



საქართველოს პოლიტიკის ინსტიტუტი
GEORGIAN INSTITUTE OF POLITICS

How to Define Georgian National Interests Amid Ukraine Crisis?

Virtual Round Table Discussion

February 08, 2022

18:00 – 19:15 (UTC +4)

Languages: **Georgian | English**

Zoom Platform

Program:

Moderator: **Levan Tsutskiridze,**

Eastern European Centre for Multiparty Democracy (EECMD)

18:00-18:10

Welcome Remarks:

Prof. Kornely Kakachia, The Georgian Institute of Politics (GIP)

18:10-18:40

Introductory Statements:

Levan Tsutskiridze, Eastern European Centre for Multiparty Democracy (EECMD)

Nona Mamulashvili, Member of the Parliament, "United National Movement"

Elene Khoshtaria, Political Movement "Droa"

Teona Akubardia, Member of the Parliament, "Giorgi Vashadze – Strategy Aghmashenebeli"

Prof. Stephen Jones, The Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, Harvard University

18:40 – 19:15

Q&A



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About the event:

As the standoff between the West and Russia over NATO's open-door policy continues, the position of aspirant countries and their coherent foreign policy is more important than ever. Ukraine has been a focus of these talks between the Kremlin and Washington or Brussels. The whole range of western countries including the US, Canada, the UK, the Baltics, etc. has been supplying Ukraine with military equipment and weapons needed to withstand Russian intrusion.

Against the backdrop of these developments, low-key foreign policy from the Georgian side came as a surprise to many, considering the impact this crisis could have on the latter's Euro Atlantic future. Even the parliament has been straggling to pass a resolution in support of Ukraine.

This roundtable will discuss possible reasons for official Tbilisi's 'muted diplomacy' when the prospect of its NATO membership is at stake and will be focused on the following questions:

- What are the major challenges that crisis around Ukraine pose to Georgia?
- How could we explain official Tbilisi's low-key foreign policy amid increasing tensions in the region?
- Do the main political actors in the country perceive Georgian national interests in the same manner?