

Translated from Armenian

**Towards a Secure Armenia!
PRE-ELECTORAL PROGRAM**

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My Fellow Armenians;

We have lived in the free and independent Republic of Armenia for 22 years now. Bearing the lessons of history in mind, we are crafting our present, crafting our path for the future. Our Independence struggle was not an easy one: it made us stronger and more experienced.

The time has already passed for attributing the country's shortcomings and problems to faulty legacies of the past and the young age of our state. The Armenian State has already embarked upon the stage of maturity; the daunting challenges ahead of us require competent and clear solutions without further delay. In the past five years, we have withstood numerous internal and external challenges, firmly moving forward, believing and continuing to change, sparing no effort for building a better Armenia for each and every one.

Undoubtedly, every Armenian cares profoundly for Armenia. Every citizen loves his country and is most certainly ready to support any good initiative contributing to its betterment. Governments have been regularly criticized, and the criticism will continue. It is only natural. The criticism has obviously been fueled by a desire to see a better and stronger Armenia, the strong love for our Fatherland.

Our dreams of Armenia may somewhat differ: for one, it may be a dream centered around a safe childhood for the children and a dignified retirement for the parents, for another—the security of borders and the safety of the soldiers defending their integrity, and for a third—equity, social justice, a fair economic system, and opportunities for employment and dignified livelihood. One thing is clear, though: all of us dream of living in a much better Armenia. Our aim is to have a secure Fatherland, with secure families as the anchor of its stability, security, and development.

Today's rapidly-changing world is full of various challenges, from murderous internal conflicts to fratricidal and ethnic clashes and international terrorist threats, to name a few. Our region has not been spared by such threats and challenges. Hence, we may neither linger nor fall behind global efforts aimed at peace and stability.

We need to set a constructive and far-reaching goal empowering us to overcome the current challenges and move forward towards a dignified and prosperous livelihood for every citizen and each family in the Republic of Armenia. Such a goal reaffirms our belief that our country will be a competitive country with an Armenian-centered magnetism. Together, we shall be able to build a Fatherland that is competitive, among other things, in safeguarding adequate living standards for its citizens, a Fatherland that will render meaningless any desire to earn a living on foreign shores, a Fatherland that will make the following worthy appeal to its sons and daughters: "Return to **SECURE ARMENIA!**" We are united by the idea that Armenia can be a much better, much fairer, much freer, and much more prosperous country. We have no alternative. We ought to continue building this Armenia.

We have made great strides along the path of state building; much has already been accomplished. In the 22 years of Independence, we have achieved great successes safeguarding irreversible progress.

We now have a well-established and battleworthy army defending the security of our Fatherland. We have rather mature institutions of public administration and local government. We have an emerging civil society and free media—much freer than the media in numerous, including developed countries with a longer democratic history. A strong Armenian family, having withstood the challenges of millennia, is an essential value for us. A secure Fatherland and secure families are necessary preconditions for achieving the goal of a **SECURE ARMENIA**.

I assure you that we shall live in a much better Armenia by 2018. We will firmly walk down this path—the path leading us **TOWARDS A SECURE ARMENIA!**

A SECURE FATHERLAND

We live in a region trapped in the spiderweb of persistent incitement of hatred and war rhetoric, giving rise to numerous threats and hazards. Some countries have at times even questioned the right of the Armenians to live on their historical land. Armed clashes are highly likely in our region. The race of arms and the blockade are the key challenges to regional stability and security and will continue to dominate the political agenda. Dividing lines, xenophobia, and some neighbors' ambitions of solving conflicts by force or threat of force or violent means pose a real threat to the peaceful future of the region's peoples and will continue to be rejected. Regional projects aimed at isolating Armenia cannot contribute to regional stability, security, and development. We shall continue to make a substantial contribution to building confidence in the region.

No people or nation are perceived by the Armenian people as an enemy. Along these lines, the Armenian people have demanded and will continue demanding the authorities of two neighboring countries to discontinue their policies rejecting the Armenian people's existence, sovereignty, and right to sustainable and secure development, as well as policies inciting violence and xenophobia in their societies.

Our activities of safeguarding the security of the Republic of Armenia will focus primarily on the identification and eradication of existing and potential military-political threats to national security, as well as the continuous arming and combat efficiency improvement of our national army.

We will steadily continue expanding the security framework with a view to boosting the level of security for citizens, families, the nation, and the state.

Appreciating Armenia's membership in the Collective Security Treaty Organization ("CSTO"), the honoring of Armenia's commitments and goals under the Organization's Charter will remain a priority. Armenia will continue contributing to the further strengthening of the CSTO.

At the same time, the partnership relationship with the North Atlantic Alliance will continue to deepen with the aim of improving the combat efficiency of the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia, intensifying the collaboration between the armed forces and society, and continuously reforming the defense system.

THE PRINCIPAL SAFEGUARD OF A SECURE FATHERLAND: THE ARMENIAN ARMY

Maintaining peace in the South Caucasus and stopping a military adventure against our state depend on the proper and purposeful development of our defense capacity in line with the modern standards of competence, discipline, organization, transparency, and accountability. Further reforms of the security systems and their harmonization with the modern requirements, as well as the measures of preventing external challenges and

responding adequately will include political, diplomatic, economic, and information means, as well as military and other complex operations as needed.

We will continue strengthening trust in the military conscription system by means of constantly improving security and the social and educational framework. The state will safeguard privileged access to employment and education for persons demobilized from conscription military service. Comprehensive security measures will target economic, social, scientific, educational, and international cooperation and the development of spirituality, awareness, and other security-related domains.

The military-political situation around the Republic of Armenia and the challenges faced by our country require battleworthy armed forces that are being constantly improved and efficiently using the modern achievements of military science. For further improvement and strengthening of our armed forces, we will achieve the following goals within the next five years:

- The armed forces of the Republic of Armenia will not engage in draining and passive defense, as their mobility and combat efficiency will make them capable of proliferating security in our region and beyond, based on the experience of excellent performance of combat functions by our peace-keepers in various corners of the world.
- The armed forces of the Republic of Armenia will continue to be armed with state-of-the-art armaments and military equipment, including those manufactured in Armenia. The primary focus will be on multi-functional complexes in the form of integrated systems for intelligence, surveillance, detection, targeting, and destruction. A contemporary and viable national military-industrial complex will be crucial to this process, and the state will remain committed to its constant modernization.
- The armed forces of the Republic of Armenia will not tolerate any disorder or hazing. The staff of the armed forces will be as best educated and professional as possible. Discipline will be based on mutual respect between servicemen and unconditional execution of orders with the realization that they are making a contribution to the defense of the Fatherland. To this end, commanders will be perfect role models.
- Corruption will be ousted from the armed forces, and the army staff will finally be delivered from everyday social problems, becoming able to focus their efforts on the continuous improvement of combat efficiency and knowledge.
- The strengthening of ties between the army and society will continue, resulting in further improvements of transparency and civil oversight of the armed forces. All of this will be based on the idea of “uniformed citizens” as citizens that have not only obligations in terms of national security, but also rights provided to every citizen under the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Armenia.
- Much attention will be paid to supplying competent professionals for the army, including by means of consolidating the development of a competitive and high-quality system of military education in Armenia. The best practices of military education reform will be implemented to create a unique system of military education meeting the needs of

Armenia, which will be capable of comprehensively meeting our needs by training all the categories of officers and sergeants.

TOWARDS A SECURE ARMENIA: FOREIGN POLICY

More than ever, Armenia is extensively and dynamically engaged in the international relations today. Our bilateral and multilateral international cooperation is progressing. The legal framework for international engagement is evolving. Armenia is advancing relations with all the power centers and leading states of the world. Increasingly more beneficial conditions are being put in place for representing our country's interests, defending our citizens' rights, and ensuring the engagement of our fellow citizens.

We will remain focused on:

- Strengthening the external elements of security;
- Fair and peaceful resolution of the Artsakh issue on the basis of the people's right to self-determination;
- Expanding the political and economic international engagement of Armenia;
- Pursuing issues of national significance and reinvigorating the process of international recognition of the Armenian Genocide and addressing its consequences;
- Steps to maintain the Armenian cultural heritage;
- Strengthening Armenia's allied and strategic partnership with the Russian Federation;
- Developing and expanding the friendly partnership with the United States of America;
- Continuing a policy of becoming closer with the European Union and further strengthening of ties with the European countries;
- Continuous development of relations with Georgia and the Islamic Republic of Armenia—immediate neighbors;
- Continuing the political trajectory of normalizing relations between Armenia and Turkey without preconditions;
- Expanding cooperation with China, India, Japan, and other friendly states;
- Remaining actively engaged in the integration process within the CIS and deepening the traditional ties and partnerships with the CIS Participating States;
- Expanding Armenia's participation in the International Organisation of La Francophonie and deepening relations with its Member States;
- Ensuring the continuity of historically-formed friendly ties and traditional partnerly relations with the Arab World.

We will continue making a contribution to all the international initiatives that build a positive agenda and are consistent with our interests, using first of all the potential of Armenia's membership in international organizations. We will remain committed to the spirit

of partnership and collaboration adopted by us. Armenia will remain a credible and predictable partner for the world.

We will concentrate more closely on problems that will ensure the protection of Armenian citizens in any country of the world.

We will remain focused on the diversification of transport routes connecting Armenia with the world, the uninterrupted operation of energy pipelines, the creation of a favorable environment for foreign trade, the search for and engagement in new export markets for domestic products, the attraction of foreign investments, and the implementation of new technologies and skills. We will maximize the involvement of our embassies and other diplomatic missions in the solution of these problems.

2015 will become a milestone of recognition and condemnation of the Armenian Genocide for Armenians anywhere in the world—in Armenia, in Artsakh, and in the Diaspora, as well as for all of humanity. We shall exert our joint efforts to move Genocide recognition and condemnation to a materially new level—be it international organizations, states, or the international dimension (including Turkish society).

ONLY THE ARTSAKH PEOPLE DECIDE THE FUTURE OF NAGORNO KARABAKH

The Nagorno-Karabakh issue is to be solved by only peaceful and negotiated means. However, we stand ready to respond resolutely to any adventure and encroachment threatening our security.

In view of Azerbaijan's deconstructive policy, Armenophobia, and constant use of force or threats thereof, the security safeguards for Nagorno Karabakh and its population will be further reinforced using all possible means.

Expressing our gratitude to the Minsk Group co-chair countries for their efforts aimed at peaceful resolution of the conflict, we will continue drawing the attention of the mediators and the international community to the need for confidence-building measures enabling peaceful resolution. To this end, we will actively use the potential of parliamentary diplomacy, as well. Azerbaijan's deconstructive policy, especially its refusal to pull out the snipers and to launch the incident investigation mechanism, its glorification of murders, encouragement of xenophobia and racism, and hopeless and hypocritical position demonstrated in the talks severely escalate the situation in the whole region. It would be natural and reasonable for Artsakh to take its place around the table of talks sooner, rather than later; hence, we shall focus on addressing this issue as soon as possible. Productive talks in a constructive environment are possible only when the parties to the conflict genuinely wish to achieve fair solution of the issue, relinquishing groundlessly maximalist aspirations.

In the context of the international processes, we are now witnessing fine examples of exercising the right to self-determination, which do not lead to war or violent suppression. Artsakh is a part of the European Family. We have always been and will remain a proponent of peaceful resolution of the Karabakh conflict.

We will exert additional efforts to ensure closer contacts between Artsakh and the international community. Close ties and engagement around a common agenda must be strengthened between the Republic of Armenia, Artsakh, and the Armenian Diaspora.

Our joint efforts will contribute to the development of free, independent, and democratic Artsakh.

TOWARDS A SECURE ARMENIA: TOGETHER WITH OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN THE DIASPORA

Our partnership with the Armenian Diaspora has elevated to a new level in recent years. Our combined potential and hundreds of examples of the cohesion and cooperation among all Armenians have multiplied our competitive advantages. Moreover, the achievements to date do not reflect the full diversity and depth of our collective strength.

The partnership between Armenia and the Diaspora is dynamically developing. The implementation of strategic programs jointly with Diaspora organizations, the creation of a favorable environment for cooperation between Armenia and the Diaspora, the introduction of effective mechanisms of mutual engagement, and further development of the institution of dual citizenship all remain areas of great importance.

New formats will be elaborated in the near future. The priorities will include targeted increases in scholarships given to young Armenians from the Diaspora, expanded programs of cooperation with the Diaspora educational institutions, and joint academic research in the field of Armenian studies. The results of joint projects implemented with Armenians from around the world will become more tangible in the near future.

For Diaspora Armenians returning to Armenia, including Syrian Armenians, we must create all the possible conditions for expediting their integration in the Fatherland.

ONLY A FAIR ARMENIA CAN BE SECURE

A “fair state” has the ability to discuss key issues with citizens and to render just decisions. A fair state must guarantee equal opportunities for everyone in politics, the economy, and cultural life. It must safeguard and promote competition, whilst effectively defending the more vulnerable social groups and preventing corruption with targeted and persistent actions.

Fairness hinges on the recognition as supreme values of the rule of law and the human being and his rights and freedoms. Ensuring fairness and justice is the function of any state and local government body, but is primarily vested with the courts.

We will continue fundamental and well-founded reforms in this area, which will ensure access to justice and the genuine independence and effectiveness of the judiciary within a short period of time.

By truly defending citizens' rights, courts can stimulate the conduct of other bodies in this field. It is the only way to ensure trust in justice and the judiciary.

There will be a focus on protecting human rights in administrative bodies and within administrative proceedings, safeguarding citizens' right to be heard, and creating a friendly environment for people.

The system of state and local government bodies must fulfill its mission of protecting rights from encroachments. Citizens' security and freedom must be the priority. The activities of state bodies must facilitate the achievement of social justice and cohesion.

The whole philosophy of criminal justice will be fundamentally revised. Citizens will obtain new tools for effectively defending their legitimate interests in criminal cases, while law-enforcement bodies will receive modern legal tools for effectively fighting against crime.

A FREE ARMENIA A SECURE ARMENIA

For centuries, our people have cherished the dreams of freedom and an independent Fatherland.

Armenia has no alternative to pluralism, political freedoms, the freedom of expression, and democracy. This is a key principle, and we still have some work to do for ensuring that it is respected and promoted.

Tolerance is a cornerstone of the political processes in our country. Current issues must be addressed without any discrimination, suppression of plurality, and other disrespectful conduct. Constructive and responsible criticism and the unhindered functioning of civil oversight institutions are essential safeguards of a healthy political system and the implementation of the crucial democratic principles of separation and balance of powers.

Constructive dialogue between political entities on the basis of political pluralism is a key element for the development of the political system of secure Armenia. We have previously pursued policies of building bridges, and this principle will remain in our agenda. There is no alternative to national and social solidarity.

Healthy competition between ideas and ideologies is the only lasting foundation of democratic traditions and the concurrent development of the political system. While acting upon the basis of national and democratic values, we attach great importance to a sound relationship with such Diaspora partners as the traditional parties with a view to strengthening the cooperation between Armenia and the Diaspora and creating a favorable environment for achieving the goal of a Secure Armenia.

Armenia has no alternative to respect for pluralism, political freedoms, the and the freedom of expression, media, and conscience. We have together done a lot in these areas, but much still remains to be done.

A stable and healthy political system also implies constant support to the development and strengthening of civil society institutions.

We are determined to achieve a reality in which any citizen of Armenia will be confident that his voice can be heard and his criticism met with attention and respect. Civil society is now irreversibly well-established in Armenia. Informal groups of citizens sharing certain concerns have become a balancing factor influencing government decisions. We will continue to move forward in this direction.

SECURE FAMILIES

EMPLOYMENT AND DIGNIFIED LIVELIHOOD

Armenia's economic development will be built around policies of promoting high-productivity industry utilizing new technologies, attaining favorable terms for domestic producers and exporters in external markets, developing free economic zones within the country, attracting efficient foreign investments, and systemically reforming the business environment.

We will combine prudent market regulation with effective government intervention in the real sector, starting, for the first time, to use active economic policies as the main tool for steering growth.

The main objective of growth policies will be the creation of jobs requiring medium or high qualification and the improvement of productivity in the economy.

Industrial policies are now embarking upon the stage of active implementation. Sectors that utilize competitive technologies and generate innovative products shall be the axis around which the industrial system of the country will be forged.

To achieve this goal, it will be important to implement bold projects augmenting Armenia's role in the global production and sales value chains. The main instruments for export-oriented development of the national economy will include the attraction of respectable companies, effective use of free economic zones, and measures to boost the reputation and recognition of products of Armenian origin in the international market. In all of these processes, we will remain committed to the adopted principle of viewing the private sector as a partner in all phases of project and program implementation.

The goal of these measures and initiative is the creation of new secure employment.

Extensive use of the mechanisms supporting deeper international economic cooperation will be a collateral of building a highly productive and internationally competitive economy. Success in this area will depend largely on the utilization of the existing free trade arrangements and active involvement in various processes of integration—activities that would give domestic producers privileged and easy access to as many markets as possible. The positive impact of these processes can be guaranteed primarily by fundamental reforms of quality control systems being created in the economy.

Our efforts of creating a business-friendly atmosphere will be continued and persistent. For local and foreign businesses and investors, Armenia will become a secure, stable, and rule-of-law-based environment for doing business. The result will be tangible and visible: the country will become a world leader in terms of ease of the business environment. The tax and customs systems will be continuously developed and modernized. A fair judiciary will assume a key role in economic matters.

Economic progress will largely depend upon intensification of business activity, which is a key prerequisite of efficient growth. To this end, state support will target the promotion of innovation among small and medium-sized enterprises, the implementation of a business education culture, improved access to financial resources, promotion of women's entrepreneurship, company positioning in international markets, and streamlining of the tax framework and administration. Special support will be rendered to business startup initiatives.

We will remain focused on the development of an innovation system, whilst implementing effective support arrangements for the universal application of innovation in the economy.

Our tourism policy will facilitate not only economic growth, but also the recognition and revelation of an Armenia that has a new and unique identity for the rest of the world.

The growth pillars will be based upon targeted investment policies as an important mechanism for the transfer of advanced technologies and boosting export capabilities.

These policy priorities will deliver an economic growth transformation that will make Armenian citizens capable of producing high-value and competitive goods and services, having guaranteed employment in their country, and sufficient flexibility to utilize their knowledge and skills in the labor market. Consumer demand choices will be driven by quality. Most importantly, each Armenian will have real guarantees of his or her children living in a progressive and secure Armenia.

SECURE VILLAGES; EFFICIENT AGRICULTURE

We have declared that, as a major change in policies, we shall view the problems of villages and agriculture in conjunction. Whilst increasing agriculture productivity, we must create comfortable living conditions in the villages. Developing agriculture is impossible without comfortable villages.

To make the agriculture practice attractive and profitable, we will continue investments in the sector and support in the form of credit access, fertilizers, diesel fuel, seeds, and the like. The modernization of agricultural equipment and technologies will continue. With easier access to finance and flexible service arrangements, it will be beneficial for farmers to acquire state-of-the-art equipment and technology.

We will take steps to promote agricultural cooperation with a view to boosting agriculture output, commercialization, and profitability. We will focus on using the idle arable land for agriculture purposes and expanding the land under irrigation. We will continue promoting the active use of remote pastures.

We will spare no effort to promote further growth of high-added-value branches such as viticulture and horticulture. Considerable financial investments will be made in the creation of modern technology-based fruit orchards and developing the horticulture value chains.

Constant attention will be paid to development of the agriculture processing sector and exports of processed agricultural products.

We will create favorable conditions for the development and expansion of greenhouses as a way of mitigating seasonal volatility of the prices of the main vegetables, boosting their exports, and creating numerous new jobs.

The best modern technologies will be gradually implemented in the fish industry. Modern capacity for fish produce processing will be created to secure a significant increase in annual output.

Livestock breeding indicators will improve considerably on account of importing bred heifers and applying modern technologies of selection.

We will implement oversight arrangements consistent with the international standards on food safety, so that consumers are confident of the high quality and safety of any Armenian food product.

Natural climate risks will be reduced by means of implementing state-of-the-art systems for hail station management.

We will continue improving the quality of life in the villages. Livelihoods and the services delivered in villages must be of truly high quality. The capacity of rural communities will be further bolstered in order to ensure complete access to potable water, gas, electricity, telephony, the Internet, and high-quality health care services. Considerable further improvements in rural roads and the formation of advanced transportation grids will provide additional opportunities for villagers to meet their needs.

PROPORTIONATE DEVELOPMENT THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY

Proportionate development of the regions will remain a priority in our political agenda.

We will continue our complex program of “offloading” Yerevan by means of spreading governmental, educational, cultural, and certain economic functions in other parts of the country, as well as boosting the role of cities in the public process.

We will continue implementing the best practices of effective ownership with a view to maximizing the utilization of our national assets, especially land.

We will match the powers of local governments with their financial capacity by continuously augmenting the potential for the self-organization of communities.

In the communities, we will continue expanding the range of services offered, whilst improving their quality. We will rely on far-reaching special projects and government-supported new arrangements to strengthen the condominiums.

Tax policies will continue to steer investments towards the communities, contributing to job creation.

We will strengthen the role of representative bodies. Effective control mechanisms will be implemented to oversee the performance and decisions made by the community mayors.

To improve the effectiveness of public oversight, we will further improve the transparency of local governments. We will achieve a common standard of municipal service quality throughout the country.

By means of creating inter-community associations, we will boost the capacity of communities and effective local governance. Effective regional development will be achieved by means of encouraging community-level initiatives. Special support programs will be implemented for borderline and socially-vulnerable communities.

We will introduce a fair system for property taxation. We will speed up investments in infrastructure. Water availability and supply will be continuously improved. Enterprises and households will be finally guaranteed a stable and uninterrupted supply of electricity without any voltage fluctuations.

We will continue implementing policies of developing renewable energy sources and alternative energy. We will finalize the Armenia-Iran and Armenia-Georgia 400 kV overhead power transmission lines.

We will complete the construction of the North-South Highway and the Second Unit of the Nuclear Power Plant on schedule.

We will reinvigorate the construction of roads and other infrastructure in the City of Yerevan with a view to alleviating the transportation grid of the City. Road infrastructure improvement projects will be sped up in other cities, as well.

We will modernize and renew the public transport. We will completely transform the inter-city and urban transport management system. Competitive prices of passenger and cargo transportation will be secured.

Access to computers and the Internet will be safeguarded throughout the country for the vast majority of the population.

SOCIALLY-PROTECTED FAMILIES

We have reconsidered our approach to poverty reduction: social benefits and allowances alone will not solve the problem. We need to address the root causes of poverty.

Every family must be able to achieve proper living standards through employment. Families in difficult situations of life should feel the real support and assistance of the government.

We will continue implementing a system of integrated social services as a safeguard of secure families.

The implementation of a system of integrated social services implies the delivery of a new quality of services and the application of principally new methods and mechanisms of influencing the social condition of beneficiaries. In the field of social protection, we will make a transition to active and proactive policies: the funding for passive programs addressing consequences (money payments and privileges) will be rechanneled to preventing and eliminating the root causes of social inadequacy (need for social protection) taking into account the fact that prevention is much more effective and less costly. As a result, the social protection focus will shift from pure redistribution to contributing to human development as a means of achieving economic growth.

This transition also implies transformation of the principles underlying the selection of the types of social services offered to beneficiaries. This process will be based on the beneficiary's needs, rather than claims, as identified through a thorough assessment of the current situation.

The system of integrated social services will also imply revisions of the substance of social work and the role and place of social workers in society.

The government's spending priorities will include continuous increases in pensions targeting the low-income pensioners. Even the lowest pension should be sufficient to meet the vital needs of the pensioner. The problems of pension security will be fundamentally solved by means of introducing the cumulative system.

Every family should feel the care of the state.

Minimum conditions will be created for persons with disabilities to be fully integrated in society. Special attention will be paid to the problems of employment of persons with disabilities.

In a few years, we will finalize the provision of housing to the families of deceased freedom fighters. We will also speed up the process of meeting the needs of the families of freedom fighters with disabilities.

HEALTHY FAMILIES

Health care reforms are underway. However, we have still much to do in this area. Our policies will focus on disease prevention by means of creating conditions for a healthy lifestyle.

Special attention will be paid to maternal health and the rearing of a healthy generation. In Armenia, we will create an environment in which maternity and childhood enjoy the protection and support of society and the state. Access to reproductive health

services must be maximized, and their quality improved throughout Armenia. Residents of all the communities of our country should have access to high-quality medical services on equal terms with the residents of the capital city.

To promote fertility, we will introduce a system of maternal capital. Our efforts will focus on building perceptions of a Secure Armenia where families will decide to have children with utmost confidence in their future.

The lump-sum monetary allowance provided when a third or fourth child is born should be such as to encourage the family. The government support to families having five or more children should considerably improve the living conditions of such families. Families with many children will be viewed as a key element of a secure society.

A system of health insurance will be institutionalized with the help of government subsidies for certain diseases and socially-vulnerable groups of society.

Mandatory training of doctors, including arrangements for in-service training in the best health care organizations of the world will ensure correct and early diagnosis of disease, high-quality treatment, and improved post-operative rehabilitation care.

We will continue projects of reconstructing and refurbishing the regional health care institutions.

For the first time ever, we will guarantee urgent heart surgery for all the citizens of the Republic of Armenia. We will build a hematology clinic meeting the international standards. We will establish an oncology center carrying out detection, diagnosis, and high-quality treatment of tumors on the basis of modern scientific methods. We have undertaken to turn Armenia into a regional center of health care excellence, and we will remain firmly committed to this cause. We plan to make investments in establishing modern biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries.

We will support and encourage the modernization of health care institutions, their refurbishment with state-of-the-art hardware, and the introduction of modern technologies of treatment. In the framework of the small-scale chemistry development program, we will provide government support to the creation, production, and export of rare drugs and pharmaceuticals.

CULTURE

The Republic of Armenia has chosen the path of building a civilized society with a rich spiritual identity based on national values. Globalization is a serious challenge for our

people, having constantly strived for preserving our identity based on our national value system.

We will create favorable conditions for preserving the Armenian spiritual, historic, and cultural legacy and developing our national values and traditions.

Through government contracts in the fields of music, films, television programs, and book publishing, we will contribute to spreading national and universal values.

We plan to teach folk song and dance in the schools, and to increase the elements of national culture in the educational curriculum.

We will continue the development of fine art and aesthetic education systems for children and young people by means of communication with the national and universal cultural values, the best of folk art, and classical and modern art, their education and identification of their creative skills, and improvement of the conditions for developing and excelling.

We will secure the accessibility, affordability, and proportionality of cultural services throughout the country for the preservation and cultural development of the national identity.

We will actively cooperate with the Apostolic Holy Church of Armenia for the preservation of the moral character of Armenian families, sparing the young generation from undesired influences, and bringing them up in a truly Armenian way.

We will create additional opportunities for the preservation of the ethnic identity and cultural self-expression of national minorities.

We will strengthen the social protection of persons employed in the sphere of culture.

We will introduce new technologies of information and communication in culture.

We will develop modern cultural infrastructure that will enable the dignifying international representation of Armenian arts and competitiveness in global culture.

EDUCATION AND SCIENCE

In the 21st century, a competitive state has to have a competitive education system delivering not only knowledge but also skills of working with and generating knowledge.

We will make a transition from state-guaranteed nine years of minimum education to 12 guaranteed years of education (including vocational education).

Free higher education will be offered to the socially-vulnerable groups of society.

A free computer will be provided to every child in the first year of school.

We will build new kindergartens in the regions.

Access to quality primary education will be improved for all vulnerable groups of children with special education needs, as well as representatives of ethnic minorities.

We will improve the content of textbooks and teacher handbooks. We will introduce education performance-based assessment tools for financing and efficiency.

We will safeguard comprehensive coverage of high-speed Internet in the schools.

We will revise the system of admission exams to facilitate the admission of applicants to universities. We will introduce effective systems of student assessment.

By joining the European system of accreditation, we will organize the full international recognition of the educational degrees awarded in Armenia.

We will triple the volume of e-content in the Armenian language.

In the field of higher technological education, we will create a network of modern laboratories in collaboration with international organizations.

The elements of science and research will be strengthened within the universities. We will introduce modern methods of financing science. We will primarily focus on the development of Armenian studies in Armenia and beyond.

Universities should become the foundation of modern society by bringing together science, teaching, and innovative production.

We will continue supporting further consolidation of the recent years' achievements of our scientists.

We have created a firm legal foundation for the development of academic science. We will implement new initiatives to improve the social protection of scientists.

We will continue increasing annual state budget funding for science. Science and research institutions will enjoy a greater freedom in their activities. The project supporting young scientists will be expanded. Favorable conditions will be created for closer mutually beneficial cooperation between research institutions and the private sector.

YOUNG PEOPLE AND SPORTS

Young people face a wide range of issues closely related to education, science, employment, health care, and army service, to name a few. Their solutions are incorporated in development programs of the relevant sectors. We will remain focused on the quality and

accessibility of education for young people. Capable young people that demonstrate academic excellence will have access to professional education regardless of their social status. We will continue state youth policies promoting the utmost realization of young people's educational, scientific, and creative potential.

Secure young people having trust in the future are capable of creating strong and healthy families, which are the most important means of preserving and reproducing the national gene pool and a prerequisite for achieving the goal of having Secure Families. Occupation for young people will remain a priority to be addressed by means of job creation, promotion of youth entrepreneurship, and bolstering young people's competitiveness in the labor market.

We will augment the youth housing program. A new social housing construction program will launch for socially-vulnerable young people, providing temporary government apartments to their families, with the option of purchasing them incrementally or in the future.

Sport is key to achieving the goal of a Secure Armenia. Sport is an essential component of the physical and mental health of strong families and an additional means of promoting the international recognition of our country. Our sports policies will mainly focus on engaging more children in sports clubs and schools by improving their accessibility and affordability.

A new model of financing will be engaged in order to popularize physical education and sports: the model will be based on cooperation between the government, communities, and the private sector. In this way, the facilities and assets of sports schools will be improved. We will revise the status of sports schools as providers of supplementary educational services. New requirements on sports education will be introduced.

My Fellow Armenians;

Conducting free and fair elections is a top priority for us. We received excellent feedback from the international organizations and observers concerning the latest election to the National Assembly. It is very inspiring. As a state, we are already capable of conducting an election in an environment of free competition, virtually complete freedom of expression, and free expression of the voters' will. We are committed to making further progress in this area.

Everyone knows that we have always acted with “for” ideas. We have not acted against anyone or any force. We have supported discussions and inclusive public dialogue. We have proposed the path of strengthening the security of Armenia and achieving cohesion and prosperity for our people. We will most certainly remain committed to this vision in the future. Having struggled through the centuries to reach the 21st century, our people have had the vigor and the God's will to regain free and independent statehood and wish not to fall behind the reality in the developed world. It is what we must secure. We must be able to build a Secure Fatherland for every citizen of the Republic of Armenia. We must provide for the security of every family. I have not the slightest doubt that we will succeed.

Armenia's development is the only safeguard of our people's identity and perpetuity, our citizens' prosperity, the protection of our borders, and our role and place on the international arena.

Every next sunrise must be better in Armenia. The goal of a Secure Armenia will be achieved through this very logic of a Better Armenia that is prosperous, powerful, invincible, and convenient for living and working, an Armenia based upon the concept of a secure family.

In Secure Armenia, every one of us will be able to fulfill our dreams, and to accomplish our personal, family, and national goals, leaving behind faulty practices such as the class of the privileged, monopolies, and impunity.

In the most challenging times in history, we have managed to preserve our identity and national dignity on the basis of strong families, the Christian faith, and our vision for the future.

A SECURE FATHERLAND AND SECURE FAMILIES: this is our vision for development.

A Secure Armenia for children, for young people, for those defending the borders of the Fatherland, for laborers, for artists and researchers, for business persons, for women, for the elderly, and for everyone else.

A Secure Armenia for the children of the Armenian nation that dream of returning to their Fatherland.

A Secure and prosperous Armenia for the fulfillment of the dreams of all Armenians. An Armenia that appreciated personal contribution and achievement, responsibility and dedication. An Armenia where, in the words of Garegin Njdeh, “everyone is equal in front of law and death.”

A Secure Armenia for every citizen of the Republic of Armenia and for every Armenian.