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**POLITICAL PARTIES OF
THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA
PARTICIPATING IN
THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ELECTIONS 2007**

VOTER'S GUIDEBOOK

YEREVAN, 2007

“POLITICAL PARTIES OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA PARTICIPATING IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS 2007” VOTER’S GUIDEBOOK

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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 2007. This Guidebook is developed on the basis of responses as provided by 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-commercial organization (Foundation) and fundamentals included in parties' official public documents. This Guidebook is designed to be widely disseminated among NGOs and international organizations, political parties, education institutions, foundations, state authorities and the general public.

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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, Civic Development and Partnership Foundation, OSCE and OSCE office in Yerevan.

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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, 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 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.

Particularly, it is for this reason that the pre-election processes occasionally turn into self-glorification and dis-reputation of opponents, instead of public competition of ideas, programs and positions on hot and crucial issues.

Consequently, political orientation of citizens disorientated in actual differences of positions of numberless 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. Furthermore, unbiased information on parties and their activities is occasionally replaced with self-appraisals, qualification, misinformation, advertisement. The latter is even more hazardous than the lack of real information and wields tremendous negative impact on public demand and trust for unbiased information in general.

Solution of 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 within the framework of project "Political Parties of the Republic of Armenia", which included development of the database on RA political parties, active as of 01.09.04, 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 in the eve of RA National Assembly and Presidential elections.

Thus, development and publication of this guidebook and constant update of the information database and website primarily serve the aim of increased 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 Leader

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* Political parties are presented in Armenian alphabetical order for the purpose of providing simple usage of the current Guidebook and database.

INTRODUCTION

The Foundation for Civil and Social Development, non-commercial organization (FCSD) continues the activities 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 and presenting this Guidebook on political parties participating in the National Assembly elections 2007 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 information included in their official public documents. This Guidebook is the outcome of the Foundation's effort to provide the public with unbiased, comparative and accessible information on activities, objectives, goals and program fundamentals of political parties in line with update of the Foundation's information database and website on all political parties of the Republic of Armenia, as well as development and publication of the Directory on Political Parties of the Republic of Armenia, available in both Armenian and English languages.

The purpose of development and publication of the Voter's Guidebook on National Assembly Elections 2007, Participant Political Parties as well as constant update of the information database and website is primarily the increased 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.

Another key purpose for republishing the updated paper and electronic forms of the informational materials is to present the public with program and charter fundamentals and approaches of the existing political forces on perspectives of country's development, critical issues disturbing the economy and the society. We hope that the information material under publication will enable the voters to gain thorough knowledge on ideological distinctions and program approaches of political parties, which will contribute to voters' orientation in the forthcoming elections and conscious decision-making. State elections entail serious challenges for any country, especially with presence of several internal sophisticated problems of state significance to be regulated in parallel. May 12th National Assembly elections are first of all distinguished by that circumstance. Development perspectives of the Republic of Armenia are conditioned by elections compliant with the current international standards for democratic elections, proper representation of our country and Armenians all over the world, efficiency of long-term efforts in addressing nation-wide concerns. In this respect, it is crucial for the wider segments of voters to be well-aware of the charter goals, program fundamentals of participant political parties and their positions on domestic and foreign critical issues.

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. And it is not just accidental that the average voter is reluctant to become a victim for different techniques of propaganda, persuasions, election bribery and various populist promises.

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. 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. The Foundation presents this Voter's Guidebook, consistent with its mission, taking into consideration the above stated circumstances.

Public awareness on ideological distinctions of political parties, their program goals and positions is even more important in pre-election period, since conscious and justified vote of the population is of special importance for formation of civil society. With this vote we all assume civil responsibility over our state and take participation in country's development.

Consequently, we should get to know the political forces pertaining to run the future of our country in all their programs and adopted strategies, as well as their positions on problems disturbing all of us and significant for the future of our country. It is only in this case that our votes will be weighted and justified, while responsibilities assumed by guarantors of our country's progress - proved to be correct and acceptable.

In addition to publication of this Voter's Guidebook available both in hard and electronic forms, the Foundation has updated the information database and webpage (www.fcsd.am) as of 10 January, 2007 on political parties of the Republic of Armenia based on the information obtained from official documents of all parties operating in the Republic of Armenia and their responses completed in the questionnaire developed by the Foundation, besides the Foundation is going to republish the updated Directory on Political Parties of the Republic of Armenia and post its electronic version.

The list of parties published in the Directory and presented in the webpage and their general information (party registration number, date of foundation and registration, name, address, head of the executive body, etc) have been provided upon written request of the Foundation by the RA Ministry of Justice by the order 3-2/1463 dated 17.01.07. As compared to this guidebook the webpage and Directory include all 74 political parties registered as of 10/01/2007, plus one party in addition to the above mentioned list, registered on February 26, 2007. The information about the parties which didn't participate in the Foundation's survey although was included in the webpage and Directory is presented as far as provided by 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.

Despite several letters, suggestions and persuasions, preliminary agreements and announcements by mass media undertaken during the period between 22 January, 2007 to 20 March, 2007 the Foundation succeeded in establishing contact and passing the questionnaire to 63 political parties out of 74 registered and functioning in the Republic of Armenia as of 10 January, 2007, of which 7 political parties considered their participation in our survey aimless, and were reluctant to provide information about their activities. Thus, out of 74 political parties, registered and functioning in the Republic of Armenia as of 10 January, only 56 parties out of 63 participated in the survey provided necessary information to the Foundation, including the 25 parties out of 26 registered for participation in the parliamentary elections, since one party participating in the elections and presented in this Guidebook was registered later on February 26, 2007.

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 text 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 this or that 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.

During the implementation process political parties have submitted their comments, suggestions and evaluations to the Foundation, which are presented in the end of this Guidebook in a brief manner and will be considered for the next analysis and publications. Particularly, we envisage extending the scope of issues included in the questionnaire and moderating the volume limitations, etc.

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 Guideline and information materials on political parties, as well as cooperation and support.

Foundation for Civil and Social Development

POLITICAL PARTIES OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA PARTICIPATING IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS 2007

1. "NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY"

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

- **Head office:** Apt. 4., 9 Koryun St, Yerevan
- **Telephone, fax:** (+37410) 56-21-50
- **E-mail:** ajk_info@yahoo.com, ajk_info@web.am
- **Website:** www.ajk.am
- **Foundation date:** 27.05.2001
- **Charter and Program approval date:** 27.05.2006
- **State registration date:** 06.07.2001
- **State re-registration date:** 26.11.2003
- **Date of publication of the Party's Program and Charter and the name of mass media:** "Brochure" 2007, "Aravot" daily, November 2006, "168 Zham" periodical, January 2007

2. GOVERNING BODIES AND THE LEADER OF THE PARTY

- Congress
- Board - 22 members
- Administration - 11 members
- Party President: Shavarsh Kocharyan

3. IDEOLOGICAL PLATFORM, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PARTY

Governed by the supreme goal of prosperity and strength of all layers of RA population and Armenians all over the world, at this stage of development the Party aims at establishment of the Republic of Armenia as a democratic and legal state. Consistent consolidation of democracy in Armenia is a necessary condition for parallel and efficient realization of other important goals. These goals include:

- getting rid of the authoritarian political system and clan economy;
- creating legal and social state anchored upon national and universal human values;
- forming political society;
- guaranteeing human rights and freedoms;
- creating employment and competitive economic system, overcoming poverty and reducing social polarization;
- ensuring national security;
- retaining and developing national cultural heritage;
- developing the science, particularly such branches as study of Armenians and new technologies;
- reforming the education system to comply with national traditional and modern requirements;
- taking over front line positions in the region, enhancing the international role and integrating in international organizations,
- having Karabakh internationally recognized;
- enhancing effective and many-sided relations with the Diaspora;
- substituting emigration with immigration; this being an overall indicator to realization of the above goals.

4. PROGRAM STANDPOINTS OF THE PARTY ON THE FOLLOWING ISSUES

4.1. Priorities of foreign policy

1. The first milestone of foreign policy of RA is European integration;
2. The second one is a mission of the carrier and developer of idea of dialogue between the civilizations and bridge of dialogue with the East;
3. The third one is, on the one hand, distinguishing the responsibility of guarantor of Armenia's national preservation, on the other hand, concentration on the Diaspora in the process of EU integration and dialogue between civilizations.

4.2. Fundamentals of foreign policy, including

a. European Integration

The party highlights the integration into European organizations (Council of Europe, OSCE), bilateral relations with European countries and Armenia's membership to European Union as foreign (and domestic) policy goals.

b. CIS

It is necessary to continue the mutually beneficial cooperation with CIS countries, emphasizing Armenia's conformity with European values and standards, rather than taking advantage of the Russia-West controversies.

c. Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO)⁵

Membership to Collective Security Treaty Organization should be continued.

d. NATO

The enhancement of military-political and military-technical cooperation with NATO should be aimed at the modernization of the army and military capacity building.

e. USA

Taking into consideration the core role of the USA in NATO and its current and ever-growing impact on processes all over the world and in our region, the Party attaches importance to deepening the relations with the USA.

f. Russian Federation

The Party attaches great importance to mutually beneficial cooperation with Russia and CIS countries, putting the stress on harmonization of Armenia with the European system of values and standards, rather than on Russia-West controversies.

g. Turkey

The following approaches should guide the relations with Turkey:

- Armenia is ready both for dialogue with Turkey and establishment of diplomatic relations without any preconditions;
- Turkey's democratization and conformity with European values, and in that consequence, membership to the European Union will facilitate improvement of relations with Armenia;
- Recording the fact that Turkey is still far from being the carrier of European values (which is proved by the unwillingness to acknowledge the Armenian Genocide, Armenia's blockade and overt prejudiced policy with regard to Karabakh issue), Armenia's key task shall not be showing the West that Turkey doesn't meet the European standards but competing Turkey in satisfying those standards faster.

h. Azerbaijan

The following approaches should guide the relations with Azerbaijan:

- Armenia should be willing to cooperating with Azerbaijan in different aspects (economic, humanitarian, information, sport) and different levels (state entities, enterprises, NGOs, journalists, scientists) without conditioning the latter with the regulation of Karabakh issue and recognizing that such relations will contribute to decreased mistrust, intolerance and rivalry, thus creating favorable environment for regulation of Karabakh issue.
- In competition for advanced influence in the international stage, Armenia should use democracy and full European integration to oppose the Azerbaijan oil factor.
- To thwart the war seeking announcements and threats excited by the oil dollars allocated to the army, Armenia must strengthen its security system, which presupposes qualitative growth of economy, while the latter is possible only with rapid establishment of democratic, legitimate state.

i. Iran

The Party attaches high importance to deepened diversity relations with our neighbors, especially with Iran and Arab countries.

j. Georgia

In all the diversity of relations with Georgia, particular attention should be dropped on the social, economic, religious, educational and cultural problems of Javakhk Armenians, directed by the obligations already assumed or yet to be assumed by Georgia against European and other international structures on its way to European integration, such as giving Armenian language a status of regional language, factual local governance, retention and development of cultural heritage, excluding from the inter-state and political life of Georgia any discrimination against Armenians.

k. Armenia's participation in regional programs

The Party emphasizes the importance of Armenia's leading part in the region, enhanced international role and international integration.

l. Karabakh issue

The Party considers such regulation of Karabakh issue which:

- refers to the international recognition of the Republic of Karabakh and integration into international structures;
- ensures reliable regional link between Karabakh and Armenia;
- guarantees adequate compensation for violated rights of Armenians who were forced to migration from the Soviet Azerbaijan (including loss of motherland).

m. Recognition of the Genocide⁴

The Party attaches major importance to the Genocide recognition and will consistently pursue the process.

n. Armenia-Diaspora: enhanced links and effective cooperation

In remaining faithful to its mission of persistently undertaking the Armenian Cause, the Diaspora can have its positive input in such issues as:

- Armenia's democratization and international integration;
- Integration and increased international weight;
- Karabakh's consolidation and international recognition;
- Formation of attitude of reliability towards investment activities in Armenia and Karabakh;
- Arrangement and encouragement of immigration to Armenia and Karabakh.

4.3. Priorities of domestic policy

Guided by the ultimate goal of welfare and strength of the Armenian population and Armenians all over the world, at this stage of development, the Party considers establishment of the Republic of Armenia as a democratic and legal state to be a first priority objective.

4.4. Government's role in regulation and development of the economy

Solution of economic problems in line with establishment of a legal state presupposes:

- development and implementation of strategic scientific-technological and economic programs targeting development of perspective branches of economy, which are less material-oriented and more knowledge-based (such as information technologies, biotechnology, nanotechnology);
 - construction of a more powerful gas main, as well as pipeline and railway running from Iran through the territory of the Republic of Armenia, at the same time endeavoring the commencement of Gyurmi-Ghars and Abkhazian railways will help Armenia to become a transit country;
 - construction of a new, modern and safe nuclear power plant which will have enough capacity to ensure export of power energy;
 - implementation of certain policy targeting development of innovative economy, including establishment of venture funds;
 - comprehensive analysis of social and environmental impacts of all economic reforms prior to their approval;
- Solution of economic problems presupposes state regulation based on economic leveraging (subsidies, loans, tax privileges).

4.5. Fundamentals of economic policy, including

The main purpose of economic reforms is to establish internationally competitive economy typical to information population based on scientific capacity, which will ensure legal impartiality and equal competitive conditions for business entities.

4.6. Ways to overcome the existing obstacles to economic development, including

The Party believes that the milestone of economic development and welfare of population is the private sector economic potential under free competition.

a. Stimulation of investments

It is necessary to ensure and encourage creation of favorable environment for investments.

b. Development of financial markets

It is important to increase the level of cooperation in domestic market.

c. Improvement of competitiveness

It is necessary to ensure free competitive environment in economic relations.

d. Development of small and medium business

Development of small and medium business is a key objective of Armenia's economic policy.

e. Fulfillment of WTO requirements⁵

Meeting WTO requirements will promote local production and ensure competitiveness of local production in international markets.

f. Balanced development of marzes

For the purpose of balanced development of marzes, the Party emphasizes state regulation of natural monopoly and enhanced anti-monopoly policy.

g. Reduction of shadow economy

The Party believes that anti-shadow economy policy should be a key objective to the economic policy of the Republic of Armenia.

h. Eradication of corruption

Effective anti-corruption policy depends on structural reforms, which will allow supervision over authorities.

i. Development of industry

The Party believes that development of preprocessing industry and agriculture is a high priority, which will guarantee high level of employment.

j. Development of agriculture

State assistance to agricultural development should provide better conditions.

k. Provision of energy safety

It is essential to build a modern and safe nuclear power plant which will have enough capacity for export of power energy.

l. Development of industrial infrastructure (energy, communication, transportation, etc)

In order to turn Armenia into a transit country, it is essential to build a more powerful gas main, as well as pipeline and railway running from Iran through the territory of the Republic of Armenia, at the same time endeavor commencement of Gyurmi-Ghars and Abkhazian railways.

The Party attaches large importance to development and implementation of strategic scientific-technological and economic programs targeting development of perspective branches of economy, which are less material-oriented and are more knowledge-based (such as information technologies, biotechnology, nanotechnology).

m. Innovative development of economy

The Party believes that innovative development of the country should be based on scientific development, including study of Armenology and fundamentals of new technologies.

n. Improvement of corporate governance

The Party keeps to the idea that democracy is the guarantee of spiritual and material well being of individuals, protected human rights and freedoms, healthy and effective management systems. Main purpose of political system reforms is the speedy transfer from a state with person-oriented authorities to the one with well-established democracy.

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

a. Overcoming the poverty

The Party believes that reduction of poverty will derive from effective economic and political reforms.

b. Reduction of polarization of society⁴

Removing the extreme social polarization prevailing nowadays is a first priority to the Party.

c. Ensuring the employment

Creation of competitive economic system and employment is a high priority to the Party.

d. Reduction of emigration

Shifting emigration into immigration is a crucial matter.

e. Improvement of public health care system⁵

Medical insurance should be adopted soon, and there should be affordable medical services for poor residents. The Party underscores the importance of implementation of goal-seeking programs, the efficiency of which will directly depend on the implementation of programs targeting economic reforms and employment creation.

g. Education system reform⁵

Intellectual and spiritual potential is the basis of Armenia's development, which presumes special state and public attitude towards science, education and culture. Free higher education should be available for poor residents.

h. Development of science

The party anticipates development and implementation of strategic scientific-technological and economic programs targeting development of perspective branches of economy, which are less material-oriented and are more knowledge-based (such as information technologies, biotechnology).

i. Culture

It is important to develop complex programs aiming at preserving, developing and propagating cultural heritage (including internet resources).

j. Sport⁵

One of the key objectives of the Party is the creation of relevant conditions for the growth of healthy population.

4.8. Formation and development of civil society, including

a. Strengthening democratic institutes

The Country should meet EU membership requirements.

b. Ensuring freedom of speech and information

In this respect, the Party highlights the importance of guaranteed provision of basic human rights and freedoms, stipulated by RA Constitution and European Convention of Human Rights, in particular:

- only such limitations of human rights by statute, which are purposeful, needed and measured and correspond to the objectives as stipulated by the Constitution limitations or individually or in aggregate do not violate the essence of the right (limitation of limitations);
- freedom of mass media and other means of information, including stipulating rights of the regulator of broadcasting media activates that focus on provision of freedom, independence and diversity of broadcasting media (access to competent state bodies and court to protect themselves from encroachment, as well as submission of annual and as needed urgent reports to the National Assembly describing the situation in the sector);
- Accessibility of any information that does not constitute state or trade secrecy and does not relate to personal lives.

c. Consolidating human rights and basic freedoms

The Party attaches great importance to guaranteed human rights and freedoms.

d. Judicial system reform

With this regard, the Party accentuates the establishment of independent and fair judicial power, creation of administrative justice institute, which will void legal acts contradicting laws and stop illegal activities officials.

e. Improving the election system

Solution to this problem is seen in adoption of a new elections code, which will particularly guarantee:

- 100% proportional system of parliamentary elections, leaving the voters to set the sequence in the list of candidates nominated by parties (coalitions);
- Procedure for formation of election commissions and balanced selection of leading members therein;
- Transparent and supervision-capable election processes, also provided by modern technologies.

f. Sustaining political parties and developing the political field⁵

In this regard, the Party asserts that the focus of power should shift from person-oriented to political body-oriented (parliament), which can facilitate maturity of political parties and development of the political field.

g. Increasing political responsibility of political parties and political figures⁵

The Party states that guaranteeing fair elections is of vital importance otherwise increased responsibilities of political parties and statesmen will be impossible.

4.9. Obstacles to national security and ways to overcome them⁵

The Party believes that in order to avoid the possible war, achieve international and regional recognition of Karabakh, remove the transportation and economic isolation of the Republic of Armenia and overcome internal challenges threatening national security, it is necessary to adopt qualitative changes towards establishment of a competitive state and strengthening of the army, which will be possible for a democratic society only.

4.10. Demographic problems and solutions thereto

From the prospective of its demographic indicators Armenia has become the most vulnerable country in our region: lowest natural growth (negative), lowest birth rate (far from ensuring reproduction of the population), most quickly ageing society (declining correlation of able-bodied and retired citizens). The policy of overcoming the "demographic depression" in Armenia and its consequences is preconditioned by elimination of two negative factors currently prevailing. First factor is the psychological one – people are disposed of the power, defenseless, do not feel to be the masters of their country and participants of realization of common goals, and finally have lost any faith in future. Second factor is the lack of sufficient funds in the budget for implementation of relevant programs.

4.11. Environmental problems and solutions thereto

Programs for improved environmental protection and civil construction include:

1. impeding deforestation and de-plantation, undertaking a long-term greenery planting program,
2. undertaking a complex program for recovery of the city of Yerevan, particularly:
 - limit construction of multi-storey buildings in the city centre;
 - promote (through tax and loan incentives) replacement of earthquake-non-proof and seismic buildings constituting the greater part of housing with new ones;
 - promote use of transport means operating on liquid gas, power energy and in a long term objective – hydrogen (rehabilitation and improvement of trolleybus network, development of metro stations).

It is necessary to implement complex programs preventing pollution and environmental disbalance in Armenian waters, including all rivers, ground waters, lakes, paying special attention to Lake Sevan.

5. PARTICIPATION IN ELECTIONS

5.1. Party's participation in parliamentary elections and the number of candidates nominated

- **Elections 2003**

- Number of candidates nominated by proportional system: 6

- Number of candidates nominated by majority system: 1

5.2. Party's participation in presidential elections

- **Elections 2003** didn't participate

6. PARTY REPRESENTATION IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

6.1. Number of deputies in NA

- NA III Convocation: 1

2. “NATIONAL ACCORD” PARTY

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

- **Address of the head office:** 1/3 Buzand St., Yerevan
- **Telephone, fax:** (+37410) 58-01-37
- **E-mail:** NUR_NAP@rambler.ru
- **Foundation date:** 04.04.2000
- **Charter and Program approval date:** 04.04.2000
- **State registration date:** 27.04.2000
- **State re-registration date:** 20.11.2003
- **Number of party members at the time of completing questionnaire:** 4876 members
- **Date of publication of the Party's Program and Charter and the name of mass media:** “Parliamentary elections”, “Presidential elections”, (Caucasus Institute of Mass media)

2. GOVERNING BODIES AND THE LEADER OF THE PARTY¹

- Congress
- Political board: 12 members
- Marz board: 12 members
- Community board: 12 members
- Party President: Aram Harutyunyan

3. IDEOLOGICAL PLATFORM, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PARTY:¹

Party's Charter goals and objectives:

- Consolidate national statehood,
 - Develop legal civil society on the basis of liberal democratic principles, where the members are given utmost freedom consistent with the freedom of others,
 - Enhance political culture of the population, considering it as internal freedom of an individual, criteria for his civil and democratic development,
 - Support development and demonstration of people's political will, and assist with establishment of social accord.
- Realization of the above goals requires construction of a state that ensures people's right to live with a decent, comfortable and safe life.

4. PROGRAM STANDPOINTS OF THE PARTY ON THE FOLLOWING ISSUES:¹

4.1. Priorities of foreign policy

1. Synthesize interests of the Great Powers in the regions, guided by the interests of Armenia,
2. Reinforcement of the Republic of Armenia and establishment of national accord in the society as a national model of civil society requires Armenia to revolve from a passive and conforming object into an active nation-building subject of globalization.

4.2. Fundamentals of foreign policy, including

Flexible and multi-vector foreign policy should be in place, which anticipates consolidation of friendly relations through political conversation with, first of all, neighbor countries, constructive participation in regional processes, as well as mutually beneficial cooperation within the scope of international organizations.

a. European Integration

European integration is a long-term objective for the Party.

b. CIS

It is necessary to develop efficient economic cooperation with the CIS countries and continue activities within the collective security system.

c. Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO)

Active membership in Collective Security Treaty Organization should be continued.

d. NATO

A member to Collective Security Treaty, Armenia should keep on extending the involvement within the framework of NATO program Partnership for Peace guided by the principles of cooperation and collaboration without damaging relations with other organizations.

e. USA

It is necessary to synthesize the US and Russian interests in the regions.

f. Russian Federation

The party looks upon Russia as a strategic partner and emphasizes the importance for developing and deepening mutually beneficial economic cooperation.

g. Turkey

It is necessary to open the borders with Turkey and establish diplomatic relations without any preconditions.

h. Azerbaijan

It is necessary to pursue negotiations on Karabakh issue with Azerbaijan, trying to ensure influential participation of Artsakh.

i. Iran

Economic cooperation with Iran should be expanded, treating Iran a strategic ally.

j. Georgia

It is necessary to maintain friendly relations with Georgia without ignoring problems of Jabakhk Armenians.

k. Armenia's participation in regional programs

The Party attaches great importance to the constructive participation of the Republic of Armenia in regional programs.

I. Karabakh issue

Asserting our devotedness to peaceful and fair regulation of Karabakh issue, it is essential to promote efficiency in negotiation processes, ensuring influential participation of Artsakh.

The Party accepts the following two options in the context of conflict resolution: either establishment of an independent autonomous state, or reunion with Armenia. Other solutions do not guarantee the self-determination right and security of Karabakh's people.

m. Recognition of the Genocide

Treating the Armenian Cause as national ideology, we should struggle for elimination of consequences of the Genocide.

n. Armenia-Diaspora: enhanced links and effective cooperation

The Party believes that it is important to enhance involvement of economic, financial and intellectual potential of all Armenians (near and far Diaspora), which suggests necessary legal (with regard to dual citizenship) and moral-psychological conditions.

o. Other /International terrorism/

The Party asserts that Armenia should involve in the battle against international terrorism.

4.3. Priorities of domestic policy

1. Support formation and realization of democratic values;
2. Support public cooperation processes leaning against national accord as a primary democratic value.

4.4. Government's role in regulation and development of the economy

It is necessary to create and ensure free competitive conditions, carry out anti-monopoly policy, stimulate investments and protect the rights of business entities.

4.5. Fundamentals of economic policy, including

Economic policy should be based on liberal-conservative ideology like a strategic program of practical policy targeting increased welfare of the population. It is necessary to undertake such measures, which will formulate a complete system of cooperation between the state, business entities and employees, regarding this partnership and the use of its capabilities in the position of social basis for a society of national harmony.

a. Monetary policy

As maintaining balanced monetary market and preventing fluctuations and depressions, it is necessary to carry out publicly open and transparent monetary policy.

b. Budgetary policy

It is necessary to ensure higher efficiency of state expenses and make budget performance more supervision-capable through reforms in legislative and normative frameworks.

c. Tax policy

It is necessary to run mild tax policy, reducing the variety of taxes and the existing profit tax rate. Legislative regulation of relations between the state and tax payers should be guided by the principle of tax cadastre (guaranteed protection of tax payers from arbitrariness).

f. Territorial

Fundamentals of territorial policy should be stipulated by the Constitution. Territorial policy should contribute to welfare of population and balanced development of regions throughout the Republic of Armenia. Special attention should be paid to least developed regions as running a target territorial policy.

g. Foreign economic relations

In order to make the Republic of Armenia attractive for foreign investments, it is necessary to reform the relevant legislative framework.

4.6. Ways to overcome the existing obstacles to economic development, including

It is necessary to ensure free competitiveness (elimination of monopoly), promote small and medium businesses and assure affordability of loans.

a. Stimulation of investments

There should be such legislative framework in place, which will provide opportunities for stimulation of investments. It is essential to improve the banking system (considering banks as partners).

c. Improvement of competitiveness

It is necessary to ensure stability and supervision of banking system and create relevant legislative framework and free competitive climate, improving the competitiveness and protecting the interests of business entities.

d. Development of small and medium business

Recognizing the role of the state as a regulator, the Party attaches great importance to implementation of such measures, which will formulate integral system between the state, small and medium business representatives and employees, regarding the use of those partnership capabilities as basis for a society of national harmony.

f. Balanced development of marzes

It is necessary to develop frontier and remote regions through tax and loan privileges and establish branches of state higher educational institutions to supply local human resources.

h. Eradication of corruption

Economic and legal reforms should create such climate, which will ensure solid anti-corruption normative base for the society, regarding bribery as moral concern for all social layers.

j. Development of agriculture

As a reliable partner of the peasants, the state should support them with organization of their work (extension of loans, provision seeds, chemo-poisons, fertilizers) and reprocessing of agricultural goods.

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

Social sector policy should considerably reduce the existing polarization of the society, contributing to increased life conditions of the population.

a. Overcoming the poverty

The Party looks upon reduction of poverty as result secured by righteous economic and social policy.

c. Ensuring employment

Effective economic policy will contribute to creation of new jobs, which will secure employment for the capable population, gradually decreasing volumes of unemployment. Active investment policy should be carried out to create new jobs thus reducing unemployment.

e. Improvement of public health care system

Effective target social and investment policy will contribute to increased quality and affordability of health services.

g. Reforming education system

It is necessary to enhance the role of the schools and ensure smooth transmission from school to higher education institutions, support establishment of branches of state higher education institutions in remote marzes and guarantee internal democracy in higher education institutions by enactment of relevant legislative reforms, which will promote transparency of expenditures and improve social standing of higher education institution employees.

h. Development of science

It is necessary to support development of fundamental branches of science and new technologies, ensuring transparency and efficiency of long-term and thematic financing allotted to therein.

i. Culture

Cultural policy should contribute to demonstration of creative potential of individuals and the society, retaining the spiritual national heritage. We should be guided by the principle of "One nation – one culture".

4.8. Formation and development of civil society, including

a. Strengthening democratic institutes

Increased political culture of the population, protection of human rights and internal freedom of individuals should serve as techniques for formation of a society with consolidated fundamentals of democracy.

d. Reforming the judicial system

It is necessary to support establishment of sustainable institute of attorneys as a guarantee to sustainable judicial system.

e. Improving the election system

It is necessary to decrease the 5% electoral threshold, ensuring larger supremacy of the proportional system over majority election system as well as form an election commission out representatives from all participating parties.

f. Sustaining political parties and developing the political field

It is necessary to ensure inter-party democracy, unify ideological sister parties and run free and fair elections.

4.9. Obstacles to national security and ways to overcome them

It is necessary to develop a concept of national security to be a system of standpoints adopted as defined by relevant procedures, which will ensure secure life activities in all sectors, protecting against external and internal threats, guaranteeing the state, social and individual security. From the point of view of national security the following aspects are of utmost importance: combating emigration, ensuring protection of national economy and security of information, natural wealth of the country, military strength, industrial and agricultural potential, as well as work and intellectual capacities.

4.11 Environmental problems and solutions thereto

Environmental protection should be of special attention in line with recovered ecological balance and increased efficiency of supervision and use of natural resources.

4.12 Other

Science, education and culture should become subject matters for state concern being vital factors for national longevity.

5. PARTICIPATION IN ELECTIONS

5.1. Party's participation in parliamentary elections and the number of candidates nominated

▪ 2003 elections:

Number of candidates nominated by proportional system: 13

Number of candidates nominated by majority system: 2

5.2. Party's participation in presidential elections

▪ 2003 elections: participated

▪ 2008 elections: will participate

3. "NATIONAL UNITY PARTY"

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

- **Address of the head office:** 33a Moskovyan, Yerevan
- **Telephone, fax:** (+37410) 53-36-32, 53-13-43, 56-88-80
- **E-mail:** amiab@arminco.com
- **Website:** www.amiab.am
- **Foundation date:** 27.12.1996
- **Charter and Program approval date:** 27.12.1996
- **State registration date :** 28.02.1997
- **State re-registration date:** 24.11.2003
- **Number of party members at the time of completing questionnaire:** 46700 members
- **Date of publication of the Party's Program and Charter and the name of mass media:** "Iravunk" daily newspaper, 27.12.1996

2. GOVERNING BODIES AND THE LEADER OF THE PARTY

- Congress - 1675 members
- Presidency - 21 members
- Party President: Artashes Geghamyan

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

The main objective of the Party is to contribute to the protection of self-realization right of every individual in the society, securing his/her economic independence, recognition of democratic will of majority and protection of minority rights. The Party acts towards the comprehension that individual's life, his/her dignity and conscience have, undoubtedly, a higher priority than the state power.

The Party pursues an objective of developing in Armenia the following:

- civil society;
- civilized state order, where the state protects the rights of citizens;
- competitive, socially-oriented economic system.

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

4.1. Priorities of foreign policy

As a priority, the foreign policy should be aimed at the achievement of the following objectives:

1. ensure a stable, reliable security of the country, strengthening and maintenance of territorial integrity and sovereignty;
2. comprehensive protection of rights and interests of our compatriots of Diaspora and citizens of Armenia residing abroad;
3. elimination of existing and prevention of potential sources of conflict and tension in regions around the RA, and establishment of good-neighboring zones along the RA borders.

4.2. Fundamentals of foreign policy, including

a. European Integration

It is necessary to develop and implement realistic and efficient programs for integration into European structures, through shifting from words to action.

b. CIS

As a priority, it is necessary to strengthen economic relations with CIS countries by restoring the markets of raw materials and consumption.

c. Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO)

Under conditions of foreign political complex situation created in South Caucasus, Armenia badly needs to digest lessons learned from history and be a member of CSTO. It is very important from the view point of national interest.

d. NATO⁵

With regard to integration into European structures, the Party believes that it is necessary to shift from words to actions and thinks that it is necessary to continue cooperation with NATO for the sake of regional security.

e. USA

The Party believes that expansion and development of both political and economic relations with USA is very important.

f. Russian Federation

The Party believes that comprehensive development and enrichment of Armenian-Russian relationships on the basis of principles of strategic partnership, is very important, which, first of all, will promote and strengthen economic integration of both countries.

g. Turkey

The Party believes that Armenia should establish friendly relationships with Turkey. RA citizens should realize that fair resolution of Armenian Cause should be reached in peaceful circumstances based on historical facts and International norms and principles. Opening of Turkish-Armenian border and establishment of diplomatic relationships are also very important.

h. Azerbaijan

The Party believes that establishment of friendly relationships with Azerbaijan is very important. At the same time, the Party believes that settlement of Karabakh issue is possible through regional integration.

NK issue should be resolved only based on self-determination right taking into consideration Euro integration norms and principles.⁵

i. Iran⁵

The Party believes that as a priority, it is necessary to establish friendly relationships with neighbor Iran particularly in the sphere of energy-transportation.

j. Georgia⁵

The Party believes that Armenia has unique standpoint concerning Georgia, as a populous Diaspora is located in Georgia, particularly in Javakhk. It is necessary to take into consideration the reality that development of Armenian-Georgian relationships in geopolitical, economic and other spheres is beneficial for both countries. It is also necessary to take into consideration the fact that today Tbilisi is the center where all international offices are located.

k. Armenia's participation in regional programs

The Party believes that Armenia needs to participate in all regional programs very actively. It is necessary to achieve establishment of friendly relationships with frontier countries. At the same time, the core of Pan-Caucasian sustainability should be Russia, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. Other interested states may be engaged in constructive, peaceful resolution processes of debatable issues existing in Caucasus without dictating their will. Based on the above mentioned, it is necessary to deepen mutually-beneficial cooperation with Iran, as well as conduct a dialog with Turkey.

l. Karabakh issue

For the purposes of peaceful regulation of Artsakh conflict and for taking the negotiation process out of the deadlock, it is necessary to define the following realities:

- Artsakh issue is a matter of nations' self-determination and human rights;
- in the process of regulating this issue, RA must respect norms and principles of International law;
- no agreement concerning the status of Nagorno-Karabakh can be achieved without full participation of Karabakh in negotiation processes.

m. Recognition of the Genocide⁵

The Party believes that recognition of Genocide should be an objective of the State. It is first of all a moral issue, with regard to which Diaspora has a big portion of support and deep politics of diplomacy. Recognition of Genocide is crucial for all mankind and should not become a scapegoat between the two countries.

n. Armenia-Diaspora: enhanced links and effective cooperation

The Party believes that Armenian nation has a need for a centralized body of national propaganda, which will be able to coordinate and direct activities of Diaspora's political and public organizations. It is necessary to enliven cooperation process between Armenia and Diaspora in different spheres. It is necessary to enhance education opportunities of Diaspora in high educational institutions in Armenia.

4.3. Priorities of domestic policy⁵

1. Feeling of responsibility and morality;
2. Predictability;
3. Professionalism.

4.4. Government's role in regulation and development of the economy

The Party attaches importance to implementation of a complex program concerning system and structure reforms preserving general macroeconomic tax, budgetary and monetary policies' sustainability.

4.5. Fundamentals of economic policy, including

The Party believes that all changes and economic reforms carried out in the RA must be based on production and national security interests of the country.

a. Monetary policy

The Party underscores assurance of such monetary volume increase in case of which the following will be possible:

- substantially decrease interest rates of crediting;
- ensure controllable and sufficient volume of money, stability and predictability in the economy.

b. Budgetary policy

The Party believes that increase in the budget expenditures should be realized for those line-items, which will further ensure a real payback at a later stage. An actual, long-term and stable recovery of state finances is definitely connected with the recovery of the whole economy of the country.

c. Tax policy

The Party believes that in tax policy field the primary objectives are the following:

- radical decrease of tax burden, which will stimulate economic growth;
- reduction and standardization of custom fees;
- simplification of tax system;
- prescription of the right to decrease taxed base in the amount of real investment expenditures.

d. Custom policy

The Party believes that custom policy should be directed to stimulation of local production. The Party prioritizes protection of local producer's interests. The rights of importer and producer never should be equal. We should stimulate interests of local producer.

e. Sector-oriented policy⁴

The Party believes that it is necessary to develop industry of Armenia and keep control so that it is multi-branch. It is very important to develop especially those branches which are directed to scientific technologies and innovative processes.

f. Territorial policy

The Party believes that there should be an equal policy approach towards territorial policy.

g. Foreign economic relations

The Party prioritizes improvement and development of foreign investments.

4.6. Ways to overcome the existing obstacles to economic development, including

All changes and economic transformations carried out in RA should be based on production and national interests.

a. Stimulation of investments

With regard to investment policy, it is important to ensure not only low interest rates for crediting but also stimulate proprietors' interests so that they reinvest their incomes in production.

b. Development of financial markets⁵

The main function of the state with regard to market economy is to ensure development of relevant laws and follow up that they are enforced. It should also assist in developing market institutions, including financial ones.

c. Improvement of competitiveness

The Party underscores assurance of equal conditions for activity of economic entities. It is also very important to widely implement state order in competitive branches of economy.

d. Development of small and medium business

The Party believes that small and medium businesses should be included in the state policy, which should be based on fair competition principles.

e. Fulfillment of WTO requirements⁵

The Party believes that Armenia is a member of WTO, consequently it should meet WTO requirements without violating rights of our producers.

f. Balanced development of marzes

The Party believes that it is necessary to develop a complex program for equal development of marzes and follow up so that the mentioned program is implemented.

g. Reduction of shadow economy

The Party underscores extensive provision of state order and prioritizes creation of equal conditions for business entities.

h. Eradication of corruption⁴

In this sphere, it is necessary to adopt a relevant law convicting illegally-earned incomes, clarify the legal framework aimed at all-inclusive supervision of the property owned by deputies of NA and state servants, shape an anti-corruption attitude among RA citizens, and involve private sector in the state anti-corruption policy.

i. Development of industry

One of the most important and optimal branches for the development of economy is industry. Without developing industry, it is impossible to imagine Armenia as a stable country.

j. Development of agriculture

The Party believes that it is necessary to ensure state protection of local producers providing agricultural products from those importers who sell products of the same name produced in Armenia by damping prices and create unequal conditions for local agricultural entities. The Party attaches importance to improvement of tax system and creation of necessary legislative, material and organizational conditions for agricultural entities.

k. Provision of energy security⁵

Viability of any state depends on energy security. For those purposes, the Party attaches importance to implementation of an alternative energy policy in Armenia. The Party is for nuclear energy development in Armenia, which in its nature is a shield in the area of foreign policy.

l. Development of industrial infrastructure (energy, communication, transportation, etc)⁴

The Party believes that without production of substructures, no branch will have a successful future. The Party attaches importance to the fact that production development in RA is of primary importance to its economic development.

m. Innovative development of economy⁵

It is necessary to provide budgetary means for innovative programs in accordance with their priority.

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

The Party believes that social policy should be directed to ensure social security of all RA citizens by all instances of authority. The Party believes that it is important to mitigate critical polarization through implementation of fiscal levers.

a. Overcoming the poverty

The Party envisages drastic increase of pensions which will be equal to minimum salary, also increase of social guarantees for unemployed, particularly, for disabled and children.

b. Reduction of polarization of society⁴

It is necessary to harmonize and clarify targeting of budgetary benevolent financial resources.

c. Creation of employment

It is necessary to re-establish regularity of salaries, eliminate mass unemployment and prevent outflow of highly-qualified cadres.

d. Reduction of emigration

Reduction of emigration is in the most important place among the Party's fundamentals.⁴
Development of our country depends on reduction of emigration.

e. Improvement of public health care system⁴

Through optimization of medical net, it is necessary to achieve affordability of medical services. It is necessary to restore village health care, pay special attention to protection of mother and child, ensure affordability of first medical aid, and implement free medical assistance for citizens who have incomes lower than consumer basket.

h. Social security and insurance systems reforms⁴

Friendship of generations is the main fundamental of the Party. The main problem of that should be resolved through assurance of persistent social and state program policy (program concerning women's issue, program concerning youth, etc.). There is a need for clear organization and improvement of social insurance system, mainly in the sphere of economy. It is considered to be a problem of perfection.

g. Education system reform

In social life, it is necessary to increase the role of teachers and schools, improve social conditions of teachers, and strengthen material and technical base of schools. In the basis of both state and private schools should be equal and fair conditions for intellectual, spiritual and physical development. It is necessary to impose stricter requirements for accreditation and licensing of private institutions.

h. Development of science

The most important objectives of education sphere are the following:

- implement state programs assisting scientific studies simulating economic, political and spiritual revival of Armenia;
- assist scientific projects;
- clarify development priorities with regard to perspective branches of science.

i. Culture

The Party attaches importance to establishment of state sponsorship for culture. Material and moral assistance to cultural workers and writers should be stipulated only by aesthetic rationale, and be free from the political conjuncture.

j. Sport⁵

There is a need for state assistance and creation of a fund.

4.8. Formation and development of civil society, including

a. Strengthening democratic institutes

The Party believes that establishment of a favorable environment for the formation and development of civil society, human rights and fundamental freedoms is of prior importance to democracy building efforts and strengthening of democratic institutions.

b. Ensuring freedom of speech and information

The Party is for development and implementation of all democratic institutions.

c. Consolidating human rights and basic freedoms⁵

Every country aims at developing and ensuring all institutions of human rights, mainly election system, which the Party considers to be prior.

d. Reforming the judicial system⁵

Reforms of judicial system, the Party views within the context of separation of authority wings and independence as well as self-sustainability of judicial system. The Party believes that reforms in judicial system will be considered as succeeded in case of complete independence of judicial system.

e. Improving the election system⁵

The Party believes that with regard to election system, it is necessary to clarify provisions of Election Code emphasizing preparation of election lists, strengthening of voting right, supervision of procedures and equal conditions for election campaign.

f. Sustaining political parties and developing the political field⁵

NUP views development of parties in increase of ideologies and not their number. The Party is for unification and strengthening of ideologies.

g. Increasing political responsibility of political parties and political figures⁵

The Party attaches importance to establishment of political opposition and adoption of that conception, according to which the more developed is the political field, the more developed is the country.

4.9. Obstacles to national security and ways to overcome them⁵

The Party views national security not only as a foreign security. It is a collective issue which includes national, ecological and other issues, which relate to prosperity and respectable life of the nation.

4.10. Demographic problems and solutions thereto⁴

With regard to demographic issues, the Party considers two objectives:

- reduction of emigration;
- stimulation of birth (ensure resolution of the problem concerning mother and child).

4.11. Environmental problems and solutions thereto

It is necessary to shift economy from using unrestorable natural resources to restorable ones, implement national program to save lake Sevan, adopt such laws, which will define protection rules for air, water, lands and forests.

5. Participation in Elections

5.1. Party's participation in parliamentary elections and the number of candidates nominated

▪ 1999 elections

Number of candidates nominated by proportional system - 58

▪ 2003 elections

Number of candidates nominated by proportional system - 77

Number of candidates nominated by majority system - 2

5.2. Party's participation in presidential elections

- 1998 elections: participated
- 2003 elections: participated
- 2008 elections: will participate

6. PARTY REPRESENTATION IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

6.1. Number of deputies in NA

- NA II Convocation: 3
- NA III Convocation: 9

4. “PROSPEROUS ARMENIA” PARTY

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

- **Address of the head office:** 21 Tumanyan, Yerevan
- **Telephone, fax:** (+37410) 56-60-92, 54-88-07
- **E-mail:** info@bhk.am
- **Website:** www.bhk.am
- **Foundation date:** 30.04. 2004
- **Charter and Program approval date:** 27.12.1996
- **State registration date :** 18.06. 2004
- **State re-registration date:** 15.02.07
- **Number of party members at the time of completing questionnaire:** 370000 members
- **Date of publication of the Party’s Program and Charter and the name of mass media:** Program: “Hayastani Hanrapetutyun” daily newspaper, “Irvunk” newspaper, “Aravot” daily newspaper 20.12.2006., Charter: “Hayastani Hanrapetutyun” daily newspaper, “Irvunk” newspaper, “Aravot” daily newspaper 12.12.2006

2. GOVERNING BODIES AND THE LEADER OF THE PARTY

- Congress
- Political Board - 35 members
- Party President: Gagik Tsarukyan

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

“Prosperous Armenia” Party was created for the purposes of serving the nation, ensuring respectful life as well as assisting our fatherland to prosper.

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 who follow high values, have high ideologies, honest objectives and the trust of nation.

“Prosperous Armenia” is a Party of civil agreement. Being led by the famous truth, that a person is the highest value, the Party will direct its activity to realization of a slogan: “alongside human being, through human being and for human being”.

We will assist in strengthening democratic principles in our country, forming civil society, protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The Party is a center-driven political force, the activity of which is based on reality and rationality. Denying extremes, political adventurism and dogmatism, we would wish to resolve fundamentally the problems facing society. We are sure that the most important guarantee for the development of society is the existence of moral and spiritual value system.

With democratic and liberalization principles, as well as with the desire to assist in forming a new value system, the Party is for preservation of national traditional values considering the family, church and statehood to be very important in that value system.

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

4.1. Priorities of foreign policy

1. Assurance of the right of self-determination for Artsakh’s population;
2. Coordinated development of Armenia-Diaspora relations;
3. International recognition of Armenian genocide.

4.2. Fundamentals of foreign policy, including

For Armenia’s security in International arena, the Party considers the following issues to be the most important:

1. Development of friendly, mutually-beneficial relationships with all countries according to International principles and norms, and based on those relationships building of foreign policy, as well as formation of the system of preparation and training of diplomatic workers;
2. Performance of International obligations by Armenia, as well as realization of active political course, assurance of favorable condition for the country’s economic and social development, creation of conditions for energy security and finally integration in world and regional structure;
3. Cooperation with other state and International structures against terrorism and other forms of crime, in case of necessity; participation in peacekeeping activities of International structures in the regions of war.

a. European Integration

It is necessary to deepen cooperation with EU, for which it is necessary to:

- undertake relevant measures to make RA legislation to comply with EU standards and be integrated into Euro structures;
- assist in developing mutually-beneficial relationships with all EU countries in all spheres, enhance and deepen cooperation with the main organization ensuring European security, which is NATO.

b. CIS

It is necessary to develop bilateral relationships with post soviet countries. It is also necessary to undertake steps directed to cooperation with regard to economic relations, raw materials and restoration of consumer markets, spiritual and cultural spheres, which existed in the past.

c. Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO)

Efficient cooperation of Armenia with UN, OSCE, EU, WTO, and other European and international organizations and structures.

d. NATO

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

e. USA

Future development of friendly and mutually-beneficial relationships with USA, as well as essential elevation of

cooperation level in political, economic, military, security, spiritual-cultural, as well as social and other spheres should be directed to comprehensive involvement of USA in realization of democratic and socio-economic reforms, resolution of regional security problems, establishment of stable and long-term peace in South Caucasus, and finally, assurance of Armenia's participation in regional and International programs which are realized or coordinated by USA.

f. Russian Federation

Future development of Armenian-Russian traditional friendly relationships should be based on mutually-beneficial political, socio-economic, military, regional security, spiritual-cultural cooperation and principles of military partnership.

g. Turkey

Coordination of Armenian-Turkish inter-state relationships and establishment of diplomatic relationships between two countries should be realized without proposing preconditions. Denial of Armenian Genocide by Turkey has its negative influence on Armenian-Turkish relationships. Within the frameworks of establishing bilateral relationships between Turkey and Armenia, all issues related to regional security and cooperation, Turkey's balanced, constructive and non-ideological standpoint in the processes of peaceful settlement of Artsakh issue, opening of Armenian-Turkish border, communication ways, including re-exploitation of Gyumri-Kars railway, and preservation of Armenian cultural values in Turkey may be subject of discussion.

Membership of Turkey to EU, in Party's opinion does not contradict to Armenia's national and state interests, as in case of becoming an EU member, Turkey must take predictable and supervision capable steps directed to establishment of a real democracy and human rights protection, cooperation with Armenia, elimination of blockade, and finally recognition of Armenian Genocide.

h. Azerbaijan

It is necessary to take constructive steps directed to development of relationships with Azerbaijan. Though problems existing in Armenian-Turkish and Armenian-Azerbaijani relationships may be resolved not based on hate, but based on indulgence which in turn is based on historical facts, realities, norms and principles of International Law. Circumstances EU membership, worldwide democratization processes and being neighbors with Turkey and Azerbaijan assume that Armenia may coexist in peace with Turkish and Azerbaijani nations.

i. Iran

For realization of joint programs related to creation of energy system, and communication ways in the spheres of transportation and energy, it is necessary to deepen friendly and mutually-beneficial relationships 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

In political, economic, energy, regional security, communication ways, spiritual-cultural, humanitarian as well as other forms of cooperation, it is necessary to develop traditional friendly relationships with Georgia. 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 Javakhk Armenian, their security and self-determination rights, as well as to resolution of socio-economic and spiritual-cultural problems facing Javakhk. Within this context, Armenia, in a way agreed with Georgian authorities, should constantly assist Georgia in its steps directed to resolution of Javakhk problems.

k. Armenia's participation in regional programs

Establishment of friendly relationships with close neighbors of Armenia, assistance in establishment of stable and long-term peace in the region, involvement of Armenia in regional and International programs, and finally, making Armenia a regional center are very important. The Party believes that construction of 3rd line of Iran-Armenia high-voltage electric communication, construction of Iran-Armenia railway and finally construction of the 2nd Iran-Armenia gas pipe-line may be considered programs of regional importance. We believe that even in case of existing transportation blockade, Armenia may become a center of regional development, particularly in the spheres of banking, health, ecology and science. For this purposes in the above mentioned as well as some other spheres, the state should develop and implement a complex program. We must use our open borders with neighbors fully. Together with above mentioned, the Party believes that until Artsakh issue is resolved and Genocide is recognized, our country will face obstacles in terms of participating in regional programs.

l. Karabakh issue

By assurance of the right of Artsakh population's self-determination, based on compromises by both parties of the conflict: Artsakh and Azerbaijan and by recognition of International guarantees for security, peaceful settlement of Artsakh issue is one of supremacies in foreign policy of Armenia. Parallel with comprehensive negotiations within the framework of OSCE Minsk Group, the Party considers it necessary to assist in ensuring Artsakh's security, democratization, socio-economic development and regional integration. The Party accepts such negotiations related to Artsakh issue where Artsakh will be a party with full rights, and any decision concerning Artsakh status will be excluded without agreement of the nation.

m. Recognition of the Genocide

Armenia's participation level in the process of International recognition of Genocide should be based on realistic interests of the nation and state. In Party's opinion, punishment for Armenian Genocide as well as its recognition are unavoidable.

n. Armenia-Diaspora: enhanced links and effective cooperation

Relationships with Diaspora, particularly, coordinated development and further deepening of Armenia-Diaspora relationships in accordance with international norms, the protection of rights and interests of Diaspora Armenians should be considered one of the supremacies of foreign policy of Armenia. The idea that Pan-Armenian spiritual-cultural center is Armenia should be put in the bases of Armenia-Diaspora relationships, and Armenia should carry the responsibility for being a leader guarantor of national preservation in unifying of all Armenians all over motherland.

4.3. Priorities of domestic policy

1. Building of legal state;
2. Development of civil society;
3. Efficient social and economic policies.

4.4. Government's role in regulation and development of the economy

For improvement and perfection of state administration, the Party considers necessary the following:

1. exclude the realization of the same functions by Ministries and other state governing bodies;
2. adopt administrative regulation which will define and clarify decision-making procedure and terms, as well as the responsibility for breaching documentation procedures and administrative rules;
3. increase transparency level of activities of state bodies as well as state officials by establishing international experience of social supervision;
4. decrease the number of state officials and servers, increase their responsibility and perfect remuneration system of state servers.

4.5. Fundamentals of economic policy, including

a. Monetary policy

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

- development and implementation of an efficient monetary policy which will assist the development of economy;
- enhancement of non-cash money circulation volumes and assurance of AMD convertibility;
- complete restoration of trust towards banking system, and assistance banks in attracting savings;
- decrease of loan interest percentages, increase of volumes of long-term loans, assurance of loan resources' availability;
- establishment of mechanism for voluntary guarantee of loans, and perfection of the system of deposits guarantee made by population;
- perfection of currency regulation and strengthening of supervision over enforcement of laws on currency regulation;
- assurance of inflation management flexibility under inflation targeting regime
- improvement of clearing and settlement relations;
- perfection of legal field regulating the sphere.

b. Budgetary policy

Complex budget changes are necessary in the following directions:

- creation of an efficient system of state resource management;
- perfection of legislation regulating budgetary relations, including, development and adoption of budget Code;
- perfection of budgetary procedure and inter-budgetary relations;
- development of treasury system;
- assurance of budgets and budgetary procedures' stability;
- establishment of program budgeting system;
- development and establishment of methodological bases for prediction of state budget macroeconomic proportionality and budgetary expenses;
- perfection of procedures of budget reporting and supervision;
- increase of coordination level between different directions of financial-economic policy (particularly, tax-budgetary and monetary policies);
- strengthening of financial discipline.

c. Tax policy

For increase of tax policy efficiency, the Party considers important the following:

- increase of tax administration efficiency and professional level of workers included in tax bodies (particularly, in their territorial substructures);
- assurance of meeting the requirements of legislation, transparency and predictability of tax policy, and perfection of methodological bases for prediction of the results of above mentioned policy;
- assurance of stability with regard to tax legislation and tax policy, as well as constant perfection of taxing mechanisms;
- exclusion of negative influence through lobbying on development and implementation of tax policy;
- exclusion of tax debts and ungrounded overpayments;
- increase of favorite tax environment level for development of local production as well as small and medium business;
- simplification of legislative field and establishment of acting supervision mechanisms for law enforcement;
- after creation of necessary opportunities, refusal of implementation of mandatory social insurance premiums and minimum mandatory payments of profit tax
- assurance of optimal ratio between direct and indirect taxes in the structure of tax incomes.

f. Territorial

The main directions of Armenia's territorial policy should be the following:

- enlargement of communities based on grounded principles and criteria, formation of a new territorial administrative department, and transition into double-degree system of state governance;
- harmonized socio-economic development of the rcountry's territorial administrative units;
- re-habitation of communities of strategic importance.

g. Foreign economic relations

Perfection of management of foreign debt is closely connected and conditioned by state regulation of foreign economic activity and resolution of the problems related to national security in this sphere. In this regard, the below mentioned should be viewed as important problems related to foreign economic activity:

1. more enhanced integration of Armenia into world economy, enlivening of cooperation with international economic and financial organizations of other countries;

2. enlargement of markets for consumption of local products;
3. assurance of local producers' interest protection under the conditions of foreign trade development and strengthening of world markets' competitiveness;
4. realization of a policy directed to reduction of RA foreign debt;
5. undertaking of measures directed to reduction of foreign currency accounts in internal market, the sphere of currency regulation and supervision, as well as prevention of uncontrollable capital outflow.

4.6. Ways to overcome the existing obstacles to economic development, including

a. Stimulation of investments

In our opinion, the main objective of Armenia's investment policy should be assurance of stable economic growth through elevation of economic activeness, formation of favorable investment environment, increase of investment attraction level and investment volumes.

The Party considers the following to be the most important directions of investment policy perfection:

- perfection of innovative policy and encouragement of innovative initiatives;
- development and sustainability of legislative field regulating investment sphere;
- assurance of investments' and investors' interest protection;
- assurance of equal conditions for activity of foreign and local investors;
- provision of strictly supervisory privileges to huge investments in the spheres which are decisive and of high importance for the development of economy;
- state support in the development and implementation of investment programs;
- development and sustainability of substructures stimulating investments;
- Implementation of complex state investment programs.

b. Development of financial markets

With regard to development of securities market, the main objective of the state policy should be strengthening of relationships between institutional investors and enterprises which have a need for investments, as well as strengthening the protection of legal rights of securities market participants.

In Party's opinion, the following should be considered as strategic directions of state policy with regard to securities market:

- assurance of balance and protection of interests of all securities market participants;
- strengthening of competitiveness between professional market participants;
- increase of transparency level of issuers' activity;
- decrease of transaction expenses in the securities market;
- enlivening of self-regulatory mechanisms of market participants.

c. Improvement of competitiveness

The Party suggests employing an active anti-monopoly policy resolving the following important problems:

1. substantially increase the role and functional independence of the state committee with regard to protection of RA Economic competitiveness, grant the mentioned Committee with all competencies of competitiveness protection and performance of active anti-monopoly policy, ensure information exchange and uninterrupted cooperation between the Committee and other state bodies;
2. clarify and differentiate recording books of entities having monopolistic and dominant position in the market, define criteria determining statuses of "monopoly" and "dominant role" by law and conduct relevant and grounded anti-monopoly policy over them;
3. conduct periodical studies and analysis of competitiveness field of the same product markets including studies on territorial administrative level;
4. in an operative way eliminate obstacles for move of capital and workforce inside the country, and assist in reducing transaction expenses in the given sphere;
5. clarify and simplify to greatest extent the mechanisms and procedures implemented for protection of economic competitiveness;
6. set special regulatory mechanisms for protection of small and medium enterprises' interests, as well as review legislation regulating advertisement relations excluding implementation of hidden advertisement and evasion from relevant limitations.

d. Development of small and medium business

In the spheres of enterprise activity development and state support, The Party suggests the following strategic approaches:

1. reduce the number of state bodies realizing inspections of small and medium enterprises, as well as balance and protect enterprises' and state's interests,
2. conduct persistent policy directed to reduction of activity types subject to licensing, and develop such a licensing system which will be strict with regard to meeting requirements and rapid procedures,
3. improve activity of one licensing unified body with regard to import and export of all types of products and services, exclude replication of functions and other similar phenomena, as well as simplify licensing procedures as much as possible;
4. by administrative and criminal legislation clearly define responsibility types and levels of all workers engaged in state and local government bodies with regard to those actions or inactions, as a result of which the proprietors will carry losses;
5. envisage state support in annual state budget for small and medium enterprises (using all types of such support), which should not be less than 1% of total expenses of the given year's budget;
6. for the purposes of elevating competitiveness as between economic entities as well as generally all over the state, it is necessary to review priorities of implementing state regulation leverages for business implementing that regulation for productivity and efficiency level increase;
7. create a system assisting leasing relations and making necessary production equipment available to small businesses.

f. Balanced development of marzes

The Party with regard to territorial development considers the following to be the main problems subject to prior resolution:

1. development of approaches ensuring harmonized and fundamental principles for administrative-territorial separation
2. increase of efficiency related to activity of local government;
3. enhancement of communities financial resources and formation of stable financial base of administrative territorial units;
4. implementation of more flexible mechanisms for the creation of employment in marzes;
5. clarification of relations between state authority and territorial and local government bodies;
6. assurance of smoothness of state governance decentralization procedure;
7. development and implementation of privilege system for the purposes of developing frontier territories as well as communities located in mountain regions and foothills;
8. implementation of a relevant policy for the purposes of complete restoration of disaster zone and making it as a development field.

g. Reduction of shadow economy

- Development and implementation of complex program combating shadow economy, as well as replenishment and enforcement of relevant legislative acts;
- Conjunction of administrative and economic methods for combating prioritizing elimination of economic stimulations causing 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;
- Through enhancement of taxing base due to relevant legislative, administrative and organizational measures; elimination of privileges causing abuses, and reduction of businessmen's economic interests of acting in the sphere of shadow economy;
- Development and implementation of a program directed to simplification of tax and custom administration;
- Release from carrying responsibility as envisaged by law in case of volunteer exit of economic entities or citizens from shadow economic field;
- Activity of mutual cooperation with other countries (particularly with those which are the main trade partners) with regard to tax and custom administration, particularly, related to tax and custom 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 explanatory and informative activities for the society, including, periodical publication of information related to usage of budgetary means;
- Development and persistent implementation of a strategy combating money laundering and corruption.

h. Eradication of corruption

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

1. increase efficiency of state administration;
2. eliminate possibilities of making arbitrary decisions by state officials and state servers, achieve the situation, that persons will perform only those kind of activities for which they have relevant competencies;
3. 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;
4. subject officials to responsibility as envisaged by law in case of disclosing corruption facts independent from their status and position;
5. perfect and make stricter disclosure mechanisms related to equipment, incomes and expenses;
6. conduct persistent and complex combating against phenomena accreted with corruption, such as extortion, shadow economy, trafficking, corruption, etc.
7. due to judicial reforms, simplify complaint procedures of officials and state servers;
8. establish an institution of administrative courts and assist their sustainability;
9. develop and adopt anti-corruption legislative package.

j. Development of agriculture

The Party considers the following issues to be the main objectives for the sphere's sustainability:

- Creation of efficient and stable agro-food complex;
- Increase of the country's food security level; ,
- Increase of incomes of employees involved in agricultural sphere;
- Increase of efficiency of lands which are of agricultural importance and use of resources;
- Enlargement of markets consuming agricultural products;
- Repair and re-usage of stations against hails;
- Creation of regulatory system for land relationships and sustainability of land market.

For the purposes of the sphere development, the Party considers the following directions to be the main ones for state policy:

- Formation of agricultural-organizational bases of agricultural development;
- Perfection of legislation regulating agricultural sphere;
- Development of financial substructures of agro-food markets;
- Assistance in enlargement of agro-foods' consumption markets;
- Establishment of an insurance system in agricultural sphere;
- Assurance of agricultural program development reprocessing agricultural row material.

k. Provision of energy security

State policy directed to assurance of energy security should be based on a strategic program of energy sphere and directed to resolution of the following problems:

- Prediction of dangers for the state, society and economy existing in stages of raw material provision, production, distribution and transfer with regard to all types of energy; reduction of energy dependency; increase of self-satisfaction level of the sphere, including, diversification of imported and local energy reserves and maximum usage productive capacities; construction of modern nuclear station;
- Efficient usage of local energy reserves and energy alternative resources and implementation of economic and legal mechanisms to ensure the above mentioned; elimination of external and internal, technical and natural dangers; smooth negative influence of different destabilizing factors;
- Satisfaction of external and internal energy demand by acceptable price and relevant quality; efficient usage of energy resources.

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

Implementation of an addressed, purposeful and efficient social policy in RA is one of the most important conditions for resolution of the problems such as balancing of economic transformations, sustainability, assurance of democratization procedures, improvement of demographic situation, prevention of immigration, increase of birth level, etc.

In Party's opinion main objectives of social policy should be persistent increase of living standards of population, reduction of social inequality, assurance of availability of social goods and services.

a. Overcoming the poverty

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

- assurance of population's financial incomes growth and reduction of its polarization through salary increase, enlargement of salary share in GDP, improvement of pension safety, and increase of targeting level of social assistance to population;
- assurance of citizens' social security, overcoming of income and human poverty;
- assurance of affordability with regard to the most important social goods such as healthcare, social service and education;
- perfection of the policy directed to resolution of the problems related to refugees and prisoners, as well as development and implementation of a relevant program;
- supremacy of investments in human capital, assurance of rapid growth of state expenses directed to social development;
- protection of such layers of population, which are socially vulnerable, unable to resolve problems on their own and need state assistance;
- Implementation of insurance principles for population's social protection;
- creation of necessary conditions for economic activity of population able to work, which will give citizens an opportunity to improve their living standards via their own means;
- assurance of necessary conditions for efficient employment of population, assurance of demand and supply balance in labor market, increase of competitiveness of labor force;
- implementation of measures directed to development of villages;
- improvement of demographic situation through decrease of death rates and increase of birth rates;
- development of efficient schemes to populate frontier territories aiming at their development.

c. Creation of employment

In Party's opinion, main directions of state policy with regard to labor market should be the following:

- development and implementation of employment programs, and establishment of their assessment procedures ;
- substantial increase of amount of unemployment subsidiaries and perfection of the mentioned subsidiaries' calculation, address and payment orders;
- assistance to women, youth and disabled in professional education, training and employment issues;
- Increase of crediting volumes for the purposes of self-employment level increase in the sphere of small and middle businesses;
- assistance to citizens who need social protection in getting a job.

e. Improvement of public health care system

In Party's opinion, main directions and problems of state policy with regard to development of healthcare and medical assistance systems should be the following:

1. development and implementation of "Strategic Program for Healthcare Development";
2. qualitative improvement of medical services free of charge, assurance of balance between state financial resources and volumes of state guarantee with regard to free medical services, reduction of shadow circulation volume and corruption risks, establishment of medical insurance system;
3. perfection of healthcare system management, organizational efficiency and financing, diversity of medical assistance and its reimbursement provided to population (state order, co-payment, medical insurance, etc.);
4. provision of affordable and high-quality medical assistance to population, health protection of a mother and child;
5. implementation of a special state policy directed to resolution of the problems related to disabled, which will create conditions for disabled to overcome activity limitations and will ensure realization of their rights and adoption of a complex program for disabled' s social protection;
6. provision of free medical assistance to socially vulnerable and special groups of population;
7. development of first medical assistance system in village communities and improvement of its activity;
8. affordability of medicines and security level increase.

h. Social security and insurance systems reforms

In the sphere of social protection, main directions of state policy should be the following:

- development of social protection concept;
- reduction of poverty and mitigation of negative effects caused by poverty, reduction of social inequality and prevention of possible social tension;
- increase of efficiency of social subsidiaries and other forms of assistance based on targeting principle;
- reduction of society's social polarization level and constant improvement of population's living standards;
- development and implementation of purposeful state programs for pensioners, disables, elderly people, children

and other layers of population who have a need for social assistance;

- increase of pension, fellowships, subsidiary and salary levels, as well as implementation of state programs directed to improvement of living standards which are conditioned by increase of above mentioned levels;
- through assurance of ownership norms (heritage, donation, etc.), development and implementation of mechanisms for return and index criteria of deposits invested by population in former USSR Saving Bank.

g. Education system reform

In the sphere of education, the main strategic objective of state policy should be formation of such an educational system, which will give an opportunity to every citizen to acquire high-demand and high-quality knowledge, guaranteeing a respectful place of those citizens in the society. Within the framework of complex state programs, it is necessary to create such an educational system which will ensure the resolution of such a supreme problem as existence of a high-quality, patriotic, comprehensively developed generation which will follow moral values. In addition, it is also necessary to constantly increase remuneration level of teachers, professors and lecturers; substantially improve education quality; gradually transit into a principle of providing free books; perfect educational legislation; really ensure public participation in education management procedure and self-conduct of universities; constantly increase fellowships; innovate content of education; ensure equality of students graduating state and accredited non-state educational institutions, particularly, in terms of acquiring jobs.

h. Development of science

One of the most prior goals of the Party is development of substructures and assurance of necessary conditions for science and scientific-technical progress. Development of science, obviously, 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 development of science.

i. Culture

The Party considers prior the following: development of "Development Concept of Culture"; implementation of state policy in the spheres of spiritual, educational and moral education of population, assurance of necessary conditions for preservation of spiritual-cultural heritage, national traditions, universal values and norms and realization of creative activities by cultural organizations; increase the role of proper use of Armenian language; preservation of historical-cultural heritage; preservation of Armenian historical and cultural values within the territories of other countries in accordance with international principles and norms; as well as assistance in developing Armenian educational and cultural life; protection of national, cultural and other rights of minorities living in Armenia through implementation of state programs; assistance in preserving their language, religion and culture, including, enhancement of opportunities of TV and radio communication.

j. Sport

It is necessary to pay special attention to increase of physical preparedness of population, development of physical education and sport, especially, Olympic kinds of sport, enlargement of sport school net; creation of sport clubs; and restoration of national kinds of sport. The main problems of physical education should be enhancement of opportunities for citizens who wish to engage in physical education and sport, propaganda of healthy lifestyle, encouragement of Olympic movement. The Party considers that for resolution of above mentioned problems, it is necessary to do the following: develop and implement state programs for development of physical culture and sport, increase of specialist's professionalism and improvement of training level, as well as strengthening of the sphere's material and technical base.

k. Other /state-church relations/

The Party is sure that relations between the state and Armenian Apostolic Church which have its unique role in spiritual life of Armenians, development of national culture and preservation of national identity should be regulated by law. The Church should have the right of propagating Christian values and doctrine within the whole territory of Armenia, as well as the right of propaganda against dangerous and extreme sects. The Church should also have opportunities of giving lessons about church history in schools and religious subject in universities. Protecting freedom of conscience, the state should combat against foreign religious and other organizations which conduct a dangerous activity in terms of state interests or might contain threats to life, dignity or health of Armenian citizens.

4.8. Formation and development of civil society, including

The Party envisages realizing a policy of civil assistance and protection. The Party is convinced 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 ensuring activity of creative and cultural unions; public and human rights organizations, proprietors, employers, consumers, employees; national, religious and other unions.

a. Strengthening democratic institutes

Development of non-government organizations and state assistance to that procedure, apologist of which is "Prosperous Armenia" Party, will allow resolving such important problems as are the following:

- substantial strengthening of human factor, enhancement of opportunities of a dialog between authorities and public as well as acquiring public consensus on different issues;
- enhancement of opportunities for public participation in reforms, state and local government activities, as well as stimulation of that kind of participation;
- development of non-trading services' market, saving of substantial state financial resources at the expense of transferring a part of social functions performed by the state to non-governmental organizations.

For resolution of these problems, the following is necessary:

- create opportunities of participation of non-governmental organizations in the supervision procedures of development, discussion and realization of state decisions; involve specialized non-governmental organizations in development procedures of social and economic programs; as well as assist in resolution of problems related to orphans, elderly people, disables 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

For the purposes of formation of public-political stable relationships based on civil consensus, The Party considers the following to be necessary:

- create conditions for transition into a 100% proportionate election system of NA elections;
- assist in increasing transparency level of electoral Commissions and responsibility level of political forces involved in those Commissions;
- assist non-governmental organizations in preserving independence of their activity;
- improve conditions for free and unbiased activity of mass media as one of the most important tools of ensuring pluralism manifestation and formation of public opinion in democratization processes;
- assist in realizing the right of citizens in conducting peaceful demonstrations, meetings and marches.

c. Consolidating human rights and basic freedoms

One of main objectives of the Party is investment of its opportunities in the process of building a legal state based on civil, public, human and citizen rights' and fundamental freedoms' protection.

d. Reforming the judicial system

Activities of RA judicial system should be based on assurance of justice publicity and transparency, protection of individual rights. In addition, it should be based on principles of fair and public juridical case. For the purposes of clarifying the judge's status, ensuring his/her independence and impartiality, it is necessary to create legal, social and other necessary bases for the judge's personal immunity and inalterability balancing the mentioned bases with principles ensuring responsibility. Within the frameworks of prosecutor system reforms, one of the problems requiring prior resolution, we consider 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.

4.9. Obstacles to national security and ways to overcome them

Main objectives of the sphere are the following:

1. assurance of RA territorial integrity and sovereignty, implementation of operative and program measures for prevention and elimination of external and internal threats, formation of such a regional security system, where Armenia will have a serious role and its security will be assured to greatest extent;
2. strengthening of country's protections, prediction, disclosure, prevention, counteraction and elimination of internal and external threats to national security;
3. favorable, balanced, legally equal and mutually beneficial cooperation of Armenia with other states and International organizations;
4. development of the country's economy and implementation of economic policy having social direction, protection of economic interests, reduction of scientific-technical and technological dependency, regulation of demographic procedures, improvement of the country's ecological and nature usage situations;
5. assurance of person's and citizen's security, his Constitutional rights and freedoms within the territory of RA, perfection of state and local government systems, strengthening of legality and order, assurance of socio-economic and political stability of society, meeting to legislative requirements by citizens, officials, state and local government bodies, political parties, public unions, religious and other organizations.

4.10. Demographic problems and solutions thereto

The Party considers it important to undertake fundamental steps related to resolution of such serious problems as are the following:

1. high level of poverty and tough polarization of population's financial incomes;
2. aging of population conditioned by reduction of birth level and average life duration as well as unfavorable demographic situation caused by above mentioned problems;
3. low level of targeting social assistance and support.

4.11. Environmental problems and solutions thereto

With regard to rational use of natural resources, the Party should strive for implementing active policy with the following directions:

1. 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 reserves' use;
2. pay special attention to Sevan as a resolution of ecosystem problems ecological, economic, social, scientific, historical-cultural, aesthetic, health, climate and re-creative value; develop and implement annual complex and purposeful programs for restoration of natural level of lake Sevan, reproduction of its ecosystem natural reserves, their preservation and use.

5. “DASHINK” PARTY

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

- **Address of the head office:** 2 Baghramyan, 2nd lane, house 13, Yerevan
- **Telephone, fax:** (+37410) 26-91-60, 26-66-93
- **E-mail:** info@dashink.am
- **Website:** www.dashink.am
- **Foundation date:** 11.10.2005
- **Charter and Program approval date:** 11.10.2005
- **State registration date :** 30.12.2005
- **Number of party members at the time of completing questionnaire:** 2000 members
- **Date of publication of the Party's Program and Charter and the name of mass media:** “Aravot” daily newspaper, 10.08.2005

2. GOVERNING BODIES AND THE LEADER OF THE PARTY

- Congress
- Main Board - 84 members
- Political Board - 7 members
- Party President: Samvel Babayan

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

“Dashink” Party is the carrier of liberal-democratic ideology, the main values of which are freedom and responsibility of an individual, separation of authority wings, decentralization of authority based on self-government principle, supremacy of law, public supervision over authorities, freedom of speech and conscience, immunity of property, liberalization of economy and equality of citizens. The Party has a decisive position to build a real democratic, legal, social and national powerful state.

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

4.1. Priorities of foreign policy

1. Regional cooperation;
2. European integration;
3. Exclusion of existence of any military base in the region.

4.2. Fundamentals of foreign policy, including

a. European Integration

Membership to EU should become one of the most important issues in the RA foreign policy.

b. CIS⁵

Within the frameworks of CIS, it is necessary to develop economic relations.

c. Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO)

RA should assist the region's demilitarization with regard to other countries.

d. NATO

Armenia-NATO relations should be preserved as balanced and partnership ones, in the result of which, however, no military bases should be located in our territory.

e. USA

It is necessary to deepen economic relations with USA, and Diaspora should be actively engaged in that process. The Party believes that it is necessary to deepen cooperation with USA in every sphere.

f. Russian Federation

Relationships with RF should also be transferred into economic sphere. It is necessary to cooperate with RF with regard to everything, except locating military bases in the Caucasian region.

g. Turkey

Genocide is a fact. However, RA should be ready for relationships' regulation without any preconditions.

h. Azerbaijan⁴

In case of regulation of Artsakh issue, economic integration with Azerbaijan is possible.

i. Iran

In the political, economic, cultural and other spheres, friendly and mutually beneficial relationships are necessary with Iran.

j. Georgia⁵

It is necessary to realize economic integration with Georgia, particularly in the sphere of energy and water resources' management.

k. Armenia's participation in regional programs⁴

Establishment of stable and long-term peace in the region will result in implementation of transit energy and road programs.

l. Karabakh issue

Settlement of Karabakh issue is possible in case of democratization of conflict parties and compromises proposed by them. Under sponsorship of any International reputable organization, in the bases of regulation should be the principles of intermediate sovereignty, volunteer resettlement of refugees and compulsory removed persons, creation of preconditions for development of economy in Artsakh and determination of Artsakh status through a new referendum.

m. Recognition of the Genocide⁴

Recognition of Genocide should not be a precondition while establishing Armenian-Turkish relationships; however, its recognition is indisputable.

n. Armenia-Diaspora: enhanced links and effective cooperation⁵

In relationships with Diaspora, a clear policy should be employed in the sphere of culture, and with regard to economy, its liberalization will lead to engagement of Diaspora.

o. Other

Foreign policy should assist in increasing super powers' and other structures' interest to us. Demilitarization will assist the resolution of this problem.

4.3. Priorities of domestic policy⁵

1. Democratic system and competitive economy;
2. Protection of human rights;
3. Sustainability of judicial system.

4.4. Government's role in regulation and development of the economy

There is a need for clarification of legislative field, independence of judicial system and implementation of anti-monopoly policy.

4.5. Fundamentals of economic policy, including

a. Monetary policy⁵

Within a short period of time it is necessary to implement a stimulating monetary policy.

b. Budgetary policy

The Party considers program budgeting to be important.

c. Tax policy

Within a long period of time it is necessary to implement a stimulating tax policy.

e. Sector-oriented policy

It is necessary to optimize tax and credit policies and ensure free competition.

f. Territorial

There is a need for substructures' development and equal growth of marzes.

g. Foreign economic relations⁵

There is a need for stimulation of export, exchange policy and export of "brands".

h. Balance of payment (trade)⁵

There is a need for growth of local production and export, as well as replacement of import. There is a need for reduction of negative payment balance.

4.6. Ways to overcome the existing obstacles to economic development, including

a. Stimulation of investments⁵

There is a need for formation of a legislative base, as well as sustainability of ownership institution and judicial system.

b. Development of financial markets

There is a need for reduction of shadow economy, growth of cashless circulation and sustainability of joint-stock companies.

c. Improvement of competitiveness

The Party believes that it is important to protect ownership institution, implement anti-monopoly policy, as well as separate authority and business.

d. Development of small and medium business⁵

There is a need for free and available cooperation between "non-financial" part of economy and banking system.

e. Fulfillment of WTO requirements⁵

It is necessary to use opportunities given by WTO, in this way stimulating export.

f. Balanced development of marzes⁵

There is a need for differentiated tax and budgetary policy and development of state policy for equal development of marzes.

g. Reduction of shadow economy⁵

There is a need for announcement of tax amnesty and establishment of equal rights.

h. Eradication of corruption⁵

Limitation of the government role in economic procedures, sustainability of judicial system and political democracy, legislative clearness and perfection.

i. Development of industry

There is a need to ensure competition field and exclude sponsorship.

j. Development of agriculture

There is a need for crediting policy and credit availability.

k. Provision of energy security

Viability of any state depends on energy security. For that purpose, the Party underscores implementation of alternative energy policy in Armenia. The Party is for nuclear energy development in Armenia, which in its nature is a shield in the area of foreign policy.

I. Development of industrial infrastructure (energy, communication, transportation, etc)

The Party believes that it is important to implement a special state sub-structural program engaging private sector.

m. Innovative development of economy⁵

There is a need for scientific-educational reforms, and policy of establishment of new policy and technologies.

n. Improvement of corporate governance⁵

There is a need for formation of legislative base, and establishment of corporate governance culture.

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

a. Overcoming the poverty

There is a need for assurance of free competition and assistance to socially vulnerable layers of population.

b. Reduction of polarization of society⁴

There is a need for equalization of consumer basket and minimum salary as well as reduction of shadow field.

c. Creation of employment⁵

The Party believes that it is important to stimulate business through assurance of free competition. The Party considers the reduction of friction unemployment to be important.

d. Reduction of emigration⁵

There is a need to develop economy and establish legality as well as change political system and stimulate local investments.

e. Improvement of public health care system

The Party believes that it is important to separate the layers of population who need free medical service, and provide financial assistance to them giving an opportunity of selecting the medical institution. It is necessary to undertake prophylactic measures.

f. Social security and insurance systems reforms⁵

It is necessary to achieve social prosperity due to social justice and implementation of a policy establishing social justice by law.

g. Education system reform

There is a need for decentralization of the system, establishment of International standards, preservation of traditions, affirmation of self-maintenance through implementation of such a system of electing directors where they will be elected by Pedagogical and Parent Boards.

h. Development of science

It is necessary to make fundamental changes in the fields of education financing, branch organization and legislation.

i. Culture

There is a need for legislative solutions, state policy, as well as a policy of exporting culture and development of cultural "Brand".

j. Sport

It is necessary to provide state assistance and create sport schools. It is also necessary to pay special attention to football. With regard to sport, there is a need for community-encouragement.

4.8. Formation and development of civil society, including

a. Strengthening democratic institutes

1. Sustainability of free press;
2. Development of NGO sector;
3. Sustainability of party system.

b. Ensuring freedom of speech and information

There is a need for sustainability of independent mass media, assurance of financial independence of mass media, as well as legislative protectability.

c. Consolidating human rights and basic freedoms

There is a need for reforms of judicial system and sustainability of Ombudsman institution.

d. Reforming the judicial system

The Party believes that it is important to ensure financial independence of judges and clarify legislative field.

e. Improving the election system

There is a need for sustainability of 100% proportional system.

f. Sustaining political parties and developing the political field⁵

There is a need for unification and enlargement of parties based on ideologies.

g. Increasing political responsibility of political parties and political figures⁵

Political responsibility is determined through elections, consequently it is necessary to improve election system.

4.9. Obstacles to national security and ways to overcome them

The main threat to national security is non-sustained political system and wrong politics. It is necessary to conduct such politics, under conditions of which super powers will compete here in terms of economy, and it in its turn will bring to economic growth and sustainability of political system.

4.10. Demographic problems and solutions thereto

The ways of solution are the following:

1. development of economy;
2. implementation of state programs connected with natural reproduction of population growth.

4.11. Environmental problems and solutions thereto

The main problems are the following:

1. reduction of green zones;
2. Sevan issue;
3. technical exhaustion.

The solutions are the following:

1. legislative activity;
2. engagement of NGO sector in supervisory activities;
3. clear activity of executive authority;
4. stimulation of investment of high technologies.

5. Participation in Elections

5.2. Party's participation in presidential elections

- **2008 elections:** uncertain

6. "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:** 2002
- **Charter and Program approval date:** 30.05.2005
- **State registration date:** 2005
- **Number of party members at the time of completing questionnaire:** 5340 members
- **Date of publication of the Party's Program and Charter and the name of mass media:** www.heritage.am, since 21.07.2005

2. GOVERNING BODIES AND THE LEADER OF THE PARTY

- Congress
- Board: 41 members
- Administration: 9 members
- Party President: Raffi Hovhannisyan

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

Ideology – National liberty.

Ideological principles:

1. The guarantor of people's dignity, spiritual and material freedom, well-being, and provision of human rights and freedoms, as well as sound and efficient functioning of government system is democracy. Population is the one who bears the state and national interests, which is also the only source of power formation through free and fair elections.
2. Armenians should first of all lean upon themselves.
3. Prerequisites to realization of national desires are the independent and efficient state and all-national structures ensuring collaboration of all national layers, taking into account the widespread nature of Armenians all over the world.
4. Liberty is the source of economic development, best performance of individual capacities, yet this doesn't spare the state from social obligations and the role of regulator.

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

4.1. Priorities of foreign policy

1. Balance in foreign policy paces as fundamental principle to foreign policy, which will eliminate the thread of becoming an annex to any country.
2. Fusion with European organizations such as Council of Europe, OSCE establishment of bilateral relations with European countries, and EU integration as a key direction of foreign and domestic 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

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.

a. European Integration

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. CIS

Friendly relations with former Soviet Republics on mutually beneficial basis.

c. Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO)

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

d. NATO

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. USA

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 partner countries such as EU and NATO, and especially USA.

f. Russian Federation

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. Turkey

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 human and European values, recognize their own history and resolve the Genocide and the issue of its heritage issue, as well as regulate all separating disputes and relations in a comprehensive and complex way.

h. Azerbaijan

After the peaceful regulation of Artsakh conflict a trilateral agreement with Azerbaijan should be concluded, the third party being the Republic of Mountainous Karabakh.

i. Iran

On the basis of the existing friendly relations, enhance the economic cooperation with Iran for the purpose of ensuring transport, energy and other forms of security of both countries. Construction of a wide-diameter Iran-Armenia-EU gas pipeline should be a high priority.

j. Georgia

The party believes that friendly relations with Georgia should be established 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.

k. Armenia's participation in regional programs

It is necessary to achieve Armenia's participation in regional economic and political programs through feasible and initiative foreign policy denying pressure from any third country.

l. Karabakh issue

Karabakh conflict should be resolved in a peaceful and a publicly acceptable manner, Karabakh should become a full party in negotiations. The party supports such regulation of the conflict which debarb Karabakh's return to Azerbaijan and doesn't break Armenia's sovereignty over its own territories.

m. Recognition of the Genocide

International experience and world history show that problems are resolved when a step forward is made from both parties. It is important for both parties to adopt universal human and European values, recognize their own history, resolve the Genocide issue and regulate all separating disputes and relations in a comprehensive and complex manner.

n. Armenia-Diaspora: enhanced links and effective cooperation

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.

o. Other /Distinguishing the Armenian factor/

Another significant horizon is distinguishing Armenian factor in all countries wherever the fate has spread Armenians. Armenian factor with its positive and tested qualities, which is not denied by strangers as well who face promotional contribution of Armenian communities.

4.3. Priorities of domestic policy

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

4.4. Government's role in regulation and development of the economy

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.

4.5. Fundamentals of economic policy, including

1. Economy should develop by the principle of free economic relations to secure maximum interaction with world economy and find its earned place in the world distribution of labor.
2. Innovative economic development and high industrial methods may realistically lead to unprecedented success.
3. Increased level of transparency in legal and economic fields is required to attract foreign investments.

a. Monetary policy

1. Improvement of National Assembly supervision mechanisms over the Central Monetary body of Armenia;
2. Development and introduction of an effective deposit guaranteeing system, which is an important step towards consolidation of public trust in banks;
3. Creation of favorable environment for formation of private and state insurance and pension funds and companies;
4. Ensuring more liberal monetary policy to promote mortgage lending;
5. Increase volumes of bank lending in real economic sector, defining operative supervision over use of loans;
6. 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. 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.

b. Budgetary policy

1. Budget processes should be more open and transparent;
2. Transfer to development budgets, making clear distinctions between expenses to be dedicated to implementation

- of long-term development programs and others;
3. Increase efficiency of budget expenses; reduce state maintenance costs for the administrative staff;
 4. Program republic and community budget expenses and perform on the basis of final result-driven program budgeting;
 5. Ensure budget deficit not to exceed the maximum 3%.

c. Tax policy

The party believes that 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, employed by business entities. It is necessary to permanently improve and enhance the level of tax administration.

d. Custom policy

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.

e. Sector-oriented policy

The state economic policy should be focused on promoting development of most scientific, innovative branches of economy, at the same time taking into account the energy, strategic, economic, transport, food and ecological safety of the country.

f. Territorial

The party believes that it is important to ensure political and financial-economic independence of communities, that is to say cancel the right of government and any other authorities to dismiss community leaders and councilors and be consistent in implementation of the decentralization process, i.e. grant communities with key authorities and financial means required therein. Adopt a new law on local governments, which will allow increasing community budgets up to 25%-35% of the state budget, thus elevating the lives in rural and urban communities.

In order to ensure the development of local government systems, revise the laws on local duties and payments, financial leveling, etc.

Reform the system of territorial administration.

g. Foreign economic relations

Taking into consideration the small volume of Armenia's economic and financial markets and poor sustainability, always take account of economic and financial stability and security in foreign economic relations.

h. Balance of payment (trade)

The party believes it is necessary to promote the growth of export and development of productions to substitute imported products, which will lead to decrease of unprecedented and unacceptable sizes of negative foreign trade balance.

4.6. Ways to overcome the existing obstacles to economic development, including

a. 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.

b. Development of financial markets

Development of financial market should begin from the trust formulated amongst the society first of all for the state and judicial systems, and later on for financial and economic institutes.

c. Improvement of competitiveness

The party believes that it is important to create effective mechanisms for protection of ownership rights irrespective of the type of ownership, restrict monopolist activities in the domestic market, ensure equal rights for all business entities, undertake effective and decisive measures against corruption, patronage and shadowiness resulting therefrom, ensure transparency in activities of companies.

d. 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 as developing itself, 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.

e. Fulfillment of WTO requirements

Such WTO requirements, which may threaten security and development of this or that branch of economy of the Republic of Armenia, should be negotiated over with WTO about omitting or delaying their fulfillment in Armenia.

f. Balanced development of marzes

The key objective of territorial policy should be formation of alternative territorial centers and their sustainable development parallel to Yerevan in economic, scientific, educational and cultural fields. It is necessary to encourage decentralization of human and financial resources from the capital city to spread through the marzes, promote economic, social and from a long-term prospective political decongesting of the city of Yerevan, contribute to strengthening of frontier and high mountainous regions. It is essential to ensure development of infrastructures in marzes by state budget funds. The party believes that self-satisfying and rich communities make grounds for strong state.

g. Reduction of shadow economy

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 considers reducing shadow economy and levying taxes upon it as a result of which additional 140 billion AMD (400 million USD) inflow will be registered in the budget already in 2007.

h. Eradication of corruption

The party believes that corruption cannot possibly be overcome through institutional measures only, as far as the authorities do not have the political will for that. 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 for forgiveness. As 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.

i. Development of industry

The party gives high priority to development of high technologies (including information) and reprocessing industries and enhanced export of their production abroad, formation of closed-cycle production types, as well as encouragement of cluster arrangements. Special attention should be paid to expansion of competitive production, which will be possible through harmonization of production quality with the international standards. It is necessary to increase the share of industry in the country's GDP.

j. Development of agriculture

The party believes that rich and sustainable rural districts 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 loan extension, accepting land and other assets used in agriculture as collateral. 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.

k. Provision of energy security

The party believes that 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. In the view of ensuring energy independence of the country, it is of crucial importance to satisfy the main portion of country's 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).

l. Development of industrial infrastructure (energy, communication, transportation, etc)

Operation and development of country's strategic infrastructures should take place under alert state supervision, while railways and roads exclusively under state ownership.

m. Innovative development of economy

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 demonstrating 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;
- Appropriate 50% of budget funds for covering expenses required for participation of relevant Armenian companies in international exhibitions on the above sectors and organizing such international exhibitions in Armenian.

n. Improvement of corporate governance

To “Heritage” Party the underpinning of improvement of corporate governance in inter-society mutual trust, honest partner relations between the society and the business, formation of such culture and efficient operation of the judicial system, as well as composition of public trust in it.

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

a. Overcoming the poverty

- Define minimal salary in the amount of minimal consumer basket;
- Moralize and conduct supervision over social protection mechanisms and administration;
- Increase benefits and pensions and define in the amount of minimal consumer basket;
- Create 150 000 jobs with wages exceeding the minimal consumer basket in 40%-50%.

b. Reduction of polarization of society

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

c. Creation of employment

For reduction of unemployment and increased level of employment it is 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 against 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. Reduction of emigration

Emigration is already a real threat to the Republic of Armenia and its existence as a sovereign state, and the party believes that accentuated reduction of emigration, homecoming of emigrants and presence of immigration may be achieved only through improved moral and psychological situation in the country, recovered believe in the future, reduced inter-society polarization, rapidly decreased volumes of corruption through serious anti-corruption measures, guaranteed provision of perfect economic competition. In “Heritage” Party’s opinion, formation of the new, legitimate authorities should target the above.

e. Improvement of public health care system

Affordable and high quality health care requires:

- Increase and ensure target use of the state budget funds allotted to the health care system;
- Improve health services all over Armenia to become physically and financially affordable;
- Improve health care 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 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.

h. Social security and insurance systems reforms

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, 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 in Armenia and Artsakh, including those in the frontier sentry duties deserve the utmost attention and care of the state.

g. Education system reform

Develop 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.

h. 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.

i. Culture

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.

j. Sport

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. Increase, sport sector budget financing for the current 0.35% to 1%.

k. Other/Youth problems/

The party believes that future of the Republic of Armenia depends on the new generation. The youth should be brought up in the spirit of state and society of our dreams. The souls of Armenian youth should be implanted with:

- supremacy of spiritual values over material;
- supremacy of freedom over non-freedom;
- supremacy of the law over arbitrariness;
- supremacy of democracy over autocracy.

4.8. Formation and development of civil society, including

a. Strengthening democratic institutes

The party thinks that sufficient grounds have been put on paper in Armenia for establishment and consolidation of democratic institute. 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 electronic means of communication should be maximum transparent.

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 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 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 its 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 system

- 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;
- Gradually introduce the system of 100% proportional National Assembly elections;
- 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. Sustaining political parties and developing the political field

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 in the amount of 100 million AMD annually, and 50 million AMD to parties who have surmounted the 3% threshold. Allow commercial banks to provide secured financing to political parties for election campaigns.

g. Increasing political responsibility of political parties and political figures

- Carry out absolute proportional National Assembly elections;
- Develop efficient mechanisms for recalling NA deputies.

h. Other/Enhancing efficient state administration/

The state politics machine should:

- Decline the defective practice of serving the state administration for individual, group interests;
- Get oriented in its way to democratic power;
- Adopt the experience of being guided by public interests and realizing those interests;
- Operate in a transparent and public manner, open for everybody and in everybody's spectacle, reporting and informing the public about its achievements and loopholes, undertakings, misdeeds and initiatives.

Efficient state administration and its effective management rely on intelligent, competent state servants, who maintain certain level of freedom and protection of legal activities.

4.9. Obstacles to national security and ways to overcome them

RA national security suggests freedom of citizens for complete performance in an internal and external environment protected from any type of threads and dangers to the society, which requires creation of effective and flexible security system. Objectives of national security should be in line with the principles of "complete self-governance for the state and excellent degree of freedom and protection of rights for the society and citizens".

RA national security includes the objective of ensuring safe life of Armenians all over the world, given the fact out the state territory Armenia there is also the Armenian Diaspora.

With this regard, adoption of legislation comprising both general and specific professional norms for provision of national security, urgent revision of national security strategy in its all components, including military, foreign political, economic, information, food, energy, social, environmental security, etc, as well as adoption of laws on the above components.

4.10. Demographic problems and solutions thereto

In order to overcome the demographic challenges, Armenia needs promoted fertility through protection of family, maternity and childhood, etc.

It is necessary to:

- Create additional mechanisms for realization of labor rights of young families;
- Provide affordable housing conditions for young families by mortgage lending system through state housing construction programs;
- Define the size of maternal benefits in the amount of funds required for baby care, ensure protection of pregnant women, and regulate employer /pregnant women relations;
- Significantly increase benefits provided to each second and successor baby born in the family;
- Undertake other complex activities.

4.11. Environmental problems and solutions thereto

- The best policy of environmental protection is evasion of tense pesthole from the very beginning, rather than struggling against in the later,
- 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.

4.12 Other /National army/

As ensuring its security, the Republic of Armenia should lean against its own forces, and first of all, its own military forces, which anticipates overall military readiness, regardless of gender.

The regular RA army is called to defend the borders of the country from external invasions; the army guarantees independence and territorial integrity of the state. As the need arises, the army may also serve to guarantee vital interests of Armenia beyond the state borders, in compliance with the defense-offensive provision of the Republic of Armenia.

5. PARTICIPATION IN ELECTIONS

5.1. Party's participation in parliamentary elections and the number of candidates nominated

- **2003 elections:** didn't participate

5.2. Party's participation in presidential elections

- **2003 elections:** didn't participate
- **2008 elections:** will participate

7. PEOPLE'S PARTY

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

- **Address of the head office:** 59 Komitas, Yerevan
- **Telephone, fax:** (+37410) 23-11-41
- **Foundation date:** 15.02.1995
- **Charter and Program approval date:** 15.02.1995
- **State registration date:** 28.02.1995
- **State re-registration date:** 01.12.2003
- **Number of party members at the time of completing questionnaire:** 14520 members

2. GOVERNING BODIES AND THE LEADER OF THE PARTY

- Congress
- Political board: 61 members
- Party President: Tigran Karapetyan
- Chairman of the political board: Petros Katsakhyan

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

Party's Goals and objectives include consolidation of national state, evolutionary development of economy based on public and private diversity, establishment of public principles according to the national profile.

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

4.1. Priorities of foreign policy

1. Provision of security of the Republic of Armenia,
2. Creation of favorable conditions for country's development,
3. Enhancement of mutual relations with Diaspora, amalgamation of the motherland and international recognition of the Genocide.

4.2. Fundamentals of foreign policy, including

a. European Integration

Armenia should build up and deepen the cooperation with the European Union.

b. CIS

Improvement and consolidation of economic, political and information integration with CIS countries is of high priority to the Party.

c. Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO)⁵

Armenia is a member to CSTO. The Party attaches importance to it believing that it is a strong guarantee to security.

d. NATO⁵

The Party highlights the implementation of joint programs and establishment of mutually beneficial relations.

e. USA

Armenia should develop and expand the cooperation with the USA.

f. Russian Federation

Russia is our strategic ally. Development and consolidation of political and economic relations with Russia should be one of the key directions of foreign policy.

g. Turkey⁵

The Party stands for establishing relations with Turkey without preconditions.

i. Iran⁵

The Party characterizes Iran as a strategic partner of RA.

k. Armenia's participation in regional programs

Armenia should institute friendly and mutually beneficial relations and implement joint programs with regional countries. Taking advantage of its geographical and historical peculiarities, as well as the existence of the Diaspora, it should bridge different civilizations facilitating their conversation and cooperation.

l. Karabakh issue

The Party believes that Karabakh virtually proved its establishment as a country, according to universal international standards. Resolution of Karabakh issue should be achieved only through political negotiations, Karabakh playing as a full party where all the decisions must be agreed upon with him. The Republic of Armenia should guarantee Karabakh's security.

m. Recognition of the Genocide

Armenia and Diaspora should concentrate their efforts in a consolidated national doctrine for the sake of unified motherland, solution of national problems and international recognition of the Genocide.

n. Armenia-Diaspora: enhanced links and effective cooperation

Taking advantage of its geographical and historical peculiarities, as well as the existence of the Diaspora, Armenia should serve a bridge between different civilizations facilitating the dialogue and cooperation between them.

The Party will focus on development of mutual relations with Diaspora. Being widespread, rich, strong and sustainable Armenian Diaspora must always be viewed upon as one of the competitive advantages of Armenia. Armenia and Diaspora should concentrate their efforts in a consolidated national doctrine.

4.3. Priorities of domestic policy

1. The Party highlights the importance of state construction. Maturity of the political system should be in the center of attention as a guarantee for enforcement of the Constitution and improvement of Democracy.

Political system should ensure people's power in the country and undisturbed application of Constitutional norms. Party believes that sustainability of the state governing system depends on the improved mechanisms of civil society, which is largely determined by legislative regulation of public and state services, as well as mechanisms for formation of political power.

2. Independence of judicial system, protection of human rights, promotion of activities of trade-unions, freedom of mass media are prerequisites to establishment of strong independent state.

4.4. Government's role in regulation and development of the economy

The Party will facilitate the social trends of market economy as regulated by state legislation, as well as welfare of the population and mitigation of social polarization.

4.5. Fundamentals of economic policy, including

a. Monetary policy

The Party emphasizes the persistent use and transparent allocation of credits and other financial means. The Party will assist the improvement of banking system and lending mechanisms.

c. Tax policy

The Party supports the improvement and simplification of tax base.

d. Custom policy

Protection and promotion of domestic producers through flexible tax, financial and customs policies are of high priority to the party.

4.6. Ways to overcome the existing obstacles to economic development, including

Main objectives of Party's economic program include rehabilitation and enhancement of scientific and technical capacity building, determination of national economic priorities and development of branches of industry operating on high technologies, assistance to investment activities.

The Party adheres to the opinion that privatization of entities and areas of strategic value should be undertaken only taking into consideration the national security requirements.

The Party focuses on privatized enterprises, their liabilities and commencement problems, efficient management of state property, as well as monopoly regulation.

The Party is for the renewal of efficient and traditional economic relations with Russia, CIS and all regional countries.

a. Stimulation of investments

The Party aims at facilitating predestinability of state programs and legal acts, which will increase public reliance in the government and guarantee investment flows.

b. Development of financial markets

The Party insists that savings of the population in former savings accounts should be subject to indexation and repayment, while deposits lost in private banks as a result of late state intervention should be reimbursed, which will recover public trust in banks.

d. Development of small and medium business

The Party emphasizes the need for state assistance to small and medium enterprises.

e. Fulfillment of WTO requirements

WTO membership should be focused on ensuring markets for the sale of competitive products produced in the Republic of Armenia.

f. Balanced development of marzes

Balanced socio-economic development of regions is central to the Party.

g. Reduction of shadow economy

Restriction and elimination of factors welcoming shadow economy are crucial to the Party.

j. Development of agriculture

The Party stands for the state adoption of agrarian policy, which should include:

- use of latest technologies available in the agricultural sector and adoption of the best international practice;
- insurance of agricultural production;
- promotion of final high-quality production in foreign countries;
- tariff policy;
- complex measures handling prevention and treatment of agricultural epidemic;
- food safety.

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

The Party endeavors vitalizing labor unions in the effort of labor protection. State bodies should be concentrated on issues of social and moral assistant to veterans of Patriotic War and the occupation-effected disabled, participants of the Artsakh fight for freedom, families of victims of the Artsakh war and the incapacitated.

a. Overcoming the poverty

The Party believes that poverty jeopardizes national security, obstructs country's road to democracy and hinders efficient self-organization. It exposes the stability of the nation, traditional, conservative entity – family, which fuels the adoption of alien customs so improper to our mentality and causes emigration. Overcoming poverty is a crucial issue for protection of family.

b. Reduction of polarization of society

The Party will support establishment of a constitutionally approved social state.

c. Ensuring the employment

The Party emphasizes the legislative regulation of labor right and employment problems, relations between employers

and employees, pensions and benefits trying to adjust their amounts to the requirement of minimal consumer basket.

g. Reforming the education system

The Party believes that education and science are major directions and guarantees to development of the Republic of Armenia, which should satisfy the strategic requirements of the country's development. Intellectual capacity is the basic national resource.

h. Development of science

Main objectives of the Party economic program include rehabilitation and enhancement of scientific and technical capacity building, determination of national economic priorities and development of industry branches operating on high technologies, promotion of investment activities.

4.8. Formation and development of civil society, including

The Party will consistently support the sustainability of civil society, improvement of democratic mechanisms, elimination of informational constraints between the authorities and society.

b. Ensuring freedom of speech and information

Freedom and independence of mass media are prerequisites to the establishment of a democratic government.

c. Consolidating human rights and basic freedoms

The party supports overall protection of human rights, harmonization of country's legislation and legal norms to the international standards taking into consideration national peculiarities.

The party will follow up the establishment of civil society, improvement of democratic mechanisms, accessible exchange of information between the authorities and society.

d. Reforming the judicial system

The Party believes that independent judicial power is one of the prerequisites to establishment of powerful state.

e. Improving the election system⁵

The Party supports 100% proportional electoral system.

4.9. Obstacles to national security and ways to overcome them

The Party requires that the education in the army be conducted in a national spirit and through restorative methods of physical health. An Armenian army soldier should enjoy the care and respect of the state and society.

4.11. Environmental problems and solutions thereto

The party focuses on environmental protection, ecological issues, recovery of the earth and first of all water resources and ecological balance of Lake Sevan.

5. PARTICIPATION IN ELECTIONS

5.1. Party's participation in parliamentary elections and the number of candidates nominated

▪ 1999 elections

Number of candidates nominated by proportional system: 5

Number of candidates nominated by majority system: 3

▪ 2003 elections

Number of candidates nominated by proportional system: 18

Number of candidates nominated by majority system: 1

5.2. Party's participation in presidential elections

▪ **1996 elections:** didn't participate

▪ **1998 elections:** didn't participate

▪ **2003 elections:** didn't participate

2008 elections: will participate

8. “DEMOCRATIC HOMELAND” PARTY

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

- **Address of the head office:** 12 Vagharsh Vagharshyan, Yerevan
- **Telephone, fax:** (+37410) 27-53-09, (+37491) 47-28-66
- **Foundation date:** 07.03.1998
- **Charter and Program approval date:** 07.03.1998
- **State registration:** 20.03.1998
- **State re-registration:** 04.09.2003
- **Number of party members at the time of completing questionnaire:** 4675 members
- **Date of publication of the Party’s Program and Charter and the name of mass media:** “Haykakan Zhamanak” daily newspaper, 07.03.1998

2. GOVERNING BODIES AND THE LEADER OF THE PARTY

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

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

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

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

4.1. Priorities in foreign policy

1. Armenia should for such 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 outside, on the foreign policy of Armenia;
3. Develop prospective foreign policy conception.

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 a part of Europe and adopting the system of human values as strategic goal, become the member of 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

As a system of ensuring Armenia’s security can be NATO or other systems under the auspices of NATO.

e. USA

Relations with USA should be consistently developed.

f. Russian Federation

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

g. Turkey

Forming mutually beneficial economic relations with Turkey and Azerbaijan. It is necessary to create prerequisites for establishing normal relations with Turkey and for opening borders.

i. Iran

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

j. Georgia⁵

Relations with Georgia should be deepen in economic and other fields, aimed at getting them to the level of relations of a strategic ally.

k. Armenia’s participation in regional programs

It is necessary to re-start our participation in political and economic structures of the region, create normal relations with neighboring states (including Turkey and Azerbaijan) for that purpose.

l. Karabakh issue

Regarding the issue of settlement of Karabakh issue, 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.

m. Genocide recognition

Genocide committed by Ottoman Turkey in 1915 toward Armenians, as any crime committed against humanity should be condemned by international communities.

n. Armenia-Diaspora: enhanced links and effective cooperation

In participation of representatives of Armenia and Diaspora it is necessary to develop conception 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. Priorities of domestic policy

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

4.4. Government's role in regulation and development of the economy

The characteristics of Armenia's current economic situation are as follows: lack of competition, creation of monopoly, patronage, corruption and de facto administration of the economy state officials. The role of state in economic development is important to regulate these problems.

4.5. Fundamentals of economic policy, including

Accepting that Armenia is a economic arena with different kinds of ownership, the government should strictly carry out the regulation of economic sphere exclusively with tax, customs and credit policy by ensuring free competition and anti-monopoly market.

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

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

c. Tax policy

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.

d. Customs policy

It is necessary to decrease customs duty on the imported goods which are not produced in Armenia.

f. Regional policy⁵

Using relevant differentiated tax policy, the regional development should be grown to reach the level of the capital city and regions neighboring to it.

g. Foreign economic relations

Integration in the regional economic systems will largely promote the regulation of this issue.

i. Other

Formation and usage of extra-budgetary means by state bodies should be excluded.

4.6. Ways to overcome the existing obstacles to economic development, including

Priorities of economic development strategy should be clarified for economic development since the economic system continues to consume the results of 1990-1998 reforms. This fact is registered also in the assessments of international organizations.

a. Stimulation of investments

The influx 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.

c. Improvement of competitiveness

For sustaining a market-based economic system, it is necessary to abolish monopoly and ensure free economic competition.

d. Development of small and medium business

State legal guarantees with improvement of tax system are needed for development small and medium business.

f. Proportional development of marzes

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

g. Reduction of shadow economy

In its classic meaning, there is not 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. Development of industry

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

j. 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.

k. Ensuring energy security

The State should oversee the areas of strategic significance by guaranteeing their security.

l. Development of industrial infrastructures (energy, communication, transportation, etc.)

The Party finds important the investigation of legality of alienation of facilities of exclusive importance and publicizing the results.

m. Innovation development of the economy⁵

Genetically having mental potential, real innovative policy rather than imitation should be carried out, which will prevent the outflow of young human capital abroad.

o. Other

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.

4.7. 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 the an average budgetary salary.

a. Overcoming the poverty

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

b. Reduction of polarization of society

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

c. Ensuring the employment

It is necessary to develop comprehensive program for population employment. Create new job places based on state loans and private investments.

d. Reducing the emigration⁵

The re-establishment of democracy is an important precondition for decreasing migration.

e. Improvement of public health care system

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

f. Reforming the social security and insurance system

The State should guarantee welfare of children, elderly and disabled.

g. Reforming education system

Educate, through national educational program, an Armenian individual, who will be carrier of all-human values, can quickly be oriented and act efficiently in the contemporary world.

h. Development of science

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

i. Culture

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

4.8. Formation and development of civil society, including

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

a. Strengthening democratic institutes

In order to strengthen democracy, it is necessary:

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

b. Ensuring freedom of speech and information

Lowering of taxes to ensure freedom and real independence of mass media.

c. Consolidating human rights and basic freedoms

The judicial power, which is a reliable and legal way for protection rights and freedoms of RA citizens, does not exist in Armenia.

d. Reforming the judicial system

Creation a judicial system, which will be independent from the executive and legislative branches of the government and simultaneously improvement of social conditions of the law enforcement institutions' employees.

e. Improving the election system

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

1. change the logic of formation of National Assembly;
2. form central electoral commissions by the state;
3. change the system of electoral commissions.

f. Consolidation of political parties and development of political field

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. Increasing political responsibility of political parties and political figures

Parliamentarism and multi-party system should be strengthened in formation of civil society institutions.

h. Other /Government System/

The number of governing structures should be considerably decreased by excluding the existence of bodies with duplicate functions, at the same time take from governing bodies the authority of provision permissions for various activities.

4.9. Obstacles to national security and ways to overcome them

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 neighborly relations with neighbors.

4.11. Environmental problems and ways to solve them

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

5. PARTICIPATION IN ELECTIONS

5.1. Participation of the Party in the National Assembly elections the number of candidates nominated

▪ 1999 elections:

Number of candidates nominated by proportional system: 39

Number of candidates nominated by majority system: 14

▪ 2003 elections: didn't participate

5.2. Participation of the Party in Presidential elections

▪ 1998 elections: didn't participate

▪ 2003 elections: didn't participate

5.3. Members of the alliance

"Democratic Homeland" party, Conservative Party, "Alternative" political and public initiative

5.4. Purpose and bases /ideological and other/ to form the alliance

1. Ideological

2. Re-establishment of democracy

9. “DEMOCRATIC WAY” PARTY

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

- **Address of the head office:** 38 Pushkin, Yerevan
- **Telephone, fax:** (+37410) 53-90-67, 53-91-67, 53-96-69
- **Foundation date:** 23.08.2005
- **Charter and Program approval date:** 23.08.2005
- **State registration date:** 20.09.2005
- **Number of party members at the time of completing questionnaire:** 4700 members
- **Date of publication of the Party’s Program and Charter and the name of mass media:** “Aravot” daily newspaper, “Irvunk” newspaper, 08.11.2007

2. GOVERNING BODIES AND THE LEADER OF THE PARTY

- Congress
- Political Board - 9 members
- Department - 25 members
- Party President: Manuk Gasparyan

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

The main objective of the Party is to assist stimulation and development of complete victory with regard to establishment of democracy in Armenia; establishment of multiform-being society; assurance of real guarantees for universal values, as well as human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The above mentioned purpose may be realized via unified efforts of citizens of Armenia using millennial traditions of Armenian nation and world experience.

Main goals of the Party are the following:

- assist and support the development and strengthening of the fatherland, as well as ensure the nation’s security;
- assist the formation of civil and legal society in Armenia, and establishment of fundamental principles of human rights and freedoms;
- assist the strengthening of the country’s scientific-educational, industrial, agricultural and cultural potential, as well as establishment and development of new technologies.

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

4.1. Priorities of foreign policy

1. The supreme goal of RA foreign policy is the strengthening of Armenian statehood, and increase of its International reputation for the sake of protection of all Armenians’ national interests;
2. the settlement of Artsakh issue with its all directions is considered to be the most important problem in RA foreign policy , and is prior over other problems;
3. one of the prior directions of foreign policy of Armenia is the issue of deepening cooperation with Diaspora.

4.2. Fundamentals of foreign policy, including

a. European Integration

Based on modern position of Europe and USA, and already accumulated experience with regard to new cooperation plans proposed by USA and European countries, particularly by France, it is necessary to develop and implement concrete projects to increase efficiency and strengthen relationships with those countries, which will lead to integration with European countries, so Armenia will become a member of Europe enjoying full rights.

b. CIS

It is necessary to restore already collapsed economic and cultural relationships with CIS countries, extend integration consolidation processes and create Western-European types of efficiently acting structures.

c. Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO)⁵

It is necessary to continue an active cooperation with CSTO.

d. NATO⁵

Within the framework of individual partnership, it is necessary to actively cooperate with NATO.

e. USA⁵

There is a need for bilateral cooperation with USA, including cooperation within the framework of “Millennium Challenges” program and military sphere.

f. Russian Federation⁵

There is a need for establishment of equal partnership cooperation with Russia and restoration of supervision of Armenia’s share in the sphere of energy.

g. Turkey⁵

There is a need for establishment of relationships with Turkey without any preconditions, including diplomacy, opening of the border and re-exploitation of Kars-Gyumri railway.

h. Azerbaijan⁵

There is a need for fair settlement of Karbakh issue within the framework of the nations’ self-determination principle.

i. Iran

Based on traditional friendly relationships and strong cultural interrelations with Iran and Arabic world, it is necessary to ensure qualitative progress and strengthen cooperation in all directions. Through intense cooperation and economic relations, along with Russia, it is also necessary to have real opportunities of provision and reprocessing of alternative fuel and energy as well as opportunities of establishment of joint enterprises within the territory of the country. After first exploitation of Iran-Armenia gas pipeline, it is necessary to be persistent with regard to launching the construction

of a new more capable gas pipe-line for the second turn exploitation making Armenia as a transit country, at the same time negotiating over construction of oil pipeline, which will create opportunities for development of oil-re-processing industry in the country, ensuring Armenia's withdrawal from blockade.

j. Georgia⁵

There is a need for multi-lateral cooperation and deepening of friendly relationships with Georgia, including military sphere.

k. Armenia's participation in regional programs⁵

Through diplomatic ways, it is necessary to put efforts in enhancing participation of Armenia in regional and East-West new programs.

l. Karabakh issue

In foreign and domestic policy of Armenia, Artsakh issue will be decisive for a long period of time. Accepting the necessity of cooperation with external forces for settlement of Artsakh conflict, it is necessary to give priority to those decisions, supervision and assurance of which is possible by own resources. Through all means, it is necessary to assist in preserving armistice and setting forth the created de facto situation.

m. Recognition of the Genocide

Armenian Cause should be one of ingredients of foreign policy. The Party will definitely combat against those foreign and domestic forces, which use the idea of Armenian Cause for their back objectives. Armenian Cause should be followed so, that its resolution will be more realistic and will not hurt the strengthening of Armenia's statehood.

n. Armenia-Diaspora: enhanced links and effective cooperation

First of all, it is necessary to review the attitude towards the potential of Diaspora. The Policy is not a collection of donations and grants, but it is development of problems, over resolution of which, Armenians may unite. Clear examples of above mentioned might be the recognition of Genocide and protection of human rights of our compatriots emigrated from Western Armenia. Politics is not a process of collecting donations and grants, but it's a process of developing issues over which Armenian may unify. International recognition of Genocide and protection of rights of our compatriots emigrated from Western Armenia should become issues unifying all Armenians.

o. Other/Dual Citizenship/

The Party views the adoption of dual citizenship as a realization of concrete actions. The Party assumes that citizenship should be granted in two ways:

1. the applicant acquires citizenship with the right to vote, if he/she transfers 1% of his/her incomes to RA budget;
2. the applicant acquires citizenship without the right to vote.

4.3. Priorities of domestic policy⁵

1. Supremacy of law;
2. Complex protection of human rights;
3. Complete elimination of corruption and bribery.

4.4. Government's role in regulation and development of the economy

It is necessary to elevate the state's role in profitable enterprises which are of strategic importance. The same should be done with regard to the spheres ensuring life of society; that is, energy and water supply, heating, external and internal transportation, communication, and fuel-energy system.

4.5. Fundamentals of economic policy, including

Economic development may be ensured by existence of all types of ownership and free market relationships as well as competitiveness between them, exclusively in the spheres of strategic and vital importance to the country.

With regard to economic sector, the Party considers necessary the following:

- rehabilitate collapsed economy based on new technologies and innovation;
- cease privatization procedures;
- enliven labor union movement.

a. Monetary policy

The Party considers that sources for financing economy modernization might be banking resources (credits) as stable development and growth of transformation investments which are made by population through their savings and enterprises is realized due to banking system and fund market. However, the Party considers that banking system as such does not exist in Armenia. The above mentioned is evidenced by the fact that Armenian banking system practically does not have competition in economic life of the country or has a miserable participation.

b. Budgetary policy

The state budget always has deficit, which in its turn does not allow resolving neither investment nor social problems.

c. Tax policy

It is necessary to establish differentiated taxation system for different spheres. The main principle of tax system is that no taxation should be suppressive for producers and proprietors. The Party considers that assurance of logical reduction of tax burden as well as clarification of tax policy is their target.

d. Custom policy

It is necessary to exclude self-willed decisions made by custom services on custom fees.

e. Sector-oriented policy

Movements and changes taking place in the world economy dictate the necessity of developing the following branches: information, computer and high technologies, biotechnology, production of new materials and pharmaceuticals, as well as electronics, instrument-making industry, mechanical engineering, etc.

f. Territorial⁵

It is necessary to develop an efficient territorial policy.

g. Foreign economic relations

By rehabilitating the ruined economy, it is necessary to resolve market issue, orienting towards EU, Russian and other markets of CIS countries taking into consideration their relative closeness, traditional character and competitiveness of Armenian product in International arena.

h. Balance of payment (trade)⁵

Reduction of high deficit of trade and payment balance requires, first of all, developing a modern policy of export and import.

4.6. Ways to overcome the existing obstacles to economic development, including

Participation of the country is compulsory in order to provide the country with diesel, petrol and corn. For this reason, the state together with private sector should create such a structural unit, where the share of the state will be either 51% (control package of the shares) or 25.1% (limiting package of shares).

a. Stimulation of investments

Investment policy should be developed in a way that the logic of direct, portfolio and other investments will be directed to formation of modern and high-quality structure of economy.

Armenia, which is void of transportation communication ways, should create privileged conditions for every foreign investor.

b. Development of financial markets

The Party really aims at restoring failed securities market.

c. Improvement of competitiveness⁵

It is necessary to review the clan economy and transfer from a formal anti-monopoly policy into a real one.

d. Development of small and medium business⁵

It is necessary to create real economic stimulants.

e. Fulfillment of WTO requirements⁵

It is necessary to meet all WTO requirements protecting interests of local producers.

f. Balanced development of marzes⁵

It is necessary to develop an efficient territorial policy.

g. Reduction of shadow economy

It is possible to achieve reduction of shadow economy through three juxtaposed ways:

1. strengthening of administration;
2. implementing economic measures, due to which working in shadow becomes inefficient, and making it more profitable for business entities to enter tax field;
3. tax and equipment amnesty.

h. Eradication of corruption

The Party undertakes to maintain a severe, unfriendly and persistent struggle against corruption and sponsorship. The positive and tangible results of above mentioned struggle will be seen already in 2007-2008 years.

i. Development of industry

Armenia was one of those few countries of the former USSR, where high technology branches of industry were developed, particularly, development and production of computers with high capacity, etc. this means that for development of production of information and high technologies, there are still necessary scientific and human potentials in the country. Based on examples of other countries, it is just necessary to develop and implement a policy of economic stimulation, which will include tax and investment privilege system.

Selection of Armenia's industrial supremacies is necessary for development of a modern industrial policy and for determination of those "locomotive" branches which will make the economy follow them ensuring its split.

j. Development of agriculture

For the purposes of developing agriculture in Armenia and preventing outflow of villagers, it is necessary to enhance state assistance to agricultural producers, create conditions for efficient cultivation and use of lands, and strengthen the state's role in those agricultural branches which ensure strategic requirements of the country, particularly, food reserve security.

To assist agriculture, the state should implement the following measures :

- as the majority of agricultural entities is void of resources necessary to buy seeds and pay for irrigation of lands, this procedure should be formatted as product credits;
- the state should invest a simplified and privileged system of agriculture crediting;
- the state should assist not only agricultural entities but also the creation of such elements of agricultural sub-structures, as agro-chemical, purchase and zootechnical services;
- it is necessary to create an efficient insurance system with regard to activities of agricultural entities.

k. Provision of energy security

As to energy security and its independence, the Party considers that their level may be increased through development of such an electrical power engineering, which does not depend or depends a little on import of energy carriers. Development of electric power of Armenia should have two main directions; first, hydro-energy, and second, nuclear power.

l. Development of industrial infrastructure (energy, communication, transportation, etc)⁵

It is necessary to develop a complex program of production sub-structures.

m. Innovative development of economy

Transition of Armenia into innovative economy does not mean that Armenia may not implement elements of other development models. Transition of Armenia into an innovative economy which is based on knowledge, may ensure

long-term, stable and qualitative economic growth, more over taking into consideration the fact that in the country resources of rehabilitation and import-replacement development models are consumed almost totally. Creation of national innovative economy assumes formation of venture and innovative funds', which requires implementation of private and state partnership.

n. Improvement of corporate governance

It is necessary to invest principles and methods of modern corporate governance in Armenian enterprises.

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

The Party believes that there is a need for prior satisfaction of social demands, creation of a system of reliable social guarantees through fair allocation of national incomes, so that the person will feel him/herself as an active and competent citizen of his/her state.

a. Overcoming the poverty

In order to ensure factually the right of citizens' life, it is necessary to make all state and other system payments such as salaries, pensions, subsidiaries, etc. correspond to minimum level necessary for physical existence.

The Party considers that the struggle against poverty should not be maintained in a way of making rich and successful businessmen pay high taxes and then allocating them in favor of poor people, but it is necessary to create such conditions and opportunities, due to which poor people may overcome poverty on their own.

b. Reduction of polarization of society

The minimum level of income should be ensured not by enterprises and organizations but by the state. It is necessary to adopt a law on state responsibility against citizens. Every one should have a right to sue the state and achieve success with regard to that process.

c. Ensuring employment

The main ingredient of social policy, that all other directions depend on, is the right of free employment of citizen, which ensures his/her economic, consequently political identity, provides opportunity of creative self-realization.

d. Reduction of emigration

The Party considers that impossibility of ensuring his/her existence due to employment makes the RA citizens emigrate.

e. Improvement of public health care system⁵

There is a need for extension of state order and enhancement of services provided.

h. Reforming social security and insurance systems⁵

It is necessary to pass from state pension system into private cumulative funds.

g. Reforming education system

The main principle in education sphere should be affordability of secondary and high education for all those, who have will and abilities to learn, moreover, secondary education should be mandatory for all RA citizens. With regard to high education, it is necessary to parallel learning within the frameworks of state order and payable education in state and private institutions. The state should do everything so that capable children from poor families can continue their education in the state and private institutions.

h. Development of science

Preservation and development of Armenia's traditionally high scientific and educational level, is one of the most important issues for the state. The state should have a clear standpoint of education development, where all priorities of development of science will be mentioned. An important place among the mentioned priorities should take such branches, which have deep roots in Armenia, as astronomy, mathematics, certain directions of physics, chemistry, biology, etc. Development of fundamental sciences is impossible without state sponsorship.

i. Culture

The state should have a clear cultural policy. The objective of the mentioned policy should be preservation and development of national peculiarities of Armenian art. One of the most important points of cultural policy should be the most extended communication with the world countries without sacrificing national face of culture.

j. Sport⁵

Sport is considered to be one of the most important factors of population's health. With regard to this sphere, it is necessary to ensure affordability of sport and fitness clubs.

k. Other

It is necessary to overcome artificial separation of science (first of all humanitarian) and church, rehabilitating national church theology as a factor of self-preservation. Respecting the right of intellect, conscience and religion of every RA citizen, at the same time realizing the centuries-old and exclusive role as well as contribution of Armenian Apostolic church in preservation of mother language, cultural and spiritual values, as well as Armenians, the Party, shows an honor to the church's mission, and with granted competences transfers the service of registering civil acts to church, in this way assisting the connection of the nation and church.

4.8. Formation and development of civil society, including

Today in Armenia there is no civil society because of two reasons: first, state authority ignores the law, second, it is alienated from the nation. The Party is sure that in the process of building civil society, first of all, it is necessary to resolve the problem related to moral environment of the country, justice, humane and spiritual values. Without such a drastic movement, no political and economic issue will be solved.

a. Strengthening democratic institutes

The Party is ready to support alternative projects developed by different political forces, where balance of different branches of authority will be ensured.

b. Ensuring freedom of speech and information

The Party aims at protecting full independence of mass media.

c. Consolidating human rights and basic freedoms

The Party views liberty, first of all, as a freedom of an individual, when every citizen has a right of election and self-determination with regard to all spheres of social life. Realization of an individual's freedom is connected with democracy and social justice.

d. Reforming the judicial system⁵

There is a need for complete independence of judicial system, balance and separation of authority wings.

e. Improving the election system⁵

It is necessary to create and implement election system based on democratic standards; also it is necessary to manifest political will.

f. Sustaining political parties and developing the political field

In the process of the state's sustainability, the Party attaches importance to free and fair elections and should be persistent regarding its implementation.

g. Increasing political responsibility of political parties and political figures⁵

It is necessary to sow a clear ideology among population that political parties are not structures solving social problems and political foundations cannot serve for charity.

4.9. Obstacles to national security and ways to overcome them

While developing concept of national security, armed forces, their structure, ability to fight, quality of armament, and military-patriotic education should be given a special place. National army should be structured based on professionalism principle and should take its worthy place in the society. At the same time, in schools and specialized institutions, subject of military strategy should be included in mandatory educational program without gender discrimination.

4.10. Demographic problems and solutions thereto⁵

It is necessary to assist young and newly created families, and ensure subsidiaries to the 3rd and more children in each family until they become adults.

10. “ARMENIAN REVOLUTIONARY FEDERATION DASHNAKCUTYUN” PARTY

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

- **Address of the head office:** 30 Hanrapetutiun St., Yerevan
- **Telephone, fax:** (+37410) 52-15-02
- **E-mail:** gmarf@arminco.com
- **Website:** www.arf.am
- **Foundation date:** 1890
- **Charter and Program approval date:** 1892
- **State registration date:** 02. 07.1991
- **State re-registration date:** 28.11.2003
- **Number of party members at the time of completing questionnaire:** 7000 members
- **Official mass media of the Party:** “Yerkir” weekly
- **Date of publication of the Party’s Program and Charter and the name of mass media:** Program: February 1998, brochure Code of ARFD, “Hayastan” organization, April 2006

2. GOVERNING BODIES AND THE LEADER OF THE PARTY

- Supreme body: 21 members
- Marz committee: 5 or 7 members
- Party President: Armen Roustamyan

3. IDEOLOGICAL PLATFORM, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PARTY

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.

4. PROGRAM STANDPOINTS OF THE PARTY ON THE FOLLOWING ISSUES

4.1. Priorities of foreign policy

1. International condemnation of the Genocide crime committed by Turkey against Armenians that has not been punished yet, return of occupied territories and fair compensation to the Armenian nation;
2. Provision of a victorious end of Artsakh struggle as a priority of settlement of the Armenian Cause;
3. Strengthening the national identity of Diaspora and organization of implementation of its political role in order to direct its capacity to prosperity of the Armenian state and pursuit of the Armenian Cause.

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.⁵

a. European Integration

Purpose: Membership of Armenia in the European Union.

b. CIS

Cooperation in the CIS should be built around common interests.

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. Turkey⁵

Relations with Turkey remain unregulated as this state continues its hostile policy toward Armenia and presents preconditions for establishing diplomatic relations and opening the Armenian-Turkish border. This stifle of building of mutual relations is not acceptable for Armenia.

h. Azerbaijan⁵

The axis of foreign relations with Azerbaijan is Karabakh issue. The Party is for 3-side negotiations (RA, Karabakh, Azerbaijan), where Karabakh is a main conflicting party and RA is a guarantee for its independence and security.

i. Iran⁵

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. Georgia⁵

Relations with Georgia are closely related to problems of Armenians in Javakhk and Georgia. The Party stands for the territorial integrity of Georgia and existence of strong Javakhk, playing an immediate role in determination of its own destiny, in its constitution. This will mutually promote relations between Armenia and Georgia.

k. Armenia’s participation in regional programs

Integration into regional and global economy should proceed with no harm to national interests, cultural characteristics and identity of Armenian people.

I. Karabakh issue

After 1988, the Artsakh claim gained an unprecedented impetus not only in Artsakh but among all Armenians as well. Actually, it grew into a national-liberation movement. The Party has participated and will continue to participate by all its means in this movement, conveying ideological clarification to that struggle. The right to self-determination, which is a part of the UN convention, should logically and legally apply to Armenian nation as well.

m. Recognition of the Genocide

Genocide by Turkey against Armenian people has not been compensated yet. The genocide also continues today as Armenians of Diaspora face danger of assimilation being prevented of a chance to live in their homeland. Settlement of the Armenian cause is not only a practical expression of justice, conviction and punishment of genocide, but is an issue of international law as well, based on an unalienable principle of national self-determination.

n. Armenia-Diaspora: enhanced links and effective cooperation

Consolidation of emigrated Armenians of Diaspora on their territories is one of the most important goals of the party. The Party seeks strengthening of the national identity of Diaspora and organization of implementation of its political role to direct its capacity to prosperity of Armenian State and pursuit of the Armenian Cause.

4.3. Priorities of domestic policy

1. Strengthening of the Armenian statehood, promotion of democracy and legal state, provision of welfare of people, and establishment of social justice;
2. Provision of the right of every Armenian to become a citizen of Armenia;
3. Being led by its ideology and purpose of ensuring social and economic progress in Armenia and Artsakh, and for all Armenians in general, as well as taking into account directions of global economic developments, the Party proposes to implement a social and economic policy tending to full social equity and simultaneously providing for economic power of Armenia.

4.4. Government's role in regulation and development of the economy

It is necessary to encourage state protection and control in order to promote productions of strategic significance, protect the Nature and biosphere, ensure employment, and satisfy needs of population in accordance with modern standards.

4.5. Fundamentals of economic policy, including

The party finds it necessary to establish an efficient and competitive economic system balanced with social equity and state control, which should be based on features of material, professional, cultural and intellectual potential of the country and people.

a. Monetary policy

Monetary policy should become a pivot and decisive leverage of economic policy.

b. Budgetary policy⁵

Development of yearly budget should be based on mid-term and long-term plans of social and economic development, ensuring strong rules for expenditure of budgetary means and enhancing financial discipline in this field.

c. Tax policy⁵

It is required to simplify essentially tax system, make strict the tax administration, and gradually shift the tax load from indirect taxes to direct taxes.

d. Custom policy⁵

It is required to simplify to a possible extent customs procedures for exports and remove bureaucratic obstacles.

f. Territorial⁵

In the field of regional government, an effective state administration and a balanced development of marzes should be ensured, liabilities of marz councils should be expanded, and relations of bodies of state and local governing bodies should be clarified.

g. Foreign economic relations

It is necessary to participate in those processes of global economy, which affect economic development of Armenia.

4.6. Ways to overcome the existing obstacles to economic development, including

An efficient branch structure of economy is an incentive for long-term and sustainable economic growth. In this respect, the party signifies advanced development of industry and achievement of a status of industrial economy.⁵

a. Stimulation of investments

For ensuring the prosperity and independent development of Armenia's economy, the full realization of potential of all Armenians in the world is an important guarantee.

b. Development of financial markets⁵

The party comes out of position of sustenance of a stable, regulated and accessible financial market, in which the rights and legal interests of investors are protected, and individuals seeking finances have alternative mechanisms and possibilities of obtaining them under the preferred conditions.

c. Improvement of competitiveness⁵

Equal conditions must be secured for business entities. Activities of monopolies (of natural monopolies as well) should be regulated. Antimonopoly legislation should be improved.

d. Development of small and medium business

It is necessary to develop and implement projects for promotion of small and medium business.

f. Balanced development of marzes

It is necessary to reconstruct old roads and build new ones in areas of strategic significance, promote creation of new jobs, and implement policies of tax and credit privileges. In the zone of earthquake, conditions of residence and infrastructures should be improved.

g. Reduction of shadow economy

The Party considers struggle against shadow economy in result of which:

- Level of credit entries will attain 25% of the GDP in future 5 years;
- Tax load will be uniformly distributed among taxpayers.

h. Eradication of corruption⁵

Eradication of corruption is among primary goals of the party. To achieve this goal, the Party develops and implements complex projects.

i. Development of industry

Industry is organized according to principle of full and free participation of working masses in shareholding and production management, as well as through self-government, decentralization of enterprise and activities of free trade unions.

j. Development of agriculture⁵

Agriculture is organized according to principle of full and free participation of working masses in shareholding and production management, as well as through self-government, decentralization of enterprise and activities of free trade unions.

k. Provision of energy security⁵

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.

l. Development of industrial infrastructure (energy, communication, transportation, etc)

The party signifies construction of new secure and safe roads, reconstruction of existing ones, enhancement of their capacity and level of safety, and regulation of the traffic. It is necessary to ensure continuity and diversification of supply of energetic resources from other countries.

m. Innovative development of economy⁵

It is necessary to develop and implement industrial policy with export orientation, which assumes increased responsibility of the state in processes of establishment or restoration of new and technologically developed sectors.

4.7. 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 the poverty

One of the purposes of the government's social policy should be poverty reduction.

b. Reduction of polarization of society⁴

The necessary economic characteristics of social justice are protection of right of an individual to work and fair distribution of incomes, always taking into account natural development of economy.

c. Creation of employment

It is necessary to install a system of professional orientation, establish definite privileges for employers in order to provide jobs to long the term unemployed. It is possible to reduce essentially tension in labor market if, in the field of employment, a switch is made from the present passive policy to an active one.

d. Reduction of emigration⁵

It is necessary to implement a balanced social and economic policy directed to reduction of emigration and stimulation of immigration.

e. Improvement of public health care system

The party signifies further reforms in the field of health care and installation of a system of compulsory and optional medical insurance, applying different approaches for different groups of population.

f. Refinement of social security and insurance system⁵

Policies implemented in the field of social protection are based upon social assistance, social and pension insurance, as well as other complex measures. It is necessary to:

- Increase the existing level one-term allowance (3500 drams) provided for the birth of a child, install an integral system of bonuses stipulated by sequence of birth of children;
- Reform the system of family allowances, assisting formation of stable families, and turn it into an important means of ensuring the minimal living basket.

g. Refinement of education system⁵

The main goals of state policy in the field of science should be the development of scientific and technological potential of the republic, establishment of an efficient system of expert preparation, integration of science, education, and production, and foundation of knowledge based economy.

h. 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 the required projects.

i. Culture

Preservation of Armenian cultural legacy, creation of new values, promotion of the cultural life and development of a cultural basis for successful systemic reform of Armenian society must be objects of attention of the state.

j. Sport⁵

In the sphere of sport and physical culture, the objectives of the state policy should be improvement of health conditions of population, upbringing a healthy young generation, and development of professional sport.

k. Church, family

It is necessary to signify role of the Armenian Church and Armenian family in maintaining the national features.

4.8. Formation and development of civil society, 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

One of the political objectives of the Party is freedom of ideas, speech, creation, press, publishing and other means of expression, conscience, activities of political and other organizations, meetings and movements.

c. Consolidating human rights and basic freedoms

The party is intended to ensure equity of all citizens before the law. State must ensure inviolability of person, residence, property and means of communication.

d. Reforming the judicial system⁵

Sustenance of independent judicial system based on principle of superiority of the law is necessary.

e. Improving the election system⁵

It is necessary to strengthen election system formed on the basis of proportional elections and in accordance with international standards.

f. Sustaining political parties and developing the political field⁵

It is necessary to increase the role of political parties in establishment of plurality, ideological and political competition, and civil society.

g. Increasing political responsibility of political parties and political figures⁵

It is necessary to apply international standards in estimation of sustenance of political figures and political parties.

4.9. Obstacles to national security and ways to overcome them

Completion of concept of national security and establishment of a proper system.

4.10. Demographic problems and solutions thereto⁵

Negative demographic tendencies have created quite real danger turning the natural growth of population into natural decline. Self-regulatory possibilities of improvement of demographic situation are not realistic. The only way to achieve this is a targeted and consistent state policy.

4.11. Environmental problems and solutions thereto

Environmental policy should be developed constantly coming out of principle of harmonious relations between a man and the environment.

4.12. Other /national minorities

It is necessary to establish conditions for maintenance and development traditions and ethnic, linguistic, cultural and religious identity of national minorities.

5. PARTICIPATION IN ELECTIONS

5.1. Party's participation in parliamentary elections and the number of candidates nominated

▪ 1995 elections

Number of candidates nominated by majority system: 1

▪ 1999 elections

Number of candidates nominated by proportional system: 70

Number of candidates nominated by majority system: 70

▪ 2003 elections

Number of candidates nominated by proportional system: 101

5.2. Party's participation in presidential elections

▪ **1991 elections:** participated

▪ **1996 elections:** participated

▪ **1998 elections:** participated

▪ **2003 elections:** participated

6. PARTY REPRESENTATION IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

6.1. Number of deputies in NA

▪ NA I Convocation 14

▪ NA II Convocation 1

▪ NA III Convocation 11

11. PROGRESSIVE PARTY OF ARMENIA

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

- **Legal address:** 12 Njhdeh 23 St, Yerevan
- **Address of the head office:** 3 Mashtots St, Yerevan
- **Telephone, fax:** (+37410) 53-35-76, 53-15-05
- **E-mail:** progress2001@mail.ru
- **Foundation date:** december, 1991
- **Charter and Program approval date:** August , 2000
- **State registration:** 08.01.2001
- **State re-registration:** 12.12.2003
- **Number of party members at the time of completing questionnaire:** 7500 members

2. GOVERNING BODIES AND THE LEADER OF THE PARTY

- Congress: 491 delegates
- Administration: 19 members
- Party President: Tigran Urikhanyan

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

The Party's Charter goals and Program provisions are based on centrist ideology, anchored on such concepts as extremism and reformism. The Party's goals and objectives:

- Promote development of Republic of Armenia as a social state and ensure wellbeing of the society;
- Pursue new progressive ideas, unify public efforts to assist in implementing social programs, defeating the overall crisis, as well as establishing a democratic and legal state;
- Organize and conduct events, competitions and festivals for the purpose of activating the cultural life of Armenians;
- Create relevant conditions for overall engagement in creative work and recovery of kind Armenian traditions, as well as secure accessibility of education, science and free health care for general public;
- Contribute to social protection of the society and civil development of national Armenian progressive customs and habits;
- Take ceaseless efforts to strengthen Armenia economically and strategically in order to raise the international reputation of the country and ensure its security.

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

4.1 Priorities in foreign policy (put three of such in the sequence of priority and comment)⁵

1. Mutually complementary policy
2. Massive dictation and justification of official policy.

4.2. Fundamentals of foreign policy, including⁵

a. European Integration

The Party considers European integration to be a positive process.

b. CIS

Cooperation with CIS countries should be continuous.

c. Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO)

Armenia should continue its membership with CSTO.

d. NATO

Armenia should cooperate with NATO and its subsidiary structures.

e. USA

Armenia should establish friendly relations with the USA, which will lead to mutually beneficial cooperation.

f. Russian Federation

Armenia is the only strategically important country for Russia in the region. The policy in our relations with Russia should also be mutually beneficial.

g. Turkey

We should establish diplomatic relations with Turkey.

h. Azerbaijan

Continue negotiation process with Azerbaijan

i. Iran

Mutually beneficial cooperation with Iran should be deepened further.

j. Georgia

Mutually beneficial cooperation with Georgia should be consolidated.

k. Armenia's participation in regional programs

The Party asserts that Armenia should demonstrate active participation in regional programs.

l. Karabakh issue

The road for resolution of Karabakh issue lies through development of the country, skillful diplomacy and active involvement of the Diaspora.

m. Recognition of the Genocide

It is important to enhance the impact of diplomatic practices and public will.

n. Armenia-Diaspora: enhanced links and effective cooperation

The Party believes that it is important to add depth to Armenia-Diaspora relations and enhance efficiency of cooperation.

4.3. Priorities of domestic policy⁵

1. Confederacy of the society over issues of public importance.
2. Complete construction of independent and strong democratic state.

4.4. Government's role in regulation and development of the economy

The state should carry out alternative supervisory functions.⁵

To the Party, the role of the state is traced in the development of legal framework regulating and promoting all forms of activities and implementation of anti-monopoly economic policy in private sector.

4.5. Fundamentals of economic policy, including

The Party seeks for regulation of economic relations based on market relations, and gradual switch to complete market relations by creating equal conditions for free and independent operation of all types of ownership.

The principles of small and medium business as well as social balance should be in place⁵.

a. Monetary policy⁵

Ensure affordability of loans through state regulation.

b. Budgetary policy⁵

Budgetary policy should guarantee economic growth, remove shadow economy and take anti-corruption measures.

c. Tax policy⁵

Tax policy should support elimination of shadow economy and anti-corruption.

d. Customs policy⁵

Customs policy should support elimination of shadow economy, anti-corruptions measures, decrease of duties, etc.

e. Sector-oriented policy⁵

The Party stresses the need for sector-oriented development.

f. Territorial policy⁵

The Party emphasizes the need for territorial development.

g. Foreign economic relations⁵

Foreign economic relations should be active.

4.6. Ways to overcome the existing obstacles to economic development, including

The Party considers the aim of its economic policy to be the creation of an interconnected integrity of strong economic system and economic structures, where the rulers are the interests of Armenia and Armenian people.

a. Stimulation of investments⁵

The Party emphasizes the importance of promoting investments.

b. Development of financial markets⁵

Development of financial markets is necessary.

c. Improvement of competitiveness⁵

There is need for improved climate for competitiveness.

d. Development of small and medium business⁵

Development of small and medium business is obligatory.

f. Balanced development of marzes⁵

Balanced development of marzes is obligatory.

g. Reduction of shadow economy⁵

Reduction of shadow economy is the order of the day.

h. Eradication of corruption⁵

Effective anti-corruption measures should be carried out.

i. Development of industry

The Party believes that economic stability should be achieved through industrial development, increased volume of export, agricultural and industrial promotion, and diversified and flexible tax policy.

j. Development of agriculture⁵

Agricultural development is essential.

k. Provision of energy security⁵

The Party regards provision of energy security as a mandatory assignment.

l. Development of industrial infrastructure (energy, communication, transportation, etc)⁵

Development of industrial infrastructures is crucial for economic progress.

m. Innovative development of economy⁵

The Party's attitude towards innovative development of economy is positive.

n. Improvement of corporate governance⁵

Corporate governance is mandatory.

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

The Party believes that formation of social fairness, health care and social protections systems are aspects of all-country concern. Nothing can spare the state from fulfillment of its social obligations against the population.

c. Ensuring the employment

In order to ensure improved employment for the population, it is necessary to create appropriate legislative grounds, which will guarantee decent remuneration for vital activities of a person and his family. Job creation and fair distribution of national income by the state will guarantee welfare of the population.

g. Reforming the education system

Education system should endorse real professional orientation of pupils and students and specifically focus on work ethics.

h. Development of science

The Party believes it is essential to develop a complex program of rehabilitation and development of scientific system as a key element and engineering force in reformation of the economic structure, which will create basic conditions for scientific-technological progress, lay the bridge between fundamental and applied sciences, as well as industry and science, contribute to recovery of financial situation and reputation, consideration of the sector in state financial and investment policies, appreciation and encouragement of scientific achievements, and improvement of national education system.

i. Culture

The state should take all possible efforts to support development of Armenian culture both inside the Republic and in Diaspora, guarding the nation from foreign cultural and ideological invasions.

j. Sport

The Party believes that development of sport as a clearly positive approach.

4.8. Formation and development of civil society, including

a. Strengthening democratic institutes

It is necessary to ensure direct participation of the population in formation of government representation bodies and democratic institutes.

c. Consolidating human rights and basic freedoms⁵

The supreme power in the Republic of Armenia is free demonstration of people's will, which is manifested by people's representation bodies created through free elections. The State should guarantee security, dignity and freedom of its citizens and all Armenians, supporting full expression of individuality.

d. Reforming the judicial system

The provisions stipulated by constitution, legislation, laws and legal acts are inviolable, regardless of time, and should have reliable defense, ensuring political, economic and spiritual independence of the Republic of Armenia.

h. Other /Local Governments/

It is necessary to decentralize the administrative system and confer larger authorities to local governments.

4.9. Obstacles to national security and ways to overcome them

The Party believes that it is important to create necessary conditions for assurance of national security of the Armenian nation on the basis of social society and democracy.

5. PARTICIPATION IN ELECTIONS

5.1. Party's participation in parliamentary elections and the number of candidates nominated

- **2003 elections:** didn't participate

5.2. Party's participation in presidential elections

- **2003 elections:** didn't participate
- **2008 elections:** will participate

12. ARMENIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

- **Legal address:** 14 Koriun St, Yerevan
- **Address of the head office:** 21/3 Mashtots St., Yerevan
- **Telephone, fax:** (+37410) 53-90-24
- **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
- **Number of party members at the time of the last congress:** 5700
- **Date of publication of the Party's Program and Charter and the name of mass media:** "Azdarar" newspaper 1992

2. GOVERNING BODIES AND THE LEADER OF THE PARTY

- Congress
- Republican board: 41 members
- Presidency
- Party President: Aram Sargsyan

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

Adopting the "Program of Armenian model of democratic socialism", Armenian Democratic Party is intended to substitute model of democratic socialism for a rude and monopolized regime established under the vale of liberal economy. Uncurbed globalization threatens to completely deteriorate the Armenian identity, make Armenians deny the Armenian Cause and national values, and, from a creative and hard working nation with a huge intellectual potential, turn into a nation of merchants and servants for foreigners. These developments require rapid and radical changes in the country. The Party is resolved in implementing these changes. The Party believes that the only means to save Armenia is substitution of system of democratic socialism for the existing one. It recognizes legal equity of all nations and peoples and their right to self-determination in their historical territory. The Party completely rejects the policy of repression of national-liberation movements or their qualification as terrorism.

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

4.1. Priorities in foreign policy

1. Develop 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 and its integral part – Karabakh issue.

4.2. Fundamentals of foreign policy, including

In determining priorities of foreign policy, the state of democratic socialism pays a special attention to those countries, with which (European Union, USA, CHINA, Iran, etc) national interests of Armenia imply further development of relations.

a. European Integration⁵

The party stands for integration of Armenia into the European Union.

b. CIS⁵

The party stands for the CIS.

c. Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO)⁵

The party stands for membership of Armenia in CSTO and finds it necessary.

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.

e. USA⁵

Relations with the USA should be developed further.

f. Russian Federation

Strategic partnership with Russia should be developed further.

g. Turkey

Relations with Turkey cannot be developed at the expense of the Armenian cause.

h. Azerbaijan⁵

The party stands for peaceful regulation of the conflict.

i. Iran⁵

It is required to develop friendly relations with Iran.

j. Georgia⁵

It is required to further friendly relations with Georgia.

k. Armenia's participation in regional programs⁵

Being led by political and economic interests, it is required to ensure participation of Armenia in regional projects.

I. Karabakh issue

In Karabakh issue, the Party relies on an undeniable fact and irreversible reality that through its national-liberation movement and in a legal and legitimate way, people of Artzakh exited Azerbaijan's constitution and formed Republic of Karabakh developing in way of democracy.

The variant of compromises of problem's solution can be based on a unique principle: equivalent compromises leading to the final solution, which must be included in comprehensive package of General treaty; implementation of agreed upon provisions may be put into action according to a fixed timetable. The party will find the issue solved finally, once Karabakh is united with mother Armenia in result of an all-nation referendum.

m. Recognition of the Genocide

The Party expresses its gratitude to the states having recognized the fact of the Armenian Genocide. Meanwhile, we stress that we need a kind of recognition that accepts legitimacy of the Armenian claim, the right to receive compensation for the Genocide and first of all, the right of emigrated Armenians to return to their homeland.

n. Armenia-Diaspora: enhanced links and effective cooperation

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. Free market to possible extent.
2. State regulation to necessary extent.
3. State support for industry and agriculture.

4.4. Government's role in regulation and development of the economy

Government should ensure its controlling and regulatory role in economic relations. State property must be expressed either in form of net property itself or in form of corporations, where government owns controlling interest, i. e. more than half of or least 51% of all shares.

4.5. Fundamentals of economic policy, including

a. Monetary policy

Credits should be 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

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 policy

Tax system should be revised and reconstructed radically. Progressive taxation must become a principle of democratic socialism.

d. Customs policy

Tax and customs policy of government should have strategic and tactical directions. This will mostly assist stabilization and further development of economy.

e. Sector-oriented policy⁵

Science-based industries should be developed.

f. Territorial policy⁵

It is necessary to ensure regional development of economy paying attention to close-border zones.

g. Foreign economic relations

It is necessary to improve economic residue by means of exports.

4.6. Ways to overcome the existing obstacles to economic development, including

Democratic socialism assumes participation of social, national and state institutions in regulation of economy and in control over the redistribution of profits gained from production activities.

a. Stimulation of investments

Democratic socialism encourages foreign investments giving preference to businessmen from the Diaspora.

c. Improvement of competitiveness

It is necessary to remove monopolistic privileges and create equity conditions for business entities.

d. Development of small and medium business

Under democratic socialism, the government should pay a special attention to development and encouragement of small and medium size business, provide favorable conditions and work out special legislation.

e. Fulfillment of WTO requirements⁵

It is necessary to fulfill WTO requirements in accordance with the undertaken obligations.

f. Balanced development of marzes⁵

It is required to ensure balanced social and economic development of marzes centralizing attention of government on this issue.

g. Reduction of shadow economy

Under the present shadow economy of 50 - 70%, it is senseless to speak about sharp increases in budget. The main conditions for reduction and elimination of shadow economy are simplification of tax policy, exception of protectionism, elimination of monopoly positions and equal responsibilities for all before the law.

h. 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.

i. Development of industry

Armenia must become a highly developed industrial country and not a serving one. Finding disastrous the Armenian kind of privatization, the Party finds inventory and classification of the country's entire property a priority. For 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.

j. Development of agriculture

In the field of agriculture, one of the characteristics of democratic socialism is state ownership of land. Putting the land in 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. This will enable government to

- Maneuver in achieving short term and long term objectives in land exploitation;
- Using the land mostly for agricultural purposes;
- Except alienation of the land to foreign citizens;
- Put into circulation not privatized plots and even not easily exploited and stony plots, etc;
- Put into circulation that part of privatized land that farmers will give back to state not being able to exploit it;
- Complete the budget with additional finances;
- Ensure free competition for productions organized on rented and privatized lands;
- Create jobs also for a part of urban population that will prefer to rent land and organize production of agricultural goods.

k. Ensuring energy security

Considering the field of energy as one of fundamentals of economic independence and progress, the party prefers to develop and implement a national program of efficient use of water resources during the next decade. Construction of cascade of Debed river as well as foundation of a new nuclear power plant in an area where it does not contaminate underground waters should be important items of the program.

l. Development of industrial infrastructures (energy, communication, transportation, etc.)

The state sector or property should be strong and include strategically important and profitable enterprises such as communication, water, energy, railway and air transportation, as well as the state sector of residential construction.

m. Innovative development of 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.

4.7. 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

Raise per capita income to the level of consumption basket through elimination of shadow economy.

b. Reduction of polarization of society⁵

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 employment⁵

It is necessary to create jobs through state investments and provision of superiority of laws.

d. Reduction of emigration

The party finds that system of democratic socialism provides a possibility for rapid restoration of production, scientific, and technological potential in Armenia, improvement of moral and legal environment, and stimulation of return of emigrated people.

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.

g. Reforming 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 to

- Preparation of highly qualified teachers, enhancement of their credit and social role, determination of proper pays and social privileges;
- Preparation, in the limits of state order, of experts of necessary quantity and qualification implied by demands of the strategic plan;
- Professional orientation of students in high school;
- Preparation of experts and scientist in the field of applied sciences to ensure development of priority spheres of economy.

h. 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 means provided for payments and social privileges of scientific researchers;
- strengthen the relationship between science and education;
- establish a system of state support for young scientists and provide means for experimental work in well-known scientific centers in order to ensure the inflow of new forces into science.

i. Culture⁵

It is necessary to increase finances provided for cultural purposes and give up residual financing in this sphere.

j. Sport⁵

Sport and physical culture should be accessible to public and especially to the youth.

k. Other /Church/

Taking into account national characteristics of Armenian people, the Party gives priority to the Armenian Apostolic Church. It cooperates and consults with Etchmiadzin over different issues. The party is against all Christian and non-Christian sects that preach violence, humble national values, and threaten security and defensibility of the country.

4.8. Formation and development of civil society, including

a. Strengthening democratic institutes

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.

b. Ensuring freedom of speech and information⁵

Responsibility of press should be increased. Authorities should respond to the raised issues.

c. Consolidating human rights and basic freedoms

The parliamentary system shall ensure all human rights and basic freedoms, and first of all right to life, right to work, freedom of speech, press, meetings, marches and protests.

e. Improving the election system

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.

f. Consolidation of political parties and development of political field⁵

It is necessary to ensure equal conditions for all political parties formed in the country.

g. Increasing political responsibility of political parties and political figures

Impeachment of deputies by parliamentary parties, in response to requirements from voters, should become a constitutional provision. The highest legislative body of the country should consist of the best and professional representatives of society.

4.9. Obstacles to national security and ways to overcome them

Taking into account the threats to national security, it is necessary to develop new concepts of national security that imply foreign policy having national interests in its base.

4.10. Demographic problems and solutions thereto

The party has a purpose of solving the demographic problems through family strengthening.

4.11. Environmental problems and ways to solve them

In 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.

5. PARTICIPATION IN ELECTIONS

5.1. Participation of the Party in the National Assembly elections the number of candidates nominated

▪ 1995 elections

Number of candidates nominated by proportional system: 70

Number of candidates nominated by majority system: 9

▪ 1999 elections

Number of candidates nominated by proportional system: 90

Number of candidates nominated by majority system: 15

▪ 2003 elections: participated with alliance "Ardarutyun"

5.2. Participation of the Party in Presidential elections

▪ **1991 elections:** did not participate

▪ **1996 elections:** participated

▪ **1998 elections:** participated

▪ **2003 elections:** participated

▪ **2008 elections:** will participate

6. NATIONAL ASSEMBLY REPRESENTATION

6.1 Number of NA deputies

NA III Convocation: 1

13. YOUTH PARTY OF ARMENIA

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

- **Legal address:** 1 Yerznkyan, ap. 1, Yerevan
- **Address of the head office:** 1 Mashtots, Yerevan
- **Telephone, fax:** (+37410) 56-02-99, 56-02-98
- **E-mail:** hekarmeria@mail.ru
- **Foundation date:** 18.05.1997
- **Charter and Program approval date:** 20.06.1997
- **State registration date :** 20.06.1997
- **State re-registration date:** 05.12.2003
- **Number of party members at the time of completing questionnaire:** 7960 members
- **Official mass media of the Party:** "Skizb" newspaper, "Hayetsakarg" newspaper
- **Date of publication of the Party's Program and Charter and the name of mass media:** Charter: "Hayetsakarg" newspaper, 05.03.2003, Program: "Hayetsakarg" newspaper, 14.02.2003

2. GOVERNING BODIES AND THE LEADER OF THE PARTY

- Congress
- Central Board: 27 members
- Party President: Sargis Asatryan

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

Youth Party of Armenia is a real democratic, public-political union, which unifies advanced youth. The Party is open to all law-abiding RA citizens who assist Armenia in prospering and strengthening and to those persons who have the right to vote.

The Party is for transfer of historically formed traditions and experience to new generations, as well as for innovation and progress of all directions of the society and the life itself.

The Party is for market economy which has social direction and civil means of solving political problems.

The Party is persistent towards implementation of purposeful programs related to youth which are addressed by the state and society.

The Party is for the formation of civil society and protects the rights of citizens.

In the bases of the formation and use of Party resources is only the national interest with intent of progress of youth life in particular, and progress of the RA citizens' life in general.

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

4.1. Priorities of foreign policy⁵

Based on necessity of the creation of Armenia-Russia union, it is necessary to develop and implement provisions necessary for creation of the mentioned union.

4.2. Fundamentals of foreign policy, including

Principal, moral and fair participation in settlement processes of the world conflicts will elevate Armenia's reputation.

a. European Integration⁵

It is necessary to cooperate and establish friendly relations with all reputable organizations.

b. CIS⁵

It is necessary to cooperate and establish friendly relationships with all reputable organizations.

c. Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO)⁵

Membership of Armenia to CSTO, the Party considers to be important.

e. USA⁵

The Party attaches importance to close cooperation with both USA and Russia.

f. Russian Federation⁵

The Party attaches importance to close cooperation with both USA and Russia.

g. Turkey

The main part of the regional problems related to Armenia concerns Armenia-Turkey relationships. The main reasons for that are the occupation of Armenian territories by two Turkish states, as well as existence of a similar threat to remained regions of Armenia with direct or indirect meanings. Regional stability mainly is conditioned by the form of the mentioned problem.

Relationships of Armenia with neighbor countries, regional and other world powers are mainly conditioned by Armenian-Turkish relationships.

h. Azerbaijan⁵

In case of recognition of NK independence by Azerbaijan, Armenia will re-launch its friendly relationships with Azerbaijan.

i. Iran⁵

The Party attaches importance to strategic partnership with Iran.

j. Georgia⁵

The Party is for establishment of close and friendly economic and cultural relationships with Georgia.

k. Armenia's participation in regional programs

In any of different regional separations, Armenia has the role of a key. Our region is a crater of ethnos, religions, civilizations, East and West, where unification processes are almost impossible, instead, there are conflicts which have deep historical roots and are subject to resolution.

Security and development of Armenia is impossible to imagine without sustained regional security system and general regional development. Armenia is obliged to have direct participation in all processes regulating and stabilizing the region.

I. Karabakh issue

After Artsakh war, Armenian popularity did not give birth to an idea which could lead Armenian nation.

m. Recognition of the Genocide⁵

The Party considers that the issue of Armenian Cause needs to be reviewed.

n. Armenia-Diaspora: enhanced links and effective cooperation

Diaspora is an ingredient of Armenian nation, and each Armenian colony compared to its national self-consciousness participates in national collectivity. Diaspora is Armenian to the extent, as it desires to return and be the owner of its fatherland. The forms of self-organization of Diaspora are a part of national state general organization of Armenians. Cooperation with RA and its internal improvement are the circumstances strengthening Armenian collectivity.

4.3. Priorities of domestic policy⁵

1. Implementing broad programs related to elimination of corruption;
2. Making penalties related to certain crimes more severe in the RA criminal-judicial Code.

4.4. Government's role in regulation and development of the economy

In market economy, the state should have regulatory functions.

Anti-monopoly policy, as well as implementation of efficient mechanisms ensuring equal conditions and price regulation should be clearly set forth in the state policy.

4.5. Fundamentals of economic policy, including

a. Monetary policy

The Party attaches importance to efficient implementation of mortgage programs.

b. Budgetary policy⁵

According to Party program, the state budget of 2012-2014 will exceed USD 3.5 bln.

c. Tax policy

The Party attaches importance to establishment of progressive taxes and their full collection.

d. Custom policy⁵

The Party is for unification of RA fiscal bodies.

4.6. Ways to overcome the existing obstacles to economic development, including

a. Stimulation of investments

The Party considers important such allocation of incomes which will provide an opportunity for the nation to participate in financing of production and other important branches through small investments.

Provision of privileged conditions to investors will substantially assist enlivening of foreign investments.

c. Improvement of competitiveness

For all business entities it is necessary to ensure equal conditions for their activity.

d. Development of small and medium business

Small and medium business should be in the center of state attention. The development of the sphere should be stimulated through provision of relevant privileges.

e. Fulfillment of WTO requirements⁵

It is necessary to approach WTO requirements very carefully.

f. Balanced development of marzes⁵

Equal development of marzes the Party considers necessary, including the creation of new cities.

g. Reduction of shadow economy⁵

Within the context of combating corruption, it is necessary to reduce shadow economy.

h. Eradication of corruption

The Party believes that it is necessary to eliminate the environment of unpunishability.

i. Development of industry⁵

The state should provide subsidiaries to a number of industrial branches of strategic importance.

j. Development of agriculture

Within the context of sphere progress, it is necessary to develop a program for development of cattle-breeding and fruit cultures.

k. Provision of energy security⁵

The Party is for construction of new nuclear power plant.

l. Development of industrial infrastructure (energy, communication, transportation, etc)

It is necessary to develop a complex program of alternative sub-structures.

m. Innovative development of economy⁵

The Party is for creation of a new innovative agency of Armenia.

n. Improvement of corporate governance⁵

The Law on Corporate Governance needs certain amendments.

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

a. Overcoming the poverty

Poverty reduction should be one of the supreme problems of the state.

b. Reduction of polarization of society⁵

Reduction of polarization of society is possible only through efficient struggle against corruption.

c. Ensuring the employment

It is necessary to accelerate the procedure of creating employment, taking into consideration priorities of regulation concerning the problems which relate to youth employment.

d. Reduction of emigration⁵

The Party developed a new complex emigration program.

e. Improvement of public health care system

It is necessary to add state orders and implement medical insurance.

g. Reforming the education system

An important problem of educational process is the assurance of broader engagement of youth, which is conditioned by accumulation and disclosure of broader national potential, mentality and increase of quality of national culture. Such issues of education cannot be resolved by centripetal governance, or by regulation of standards and certificates. Right in contrast, equally with the state, the client of education is the whole society; from a family to unions. Teaching is a mission and it should not be connected with material interest, however, it should have sufficient welfare, and the purpose of getting education should be acquaintance of knowledge, and not diploma.

h. Development of science

The Party believes that the sphere of exact and fundamental sciences should be financed by the state.

i. Culture

Culture is a national life-style, through which the nations create and realize their mission. The culture is our uniqueness, the type of our thinking and acting. The issue of recognizing national culture, today, exists first of all because of big volume of foreign influence and factually made back-step.

Being under influence of foreign cultures, we partially lost the roots of national wisdom, quality of language-thinking and traditional life-style, as a consequence of which Armenian worker, craftsman and scientist lost their diligence and quality. The problem of living by national culture is a natural necessity, however, today it is conditioned by reduction of our creativity abilities. It is necessary to introduce Armenian national culture worldwide.

j. Sport⁵

The Party is for subsidizing sport and physical education.

k. Other/the role of the family in society/

Communities and families are the base of natural structure of society. The family traditionally has been and remains the base of society. The main factor ruining family is individualism, which is even in the base of legislation. The state prefers to have relationships with each of family members separately, and not with a family as a complete unit. Citizens living in bad quality families cannot build high-quality social relationships which are based on national self-consciousness and national cooperation.

4.8. Formation and development of civil society, including

When centripetal state with its structures does not correspond to natural organization of the nation, it ceases serving that nation and becomes a tool in hands of foreign and internal fragmented forces. The Party attaches importance to necessity of strong authority and strong opposition.

a. Strengthening democratic institutes

Democracy should to greatest extent correspond to self-discipline of the nation and ensure harmonized cooperation of active and responsible forces of society.

4.9. Obstacles to national security and ways to overcome them

An important ingredient of strengthening Armenia's ability of self-protectability and reimbursing scarcity of financial resources should be strengthening and self-discipline of national spirit. Nation-army structure and mentality may ensure the above mentioned. The famous army stereotypes, which may be successfully functioning in other countries, may be totally useless in Armenia. Professional or mandatory recruiting alternatives do not satisfy equally the problems faced by our army. Limitation of armament, possibility of different wars, as well as necessity to have a populous army require flexibility of army structure and military concept, constantly acting systems of military and patriotic education, as well as discussions of military issue with broader participation of population.

5. Participation in Elections

5.1. Party's participation in parliamentary elections and the number of candidates nominated

▪ 1999 elections

Number of candidates nominated by proportional system 16

▪ 2003 elections

Number of candidates nominated by proportional system 1

Number of candidates nominated by majority system 5

5.2. Party's participation in presidential elections

▪ **1998 elections:** did not participate

▪ **2003 elections:** did not participate

▪ **2008 elections:** will participate

14. PEOPLE'S PARTY OF ARMENIA

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

- **Address of the head office:** 7 Ghazar Parpeci St., Yerevan
- **Telephone, fax** (+37410) 53-15-01, 53-65-01, 53-77-01
- **E-mail:** nap_Armenia@yahoo.com
- **Web page:** www.ppa.am
- **Foundation date:** 23.05.1998
- **Charter and Program approval date:** 28.02.1999
- **State registration date:** 15.05.1998
- **State re-registration date:** 02.06.2001
- **Number of party members at the time of completing questionnaire:** 30300 members

2. GOVERNING BODIES AND THE LEADER OF THE PARTY

- Congress
- Board: 105 members
- Party president: Stepan Demirchyan

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

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 individual, democracy, justice and solidarity.

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

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 main goals and objectives are fixed in its program.

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

4.1. Three priorities in foreign policy (put three of such in the sequence of priority and comment)

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-paper.

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 in the European Union as a goal of foreign and internal policy.

c. Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO)

The Party supposes that the cooperation in the framework of CSTO is mutually profitable.

e. USA

Armenia should establish neighborly relations with all the countries in the region, as well as develop and deepen the cooperation with 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.

k. Armenia's participation in regional programs

Armenia should establish neighborly relations with all the countries in the region.

l. Karabakh issue

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 internationally recognized.

m. Recognition of the Genocide

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

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.

4.3. Priorities of domestic policy

The Party considers that the state should assist each citizen, each Armenian who left the country in recent years, each member of Armenian Diaspora in undertaking his private business, the state must protect them against the authorities volitional actions, bureaucratic barriers, group or other harassments. Considering the efficiency of public management as a guarantee of sustainable social-economic development, the state must strengthen its role of the regulator. The state should provide partnership and assistantship for all the independent subjects working in the system of free market. It should be the guarantor of all the ownership forms of free development. We should increase the citizens' reliance on the state with a clear and foreseeable legislative field, enforcement of all adopted laws, and in this way we should ensure foreign investments flow to our country.

The Party excludes any kind of outrage or volitional action against the person and ownership. The citizen should be certain that the state will protect his/her dignity and property.

4.5. Fundamentals of economic policy, 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

We should support the enhancement of the banking system, reduction of interest rates, the most simplification of crediting procedures.

b. Budget policy

The Party gives much importance to ensuring of budget expenditures and state procurement efficiency.

c. Tax and custom policies

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 custom flexible policy, to contribute to the development of small and middle entrepreneurship.

e. Sector-oriented policy

The state must mutually support to the rural areas and agricultural goods production. It should stimulate the insurance procedures establishment in the agricultural goods production. It must restore the state order for agricultural goods, undertake activities in this respect and to install a system, which will protect the producers and consumers rights. The issue of ensuring the security of foods will always be one of the supremacies of program goals.

f. Other

It is important to create such conditions that workers, peasants, teachers, doctors, intelligentsia and sportsmen can find their significant role in the society. The woman should again be respected by everybody, and confident in her children future, should restore her role in the family as a defender, to help refugees to eliminate their inferiority complex by giving them residence status and solving their housing problems. One of the goals will be to restore of trade unions' rights, to ensure employees' legal protection. Young talents discovery, human resources development should be supported by the state. Special programs for youth employment in enterprises should be worked out and implemented. The importance of military service in the national army should be emphasized. The soldier of the Armenian army should feel the state and society care and respect. Each foreign investor should be confident in the protection of his investment, and interests, the current legislation requirements will be fulfilled and necessary steps will be taken towards its enhancement.

4.6. Ways to overcome the existing obstacles to economic development, including

The Party will support civil market relations establishment. In the economic system, free market should be associated with government regulation by taking the opportunities of free entrepreneurship and support to productions given by the state. Government's regulation of economy should support national goals implementation and should have a democratic character. It should be directed to enhancement of market procedures and abolishment of negative phenomena of competitiveness.

a. Stimulation of investments

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

b. Development of financial markets

The Party considers one of the main issues of economic policy the enhancement of financial and banking systems. Unlike the modern liberal radical approach to monetary policy, the Party proposes comprehensive events, not being restricted by monetary field, which involve activities related to production and consumption increase:

- Tax system reforms;
- Establishment of competitive;
- Local producers interests protection and increase of competitiveness;
- Social insurance system reforms;
- Budget expenditures and state procurement efficiency;
- Stimulation of investments;
- UP-to-date legal and economic systems creation;
- Contract accuracy and responsibility for business activities.

c. Enhancement of competitive field

The Party gives importance to the state support to establishment and enhancement of entrepreneurship, it should also provide equal conditions for economic competitiveness.

d. Development of small and medium business

The Party emphasizes the importance of equal support to 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. Reduction 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.

k. 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.

l. Development of agriculture

Concerning the agricultural policy, 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. Coming from the negative intents removal 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.

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

a. Overcoming the 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.

c. Provision of employment

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

d. Reduction of emigration

We should carry out social-economic activities to prevent the considerable number of emigrants from Armenia.

e. Improvement of public health care system

In the health care system the Party protects each citizen's, independent from personal incomes, which is to receive medical services free of charge. This service will be provided through state system of health care. The population health, as well as social-economic policy essential directions can guarantee efficient activities of public sector. .

f. Reforming social security and insurance system

The Party considers necessary the social insurance system reforms.

g. Reforming education system

In this field the Party protects the equality principle, which is used for each schoolchild, student, independent from family financial means, so that they can get education due to his or her diligence and skills.

The Party is for common free secondary education system, and for institutions of higher education two options, without excluding the payable principle.

It is necessary to create conditions for private institutions of higher education in parallel with the work quality increase of higher education institutions, by providing strict control over the education programs relevant to state requirements. The education system should be aimed at the training of highly qualified specialists, Armenian upbringing of new generation.

h. Development of science

The Party encourages the creation of 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 Armenologist branches development.

i. Culture

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 archive of world's civilization only with the state contribution.

4.8. Formation and development of civil society, including

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 prescribed by Law.

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

c. Consolidating human rights and basic freedoms

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

d. Reforming 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.

e. Election system enhancement

The formation of power through democratic elections is the cornerstone of democratic social system. Any kind of outrage against the citizen suffrage is a crime against the people's and the state. The election legislation and the elections results violators will be punished under the Election Code.

f. Sustaining political parties and developing the 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. Increasing political responsibility of political parties and political figures

The Party assumes that the state should assist in creating such systems that will stimulate the state officials' efficient work by excluding volitional movements.

4.10. Demographical issues and its ways

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.

4.11 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 restoring.

5. PARTICIPATION IN ELECTIONS

5.1. Party's participation in parliamentary elections and the number of candidates nominated

▪ 1999 elections:

Number of candidates proposed for proportional system: 145

Number of candidates proposed for majority system: 16

▪ 2003 elections:

Number of candidates proposed for proportional system: 64

Number of candidates proposed for majority system: 6

5.2. Party's participation in presidential elections

▪ **1998 elections:** participated

▪ **2003 elections:** participated

▪ **2008 elections:** will participate

6. PARTICIPATION IN ELECTIONS OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

6.1. Party's participation in parliamentary elections and the number of candidates nominated

▪ NA II Convocation: 23

▪ NA III Convocation: 5

15. COMMUNIST PARTY OF ARMENIA

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

- **Address of the head office:** 10 Zakian, Yerevan
- **Telephone, fax:** (+37410) 54-19-17
- **Foundation date:** 1991
- **Charter and Program approval date:** 30.11.1997
- **State re-registration date:** 24.11.2003
- **Number of party members at the time of completing questionnaire:** 20000 members
- **Official mass media of the Party:** "Hayastani Communist", "Pravda Armenii" periodicals

2. GOVERNING BODIES AND THE LEADER OF THE PARTY

- Congress
- CP Plenum: 81 members
- CP Bureau: 14 members
- 1st Secretary of Central Committee: Ruben Tovmasyan

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

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. 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.

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

4.2. Fundamentals of foreign policy, including

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. Turkey⁵

The Party unequivocally is against establishment of any types of relationships with Turkey.

h. Azerbaijan⁵

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. Georgia⁵

The Party considers necessary to preserve and develop favorable relationships with Georgia.

k. Armenia's participation in regional programs

The Party believes that Armenia should be involved in regional programs.

l. Karabakh issue

Karabakh issue should be settled based on requirement of nations' self-determination.

m. Recognition of the Genocide⁴

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.

n. Armenia-Diaspora: enhanced links and effective cooperation

The potential of Diaspora should be used for resolution of Pan-Armenian problems and development of Armenia.

4.3. 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. Government's role in regulation and development of the economy

The Party believes that it is necessary to centralize the branches with over profit under state control, review real cost of privatized enterprises. The Party considers important restoration and development of the state's economic role in regulation of prices and production, as well as in allocation of profits.

4.5. Fundamentals of economic policy, including

The Party considers mandatory review of the whole economic system and existing economic strategy.

g. Foreign economic relations

It is necessary to develop such external economic relations, which will stimulate local production and sustainability of economic system.

4.6. Ways to overcome the existing obstacles to economic development, including

a. Stimulation of investments

It is necessary to assist in increasing investment volumes preserving the general package under state control.

b. Development of financial markets

The Party believes that the main condition for bringing Armenia out of economic crisis and efficiently developing economy is the creation of a unified CIS financial system based on RF currency.

c. Improvement of competitiveness

One of the important problems of the state is assurance of equal competition rights for all business entities.

d. Development of small and medium business

Within the frameworks of the regulation of the sphere, joint enterprises should be created which will assist small and medium business development.

e. Fulfillment of WTO requirements⁵

Armenia should leave the WTO.

f. Balanced development of marzes⁵

The Party considers equal and balance development of marzes to be a problem of state importance.

g. Reduction of shadow economy⁵

It is necessary to struggle against shadow economy crucially.

h. Eradication of corruption⁵

Crucial struggle to overcome corruption should cover absolutely all.

i. Development of industry

It is necessary to restore former industrial capacities continuing complete development of the sphere.

j. Development of agriculture

It is necessary to assist development of agriculture. The Party considers it necessary to increase the level of machinery and agricultural technology.

k. Provision of energy security

The state should ensure energy security.

l. Development of industrial infrastructure (energy, communication, transportation, etc)

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.

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

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

Through drastic steps, it is necessary to reduce and eliminate current difference between incomes of society.

c. Ensuring the employment

Creation of employment is of strategic importance to Armenia, and clear state policy should be directed to its realization.

d. Reduction of emigration

With all our efforts we should eliminate emigration.

e. Improvement of public health care system

In Party's opinion, restoration and development of free medical service which covers all layers of population is one of its prior targets.

g. Reforming 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 development and sustainability of national school, the Party considers 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.

h. Development of science

Armenia needs drastic development of science. Science should be subject of state care. The Party considers the development of fundamental, applied and humanitarian sciences to be an important state problem.

i. Culture

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.

j. Sport⁵

Armenia needs drastic development of sport. Sport should be subject of state care.

k. Other

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.

4.8. Formation and development of civil society, including

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.

4.9. Obstacles to national security and ways to overcome them

The Party considers important creation of necessary conditions to ensure national security of Armenian nation based on social society and democracy.

5. PARTICIPATION IN ELECTIONS

5.1. Party's participation in parliamentary elections and the number of candidates nominated

- **1995 elections:** participated
- **1999 elections:** participated
- **2003 elections:**
number of candidates nominated by proportional system: 26

5.2. Party's participation in presidential elections

- **1991 elections:** participated
- **1996 elections:** participated
- **1998 elections:** participated
- **2003 elections:** participated
- **2008 elections:** will participate

16. 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.
- **Charter and Program approval date:** 02.04.1990
- **State registration date :** 14.05.1991
- **State re-registration date:** 17.02.2003
- **Number of party members at the time of completing questionnaire:** 55.000 members
- **Date of publication of the Party's Program and Charter and the name of mass media:** www.hhk.am, 2003

2. GOVERNING BODIES AND THE LEADER OF THE PARTY

- Congress
- Board - 70 members
- Administration: 9 members
- Party President: Andranik Margaryan
- Chairman of the Board: Serj Sargsyan

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

The goals and objectives of the Party are:

- 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;
- Development of civil society.

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 Hздеh'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 human 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.

Acting on the basis of principles of democracy and free initiations, the party is intended to secure its representation in the NA of RA and local governments through democratic elections. In this way, the party participates in formation of state and local governing bodies as well as in determination and implementation of the state policy.

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

4.1. Priorities of foreign policy⁵

Priorities of foreign policy of the Republic of Armenia are:

1. Regulation of Karabakh issue
2. International recognition of the Armenian Genocide
3. Full integration of Armenia into the European family as well as further development of relations with its strategic partners.

4.2. Fundamentals of foreign policy, including

In the field of foreign policy, the state should aim at development and maintenance of friendly and stable relations with neighboring countries, natural integration of Armenia into the international community, enhancement of its role in the international community, development of mutually advantageous political, economic, and cultural relations with all countries in the world.

a. European Integration⁵

Further all-round development of the state through a targeted policy of mutually advantageous cooperation with member states of the European Union and overall integration into the European family. More attention should be paid to the policy of European neighborhood and the implementation of New members program.

b. CIS⁵

The CIS played an important role in prevention of breach of economic, political and military links after the collapse of the USSR. The Party stands for the further development of relations between the CIS countries meanwhile stating that there is a necessity of revision of role of the CIS.

c. Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO)⁵

The Party signifies also participation of the country in the CIS processes and gives priority to the organization of treaty of collective security as one of the most important components of security of Armenia.

d. NATO⁵

The party finds that our national security immediately implies a qualitative development of cooperation with NATO, and that it is necessary for Armenia to continue implementation of joint projects with NATO. Cooperation between NATO and Armenia has achieved a completely new level during the recent years. It is stipulated not only by the wish of Armenia but also by a new policy of NATO and its decision to include the South Caucasus into the sphere of its strategic interests and develop individual relations with its partners.

e. USA⁵

It is necessary to promote relations with the USA and develop a healthy atmosphere of mutual trust and cooperation.

f. Russian Federation⁵

It is necessary to promote the achieved stable and mutually advantageous strategic, political and economic relations of allied powers, being guided by the priorities of security provision.

g. Turkey⁵

Armenian-Turkish relations are characterized by the following issues:

- Situation around the international recognition of the Armenian genocide;
- Efforts of Turkey to regulate Karabakh conflict in favor of Azerbaijan.

Neutralization of the mentioned threats is possible if Turkey adopts a non-hostile behavior towards Armenia.

The Party is not against membership of Turkey in the European Union as this will increase democracy in that country, change priorities of its foreign policy, and make it more predictable and easy to control.

h. Azerbaijan⁵

Establishment of diplomatic relations with Azerbaijan is stipulated by regulation of Karabakh issue. The Party stands for establishment of friendly economic and communication relations with all neighbor countries. However, this depends not only on Armenia.

i. Iran⁵

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. Georgia⁵

The Party estimates Armenian-Georgian relations as an important factor in maintenance of stability in South Caucasus. 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.

k. Armenia's participation in regional programs⁵

Signifying participation of Armenia in the regional projects, promotion of cultural, economic and political relations with the countries of the region as a guarantee for a sustainable development of the region, we find preconditions for participation of Armenia in those projects, presented by some of our neighbors, unacceptable.

l. Karabakh issue

- The right of Karabakh to self-determination should be internationally recognized;
- Karabakh should not be in subordination of Azerbaijan;
- Security of population of Karabakh and its borders should be ensured;
- RA and Karabakh should have a common border;
- Regulation of Karabakh issue should not take place at the expense of borders of the RA.
- Karabakh should figure as a negotiating party in the process of peaceful regulation of the issue.

m. Recognition of the Genocide⁵

Party considers the recognition of Armenian genocide in the context of re-establishment of historical justice, reassessment by Turkey of its past, and thereby prevention of any new misfeasance.

n. Armenia-Diaspora: enhanced links and effective cooperation

The state should establish favorable conditions to consolidate potential of the Armenian Diaspora in favor of a strong Armenian state and decent existence of the Diaspora, having a main goal of repatriation of Armenians of the Diaspora.

4.3. Priorities of domestic policy

The Party builds its relations with other non-government and political organization in the Armenian society on the principle of priority of national and state interests putting those interests higher than interests of individuals and segments.

4.4. Government's role in regulation and development of the economy⁵

The state should define the game rules meanwhile being a partner in its relationship with business entities.

4.5. Fundamentals of economic policy, including⁵

The economic policy of the Armenian government is based on the global experience, taking into account national characteristics. The government should ensure favorable conditions for cooperation of the state and private sectors in economy being a guarantee for the development of liberal economic system.

a. Monetary policy

The main task of the Central Bank is to ensure implementation of more reliable mechanisms for price stability. Economic development requires accumulation of long-term investment resources and essential increase in participation of banking system in real sector of economy. It is necessary to develop a guarantee system for bank deposits, reduce interest rates for credits, increase access of population to hypothecation, and improve mechanisms of control over foreign exchange market. It is required to implement a program of reduction of cash money circulation.

b. Budgetary policy

Provision of regular fulfillment of the state budget and intolerance toward avoidance of taxpaying obligations should become the main features of the state activities in sphere of budgetary policy. It is necessary to fully use possibilities to expand budget incomes and increase spending efficiency without increasing the tax loads.

c. Tax policy

The state should ensure a fair and proportional distribution of tax load and application of tax and customs legislation to all taxpayers. A strict control and penalties should be implemented to prevent avoidance of taxpaying obligations, illegal activities and shadow economic transactions.

Signifying the gradual lightening of tax load, the government should take measures to expand the basis of taxation, increasing the efficiency of tax administration and improving the quality of tax and customs services.

The tax policy should be targeted at increasing essentially the proportion of direct taxes in budgetary entries. Ensuring the rights of business entities, the government, in its tax policy, should establish different mechanisms of taxation of small and medium enterprises.

d. Custom policy

The state should ensure a fair and balanced distribution of tax load and indispensable application of tax and customs legislation to all taxpayers. A strict control and penalties should be implemented to prevent avoidance of taxpaying obligations, illegal activities and shadow economic transactions.

Signifying the gradual lightening of tax load, the government should take measures to expand the basis of taxation, increasing the efficiency of tax administration and improving the quality of tax and custom services.

The tax policy should be targeted at increasing essentially the proportion of direct taxes in budgetary entries. Ensuring the rights of business entities, the government, in its taxation policy, should establish different mechanisms of taxation for small and medium enterprises.

e. Sector-oriented policy

Maintaining the rates of progress in present superior sectors of economy, it is necessary to develop the other sectors as well. Realizing the importance of high technologies for the economy, the government should stimulate their implementation in less developed sectors.

f. Territorial policy

It is necessary to clearly separate responsibilities and liabilities of regional and local governing bodies. The government should ensure independence and protection of local governing bodies, expanding liabilities of the later. It is necessary to improve mechanisms of financial assistance provided to community budgets, distinguishing the assistance in accordance to the income and spending levels.

g. Foreign economic relations

It is necessary to maintain traditional markets and take steps to find new ones for locally produced goods.

h. Balance of payment (trade)

To ensure sustainable economic development of the country, it is required to maintain a stable balance of payments through a reasonable monetary, tax and budgetary policies. It is required to ensure a foreign trade residue proper to the direction of economic development.

4.6. Ways to overcome the existing obstacles to economic development, including⁵

Considering maintenance of levels of sustainable economic growth as the superior goal of economic policy, it is necessary to ensure yearly economic growth as a mid-term objective. Economic growth should be accompanied by an increase in employment and be aimed at poverty reduction.

a. Stimulation of investments

Government should pay a special attention to the attraction of foreign investment, putting emphasize first of all the on investors from the Diaspora, and as well as to issues of encouraging the domestic savings and investments, establishing a favorable economic atmosphere. The problem of investment financing should be considered from the point of view of banking system as well as market development.

c. Improvement of competitiveness

To create a healthy competition atmosphere, government should take decisive measures to limit possibilities of abuses of market positions by companies having superior positions.

d. Development of small and medium business

Realizing the importance of the middle class of society in sustainable development of the state, the government should assist the final establishment of small and medium businesses. For development of small and medium businesses, it is necessary to improve mechanisms of activities of funds established to assist this field, and ensure accessibility of services provided to the according business entities.

f. Balanced development of marzes

Government should implement such a policy, which will ensure balanced development of marzes. In this respect, a special importance is given to efficiency of projects implemented by the corporation of millennium challenges.

For balanced development of the country and economy, it is required to establish productions outside the capital.

g. Reduction of shadow economy

Government should continue the systemized policy aimed at reduction of shadow economy. This will increase the budgetary entries, improve social conditions of population, and stimulate implementation of projects directed to poverty reduction.

h. Eradication of corruption⁴

The priority programs directed to eradication of corruption should identify the reasons and conditions generating and expanding the corruption. The exception of elements of corruption in any legislation must be one of the basic directions in anticorruption policy. Anticorruption policy implemented by government should be directed to establishment of a healthy atmosphere in the country, which in its turn will encourage development of democratic institutions, civil society, free competition, economic growth and poverty reduction.

i. Development of industry

It is required to take steps to increase the proportion of industry in the Gross Domestic Product. To this end, ensure proportional development of business in the whole territory of the RA, encourage substitution of high quality domestic goods for imported ones, stimulate investments in science based productions.

j. Development of agriculture

Development of agriculture and processing productions should be mainly aimed at providing the population with food of local production. The Armenian brand must be a guarantee of high quality products.

k. Provision of energy security

For energetic security of the country, it is required to ensure diversity of sources of energy imports. Alternative sources of energy should be added to the existing ones.

I. Development of industrial infrastructure (energy, communication, transportation, etc)

It is necessary to expand participation of Armenia in development of regional transportation infrastructures. Put management of Armenian railroads in consistency with international standards to make the railroad activities profitable. Complete the reforms of the civil aviation of Armenia and expand the air connections of Armenia with other countries. Implement road construction and restoration projects. Increase energetic capacities, stimulate development of alternative energy resources, e.g. hydro energetic power stations, wind power stations, etc. Repair reservoirs, exploit in full capacity and develop irrigation systems to fully satisfy agricultural demands. It is necessary to improve continuously efficiency of water management and water supply, assist installation of low capacity local water supply systems.

m. Innovative development of economy

Taking into account existence of huge scientific potential, the government should signify development of innovation enterprises providing exceptional opportunities for maximal expression of scientific potential and initiations.

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

The greatest wealth of the Armenian State is human being with his physical, intellectual and moral potential, who realizes his responsibility before the nation and the state. The state should ensure security of its citizens, protect their dignity, and guarantee development of rights and freedoms of individuals and full realization of their potential.

a. Overcoming the poverty⁵

In order to ensure sustainable development of the state, improve the living and social conditions of population and for security reasons, the government should take measures to reduce poverty, so that it stops being a factor curbing economic, social and human progress of the country and corrupting the society. An efficient system of poverty reduction will reduce polarization of society.

c. Ensuring employment⁵

The government should establish equal conditions in the sphere of employment to fully utilize potential of individuals capable of and wishing to work. Government should regulate government-employer-employee 3-sided relations so that incomes of individuals ensure a decent life for them and strengthen their beliefs in their own future.

d. Reduction of emigration⁵

To reduce the level of emigration, it is necessary to maintain the high levels of economic growth and continuously increase finances directed to social spheres. It is important to establish such an atmosphere in the country where Armenians will see their future and future of their children in the homeland.

e. Improvement of public health care system⁵

It is necessary to develop and implement a complex program of prevention of diseases as an important factor in solution of problems of health care system. Medical services should be provided poorer population exceptionally in the limits of state order. It is necessary to establish full primary health care services for rural population. It is necessary to determine clear principles of allocation and provision of state order. Increase essentially the efficiency of budgetary spending in sphere of health care, on the basis of definite principles ensuring the interconnection between provided levels structure and finances of health care.

f. Reforming the social security and insurance systems⁵

Government should ensure a fair and balanced distribution of incomes between citizens and generations. Old people should have security, young people, beginning their lives, should be provided assistance, and working people should have an opportunity to lead a decent life. It is necessary to implement projects encouraging birth of the third and more children, as well as projects directed to improvement of living conditions. It is necessary to develop and implement special projects for improvement of living conditions of Karabakh war veterans and their families.

Ensure continuous enhancement of social direction of budget.

g. Reforming education system

Education should provide an individual with deep and comprehensive knowledge meanwhile ensuring realization of the fact that it should serve the purpose of own welfare as well as the purpose of making the Nation and the Homeland more powerful. Education system should educate a generation asserting high human and national values, aware of the humanly supreme Armenian spiritual, ideological and moral values, the magnificence and losses of ancestors, explaining the regularity of human development that magnificence is stipulated by the honesty of spirit, and thus, of idea and the strength of peoples, and losses by their weaknesses. The state should ensure free secondary education for all and sponsor higher education of more talented children.

h. Development of science

Science and culture should serve the purposes of re-establishment, maintenance and development of the material and spiritual values of the nation, reveal the noble character of an Armenian, worldview and way of living of Armenian people. Culture and science should combine national traditions and progress of science and technology ensuring advanced scientific and technological positions for our country in the world.

Education, science and culture should be a main object of government care.

4.8. Formation and development of civil society, 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.⁵

a. Strengthening democratic institutes⁵

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 information⁵

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 freedoms⁵

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 straightening the confidence of society in the institute of ombudsman, constitutional court and judicial system.

d. Reforming the judicial system⁵

Establishment of a fully independent and impartial judicial system is one of the objectives in development of the state government system and the foundation for rule of law as an important guarantee for confidence of society in the state.

The main incentives for implementation of a critical phase of the reform of judicial system are possibilities created by constitutional changes.

e. Improving the election system⁵

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. Sustaining political parties and developing the 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.

4.9. Obstacles to national security and ways to overcome them⁵

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.

4.10. Demographic problems and solutions thereto

The state should take effective measures to establish a necessary environment for satisfaction of living conditions of its citizens. The state should praise their desert before the Homeland.

The basis of Armenian society is traditional family. Preservation of firm and healthy families and their traditional values must be one of most important purposes of the state.

4.11. Environmental problems and solutions thereto⁵

In the sphere of ecology, it is necessary to implement a complex and systematic state policy of study, preservation and utilization of natural resources. The state should develop programs directed to establishment and improvement of systems of licenses and leases for utilization of natural resources, damage compensation, reduction of erosion and crawling processes, and land recovery. It is necessary to take measures to increase levels of forestation. Taking into account the exceptional role of the lake Sevan for the ecology and agriculture of the country, it is necessary to work out and implement a project addressing the ecological problems of the Sevan basin, once the threat to the level of the lake is removed.

4.12. 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.

5. PARTICIPATION IN ELECTIONS

5.1. Party's participation in parliamentary elections and the number of candidates nominated

▪ 1995 Elections

Number of candidates nominated by proportional system: 4

Number of candidates nominated by majority system: 4

▪ 1999 elections

Number of candidates nominated by proportional system: 63

Number of candidates nominated by majority system: 38

▪ 2003 elections

Number of candidates nominated by proportional system: 120

Number of candidates nominated by majority system: 21

5.2. Party's participation in presidential elections

▪ **1991 elections:** participated

▪ **1996 elections:** participated

▪ **1998 elections:** participated

▪ **2003 elections:** participated

▪ **2008 elections:** will participate

6. PARTY REPRESENTATION IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

6.1. Number of deputies in NA

▪ NA I Convocation: 5

▪ NA II Convocation: 30

▪ NA III Convocation: 44

17. MARXIST PARTY OF ARMENIA

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

- **Address of the head office:** 12 Polyclinic, Avan, Yerevan
- **Telephone, fax:** (+37410) 62-37-30, 62-05-79
- **Foundation date:** 20.08.1899
- **Charter and Program approval date:** 29.06.1997
- **State registration date :** 12.09.1997
- **State re-registration date:** 15.11.2004
- **Number of party members at the time of completing questionnaire:** 7500 members
- **Date of publication of the Party's Program and Charter and the name of mass media:** "Aravot" daily, "Haykakan Zhamanak" daily (Program), 1997

2. GOVERNING BODIES AND THE LEADER OF THE PARTY¹

- Congress
- Plenum: 50 members
- Central Bureau: 7 members
- Party President: Davit Hakobyan

3. IDEOLOGICAL PLATFORM, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PARTY:¹

The Party is the descendant of G. V. Plekhanov's Marxist circles. The Party belongs to the class of classical parties. It was founded in Jalaloghli, 20 August 1899. Plekhanov's Marxism differs from Bolshevik Marxism in the sense that it supports evolutionary convergence, i.e. transformation of social order, as apposed to Lenin's drastic development. This is the social-reformists army of Marxism. Where Bolshevik Marxism envisioned only industry based on state ownership, Plekhanov's Marxism formulates industry based on balanced collaboration of all forms of ownership. In fact, the Party is formed on the basis of the first Marxist circle created by Plekhanov in Geneva in 1983. The Program objective is to introduce Marxist principles to the general public as a powerful ideological weapon of political struggle, and as a social doctrine for industrial development, which is under permanent dynamism. According to the Charter, membership is acquired exclusively on voluntary basis rather than through social obligative methods. The Party is comprised of the most intelligent citizens. In this respect, this is the only scientific party of elite type.

4. PROGRAM STANDPOINTS OF THE PARTY ON THE FOLLOWING ISSUES¹

4.1. Priorities of foreign policy

1. Prepare flexible and clever brains (enhanced role of female diplomats);
2. Carry out principally independent, non-polar foreign policy driven by external benefits;
3. Always formulate foreign policy on the basis of political controversies of imperialist countries, and use those controversies to serve national interests.

4.2. Fundamentals of foreign policy, including

a. European Integration

The system of European political values should be used for architecture of national concept as building material with a kit of values that do not contradict national interests.

b. CIS

Integration of CIS countries with evolutionary principles, creation of a new super-political constellation in contrast to the pan-American hegemony of European Union.

c. Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO)

The Party believes that CSTO is strongly-required. This Organization is a historical need in terms of physical and biological security.

d. NATO

NATO has nothing to do with our national interests. The Party does not accept false political curtsey with NATO.

e. USA

The Party watches upon the USA as the Western Babylon of our times, international gendarme, which is apt of launching local and world wars for the benefit of his economic security, ruin states and nations for the sake of American capital interests. The advent of Democrats into power with Hillary Clinton is a historical need for America to halt the aggressive and regressive US politics.

f. Russian Federation

Today's Russian Federation can be figuratively depicted as Russia's state emblem of double-headed eagle, which looks upon the East and West with pride without the republics, without its wings, and the republics without Russia – without the eagles head.

g. Turkey

Foreign policy with Turkey should be rigid. The three Turkish-Bolshevik annexed agreements of 1921, splitting the historical Armenia should be annulled so that the Artsakh issue be viewed as a future subject matter and Turkey bear material responsibility for the Genocide.

h. Azerbaijan

Armenia's position should be coarse, holding to the principle of everything or nothing, i.e. giving the liberated 7 provinces as dictated by the US policy will mean giving the Soviet Karabakh. The Party demands territorial integrity of Artsakh historical-geographical environment. Without large empires, damn the small empires.

i. Iran

The Party adheres to the opinion that Armenia-Iran relations should be responsive, loyal, and flexible, regarding Iran as the only important navy transit country providing links with the world.

j. Georgia

Rough policy should be carried out against Georgia, especially being uncompromising with regard to Javakhk issue. Plan a new Russian-Iranian land and Caspian navy substructure to connect with Russia bypassing Georgia.

k. Armenia's participation in regional programs

Such notions are unacceptable for the Party.

l. Karabakh issue

The Party views upon Karabakh issue as a subject matter of decolonization resulted from the three Turkish-Bolshevik annexed agreements executed in 1921, constituting direct follow up to the Brest-Lithuanian point 4, which spitted Armenian into parts. Karabakh issue manifests the need for a second independent Armenian state in support of physical and biological security of Artsakh Armenians as a subject of international law. The Party characterizes the Artsakh war as a liberalizing war, patriotic fair war.

m. Recognition of the Genocide

Recognition of the Genocide should generate material and territorial claims, rather than bear the shape of moral compensation.

n. Armenia-Diaspora: enhanced links and effective cooperation

There is principle need for defining new policy for Armenians in Diaspora and certain membership fees should be specified for that policy allotted to the fund of biological security.

4.3. Priorities of domestic policy

1. It is essential to secure the following aspects of national gene pool, including: a. biological security, b. reproduction security: increase population up to 5 million until 2020, promoting reproduction processes of the gene pool, c. food safety, d. environmental security;
2. It is necessary to ensure physical safety of the population;
3. National labor force should be insured against expansion of external strolling capital, maintaining economic independence of the country.

4.4. Government's role in regulation and development of the economy

Government's role in economic regulation and development should be leading (cardinal), the Party denies the liberalism of economic automatism.

4.5. Fundamentals of economic policy, including

a. Monetary policy

Bluntly refuse World Bank, International Monetary Fund and other international lending services, which instead of targeting industrial development of the country, presumably endeavor social problems. Such loans fuel internal speculative capital.

b. Budgetary policy

Budget should be generated from tax collection at the cost of not more than 40%, 60% industrial entities. The budget should not be less than 6 billion.

c. Tax policy

Tax policy should be flexible, diversified and simplified.

d. Custom policy

Customs policy should be flexible and diversified with considerably increased customs duty on imported basic biological products.

e. Sector-oriented policy

There should be priority-driven economic policy in place.

f. Territorial

Equal distribution of economic objects and subjects within the territory of the Republic in order to fix the population in regions.

g. Foreign economic relations

State regulation should extend to both state and private trade. Discovering markets should be exclusively state hegemony.

h. Balance of payment (trade)

The Party states that it is important to ensure positive balance.

4.6. Ways to overcome the existing obstacles to economic development, including

a. Stimulation of investments

Investment policy should be concentrated, centralized and priority-driven. Reject the worn out investment policy.

b. Development of financial markets

To Marxist Party development of financial markets is a secondary objective at the moment.

c. Improvement of competitiveness

The Party envisions the formation of internal capital not only through different subjects but in synchronized cooperation of the three ownership types: state, corporate, private.

d. Development of small and medium business

Small and medium businesses are looked upon as auxiliary structures rather than key industrial forces. The main form of ownership is that of corporate ownership.

e. Fulfillment of WTO requirements

Neglect all WTO requirements, refuse their loans and requirements.

f. Balanced development of marzes

Balanced development of marzes is a compulsory need.

g. Reduction of shadow economy

New tax policy should be developed to include the public sector.

h. Eradication of corruption

Anti-corruption measures should not be decorative; anti-corruption should anticipate formation of a principally new state machine, watching over corruption as a state machine apparatus. It is necessary to formulate an extraordinary committee to reveal economic crimes.

i. Development of industry

Corporate production units should be established with external strolling capital, where the state shares should be no less than 55 percent. Partial ownership policy should contrast total privatization.

j. Development of agriculture

1. There is need for new land reform.
2. In contrast to dusted small farm economy, it is necessary to create farm economy based on large landowning since introduction of agro-mechanics, agro-chemistry, land improvement and bioengineering into large landowning is the most representative in all forms of liberalized economies. It is necessary to merge industries extracting and those processing agricultural raw materials up to formation of unified market.

k. Provision of energy security

Instead of state priority, energy system should have the status of absolute state hegemony.

l. Development of industrial infrastructure (energy, communication, transportation, etc)⁴

Communication should absolutely be a matter of state hegemony.

m. Innovative development of economy

We should shift from faculty-based science to academic institutional one in order to establish a base for development of innovative technologies. It is essential to achieve harmony between theoretic vision and practical application of technologies.

n. Improvement of corporate governance

Improvement of corporate governance is a problem, which requires priority solution.

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

a. Overcoming the poverty

This concept, Western in its essence, should be regarded as a fake, depraved falsehood. It is the same as saying: "tell me what your industrial forces are and I will tell you what your social problems are". And our answer to the West should read as follows: "Better teach fishing, rather than giving fish".

b. Reduction of polarization of society

Social polarization and layers of society should be eliminated, corrected by new principles for distribution of material welfare where the state creates an anti-expansion system for workers abuse, thus prohibiting the policy of exorbitant super-profit.

c. Ensuring the employment

The Party believes that employment is not a false category. We count the number of industrial objects and subjects launched annually. Therefore, it is necessary to direct the internal strolling capital from customer service to industrial sector.

d. Reduction of emigration

Cardinal factor is directly proportional to development of industrial forces.

e. Improvement of public health care system

Improved health sector will be possible only through hegemony of state health care system in cooperation with private sector.

h. Reforming social security and insurance systems

Development of social insurance system is a vital need.

g. Reforming education system

The Party believes that it is important to:

1. shift from expressive education system to intensive education system,
2. provide free education system (state being the main investor),
3. develop new scientific-pedagogical methodologies, which will ensure high volumes and accessibility of materials,
4. upgrade education system with material and technical facilities.

h. Development of science

Faculty-based science should be substituted by academic institutional scientific system under state sponsorship and by state investments.

i. Culture

Exclusive identity and immaculacy of national culture should be protected in correlating with the world culture to escape fusion and self-termination

j. Sport

Sport should be considered as a competitive and business category. To the Party the most important is calisthenics.

4.8. Formation and development of civil society, including

There is no such concept as civil society.

a. Strengthening democratic institutes

The first democratic institute is the state machine, the rest are derivatives to it.

b. Ensuring freedom of speech and information

Freedom of speech and information should be guaranteed by the state machine.

c. Consolidating human rights and basic freedoms

The prime guardian of human rights and basic freedoms should be the state machine.

d. Reforming the judicial system

Judicial system should be considered a derivative to the state machine.

e. Improving the election system

In improving the election system, the Party believes that it is important to pursue the following provisions:

1. turn from absolute electoral qualification right to universal electoral right;
2. all election costs should be covered by the state, eliminating the concept of election pledges as criminal, which makes grounds for social and political discrimination, calling for the principle of "elections belong for the rich".

f. Sustaining political parties and developing the political field

Three political parties based on three ideological movements should operate in Armenia. A new law on political parties should be developed.

g. Increasing political responsibility of political parties and political figures

We should turn from material electoral qualification right to intellectual qualification. There is a need for formation of a new institute of parliamentarism to be based on political intellectual qualification.

4.9. Obstacles to national security and ways to overcome them

It is necessary to formulate conceptual principles of national security. The Party believes there is a need for development of a new concept of national security.

4.10. Demographic problems and solutions thereto

1. Eliminate the demographic dis-balance;
2. Amplify fertility rate through special biological fund where the state puts 5000 USD on the first baby, 10 000 USD on the second. Increase the number of population up reach to 5 million by 2020.

4.11. Environmental problems and solutions thereto

Supervision and regulation of price formation of energy resources will save from massive desertification caused by deforestation and will prevent ecological disaster. The president of the Republic should reduce gas and electricity tariffs to avoid ecological disaster.

5. PARTICIPATION IN ELECTIONS

5.1. Party's participation in parliamentary elections and the number of candidates nominated

- **1995 elections:** didn't participate
- **1999 elections:** didn't participate
- **2003 elections:** didn't participate

5.2. Party's participation in presidential elections

- **1996 elections:** didn't participate
- **1998 elections:** didn't participate
- **2003 elections:** didn't participate
- **2008 elections:** will participate

18. “ARMENIAN NATIONAL MOVEMENT” PARTY

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

- **Address of the head office:** 38 Saryan St., Yerevan
- **Telephone, fax:** (+37410) 52-52-35, 53-50-34
- **E-mail:** anm@xter.net
- **Foundation date:** 1988
- **Charter and Program approval date:** 05.11.1989
- **State registration date:** 15.07.1991
- **State re-registration date:** 20.05.2005
- **Number of party members at the time of completing questionnaire:** 7300 members
- **Official mass media of the Party:** “Hayk” newspaper

2. GOVERNING BODIES AND THE LEADER OF THE PARTY¹

- Congress
- Republican board: 52 members
- Administration: 25 members
- Party President: Ararat Zurabyan

3. IDEOLOGICAL PLATFORM, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PARTY¹

The goal of the party is to ensure political, economic and cultural development of the RA on the basis of democracy. The party acts according to the principles of legitimacy, willingness, equality of rights, self-government and publicity. To fulfill its program, the party, through elections, participates in constitution and activities of the state power and local governing bodies of the RA.

4. PROGRAM STANDPOINTS OF THE PARTY ON THE FOLLOWING ISSUES¹

4.1. Priorities of foreign policy

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

4.2. Fundamentals of foreign policy, including

The party finds that our principle of reliance on a third force and political orientation, as well as our goals should be formulated in accordance with our capacities and possibilities.

a. European Integration

Membership of Armenia in the European Union is one of the main purposes of the party.

b. CIS

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

The party finds it necessary to develop relations further, up to the level of possibility of membership.

e. USA

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

f. Russian Federation

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

g. Turkey

The party finds it necessary to take activities tended to the opening of the Armenian-Turkish border and to further endeavors of Turkey of becoming a member of the European Union.

h. Azerbaijan

It is necessary to retrieve real negotiations around Karabakh.

i. Iran

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

j. Georgia

The party finds it necessary to strengthen friendly relations with Georgia.

k. Armenia's participation in regional programs

The party finds a high degree of regional integration a necessity that will ensure economic power of Armenia and guarantee its security.

l. Karabakh issue

The party finds that the only realistic way of regulation of the conflict is phase-by phase option. The war should be excepted. That is why the issue is to be regulated only by means of peaceful negotiations and compromises.

m. Recognition of the Genocide

The issue of recognition of the Genocide should be shifted from the ideological field to the political one. The issue should be considered in bilateral negotiations with Turkey. The recognition of the Genocide cannot be a priority of foreign policy of the RA.

n. Armenia-Diaspora: enhanced links and effective cooperation

The party finds it necessary to except interference of the Diaspora in political matters and to recognize and respect the status of each other.

4.3. Priorities of domestic policy

The party signifies strengthening of statehood, establishment of a system that ensures inviolability of life and property of individuals, freedom of speech, conscience, ideas, and religion, superiority of the law and overall equity before it, separation of power and possibility of public control over it, as well as impartiality of the court.

4.4. Government's role in regulation and development of the economy

The state must give up economic functions to possible extent, minimally interfere in activities of business entities, and maximally encourage initiations of individuals and private entrepreneurs.

4.5. Fundamentals of economic policy, including

The basis of economic system of the RA should be liberality. This assumes the inviolability and full legal protection of private property.

a. Monetary policy

It is necessary to ensure provision of long term credits.

b. Budgetary policy

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

c. Tax policy

The party finds it necessary to lighten the tax load. This will make possible to expand the tax base. It is necessary to maximally simplify tax legislation.

d. Custom policy

It is necessary to make changes in customs and tariff policies in order to increase protection of importers and exporters.

e. Sector-oriented policy

The party finds it necessary to give a priority to industries based on science and new technologies.

f. Territorial

It is necessary to implement a policy of decentralization in economic, industrial, educational, social and other spheres.

g. Foreign economic relations

Regulation of Karabakh issue and decent peace are important guarantees for foreign investments that make a possibility to develop foreign economic relations.

h. Balance of payment (trade)

It is possible to attain a positive balance of payments through competitive economy and improved export conditions.

4.6. Ways to overcome the existing obstacles to economic development, including

The peaceful regulation of the Karabakh issue and decent peace, precise and estimated monetary, tax and budgetary policies will promote solutions to problems of economic development.

a. Stimulation of investments

Improvement of the sphere of investments, attraction of foreign investments, improvement of competition field, reduction of unemployment, and development of free economic zone require economic growth.

b. Development of financial markets

It is necessary to liberalize the banking system and implement a policy of floating currency.

c. Improvement of competitiveness

It is necessary to abolish monopolies and promote free competition.

d. Development of small and medium business

It is necessary to implement policies of tax and credit privileges to develop small and medium business.

e. Fulfillment of WTO requirements

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

f. Balanced development of marzes

The party finds that full peace will make an economic jump possible thus promoting balanced development of marzes.

g. Reduction of shadow economy

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

h. Eradication of corruption

Reduction of corruption is possible through enhancement of legitimacy and improved well being. Other measures will give temporary results or make a likewise impression.

i. Development of industry

It is necessary to make liberalization of economy irreversible, abolish monopolies in all spheres and promote fair competition, revive industry and competitive branches of agriculture, and equip them with high technologies.

j. Development of agriculture

It is necessary to make liberalization of economy irreversible, abolish monopolies an all spheres and promote fair competition, revive industry and competitive branches of agriculture, and equip them with high technologies.

k. Provision of energy security

A relation of a lord and a vassal with Russia, developed since 1998, fully jeopardize energetic security of the RA.

n. Improvement of corporate governance

Real development of economy will contribute in corporate government as well.

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

The party finds that it is necessary to establish a complete system of social policy and overcome existing problems of unemployment, pensions and social security.

a. Overcoming the poverty

Final peace is the only efficient way to reduce poverty.

b. Reduction of polarization of society

Reduction of polarization of society should be ensured at the expense of eradication of shadow economy.

c. Ensuring the employment

To ensure employment, a sharp economic growth is required.

d. Reduction of emigration

It is necessary, through regional and republican projects, to secure the right to well being of every citizen that will result in reduction of emigration levels.

e. Improvement of public health care system

The state should finance preventive treatment of epidemic, pediatric, and dangerous diseases only.

f. Reforming social security and insurance systems

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

g. Reforming the education system

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

h. Development of science

Preservation of the scientific potential should be a strategic objective. Humanities should be provided with state support. Investments in the spheres of technical and applied sciences might be ensured through proper domestic and foreign policies.

i. Culture

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

j. Sport

It is necessary separation of mass and professional sports as well as state care for physical culture.

4.8. Formation and development of civil society, including

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

a. Strengthening democratic institutes

The state should stimulate development of democratic institutes, assist organization and self-expression of organization 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 for, receiving and disseminating ideas and information through any kind of mass media, irrespective of state borders.

c. Consolidating human rights and basic freedoms

Human rights and basic freedoms of any individual, that are not exhaustive and may not be interpreted as denial of other well-known human rights and basic freedoms of citizens, should be recognized by constitution.

d. Reforming the judicial system

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

e. Improving the election system

The party finds it necessary to form a new election system sustaining political competition in Armenia.

f. Sustaining political parties and developing the political field

The party finds necessary formation of a new election system providing for full political competition and stimulating activities of political parties.

g. Increasing political responsibility of political parties and political figures

Once political competition becomes a reality in Armenia, once political organizations have a full chance to execute state government through elections there will be created a situation where political figures will be more responsible for their activities.

4.9. Obstacles to national security and ways to overcome them

The party finds regional and international integration necessary. It is required to become involved in mostly efficient systems of security and develop further relations with NATO up to the level of possibility of membership.

4.10. Demographic problems and solutions thereto

Implementation of a state policy is required to assist newly established families and increase reproduction rates.

4.11. Environmental problems and solutions thereto

Environmental protection should be regulated by strict legislation. Involvement of numerous interested NGOs in this issue is very important.

5. PARTICIPATION IN ELECTIONS

5.1. Party's participation in parliamentary elections and the number of candidates nominated

- **1995 elections:**
 - Number of candidates nominated by proportional system: 222
 - Number of candidates nominated by majority system: 75
- **1999 elections**
 - Number of candidates nominated by proportional system: 42
 - Number of candidates nominated by majority system: 10
- **2003 elections**
 - Number of candidates nominated by proportional system: 40
 - Number of candidates nominated by majority system: 16

5.2. Party's participation in presidential elections

- **1991 elections:** participated
- **1996 elections:** participated
- **1998 elections:** didn't participate
- **2003 elections:** didn't participate
- **2008 elections:** will participate

6. PARTY REPRESENTATION IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

6.1. Number of deputies in NA

- NA I Convocation: 64
- NA II Convocation: 1

19. “REPUBLIC” PARTY

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

- **Address of the head office:** 37/30 Mashtots, Yerevan
- **Telephone, fax:** (+37410) 53-86-34, 53-86-35
- **Foundation date:** 27.02.2001
- **Charter and Program approval date:** 27.02.2001
- **State registration date :** 27.03.2001
- **State re-registration date:** 02.12.2003
- **Number of party members at the time of completing questionnaire:** 5500 members
- **Date of publication of the Party’s Program and Charter and the name of mass media:** In 2001 partially was published in “Aravot” and “Haykakan Zhamanak” daily newspaper

2. GOVERNING BODIES AND THE LEADER OF THE PARTY

- Congress
- Political Board: 11 members
- Party President: Aram Sargsyan

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

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.

To achieve the above mentioned goal, the Party considers the following to be necessary:

1. creation of a new political value system based on conservative ideas and world outlook;
2. assurance of free formation of the nation’s political will and its manifestation;
3. assurance of law supremacy guaranteed by RA Constitution and sustainability of legal state;
4. 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;
5. harmonization of universal and national values in the RA, as well as guaranteed protection of human rights and freedoms;
6. formation of an efficient system of state governance, assurance of balanced and separated functioning of executive, legislative and judicial authorities;
7. active participation of Armenia in regional and International integration processes, establishment and development of mutually-beneficial political, economic and cultural relations with other countries;
8. development and implementation of national security program.

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

4.1. Priorities of foreign policy

1. Quick and peaceful settlement of Karabakh issue;⁵
2. Establishment of diplomatic relationships between Armenia and Turkey;⁵
3. RA integration into regional cooperation.

4.2. Fundamentals of foreign policy, including

a. European Integration⁵

The Party prioritizes EU integration of RA.

b. CIS⁵

CIS is an inefficient and time-consuming structure.

c. Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO)⁵

The Party considers that RA participation in WTO is inefficient.

d. NATO⁵

The Party attaches importance to the RA participation in NATO.

e. USA⁵

The Party attaches importance to development of RA-USA strategic cooperation.

f. Russian Federation⁵

The Party considers it necessary to eliminate Armenian-Russian vassal relationships with a purpose of making them partner-based.

g. Turkey⁵

The Party considers establishment of diplomatic relationships between Armenia and Turkey to be important.

h. Azerbaijan⁵

The Party attaches importance to quick resolution of NK issue and rehabilitation of Armenian-Azerbaijani relationships.

i. Iran⁵

The Party attaches importance to Armenian-Iranian relationships expressing trust towards an idea that international tension over Iran will have peaceful settlement.

j. Georgia⁵

Georgia is the strategic ally of the RA.

k. Armenia's participation in regional programs⁴

The RA should be a subject of a unified system of regional cooperation and regional security.

l. Karabakh issue⁵

The Party views NK issue within the context of regional cooperation and sustainability and development of democratic institutions.

n. 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. Priorities of domestic policy⁵

1. Restoration of election institutions;
2. Elimination of oligarch system;
3. Establishment of modern democracy.

4.4. Government's role in regulation and development of the economy

The state should have exclusively a regulatory function stimulating development of free market.

The Party considers it necessary to eliminate oligarch system, create and develop mechanisms of free market and economy, as well as create innovative economy and favorable environment for investments.⁴

The Party believes that it is important to combat corruption through reduction of unnecessary functions of the state and expression of administrative will of authorities.⁵

4.5. Fundamentals of economic policy, including

c. Tax policy

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.

g. Foreign economic relations

Under limited conditions of internal market, Armenia's industry should take a position towards foreign markets.

4.6. Ways to overcome the existing obstacles to economic development, including⁵

The Party believes that it is important to develop a "Poverty Elimination" national program, in the bases of which should be the development concept of the state's economy.

a. Stimulation of investments

The Party believes that the development of denationalization concept is of primary importance to economic development of the country. Denationalization should be directed to implementation of efficient programs ensuring economic development to attract local and foreign investors.

c. Improvement of competitiveness

Attaching importance to the perspective of having a country with a developed industry, the Party's activity will be directed to elimination of obstacles to economic development and assurance of free competition.

i. 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.

j. 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.

k. 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 elimination of unilateral relationships between Armenia and Russia which limit sovereignty of Armenia.⁵

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

a. Overcoming the 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

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

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.

e. Improvement of public health care system

The Party should be persistent with regard to realization of reforms in public health care system.

g. Reforming the education system

The Party should be persistent with regard to realization of reforms in education and pension systems.

i. Culture

One of the most important issues of social policy is the creation of necessary conditions for revival of spiritual life and culture.

4.8. Formation and development of civil society, 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.

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 social direction.

b. Ensuring freedom of speech and information⁴

One of the principles employed 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 and de-bureaucratization and liberalization of economy, assurance of real independence of courts, as well as regulation of police and national security service functions and strengthening of parliamentary supervision mechanisms.

4.9. Obstacles to national security and ways to overcome them

The Party should be persistent with regard to development of the new concept of RA national security with emphasis on the RA development and its integration into Euro-Atlantic structures.⁵

Armenia's security and its peaceful existence beside neighbors is possible only in case of formation of legal authorities, implementation of balanced foreign policy based on interests of RA citizens and regional cooperation.

5. PARTICIPATION IN ELECTIONS

5.1. Party's participation in parliamentary elections and the number of candidates nominated

▪ 2003 elections

Number of candidates nominated by proportional system: 35

Number of candidates nominated by majority system: 8

5.2. Party's participation in presidential elections

▪ **2003 elections:** participated

▪ **2008 elections:** will participate

6. PARTY REPRESENTATION IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

6.1. Number of deputies in NA

▪ NA II Convocation: 3

▪ NA III Convocation: 2

20. UNITED LABOUR PARTY

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

- **Legal address:** 29 Gyulbekyan, ap. 18-19, Yerevan
- **Address of the head office:** 33 Gyulbekyan, Yerevan
- **Telephone, fax:** (+37410) 26-58-28, 22-02-66, 22-67-03
- **E-mail:** info@ulp.am
- **Website:** www.ulp.am
- **Foundation date:** 21.09.2002
- **Charter and Program approval date:** 05.11.2002
- **State registration:** 15.11.2002
- **State re-registration:** 28.11.2003
- **Number of party members at the time of completing questionnaire:** 17 000 members

2. GOVERNING BODIES AND THE LEADER OF THE PARTY

- Congress
- Political Board: 25 members
- Party President: Gurgen Arsenyan

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

Charter objectives and goals of the Party are the following:

- Assistance in deepening liberty and democracy in the Republic of Armenia, sustainability of legal state and civil society, and realization of national goals;
- Assistance in increasing ideological and political level of population and Party members;
- Assistance to population in participating in political life;
- For the purposes of realization of its objectives, through all legal means influencing the formation of state policy on NA and Government;
- Achievement of its representation in state and local bodies through proposing candidates from the Party;
- Assistance in free manifestation of voters' political will.

The purpose of the Party is to protect RA Constitutional order, citizens' rights and freedoms; assist the formation of legal democratic and social state as well as civil society; disseminate its ideology and programs; achieve authority through legal means and influence the formation of authorities' policy.

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

4.1. Priorities in foreign policy

1. Taking into consideration the place and role of the Republic of Armenia in Caucasus and the field of surrounding countries, as well as based on priorities of our nation, the Party is sure that in the bases of foreign relations should be protection of human rights and self-determination of nations;
2. The Party believes that it is necessary to exclude any drastic change in foreign policy conducting active and persistent diplomacy, as well as remaining devoted to our international obligations.

4.2. Fundamentals of foreign policy, including

The Party believes that it is necessary to establish comprehensive economic and political relations with other countries based on diplomatic, realistic and wise policy, approve the place and role of our state in the family of civil states by selecting the path of fair and legal resolution of national problems, including Karabakh issue.

a. European Integration

The Party is convinced that first of all, it is necessary to develop comprehensive economic and political relations with neighbor countries; and through diplomatic, realistic and flexible policy, approve the place and role of our state among EU countries.

f. Russian Federation

The Party believes that Armenia should pass a unique diplomatic path improving and deepening relationships with Russia. It is necessary to take into consideration centuries-old influence of Russian language and culture on the life of Armenian nation.

k. Armenia's participation in regional programs

The Party is convinced that Armenia entering the world family of nations with equal rights will protect every peace-keeping initiative and cooperate with peace-keeping forces.

l. Karabakh issue

The Party attaches importance to legal and fair settlement of Karabakh issue.

4.3. Priorities of domestic policy

The Party believes that the most important thing in internal political arena, is building of legal state, which is the following: supremacy of human rights, democracy, superpower of laws, immunity of property right, sustainability of civil society, differentiation of the state structures' functions, development of social and production structures, assurance of employment and education.

4.4. Government's role in regulation and development of the economy

The Party believes that the role of the state is the creation of equal legal conditions for all and making economy serve for resolution of population's social problems.

4.5. Fundamentals of economic policy, including

With regard to economic politics, the Party prioritizes the formation of independent, self-directed and flexible economic structures, which are the most important factors to political independence of Armenia.

a. Monetary policy

The Party considers it necessary to create financial and credit system compliant to free market relations.

b. Budgetary policy

The Party believes that it is necessary to conduct a responsible budgetary policy to ensure socio-economic programs for development of Armenia.

c. Tax policy

It is necessary to stimulate the development of entrepreneurship through creation of favorable tax conditions.

d. Customs policy

It is necessary to formulate favorable tax and custom policy for exporters of competitive Armenian product.

g. Foreign economic relations

With regard to foreign trade, the Party considers it necessary to ensure maximum liberalization and assist enterprises ensuring competitive products in International markets.

h. Balance of payment (trade)

The Party believes that state policy should be directed to stimulation of export, creation of legal field assisting elimination of administrative limitations, except those cases when there is a threat of employment level reduction.

4.6. Ways to overcome the existing obstacles to economic development, including**a. Stimulation of investments**

With regard to financial investments, the Party considers it necessary to realize structural changes through assurance of private investments' growth and creation of predictable and stable conditions.

b. Development of financial markets

It is necessary to create finance and credit system compliant to free market relationships.

c. Improvement of competitiveness

The Party wishes to achieve the existence of such a society, which will be based on principles of individual freedom, immunity of property, and free market relationships based on free competition, as well as minimum interference by the state. This way an ideal of "welfare society" will be achieved.

d. Development of small and medium business

The Party will assist small and medium business which ensures flexibility and dynamism of market economy. In this regard the Party will assist the activity of organizations which provide financial investments and credits.

h. Eradication of corruption

The Party will be persistent with regard to making fundamental changes in law-enforcement system, as a result of which, opportunities to combat corruption, crimes and law violations will be ensured.

i. Development of industry

The Party prioritizes those branches of industry, the development of which will assist the development of other branches and sub-structures.

j. Development of agriculture

The Party believes that for workers of villages it is necessary to ensure the right of being a full owner, and develop crediting systems through state support.

k. Ensuring energy security

The Party believes that the important core of economic and social development of the republic is a stable energy system.

l. Development of industrial infrastructures (energy, communication, transportation, etc.)

In Party's opinion, development of transportation deserves a special review as air and railway as well as road transportation. Armenia may not have serious perspectives without developed airports, organized cargo, developed passenger transport, and repaired roads. With regard to energy sector, the Party considers it necessary to ensure legal field to exclude violations and willfulness in energy sector.

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

The base for establishment of social system is market relations. State undertaking directed to citizens' social protection should not contradict market rules.

a. Overcoming the poverty

The Party believes that social policy should be directed to improvement of social status of population.

b. Reduction of polarization of society

The Party believes that it is necessary to conduct a consistent state program directed to formation and sustainability of middle class in Armenia. Occurrence of an extended middle class will throw light on those underscored socio-economic interests, which may promote liberalism and democracy in political reality.

c. Ensuring the employment

The Party believes that the growth of economy first of all should be directed to creation of employment. The first issue of economic progress in Armenia should be creation of employment.

e. Improvement of public health care system

One of the most important factors of social policy is health care, high quality and affordability of which the Party considers to be crucial. The Party will assist and be persistent with regard to assurance of equal treatment conditions for all members of society; development of complex strategic programs directed to perspective development of industry, implementation of which in Party's opinion is possible not only through state support but also through mandatory and volunteer insurance foundations.

f. Reforming the social security and insurance system

The Party is convinced that improvement of social insurance system is the most important condition for establishment of new economic system.

g. Reforming the education system

The Party will stimulate targeted usage of scientific engineering potential with regard to drafting of research results, developing new technologies, training and introducing specialists.

h. Development of science

The Party considers it necessary to develop perspective programs for development of science, including training of specialists in modern research centers, prevention of outflow of scientific brains and development of high-educational scientific brain.

i. Culture

The Party believes that one of the main objectives of economic reforms is to finance science and culture. High level of science, cultural development of society, intellectual and spiritual potential should be the main resources and opportunities of the country to take a worthy role and place in the world civilization of 21st century.

j. Sport

The Party considers it necessary to take care of formation of new generation as citizens of newly independent country. In this regard, the Party will provide its support, so that physical education becomes affordable value with a slogan "healthy generation, healthy society". The Party will be persistent with regard to development and implementation of a special state policy for sport development in Armenia.

4.8. Formation and development of civil society, including

The Party believes that while being in transition stage, the state cannot take indifferent and neutral position towards civil society. It has serious problems of creating such an environment, where structures of civil society will function being supervised by citizens who are their members.

a. Strengthening democratic institutes

The Party will be persistent with regard to sustainability of democracy which will eliminate the created environment of distrust, as well as antipathy, hostility and all other things which lead the state to stagnation threatening fragile bases of democracy.

b. Ensuring freedom of speech and information

The Party believes that freedom in this or that sphere of social life is the opportunity of making a real election, which should not be limited or conditioned by other circumstances.

c. Consolidating human rights and basic freedoms

The Party believes that the base of democratic country is the unified will, the purpose of which is to create preconditions for social welfare, intellectual and spiritual development. Democracy is not only majority will, but also protection of rights.

d. Reforming the judicial system

The Party is sure that without independent judicial system it is impossible to develop market economy, guarantee property immunity, and create conditions for free and fair competition, and guarantee human rights and freedoms.

e. Improving the election system

The Party believes that the condition of liberalism is guaranteeing of voting rights and extending of opposition rights. Transition into a new system should be guaranteed by transfer of right of political debate to the nation.

f. Consolidation of political parties and development of political field

The Party considers it necessary to ensure democracy in multi-party NA, guarantee free functioning of multi-party system within the territory of the country, and create equal conditions for their functioning and formation of opposition.

4.11. Environmental problems and ways to solve them

In Party's opinion, the main problems of the state's ecological policy are not only compensation of damage caused to nature, but also the creation of economic, social and all other conditions, which will compensate the damage caused during years.

5. PARTICIPATION IN ELECTIONS

5.1. Participation of the Party in the National Assembly elections the number of candidates nominated

▪ 2003 elections:

Number of candidates nominated by proportional system: 41

5.2. Participation of the Party in Presidential elections

▪ 2003 elections: participated

6. NATIONAL ASSEMBLY REPRESENTATION

6.1 Number of NA deputies

▪ NA III Convocation: 6

21. UNITED LIBERAL NATIONAL PARTY

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

- **Address of the head office:** 11 Vardanants, Yerevan
- **Telephone, fax:** (+37410) 52-94-46
- **E-mail:** info@miak.am
- **Website:** www.miak.am
- **Foundation date:** 18.02.2007
- **Charter and Program approval date:** 18.02.2007
- **State registration:** 26.02.2007
- **Number of party members at the time of completing questionnaire:** 1000 members
- **Date of publication of the Party's Program and Charter and the name of mass media:** "Haykakan Zhamanak" newspaper, 17.01.2007

2. GOVERNING BODIES AND THE LEADER OF THE PARTY

- Congress
- Political Board: 15 members
- Secretariat: 5 members
- Party Secretary General: Levon Martirosyan

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

The main goal of the party: in a short perspective to get Armenia to the level of welfare and economic development of the most developed countries in the world.

To achieve the goal the following objectives should be met:

- establishing democracy of full value in Armenia;
- sustaining and development of rule of law state and civil society;
- liberalizing economy and public life;
- Settlement of Karabakh issue in favor of Armenia.

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

4.1. Priorities in foreign policy

1. Establishment and development of good-neighborly relationships with all neighbors of Armenia;
2. Development of individual relationships with European countries by deepening first of all traditional relationships with France and seriously developing collaboration with Great Britain, Germany, Italy, as well as other EU member countries;
3. Establishment of diverse relationship with all those countries having Armenian Diaspora.

4.2. Fundamentals of foreign policy, including

The party finds that RA should have a long term foreign policy conception, which will allow running a flexible and proactive foreign policy.

Protection of Armenia's state interests is an inviolably fundamental in relations with all countries and organizations.

a. European Integration

Victory of full value of European values in Armenia, meeting by Armenia in short perspective, main requirements brought forward to the candidates of European Union membership and factual membership in midterm perspective is more important for the party than the fact of membership to EU.

e. USA

The party considers it necessary to deepen mutually-beneficial relationships with USA.

f. Russian Federation

Relationships should be further developed with the traditional ally- Russian Federation in political, economic, military, culture and other spheres.

g. Turkey

Armenia should try to intensify official and unofficial contacts with Turkey by encouraging especially diplomatic channels.

h. Azerbaijan

Armenia should try to intensify official and unofficial contacts with Azerbaijan by encouraging especially diplomatic channels.

i. Iran

It is necessary to develop friendly relationships with neighbor Iran.

j. Georgia

Armenia should try to establish allied relationships with Georgia which will enable to protect in a best way our national interests both in regional affairs and in protection of Armenian's in Javakhk.

k. Armenia's participation in regional programs

RA should respond not only to geographical processes in the region but also should periodically act with foreign policy initiatives in relationships with immediate neighbors and regional powers deriving from national interests.

l. Karabakh issue

The party considers it important to resolve the problem of Artsakh in favor of Armenia based on the principle of self-determination right of nations. The resolution of Artsakh problem should exclude subordination of NKR to Azerbaijan; ensure reliable land connection between Armenia and Artsakh and in no case should violate RA sovereignty towards its own territories. Irreversible victory of democracy in Armenia and Artsakh is one of the most important elements of Artsakh problem resolution in favor of Armenia.

n. Armenia-Diaspora: enhanced links and effective cooperation

In global market, Diaspora is the main competitive advantage of Armenia, which assumes the most efficient utilization of existing potential. However, one should understand that the main potential of Diaspora is concentrated not in the sphere of investments (capital does not recognize nationality) but in the sphere of human capital.

4.3. Priorities of domestic policy

1. Liberalization of economy;
2. Liberalization of public life;
3. Democratization.

4.4. Government's role in regulation and development of the economy

The party suggests a maximum limitation of the state's role and concentration of state functions in those spheres of politics, public life, and economy, where it is possible to achieve even minimum efficiency.

4.5. Fundamentals of economic policy, including

a. Monetary policy

Implementation of monetary policy assumes a sufficient development of institutional system, which is now in embryonic stage in Armenia.

b. Budgetary policy

The budgetary policy should be radically reviewed. Budget expenses should depend not on the collected state revenues but on those goals and results, which the state tries to achieve. Based on the above mentioned, implementation of different mechanisms (external and internal loans) to fund the budget deficit should be focused on addressing existing problems, but not the reverse: addressing existing problems depends on availability of funds.

c. Tax policy

Currently in Armenia it is the tax policy, which is considered the main element of system deformation and requires implementation of drastic reforms. The fiscal role of tax system should be replaced with the role of service provider, which in turn will ensure formal institution's compliance with laws.

It is necessary to ensure clarity as much as possible and equality against all subjects.

d. Customs policy

Taking into account geographical location of Armenia, as well as the scope of domestic market, the party suggests to completely get rid of any kind of customs duties as a tool for implementation of customs policy. It is necessary to streamline at a maximum all the rest functions of customs administration, as well as ensure transparency to drastically decrease their deformation role.

4.6. Ways to overcome the existing obstacles to economic development, including

a. Stimulation of investments

Ensuring the protection of ownership rights is the fundamental institution, the efficiency of which determines provision of necessary scale and level of domestic and foreign investments.

b. Development of financial markets

Economic scales of Armenia assume their objective dependency on the global financial system.

c. Improvement of competitiveness

The main approach for reforming the existing system is re-interpreting the role of equal rights (competitiveness) protection as an important function of the state.

g. Reduction of shadow economy and Eradication of corruption

Problems of corruption and shadow economy are consequences of inefficiency of formal institutions. Based on the above mentioned, the only solution of this issue is increasing the efficiency of management of institutional system. Party believes that attempts to struggle against the consequence rather than against the reason are doomed and in Armenian case, this is not a struggle but an imitation of a struggle.

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

a. Overcoming the poverty

One of the serious problems which has negative impact on entire Armenian economic development and sustainable economic growth, is not much the level of people's poverty, but inequality growing day by day within the society and as a result, it leads to violation of the principle of equal starting opportunity.

b. Reduction of polarization of society

Implementation of the priority efficient social policy should be directed to the solution of this problem. Under the conditions of institutionally weak state, the implementation of such policy through state mechanism will be of low efficiency, if not inefficient. Moreover, applying that mechanisms in this situation will not promote to the solution of this problem and also, will lead to additional and visible deformation of the whole institutional system.

e. Improvement of public health care system

Health care is one of the most important factors of ensuring Armenia's stable economic growth. Introduction of wide and comprehensive market mechanisms in this sphere will largely promote efficient functioning of the sphere.

g. Reforming the education system

On competitive basis, shifting of all educational institutions to the result-based funding; access of all educational institutions (regardless of the type of ownership) to government funding; allocation of state order on competitive basis (competitive bidding) through auction or providing directly to consumers and not to service providers; and allocation of state grants will lead not only to drastic increase of the education quality but also will ensure maximum efficiency in spending funds.

h. Development of science

Forming a sound competitive environment in a sphere of science will enable to increase global competitiveness of scientific institutions, which is very important factor for sustainable development. The main approach for implementing reforms should be rejection of inertia funding balance method through the mechanisms of state order in favor of consumers, but not service providers.

i. Culture

With regard to culture policy, one of the priority issues is formation of relevant legal framework and creation of favorable conditions for national culture development through practical steps. However, in the sphere of culture also the state should concentrate only on the problems, which are impossible to address through other mechanisms.

k. Other /Army/

Provision of state defense is an exclusive monopoly of the state and cannot be implemented through other mechanisms. Based on that, the creation of an efficient and professional defense system, which will be able to address issues that Armenia faces, is the most important stage of current development.

There is a need to implement a military reform. Contract military servicemen should have priority to get state funding in the fields of healthcare, social security, education, etc.

4.8. Formation and development of civil society, including

a. Strengthening democratic institutes

The party believes that Armenia should have a new Constitution, which will have vote of confidence by voters. The new Constitution should particularly ensure expanding of direct democracy institute through conduction of referenda on the most important national and local issues.

b. Ensuring freedom of speech and information

State registration of mass media, public and trade unions should be removed. These structures announce about their establishment, activities and liquidation. State can intervene in their activities only if they breach articles of the Criminal Code.

c. Consolidating human rights and basic freedoms

The new Constitution should ensure sustaining of democratic order based on human rights and fundamental freedoms, creation of efficient system of state administration and necessary preconditions for development of civil society.

d. Reforming the judicial system

A new Constitution should ensure establishment of an independent, impartial and professional judicial system, which will be able to ensure democracy and liberalization of economy, separating the Prosecutor's office from the judicial branch and separating investigation function from Prosecutor's office by establishing independent investigatory service.

g. Increasing political responsibility of political parties and political figures

Maximum streamlining of decision making system, forming a necessary balance of interests, and to avoid duplications review existing functions by clearly separating functions from responsibilities will increase the efficiency of functioning of state administration system.

4.9. Obstacles to national security and ways to overcome them

RA national security is a freedom of the state and citizens' action of full value in domestic and foreign environments of the country, as well as protection of any kind of threats and dangers. For this purpose, it is necessary to form workable and flexible security system.

5. PARTICIPATION IN ELECTIONS

5.2. Party's participation in presidential elections

- **2008 elections:** will participate

22. “NEW TIMES” PARTY

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

- **Legal address:** Apt.64, 26 b., Davtashen block 1, Yerevan
- **Address of the head office:** 58 Mamikonyants St., Yerevan
- **Telephone, fax:** (+37410) 23-25-05, 23-13-00
- **E-mail:** nor_jamanakner@yahoo.com
- **Foundation date:** 02.12.2003
- **Charter and Program approval date:** 02.12.2003
- **State registration date:** 08.01.2001
- **State re-registration date:** 18.07.2005
- **Number of party members at the time of completing questionnaire:** 24077 members

2. GOVERNING BODIES AND THE LEADER OF THE PARTY

- Congress
- Board: 7 members
- Party President: Aram Karapetyan

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

Being inspired by a desirable perspective of establishing a powerful state in the region, and based on the main principles of public policy and Panarmenism, the Party is aimed to unify the prominent public and political figures into its activities and to take their leadership in future, which will be the guarantee of our Party's efficient activities.

Concerning current social-economic situation in the Republic of Armenia, the Party supposes that nowadays we should not be satisfied with quantifying only the essential factors that characterize the situation, but also we should present all the directions, which will support the daily development of social-economic and political systems in the country. We will mention in our future program what we plan to improve or completely change, what ways we will choose for carrying out these changes, how realistic are our approaches and how these reforms can have an impact on the improvement of the situation, so that every citizen of the Republic of Armenia can feel the favorable influence of these reforms.

The Party is guided by the basic principles of democracy and independent economy, professional experience and social justice, law supremacy and stable state power, dignity and responsibility, public policy and Powerful Armenia, Panarmenism and Spiritual Unification (national tolerance), regional cooperation and civil crossroad.

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

4.1. Priorities in foreign policy

It is necessary to carry out a number of activities for more purposeful and systematic realization of Armenia's national interests with the outer world. One of these activities is to work out a systematic strategy for Armenia and Diaspora, aimed at the national problems solution, which are:

1. Legal solution to Nagorno Karabakh issue;
2. International recognition of Armenian Genocide;
3. Performance of more important role in the region.

4.2. Fundamentals of foreign policy, including

The Party assumes that Armenia's foreign policy should be connected with the supremacy of public interests realization of the Republic of Armenia at the international level. Having a very practical basis, Armenia's foreign policy implementation should be in the framework of international laws and regulations, and it should be aimed to ensure national interests' maintenance in any political situation.

a. European Integration

Concerning the relations with Europe, the Party will be guided by the following principles; there are no obstacles for Armenia to be integrated in the European structures, regarding the relations with European Council we should be motivated not to artificially quicken the closing procedure of Armenian nuclear power station.

c. Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO)

CIS countries joint security alliance is necessary for prevention of war and guarantee of peace. The Party agrees to have a close cooperation with the alliance states. The general policy of this security requires cooperation out of military sphere. The Party considers the essence of the alliance to be application of force or the prevention of such application.

d. NATO

The Party supposes that we should be directed only to gain benefit from Armenia-NATO relations and simultaneously, being motivated not to create bridgehead in Armenia that will be directed against third countries.

e. USA

Taking into consideration the supremacy of Armenia's goal to become a powerful state in the region, the Party asserts that USA will improve Armenian-American political-economic relations by giving them a higher status.

f. Russian Federation

The Party asserts that Russian Federation is the most important ally in the region for the Republic of Armenia, and the relations with Russia will be built based on the following principles:

- Transition from declarative relations into treaty relations with more practical basis;
- Russian military point and Russian frontier forces maintenance as one of the guarantees of Armenia's national security;
- Through bilateral negotiations to attain such a diplomatic level that Russia performs with a policy favorable to Armenia in Karabakh conflict resolution.

g. Turkey

Regarding the relations with Turkey, the Party takes in account the fact that Turkey is far from being an amicable country, and simultaneously, it is necessary to exclude hostile relations with this country. Coming from this principle:

- The recognition of Armenian Genocide in Armenian-Turkish relations, condemnation of Genocide and all its consequences elimination should be put on the diplomatic basis, so that bilateral amicable relations not to be spoiled;
- Within the Armenian-Turkish relations establishment procedure to consider unacceptable Turkey's current requirements related to Nagorno-Karabakh issue.

h. Azerbaijan

The Party assumes that while establishing Armenia-Azerbaijan relations the fact that our countries had never been in war relations, should be taken into account. After Nagorno Karabakh conflict resolution, we should achieve the abolishment of Armenia's blockade through bilateral negotiations.

i. Iran

The Party assumes that Armenia-Iran relations will be built coming from the concept of founding strategy based on Russia-Armenia-Iran-Arabic countries relations. And the primary issues are:

- Armenia-Iran transitional treaty conclusion, which will provide Armenia with products importing and exporting opportunity in the Middle East,
- Construction of Iran-Armenia gas and oil pipelines, construction of an oil refinery in the Republic of Armenia based on the latter one.

j. Georgia

The approaches of Armenian-Georgian relations establishment are the following:

- The Republic of Armenia supports the Armenian community ethnic and patriotic policy in Georgia;
- Conclusion of transitional treaty through Armenia-Georgian negotiations, which will provide favorable conditions for Armenia's way to Russia and Georgia's way to Iran;
- To have in future perspectives the opportunity of bilateral treaty conclusion on common custom territory.

k. Armenia's participation in regional programs

The Party is inspired by a desirable perspective to make Armenia powerful state in the region and will be directed by Armenia's geographical-political viewpoint to have a role of civil crossroad in order to use the opportunity gained from history.

l. Karabakh issue

Our Party's position is that Nagorno Karabakh is, in fact, an established state, and we should make great efforts for its international recognition.

m. Recognition of the Genocide

The Party attaches much importance to Genocide recognition as a moral criterion in Armenian-Turkish relations. We should achieve that Armenian Genocide recognition result in determining the danger of people's physical genocide, and it should be transferred from international legal field to the field of historical justice restoration of human and national rights infringement.

n. Armenia-Diaspora: enhanced links and effective cooperation

It is necessary to revise Armenia-Diaspora relations content by involving new sense in this concept. In order to solve Diaspora issues and to establish closer relations with homeland, the Party suggests that World Armenian Congress be created, the parts of which will be Armenian colonies. Its central board will be in Yerevan, the capital of Armenia.

4.3. Priorities of domestic policy

Taking into consideration the principle of changing laws as required by the public, the following issues should be implemented by the flexible policy of National Assembly.

1. to anchor constitutional standards for democracy establishment in the country;
2. to ensure law supremacy in the country, in the result of which the corruption and bribery will be abolished in the country;
3. to increase legal studies role in the educational system.

4.4. Government's role in regulation and development of the economy

Four important directions are involved in the economic sphere of public policy:

1. Essential directions of industry, especially state support and direct contribution to high technologies development;
2. State crediting and support to economy's competitive directions;
3. More favorable conditions, legislative and tax field establishment in order to involve foreign investments;
4. State support to agricultural system and crediting.

4.5. Fundamentals of economic policy, including

The Party presupposes that legislative field improvement can provide many regulating functions in a number of comprehensive activities directed to economy development, in the procedures of tariff policy and free competitiveness, which are the most important factors for economy sustainable development. In special cases, based on the relevant law, the state can perform with a status of economic management subject, and even can have a monopoly in a number of strategies.

c. Tax policy

It is necessary to implement radical tax reforms. For this purpose, we should reduce the production tax burden up to 20-25% level, in order to release production development and profit directed to adding the means in circulation from taxes.

f. Territorial policy

The Party supposes that such a structure of territorial administration should be completely reviewed by returning to the previous structure of districts, which was entirely justified and manageable. The governing bodies of districts should hold the liabilities of public administration.

g. Foreign economic relations

Emphasizing the importance of markets establishment for products consumption, it is necessary to create Trade Attaché position attached to all RA diplomatic missions, which will be directed to presenting all the products produced in Armenia all over the world, concluding agreements, involving financial and other investments, providing relevant support to private and public enterprises of Armenia so that they can find their places in the foreign market.

h. Balance of payment (trade)

A protectionist policy should be implemented to increase export volumes in foreign trade, by pursuing an objective to provide security and export stimulation for the internal market and native producers.

4.6. Ways to overcome the existing obstacles to economic development, including

Free market relations have no alternative any longer. But, by saying free economy we should not understand the fierce liberalism founded in Armenia within last 10-12 years, which had a favorable impact on corruption, so called "roof system", shadow economy, all the essential monopolies and on the arising of barriers for economic development. Therefore, the public economic system should be based on such principles, which will ensure competitiveness based on democratic values.

a. Stimulation of investments

It is necessary to ensure a legislative field that will encourage incoming investments.

d. Development of small and medium business

Small business development should be carried out on clearing basis by investing small technologies.

i. Development of industry

Today, unfortunately, it is impossible to set in operation all the powers that were in the Soviet Union. Coming from the above mentioned, the Party supposes that such locomotive branches should be selected, which will stimulate the economic development of Armenia. These are chemical industry, light industry, mountain metallurgy complex, machine-tool construction, jewelry, food industry.

j. Development of agriculture

The Party selects as a strategy the creation of stable system of agricultural products' production, maintenance and consumption, which will perform as the main customer of agricultural products. For this strategic activity implementation, all the procedures are considered as strategy for the entire complex of agricultural products in the Republic of Armenia (fertilizers, seeds, medicinal remedies, techniques provision, etc.).

As a strategy we consider also the creation of favorable conditions for the subjects who directly deal with agricultural production (peasants, agricultural firms).

k. Provision of energy security

In the upcoming decade, Armenia will have the most important issue, which is providing its economy with energy, and simultaneously involving such technologies, which will ensure economical use of energy and raw material.

l. Development of industrial infrastructure (energy, communication, transportation, etc)

Difficulties with communication have an unfavorable impact on the economic development, particularly on the products' cost price. Therefore, the Party anticipates to sign a bilateral transitional treaty with Georgia and multilateral transitional treaties (Georgia-Armenia-Iran, Armenia-Georgia-Iran), and not excluding the possibilities of other ways. The ways of communications, except transport, solve also the energetic security issue of the state. Moreover, after the construction of oil pipeline, it will be possible to undertake oil refinery construction in Meghri and Kapan in order to satisfy the internal demand of oil.

m. Innovative development of economy

It is necessary to stimulate the intellectual resources, the scientific complex of production and high quality industrial product. For this purpose, a number of activities should be implemented to restore and re-equip technologically those fields, which are the progressive branches of engineering industry, precise machine construction and machine-tool construction and minor chemistry.

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

From the viewpoint of the Party, the social problems of the population will be completely solved by developing the major directions of the industry and agriculture, as well as by bringing the shadow economy into a more legal tax field, which will result in the great increase of budget revenues.

a. Overcoming the poverty

One of the most important problems of social policy directed to people is the protection from difficulties, poverty and the essential principles to provide the population with proper conditions of life. The state, as a guarantee for public prosperity, has a mission to protect the minorities and vulnerable people, who are combating for social and spiritual protection. To carry out this mission, the state should have all the sufficient financial means.

e. Improvement of public health care system

The Party suggests that, in parallel with the medical insurance system development, to develop also private medical insurance system and to improve the role of the state and its participation in providing the vulnerable populations with medical services in order to reduce the peoples' financial burden of medical services, to make these services available.

g. Reforming the education system

In regard to the regulation of institutions of education it is necessary to bring back the Soviet educational system, which was a justified system, and to develop that system with the help of modernized methods.

By increasing the budget revenues to solve teachers social problems, with the help of state contribution to solve the teaching material problems, technical problems, issues of school buildings, premises' insufficiency problems, to support private schools development, to provide fair competitiveness between private and public schools, to control over the school-university-science, as well as school-university-economy and science-economy connection, and as a professionals' training essential chain, the higher education system should also be under control and continuous

support of the state. It is also necessary to ensure equal competitiveness of public and private institutions of higher education.

h. Development of science

The Party will encourage young and gifted scientist's activities by stimulating the inventions and valuable discoveries process. The Armenian intellectual capacities should also be one of the instruments of maintaining and developing scientific heritage.

Coming from our special reference to cultural values, which were formed throughout history, the Party considers the implementation of all the issues planned already to be in the concept of scientific system development and radical reforms in this respect (legislative field, financial investments and existence of public order).

i. Culture

The culture of any nation is the characteristic feature of its spiritual development. So, the culture should be presented to the world in the best way. The Party supposes that there is a necessity to select the cultural branches (which are science, education, art, sport, etc.) development and priorities to present them to the world.

j. Sport

The state should be seriously involved in advocating a healthy lifestyle by stimulating physical training development in the educational institutions and the state should have an impact on the dissemination of physical training centers all over Armenia.

g. Other (Tourism)

Taking into consideration the fact that Armenia is a country with an ancient civilization, we should emphasize the importance of tourism and work out the public policy in three main directions:

1. Tourism dissemination, as a profitable field, involving high quality services;
2. Tourism development as a way to introduce ancient Armenian values and to present them to people all over the world;
3. Tourism systematic organization, as a national security factor and territorial sustainability and peace guarantee.

4.8. Formation and development of civil society, including

The state power in a democratic system is to act in favor of prosperity of the nation, which is possible, when the political and economic regulations based on the civil society essential principles are the basis of the nation's life.

a. Strengthening democratic institutes

The political regulation fixed in a democratic state shall ensure the citizens unification, in the event of which, they will be responsible towards each other and their principles, excluding any effort to destruct the values gradation. The political regulation of democratic state will ensure the exclusion of any other alternative, but only people's fair election. The political regulation fixed in a democratic state shall ensure faithfulness of state to citizens' human dignity and their rights, as these citizens have established the state.

c. Consolidating human rights and basic freedoms

The state shall protect human rights as a superior and strong value, as a direct right fixed constitutionally. Each law derives from these rights, protects these rights, can restrict human rights only in such a way as to recognize another important right for democratic state power, and public harmony establishment. These rights are general and have not only state, but also international guarantees.

f. Sustaining political parties and developing the political field

In cases of Constitution and laws supremacy, by influencing on the people's political will formation and expression, the Party's free foundation shall guarantee the existence of political system in respect to democracy essential values. The analysis of the political field states that the change of generations in this field, as well as the unification of parties in any time-period in the framework of logic of political views' harmony, by combining harmonic political and economic views, in fact, is in our national interests.

g. Increasing political responsibility of political parties and political figures

The political regulation of democratic state should exclude state power exploitation and provide diversity of state powers. One of the main features of that system should be favoring the individual multilateral expression and his readiness to create a public good.

4.9. Obstacles to national security and ways to overcome them

National security, external and internal, strategic and political, economic and social security are interlinked and supplement each other. National security requires from citizens to perform themselves in favor of our free state system's security. Our duty is to encourage new generation to acquire this patriotic duty sense. The protection difficulties should be overcome collectively and its distribution fairly.

In the process of implementing this concept of national security, the Party emphasizes the importance of well-equipped national army, which can be a guarantee for territorial peace. For this purpose, we should double the army budget in the event of tripling the state budget.

4.11 Environmental problems and solutions thereto

Attaching importance to acting more than fifty non-governmental organization's role in ecological policy implementation, The Party is certain that efficient environmental policy can be implemented exclusively through state contributions and due to state direct participation in the process. On the way to its implementation, RA environmental legislation's provisions need to be reformed radically.

5. PARTICIPATION IN ELECTIONS

5.2. Party's participation in presidential elections

- **2008 elections:** will participate

23. CONSERVATIVE PARTY

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

- **Address of the head office:** 11/4 Gyulikekhyan, Yerevan
- **Telephone, fax:** (+37491) 40-97-37, (+37491) 53-05-35, (+37493) 25-05-52
- **E-mail:** conservative@conservative.am
- **Website:** www.conservative.am
- **Foundation date:** 10.06.1991
- **Charter and Program approval date:** 12.03.2000, 01.11.2003
- **State registration date:** 10.06.1991
- **State re-registration date:** 24.11.2003
- **Number of party members at the time of completing questionnaire:** 2450 members
- **Date of publication of the Party's Program and Charter and the name of mass media:** Separate brochure (3000 copies), P080200000/0128(01), 2001

2. GOVERNING BODIES AND THE LEADER OF THE PARTY

- Congress
- Central Board
- Party President: Mikayel Hayrapetyan

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

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 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 objects which are prior with regard of strategic and state security exclusively state owned.

Objectives of the Party are the following:

- Assisting in 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 public-political agreement environment;
- Rationalizing and adding value to national values;
- Developing programs for national development;
- Deepening and strengthening relationships between fatherland and Diaspora;
- Protecting 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;
- Realization of provisions of Party program in accordance with RA Constitution and laws.

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

4.1. Priorities of foreign policy⁵

1. Assurance of International guarantees for the country's security;
2. Assurance of a favorable field and market 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.

f. Russian Federation

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 in the near 10 years is not Eurasianism.

g. Turkey

With regard to Turks and Kurds, the RA diplomacy is obliged to be long-sighted and unemotional. For Armenians and RA it should make no difference whether in the territory of Western Armenia is located Turkish or Kurdish state.

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.

j. Georgia

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.

k. Armenia's participation in regional programs

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.

I. Karabakh issue

The answer to Karabakh issue is not in the circumference of Armenian Cause but in use of opportunities provided by geopolitical situation.

m. Recognition of the Genocide

The Party will do its best to ensure that 'demanding nature' is not an Armenian state policy, as it is beyond reality borders and will threaten 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.

4.3. 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. Government's role in regulation and development of the economy

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).

4.5. Fundamentals of economic policy, including

Development of Armenia, the Party views in 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.

4.6. Ways to overcome the existing obstacles to economic development, including

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.

a. Stimulation of investments

Inflow and circulation of foreign capital are the prior guarantees for development and state security of Armenia.

c. Improvement of competitiveness

Assurance and preservation of competition field the Party considers to be mandatory for vitality and progress. In order to ensure free competition, the party is for anti-monopoly laws on private property.

4.7. 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.

e. Improvement of public health care 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.

g. Reforming education system / Development of science

In the 21st century Armenian state may exist and develop only in case of ensuring developed educational and scientific system.

4.8. Formation and development of civil society, 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.

c. Consolidating human rights and basic freedoms

Property right is a sacred right for both RA citizens and foreigners and should be protected by law analogically for both RA citizens and foreigners independent from their national and religious belongingness.

The result of human variety and motivation of their development is private property without which there is no liberty, and society will be sentenced to death. The nations perceiving the above mentioned idea, preserve and develop their fatherlands and societies as their property.

d. Reforming the judicial system

Only legal state may be strong and stable, ensure universal welfare, justice, civil order and stability.

f. Sustaining political parties and developing the political field

The Party considers the value system and ideological army of a party to be the only condition for its strength and efficiency. The Party denies overall partisanship of society and hunt for human beings.

Future of internal-political field of Armenia is the formation of triple-direction system: socialists, liberalists and conservatives.

g. Increasing political responsibility of political parties and political figures

The Party is convinced that everywhere and first of all in politics it is necessary to preserve morality, which is responsibility and non-avoidance from that, be it for family, state, church or society. Activity of conservative political figure is assessed exclusively by consequences and not by temporary successes.

5. PARTICIPATION IN ELECTIONS

5.1. Party's participation in parliamentary elections and the number of candidates nominated

- **1995 elections:** didn't participate
- **1999 elections:**
Number of candidates nominated by majority system 1
- **2003 elections:** didn't participate

5.2. Party's participation in presidential elections

- **1991 elections:** participated
- **1996 elections:** didn't participate
- **1998 elections:** didn't participate
- **2003 elections:** didn't participate
- **2008 elections:** will participate

5.3. Members of the alliance

- "Democratic Homeland" Party
- Conservative Party

5.4. Purpose and bases /ideological and other/ to form the alliance

Purpose: release of the country from provincial mind and Stone Age authorities and creation of opportunities for civil development of Armenia.

Bases: ideological

24. SOCIAL DEMOCRAT HUNCHAKIAN PARTY

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

- **Address of the head office:** 57/1 Baghramyan, Yerevan
- **Telephone, fax:** (+37410) 56-96-44
- **E-Mail:** hnchakyan@yahoo.com
- **Foundation date:** 1887 (Geneva)
- **Charter and Program approval date:** 1888
- **State registration date:** 1991
- **State re-registration date:** 20.02.2004
- **Number of party members at the time of completing questionnaire:** 4530 members
- **Date of publication of the Party's Program and Charter and the name of mass media:** "Haykakan Zhamak" and "Aravot" daily newspaper, 2003

2. GOVERNING BODIES AND THE LEADER OF THE PARTY

- Congress: 9 members
- Central Board: 7 members
- Leaders /Atenapetner/
- Party President: Lyudmila Sargsyan

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

The purpose of the party's existence and activity is strengthening national security of Armenian nation, Armenian statehood and establishment of democratic socialism, democratization of the country, improvement of the people's social condition, as well as establishment of socialist order in the country based on the main provisions of socialist ideology.

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

4.1. Priorities of foreign policy

1. Strengthening the statehood of Armenia and increasing Armenia's international reputation,
2. Protection of national interests of Armenians all over the world,
3. Genocide recognition.

4.2. Fundamentals of foreign policy, including

The Party believes that the most important issue in foreign policy should be strengthening of the statehood of Armenia and increasing Armenia's international reputation for protection of national interests of Armenians all over the world.

a. European Integration

Day to day issue of the foreign policy is ensuring Armenia's practical participation in the world integration processes and strengthening its place and role in European structures.

b. CIS

One of foreign policy issues should be creating and developing trade and economic relations with EU and CIS countries, as well as running a flexible political line, preparing prospective projects aimed at peaceful coexistence with regional neighbors.

c. Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO)⁵

In this sphere the Party attaches importance to active collaboration in benefit of the country's security.

d. NATO⁵

The Party finds necessary its participation in NATO military exercises and attaches importance to integration of that experience in the country.

e. USA⁵

A careful policy should be developed with regard to relationships with USA, a minimum dependency should be ensured.

f. Russian Federation

There should be collaboration with Russia as a traditional partner by keeping national interest and national dignity.

g. Turkey

Official relationships should be established with Turkey, without any preconditions put forward by the latter.

h. Azerbaijan

Mutual compromises should be reached with Azerbaijan, which do not hurt Artsakh and its territorial integrity.

i. Iran

The Party believes that economic relations should be developed with Iran as much as possible.

j. Georgia

The Party finds it important to maintain good neighborly relations with Georgia.

k. Armenia's participation in regional programs

The Party finds important to make more active the foreign policy of the Republic in favor of formation of stable regional security through expanding political, economic and humanitarian collaboration with Iran, Georgia, and Middle East countries.

l. Karabakh issue

The Party sees the solution of Artsakh problem within the framework of national self-determination and international law, and will struggle for preserving cease-fire and continuation of OSCE peaceful settlement process. The party will support negotiations among Armenia, NKR, Azerbaijan and mediating countries aimed at the resolution of the problem, as well as re-establishment of historical justice.

m. Recognition of the Genocide⁴

Armenian Cause should be one of the components of foreign policy. The party will fight decisively both foreign and domestic forces that use the idea of Armenian Cause for their purposes.

n. Armenia-Diaspora: enhanced links and effective cooperation

The Foreign Ministry of RA should encourage strengthening and developing relationships between Armenia and Diaspora and use this to increase the role of all-Armenian structures in international affairs.

4.3. Priorities of domestic policy⁵

1. Development of small and medium business;
2. Improvement and streamlining of tax system.
3. improvement of people's social condition.

4.4. Government's role in regulation and development of the economy

For creation of economic system based on multi-form ownership, the state should encourage small and medium entrepreneurship and as a result of their development also promote large entrepreneurship. Taking into account the inherited huge state economy, on competitive basis transparent and fair privatization of the state property should be implemented. All forms of ownership should be ensured in all spheres of economy.

4.5. Fundamentals of economic policy, including

The Party is for different forms of ownership (private, state, collective and mixed) and will strive to build on this basis prosperous economy with social orientation.

a. Monetary policy

Monetary and tax policies of the state should be directed to formation of favorable investment environment and development of entrepreneurship, creation of employment and assurance of population's employment. Laws overseeing banking system should enable to control percentages set out by bank and make them affordable for the people.

c. Tax policy

It is necessary to run tax policy which is controllable, impartial and affordable for businesses.

f. Territorial

The Party finds important to prevent the outflow of rural population, develop villages especially remote villages and those which are near the boarder, increasing welfare of rural population.

4.6. Ways to overcome the existing obstacles to economic development, including

The Party is for different forms of ownership (private, state, collective, mixed) and will strive to build on this basis prosperous economy with social orientation.

c. Improvement of competitiveness

The Party believes that socialist order can be achieved only through economic development and high level welfare. This can be ensured by availability of all forms of ownership and with free market relations and competition among them.

d. Development of small and medium business

Small and medium business sometimes should be exempted from profit tax to promote the development of S&ME.

j. Development of agriculture

The party thinks that in this sphere conditions should be created for efficient and complete use of the land. Taxes should be decreased by introducing changes in the Law on Land Tax, in case of necessity collect land tax in a form of peasant farms production. The uncultivated and barren land plots allocated to the peasant's farms should be registered for targeted re-allocation in future. In order to promote the development of agriculture, rural population and farmers should be provided with loans with low interest rates and set oversight for targeted use of those loans.

l. Development of industrial infrastructure (energy, communication, transportation, etc)

In food production, trade and other service areas can be dominated by private enterprises, in the sectors such as energy, smelting, machinery, transportation, communications and other strategic sectors should be under state ownership.

m. Innovative development of economy

By understanding the importance of the development science and technology for the economic and social growth of the country, the Party will strive for permanently creating favorable conditions for multiplication of scientific and technological potential of the country.

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

One of main purposes of social development is increasing the living standards of people, creating conditions for their education, healthcare, and social protection, ensuring continuous growth of living standards and services consumption.

a. Overcoming the poverty

The Party attaches importance to re-establishment of socialist order, nationalization of large enterprises, creation of new job places, and assurance of dignified future for worker class.

b. Reduction of polarization of society

The Party strictly rejects the policy deriving from narrow class positions and is against the conflict and animosity among classes. The Party is for social solidarity and collaboration.

c. Ensuring the employment

The main issue and goal of economic and social policy is increasing of real income and living standards of the people based on development of entrepreneurship and employment of population. Besides employment and entrepreneurship incomes, the living means for elderly, unemployed and those who are not capable for working should be ensured through pensions and subsidies.

d. Reduction of emigration

Massive emigration is harmful to Armenian people, for keeping their physical and spiritual unity. Being sure that the emigration is boosted mainly by massive unemployment and poor social conditions, the phenomenon can be prevented through radical economic undertakings in combination with reasonable campaign.

e. Improvement of public health care system

The Party believes that free healthcare should be re-established by keeping the system of private healthcare institutions for those who can afford to pay for that. Marriages and birthrate should be encouraged by developing the quality of medical services and expanding the network.

f. Reforming social security and insurance systems

Funds to be allocated for social protection, education, healthcare and cultural development of population should be guaranteed and protected in each annual state budget. It is utmost important to strengthen the state protection of population and its continuous growth. It is also important to improve population's social protection system by combining the development of state and non-state components.

g. Reforming the education system

Giving freedom to educational institutions, usage and organization of education, the state should have certain standards, which will ensure the compliance of education system with targeting of issues faced by population.

h. Development of science

The state should have a clear conception of scientific development, where the priorities of scientific development should be mentioned. Among scientific sectors, important role should be allocated to those theoretical directions which are deeply rooted in Armenia: astronomy, mathematics, certain directions of physics, chemistry, biology and other fields. Development of fundamental sciences is impossible without the state support. Leaving this whole area to the market is disastrous.

i. Culture

The state should have clearly developed cultural policy. The goal of the policy should be protection and development of national specificities of Armenian culture. One of the most important directions of cultural policy should be relationships with other countries in the world without victimizing national face and standards of culture.

j. Sport

Sports should be under the state auspices being funded by the state. The State should encourage charity in this field and set out tax exemptions for sponsors. It is necessary to re-establish Armenia's past fame in this field.

4.8. Formation and development of civil society, including

a. Strengthening democratic institutes

The power of people should be the basis of the society's political system, which guarantees equal conditions for each citizen to participate directly or through his/her elected representatives in the state administration processes.

b. Ensuring freedom of speech and information

Freedom of mass media speech and freedom of conscience should be ensured.

c. Consolidating human rights and basic freedoms

Human rights and fundamental freedoms should be consistently protected.

d. Reforming the judicial system

It is necessary for judicial system to be open, impartial, controllable and transparent.

e. Improving the election system

A new electoral law should be adopted. According to this, deputies of NA should be exclusively elected based on proportional system and there should be a right to call them back. Elections should be fair and transparent at all levels, and use the 4th power in the oversight of elections.

4.9. Obstacles to national security and ways to overcome them

The Party believes that in developing of national security issues, special role should be allocated to military forces, their structure, fighting capacity, quality of weaponry, number of military, alternative military service, as well as military, patriotic, spiritual and psychological education of armed forces. The military cooperation and technological cooperation in the field of military between Armenia and Russia should be deepened. Defense expenses should be reflected in the state budget adequate to the security compliance of the country, but they should not exceed the financial capacity of the Republic. The Party believes that it is important to ensure the security of country and its population through military, political and economic means.

5. PARTICIPATION IN ELECTIONS

5.1. Party's participation in parliamentary elections and the number of candidates nominated

▪ 1995 elections:

Number of candidates nominated by proportional system: 1

▪ 1999 elections:

Number of candidates nominated by proportional system: 1

▪ 2003 elections:

Number of candidates nominated by proportional system: 7

5.2. Party's participation in presidential elections

▪ **1991 elections:** didn't participate

▪ **1996 elections:** didn't participate

▪ **1998 elections:** didn't participate

▪ **2003 elections:** didn't participate

▪ **2008 elections:** will participate

25. "PEOPLE'S CHRISTIAN RENAISSANCE" PARTY

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

- **Legal address:** 4/1 Gayi, Yerevan
- **Foundation date:** May, 2005
- **Charter and Program approval date:** 06.09.2005
- **State registration date:** 10.10.2005
- **Number of party members at the time of completing questionnaire:** 2147 members

2. GOVERNING BODIES AND THE LEADER OF THE PARTY

- Congress
- Political Board: 7 members
- Party President: Mkrtich Gimishyan

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

The main objective of the Party is establishment of the main Christian principles and values, as well as implementation of ten tables of God in our daily life.

Aiming at sustainability and prosperity of Armenian-Christian nation, with leadership of Armenian Apostolic Church, it is necessary to unify efforts of Armenian Christian churches.

Christian ideology, only due to which it will be possible to ensure our prosperous and predictable future, may become the base of our society's unification, revival of our fatherland, high and true value, spiritual, moral, state and political system, as the very Christianity is formulator and implanter of those fundamental ideologies and values, which from the very beginning are considered to be universal values.

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

4.1. Priorities of foreign policy⁵

1. Euro integration;
2. Partnership and mutually-beneficial relationships with all countries;
3. Settlement of Karabakh issue based on self-determination right of nations.

4.2. Fundamentals of foreign policy, including

Integration into the world community as well as the processes taking place should not damage our national, spiritual, moral and cultural identity. Our objective is to establish friendly relationships with all nations and closely cooperate with those states, which respect human rights, and are devoted to national values.

a. European Integration

The Party believes that it is important to gain membership to EU.

b. CIS⁵

There is a need for mutually-beneficial cooperation with CIS.

c. Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO)⁵

There is a need for mutually-beneficial cooperation with CSTO.

d. NATO⁵

There is a need for deepening cooperation with NATO with a perspective of gaining membership.

e. USA⁵

There is a need for mutually-beneficial cooperation with USA.

f. Russian Federation⁵

There is a need for mutually-beneficial cooperation with Russian Federation.

g. Turkey⁵

There is a need for opening of borders and establishing mutually-beneficial cooperation with Turkey..

h. Azerbaijan⁵

It is necessary to establish peaceful and friendly relationships with Azerbaijan.

i. Iran⁵

There is a need for mutually-beneficial cooperation with Iran.

j. Georgia⁵

There is a need for mutually-beneficial cooperation with Georgia.

l. Karabakh issue⁵

There is a need for resolution of Karabakh issue based on self-determination right of nations.

m. Recognition of the Genocide⁵

It is necessary to assist the recognition process of Genocide.

n. Armenia-Diaspora: enhanced links and effective cooperation⁵

There is a need for comprehensive assistance in deepening Armenia-Diaspora relationships and increase of cooperation efficiency.

4.3. Priorities of domestic policy⁴

1. Real assurance and guarantee of human rights;
2. Formation of free and competitive market economy free from monopolies;
3. Assurance of legal and social justice.

4.4. Government's role in regulation and development of the economy⁵

The state must give up economic functions to possible extent, minimally interfere in activities of enterprises, and maximally encourage initiatives of individuals and private entrepreneurs.

4.5. Fundamentals of economic policy, including

a. Monetary policy⁵

It is necessary to ensure a real exchange rate.

b. Budgetary policy⁴

It is necessary to reduce shadow economy and review budgetary allotments to ensure public priorities.

c. Tax policy⁵

The Party considers it necessary to reduce tax burden, simplify and clarify administration with a perspective of enhancing tax field and ensuring equality.

f. Territorial policy

With a purpose of developing and deepening decentralization of authority, the Party considers it necessary to eliminate marzes, through inter-community unions restore the second degree of local government acting as former regions, and seriously enhance competences of communities and increase financial welfare.

g. Foreign economic relations

There is a need for mutually-beneficial cooperation with all countries.

h. Balance of payment (trade)⁵

It is necessary to ensure positive ratio of payment balance.

4.6. Ways to overcome the existing obstacles to economic development, including

The Party considers it necessary to properly balance state and market regulation of economy, the final purpose of which should be a modern and efficient economy.

a. Stimulation of investments

It is necessary to create a favorable investment environment based on legal rights.

b. Development of financial markets⁵

It is necessary to ensure public availability of credit means.

c. Improvement of competitiveness⁴

With regard to this sphere, it is necessary to establish a free, competitive market economy free of monopolies, and implement state policy stimulating entrepreneurship and free competition.

d. Development of small and medium business⁵

It is necessary to formulate legislative field directed to development of small and medium business and implement supportive programs.

e. Fulfillment of WTO requirements⁵

With regard to relations with WTO, it is necessary to implement the principle of supremacy of national interests.

f. Balanced development of marzes⁵

It is necessary to eliminate marz councils and stimulate implementation of programs for territorial development.

g. Reduction of shadow economy⁵

It is necessary to enhance tax field and perfect tax and customs administrations.

h. Eradication of corruption⁴

The Party considers it necessary to eliminate corruptive phenomena based on the principle: "the fish should be caught from head" and implement grounded and efficient anti-corruption programs.

i. Development of industry

It is necessary to ensure and stimulate innovative economy. ⁵ In the modern world, those countries and nations which have low industry level become a cheap labor market or raw material attachment for developed and developing countries, or a dump for dangerous waste. We also, although involuntary, are on the same road. The solution is one: first of all to set industry and economy on their feet and then develop them.

j. Development of agriculture⁵

It is necessary to ensure reprocessing industry and reduce the fee for irrigation water.

k. Provision of energy security⁵

It is necessary to ensure alternative energy sources and diversify entries of energy carriers.

l. Development of industrial infrastructure (energy, communication, transportation, etc)⁵

It is necessary to ensure the development of production sub-structures with a perspective to satisfy the demands of the state.

m. Innovative development of economy⁵

Innovative development of economy should be considered as strategic priority.

n. Improvement of corporate governance⁵

The Party considers it necessary to stimulate shareholder principle.

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

The Party's belief is social market economy, where human being and his/her welfare is the most important. It will be also possible through assistance to every Armenian in establishing his/her own business.

a. Overcoming the poverty

It is necessary to create new jobs, ensure substantial increase of minimum salary, and stimulate implementation of programs creating employment.

With a purpose of ensuring respectable living standards of people, CDRP considers it necessary to eliminate poverty due to targeted social subsidiaries and payments, ensure minimum consumer basket in legislative way, implement an efficient pension reform, increase fellowships so that they will be equal to minimum consumer basket, increase payments envisaged for war veterans, and families of died soldiers.

b. Reduction of polarization of society⁵

It is necessary to implant a principle of social justice.

c. Ensuring the employment

With a purpose of ensuring respectable living standards of people, CDRP considers it prior to reduce unemployment through creation of employment which will guarantee enough salary.

It is necessary to increase efficiency of programs ensuring employment.⁵

d. Reduction of emigration

It is necessary to implant principles of legal and social justice as well as rehabilitate moral-psychological atmosphere.⁵

It is necessary to prevent the continuing emigration, the volume of which in the near future may threaten our national security.

e. Improvement of public health care system⁵

It is necessary to enhance state order, ensure affordability of medical services and establish insurance system.

g. Reforming the education system

There is a need for development of unique self-thinking, adoption and implementation of international education standards.⁵

In Party's opinion, it is necessary to substantially increase budgetary allotments envisaged for education, as without a developed education system, it is impossible to imagine our future.

h. Development of science⁵

It is necessary to determine priorities, ensure advanced financing and establish an efficient system of cadres' training.

i. Culture

It is necessary to implant Christian spiritual values, establish a necessary environment for creation of modern values preserving national identity.⁵

The main problem of the Party is assistance in developing national culture, propaganda of real cultural values, implantation of high taste within wide circles of society, revival and preservation of lost cultural, spiritual and moral values.

k. Other/Church/

It is necessary to comprehensively encourage and support so that the Christian faith, real essence of our church and clergyman, as well as their role in our life will revive.

4.8. Formation and development of civil society, including

Party's principal starting point and objective is the unification of any type of policy and morality maintained in this sphere, without which any step taken or a decision made, even the most rational ones, are condemned to failure. Functioning of state and political systems should be directed to spiritual, intellectual and vital revival and development of an individual.

a. Strengthening democratic institutes⁴

It is necessary to implant real democratic principles, and ensure more enhanced engagement of public and political organizations in any sphere of social life in order to achieve the principle: "Voice of many, voice of God".

b. Ensuring freedom of speech and information⁵

It is necessary to reform legislative bases and impose more stringent responsibility for their violation.

c. Consolidating human rights and basic freedoms

It is necessary to ensure practical implementation of protection with regard to human rights and fundamental freedoms.⁵

It is obvious that the freedom of election is necessary for those who are able to elect, freedom of speech for those who have to say something, and freedom of conscience and religion to those who have conscience and faith, thus one of the Party's prior objectives is to strive for freedom and implant principles of unification, harmonization and justice of election abilities, conscience and faith.

d. Reforming the judicial system

It is necessary to ensure guarantees for real independence and immunity, as well as increase efficiency of supervision mechanisms.⁵

It is necessary to pay a prior attention to establishment and development of independent and efficient judicial system.

e. Improving the election system⁵

It is necessary to adopt a new Election Code, which will ensure full equality of election participants.

f. Sustaining political parties and developing the political field⁵

It is necessary to ensure equal conditions for ideological competition, and exclude politics and business fusion.

g. Increasing political responsibility of political parties and political figures⁵

It is necessary to increase efficiency of influence of public opinion through reflection of state government system.

h. Other /State government system/

Aiming at building fair, legal and democratic state, based on decentralization principle, the Party considers it prior to separate legislative, executive and judicial wings of authority on horizontal level, and state and local government bodies should be separated on vertical level.

4.9. Obstacles to national security and ways to overcome them⁵

1. Assurance of real democracy;
2. Assurance of physical security through improvement of army's fighting ability and its moral-physical atmosphere;
3. Establishment of friendly relationships with neighbor and other countries, tolerance and propaganda of national principles.

4.10. Demographic problems and solutions thereto⁴

It is necessary to prevent emigration and stimulate immigration, as well as provide state assistance to families having many children and substantially add stimulation tools.

4.11. Environmental problems and solutions thereto

It is necessary to develop and implement long-term ecological programs.⁵

Surrounding environment should become a subject of special attention and care, preservation of which is a duty of all. However, an efficient ecological program is possible to implement only due to coordinated state policy.

26. “COUNTRY OF LAWS” PARTY

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

- **Address of the head office:** 43 Abovyan, Yerevan
- **Legal address:** 14 Koryun, Yerevan
- **Telephone, fax:** (+37410) 56-99-69, 56-91-11, 56-99-69
- **E-mail:** info@oek.am
- **Website:** www.oek.am
- **Foundation date:** 1997
- **State registration date:** 20.03.1998
- **State re-registration:** 29.12.2000, 18.11.2003
- **Official mass media of the Party:** “Orinats Yerkir” official newspaper

2. GOVERNING BODIES AND THE LEADER OF THE PARTY

- Congress
- Political Board
- Administration
- Party President: Artur Baghdasaryan

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

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 world.

Objectives of the Party’s activity are the following:

- the laws should be adopted based on long-term national programs, and should serve for 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.

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

4.1. 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 USA.

4.2. Fundamentals of foreign policy, including

Globalization processes taking place in the world and evanescence of separating borders between the countries engages 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 realized through bringing to conformity legal systems which act in any country and regulate international life.

a. European Integration⁵

Euro integration is supreme for foreign policy of Armenia.

d. NATO⁵

Further development of Armenia-NATO relationships emanates from RA interests. Within the frames of NATO, currently, more importance is attached to political element. In Armenia-NATO relationships, implementation of IPAP and participation of Armenia in peacekeeping processes emanate from our national interests.

e. USA⁵

Deepening relationships with USA.

f. Russian Federation⁵

Consistent development of relationships with Russia.

j. Georgia⁵

Sustainability and democracy in Georgia emanates from our national interests.

k. Armenia’s participation in regional programs⁵

Currently, Armenia is left out from regional programs. Overcoming this situation and engagement of our country in the regional projects should be one of the main issues for foreign policy of Armenia.

l. Karabakh issue⁵

Peaceful and mutually-beneficial settlement of Karabakh issue.

n. Armenia-Diaspora: enhanced links and effective cooperation⁵

- Creation of a special body dealing with Diaspora, use of Diaspora potential;
- Creation of favorable conditions for Diaspora Armenian investors;
- Assistance in preserving Armenians in Diaspora.

o. Other /Diplomatic policy/

An important ingredient of political system is flexible and acting diplomacy, which should be able to strengthen economic and military successes of the country in international arena ensuring a relevant position and behavior in the new world order.

4.4. Government's role in regulation and development of the economy⁵

- State participation in re-exploitation of industry and creation of employment;
- State support to enterprises:
 - a) targeted programs;
 - b) budgetary credits and state financing;
 - c) tax and social privileges;
 - d) establishment of guarantee system for long-term crediting.
- State assistance to local producers and export.

4.5. Fundamentals of economic policy, including⁵

The Party believes that it is necessary to create an efficient economic system based on free market economy principles, reliable legal protection of investments, multi ownership, and legal protection of all forms of ownership excluding formation of oligopoly.

a. Monetary policy

- 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 more stringent responsibility for banking crimes and protection of deposits.

c. Tax policy

Reduction of taxes, implementation of one-type tax for service sector and provision of tax privileges to businessmen creating employment.

d. Custom policy

Reduction of custom fees and struggle against corruption which has huge volumes in this sphere.

4.6. Ways to overcome the existing obstacles to economic development, including

a. Stimulation of investments⁵

The Party attaches importance to increase of foreign direct investment.

c. Improvement of competitiveness

The Party attaches importance to protection of taxpayers' interests and assurance of equal conditions for activity of business entities.

d. Development of small and medium business⁵

It is necessary to provide state assistance to 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.

i. Development of industry

One of the Party's problems is restoration and re-exploitation of industry based on high technologies with export direction, creation and stable development of industry ensuring new jobs, enhancement of state assistance to agriculture.

j. 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.

k. 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 station in Armenia.

m. Innovative development of economy⁵

RA economy may develop based on innovative approaches and export.

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

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

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 the employment

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 privileges to enterprises creating employment.⁵

d. Reduction of emigration⁵

Continuation of such emigration rates threatens our national security, and with regard to this sphere, it is necessary to create employment, conduct fair elections, change moral-psychological atmosphere and form a just society.

e. Improvement of public health care 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 volunteer medical insurance system;
- deepening of enhancements in the sphere of public health;
- adoption of a Code regulating the sphere of public health.

h. Reforming social security and insurance systems⁵

- Pension and minimum salary should ensure minimum living standards;
- Fundamental review of family subsidiaries;
- Targeted state assistance to socially vulnerable groups (elderly people, refugees, etc.).

g. Reforming 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;
- lessons of computer science and two foreign languages starting from the first class;
- gradual elimination of entrance examinations.

h. 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.

i. 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.

k. Other/ National values/

One of its prior objectives, the Party considers remaining devoted to national essence, assisting development and preservation of national self-conscience and spirit within the context of universal values.

4.8. Formation and development of civil society, including

a. Strengthening democratic institutes

The Party attaches importance to legislative and institutional reforms, development and sustainability of democratic institutions. RA development and security, today to greatest extent are conditioned by democratization of our country.

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.

4.9. Obstacles to national security and ways to overcome them

Self-governance of a nation, people, state, citizen and individual is the guarantee for freedom. During its centuries-old history, 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.

4.10. Demographic problems and solutions thereto⁵

The party believes that the state is obliged to assist families having many children, as well as stimulate birth 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.

4.11 Environmental problems and solutions thereto

Under conditions of market economy, currently, Armenia faces serious ecological problems, for resolution of which 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;
- assist to create enterprises reprocessing 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 with forests.

5. PARTICIPATION IN ELECTIONS

5.1. Party's participation in parliamentary elections and the number of candidates nominated

- **1999 elections:**

- number of candidates nominated by proportional system: 31

- **2003 elections:**

- number of candidates nominated by proportional system: 63

5.2. Party's participation in presidential elections

- **1998 elections:** did not participate

- **2003 elections:** did not participate

6. PARTY REPRESENTATION IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

- NA II Convocation: 5

- NA III Convocation: 21

COMMENTS ON RESPONSES OF POLITICAL PARTIES INCLUDED IN THE GUIDEBOOK

Comments on Official Status of Positions Expressed by the Parties on Questionnaire Questions

Symbol	Comments
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 by the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia, since the party didn't participate in the survey.
3	Completed by the Foundation on the basis of the data provided by the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia, 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.

LIST OF POLITICAL PARTIES (REGISTERED AS OF 10/01/2007) PROVIDED TO THE FOUNDATION BY RA MINISTRY OF JUSTICE BY THE ORDER 3-2/1463 DATED 17.01.07[†]

N/ N	Foundation	Registration	Re-registration	Name	Address
1	1991	14/05/1991	17/02/2003	REPUBLICAN PARTY OF ARMENIA	2 Melik Adamyan St., Yerevan
2	1991	10/06/1991	24/11/2003	CONSERVATIVE PARTY	Apt. 4, 11 Gyulilekhyan alley, Nor-Nork 4 mas., Yerevan
3	1991	10/06/1991	24/11/2003	RAMKAVAR-AZATAKAN PARTY OF ARMENIA	3 rd floor, 19a Koryun St., Yerevan
4	1991	02/07/1991	28/11/2003	"ARMENIAN REVOLUTIONARY FEDERATION DASHNAKTSUTYUN" PARTY	30 Hanrapetutyun St., Yerevan
5	1991	15/07/1991	24/11/2003	"ARMENIAN NATIONAL MOVEMENT" PARTY	38 Saryan St., Yerevan
6	1991	15/07/1991	08/12/2003	"NZHDEHIAN TSEGHAKRON" PARTY	Apt. 14, 31/1 Gyulikekhyvan St., Yerevan
7	1991	29.07/1991	17/11/2003	"UNION FOR NATIONAL SELF-DETERMINATION" PARTY	
8	1991	29/07/1991	24/11/2003	COMMUNIST PARTY OF ARMENIA	10 Zakyan St., Yerevan
9	1991	19/08/1991	25/11/2003	"CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS UNION" PARTY	50a, Y. Koghbatsi St., Yerevan
10	1991	19/08/1991	19/11/2003	"CHRISTIAN-DEMOCRATIC UNION OF ARMENIA" PARTY	8, Vardanants blind alley, Yerevan
11	1991	25/10/1991	26/11/2003	DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF ARMENIA	14 Koryun St., Yerevan
12	1991	12/12/1991	01/12/2003	"MOTHERLAND" PARTY	1/3 Buzand St., Yerevan
13	1992	19/03/1992	26/11/2003	"NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC UNION" PARTY	12 Abovyan St., Yerevan
14	1994	21/02/1994	05/12/2003	"HAYKANDUKHT" TRADICIONALIST-DEMOCRATIC PARTY	Apt. 20, 4 M. Saryan St., Yerevan.
15	1994	05/05/1994	03/12/2003	"NATIONAL STATE" PARTY	35 Keru St., Yerevan
16	1994	12/09/1994	26/11/2003	LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY	4 th floor, 1 Charents St., Yerevan
17	1994	12/09/1994	24/11/2003	"WOMEN OF ARMENIAN WORLD" PARTY	8 th floor, 19a Koryun St., Yerevan
18	1995	28/02/1995	01/12/2003	PEOPLE'S PARTY	59 Komitas av., Yerevan
19	1995	31/10/1995	01/12/2003	"ARMENIAN SOCIALIST CONGRESS" PARTY	190/16 Antaran St., Yerevan
20	1997	28/02/1997	24/11/2003	"NATIONAL UNITY" PARTY	5 th floor, 33a Moskovyan St., Yerevan
21	1997	20/06/1997	05/12/2003	YOUTH PARTY OF ARMENIA	Apt. 1, 1 Yerznkyan St., Yerevan
22	1997	04/07/1997	25/11/2003	"FREEDOM" PARTY	13 Vardanants, Yerevan
23	1997	12/09/1997	26/11/2003	MARXIST PARTY OF ARMENIA	12 policlinic, Avan, Yerevan
24	1998	28/01/1998	25/11.2003	PROGRESSIVE UNITED COMMUNIST PARTY OF ARMENIA	1/3 Buzand St., Yerevan
25	1998	13/02/1998	01/12/2003	"HZOR HAYRENIK" PARTY	9 Tigran Mets St., Yerevan
26	1998	20/03/1998	04/09/2003	"DEMOCRATIC HOMELAND" PARTY	12 Vagharsh Vagharshyan, Yerevan
27	1998	20/03/1998	18/11/2003	"COUNTRY OF LAWS" PARTY	14 Koryun, Yerevan
28	1998	27/03/1998	08/12/2003	"ARMENIAN-ARYAN" PARTY ARMENIAN	Apt. 7, 7 Eghbayrutyan, Yerevan
29	1998	15/06/1998	04/11/2003	PEOPLE'S PARTY OF ARMENIA	7, Gh. Parpetsi, Yerevan
30	1998	24/07/1998	02/12/2003	SOCIAL ECOLOGICAL PARTY OF ARMENIA	Apt. 5, 11 Droyi St., yerevan
31	1998	25.12.1998	28/11/2003	"MIAVORUM HANUN HAYASTANI" PARTY	110 Andranik St., Yerevan
32	1999	25/01/1999	13/11/2003	"NATIONAL SECURITY" PARTY	Apt. 14, 12 Orbeli Brothers St., Yerevan.
33	1999	14/07/1999	06/11/2003	SOCIAL DEMOCRAT HUNCHAKIAN PARTY OF ARMENIA	22, N. Zaryan St., Yerevan
34	1999	24/08/1999	29/08/2003	"ARDARUTIUN" PARTY ("JUSTICE" PARTY)	Apt. 42, 58 Mamikonyants St., Yerevan
35	2000	27/04/2000	19/11/2003	"NATIONAL ACCORD" PARTY	1/3 Byuzand St., Yerevan
36	2000	15/06/2000	06/10/2003	"UNITED ARMENIANS" PARTY	3 rd floor, 15 Koryun St., Yerevan
37	2000	26/12/2000	14/02/2003	"UNION OF LIBERATION STRUGGLE VETERANS" PARTY	19a, Koryun St., Yerevan
38	2001	13/02/2001	02/07/2003	"ONE NATION" PARTY OF ARMENIA	74, Grigor Artsrunu St., Yerevan
39	2001	27/03/2001	02/12/2003	"REPUBLIC" PARTY	Apt. 20, 6 Mantashyan St., Yerevan
40	2001	06/06/2001	20/11/2003	"ALLIANCE OF NATIONAL DEMOCRATS" PARTY	18, Aygestan 7 St., Yerevan
41	2001	08/06/2001	04/12/2003	PROGRESSIVE PARTY OF ARMENIA	Apt. 23, 12 Garegin Nzhdeh St., Yerevan.
42	2001	06/07/2001	26/11/2003	NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY	Apt. 4, 11 Paronyan St.
43	2001	05/11/2001	14/03/2003	"LIBERAL-DEMOCRATIC UNION OF ARMENIA" PARTY	Apt. 1, 62 Mamikonyants St., Yerevan

[†] The order of presentation of political parties in the list is as provided by RA Ministry of Justice and is different from the alphabetical order of presentation of political parties in the Guidebook. Shaded are the political parties participation in the National Assembly elections 2007 by April 7, 2007 and included in the Guidebook.

44	2001	23/11/2001	17/11/2003	"LABOUR, LAW, UNITY" PARTY	Apt.18, 15 Byuzand St., Yerevan
45	2003	31/10/2003		UNITED COMMUNIST PARTY OF ARMENIA	Apt. 4, 46 Pushkin, Yerevan
46	2002	14/08/2002	10/11.2003	"HERITAGE" PARTY	At. 11, 2 Baghramyan, Yerevan
47	2002	15/11/2002	28/11/2003	UNITED LABOUR PARTY	Apt. 18/19, 29 Gyulbenkyan St., Yerevan.
48	2003	26/02/2003		"BAGREVAND" PARTY	27 Gyulbenkyan St., Yerevan
49	2003	11/03/2003		"SOLIDARITY" PARTY	22, Saryan, Yerevan
50	2003	10/12/2003		"THIRD REPUBLIC" PARTY	30a, 16 Sebastya St., Yerevan
51	2004	08/01/2004		"NEW TIMES" PARTY	8 Tumanyan, Yerevan
52	2004	19/01/2004		"INDEPENDENT ARMENIA" PARTY	28 Isahakyan, Yerevan
53	2004	19/02/2004		"DIGNITY" PARTY	1a, 11 bld., Koryun St., Yerevan
54	2001	14/10/2001	20/02/2004	SOCIAL DEMOCRAT HUNCHAKIAN PARTY	Apt. 57, 1 Baghramyan Ave., Yerevan
55	1999	25/01/1999	26/02/2004	UKHT NATIONAL UNION" PARTY ("AZGAIN MIASNUTIAN UKHT")	Apt.13, bld. 17, 9 th mas. Nor-Nork, Yerevan
56	1992	15/09/1992	03/03/2004	"ARTSAKH-ARMENIA" PARTY	11 Moskovyan St., Yerevan
57	2002	16/07/2002	04/03.2004	"MOTHERLAND AND HONOR" PARTY	33/8 Moskovyan St., Yerevan
58	1999	15/03/1999	16/03/2001	"ARZHANAPATIV APAGA" PARTY ("DIGNIFIED FUTURE" PARTY)	14 r., 1 fl. Hotel "Ani", 19 Sayat-Nova St., Yerevan
59	2004	10/03/2004		"LIBERAL PROGRESSIVE PARTY OF ARMENIA"	22a Abovyan St., Yerevan
60	2004	15/04/2004		"SALVATION OF THE NATION" PARTY	Apt. 23, 16 bld., Minas Avetisyan 4 th St., Yerevan
61	2004	15/04/2004		WORKER'S SOCIALIST PARTY OF ARMENIA	Apt. 8, 12 Hakob Hakobyan, Yerevan
62	2004	18/06/2004		"PROSPEROUS ARMENIA" PARTY	21 Tumanyan, Yerevan.
63	2004	06/07/2004		"DEMOCRACY AND LABOUR" PARTY	69 M. Khorenatsu St., Yerevan
64	2004	10/08/2004		AGRARIAN PARTY OF ARMENIA	Apt. 41, 7 Vardanants St., Yerevan
65	2004	11/11/2004		"OUR HOME IS ARMENIA" PARTY	88 Kond, Yerevan
66	2004	24/12/2004		"NATIONAL CHRISTIAN MISSION" PARTY	2 Sayat-Nova av, Yerevan
67	2005	20/09/2005		"DEMOCRATIC WAY" PARTY	38, Pushkin St., Yerevan
68	2005	07/10/2005		"HAYOTS HAYRENIK" PARTY	Apt. 3, bld.4, Luxemburg 1 alley, 6 th mas. Nor-Nork, Yerevan
69	2005	10/10/2005		"PEOPLE'S CHRISTIAN RENAISSANCE" PARTY	4/1 Gayi Av., Yerevan
70	2005	26/12/2005		"MAYR HAYRENIK" PARTY	Apt. 6, 22 Sayat-Nova St., Yerevan
71	2005	30/12/2005		"NATIONAL RENAISSANCE" PARTY	58 Tskhakhotagortsneri St., Yerevan
72	2005	30/12/2005		"DASHINK" PARTY	13 2 nd alley, M. Baghramyan, Yerevan
73	2006	05/06/2006		"PRESERVATION OF NATIONAL VALUES" PARTY	9 Arshakunyats St., Yerevan
74	2006	18/10/2006		"NOR YERKIR" PARTY ("NEW LAND"PARTY)	17/2 Shirak St., Yerevan

BLANK QUESTIONNAIRE, BY WHICH THE FOUNDATION CONDUCTED THE SURVEY AND COLLECTED THE INFORMATION PRESENTED IN THE GUIDEBOOK

1. General Information		
1.1	Official name and abbreviation of the Party	
1.2	Address and contacts	Legal address:
		Address of the head office:
		Telephone, fax:
		E-mail:
		Website:
1.3	The number of the Party's territorial subdivisions	
1.4	Dates of the Party's foundation, Charter and program approval, state registration, re-registration, and latest congress	Foundation:
		Approval of the Charter and program:
		State registration:
		State Re-registration:
		Latest Congress:
1.5	Number of the Party members	During registration:
		During the latest congress:
		During the filling of the questionnaire:
1.6	Official mass media of the Party	
1.7	Date and name of mass media through which the Party's program and Charter have been published	Name of the media:
		Date:
2. Internal Organizational Structures of the Party		
2.1	Governing bodies as approved by the charter and members involved therein	Name: members:
		Name: members
		Name: members:
2.2	Standing governing body and the number of its members	Name: members:
		Party leader:
2.3	Membership procedure	
3. Ideological Platform, Charter Goals and Objectives of the party		
4. PROGRAM FUNDAMENTALS AND STANDPOINTS OF THE PARTY ON THE FOLLOWING ISSUES:		
4.1.	Priorities of internal policy (point out three of such in the sequence of priority and comment)	
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. Turkey	
	h. Azerbaijan	
	i. Iran	
	j. Georgia	
	k. Participation of Armenia in regional programs	
	l. Karabakh issue	
	m. Genocide recognition	
	n. Deepening Armenia-Diaspora relations and increasing cooperation efficiency	
	o. Other /indicate/	
4.3	Priorities of internal policy (point out three of such in the sequence of priority and comment)	
4.4	Government's role in the regulation and development of economy	
4.5	Fundamentals of economic policy, including	
	a. Monetary policy	
	b. Budgetary policy	
	c. Tax policy	
	d. Custom policy	
	e. Sector-oriented policy	
	f. Territorial policy	
	g. Foreign economic relations	

	h. Balance of payment (trade)	
	i. Other /indicate/	
4.6	Ways to overcome the main obstacles to economic development, including	
	a. Stimulation of investments	
	b. Development of financial markets	
	c. Improvement of competitive environment	
	d. Development of small and medium business	
	e. Meeting WTO requirements	
	f. Proportional development of marzes	
	g. Reduction of shadow economy	
	h. Eradiation of corruption	
	i. Development of industry	
	j. Development of agriculture	
	k. Ensuring energy security	
	l. Development of industrial infrastructures (energy, communication, transportation, etc.)	
	m. Innovation development of the economy	
	n. Improvement of corporate governance	
	o. Other /indicate/	
4.7	Fundamentals of social policy and ways to solve existing problems, including	
	a. Overcoming the poverty	
	b. Reduction of polarization of society	
	c. Ensuring the employment	
	d. Reduction of emigration	
	e. Improving the health care system	
	f. Reforming the social security and insurance systems	
	g. Reforming the education system	
	h. Development of science	
	i. Culture	
	j. Sport	
	k. Other /indicate/	
4.8	Formation and development of civil society, 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. Sustaining political parties and development of political field	
	g. Increasing political accountability of political parties and politicians	
	h. Other /indicate/	
4.9	Main problems of national security and ways to solve them	
4.10	Main demographic problems and ways to solve them	
4.11	Environmental problems and ways to solve them	
4.12	Other /indicate/	

5. Participation in Elections

5.1	Participation of the Party in the National Assembly elections and the number of candidates nominated by proportional and majority electoral systems	1995 elections number of candidates nominated by proportional system: ____ number of candidates nominated by majority system: ____
		1999 elections number of candidates nominated by proportional system: ____ number of candidates nominated by majority system: ____
		2003 elections number of candidates nominated by proportional system: ____ number of candidates nominated by majority system: ____
		Will you participate in 2007 elections? <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no If yes, then <input type="checkbox"/> alone <input type="checkbox"/> in alliance/if in alliance, see points 5.3 and 5.4/
5.2	Participation of the Party in Presidential elections	1991 elections <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no
		1996 elections <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no
		1998 elections <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no
		2003 elections <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no
		Will you participate in 2008 elections? <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no
5.3	Members of alliance	
5.4	Purpose and platform /ideological and other/ to form the alliance	

5.5	When and via which mass media your election program is or will be published?	Mass media name _____ Date _____
5.6	Other /mention/	
6. National Assembly Representation		
6.1	Number of deputies in NA	I convocation of the NA:
		II convocation of the NA:
		III convocation of the NA:

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POSTSCRIPT

Dear reader,

You were introduced to the “POLITICAL PARTIES OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA PARTICIPATING IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS 2007” 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 2007” 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 2008?

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <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!



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