

## **Georgia**

### **1. *Opening statement:***

Georgia submits today its first Voluntary National Report on implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that we agreed upon during Sustainable Development Summit in September 2015. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes the complex challenges that our world – and each of our countries – faces. They resonate particularly in Georgia. My compatriots made important strides towards achieving the life in peace and dignity, despite many challenges – of conflicts, governance, poverty, environmental degradation and crime - that we have agreed to address together, through SDG process.

Yet despite these challenges, our people found strength, resilience to overcome the difficulties, optimism to work and build their future. In a short time, we have managed to dramatically reduce corruption and crime, restore the crucial functions of governance and achieve significant economic growth. More than that, our innovations in governance and reforms in several areas have been recognized in the region, and also by the UN. But the work is far from complete.

It has been one of the key mandates of my government to restore the balance between growth and social justice, seek equilibrium between supporting economic development and protecting our environment, restoring security while ensuring the state acts in frames of law. As our 2030 Agenda rightly claims there is no security without sustainable development, but also no development without security. Some 20% of our country is now occupied by the foreign state. People residing in these areas have been deprived of the ability to benefit from the benefits of our transformation, while their rights and liberties are substantially restricted, with no international monitoring on the ground. Meanwhile, hundreds of thousands of internally displaced persons and refugees from the two Georgian regions of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, continue to be deprived of their right to return to their homes in safety and dignity – the issue that is of immense importance as we jointly pledge to leave no one behind.

Yet, with the help of our international partners, we set ourselves the ambitious objectives to pursue sustainable development objectives and make them accessible to all of our citizens. The implementation of the MDGs was one of the key drivers of our progress. With signing the Association Agreement with the European Union, we have created yet another framework to contribute to the institutional and regulatory progress towards the sustainable development objectives.

My countrywomen and men are demanding from their successive governments to stay committed to the course of peaceful transformation and just growth. The forum of nations can count on their resilience, entrepreneurial spirit and burning desire to bestow a better country to their children. Despite our internal challenges, Georgia is not an inward-looking nation. We have shown ourselves ready to stand shoulder-to-

shoulder with the UN in promoting peace and security internationally. With our effort to foster sustainable development goals, we aim to contribute our knowledge to the community of nations, and to learn from the best efforts of the others.

It is in this spirit, that I am glad to submit this first Voluntary National Report, which highlights our initial approach to streamlining the SDGs into our country's development thinking and objectives.

**Giorgi Kvirikashvili**  
Prime Minister of Georgia

## **2. Summary:**

Georgia undertook to present its first voluntary national review of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with two key objectives in mind.

One is to share our good-faith effort of mainstreaming the SDGs into country's strategic documents and objectives. Given the immense transformative challenges that our Government faces, and having in mind the relatively short time that has passed since the adoption of SDGs, our work is some way off from completion. Yet, we feel that the efforts that we have invested in making the SDGs truly a part of our planning process merit to be shared, so that our experiences become a part of the body of knowledge accumulated by the United Nations.

The second objective, is to point out that for the country like Georgia, implementation of SDGs cannot and shall not be just another bureaucratic process. In our mind, the key value of the SDGs is in setting the broadest, ambitious framework of objectives, while leaving their subsequent refinement to the national processes. We have embarked on this path of refinement of SDGs, hoping to shape further the overarching national development priorities. This report reflects the methodology that we have applied, as well as the progress to date in prioritizing the most appropriate for Georgia Goals, and refining them as well as the indicators of success, based on our perception of the country's priorities as well as attainable objectives.

It goes without saying that adjustment of SDGs to the national priorities has to be the whole-of-government process. Managing the intra-governmental coordination in strategic policy planning is one of the key challenges our Government aims to surmount, as it requires relatively novel skillset at all levels – from data collection, to setting of the measurable indicators, analyzing achievable impact and managing the process of strategic planning.

Conscious of these needs, we have tasked the Department of Policy Analysis, Strategic Planning and Coordination and its Planning and Innovations Unit to take the lead role in coordinating the adjustment of SDGs. As with several other whole-of-government processes – such as the implementation of the Association Agreement with the European Union – we have learned that the individual ministries and agencies need to further develop their capacity to work on the policy planning level. Another significant challenge has been

the lack of sector-disaggregated data in many areas, which impedes development of the effective indicators and means of verification. The process of adjusting the SDGs has helped us pinpoint specific areas in which the national data collection must improve.

To bridge the existing gaps and build the long-term capacity of our Government, cooperation with the UN Country Team in Georgia has been crucial. Flexibility and responsiveness of the UN experts and staff has aided the Administration of Government significantly in developing the process that is at the foundation of this report. Genuine partnership and collaboration of the host government and the agencies of the UN family represented in a given country should in our mind be considered a good practice, worthy of replication.

In terms of best international practices, Georgia would welcome discussion regarding the design of inclusive coordination process to develop and track the implementation of the nationally adjusted SDGs. Another area of interest includes use of public-private partnerships in achieving SDG targets.

For the upcoming period, Georgia will seek assistance in crucial areas of sectoral, disaggregated data generation and analysis and will work with international donors to finance specific sectoral projects aimed at reaching SDG targets.

### **3. Introduction:**

Georgia presents one of the rare examples of a country that has moved decisively out of the vicious cycle of mutually re-enforcing bad governance, corruption and economic collapse, further complicated by the heritage of ethnic and civil strife in mid-1990s. In little more than a decade, the country has managed to rectify the systems of governance and achieve considerable economic growth. Even though the external security threats remain significant<sup>1</sup> the Government is committed fortifying the resilience of public administration to facilitate peaceful development, ensure economic growth and enhance social justice.

Georgia has declared joining the European Union's legal and regulatory space as its top policy priority and has signed an Association Agreement (AA) and the accompanying Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (DCFTA) with the EU in 2014, implying gradual transposition of the European legal standards into Georgia's legislation. Implementation of the *acquis communautaire* requires adaptation of the legislative basis, administrative policies, as well as multiple regulatory adjustments. These tasks currently form the bulk of the Government's agenda.

The Worldwide Governance Indicators compiled by the World Bank show Georgia's dramatic progress across the board from 2004 to 2014 with most indicators on par (Rule of Law, Accountability) or exceeding (Control of Corruption, Government Effectiveness) those of EU candidate countries and of the newest (2007) EU members, Romania and Bulgaria.

Voice and accountability, a World Bank indicator measuring the extent to which citizens participate in public governance on a scale of 0 to 100, has improved from 44.7 in 2004 to 55.6 in 2014, yet civic and political participation remain uneven across different thematic issues and strata of the population, while political stability levels, while improving, have yet to make up for the upheavals of the past decades. Government effectiveness, another World Bank indicator measuring the quality of public service delivery, policy formulation, and the civil service, has dramatically increased over the same period from 36.6 to 71.6. Perceiving the weaknesses persist in evidence-based policy formulation as well as strategic planning,

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<sup>1</sup> For the detailed vision of the context and aftermath of the conflict, as well as its impact on population, please refer to the Statement of the Georgian delegation at the United Nations General Assembly (A/70/911-S/2016/505), 2 June 2016, available at: [http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=S%2F2016%2F505](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S%2F2016%2F505)

uneven quality of public service delivery, and difficulties in retaining the institutional capacity of public agencies, the Government is fast-tracking reform of the policy planning system.<sup>2</sup> Logically then, the reform of public administration presents a crucial entry point for enhancing the effectiveness of policy making and service delivery across the government. Continuous improvement in the quality of public administration can offer increased predictability and protection to citizens. The improvement in effectiveness of public administration is paramount in Georgia's current regional geopolitical and economic context.

The complex geopolitical and security challenges Georgia is facing have been compounded by economic difficulties linked to growing instability in Georgia's neighbourhood. The country overcame the collapse of its economy and has developed rapidly in the past decade. The Gross National Income (GNI) as calculated by the World Bank grew from USD 910 to USD 4490 in 2014, placing Georgia in lower-middle income category. But while the poverty rate has been dropping, its general rate remains high compared to the neighbouring countries, as well as in the lower-middle income group. High levels of income inequality are particularly concerning, as country's Gini index (World Bank estimate) stands at 40 (with 100 marking absolute inequality).<sup>3</sup> 9.7 per cent of Georgians were considered to live below the poverty threshold in 2013, and the country-wide unemployment rate amounted to almost 15 per cent.<sup>4</sup> The International Monetary Fund (IMF) predicted 3% GDP growth for 2016, with the IMF noting downward risks due to continued crisis in Georgia's main partner economies.<sup>5</sup>

Recognizing these challenges, the Government has prioritised achieving a better balance between growth and social justice, and has implemented policies aiming to boost incomes and productivity in the agricultural sector, introducing universal health coverage, improving protection offered by the labour laws, addressing particularly debilitating epidemics, such as the Hepatitis C, and improving maternal and infant healthcare. Continued development, however requires sustainable economic growth. In this sense, the Government has continued policies aiming at reducing the administrative burden and improving the investment climate, including through encouraging public-private partnerships.

Both social justice and growth elements need to be underpinned by the longer-term policies. One of them is ensuring higher degree of environmental awareness and protection. This deals with better awareness on environmental challenges and improved integration of the environmental and energy efficiency standards in development projects. Another element is an investment in professional education. And the third is ensuring professional and innovative public administration. New laws and strategies on public administration reform have been adopted since May 2015 and are being implemented.

But the most crucial element is the advancement of the system of education, so that it provides sustainably high level of instruction to all, as well as the opportunities for tailor-made continuous education and re-education for those seeking to adapt to changing, modern economy. For this purpose, the Government has been upgrading the country's existing education facilities and supporting the establishment of innovation hubs in key cities.

Two challenges are critical for Georgia. One is striking the balance between the imperatives of growth and that of social justice. Making the two compatible, requires considerable financial means, as well as reactive

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<sup>2</sup> The data available at <http://www.govindicators.org>

<sup>3</sup> <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SI.POV.GINI/countries/1W-GE?display=graph>

<sup>4</sup> The data available at <http://www.geostat.ge>. Figures need to be interpreted with caution: real unemployment is estimated by most experts to be significantly higher than 15 per cent, albeit masked by a low propensity of the unemployed to register officially and by classifying individuals in rural areas that own small plots of land as self-employed farmers.

<sup>5</sup> <http://civil.ge/eng/article.php?id=28948>

and responsive system of government and administration, able to analyse and integrate citizen's feedback into policymaking. In this aspect, close collaboration with international development partners is crucial.

The second critical dilemma for the government is to elaborate a mix of policies that will allow us to achieve the SDG objectives while helping us achieve and sustain durable peace. As the UN Deputy Secretary General has rightly told the recent meeting of the Peacebuilding Commission, development objectives are hardly achievable without peace.<sup>6</sup> The context of military occupation of the country's two regions – Abkhazia and Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia – by the neighbouring country and the continued stationing of the troops in offensive military posture is an important policy imperative for any government. To this, add the particular challenges of addressing the needs of the displaced population from the two regions, whose plight the United Nations General Assembly has been highlighting in its annual resolutions (UNGA/RES/70/265).

#### **4. Methodology and Process for Preparation of the Review:**

The report highlights the lessons learned so far in SDGs nationalization process and refers particularly to the measures undertaken by the Georgian Government to adjust SDG agenda and its targets to the national circumstances. It also draws attention to national monitoring, reporting mechanism and data collection along with the existing statistical challenges.

The process of report preparation was directed and coordinated by the Administration of the Government of Georgia (AoG), namely Government Planning and Innovations Unit of the Policy Analysis, Strategic Planning and Coordination Department with the policy and programmatic support of UNDP Georgia. The report is based on the latest available data, covering the period from 2014 to 2015.

The report substantively draws on inputs generated from the intra-governmental review of the SDG priorities and the subsequent process of identifying and adjusting the national priorities, as well as the development of the Georgia-adjusted indicators for measuring progress towards SDGs.

Due to the limited timeframe, the first stage of the SDG review was conceived as largely a high-level intra-governmental process involving all ministries and agencies. Several rounds of the consultations were held. In 2016, GoG has established technical working groups to discuss the relevant SDGs in the areas of Human Rights, Social Inclusion, Economic Growth and Environment Protection. A baseline has been fixed for each target, complementary national indicators were set and quantitative projections made for the 2030 horizon.

At the first stage, 14 out of 17 SDGs have been identified as national priorities, and their targets and were adjusted to meet Georgia's specific context. During the subsequent consultations, experts from the line ministries have worked with international experts (mostly generated through the various UN agencies in Georgia, led by UNDP) to define the verifiable indicators for tracking the progress towards these targets.

The draft table that has resulted from these deliberations, including the Georgia-adjusted targets as well as the indicators is attached to this report. When finalized based on stakeholder inputs, it will be used for reporting on progress towards adapted SDGs.

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<sup>6</sup> Development Goals Unattainable without Sustaining Peace, Deputy Secretary-General Tells Economic and Social Council, Peacebuilding Commission, 24 June 2016, <http://www.un.org/press/en/2016/ecosoc6773.doc.htm>

It is foreseen to engage civil society organizations and academia in the next stage of consultations, and to develop a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation mechanism to continuously track the progress towards SDGs and adjust the targets as and if required.

The process of developing and adjusting the SDG indicators drew on the data from sectoral and multi-sectoral policy documents developed on a national level. In this process of discussions within the working groups, weaknesses of the available statistical data have been identified, especially when it comes to disaggregated sectoral data and administrative statistics. This became especially apparent while working to translate the global indicators into the national ones, and when assigning the methodologically appropriate baseline and progress indicators.

Since the full review of the SDGs is ongoing by the time of drafting of the present report, it does not contain the detailed sub-chapter on “Thematic analysis” (5 (e)).

## **5. Policy and Enabling Environment:**

### **(a) Creating ownership of the SDGs**

The Government has offered high-level political support to incorporating SDGs into national priorities. Administration of Government of Georgia (AoG), as a coordinating structure of SDG national processes, established a joint technical working group including experts from different line ministries and National Statistics Office.

The ownership for SDG priorities is also achieved through horizontal integration of the SDG indicators with other national strategies and priority areas, and the planned unification of the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) mechanisms for these strategies and annual action plans. The national ownership of the SDG review process will also be achieved through these mechanisms.

While the business, civil society and academia have already been involved in GoG efforts to advance SDGs, the scope and depth of their engagement will grow as the adjusted priorities and indicators are presented for general review and consultation in summer 2016. These non-governmental bodies are foreseen to play a crucial role in offering feedback, policy advice and participating in M&E loop at the central, as well as local levels. Their awareness building and engagement will also be generated through consultative efforts supported by Georgia’s development partners.

In the same manner, inputs from the local government level will gradually be incorporated in Georgia-adjusted SDGs. In 2016, 5 awareness-building activities were already held in several regions of the country at the local level.

### **(b) Incorporation of SDGs in national frameworks**

As noted earlier, Georgia’s various national and international commitments lead to proliferation of the policy and strategy processes. Public administration benefits from the impact-driven policy planning becoming ubiquitous in policy planning. It makes government’s actions more predictable and more transparent. However, excessive parallelism in planning frameworks might lead to pro-forma process, to the detriment of the citizens. For these reasons, the GoG has opted for both vertical and horizontal integration of the strategic planning frameworks, and is making additional steps in this direction.

On the strategic level, SDGs represent the broadest set of overarching objectives. In this sense, they can serve as the framework to encapsulate various sectoral policies and strategies. Operationally, however, the government will use its umbrella planning document - **Annual Governmental Work Plan (AGWP)** to operationalize the priorities.

As it stands, the process of defining adjusted SDG targets, definition of the baseline and – especially – development of the applicable and relevant indicators has drawn on a set of strategic documents that have been adopted in Georgia in recent years:

- **EU-Georgia Association Agenda**  
[[http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/georgia/documents/eap\\_aa/associationagenda\\_2014\\_en.pdf](http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/georgia/documents/eap_aa/associationagenda_2014_en.pdf)]
- **Social and Economic Development Strategy “Georgia 2020” (adopted 2014)**  
[<http://static.mrdi.gov.ge/551e4a570cf24147438b1727.pdf>]
- **National Strategy for the Protection of Human Rights in Georgia (2014-2020)**  
[[http://gov.ge/files/429\\_51454\\_924779\\_STRATEGYENG.pdf](http://gov.ge/files/429_51454_924779_STRATEGYENG.pdf)]
- **Public Administration Reform Roadmap (2015) and its Action Plan 2015-2016**  
[[http://gov.ge/files/425\\_49309\\_762340\\_PublicAdministrationReformRoadmap2020.pdf](http://gov.ge/files/425_49309_762340_PublicAdministrationReformRoadmap2020.pdf)]

Many elements of legislative and regulatory reform in sectoral areas are also contained in **EU-Georgia Association Agenda**

([http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/georgia/documents/eap\\_aa/associationagenda\\_2014\\_en.pdf](http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/georgia/documents/eap_aa/associationagenda_2014_en.pdf)) which increasingly becomes the core sectoral planning document.

The work on SDG review has commenced while many of Georgia’s strategic documents were at the end of their lifecycles. Whenever possible, final assessments concerning the impact of the expiring strategic programs were fed into the baseline for SDG review, and the SDG targets were adjusted keeping in mind the lessons learned during the implementation of those strategies.

The AoG intends to re-utilize the adjusted SDG targets and indicators in upcoming sectoral strategic documents.

### **(c) Integration of the three dimensions**

Integration of the economic, social and environmental directions of sustainable development has been the key challenge for Georgia’s development in the past decades, further exacerbated by the need to create a new efficient, effective, lean and transparent system of governance.

As described above, Georgia’s initial successes prioritized efficiency of governance and economic growth. While some of these have indeed been spectacular, overall growth came at the expense of transparency and effectiveness of governance, and by failing to trickle down, left too many socially vulnerable individuals behind.

It has been the policy of this government to restore the balance by targeting the most vulnerable: addressing the problems of pre-natal and neo-natal healthcare, tackling rural poverty through targeted assistance and subsidies, widening the net of health insurance, reducing prison overpopulation and improving healthcare in the penitentiary. Increased social spending, coupled with the effects of the global economic crisis have, however put the temporary downward pressure on growth. Consequently, the government has complemented its approach by measures to encourage economic development in sectors of economy that have higher propensity for sustainably boosting employment.

It is, however, our priority to create the system of policymaking, which will be flexible enough to adapt to the changes in economic and political environment, while continuously seeking to integrate economic, social, and environmental dimensions of development. So far, this is done operationally through the process accompanying the development of the Annual Governmental Work Plan (AGWP). Simultaneously,

assessment of the environmental and economic risks has become the purview of the newly created Council on Safety and Crisis Management subordinated to the Prime Minister.

#### **(d) Goals and targets:**

The technical thematic working groups on Human Rights and Gender Equality, Social Inclusion, Economic Growth and Environment Protection have analyzed the SDGs. In 2015, Georgia prioritized set of 14 goals out of the total 17, as well as 88 global targets.

The working groups have adjusted the wording of each selected target – usually this required a minimal adjustment to Georgia’s specific needs. Subsequently, the targets were also adjusted. Baseline has been fixed to each target, complete with complementary national indicators and quantitative projections for 2030.

The resulting table, defining Georgia-adjusted targets, performance indicators and baseline, as well as the sources of verification and the responsible government agency are provided in an annex to this report.

By the time of writing this report, the bulk of completed work has to deal with establishing baseline and indicators, which offers some initial insights into the progress of SDG implementation to date, as well as impending challenges.

The key problem identified during the review process is the lack of data disaggregated by age, gender, and specific sectors of economy. This especially concerns the Goals and targets that deal with social rights, labor rights, gender issues, poverty and unemployment. Current problems have been discussed in detail with the Statistics Office. Adjustments to data collection methodology could be crucial in both pinpointing the challenges that Georgia faces and for devising an adequate, targeted policy response. The identified data gaps demonstrate substantial need for upgrading Georgia’s national statistical research infrastructure and practices, which will require additional training, better financing and attraction of the necessary human capital.

#### **(e) Thematic analysis**

***Inclusive Society*** – Government of Georgia makes every effort to support all forms of interaction between Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia and the rest of Georgia through facilitation of platforms for promoting social inclusion and trust building between societies separated by dividing occupation lines. Unfortunately, the occupation of 20% of Georgia’s territory by foreign military forces seriously undermines the efforts aimed at ensuring reconciliation and development of inclusive society. Notwithstanding the dividing lines and artificial barriers, Georgia remains committed to peaceful policy of engagement with Georgian regions of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia and strives to provide favorable environment for reconciliation and inclusiveness. To this end, social inclusion, as an overarching goal can play a critical role in promoting sustainable development for Georgian people.

***Internally Displaced Persons*** - As a result of several waves of forced displacement in 1990s, as well as during the August 2008 Russia-Georgia War, hundreds of thousands of internally displaced persons and refugees are deprived of their fundamental right to safe and dignified return to places of origin due to occupation. Pending their return, with the view to leaving no one behind, the Government of Georgia makes every effort to alleviate the burden and ensure decent conditions for internally displaced population in accordance with the National Strategy and its relevant Action Plan.



**Economy & Poverty** - The economy of Georgia is an emerging free market. Following the restoration of Georgia's independence, the country experienced two waves of economic reforms, resulted with certain progress in economic growth. Although the growth did not tackle poverty rates, which have largely remained unchanged. Particularly country current critical challenges are the poverty, deeper inequalities and vulnerable population category: refugees and displaced persons, social benefit users, retired people, long-term unemployed people and people with disability.

**Education & Employment** - Georgia has started implementing a large number of reforms aimed at improving the required knowledge and skills, encouraging employment and private sector development. In 2014 Positive trends have been recorded in the reduction of the overall unemployment rate compared to the middle of last decade. The Government of Georgia plans to enhance the quality and accessibility of education, and to increase the competitiveness of human resources. Employment opportunities will also be improved as a result of the eradication of the skills mismatch which currently hinders the labor market. In addition, the creation of employment opportunities for Georgia's labor workforce will encourage comprehensive economic growth.

**Healthcare** - The ultimate steps have been taken to reform Georgia's healthcare sector is to increase the population's life expectancy and improve its overall health. Since 2013 Georgia's population is more protected from high out-of-pocket payments and the consequent risk of impoverishment. Government of Georgia intends to increase the efficiency of public spending on healthcare through improved administration and by placing greater emphasis on preventive measures. These measures will have a positive impact on the country's human capital development, economic growth and poverty rates.

**Energy** - Georgia has a developed, stable and reliable energy sector but efforts are required to improve the efficiency in domestic energy use. The most promising source of additional energy generation is hydropower and the Government is focused on securing private investments for construction of new hydropower stations.

**Environment** - Economic growth is a basis for Georgia's welfare which may bring considerable pressure on natural resources and the environment. Therefore, sustainable economic development is important for the country from the perspective of environmental protection and rational use of natural resources. Internationally, Georgia has signed several environmental agreements, resulting in international obligations and access to international scientific and technological knowledge and funds.

**Human Rights** - Aside from the country socio-economic aspirations, it is impossible not to mention Georgia's Human Rights development agenda, which brings Georgia closer to the European values and structures. Further reform of the justice sector and judiciary, prevention of corruption, protection of human rights, especially rights of minorities, children and women, elimination of gender disparities, prevention of and fight against crime - these are the areas the Government of Georgia is intensively working on.

Concentrating on the priorities, reforms and critical challenges of the country, the adjusted version of Sustainable Development Goals and Targets covers preferences of economic growth and addresses a range of social needs including education, health, social protection, job opportunities, climate change, environmental protection, inequality, energy, consumption and are based on capacities for development in Georgia to fulfill those instructions that are given.

Introduction of sustainable development principles into the national policies provides an opportunity to balance economic growth, environmental protection and social development. Sustainable development represents a crucial precondition for the long-term prosperity and social inclusion for Georgia and the

Georgian people. Moreover, all 17 Sustainable Development Goals are also country national-level goals, achievement of which will bring success and welfare in the first place to Georgia itself.

## **6. Means of implementation**

SDG goals will be implemented through their mainstreaming into AGWP as well as other policy documents that are being currently reviewed. The developed SDG indicators will also be used in developing targets and evaluating progress of the development assistance programs implemented by the various donors in Georgia.

The inter-agency working group's format will remain the primary forum for SDG review and implementation, while the AoG will provide high-level political support from the office of the Prime Minister.

At the same time, efforts will be made to engage NGOs, academia, business as well as local governments fully in the process of SDG implementation and review. They will be represented in the inter-agency working group, and participate in monitoring and evaluation loop of SDG review, thus ensuring both full transparency of the process, and the collaborative effort in achieving our shared objectives.

While the annual evaluation meetings could track progress, the official national review process will cover the longer time-span. A focus on evaluation of policy impact will require mobilization of the additional financial resources and expertise.

## **7. Next steps:**

Georgia has already defined the path towards further mainstreaming 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development on a national level:

- GoG will establish SDG M&E system at both central and local levels to track progress: annual reporting cycle will be upheld. AoG will also seek independent, third-party, evaluations to assess the progress to date and to advise on adapting the country's institutional setup for SDG review.
- Government will capture the specificities of the development needs and strengthen national statistical capacities & data collection as far as possible;
- Government will foster a dialogue to serve as platform for the development of more comprehensive implementation and accountability mechanisms.

## 8. Statistical Annex

Statistical Annex attached to this report illustrates the list of Georgia’s prioritized Goals and targets on the national level. Although substantial part of the work on the draft matrix defining and formulating national level baseline as well as 2030 indicators is almost completed, conscious decision of not including it in the annex has been made. This is due to the fact that Administration of Government of Georgia has yet to conduct round of consultations with all involved stakeholders such as Civil Society Organization, Non-Governmental Organizations, private sector and academia ensuring that the final version of the SDG Nationalized Matrix submitted to the UN is fully coordinated and agreed on amongst all stakeholders.

Table below showcases the extract of the national framework for SDG indicators, discussed and agreed upon by the government authorities and UN country team.

Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages						
Global Target	Georgia Adjusted Target	Global Indicator	Georgia Adjusted Indicator	Baseline Indicator	Data Source	Lead Line Ministries/Agencies
			Proposed Indicator - Target 2030			
3.1 By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births	3.1 By 2030, reduce the maternal mortality ratio of Georgia to at least 12 per 100,000 live birth	3.1.1: Maternal mortality ratio	3.1.1: Maternal Mortality rate: 12 per 100 000 live birth (disaggregated by cause of death and by age)	3.1.1 Maternal Mortality rate – 32 per 100,000 live birth; 2015	NDC&PH	Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs
		3.1.2: Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel	3.1.2: Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel: 100%	3.1.2: Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel - 100%, 2015		
3.2 By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5	3.2 By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with	3.2.1: Under-five mortality rate	3.2.1: Under-five mortality rate: 6 per 1000 live birth	3.2.1 Under-five mortality rate – 10.2 per 1000 live birth, 2015		

**Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages**

Global Target	Georgia Adjusted Target	Global Indicator	Georgia Adjusted Indicator	Baseline Indicator	Data Source	Lead Line Ministries/Agencies
			Proposed Indicator - Target 2030			
years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births	Georgia aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least 3 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least 6 per 1,000 live births	3.2.2: Neonatal mortality rate	3.2.2: Neonatal mortality rate: 5 per 1000 live birth	3.2.2 Neonatal mortality rate – 6.1 per 1000 live birth 2015		
			3.2.3: Post-natal care coverage for mother and baby either at home or in a facility and within two days of delivery (1+ visit) - 90%	3.2.3: Post-natal care coverage for mother and baby either at home or in a facility and within two days of delivery (1+ visit) - baseline will be defined in 2018		
3.3 By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases	3.3 a By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases	3.3.1: Number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population, by sex, age and key populations	3.3.1: Number of new HIV infections per 100,000 population, by sex, age: 1.25 per 100,000 population Male - 1.06 per 100,000 population Female - 0.19 per 100,000 population 0-14 - 0.04 per 100,000 population 15-24 - 0.38 per 100,000 population 25 + - 0.85 per 100,000 population	3.3.1 HIV incidence – 15.1 per 100,000 population, 2014 Male - 23.4 per 100,000 population Female - 7.6 per 100,000 population 0-14 - 0.9 per 100,000 population 15-24 - 9.1 per 100,000 population 25 + - 19.9 per 100,000 population		Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs
		3.3.2: Tuberculosis incidence per 1,000 population	3.3.2: Tuberculosis incidence per 100,000 population: 15 per 100,000 population (reduced by 80%)	3.3.2 TB incidence – 75.4 per 100,000 population 2014		
		3.3.3: Malaria incidence per 1,000 population	3.3.3: Malaria incidence per 100,000 population: 0.0 per 100,000 population	3.3.3: Malaria incidence per 100,000 population - 0.0 per 100,000		

**Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages**

Global Target	Georgia Adjusted Target	Global Indicator	Georgia Adjusted Indicator	Baseline Indicator	Data Source	Lead Line Ministries/Agencies
			Proposed Indicator - Target 2030			
		3.3.4: Hepatitis B incidence per 100,000 population	3.3.4: Hepatitis B prevalence %: Anti-HBc+ 12.5% HBsAG+ 1.45 % (reduced by 50%)	3.3.4 Hepatitis B prevalence %: Anti-HBc+ 25.5% HBsAG+ 2.9%	NCDC&PH; Hepatitis Seroprevalence survey	
		3.3.4.a: Hepatitis C prevalence %	3.3.4.a: Hepatitis C prevalence %: Anti-HCV+ 7.5% HCV RNA + 5.3%	3.3.4 a Anti-HCV+ 7.0% HCV RNA+ 0.5%		
		3.3.5: Number of people requiring interventions against neglected tropical diseases	3.3.5: Number of people requiring interventions against neglected tropical diseases: Interventions at place for high risk population sub groups/geographic areas	3.3.5: Number of people requiring interventions against neglected tropical diseases - 79; 2014 Identified high risk population sub groups/geographic areas		
3.3b Ensure full access to consulting, testing, diagnosis and treatment of HIV/AIDs, hepatitis C and TB in the penitentiary system	N/A		3.3.b.1 Prevalence rate of TB cases in penitentiary establishments =/< 100 per 10 000 inmates; incidence of newly registered TB cases stabilize or decrease or =/< 55 per	3.3. b.1 2015: Prevalence rate of TB in penitentiary establishments - 126.6 per 10 000; newly registered incidence of TB - 55.4 per 10 000.	MOC	Ministry of Corrections
			3.3.b.2 Increased ratio of inmates with hepatitis C receiving treatment reaching almost 100%	3.3. b.2 2015: 3216 inmates have been diagnosed with Hepatitis C out of which 709 (22%) have received treatment.		

**Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages**

Global Target	Georgia Adjusted Target	Global Indicator	Georgia Adjusted Indicator	Baseline Indicator	Data Source	Lead Line Ministries/Agencies
			Proposed Indicator - Target 2030			
3.4 By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being	3.4 By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being	3.4.1: Mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory disease	3.4.1: Mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, Diabetes and COPD disease: decrease by one third	3.4.1: Cardiovascular disease mortality rate - 553.2 per 100,000 population, 2014 cancer mortality rate - 150.9 per 100,000 population, 2014 diabetes mortality rate - 17.9 per 100,000 population, 2014 COPD mortality rate - 6.3 per 100,000 population, 2014	NCDC&PH	Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs
		3.4.2: Suicide mortality rate	3.4.2: Suicide mortality rate: decrease by one third	3.4.2: Suicide mortality rate - 5.1 per 100,000, 2014	Geostat/NCDC&PH	
3.5 Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol	3.5 Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol	3.5.1. Coverage of treatment interventions (pharmacological, psychosocial and rehabilitation and aftercare services) for substance use disorders	3.5.1. Share of people who are involved in methadone replacement therapy from the total number of population who want to participate methadone replacement therapy: 100%	3.5.1. Share of people who are involved in methadone replacement therapy 100%, 2015	MoLHSA (SSA)	All of Government of Georgia

**Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages**

Global Target	Georgia Adjusted Target	Global Indicator	Georgia Adjusted Indicator	Baseline Indicator	Data Source	Lead Line Ministries/Agencies
			Proposed Indicator - Target 2030			
		3.5.2: Harmful use of alcohol, defined according to the national context as alcohol per capita consumption (aged 15 years and older) within a calendar year in litres of pure alcohol	3.5.2: alcohol per capita consumption (aged 18 years and older) within a calendar year in litres of pure alcohol: decrease by 5%	3.5.2: alcohol per capita consumption (aged 18 years and older) within a calendar year in litres of pure alcohol - 6.4 litres of pure alcohol (STEPS 2010)	STEP	
3.6 By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents	3.6 By 2020, reduce the number of deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents in Georgia	3.6.1: Death rate due to road traffic injuries	3.6.1: Death rate due to road traffic injuries. By 2030 baseline is reduced by 25-30%	3.6.1 2015: 6,432 car accidents registered. Number of Deaths: 602 Number of Injuries: 9,187	MIA	Ministry of Internal Affairs

## 9. Conclusion

As this report demonstrates, Georgia has made significant strides towards adapting the Sustainable Development Goals to its developmental specifics. Our government made sure the SDGs become an integral part of its national policymaking process, as well as its guiding set of targets. Our efforts to date have been aimed at setting a solid methodological foundation for the full, inclusive review process, which will fully integrate SDGs into national policy planning process and contribute to successful implementation of its objectives.

This report presented our vision of country's overall and sectoral priorities, as well as the key challenges we are encountering in our efforts to achieve SDG overarching objectives.

While the report has logically focused on our national process, framing and implementing SDGs surpasses the national borders. On the most obvious level, the problems of peace, justice, environment, development are global and require global solutions. But more specifically, as we have worked to define SDG indicators and to shape the process of review and implementation, we have tapped into experiences and views of many nations – some neighboring and some across the globe. Similarly, our international partners from the UN family, many other international organizations and NGOs have helped shape the strategic policy documents that we are working on, and are helping us on a daily basis to implement them.

Solidarity of the forces that aspire and work for positive change is ever more important these days, when the faith of once stable and prosperous nations in the founding principles of the United Nations and of the democratic world order itself seems to have been eroded. Only through meaningfully collaborating for addressing the suffering of our peoples we would shore up their faith in just and fair world, only thus could stem the tide of obscurantism and modern barbarism that has laid countries and cities to ruin, and whose dark imprint we have seen in the eyes of refugees and displaced persons that risk the lives of their loved ones to reach safer shores.

In these uncertain times, even small countries like Georgia must contribute to positive change. We already contributing to the UN peacekeeping and hope to expand this role. But remaining open to advice, we also hope to share our experiences and our successes with this family of nations.