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Recommendations Adopted by the International Conference of Lawyers

Tbilisi, Georgia

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Recommendations on the Exclusivity of Advocates' Profession:

- (a) The best interest of clients requires that advocates should provide legal services because
 - (i) their independence and professional secrecy is guaranteed by the law;
 - (ii) they are properly educated and trained on the constant bases;
 - (iii) they are supervised by the Bar which may impose on them disciplinary sanctions when they violate professional obligations.
- (b) State is obliged to guarantee all citizens' right of access to justice by ensuring that those citizens who are in financial need are able to get professional legal consultation and representation by advocates.

Recommendations on Entry into the Profession of Advocate:

- (a) Bar Associations should be in charge of supervising and managing the whole process of entry into the profession, including internship programs;
- (b) Bar Associations should not limit the number of candidates entering the profession, but in case of necessity should have the right to manage the process of inflow of candidates;
- (c) Bar Associations should ensure that bar entrance exams are administered online, via specific software;
- (d) Process of entry into the profession should consist of not only written exams, but also interview;

- (e) The whole process of entry into the profession should be evaluated by - “pass” or “fail” instead of a score-based system;
- (f) Other representatives of a legal profession (i.e. prosecutors or judges) should also be subject of the same entry standards and procedures as for other candidates, but some exemptions might be possible in practical (internship) part of the entrance program.
- (g) Candidates of entry into the profession must have at least Bachelor of Laws degree.
- (h) Program of entry into the profession provided by Bar Association should be paid;
- (i) Only the advocates should supervise the practical work (internship) of the candidates;
- (j) Practical work (internship) should always follow Bar entrance exams;
- (k) Advocates supervising the internship of the candidates must have at least 5 years of experience as advocates, should have necessary office space, and must not be under disciplinary sanctions;
- (l) Entry into the profession should be based on different specializations of law;
- (m) Lawyers should be admitted to practice law in other countries than their own, based on the rules and standard adopted by a particular country.

Recommendations on the Role of Bar Associations and Advocates in Providing Pro-bono Legal Services

- (a) Bar Associations should advocate extension of legal aid programs by the government;
- (b) Schemes should be worked out by Bar Associations how pro-bono work should be provided;
- (c) Bar Associations should lobby the government for compensation e.g. tax - reliefs for those who provide pro-bono legal work.