



## CHECKS AND BALANCES NETWORK

[BIRARADA.ORG](http://BIRARADA.ORG)

## Democracy BAROMETER

POLICY PAPER NO:13

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### TRANSPARENT PRESIDENT OF THE PEOPLE IN 10 STEPS

We will go to the polls on 10 August 2014 for the first time to elect the President of our country. Since the President will be elected by the people rather than Parliament from now on, a direct relationship will be established between the President and the people. The President will be in a position where he is ethically responsible and account table to the citizens. It is therefore very important that confidence should be built during the campaign process between the President and the people. The President to be elected being transparent while collecting campaign donations and contributions and while making his expenditures and the candidates taking initiatives on a voluntary basis to this end will be the first step to ensure such confidence.

In these elections, the candidates will not receive public assistance. They will not be able to accept donations and assistance from legal entities (such as companies, trade unions, foundations, associations etc.) As they are legal entities, political parties will also not be able to provide financing support to the candidates, who may only accept donations and assistance from private citizens who support them. If citizens know from whom the elected President collected donations and assistance and how he spent them, they will be able to monitor whether, after assuming office, the President makes decisions according to the interests of influential persons who contributed money to his campaign or according to the needs of the people. In an election where the transparency of campaign financing is ensured, citizens will cast their votes in a better informed way.

**We call the candidates for President to implement the following 10 steps in their campaigns on a voluntary basis for the election race to be fair, equal and accountable:<sup>1</sup>**

1. Create a website to inform the public of the cash donations and assistance received by them and their campaign spending;
2. Clearly disclose on a daily basis at their websites who their donors are, their professional statuses, where they work and the amounts donated by them;
3. Make a declaration of assets at their websites;
4. While making such declaration, state also their property at home and abroad, their shares, and their commercial partnerships, if any;
5. Disclose to the public on a daily basis at their websites the donations collected by them and the expenditures incurred for the campaign in the form of tables;
6. Record the information and documents concerning their election accounts and expenditures through authorized persons or lawyers;
7. If they are to use their own, personal resources for their election campaigns, disclose to the public at their websites the records kept concerning where, in what amounts and how their budgets are used;
8. Regularly disclose to the public at their websites each public meeting organized for them by political parties and the costs of such public meetings. Not use the financial resources of central and local authorities in their campaigns;
9. Prevent unrecorded spending by ensuring that all campaign spending is made out of a single account; and
10. Design their websites in a format enabling citizens to ask questions and to request information. Answer questions and requests for information within 48 hours and publish them at their websites.

*The President to be elected being transparent while collecting campaign donations and contributions and while making his expenditures and the candidates taking initiatives on a voluntary basis to this end will be the first step to ensure such confidence.*

<sup>1</sup> These 10 proposed actions have been designed in view of international standards and good practices. For more information, see Checks and Balances Network Policy Paper 12 "We Want the First President to be Elected by the People to be Transparent in the Election Campaign He will Conduct with Individual Donations" at <http://birarada.org/kategori/politika-onerilerimiz>