

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NEWLY ELECTED SERB REPRESENTATIVES IN KOSOVO'S INSTITUTIONS

The following policy recommendations were developed by a number of Serb participants in June 2017 at a roundtable organized by the Council for Inclusive Governance (CIG) with the support of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs.

Participants recommended that Serb political representatives should conduct **sustainable and realistic policy** at all levels of power to advance their community's interests.

I. Role of Serb representatives in the formation of and participation in the government

1. Define strategic goals for joining and participating in the governing coalition.
2. Consult and inform the Serb community about the negotiations on the government formation.
3. Engage on all issues of public importance.
4. Build better relations with the majority community and other communities with the goal of improving interethnic coexistence in Kosovo.
5. Establish better relations with representatives of the international community.
6. Establish a permanent dialogue with the civil society.
7. Prioritize the following issues in the four-year mandate:
 - a. Formation of the Community/Association of the Serb Majority Municipalities (Community/Association).
 - b. Full implementation of all Brussels agreements.
 - c. Protection of the rights of non-majority communities.
 - d. Economic development of the Serb-majority areas.
 - e. Resolution of outstanding property issues of members of the Serb community.
 - f. Return of refugees and internally displaced persons.
8. Prioritize the following issues in the first year of governance:
 - a. Freedom of movement, focusing on resolving the issue of Serbian personal documents (ID cards, driver licenses, car registrations) issued to Kosovo Serbs that are not recognized by Kosovo's institutions.
 - b. Adoption and implementation of the Strategy for the Protection and Promotion of Language Rights for 2016-2021.
 - c. Full implementation of the employment quota for non-majority communities.
 - d. Participation of local institutions in the privatization processes in the Serb-majority municipalities.
 - e. Efficient functioning of the Development Fund for the north of Kosovo.

II. Selection of Serb representatives at all levels of government

1. Appoint representatives with political and professional experience, authority, reputation, and credibility.
2. Promote gender equality and the equitable regional representation.
3. Support employment of professionals in non-political positions.

4. Engage experts at both local and central level to support the work of Serb representatives.

III. Establishment of the Community/Association and continuation of Brussels dialogue

1. Establishment of the Community/Association.
 - a. Define the responsibilities and funding sources of the Community/Association
 - b. Strengthen the capacity of the Management Team in charge of drafting the Community/Association's statute.
 - c. Convene monthly meetings for members of the Management Team and elected Serb representatives to better coordinate the activities regarding the formation of the Community/Association.
 - d. Organize institutional activities that help to determine the competencies of the Community/Association and to draft the Statute of the Community/Association.
 - e. Establish cooperation with the Kosovo Albanian representatives in achieving the full capacity of the Community/Association.
 - f. Continue cooperation with the institutions of Serbia in the process of forming the Community/Association.
2. Continuation of the Brussels dialogue.
 - a. Serb representatives should be engaged in defining topics for the Brussels dialogue and actively promote reconciliation and interethnic coexistence.
 - b. Prioritize the solution of problems in education and healthcare systems (recognition of diplomas of the university in Mitrovica, supply of textbooks in Serbian for elementary and high schools, supply of medicaments and medical equipment).
 - c. Promote complete freedom of movement (full recognition of car plates and personal documents).
 - d. Accelerate the resolution property and privatization disputes.

IV. Human Rights

1. Protection and return of usurped Serb private property.
 - a. Establish working groups to examine and resolve disputed cases.
 - b. Amend laws and regulations when necessary to accelerate the process of returning property to owners.
2. Ensure the right to work and return to workplace and employment in public companies.
 - a. Advocate for the implementation of the Law on Public Services that guarantees ten percent employment quota for members of non-majority communities.
 - b. Revise payments to employees from privatization carried out during the period of limited freedom of movement of internally displaced persons when they did not have access to the Privatization Agency and legal authorities.
3. Insist on consistent application of the Law on Languages through adoption and implementation of the Strategy for the Protection and Promotion of Language Rights 2016-2021.
4. The right of return.
 - a. Advocate for creating the conditions for sustainable return and integration of the displaced persons.
 - b. Establish full cooperation between Kosovo's Ministry of Communities and Returns and the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration of Serbia and increase the capacity of the inter-ministerial group for return.

5. Protection of the status and property of the Serbian Orthodox Church and of cultural and historical heritage.
 - a. Insist on the implementation of the Law on the Historic Centre of Prizren, Law on the Village of Velika Hoca, Law on Religious Freedoms, and Law on Protected Areas.
 - b. Continue the renovation of religious buildings of the Serbian Orthodox Church and the cultural and historical monuments.
6. Ensure full access for all to the judicial authorities and public institutions.
7. Ensure better access to education and healthcare for Serbs living outside the Serb-majority areas.
8. Improve security for the Serbs living outside Serb-majority areas.

V. Economic development

1. Active participation in creating better investment climate in Kosovo.
 - a. Contribute to the fight against organized crime and corruption.
 - b. Support engagement of local authorities in the privatization process and involvement of Serb representatives in the parliament to initiate discussions to examine the handling of the process up till now.
 - c. Create and strengthen business infrastructure to raise the level of competitiveness.
 - d. Recommend legislation to lower taxes and administrative red tape aiming to promote competition and for the effective implementation of CEFTA.
 - e. Offer policy recommendations to remove trade barriers aiming to dismantle existing monopolies that have exclusive rights on imports.
2. Facilitation of the registration of Serb businesses in Kosovo.
3. Creating fiscal policy measures to revive the economy and entrepreneurship in the Serb-majority areas.
 - a. Provide tax and fiscal incentives.
 - b. Engage in ensuring effective and efficient distribution of revenues of the Development Fund for the north of Kosovo.
 - c. Lobby for allocation of more funds from the central budget for the economic development in Serb-majority areas.