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AGBU Stateme nt on Transitio n Governm ent

Our nation has faced extraordinary challenges over the past century. At each juncture,

AGBU has

worked to

advance the

national

interest of

the Armenian

people and

has

historically

been at the

forefront on

issues when

the survival

of our nation

was at stake,

without

engaging in

local

Armenian

politics, in

Armenia or

the diaspora.

These times

are no

different.

This is a

defining

moment in

our history,

one that

requires

resolve,

courage and

vision on the

part of our

nation's

leaders, as

well as its

citizens and

supporters

around the world.

In the last two months, we lived through the bitterness of tremendous loss, but we are not a defeated nation. As long as we have the strength and wisdom to heal our wounds, learn from events, rebuild our shaken homeland and move forward, we will ensure our sacred place in history and civilization. We are acutely aware that unabated, the shockwaves of the Artsakh catastrophe may shatter the very

foundation of Armenian statehood and bring upon us even greater vulnerabilitie s. These dangers are felt and feared by our global Armenian community, which must be anchored by a strong and sovereign Armenia the pillar of our identity.

Not a single Armenian, anywhere across the globe, can allow this to happen.

This is
neither the
time for
fingerpointing nor
determining
blame for the
immensity of
failures that
got us to
where we are

today, failures compounded over decades of shortcomings . We are a nation in crisis confronting a volatile political situation. Therefore, extraordinary action, both symbolic and direct, must be taken. Our young democracy must prove its resilience and strength at this critical time.

Of
paramount
importance is
preserving
the unity of
our people;
we cannot
afford the
risk of
further
fallout or
even
violence. It is
our belief
that an

independent body, disassociated with present and past administratio ns, should assume leadership as a transitional government. It should be comprised of citizens recognized for their knowledge and expertise working with qualified and respected advisors from Armenia and the diaspora to provide insight and support across key sectors. We call upon the Prime

Minister in his good will

conscience, and for the sake of the nation and

Armenian, to

and

every

yield his

position so that this new, temporary government can be formed. We want to ensure that a legitimate independent body assumes interim leadership until fair and democratic elections can be held. This body, having a clear understandin g and respect for the realities we must confront, should serve with objectivity to get us through this watershed moment in our history.

As with all democracies, this must be a peaceful transition through a lawful and

constitutiona

l process that

must uphold

the highest

democratic

standards

with

profound

respect for

the

fundamental

rights of all

citizens. We

call on

Parliament to

support this

transitional

government.

This process

should also

involve our

Armenian

Apostolic

Church and

the Mother

See of

Etchmiadzin,

whose

leadership

has been a

beacon of

hope for our

nation

through

challenging

times

throughout

its more than

1700-year

history.

As an

organization that has accompanied our nation on its arduous journey since our founding in 1906 and has stood by our nation through both Ottoman and Soviet governance, as well as independenc e, we solemnly renew our pledge to ensure the bright future of Armenia, to the reconstructio n of our ravaged Artsakh, and to our mission to tend to the humanitarian and social needs of our people in Armenia and across the globe. In the coming weeks, we will convene

leaders of our global community to jointly develop strategies to overcome the consequence s of the war and to quickly return to the path of nationbuilding and development.

We pray for the wisdom of our nation. the speedy healing of our wounds and the recovery from political turmoil. We also bow to the memory of our fallen heroes and wish a speedy recovery to the wounded, whose bravery and sacrifice have left an indelible mark on our hearts and

will guide us throughout our lives. And we appeal to every single Armenian in Armenia, in Artsakh and across the diaspora to remain engaged, strong, and committed to our nation as we confront these difficult times and together build a better future.

Read this appeal in the following languages:

Armenian (Eastern)

Armenian (Western)

French

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