement of cattle breeding indices by importing pedigree heifers and using modern technologies of selection.
- Implementation of supervision mechanisms for correspondence of foodstuff with international security standards.
- Reduction of climatic risks by using modern systems of controlling anti-hail stations.
- Provision of availability of drinking water, gas, energy, telephone, internet and modern healthcare services by enhancing the capacities of rural communities.
- Essential improvement of rural roads and establishment of modern transport nets.

f. Information technologies and innovative development

- Development of techno-parks and incubators contributing to the implementation of tools and solutions of the sphere of IT in other fields of the economy(which in its turn will provide an increase in the country's general competitiveness).
- Stimulation of connection between educational institutions and manufacturers by means of preserving the progressive development rates in the sphere of IT, thus creating innumerable up-to date workplaces.

g. Energy and provision of energy security

- Eventual provision of stable, uninterrupted , voltage fluctuation – free energy for enterprises and the population
- Continuous realization of policy directed towards purposeful development of energy renewable sources alternative energy.
- Finishing of construction works of Iran-Armenia, Georgia-Armenia 400 KW voltage air power line.
- Increase in efficiency of implementation of energy sphere –related agreements signed with the Russian Federation.

h. Development of tourism

- Development of tourism infrastructures
- Improvement of advertising system in the sphere of tourism
- Development of international cooperation in the sphere of tourism.

i. Stimulation of investments

- Creation of favorable business environment making it a competitive priority for involving investment;
- Realization of entrepreneurial foreign policy directed towards the increase in individual investments and national competitive capacities of the country;
- Increasing the Diaspora Armenians involvement in Armenia's economy and stimulating investments by using the institute of dual citizenship and the state project of repatriation and creating a favorable environment;
- Involvement of investments within the frame of State-private sector relationship;
- Creation and operation of free economic zones;
- Provision of drastic increase in individual investments as a result of realization of industrial policy;

j. Improvement of business environment and development of small and medium business

- Creation of a simplified tax form for small and medium business;
- Simplification of tax administration;
- Gradual elimination of the minimum rate of income tax;
- Giving the opportunity of presenting all kinds of tax reports, information and applications by electronic means;
- Reduction of the number of inspection bodies by means of unification and elimination of repeated functions;
- Continuous transfer of tax load to large taxpayers;
- Simplification and acceleration of getting construction permissions (including the introduction of electronic systems);

k. Reduction of shadow economy

- Creation of a new set of tools for tax bodies to expose shadow economy;
- Gradual transfer of contact between businesses and tax or customs bodies to electronic platform;
- Continuous realization of reforms in the government system ensuring publicity and transparency;
- Creation of efficient mechanisms for combating financial violations;
- Reduction of existing shadiness in salary payment procedures by introducing the system of funded pension;

l. Eradication of corruption

- Review of legal field aimed at eliminating the detections of corruptive risks;

- Continuous awareness of public about their rights and opportunities created by the state when making use of services;
- Operation of online automatic system of purchases (giving the public and economies to control the advertisements and procedures of purchases) decreasing corruptive risks;
- Strengthening the role and significance of ethics committee
- Implementation of mechanisms making the declarations of high-ranking officials' property and income available for public.

4.5. Fundamentals of social policy and solutions to current problems, including

The change made in the social policy will be directed towards elimination of reasons that cause inequality.

a. Overcoming the poverty

- Creation of conditions and opportunities of honorable life for people with limited possibilities (opportunities of working, taking up of sport, attending cultural institutions);
- Continuous increase in the amount of state support projects for the third and each child after it;
- Continuous realization of pension increasing policy;

b. Reduction of polarization of society and reformation of social justice

- Implementation of income-related, personal responsibility-based fund pension system providing a secure and honorable senility;
- Duplication of fund-pension amounts of citizens by the state stimulating the creation of savings and reducing the existing shadiness in salary payment procedures;
- Continuous realization of compensation supply projects for the invested deposits in USSR Savings Band up to 1993
- Increase in the amounts of projects, such as "Available flat", "Flat for young families" within the frame of the national project of available flat funds;
- Introduction of a new set of tools for credits subsidized by the state for the young in order for them to receive education or solve other social problems.

c. Ensuring employment and reducing unemployment

- Provision of availability of education and workplace for targeted groups of people able to work;
- Emphasis on targeted support increase for citizens unable to work.

d. Improvement of health care system

- Intensification of state control over environmental protection, namely air, quality of water, green territories, by defining high level of standards of waste processing;
- Implementation of medical insurance institute for certain types of illnesses for socially unsound groups of people within the frames of state order;
- Obligatory training of doctors including training in the best medical centers of the world;
- Early and precise diagnosis of illnesses, qualified treatment, including competent conduct of rehabilitation period;
- Guarantee for urgent heart operation for all RA citizens for the first time;
- Construction of blood hospital with best European standards;
- Foundation of oncological center enabling discovery, diagnosis and qualified treatment of neoplasms with the help of modern scientific methods;
- Continuous realization of reconstruction and equipment project of regional medical institutions;
- Prevention of illnesses by means of creating conditions for healthy lifestyle (popularization of sport, guarantee for healthy and secure foodstuff, realization of fight against smoking).

e. Social security and insurance systems reforms

- Creation of integrated system of providing social services for individuals (families) having found themselves in a difficult situation by providing complex social services equivalent to the need;
- Realization of project that provide care, service, counseling, legal assistance to old people living alone and the disabled people who need care and help by means of introducing the institute of social worker;
- Provision of social guarantees to state workers;
- Implementation of the institute of medical insurance for socially unsound groups of people;

4.6. Reformation and development of the education system

- Transfer of minimum nine year education guaranteed by the state to guaranteed free-of-charge twelve year education (including vocational education);
- Provision of free-of-charge education for socially unsound groups of people (including higher education);
- Provision of a free-of-charge computer to each first form pupil;
- Construction of new kindergartens in marzes;

- Enhancement of opportunities of qualified fundamental education for all targeted groups of children who need special educational conditions, as well as representatives of national minorities;
- Reformation of content quality of textbooks and teachers' manuals;
- Implementation of tools for evaluating the financing and efficiency based on results indices of education;
- Provision of complete and qualified network coverage at schools;
- Review of the system of entrance exams, simplification of applicants' entrance into higher educational institutions, as well as stringent demands for progress;
- Triplication of the amount of educational electronic resources in Armenian;
- Establishment of the maximum rate of tuition fees in higher educational institutions;
- Establishment of modern network of laboratories in the sphere of sophisticated technologies instruction due to cooperation with international organizations;
- Reformation and enhancement of youth hostel networks (according to the format of boroughs of European universities);

4.7. Development of science

- Organization of complete international recognition of educational qualifications granted in Armenia due to integration into the European system of accreditation;
- Strengthening the Science-Economy connection.

4.8. Culture and Sport

- Creation of favorable conditions for preservation of Armenian religious and cultural heritage, for reproduction and development of national values and traditions;
- Dissemination of national and universal values through music, films, TV shows and books, within the frame of state order;
- Instruction of national songs and dances at schools;
- Enlargement of nation's cultural components in educational projects;
- Provision of availability, accessibility, variability and proportionality of cultural services throughout the whole territory of Armenia;
- Creation of additional opportunities for national minorities to completely display their cultural abilities;
- Active cooperation with Armenian Apostolic church in order to preserve the moral norms of Armenian families, prevent the young generation from undesirable effects, and to give armenological education;
- Strengthening the social protection of the workers in the sphere of culture;
- Implementation of new IT technologies in the sphere of culture;
- Development of modern cultural infrastructures creating opportunities of proper evaluation in the international arena and active participation in the cultural procedures of the world.

4.9. Territorial government and local self-government

Realization of a complex project of unloading Yerevan by distributing separate state, educational, cultural and economic functions among other territories of the Republic, and increasing the role of other citizens in public procedures.

a. Enlargement of communities

- Enlargement of communities particularly for the strengthening and development of bordering areas, and providing these communities with additional means by concrete and measurable indices;
- In case of a few large communities which have a sufficient level of resources, provision of administrative efficiency both in the part of the functions of self-governing bodies and balanced interrelationship between the latter and state governing system;
- Creation of prerequisites for the development of multi-centric model of territorial government used in the international practice.

b. Enhancing the role of council

- Increase in the role of representative bodies;
- Establishment of efficient control mechanisms over the decisions and activities of the community leader, as well as increase in the transparency of operation.

c. Creation of inter-communal units and precision of legislature

Empowerment and efficient administration of communal capacities by means of establishing inter-communal units.

d. Promotion of financial independence of communities

Provision of correspondence between the competences and financial resources of local authorities by consistent increase in the opportunities of self-regulation of communities.

e. Transfer of additional authorities of the state to communities

Consistent increase in the variety of services provided in communities as well as increase in their quality.

f. Proportionate development of marzes

- Realization of concise support projects for bordering and socially targeted communities;
- Guidance of investments towards communities due to tax policy providing the creation of new workplaces;
- Foster communal initiatives.

g. Other

- Provision of communal services and increase in their qualities throughout the whole territory of the Republic;
- Implementation of the best norms of efficient property ownership providing a complete usage of our national wealth in general and the land in particular;
- Legal prohibition of construction in the center of Yerevan which is inappropriate for the nature and history of our capital city;
- Fair implementation of property tax system providing even more charges from valuable property;

4.10. Development of civil society, protection of civil rights, including

It is necessary to implement projects encouraging activities of public unions and institutions to ensure favorable conditions for development and strengthening of civil society.

a. Strengthening democratic institutes

Constitutional guarantees for establishment of complete system of checks and balances between the branches of authorities should be adopted in legislation and political system of the country. Functions of control of institutions of civil society over the system of state government should be increased.

b. Ensuring freedom of speech and information

It is necessary to take real steps to apply the fundamental provisions freedom of speech and information adopted in international conventions and legislation of the RA, in political and social relations.

c. Consolidating human rights and basic freedoms

The state should ensure protection of human rights and basic freedoms adopted in our constitution. To this end, it is important to implement projects aimed at increasing the confidence of society in the institute of ombudsman, constitutional court and judicial system.

d. Reforming the judicial system

- Suggestion of more stringent demands for professional training of judges and prosecutors and its organization, providing objective and transparent procedures of judicial authority personnel complement taking into consideration not only the evaluation of their professional knowledge, but also the moral properties and abilities of acting as a judge or as a prosecutor;
- More stringent control over the preservation of behavioral norms of judges;
- Increase in efficiency and transparency of procedures concerning judges' disciplinary responsibility;
- Implementation of objective criteria and procedures of judges' evaluation and progress;
- Reduction of terms in case examinations by courts;
- Stimulation of alternative procedures for settling disagreements in a productive order.

e. Improving the election system

Signifying the role of elections for development of democracy, the state should establish sufficient conditions for steady implementation of provisions of the election Code in electoral processes.

f. Formation of political parties and development of political field

The state should assist the full establishment of multiparty system, ensuring real political competition as a main precondition for public confidence in struggle against corruption.

g. Formation of non-governmental organizations and regulation of the field

- State support provision for NGOs and Trade Unions;
- Increase in involvement of NGOs in open government procedures;
- Improvement of RA legislation on NGOs aimed at efficient activities of NGOs.

h. Protecting women's rights and combating violence against them

- Involvement of gender component on national and regional levels in all the spheres of social-political, economic and cultural life, in the development of policies and in political practice.
- Development of a unified system involving national and institutional mechanisms of implementing gender equality policy;

- Provision of organizational activities of monitoring the process of implementing gender equality policy;
- Implementation of activities directed towards prevention of gender violation, protection of individuals subjected to gender violation, pursue of users of gender violation;
- Dissemination of information on gender violence and implementation of activities directed towards increase in gender sensitivity throughout the whole territory of RA.

i. Public participation in legislative procedures

- Provision of publicity, availability and transparency in legislative procedures;
- Increase in the level of public participation in law-making processes, due to revelation of public opinion, presentation of suggestions and discussions.

j. Other

Provision of services in the sphere of jurisdiction due to “one window” principle (in the period of oncoming five years at least 80% of services in the sphere of jurisdiction will be provided by the state through unified service centers or online “one stop” principle).

4.11. National security issues and solutions thereto

In the framework of strategy of national security, a complex program of neutralization of the inner and outer threats should be implemented with active participation of political and social organizations.

- Continuous increase in the combat readiness of the Armenian Army and armament;
- Correspondence of defense potential with modern standards of professionalism, discipline, transparency and controllability;
- Strengthening of public trust towards the institute of compulsory military service by continually reforming the social and educational conditions;
- Provision of privileged opportunities of education and employment for returnees.

4.12. Demographic problems, including emigration and birth problems and solutions thereto:

The basis of Armenian society is traditional family. Preservation of firm and healthy families and their traditional values must be one of most important issues of the state. In order to reduce the emigration rates of the country, it is necessary to continue keeping the rates of economic growth and to continually increase the means directed towards the social spheres from the budget. The party attaches importance to the increase in the country’s moral atmosphere in which Armenians will see their as well as their children’s future in their Motherland. The state must take efficient measures to create a necessary environment for improving the citizens’ standard of living, as well as to worthily estimate their merit to Homeland. The party thinks that it is necessary to continually increase the amount of state support projects for the third child and any child after him/her.

4.13. Environmental problems and solutions thereto:

- Strengthening of state control over environmental protection, namely the air, quality of water, green territories, high standards of waste processing;
- Continuous restoration and preservation of Lake Sevan’s ecological balance;
- Reformation and construction of stations for the biological cleaning of wastewaters;
- Enhancement of the project of specially preserved natural territories, improvement of control mechanisms over them;
- Implementation of approaches towards the issues of the increase in public’s ecological awareness, ecological education and instruction.

4.14. Moral, psychological, youth problems and solutions thereto:

The party finds it necessary to implement a special policy aimed at creating and broadly presenting such exemplars which will help us to make moral criteria, patriotism, unanimity, confidence in work and personal abilities and mutual trust be public guides.

4.15. Other /Church/

Highly valuing the role of the Armenian Apostolic Church in spiritual life of the Armenian nation and in preservation of Armenian language and culture, and thereby of unanimity of the Armenian nation, The Party considers it an integral part of the Armenian identity and a national structure all over the world which has a mission of serving the God and the nation.

8. “UNITED ARMENIANS” PARTY

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

- **Address of the head office:** B. Luchevaya, ap. 35, Yerevan
- **Telephone, fax:** (+37410) 56-08-95 , 52-34-13
- **E-mail:** www.miavorvac-hayer@mail.ru
- **Website:** www.mhk.am, www.mhktert.am
- **Foundation date:** 27.05.2000
- **State registration date:** 15.06.2000
- **State re-registration date:** 09.10.2003
- **Charter and Program Approval date:** 27.05.2000
- **Last congress date:** 15.10.2011
- **Date of the last publication of the Party’s Program and Charter and the name of mass media:** “United Armenians” official newspaper, 2000, “Democracy Today” informative book, “Political ‘parties of RA”, 2002, “United Armenians” official newspaper, 2005, “Gasprint” informative book
- **Official mass media of the Party:** “United Armenians” official newspaper
- **Number of separate territorial subdivisions of the Party:** 48
- **Number of the Party members at the time of completing questionnaire:** 4364, of which
 - **Women:** 33%,
 - **Youth:** 44%,
- **Participation of the Party in the elections 2007:** not participate

2. INTERNAL ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURES AND MEMBERSHIP PROCEDURE OF THE PARTY

2.1. Names of the governing bodies of the Party, number of Party members and the Party leader

- Congress
- Administration: 15 members
- Political Board: 32 members
- Administration: 15 members
- Chairman of Political Board and Department: Ruben Avagyan
- Deputy Chairman of the Board: Hrachik Hakobjanyan
- Deputy Chairmen of the Department: Hovhannes Hovhannisyan, Andranik Voskanyan

2.2. Party membership procedure, including membership fees and payment peculiarities

The procedure for acquiring membership to the Party is defined during the meeting of original organization according to an application of the person acquiring membership. In case of absence of original organization, the membership is acquired based on the decision of Board or Department of territorial or marz organization.

3. IDEOLOGICAL PLATFORM, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PARTY:

3.1. Ideology

The Party is being led by the national ideology, the basis of which is the national thinking which in turn is being led by national ideology based on universal values. National ideology is beyond social layers, political parties and personal interest. In the basis of the above shall be socio-legal justice and morality which shall lead the Armenian nation to social equality. The goal of the Party is the creation of a real socio-legal and democratic state and civil society where the supremacy of will prevail, everyone will be equal against the laws and human rights will be protected.

3.2. Goals and Objectives:

The objective of the Party is to develop a social-legal and democratic state based on civil society and public power, where the laws will be supreme, everyone will be equal, human rights and freedoms will be protected.

The Party desires to achieve establishment of legal civil society based on universal values of social justice, dignity, legality and morality, which will be a strong guarantee for national unification.

The objective of the Party is assist the strengthening of Armenian statehood and scientific, economic as well as spiritual potential, comprehensive development and prosperity of the nation, political sustainability, establishment of civil society, prevention of emigration, unification of Armenians spread all over the world, development of democratic authorities within the frames of Constitution, international recognition of Genocide, and finally, peaceful settlement of the issues related to Armenian Cause and Krabakh.

3.3. The type of the Party (according to the Party's opinion)

The Party is functioning as a patriotic and centralized third force which is for a stable and strong statehood

4. PROGRAM STANDPOINTS OF THE PARTY ON THE FOLLOWING ISSUES:

4.1. Three priorities of foreign policy

1. Respect towards other nations, their customs and traditions, struggle against nationalistic violations towards Armenian citizens and sons.
2. International recognition of Armenian Genocide, revision of Moscow-Kars agreement of 1921.
3. Peaceful settlement of Karabakh issue including Artsakh in negotiation process as a third force with equal rights, assistance in international recognition of NK, otherwise recognition of Artsakh by Armenia.

4.2. Fundamentals of foreign policy, including:

The fundamentals of foreign policy are the following:

- Employing flexible complementary approach in the foreign policy of Armenia
- developing relationships with our neighbor countries
- assisting in the internationalization process of Armenian nation.

a. European Integration

The Party believes that the way of reaching stability and economic development in the region is to integrate into EU.

The Party attaches importance to the fact of being integrated into EU in accordance with international democratic standards as quickly as possible.⁴

b. CIS

Based on RA strategic interests, the Party attaches importance to active cooperation with CIS countries.

c. Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO)⁵

The Party believes that for the purposes of ensuring a reliable security of Armenia and preserving peace in the region, it is necessary to continue cooperation and balanced relationships excluding the possibility of a danger of becoming an attachment.

d. NATO⁴

It is necessary to continue cooperation and implement a mutual-replenishment program in the region directed to modernization of military forces, without contradicting the military-political interests of RF. It is necessary to develop perspective programs.

e. USA

The Party believes that it is necessary to establish a balanced partnership relationships with USA based on mutual benefits.

f. Russian Federation

For the purposes of Pan-Caucasian stability, it is necessary to continue to view Russia as a traditional ally and develop as well as deepen mutually-beneficial economic cooperation with the mentioned country.

g. Recognition of Genocide and Armenian- Turkish relations

The Party attaches importance to international recognition of Armenian Genocide. The state should assist the recognition and value of historical past of Armenians.

h. Karabakh issue and Armenian-Azerbaijan relations

It is necessary to view Artsakh as an equal negotiating side. The Party considers it prior to reach peaceful settlement and international recognition of Karabakh. The Party considers the assistance of international structures to be important for NK integration as a guarantee for Artsakh's self-determination and security. The Party attaches importance to cooperation with Azerbaijan for the purposes of achieving Pan-Caucasian stability.

i. Iran

The Party attaches importance to development and deepening of relationships with Iran based on mutual benefit, especially, when the role of partnership between Iran and Armenia is getting more and more important within the region.

j. Georgia including the Javakhs Armenians' issues

For the purposes of close cooperation and Pan-Caucasian stability, it is necessary to conduct a mutually-beneficial politics with Georgia, especially in the spheres of transportation and energy. The Party considers

the implementation of nationalist policies against national minorities especially against Armenians living in Javakh to be non-allowable. The Party definitely protects the interests and rights of Armenians in Javakhk and will take all steps to ensure that the Armenians in the near Diaspora are not discriminated and alienated from the lands of their predecessors on the level of state, but instead are deepening the roots.

k. Armenia-Diaspora: enhanced links and effective cooperation

It is necessary to create a unified ideology of fatherland and Diaspora, which should be the following: “the power of Armenian nation is in its unity” and establish a constantly acting mechanism: an NGO “Symbol of unity of fatherland and Diaspora”. It is necessary to develop a close cooperation between scientific, cultural, spiritual, public and political organizations of fatherland and Diaspora.

l. Other (State-Church)

It is necessary to comprehensively assist the activity of Armenian Apostolic Church and realization of the following slogan: “one nation, one religion” taking into account the harmful effect of different sects.

4.3. Three priorities of domestic policy ⁴

1. Strengthening of national statehood.
2. Establishment of equality of all Armenian citizens.
3. Fierce struggle against corruption of officials in administrative bodies.

4.4. Fundamentals of financial and economic policy, current obstacles to stable economic development and solutions thereto, including

The Party considers the development of industrial and agricultural branches to be important, as they will give an opportunity of settling more compatriots in Armenia.⁴

a. Monetary policy

The Party attaches importance to clarification of loan and monetary operations and regulation of targeted monetary-economic issues.

b. Budgetary policy and state debt ⁴

The Party considers public discussion of the budget implementation, publicity of its adoption process and public supervision over budget allotments to be important.

c. Tax and customs reforms ⁴

The Party attaches importance to establishment of a stable tax field, equality of all in front of tax field and exclusion of frequent amendments to the Law on Tax. It is necessary to create such tax conditions which will stimulate investments. The Party attaches importance to the realization of custom supervision and development of a mechanism of publicizing its activity.

d. Development of industry

It is necessary to stimulate the progress and development of such sectors which are based on modern technologies and do not require big volumes of raw material. It is also necessary to protect the rights of national industry players by all means.

e. Development of agriculture

It is very important to assist the agriculture based on real state support (free provision of irrigation and biochemical adds, provision of long-term loans without any interest, reduction of tax rates for the land, review of tax privileges, return of the market of agricultural products to the villagers without any intermediation, insurance of pants and agricultural products).

f. Information technologies and innovative development

The Party believes that the main direction of Armenia’s development is the urgent implementation of information technologies and innovative development taking into account the naturally granted high level of intellect of Armenians.

g. Energy and provision of energy security

It is necessary to ensure energy security and economic guarantees of different spheres of economy, create new energy powers and new alternative sources.

h. Development of tourism

Being an open museum which takes its historical roots from “Srbazan Tseleri Yerkir”, Armenia presents an interest not only for Diasporan Armenians but also for other nations. With this regard, Armenia is obliged to ensure all necessary conditions for the development of the sector.

i. Stimulation of investments

It is necessary to create a favorable environment for interstate and private investments. The Party believes that it is important to protect investors from the corrupted officials, and recover the trust of foreign investors with regard to Armenia's authorities.

j. Improvement of business environment and development of small and medium business

The Party attaches importance to creation of an efficient and functioning legal field. The Party believes that it is important to create an efficient and functioning legal field as an economic base of the country and guarantor of welfare, which will assist the development and sustainability of middle class.

k. Reduction of shadow economy

The Party considers it important to take the activity of oligarchs out of shadow economy and bring it into the legal field. The Party believes that the shadow economy should not be tolerated.

l. Eradication of corruption

The way to overcome corruption is to enact Constitutional amendments, which should be realized in the following directions:

- separation of the functions of legislative, executive and judicial bodies;
- reforms in judicial system;
- detection of election bribes;
- maintenance of an appropriate cadre policy;
- real enforcement of Criminal Code;
- maintenance of cadre policy based on high professionalism;

The best way to overcome corruption is the supremacy of law and equality of everyone.

m. Other (review of legislation)

It is necessary to review the Constitution. Within the framework of these revisions it is necessary to forbid the political parties to implement benevolence, present amendments to Constitution: separation of the functions performed by the executive, legislative and judicial bodies, reduce the number of deputies up to 50%, eliminate the institute of immunity and regulate the recall of a deputy, eliminate the majority vote election system.

4.5. Fundamentals of social policy and solutions to current problems, including:

a. Overcoming the poverty

The Party believes that it is necessary to fight against injustice, corruption, unemployment and other negative phenomena which left the population in an extremely poor situation. In order to achieve a respectful life and secure future, the Party envisages developing programs, improving subsidiary system and improvement of living standards, providing solutions to medical and educational issues for poor layers of the society, improving of demographic situation.

b. Reducing the polarization of society and improvement of social justice

The Party believes that it is necessary to establish social justice and ensure economic stability in RA.

c. Ensuring the employment and reducing unemployment

The Party attaches importance to the struggle against trafficking, protection of interests of investors from corruptive elements, restoration of local and foreign investors' trust towards authorities, in the result of which new employments will be created.

d. Improvement of public health care system⁴

It is necessary to provide free medical services for vulnerable groups of population. It is also necessary to extend the scope of state order for different groups of population regarding to medical service.

e. Social security and insurance systems reforms

For the purposes of developing respectful life and secure future of society, the Party envisages developing of relevant programs.

f. Other (demographic issues)

The Party attaches importance to improvement of the country's demographic situation, reduction of emigration, organization of immigration, creation of employment through development of economy and

assurance of workplaces for population. This was it will be possible to improve the social status of population.

4.6. Reforming and developing of education system

The reforms in the field of education are important preconditions for the strategic development of the state. The education fee should be defined based on calculation of education cost and economic situation of population. The Party attaches importance to resolution of education issues of vulnerable groups of society connecting the development of industry with the development of education. The Party believes that the production should become a client ordering specialists and pay for that. It is necessary to create special educational foundations, which will allow the talented children to acquire education. It is also necessary to establish educational centers which would serve the population providing professional, social and cultural services. While organizing the procedures of gaining specialized education it is necessary to make calculations of the constantly changing requirements in the labor market. The state shall provide support to elderly people who want to get education.

4.7. Development of Science

It is necessary to pay special attention to those spheres of science the center of which is Armenia, and the carrier is Armenian nation. The Party attaches importance to resolution of the problems related to intelligentsia involved in scientific sphere and social issues and role of society, their re-qualification and development of proper policy for generation change.

4.8. Culture and Sport

The whole cultural heritage of Armenia should be considered the property of Armenian nation, independent from the time of its creation, place, religious and political orientations of its authors.

4.9. Territorial government and local self-government

The structures of territorial management and local government are obliged to act based on the interests of the nation. They shall clearly realize that the whole activity should be directed to assurance of human rights and should be under constant supervision of population. The state is obliged to create all conditions which would make the abuse of position impossible.

a. Creation of inter-communal units and precision of legislature

As Armenia is not a developed country, it cannot ensure the development of communities. Under these conditions, the Party considers it rational to create inter-community socio-economic unions including the production units providing technical services which would be able to assist in the development of the communities.

b. Promotion of financial independence of communities

The communities shall be granted with such legislative authorities which will provide them opportunities of conducting self-management of population, provide social and communal services for which the community shall have its own financial resources.

c. Transfer of additional authorities of the state to communities

The success of the development of a democratic country depends on the capacities of its separate communities. To ensure the above the communities shall be financially and economically secured and these resources shall be obvious in the strategic development programs and plans. For the purposes of implementing the above programs the state has to grant the communities with additional authorities.

d. Proportionate development of marzes

Independent of their location the RA marzes shall have balanced development taking into account their climate and distance from the center. For the above purpose it is necessary to create conditions in marzes for restoration of specialized and technical potential.

e. Other (state supervision)

The state is obliged to keep under constant supervision the development status of local government bodies through the state apparatus. The state shall provide the layers of society with opportunities to participate in the activities of communities and eliminate the identified shortcomings. It is necessary to ensure financial-economic and social-legal development of marzes.

4.10. Development of civil society, protection of civil rights, including

a. Strengthening democratic institutes

The Party aims at creating a socio-legal state where it will be possible to ensure the equality of all citizens, supremacy of laws and equality of physical persons and legal entities and human rights will be protected.

b. Ensuring freedom of speech and information

The Party attaches importance to improvement of legislative field. It is necessary to create functioning mechanisms which will be directed to prevention of any violation of freedom of information and speech during democratization process.

c. Consolidating human rights and basic freedoms

The Party attaches importance to equality of all citizens in front of the law, complete realization of human rights, realization of Constitutional rights and fundamental freedoms. To ensure the above it is necessary first of to harmonize the legislation with the RA Constitution. Secondly, it is necessary to adopt laws corresponding to RA Constitution which will protect the rights of RA civil and human rights and interests not only in Armenia but also abroad.

d. Reforming the judicial system⁴

It is necessary implement legislative amendments to clearly differentiate the function of legislative, executive and judicial bodies. The Party believes that it is necessary to implement reforms in the judicial system as the implemented reforms did not have effective as the structures of judicial system are in the net of corruptive relationships. Consequently, the Party believes that judges should be elected and not appointed.

e. Improving the election system

The Party considers it important to:

- reduce the number of NA deputies, eliminate institution of immunity and ensure the procedure for deputies' recall;
- eliminate the majority voting elections and take off the collateral envisaged in case of proportionate voting system;
- decrease the election threshold (5 and 7 %) of mandates envisaged for proportionate election system to 3 and 5 % respectively.

f. Formation of political parties and development of political field

The Party believes that it is necessary to assist the development of real democracy in RA, including, sustainability of political parties and liberalization of political orientations and ideologies.

g. Formation of non-governmental organizations and regulation of the field

In contrast to political parties which express political views, the NGOs shall resolve the social and political issues raised in front of the nation and state based on volunteer principles. Taking into account the political situation of Armenia the Party believes that it is necessary to create all conditions for NGOs making them freely express their authorities.

h. Protecting women's rights and combating violence against them

It is necessary to drastically improve the socio-economic situation young families and single mothers. This will provide an opportunity to increase the child birth rate in the country. It is also necessary to increase the role of women in the state, social and political organizations and involve them in decisive procedures.

i. Participation of the public in legislative processes

The democratic state will create all conditions which ensure the real participation of citizens in legislative processes. In this regards, the Party believes that it's unallowable the NA elections conducted with violations of Constitution including the involvement of oligarchs. It is necessary to ensure that specialists with economic and legal education as well as experience are elected in NA who will implement reforms in RA legislation and create real conditions ensuring an extensive public participation in all legislative processes.

j. Other (reforming the RA legislation)

Any obstacle to conduction of democratic governance presents a danger for RA. For this purpose, it is necessary to use all possible means to reform first RA legislative field starting from Constitution and ending with normative-legal acts. And second, the state shall express political will to ensure the participation of the population in the governance of the Armenia.

4.11. National security issues and solutions thereto

Armenian nation has always been internationalist, respected and will respect other nations' habits and traditions. The Party will assist the RA to combat against the religious, nationalistic and skinhead violations taking place in any country of the world against RA citizens independent of the format or place: Russia, Georgia, Turkey or Germany. The Party believes that security of all Armenian citizens and sons in every country of the world, modernization of armed forces, restoration of the civil protection system, standing against serious external threats, and assurance of reliable security of Armenia are very important. It is necessary to assist in creating necessary conditions for strengthening of Armenia's position in the region and the world.

4.12. Demographic problems, including emigration and birth problems and solutions thereto:

The Party considers the drastic improvement of social situation of single mothers and young families, through which it will be possible to give opportunities for the increase of birth rate. It shall be done through creation of jobs.

4.13. Environmental problems and solutions thereto:

The Party attaches importance to formation of ecological culture of the nation, clarification of state support to overcome ecological crisis and implementation of ecological programs.

4.14. Moral, psychological, youth problems and solutions thereto:

The party keeps its concentration on the issues concerning the patriotic education of the youth. Within the framework of its activities the Party aims at recovering of the sector and fighting against the factors having negative effect, ensuring multi-sided and harmonized education for youth, and adding value to traditional and old creativity.

4.15. Other (UA Party's cooperation with all forces)

As a third force regarding the issues raised, the Party attaches importance to cooperation with authorities, opposition and state-favor forces. It is necessary to support the authorities serving the law but not the authority-favor forces. It is necessary to be responsible for the past and future in front of the nation.

The Party believes that it is necessary to support those powers, who are higher than their personal interests and political games, so they strive for the supremacy of laws, equality of everybody, and high control of power of law over the power of force. The Party attaches importance to recognition and respect towards ethnic and cultural peculiarities of minorities living in Armenia, as well as assurance of equal conditions for their development together with Armenian nation.

9. “COUNTRY OF LAWS” PARTY

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

- **Address of the head office:** 43 Abovyan, Yerevan
- **Telephone, fax:** (+37410) 56-91-11, (+37410) 56-65-05, **fax:** (+37410)56-99-69
- **E-mail:** info@oek.am
- **Website:** www.oek.am
- **Foundation date:** 1997
- **State registration date:** 20.03.1998
- **State re-registration date:** 18.11.2003
- **Last Congress Date:** 03.03.2012
- **Date of the latest publication of the Party’s Program and Charter and the name of mass media:** 2009
- **Official mass media of the Party:** “Orinats Yerkir” official newspaper
- **The number of the Party’s separate territorial subdivisions:** 350
- **Number of the Party members at the time of completing the questionnaire:** 150.000 of which:
 - **Women:** 60%
 - **Youth:** 30%
- **Party’s participation in National Assembly elections in 2007:** participated
- **Number of deputies at the 4th convocation of the National Assembly:** 8

2. GOVERNING BODIES OF THE PARTY AND ITS LEADER

2.1. Names of the governing bodies of the Party, number of Party members and the Party leader

- Congress
- Political Board
- Administration
- Party President: Arthur Baghdasaryan

2.2. Party membership procedure, including membership fees and payment peculiarities

Party membership is open to all RA citizens over 18 years old, who accept the Party Project and Charter, help to further and realize the Party’s projects through their activities and pay membership fee. Party membership is realized in accordance with a citizen’s personal application as well as in the presence of written endorsement letters submitted by two party members.

3. IDEOLOGICAL PLATFORM, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PARTY:⁴

3.1. Ideology

A person, his/her freedoms and rights, the evaluation of national essence and nature lie in the foundation of the party’s ideology and are in the center of its attention.

Ideology of the party is based on the following provisions:

- Hope, and not creation of hopeless society;
- Elevation of national spirit;
- Building a country which will be competitive and will enjoy reputation in the region and worldwide.

3.2. Goals and objectives

Taking into consideration the nationwide goals and fundamental Armenian principles, the Party has its aim to purposefully direct its activities towards the unification of our nation’s intellectual, practical and spiritual potential.

Objectives of the Party’s activity are as follows:

- make the Republic of Armenia a country of laws;
- the laws should be adopted based on long-term national programs, and should serve for the development of the nation and country;
- the law should not be forceless and no one should have privileges against the law;
- the laws should be enforced.

3.3. The type of the party (according to the party’s opinion)

Liberal

4. PROGRAM STANDPOINTS OF THE PARTY ON THE FOLLOWING ISSUES:

4.1. Three priorities of foreign policy⁵

1. Active engagement in European structures with the main purpose of gaining membership to EU;

2. Consistent development of friendly relationships with Russia;
3. Deepening of relationships with the USA.

4.2. Fundamentals of foreign policy, including

Globalization processes taking place in the world and evanescence of separating borders between the countries engage more and more nations in international life, which is followed by the formation of world society. Under these conditions, development of any nation requires more active engagement in the processes of world development at the same time ensuring protection of self-identity and security of state sovereignty. The above mentioned can be achieved through bringing the legal systems which act in any country and regulate international life to organic conformity.

a. European Integration⁵

Euro integration is supreme for foreign policy of Armenia.

b. CIS⁵

A priority direction of RA Foreign Policy is collaboration with CIS countries. Political, economic, cultural and humanitarian directions are especially significant.

c. Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) ⁵

Within the framework of CSTO, collaboration is an essential component in providing RA security. RA is interested in further development and deepening of collaboration with CSTO.

d. NATO⁵

Cooperation with NATO will lead to the creation of an all-embracing system which will contribute to RA security, as well as to the diversification of directions providing security. It is equally important as to the introduction of NATO's best experience in the reformation of armed forces and the implementation of this experience in RA's armed forces.

e. USA⁵

Deepening relationships with the USA.

f. Russian Federation⁵

Development of Armenia- Russia strategic relationships based on business partnership, friendship, equality of rights and mutual benefits.

g. Recognition of Genocide and Armenian- Turkish relations

The reality of the Genocide is a fact, and it should remain in RA's Foreign Policy agenda. Establishment of friendly and prerequisites -free relations with all the neighboring states, including Turkey is highly important for RA. This inclination should be bilateral , and Turkey must cease Armenia's illegal blockade.

h. Karabakh issue and Armenian-Azerbaijan relations⁴

Peaceful settlement of Karabakh issue has no alternative. The solution to this issue must provide complete realization of the Artsakh nation's right to self-determination. Furthermore, Karabakh's "de jure" status should not be lower than the present "de facto" one.

i. Iran⁵

The relationships with Iran are fairly important, especially taking into consideration Armenia's blockade by Azerbaijan and Turkey. In this respect, Iran is considered to be an important link that binds Armenia with the external world. The presence of a major Armenian diaspora in Iran is also of great value in Armenia-Iran relationships.

j. Georgia including the Javakhk Armenians' issues ⁵

The development of traditional friendly relationships with Georgia is a significant direction in RA's foreign policy. These relationships are equally important as to the solution to Javakhk Armenians' issues and the preservation of Armenian cultural heritage in Georgia.

k. Armenia-Diaspora: enhanced links and effective cooperation⁴

- Effective use of Diaspora potential;
- Creation of favorable conditions for Diaspora Armenian investors;
- Assistance in preserving Armenians in Diaspora.

4.3. Three priorities of domestic policy

1. State and legal reformations
2. Liberation of economy
3. Social justice.

4.4. Fundamentals of financial and economic policy, current obstacles to stable economic development and solutions thereto, including:

The Party believes that it is necessary to create an efficient economic system based on free market economy principles, reliable legal protection of investments, multifarious forms of ownership, and legal protection of all forms of ownership excluding formation of oligopoly.

a. Monetary policy⁵

- Elaboration and realization of monetary policy directed towards export;
- Continuity of deposit return and elimination of current unfairness;
- Extension of guarantee volumes for bank deposits made by population;
- Transfer of banking system from short-term crediting to long-term one;
- Reduction of banking interest rates, creation of state guarantee mechanisms for high risk crediting;
- Implementation of more stringent responsibility for banking crimes and protection of deposits.

b. Budgetary policy and state debt

The budget must not only be a social, but also a financial document which provides the strategic development of the country's economy. GDP – State debt relationship must be on a risk-free balanced level.

c. Tax and customs reforms

- Reduction of taxes,
- Implementation of one-type tax for service sector,
- Provision of tax privileges to businessmen creating employment,
- Reduction of custom fees and struggle against corruption which has huge volumes in this sphere.
- Facilitation of tax and customs administration

d. Development of industry

One of the Party's problems is restoration and re-exploitation of industry based on high technologies with export orientation, creation and stable development of industry ensuring new jobs, enhancement of state assistance to agriculture

e. Development of agriculture

One of the Party's objectives is to assist the development of intellectual services in the spheres of agriculture and industry and make them able to be internationally recognized.

f. Information technologies and innovative development

In agreement with the geographic position of the Republic of Armenia, there is no alternative for the investment of information technologies and innovative approaches in the economy.

g. Energy and provision of energy security⁵

Armenia needs diversification of energy sources. The Party attaches importance to construction of the second Iran-Armenia gas pipe-line and export of Iranian gas through the territory of Armenia into international markets. The party believes that it is important to build a new nuclear power station in Armenia.

h. Development of tourism⁵

The historic and cultural heritage, the climatic conditions and the national peculiarities of Armenia provide quite favorable conditions for the development of tourism and the increase in the specific weight of tourism in economy.

i. Stimulation of investments⁵

The Party attaches importance to increase in foreign direct investment.

j. Improvement of business environment and development of small and medium business⁵

It is necessary to provide state assistance to the development of small and medium businesses.

g. Reduction of shadow economy

The Party believes that it is important to combat shadow economy, clans, corruption in the state apparatus and other phenomena hindering the development of Armenia.

h. Eradication of corruption

Combating corruption must have a systematic nature.

4.5. Fundamentals of social policy and solutions to current problems, including

Eradication of social injustice.

a. Overcoming the poverty

One of the Party's objectives is the creation of favorable conditions through legislative and institutional ways to ensure relevant living standards for socially vulnerable and unemployed groups, as well as to combat social polarization.

b. Reduction of polarization of society and reformation of social justice

Under conditions of social polarization, provision of opportunities for self-disclosure of an individual is closely related to economic progress as well as development and establishment of efficient social security systems, which under conditions of developed legislation and efficient mechanisms will be able to stimulate social development. Formation of a country with developed economy emanates from interests of members of society, and creation of efficient systems of social security will assist further development of principles of social friendship and partnership, which is one of the most important objectives of the Party.

c. Ensuring employment and reducing unemployment

Free choice of employment is one of the most important social rights of an individual and a citizen. As to assurance of guaranteed employment and respectable living standards, it is one of prior problems of any state.

The Party believes that the state is obliged to participate in the creation of employment as well as provide tax privileges to enterprises creating employment.

d. Improvement of healthcare system⁵

With regard to public health care, the Party attaches importance to the following:

- mandatory state medical insurance for certain types of illnesses;
- establishment of medical insurance system on a voluntary basis;
- deepening of enhancements in the sphere of public health;
- adoption of a Code regulating the sphere of public health.

e. Social security and insurance systems reforms⁵

- Pension and minimum salary should ensure minimum living standards;
- Fundamental review of family subsidiaries;
- Targeted state assistance to socially vulnerable groups (elderly people, refugees, disabled people, etc.).
- Implementation of effective mechanisms enabling transition from social security to social insurance systems.

4.6. Reformation and development of the education system⁵

With regard to education sphere, the Party suggests the following:

- prohibition of privatization of educational institutions and increase of school role and self-maintenance;
- legal protection and continuous increase of workers' salaries engaged in education sphere;
- instruction of computer science and two foreign languages starting from the first class;
- granting of long-term educational credits with low interest rates to students of higher educational and vocational institutions
- gradual elimination of entrance examinations.

4.7. Development of science⁵

The Party believes that it is necessary to modernize scientific system, increase budgetary allotments to make Armenia a leading country of scientific progress in the region. It is necessary to assist innovative initiatives and researches as well as ensure investment and cooperation environment. The state is obliged to assist young scholars.

4.8. Sport and Culture⁴

The Party suggests the following:

- assist in preserving historical-cultural heritage;
- assist in developing modern, national and applied arts;
- encourage authors of significant cultural achievements;
- deepen cultural cooperation with foreign countries and Diaspora;
- introduce Armenian culture with dignity in foreign countries.

4.9. Territorial government and local self-government

Reformation of territorial and self-government systems and promotion of effectiveness.

a. Enlargement of communities

The party believes that enlargement of communities will contribute to the increase in effective community government.

b. Enhancing the role of council

Increasing the role of the council will reduce unilateral and not objective decisions made by community leader, thus promoting the effectiveness of community government.

c. Creation of inter-communal units and precision of legislature

The party thinks that the creation of inter-communal units will contribute to the exchange of experience among communities, as well as increase in the effectiveness of community government.

d. Promotion of financial independence of communities

Promoting financial independence of communities will provide quicker and more effective solutions to a community's own problems. Meanwhile, it is indispensable to create effective control mechanisms for communities' financial expenditures.

e. Transfer of additional authorities of the state to communities

Assigning additional authorities to communities may provide for the increased effective communal government.

f. Proportionate development of marzes

Proportionate development of marzes will provide for the enlivening of social-economic life of the state outside the capital city and will increase the standards of living in marzes.

4.10. Development of civil society, protection of civil rights including

An important guarantee for sustainability and development of a modern, democratic society is the presence and development of an accomplished civil society.

a. Strengthening democratic institutes

The Party attaches importance to legislative and institutional reforms, development and sustainability of democratic institutions. RA development and security, to greatest extent are conditioned by democratization of our country today.

b. Ensuring freedom of speech and information

One of the Party's objectives is assistance in developing of free mass media as a tool of public authority.

c. Consolidating human rights and basic freedoms

In developed societies protection of freedoms of an individual and a citizen is one of the most important problems of socio-political systems. The Party believes that in Armenia opportunities of free living and creativity of an individual and a citizen should be guaranteed.

d. Reforming the judicial system

The Party believes that it is important to ensure independence of judicial system and increase its role, as well as create a base to guarantee justice.

e. Improving the election system

The Party strongly believes that no normal democracy can be ensured without a sustained election system. Therefore, the party finds it necessary to continually improve the election system.

f. Formation of political parties and development of political field

Sustainability of parties and party systems will ensure the development of accomplishing and strengthening the whole political system.

g. Formation of non-governmental organizations and regulation of the field

Sustainability of NGOs will ensure the development of a civil society in RA.

h. Protecting women's rights and combating violence against them

The integration of women in all the spheres of the society's vital activities will ensure both a sustainable development of the society and will increase the level of protection of women's rights.

i. Public participation in legislative procedures

The provision of public mass discussion and participation in legislative initiatives will ensure increase in the effectiveness of laws and a wide public support.

4.11. National security issues and solutions thereto⁴

Self-governance of a nation, people, state, citizen and individual is the guarantee for freedom. During its centuries-old history, the Armenian nation wished to achieve national self-governance through creation of an independent Armenian state, considering it as a guarantee for national security with regard to nation-preservation, spiritual and social spheres. Therefore, the party concludes that the first prerequisite for this very security is the creation of ideological, self-protective immune –system which will eliminate any alien intrusions into the state national environment.

4.12. Demographic problems, including emigration and birth problems and solutions thereto⁵

The party believes that the state is obliged to assist families having many children, as well as stimulate birthrate through provision of one-off amount of AMD 150,000 for the first baby, 250,000 for the second, and 400,000 for the third baby.

4.13. Environmental problems and solutions thereto

Under conditions of market economy, currently, Armenia faces serious ecological problems: as to the solution the following is necessary:

- assist to preserve lake Sevan and restore its ecological balance (in the future, it is necessary to search for finances for construction of Sevan collector);
- assist to resolve the problem concerning re-exploitation of hydroelectric station of Vorotan;
- attach importance to implementation of the programs for preservation, usage and rehabilitation of forests;
- prohibit illegal felling
- assist to create enterprises processing wastes through implementation of ecological technologies;
- view exploitation of mines and their efficiency increase through establishment of new technologies as a supremacy;
- impose more stringent responsibility for merciless usage of lithosphere, green zones and territories rich in forests.

4.14. Moral, psychological, youth problems and solutions thereto:

- Equal initial conditions for the young
- Provision of state support to gifted youngsters and young scholars
- Drafting and realization of targeted social support project for the newly- formed young families
- Provision of one-off amount of up to 400.000 AMD by way of support to newly-formed young families
- Active involvement of the young in social, political, military, patriotic, sport and creative activities, as well as in state governing system.

COMMENTS ON RESPONSES OF POLITICAL PARTIES INCLUDED IN THE GUIDEBOOK

Symbol	Comments on Official Status of Positions Expressed by the Parties on Questionnaire Questions
1	Completed by the party, but not checked by the Foundation due to unavailability of relevant official documents of the given party (program, charter or other publicly available official documents) and inaccessibility for the latter for the Foundation.
2	Completed by the Foundation on the basis of the data provided on the website (www.e-register.am) of state register of Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia, as well as the database of Foundation, since the party didn't provide answers to relevant questions of the questionnaire.
3	Completed by the Foundation on the basis of the data provided on the website (www.e-register.am) of state register of Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia, as well as the database of Foundation, because of impossibility to engage the party in participation of the survey as the party could be found neither in its legal nor head office addresses.
4	Completed by the party, but only partially included (corresponds only to some extent) in the relevant official documents of the party publicly available or/and provided to the Foundation (program, charter or other publicly available official documents).
5	Completed by the party, but excluded (missing) from the relevant official documents of the party publicly available or/and provided to the Foundation (program, charter or other publicly available official documents).
6	Completed by the party, but totally or partly contradicting to the position stipulated by the party as regards the same issue in the relevant official documents of the party publicly available or/and provided to the Foundation (program, charter or other publicly available official documents).

**Explanations With Regard to
Comments on Official Status of Positions Expressed by the Parties on Questionnaire Questions**

Option	Symbol Positioning	Explanation
a.	Symbol is inserted on certain section, set of questions, a question or sub-question.	Comment on symbol refers respectively to the whole response on the given section, set of questions, question or sub-question.
b.	Symbol is inserted on certain paragraph or end of response sentence to some section, set of questions, a question or sub-question.	Comment on the symbol refers only to the given paragraph or sentence.
c.	Symbol is inserted on some section, set of questions, a question or sub-question response, in the end of numbering text.	Comment on the symbol refers to the given text and following numberings therein.
d.	Symbol is inserted on some section, set of questions, a question or sub-question response right after one of the numbers.	Comment to the symbol refers only to the provision under the given numbering.
e.	Symbol is inserted on the question numbering.	Comment to the symbol refers to the whole question, including sub-questions.

BLANK QUESTIONNAIRE THROUGH WHICH THE FOUNDATION CONDUCTED THE SURVEY AND COLLECTED DATA PRESENTED IN THE GUIDEBOOK

1. General Information

- Full name and abbreviation of the Party:
- Legal address::
- Head office address:
- Telephone and fax:
- E-mail:
- Website:
- Foundation date:
- State registration date::
- State re-registration date:
- Date of Charter and program approval:
- Date of the last congress:
- Date and name of mass media through which the Party's program and Charter have been published:

- Party's official press:
- Number of Party's territorial subdivisions: ,
- Number of Party's members during the filling of the questionnaire: , from which:
 - Women %
 - Youth %

2. GOVERNING BODIES AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE PARTY

2.1. Names of the Party's governing bodies, number of members in governing bodies and the Party President

-
-
-
- Party President:

2.2. Membership procedure, including membership fees and payment peculiarities

3. IDEOLOGICAL PLATFORM, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PARTY

3.1. Ideology

3.2. Goals and objectives

3.3. Type of the Party: right, left, centrist, socialist, liberal, national, conservative, religious, nationalist (according to the Party)

4. PROGRAM STANDPOINTS OF THE PARTY ON THE FOLLOWING ISSUES:

4.1. Three priorities of foreign policy

1.
2.
3.

4.2. Fundamentals of foreign policy, including:

a. European Integration

b. CIS

c. Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO)

d. NATO

e. USA

f. Russian Federation

g. Recognition of the Genocide and Armenian-Turkish relations

h. Karabakh issue and Armenian-Azeri relations

i. Iran

j. Georgia, including the issue of Javakh Armenians

k. Armenia-Diaspora: enhanced links and effective cooperation

l. Other /mention/

4.3. Three priorities of domestic policy

1.
2.
3.

4.4. Fundamentals of financial-economic policy, problems of stable economic development and their solution, including:

a. Monetary policy

b. Budgetary policy and state debt

c. Tax and custom reforms

d. Industrial growth

e. Development of agriculture

f. Development of IT and innovation

g. Energy and energy security

h. Development of tourism

i. Stimulation of investment

j. Improvement of business environment, development of small and medium business

k. Reduction of shadow economy

l. Eradication of corruption

m. Other /mention/

4.5. Fundamentals of social policy and solution of current problems, including:

a. Overcoming poverty

b. Reduction of polarization in society and improvement of social justice

c. Ensuring employment and reducing unemployment

d. Improvement of health care system

e. Reforming social security and insurance system

f. Other /mention/

4.6. Reform and development of education system

4.7. Development of science

4.8. Culture and sport

4.9. Territorial government and local self-government

a. Enlarging communities

b. Enhancing the role of the council

c. Creation of inter-community units and clarification of legislation

d. Promotion of financial independence of communities

e. Delegating additional authorities to communities by the state

f. Balanced development of marzes

g. Other /mention/

4.10. Development of civil society and protection of civil interests, including:

a. Strengthening democratic institutes:

b. Ensuring freedom of speech and information

c. Consolidation of human rights and basic freedoms

d. Reforming the judicial system

e. Improving the election system

f. Formation of political parties and developing the political field

g. Formation of NGOs and legislative regulation of the field

h. Protection of women's rights and combating violence against them

i. Public participation in legislative processes

j. Other /mention/

4.11. Obstacles to national security and ways to overcome them

4.12. Demographic problems, including birth and emigration problems, and solutions thereto

4.13. Environmental problems and solutions thereto

4.14. Moral-psychological and youth problems and solutions thereto

4.15. Other /mention/

5. PARTICIPATION IN ELECTIONS

5.1. Party's participation in parliamentary elections and the number of candidates nominated

▪ **1995 elections:**

Number of candidates by proportional system:

Number of candidates by majority system:

▪ **1999 elections:**

Number of candidates by proportional system:

Number of candidates by majority system:

▪ **2003 elections:**

Number of candidates by proportional system:

Number of candidates by majority system:

▪ **2007 elections:**

Number of candidates by proportional system:

Number of candidates by majority system:

▪ **Will you participate in 2012 elections?** yes no

If yes, alone in alliance /if in alliance:

○ Name of the alliance:

○ Purpose and bases (ideological, etc.) of the alliance:

▪ **When and by what mass media was published or will be published the Party's election campaign program?**

5.2. Party's participation in presidential elections

▪ **1991 elections:** yes no

▪ **1996 elections:** yes no

▪ **1998 elections:** yes no

▪ **2003 elections:** yes no

▪ **2008 elections:** yes no

▪ **Will you participate in 2013 presidential elections?** yes no

5.3. Party's participation in local self-government elections

▪ **1996 elections:** yes no

▪ **1999 elections:** yes no

▪ **2002 elections:** yes no

▪ **2005 elections:** yes no

▪ **2008 elections:** yes no

▪ **Will you participate in 2012 local self-government elections?** yes no

▪ **Number of communities your Party members/representatives were nominated during previous elections in accordance with the procedure defined by the law. Number** _____

▪ **Has the Party supported other party representatives?** yes no

6. NATIONAL ASSEMBLY REPRESENTATION

6.1. Number of NA deputies

▪ NA I Congress:

▪ NA II Congress:

▪ NA III Congress:

▪ NA IV Congress:

“POLITICAL PARTIES OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA PARTICIPATING IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS 2012 UNDER PROPORTIONAL SYSTEM” VOTER’S GUIDEBOOK

© The right for printing, publication, copying and dissemination by electronic or paper means of the “POLITICAL PARTIES OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA PARTICIPATING IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS 2012 UNDER PROPORTIONAL SYSTEM” VOTER’S GUIDEBOOK belongs to THE FOUNDATION FOR CIVIL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Please get the consent of the Foundation prior to making any type of electronic or paper dissemination.

FOUNDATION FOR CIVIL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Address: Apt. 24, 13 Totoventsi St., Yerevan

E-mail: info.fcsd@gmail.com, info@fcsd.am

Website: www.fcsd.am.

Tel: (+374 91) 20-68-42, 20-68-43

FOR NOTES

POSTSCRIPT

Dear reader,

You were introduced to the “POLITICAL PARTIES OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA PARTICIPATING IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS 2012 UNDER PROPORTIONAL SYSTEM” VOTER’S GUIDEBOOK, which was developed by the Foundation for Civil and Social Development, the aim of which was to present to the public in the 2007 election eve brief, unbiased and compatible information on the activities, aims, objectives and program fundamentals of the parties participating in the elections.

Your opinion on this guidebook is crucial and valuable to us. We will be grateful to receive your comments and suggestions. For this purpose, please fill in and send to us the attached questionnaire.

Thank you.

✂
QUESTIONNAIRE FOR EVALUATION OF “POLITICAL PARTIES OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA PARTICIPATING IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS 2012 UNDER PROPORTIONAL SYSTEM” VOTER’S GUIDEBOOK

1. Data and address of filler (indicate at will).

2. Main field of activity and occupation.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employee of the state governing system | <input type="checkbox"/> Hired worker of the private sector |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Private business | <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific-pedagogical activity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public activity | <input type="checkbox"/> Political party activist |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mass media | <input type="checkbox"/> Student |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pensioner | <input type="checkbox"/> Other /specify/ |

3. Your general evaluation about this Guidebook.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Satisfactory |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Bad |

4. How useful is the Guidebook for you?

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Very useful | <input type="checkbox"/> Useful |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not so much | <input type="checkbox"/> Useless |

5. Please, indicate three best characteristics of the Guidebook.

6. Please, indicate three basic weaknesses of the Guidebook.

7. Your suggestions

8. Do you find important republication of the Guidebook in the future?

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|

9. Do you wish to receive one more copy of the Guidebook?

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|

Thank you for filling in the questionnaire!

✂
"POLITICAL PARTIES OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA PARTICIPATING IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS 2012
UNDER PROPORTIONAL SYSTEM" VOTER'S GUIDEBOOK

Name:
Address:

FOUNDATION FOR CIVIL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT Address: Apt. 24, 13 Totoventsi St., Yerevan E-mail: info.fcsd@gmail.com, info@fcsd.am Website: www.fcsd.am. Tel: (+374 91) 20-68-42, 20-68-43
