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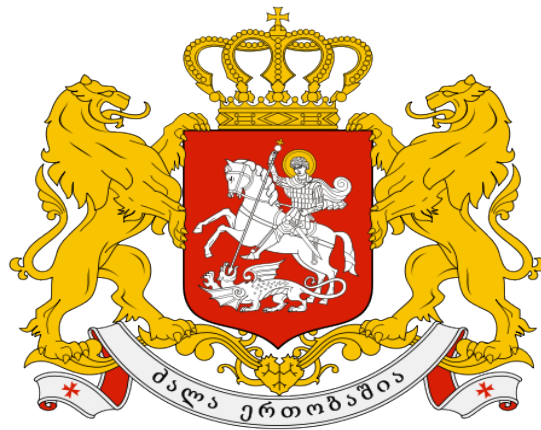


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**Third Report submitted by Georgia pursuant to Article 25, paragraph 2
of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities**

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Third Report of Georgia
According to First Paragraph of Article 25 of European Framework Convention
for Protection of National Minorities
(March 30, 2017)

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Introduction

In 2006, the Parliament of Georgia ratified the European Framework Convention for Protection of National Minorities and therefore took obligation before international community to protect ethnic minorities and ensure their decent participation in the development of the country. The Government of Georgia pays special attention to the protection of ethnic minorities living in the country, including its indigenous territories - Abkhazia and Tskhinvali region/ South Ossetia, also to preservation of their identity and ensuring their civic integration. These regions are occupied by the Russian Federation and there is a threat of losing the identities of ethnic groups living there, especially when there are no mechanisms for monitoring the protection of their rights.

Since submission of the second State Report on Georgia's implementation of the European Framework Convention for Protection of Ethnic Minorities, significant changes have been made in Georgia's internal policy. As a result of the 2012 Parliamentary Elections, the peaceful and democratic transition of power took place. In particular, the governance of the "United National Movement" has been replaced by the ruling "Coalition Georgian Dream". After the Parliamentary Elections held in 2016, the Georgian Dream came to power again with the constitutional majority. Over the last five years, the significant positive changes have been made in the policy of the government in relation to ethnic minorities, including the improvements of the existing mechanisms for institutional management.

Important change is related to the Government's main responsibility towards ethnic minorities. Upon the change of Government in 2012, the Decree of the Prime Minister changed the name of the Office of the State Minister for Reintegration to the Office of State Minister for Reconciliation and Civic Equality. Along with the change of name, steps have also been taken to implement the unified and coordinated policy in relation to the ethnic minorities. In the framework of the above-mentioned policy, one of the important novelties was the approval of the "Civic Equality and Integration State Strategy and Action Plan for 2015-2020" by the Government of Georgia in August 2015. The above-mentioned document represents an immediate continuation of the National Concept of Tolerance and Civic Integration and the 2009-2014 Action Plan initiated by the Government of Georgia in 2009. The development of a new strategy was preceded by the previous Concept's Assessment Document. The assessment document, jointly prepared by the State Minister's Office and the Independent Experts Group, has revealed positive and negative trends that were observed during the implementation of the Concept. The positive results, as well as the shortcomings had been taken into account and new Strategy and Action Plan was based on the given analysis. A wide range of consultative activities with the participation of

ethnic minorities were undertaken. The OSCE High Commissioner for National Minorities Issues provided an international expertise of the document.

The elaboration of the document and the new Action Plan was assessed positively by local and international experts. The new document of civic integration relies on the principle of equality and the approach "more diversity, more integration". The general purpose of the document is to protect the cultural values and identity of each member of the society. Civic integration is perceived as the establishment of adequate conditions for the full participation of all ethnic groups in the country's development.

According to the current vision, the strategic objectives of the State are united around four main directions: **Equal and full participation in civic and political life; Creation of equal social and economic conditions and opportunities; Ensuring access to quality education and improvement of the knowledge of State language; Preservation of the culture of ethnic minorities and provision of tolerant environment.**¹ The Strategy Action Plan provides a list of various concrete measures with reference to the relevant responsible departments within five years. The Strategy also envisages elaboration of one-year Action Plan by the end of each calendar year that has to be implemented. The document also establishes the reporting and evaluation mechanisms for implementation, according to which the implementation report is prepared annually; the elaboration of interim and final assessment document is also considered.

The approved strategic document envisages more interaction with the ethnic majority, because civic integration is a process involving the entire community, each member of it. The important novelty of the Strategy is taking into consideration the issues such as supporting small and vulnerable ethnic minorities. With the document, the State undertakes the obligation to respond to the educational and legal needs of small and vulnerable ethnic groups, as well as to introduce teaching of the languages of these groups in educational institutions. Another important novelty of the Strategy is gender mainstreaming. Specifically, the State's obligation to protect rights of ethnic minority women as well as to ensure their integration.

The State Minister's Office coordinates the Inter-Agency State Commission for all relevant ministries and other government agencies involved in the implementation of the policies of civic integration in order to ensure effective and efficient implementation of the measures envisaged by the State Strategy and Action Plan. Under the current management of the State Minister's Office, the

¹State Strategy for Civil Equality and Integration and Action Plan 2015-2020; Government of Georgia 2015

work of the Commission became more effective and efficient and this is well-expected in the number of conducted meetings and a comprehensive list of the issues discussed. In parallel, with institutional management mechanisms in the field of ethnic minorities' protection and civic integration, in recent years, functional roles and duties of relevant state structures have also become clear. Within the framework of the Inter-Agency Commission, the thematic working groups were established, within which the Commission members and NGOs discuss joint issues and challenges and prepare proposals and recommendations. For the year 2017, the relevant measures and responsibilities are assigned to the following ministries and agencies:

- Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia;
- Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia;
- Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia;
- Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia;
- Ministry of Justice of Georgia;
- Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia;
- Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs of Georgia;
- Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia;
- Office of the State Minister of Georgia on European and Euro-Atlantic Integration;
- Public Defender's Office of Georgia;
- Central Election Commission of Georgia;
- Tbilisi Municipality City Council;
- Batumi City Hall;
- Administration of State Attorney-Governor in Kvemo Kartli;
- Administration of State Attorney-Governor in Samtskhe-Javakheti;
- Administration of State Attorney-Governor in Kakheti;
- Georgian Public Broadcaster;
- LEPL National Center for Teachers Professional Development;
- LEPL National Assessment and Examination Center;
- LEPL Academy of Ministry of Internal Affairs;
- National Parliamentary Library of Georgia;
- Ministry of Corrections of Georgia;
- Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia;
- LEPL Zurab Zhvania State Administration School;
- LEPL David Aghmashenebeli National Defence Academy;
- National Statistics Office of Georgia

The important decision taken by the current Government of Georgia in the institutional management of ethnic minorities was the separation of policy on ethnic minorities and religious minorities. The component of the integration of ethnic minorities, as noted above, is coordinated by the Office of State Minister for Reconciliation and Civic Equality. As for the issues of religious diversity and

religious minorities, it is managed and coordinated by the State Agency for Religious Issues, which was established in 2014 by the Government Order and was assigned to manage the religious policy of the State.

I. Ethnic Minorities in Georgia during the Third Report Period

The number of resettlement of ethnic minorities in the country, as well as their density and the number of ethnic groups in the country for the period of submission of the third report on the implementation of the European Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities by Georgia may be based on the results of 2014 Census conducted by the National Statistics Office of Georgia, officially published in 2016. Just as in the previous 2002 Census, the questionnaire prepared by the Statistics Office provided questions for establishment of ethnic and religious affiliation. According to the data, ethnic minorities constitute 13.2 percent² of the total population of Georgia. Among the largest groups are Azerbaijanis (6.2 percent) and Armenians (4.5 percent) compactly resettled in the southern regions of the country (Kvemo Kartli and Samtskhe-Javakheti regions), the remaining ethnic groups are less likely to create compact settlements and are dispersedly settled in various regions and urban centers.

As for the religion, the Georgian Orthodox Church (83.4 percent of the population) has the largest number of followers, the second largest religion is Islam (10.7 percent) followed by the Armenian Apostolic Church (2.9 percent). The number of other religions, according to official Census data, is less than one percent.

Information regarding statistical data on ethnic diversity of Georgia and minority resettlement regions is provided in the Annexes # 1 and # 2.

- II. Measures Taken by the Government of Georgia according to the Articles of Operative Part of European Framework Convention for the Protection of National**
- III. Minorities (Articles 4-18)**

²It is noteworthy that in 2014 the Census was not carried out throughout the territory of Abkhazia and South Ossetia

Article 4

1. *The Parties undertake to guarantee to persons belonging to national minorities the right of equality before the law and of equal protection of the law. In this respect, any discrimination based on belonging to a national minority shall be prohibited.*
2. *The Parties undertake to adopt, where necessary, adequate measures in order to promote, in all areas of economic, social, political and cultural life, full and effective equality between persons belonging to a national minority and those belonging to the majority. In this respect, they shall take due account of the specific conditions of the persons belonging to national minorities.*

Based on general pathos of Article 4 of the Framework Convention, the Government of Georgia has taken a crucial step towards creating anti-discrimination legislation. In particular, the Government of Georgia initiated the Law of Georgia "**On the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination**" which became effective in 2014 and prohibits any kind of discrimination; it envisages the legal interests of different minority groups. The law ensures equality regardless of race, skin color, language, gender, age, citizenship, place of birth, place of residence, property or social status, religion, national, ethnic or social origin, profession, marital status, health status, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, political or other views.

In 2014, the Government approved **Human Rights Strategy and Action Plan for 2014-2020**, an important component of which is protection of ethnic/national minorities. Among other things, one of the priority directions of National Human Rights Strategy is religious freedom and minority rights, which implies taking measures to prevent and eliminate the discrimination, ensure the implementation of the activities of religious associations, improve the state language knowledge among ethnic minorities, increase the participation of minorities in the social, economic and cultural life, raise awareness regarding equality and tolerance and other important issues.

In addition to these two important state documents adopted during the reporting period, the legislative framework of Georgia has effective anti-discrimination mechanisms that are effectively implemented and are important guarantees for the protection of the rights of minorities. Firstly, the **constitutional provisions of Georgia** guarantee equality and prohibit discrimination on ethnic and religious basis. According to Article 14 of the Constitution, "everyone is free by birth and is equal before law regardless of race, color, language, sex, religion, political and other opinions, national, ethnic and social belonging, origin, property and title, place of residence". (Article 14).

Also, the active legislation of Georgia in different spheres is aimed at equality and elimination of discrimination. The sanctions imposed by the **Criminal Code of Georgia** for violation of human equality (Article 142) are also noteworthy. Sanctions are related to the racial discrimination that has been committed on grounds of national and racial enmity, in order to humiliate national honor and dignity. According to the amendment made in 2012, the Criminal Code of Georgia further aggravates punishment if the crime is committed under any kind of discrimination. According to the amendment, "a crime was committed on the grounds of discrimination of race, color, language, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, religion, political or other opinion, citizenship, nationality, ethnicity or social belonging, origin, property or title status, or any other discrimination, there is an aggravating circumstance for all relevant crimes envisaged by the Code".

Important anti-discrimination provisions were envisaged in the **Law on Personal Data Protection** adopted on 28 December, 2011. The law establishes that race or ethnicity of a person, as personal data of a person will be protected and person's right to privacy will not be violated.

Legal framework for determining the Georgian education policy is also distinguished by the anti-discrimination approach, namely, **Law of Georgia on General Education** and the **Law of Georgia on Higher Education**. The General Education Law provides the right to education for all (Article 9) and equal access to education for all (Article 3.2.a). The Law on Higher Education requires from higher education institutions to have equal treatment towards students and academic personnel (Article 16.1) and prohibits discrimination on religious or ethnic grounds (Article 3.2).

Legislative framework for determining the Georgian Media Policy is also distinguished by anti-discrimination provisions. In particular, according to the **Law of Georgia on Broadcasting**, it is prohibited to transfer programs that create a clear and direct threat to incitement of racial, ethnic, religious or other forms of discrimination, discrimination or violence against any group, and prohibits programs that are directed to emphasize person's or physical group's capabilities, ethnicity, religion, worldview, sex, sexual orientation or other qualities or status. (Article 56). It is noteworthy that the Public Broadcaster is obliged to cover the ethnic, cultural, linguistic, religious, age and gender diversity of the society in its programs.

The essential steps to eradicate discrimination are also considered in cultural policy of Georgia. Georgian cultural policy is defined by "**Law on Culture**" according to which Georgian citizens are equal in cultural life regardless of their national, ethnic, religious or linguistic origin (Article 6).

Furthermore, in order to establish equality in the economic, social, political and cultural life of ethnic minorities, the Organic Law of Georgia **Local Self-Governance Code** adopted on 5 February 2014 is worth mentioning, which was initiated by the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia. During the regulation of local self-governments, the new Code envisages Georgian citizens' including ethnic minorities' equality before the law as well as equal protection of their rights. According to Paragraph 2 of Article 6, the citizens of Georgia have the right to elect local authorities and be elected to these local self-government bodies in the manner prescribed by the given Law and other regulations, regardless of race, color, language, sex, religion, national, ethnic or social origin, property and position, political and other beliefs. Also, according to Paragraph 2 of Article 85, any person has the right, under the given Law, other laws and regulations, as well as normative legal acts of the Municipal Council, without prejudice to benefit from citizen's engagement in implementation of local governance. While Paragraph 4 of the same Article provides the specific forms for citizen's engagement in the implementation of the activities of local self-governance, these forms are: A) General meetings of communities, B) Petition, C) Civil Advisory Council, D) Participation in sessions of City Council and Municipality Council, E) Hearing Reports by Municipality Gamgebeli / Mayor and Municipality Council member on implemented activities. It should also be noted that any person has the right to attend public session of Municipality Council and Municipality Council Commissions without preliminary notice and/or prior permission.

It is noteworthy that in order to increase ethnic and national minority representatives' access to the Organic Law of Georgia Local Self-Government Code, with the financial support of USAID within the framework of the Democratic Governance in Georgia Program, and with the coordination of the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure, the Code was translated in Azerbaijani and Armenian languages and published in the regions populated with minorities.

Article 5

- 1. The Parties undertake to promote the conditions necessary for persons belonging to national minorities to maintain and develop their culture, and to preserve the essential elements of their identity, namely their religion, language, traditions and cultural heritage.***
- 2. Without prejudice to measures taken in pursuance of their general integration policy, the Parties shall refrain from policies or practices aimed at assimilation of persons belonging to national minorities against their will and shall protect these persons from any action aimed at such assimilation.***

Development of cultural identity of persons belonging to ethnic minorities and protection from assimilation is one of the important principles of the Government of Georgia; this approach is noted in all important legislative and legal documents that define Georgia's cultural policy. In addition, the Civic Equality and Integration State Strategy has more specific goals and objectives in relation to ethnic minorities. According to this conception, for the coming years the State has the following three interim goals:

- Reflecting the role and importance of ethnic minorities while developing and implementing cultural policy;
- Protection and promotion of cultural heritage of ethnic minorities;
- Encourage cultural diversity.

On July 1, 2016 the Government of Georgia approved "**Cultural Strategy 2025**". The document was elaborated by the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia and the representatives of different groups of society, including ethnic minority communities and organizations protecting their cultural rights were also involved in the consultation processes.

The priority directions and objectives of the Georgian culture policy are set out in the "Cultural Strategy 2025". One of the priorities of the document is "access to culture and cultural diversity." Consequently, the goal of the above-mentioned priority is focused on the integration of ethnic minorities in cultural life; To achieve the given goal, such tasks as supporting cultural and creative initiatives of ethnic minorities and organizing various events with their involvement, development of various media programs, etc. have been defined.

Besides determining the basic issues of Cultural Policy and conceptually understanding the cultural diversity, the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia, as well as various state agencies continue funding and implementation of series of practical projects that are aimed at protection and popularization of cultural heritage of ethnic minorities. Different Ministries and agencies are involved in planning and implementation of various cultural projects.

Hundreds of small or large-scale activities and projects have been carried out for the last four years that were aimed at popularization of material culture and ethnography of minorities as well as the inter-cultural education initiatives, cultural sharing among young people, protection and development of y tangible and intangible cultural values of minorities. The main part of the activities of various government agencies can be divided into the following categories:

1. Supporting theaters and museums of ethnic minorities: The Government of Georgia continued active support of cultural life of ethnic minorities through

functioning of cultural centers such as theaters and museums. By 2017, the following museums and theaters are funded by the State:

- David Baazov Museum of History of Georgian Jews and Georgian-Jewish Relations (in 2016 funding equaled to 128 000 GEL)
 - Mirza-Fatali Akhundov Azerbaijan Cultural Museum (in 2016 funding equaled to to 35 000 GEL)
 - Smirnoff Museum (in 2015 funding equaled to 53,000 GEL, in 2016 - 68 000 GEL)
 - Petros Adamyan Armenian State Drama Theater (funding in 2012 -35 000 GEL, in 2013 - 402,000 GEL; in 2016 - 440,000 GEL)
 - Heydar Aliyev Tbilisi Azerbaijani State Drama Theater (funding in 2013 -130 000 GEL; in 2016 - 160 000 GEL)
 - Aleksander Griboedov Russian State Drama Theater (funding in 2013 - 1 mln. GEL; in 2016 - 1 210 000 GEL).
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2. **Protection of Monuments of Cultural Heritage:** The Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia has implemented a number of activities related to the full documentation of monuments of cultural heritage ethnic minorities living in Georgia and granting them the relevant status. By the time of submission of the given document, the status of cultural heritage has already been granted to: *Batumi Armenian Church, Batumi Synagogue, Batumi Mosque, Akhaltsikhe Rabati District, two oldest synagogues in Akhaltsikhe as well as synagogues in Tbilisi and Kutaisi.* Rehabilitation projects are underway and reconstruction works have already been conducted in Vani, Poti, Banza, Lailash and Oni synagogues. Similar works were carried out in Kobuleti Mosque and Armenian Church of Norasheni in Tbilisi. The monuments have been monitored throughout Georgia, also the full documentation and inventory of German settlements and German cultural heritage in Georgia in Tetrtskaro, Tsalka, Marneuli and Dmanisi municipalities, Didube district of Tbilisi have been carried out. Overall, about 150 facilities/monuments have been identified, out of which the status of cultural heritage status was granted to 40 facilities/monuments of German cultural heritage.
 3. **The activities carried out for preservation of identity and culture of ethnic minorities and popularization of cultural diversity:** the measures taken in this direction included organization of cultural exhibitions, performances, publications, festivals and concerts. Various cultural events and projects were carried out by the National Library of the Georgian Parliament (publications, translations, and other cultural events), and the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs (various sports competitions), and Ministry of Corrections (cultural and sports activities, libraries), Administrations of State Attorney-Governors in the regions of compact settlement of minorities (funding local museums and cultural centers, organizing cultural exhibitions, concerts with the participation of ethnic minorities, etc.), Tbilisi City Council (Azerbaijani art exhibition, organizing ethnic minorities' hubs at Tbilisoba, etc.). (More information regarding the activities carried out for preservation of culture and identity of ethnic minorities is provided in Annex 4)

Article 6

1. *The Parties shall encourage a spirit of tolerance and intercultural dialogue and take effective measures to promote mutual respect and understanding and co-operation among all persons living on their territory, irrespective of those persons' ethnic, cultural, linguistic or religious identity, in particular in the fields of education, culture and the media.*
2. *The Parties undertake to take appropriate measures to protect persons who may be subject to threats or acts of discrimination, hostility or violence as a result of their ethnic, cultural, linguistic or religious identity.*

The activities of the Government of Georgia in recent years in order to protect groups, the general condition of which was extremely unstable, are in full compliance with the provisions of the given Article. In this regard, the important novelty of Georgian Government was to plan and implement activities for the most vulnerable groups of society. This policy of the Government of Georgia is also reflected in Civic Equality and Integration State Strategy, with special attention being paid to the support of small and vulnerable ethnic minorities. Within the framework of the Strategy, the Government of Georgia has taken obligation to establish a working group within the State Interagency Commission studying problems related to small and vulnerable ethnic groups, which should ensure the development and implementation of policies focused on the integration of these groups. First and foremost, Roma and other groups associated with Roma are perceived among the ethnic minorities. According to official data of 2014, 604 Roma reside in Georgia. However, according to the data provided by local self-government bodies, the number of Roma exceeds 1200. The main priority of the Government of Georgia is to address the legal problems of this category, which is reflected in definition of the status of citizenship and managing the documentation of the Roma. On the other hand, to study and respond to the educational needs.

The Government of Georgia draws serious attention to training and development of the employees of the relevant governmental structures in terms of protection of the ethnic minority rights and elimination of their discrimination, especially the employees of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The key governmental institutions working on solving these problems are: Ministry of Justice of Georgia, Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia and the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia.

At current stage, the measures taken in this direction include the following:

1. Since 2016 the format of interagency coordination meetings under coordination of the Office of the State Minister for Reconciliation and Civic Equality has functions, involving various relevant governmental agencies (Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Justice, National Statistics Office, Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection), as well as various NGOs discussing problems

of vulnerable ethnic groups and working on concrete ways to respond to their needs;

2. **Define the legal status of vulnerable ethnic groups and manage their legal documentation:** In order to support the realization of the rights of the Roma community living in Georgia and ensure their representatives' integration in society, since 2011 LEPL State Services Development Agency within the Ministry of Justice in cooperation with the NGO "Center for Innovation and Reform" implements the project "Reduction of Stateless Persons and Prevention of Statelessness in Georgia" which aims at registration of Roma. In 2012-2016, 47 Roma were granted the relevant legal status (14 persons were granted residence certificate, 12 persons got ID cards and 21 persons received birth certificate).
3. **Ensuring the educational needs of vulnerable ethnic groups:** For this purpose, the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia is implementing the policy of integration the Roma in the general education system. Specifically, in 2016, within the framework of the sub-program "Social Inclusion Support Program" implemented by the Ministry, 225 Roma were enrolled in various public schools. For comparison, it is noteworthy that according to an independent survey conducted in 2008 (Working Report of the European Center for Minority Issues) only 5 Roma children were enrolled in Georgian public schools. In addition, in the framework of the above-mentioned sub-program, a training module was developed in 2016, which aims at awareness raising on Roma issues.
4. **Capacity building of law enforcement agencies in regards of protection of the rights of ethnic minorities and elimination of discrimination:** Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia conducts three types of training programs (special district police training program, patrol police officers training program and border police officers preparatory training program) for future policemen (including ethnic minorities), which focuses on issues such as human rights, multi-ethnic society, the police, community policing, non-discrimination and gender equality, domestic violence. In addition, the Ministry of Internal Affairs actively cooperates with the Public Defender's Office, in the scope of which the representatives of Public Defender's Office periodically conduct seminars and meetings at the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs regarding the importance of tolerance and cultural rights of ethnic minorities. In 2014-2015 the European Union within its Program "Supporting the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia" encouraged a series of training for police officers conducted in cooperation with the Public Defender's Office. These trainings envisaged provision of information regarding the innovations that had been introduced after adoption of the "Law on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination". In total, 222 officers were trained.
5. **Support for the investigation of hate crimes.** The Ministry of Internal Affairs has begun to identify and prepare those investigators who will be authorized to investigate the hate crimes. For this purpose, in cooperation with the Public

Defender's Office, in 2016, training on the issue of hate crimes was conducted; 44 investigators from various units of the police participated in the training.

Article 7

The Parties shall ensure respect for the right of every person belonging to a national minority to freedom of peaceful assembly, freedom of association, freedom of expression, and freedom of thought, conscience and religion.

The provision of the above-mentioned Article is envisaged in the Georgian legislation that guarantees the freedom of expression to all citizens. The provisions of Article 14, 19 and 24 of the Constitution are also noteworthy. Also, everyone is free by birth and is equal before law regardless of race, color, language, sex, religion, political and other opinions, national, ethnic and social belonging, origin, property and title, place of residence. (Article 14). Also, every person has the freedom of speech, conscience, religion and belief. It is prohibited to persecute a person because of one's expression, opinion, belief, as well as to force him/her to express his/her opinion about them (Article 19). Everyone has the right to freely receive and disseminate information, express and disseminate his or her opinion orally, in written form or through other means (Article 24).

Article 8

The Parties undertake to recognize that every person belonging to a national minority has the right to manifest his or her religion or belief and to establish religious institutions, organizations and associations.

Freedom of religion is a fundamental right that is guaranteed by the Constitution of Georgia. According to the Constitution, the State declares full freedom of faith and belief (Article 9). Also, everyone is free by birth and is equal before law regardless of race, color, language, sex, religion, political and other opinions, national, ethnic and social belonging, origin, property and title, place of residence. (Article 14). According to Article 19 of the Constitution, every person has the freedom of speech, opinion, conscience, religion and belief. It is impermissible to persecute people because of their speech, opinion, or belief, as well as to force someone express his/her opinion about them.

The current institutional arrangement of the state separates the policies towards ethnic minorities and religious minorities. Freedom of religion and the policy towards religious minorities is coordinated by the State Agency for Religious Issues, which was established in 2014 by the Government Order as a legal entity of public law and is responsible for maintaining the State's religious policy. The main activities of the Agency include the

following issues: to study and present to the Government of Georgia the situation in the field of religion; to prepare recommendations, including legal acts, and to provide consultations on problematic religious issues; to prepare recommendations on the fulfillment of the goals and objectives set out in the Constitutional Agreement; to examine the systems of relations between the governments and religious organizations in the countries of the European Union; to study the experience and standards of international and regional organizations in the field of religion; to elaborate relevant recommendations and submit to the Government of Georgia; to support communication and cooperate with the similar organizations of different States; to create and manage the information data on religious associations; to make recommendations to the authorities for the construction of religious/cult buildings, their location determination, as well as for transformation of other buildings into a religious-purpose buildings. On behalf of the Government of Georgia, the Agency is authorized to perform mediation and participate in resolving disputes and issues that may arise between religious organizations operating in Georgia; Also, to elaborate proposals on education in the field of religion In the manner prescribed by the legislation, to develop proposals and recommendations for civil society, especially in support of tolerant environment and tolerance in youth; to strengthen the inter-religious and intercultural dialogue between religious associations.

Since 2014, the Government's policy on religious issues aims at elimination of discrimination, provision of equality and support for tolerance. The following main activities were implemented:

- Considering the principle of equality between religious organizations and confessions, the Government of Georgia adopted a Resolution on January 27, 2014 “On the Partial Recovery of Losses to Religious Unions of Georgia, affected by Soviet Totalitarian Regime”. Beneficiaries of financial support according to the Government Resolution are Islamic, Jewish, Roman Catholic and Armenian Apostolic Church associations of Georgia registered as a Legal Entity of Public Law. Financial support for religious associations received in 2014 equaled to 1 800 000 GEL, in 2015 - 3 500 000 GEL, in 2016 - 4 500 000 GEL and in 2017 - 4,500 000 GEL.

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- The State also ensures the return of the religious building confiscated during the Soviet period to the religious minorities. In particular, 160 mosques have been returned to the Muslim community, 16 synagogues to the Jewish community and 2 churches to the Protestant community so far. Also, the Recommendation Commission on Studying Financial and Property Needs of Religious Associations within the State Agency for Religious Issues have issued positive recommendations regarding transferring buildings and construction of new ones for religious minorities. In particular, such recommendations apply to the Georgian Muslims' Directorate, Evangelical-Protestant Church of Georgia, the Yezidis Community of Georgia and Tbilisi Christian Baptist Church and other religious organizations;

- In order to ensure the tolerance environment, the State promotes inter-religious dialogue between different religious confessions in Georgia. In this regard, an open interreligious consultation format was established by the State Agency for Religious Issues in 2015, which unites all religious communities based on their will and interest. The issues initiated by the religious communities as well as the Agency are discussed within the consultation format.

Within the framework of the inter-religious consultation format, religious organizations in Georgia have prepared and signed a Declaration on Women's Rights - "Woman - Peace Envoy". Also, after the International Conference conducted with the support of State Agency for Religious Issues, the "Inter-Religious Dialogue for Peace" Declaration was signed;

- Since 2014, the State Agency for Religious Issues publishes an inter-religious calendar that combines religious celebration of 12 religious confessions in Georgia with the aim to promote tolerant environment and support religious diversity. The calendar is disseminated free of charge in local municipalities, state agencies and all interested organizations. For the same purposes, with support and participation of the National Statistics Office of Georgia, based on the results of the 2014 general census of the population, a religious map is being prepared. On the map the distribution of the population is based on religious affiliation. The State Agency for Religious Issues issued a series of publications called "State and Religion" which provides the following information in Georgian language a) the case law of the European Court of Human Rights in relation to the Article 9 of the European Convention on Human Rights (freedom of opinion, conscience and religion) b) Documents of The United Nations, the Council of Europe, the OSCE, the Venice Commission and the Oslo Coalition on freedom of religion, as well as the laws of foreign States on religious organizations and the freedom of religion;
- Within the framework of the Resolution # 338 of the Government of Georgia "On Approval of the Government Action Plan of Georgia on Human Rights (2016-2017)", the State Agency for Religious Issues conducted a series of trainings - "Secularism and Religious Neutrality" for public officials. The trainings included 9 cycles; more than 200 public servants, including the employees of municipal and city councils, mayors and regional administrations were trained.

Council of Religions operating under the Public Defender's Office of Georgia since 2005, deals with religious tolerance and religious organizations problematic in Georgia. The principles of the Council are the protection of freedom of religion, encouragement of multilateral dialogue between different religious groups, tolerance and equality, promotion of peaceful environment, joint sharing of social responsibility, and engaging in religious integration of religious minorities. Council of Religions includes following organizations: the Jewish Community in Georgia, the Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church in Georgia, Georgian Muslim Department, the Union of Muslims of the Transcaucasus Latin Catholics Administration, Yezidi Spiritual Council, the Evangelical Baptist Church, the Evangelical-Lutheran Church, the Seventh-day Adventist Church, the Evangelical

Protestant Church, Holy Trinity Protestant Church, the Evangelical Church, Evangelical Church of the Word of Life, Evangelical Baptist Church of Grace, Last-day Saints Church (Mormons), International Organization of the Salvation Army, Krishna Awareness Society, the Evangelical Church of God Embassy, Evangelical Church's Foundation, the Religious Society of Friends - Quakers, Bahai Society of Georgia, Georgia Swedenborgian Society, Wholy Gospel Church of God.

Article 9

- 1. The Parties undertake to recognize that the right to freedom of expression of every person belonging to a national minority includes freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas in the minority language, without interference by public authorities and regardless of frontiers. The Parties shall ensure, within the framework of their legal systems that persons belonging to a national minority are not discriminated against in their access to the media.*
- 2. Paragraph 1 shall not prevent Parties from requiring the licensing, without discrimination and based on objective criteria, of sound radio and television broadcasting, or cinema enterprises.*
- 3. The Parties shall not hinder the creation and the use of printed media by persons belonging to national minorities. In the legal framework of sound radio and television broadcasting, they shall ensure, as far as possible, and taking into account the provisions of paragraph 1, that persons belonging to national minorities are granted the possibility of creating and using their own media.*
- 4. In the framework of their legal systems, the Parties shall adopt adequate measures in order to facilitate access to the media for persons belonging to national minorities and in order to promote tolerance and permit cultural pluralism.*

Ensuring freedom of information and access to information for ethnic minorities in their native and understandable language is one of the main priorities of the Government of Georgia. Such an approach is foreseen in the main legislative database, as well as the Civic Equality and Integration State Strategy, which defines broadcasting policy. In terms of access to media and information Georgian Public Broadcaster plays a crucial role, it provides ethnic minorities with information on social, economic and political developments, as well as expanding and strengthening national and democratic values, increasing public awareness on ethnic minorities' issues. Georgia's "**Law on Broadcasting**" imposes an obligation on public broadcaster to reflect ethnic, cultural, linguistic, religious, age and gender diversity in its programs. The same law prohibits broadcasting of the programs, which contains in any form racial, ethnic, religious discrimination or provokes other kinds of conflict, discrimination, violence and danger, it is also prohibited to air programs that are directed against a person or group with special emphasis on physical ability, ethnicity, religion, ideology, gender, sexual orientation or other feature or status (Article 56). According to Civic Equality and

Integration State Strategy, there are three main objectives set to ensure ethnic minorities' access to media and information: *to broadcast programs in minority languages and ensure electronic/printed media accessibility; to cover ethnic minorities problematic in programs and ensure their participation; promoting tolerance and cultural pluralism in media.*

Within the reporting period the following measures were carried out to ensure completion of the objectives defined:

- In terms of freedom of expression and access to media, the Government of Georgia continues established practice, which implies to air news program on the Georgian Public Broadcaster in minority languages. In 2013-2016 the Second Channel of the Public Broadcaster aired daily news program “Moambe” in five languages (Abkhaz, Ossetian, Armenian, Azerbaijani and Russian, duration -11 minutes each);
- In 2014 the Georgian Public Broadcaster purchased the airtime of regional TV, therefore, since 2015 the program “Moambe” started to broadcast in Armenian, Azerbaijani and Abkhaz languages through partner regional TV channels: Bolnisi TV Channel "Bolneli", Ninotsminda TV "Parvana", Akhalkalaki TV "ATV12" and Zugdidi TV "Odishi". Public Broadcaster also used Public Radio in 2015 for short information edition in Abkhaz, Ossetian, Azerbaijani, Armenian and Russian languages;
- Since August 2016 news program “Moambe” has been daily broadcasted in live on Second Channel of Public Broadcaster in Armenian and Azerbaijani languages; as a result of international support, the program is simultaneously translated in Armenian and Azerbaijani languages. The agreements are concluded with local broadcasters, which deliver the received signal to the audience. It is a joint project of the Association of Regional Broadcasters and Public Broadcaster supported by the US Embassy. In parallel, the news programs on three minority languages (in Abkhaz language – at 23:00 pm, in Ossetian language – at 23:30 pm, in Russian language – at 00:00 am, duration 26 minutes each) are daily prepared and aired on the Second Channel of the Public Broadcaster. The novelty was weekly information program in Kurdish language;
- Weekly program "Our Yard" in a form of TV journal was aired from 2014 till October 2015; it was focused on the coverage of ethnic minority's culture and traditions. The talk show "Our Yard" has changed its format from October 1, 2013 and in 2014 it was aired 4 times a week as a documentary series "Multinational Georgia" on different ethnic and religious groups living in Georgia. The crew also produced movies featuring traditions and holidays of Dukhabors, Azerbaijanis and other ethnic or religious minorities living in Georgia;
- Since October 2014 a Russian-language TV information-analytical program "Real Time" («Настоящее время») is aired daily, except weekends, at 23:00, on the second Channel, which is supervised by the Broadcasting Group of the National Minority Languages of the Second Channel. This program is a joint project of Free

Europe/Radio Liberty and Voice of America and is implemented in cooperation with public and private broadcasters operating in Georgia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova and Ukraine. This program is based on impartiality principle and offers an interesting analysis of the current political processes worldwide;

- At the penitentiary institutions, the Ministry of Corrections of Georgia ensures access to the TV channels that are suitable for the defendants/convicts of all nationalities within the technically possible limit (15 channels). In addition, the Ministry provides television channels in satellite broadcasting for free. At the penitentiary institutions TV channels are broadcasted in four languages: Georgian, Russian, Turkish and Azerbaijani;
- The audio version of the news program “Moambe” is daily aired in Abkhaz, Ossetian, Azerbaijani, Armenian and Russian languages on the Public Broadcaster's radio. News program in Kurdish language is aired once a week;
- Weekly radio program "Our Georgia" (40 minutes) provides coverage of cultural peculiarities, traditions, ethnic and religious minorities problematic, as well as violations of ethnic and religious minority rights and challenges in terms of civic integration;
- Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia has financially supported printed media in minority languages within the framework of "National Minority Culture Promotion Program". In 2013-2015, 52 editions for each of Armenian-language newspaper "Vrastan" (circulation 3500 copies) and Azerbaijani-language newspaper "Gurjistan" (circulation 2000 copies) and Russian-language newspapers: "Svobodnaya Gruzia" and "Vecherni Tbilissi". The printed press is distributed in the regions populated by ethnic minorities. In 2016, the State continued to support the publication of the Armenian and Azerbaijani newspapers "Vrastan" (52 editions, circulation 4000) and "Gurjistan" (53 editions, circulation 2000). Newspapers were delivered both in Tbilisi and in regions with compact settlement of ethnic minorities, as well as at penitentiary institutions;
- The newspaper "Bolnisi" is being published in Kvemo Kartli region from 2015 in Georgian and Azerbaijani languages; internet portal www.bolnisi.ge is also operational. The newspaper "Trialeti Express" is published in Tsalka; monthly newspaper “Didgorelebi” which provides non-Georgian population with the necessary information is published in Tetrtskaro municipality; also, regional newspaper "Samkhretis Karibche” is published in Samtskhe-Javakheti region;
- In 2016, the following websites were launched in five languages under the umbrella of the Public Broadcaster: <http://multitolerant.gpb.ge/> which includes sub-pages (www.abkh.gpb.ge/; www.os.gpb.ge/; www.am.gpb.ge/; www.az.gpb.ge/; www.ru.gpb.ge/). Along with news, web pages cover the unique archive materials stored in the "golden fund" of the television in all five languages. In parallel, five different-language pages are created in social network, which are even more interactive. The entire TV shows/programs of the Georgian Public Broadcaster, as well as separate news and exclusive stories are uploaded on YouTube.

Article 10

1. *The Parties undertake to recognize that every person belonging to a national minority has the right to use freely and without interference his or her minority language, in private and in public, orally and in writing.*
2. *In areas inhabited by persons belonging to national minorities traditionally or in substantial numbers, if those persons so request and where such a request corresponds to a real need, the Parties shall endeavor to ensure, as far as possible, the conditions which would make it possible to use the minority language in relations between those persons and the administrative authorities.*
3. *The Parties undertake to guarantee the right of every person belonging to a national minority to be informed promptly, in a language which he or she understands, of the reasons for his or her arrest, and of the nature and cause of any accusation against him or her, and to defend himself or herself in this language, if necessary with the free assistance of an interpreter.*

The Government of Georgia fully shares the principles of Article 10 that are fully implemented in practice. In particular, the following legislative and practical steps are undertaken:

- Ethnic minorities residing in Georgia, whether compactly settled or dispersedly, enjoy the opportunity to speak in their native language in public space. In addition, ethnic minorities use their native language while communicating with local administrative units, including written communications, in the compactly settled municipalities; however, decisions and other official documents by administrative units are made and disseminated in the state language. In case of necessity, provision of translator to the person belonging to an ethnic minority is regulated by Article 38 of the Criminal Procedure Code of Georgia;
- The legislative norms of Georgia are also in full compliance with the provisions of Article 10. For example, Article 9 of the **Law of Georgia on State Language** states: "In the municipality where the national minority members live compactly, the state shall ensure the assistance of the translator to the person belonging to a national minority for communication with the state and local self-government bodies";
- The " State Law on Language " also regulates application of the minority languages at local level, in particular according to paragraph 4 of Article 11 "the municipality, where the representatives of national minorities live, the State and local government agencies are authorized to determine the rule separate from the General Administrative Code, which implies, translation of the document, appeal, complaint or its response documents to minority language of the person belonging to national minorities. At the same time, only original text had the official, legal power“;

- Under Article 23 (1) of the Law on State Language, the official name of the local self-government body together with the state language may be used in one of the non-state languages and in the municipalities where the national minorities compactly live in the national minority language as well. Article 24 of the same Law provides that the text of the application, notification, title, poster, advertisement and other visual information intended for public, to be in State language as well as in the non-state language and in the municipalities where national minorities live, in their minority language as well”;
- According to Article 73 of Administrative Code, at the administrative bodies, the administrative proceedings are carried out in Georgian and in Abkhaz language (in Abkhazia). If an application or other document submitted by interested parties are in non-state language, the party shall, within the time given by the administrative body, provide notarized translation of the document or application, and if the law determines the period within which the interested party is obliged to submit any appeal or document, this term will be considered secure while submitting the document in non-state language.

Article 11

- 1. The Parties undertake to recognize that every person belonging to a national minority has the right to use his or her surname (patronym) and first names in the minority language and the right to official recognition of them, according to modalities provided for in their legal system.*
- 2. The Parties undertake to recognize that every person belonging to a national minority has the right to display in his or her minority language signs, inscriptions and other information of a private nature visible to the public.*
- 3. In areas traditionally inhabited by substantial numbers of persons belonging to a national minority, the Parties shall endeavor, in the framework of their legal system, including, where appropriate, agreements with other States, and taking into account their specific conditions, to display traditional local names, street names and other topographical indications intended for the public also in the minority language when there is a sufficient demand for such indications.*

Maintaining patronym for ethnic minorities is considered as a step towards the preservation and development of cultural identity of ethnic minorities, in this sense the practical experience in Georgia is characterized by a liberal approach, particularly the following practices were established for the last period:

- Surnames of citizens of Georgia shall be defined and officially registered according to the will of the citizens themselves. Practice demonstrates that the no official complaint or claim have been made by Georgian citizens in recent years regarding the forced change of surnames;
- Also, the already established tradition in Georgia is publishing of the information and other informative inscriptions in the languages of ethnic minorities. In particular, except State and international languages, the information is published

in Armenian and Azerbaijani languages in the municipalities of compact settlement of ethnic minorities. The "Law on State Language" defines: "The text of the application, notification, title, poster, advertisement and other visual inscription intended for public information is completed in the state language. In case of necessity, relevant information can be indicated in a non-state language, and in the municipality where the representatives of the national minority live compactly - in the language of this national minority";

- Georgian legislation also provides free translator services to persons who do not speak the state language (Article 10 of the Law on Common Courts). Similarly, according to the Criminal Code of Georgia, free translator services are envisaged for persons who do not speak the state language during interrogation and investigation activities ("Criminal Code", Article 38).

Article 12

1. *The Parties shall, where appropriate, take measures in the fields of education and research to foster knowledge of the culture, history, language and religion of their national minorities and of the majority.*
2. *In this context, the Parties shall inter alia provide adequate opportunities for teacher training and access to textbooks, and facilitate contacts among students and teachers of different communities.*
3. *The Parties undertake to promote equal opportunities for access to education at all levels for persons belonging to national minorities.*

Each level of education is available for ethnic minority representatives. This approach is clearly reflected in the Civic Equality and Integration State Strategy, which aims to increase access to pre-school education and quality secondary education in the State and native languages as well as to increase access to higher education.

During the reporting period, the Ministry of Education and Science has continued its activities aimed at increasing ethnic minorities' access to quality education. A number of important steps have been taken in this direction, namely:

- The "**Law on Early and Pre-School Education**" was prepared and approved in June 2016 according to which "the institution is authorized to offer relevant programs and resources to **ethnic minority children** in state as well as in their **native languages** in accordance with their language needs and relevant state educational standards defined by the given Law". "The institution is entitled to provide children with educational services in **their native and/or non-state languages** and use educational programs and resources relevant to the state educational standards defined by the given Law".

- **Strategy document "Education Policy for Integration of Society"** has been developed, which focuses on the improvement of qualification of non - Georgian language teachers;
- The Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia and legal entities of public law subordinated to the Ministry have carried out various programs and projects during the reporting period. Teachers' professional training and qualification improvement is a priority for the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia. In this regard, important steps have been taken in regions compactly populated by ethnic minorities, namely: in 2015, the National Center for Teacher Professional Development elaborated and approved the Program of Professional Development and Career Advancement of Teachers of Public Schools in the Regions Compactly Populated by National Minorities. In the scope of the program, Part I of the Teacher's Development and Career Advancement Scheme was translated and published in the Azerbaijani, Armenian and Russian; Teacher's self-assessment questionnaire was translated into Azerbaijani, Armenian and Russian languages; Currently, the program has 3301 Azerbaijani beneficiaries, 2933 Armenian beneficiaries and 1208 Russian speaking beneficiaries;
- Training programs and other related training materials developed by the National Center for Teacher Professional Development in 2016 were fully translated into Azerbaijani and Russian languages; Azerbaijani teachers of non-Georgian school were trained in the following subjects: physics, history, mathematics;
- During the reporting period, the Ministry of Education and Science approved 1-6 level books in all subjects and translated them into Armenian, Azerbaijani and Russian languages (30% in Georgian and 70% in ethnic minority languages). The textbooks have been distributed to non-Georgian schools;
- The National Curriculum Department of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia completed developing the first version of Resources for the Bilingual Lessons in Art and Biology for the 7th grade students of non-Georgian schools in December 2014. These resources are based on the standards and guidelines of the National Curriculum, and methodologically - modern technologies for bilingual learning (integrated language and subject learning). In this sense, it is a new type of innovative educational resource;
- The issue of introduction of multilingual education remains an important priority in the education policy of the Government of Georgia. Results of Bilingual Program implemented since 2009, were actively monitored during 2015 in pilot schools of Kvemo Kartli and Samtskhe-Javakheti regions;

- Four schools (№1 school in Vakhtangisi, also schools in Tzakendi, Aktaklia and Karajala) are involved in the Multilingual Education Pilot Program. "Teaching Georgian as a Second Language" textbooks were distributed in all these schools (according to levels - 9 Levels in total). Bilingual Learning Coordinator at the Educational Resource Center has been conducting trainings and meetings regarding new methods and approaches to bilingual teaching ("Evaluation and testing of language competence", "Reading competences development according to "Reading Ladder" "Language and subject integrated teaching methods");
- In 2011-2014, the Georgian language textbooks for the first phase of the program "Georgian Language for Future Success" were created for the non-Georgian language students of I-XII grades. A set of textbooks consists of a student's textbook, a student's notebook, a teacher's manual and an audio disc. The textbooks were handed over to non-Georgian schools upon request;
- In the framework of the sub-program "Multicultural Summer School" in 2016, two events were implemented: "Multicultural Summer School for Teachers" and "Multicultural Summer School for Students". In "Multicultural Summer School for Teachers" participated 30 teachers from non-Georgian schools/sectors of Kakheti, Kvemo Kartli, Samtskhe-Javakheti regions and 20 teachers from public schools of mountainous regions. Teachers had 12-day summer school in Bakuriani, which included trainings/interactive programs on intercultural dialogue and non-academic programs. In "Multicultural Summer School for Students" participated 30 students of VIII, IX, X and XI grade of non-Georgian schools from the regions of Kakheti, Kvemo Kartli, Samtskhe-Javakheti, who were selected on the basis of the Essay Competition results (essay competition was organized by the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia throughout 2015-2016 academic year) and 20 students (with the best assessment results) of VIII, IX, X and XI grades of public schools from mountainous regions. 12-day summer school was held for students in Bakuriani. Summer school envisaged implementation of activities aimed at developing intercultural dialogue;
- During the reporting period National Center for Teacher Professional Development at the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia was implementing the program "Georgian Language for Future Success". The aim of the program is to integrate ethnic minorities living in Georgia into the society and improve Georgian language learning/teaching quality at non-Georgian schools. To achieve this goal, the program has two main directions: to deploy teachers in non-Georgian schools and create educational resources. In 2013, 274 persons were employed within the program. As of 2014, 210 assistant-teachers were involved in the program. During the 2015-2016 academic year, 105 Georgian as a second language consultant-teachers as well as 135 assistant-teachers of Georgian language, history and geography and 14 bilingual teachers of any subject provided by the National Curriculum were deployed in non-Georgian schools;
- In 2015, an integrated summer camp for Azerbaijani and Armenian students was organized within the framework of the program "Georgian Language for Future Success" in which 150 ethnic minority students were involved. A program

developed by the consultant-teachers of "Georgian Language for Future Success" program, envisaged cultural-cognitive activities, sports competitions, acquaintance of national traditions of different ethnic groups, creation of a debate club. Camp activities encouraged the development of harmonious coexistence between the students of different cultural origin and the adaptation to different cultures;

- In 2016, the programs "Georgian Language for Future Success" and "Support for Professional Development and Career Leadership Program for Teachers of Public Schools of Settlements with National Minorities" were merged under the title "Professional Development Program for Non-Georgian Schools". The aim of the program is to facilitate professional development of non-Georgian schools'/sectors' teachers and improve the quality of teaching/learning through strengthening the teaching of the State language. In addition, the program (implementation period 2016-2019) aims at preparation of non-Georgian schools teachers for subject examination as well as improvement of their knowledge in State language;
- In 2016 the first batch of local teachers (in total 609) from non-Georgian schools of Samtskhe-Javakheti, Kvemo Kartli and Kakheti regions were trained by the consultant-teachers of the program "Professional Development of Non-Georgian School Teachers". The final evaluation was successfully completed by 368 attendants;
- In 2013-2015, 53% of the participants of the Program "Teach Georgian as Second Language" were involved in the planning and implementation of exchange programs. Armenian and Azerbaijani language schools befriended Georgian-speaking schools of different regions. Trainers have found partner schools in various cities of Georgia (Tbilisi, Gurjaani, Gori, Gardabani, Sagarejo, Chakvi, Zestafoni, Khashuri and others) and exchanged the events: visit and coexist with each other for 1 week; attend classes; organizing concert/performance; introducing various dishes; visiting Georgian Orthodox, Armenian Apostolic Churches, Mosques and other cultural monuments.

Article 13

- 1. Within the framework of their education systems, the Parties shall recognize that persons belonging to a national minority have the right to set up and to manage their own private educational and training establishments.***
- 2. The exercise of this right shall not entail any financial obligation for the Parties.***

The Government of Georgia recognizes the right referred in Article 13 and does not limit the establishment of private educational institutions in any form. On the contrary, the Georgian legislation is distinguished by this flexibility, therefore, there is a number of private schools as well as the universities functioning according to the Curriculum developed by the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia. In this regard, Turkish, Russian and other private public schools are operational.

Article 14

1. *The Parties undertake to recognize that every person belonging to a national minority has the right to learn his or her minority language.*
2. *In areas inhabited by persons belonging to national minorities traditionally or in substantial numbers, if there is sufficient demand, the Parties shall endeavor to ensure, as far as possible and within the framework of their education systems, that persons belonging to those minorities have adequate opportunities for being taught the minority language or for receiving instruction in this language.*
3. *Paragraph 2 of this article shall be implemented without prejudice to the learning of the official language or the teaching in this language.*

The requirements set out in the given Article are fully implemented within the framework of various long-term programs and projects implemented by the Government of Georgia. The Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia has established the following practices:

- The Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia supports non-Georgian schools and non-Georgian language sectors. Several non-Georgian schools (especially Russian-speaking) have stopped the existence as a result of the optimization process, but the State maintains those schools upon need and request. There are 298 non-Georgian public schools and 81 non-Georgian sectors. Among them, 118 Azerbaijani, 131 Armenian and 49 Russian schools. The Georgian-Azerbaijani sector - 32, Georgian-Russian sector 42, Georgian-Armenian sector -10, Georgian-Azerbaijani-Russian sector - 1, Georgian-Russian-Armenian sector -1. Non-Georgian schools constitute 14% of all public schools nationwide;
- It used to be problematic to teach the languages of smaller ethnic groups. There was a tradition of teaching a number of languages (e.g., Greek, Ossetia, Kurdish) in the Soviet period, however, at present stage this issue relates to the standardization and methodology. In this regard, a significant change was made in 2016, by the Decree No.1255 of the Minister of Education and Science of 20 November 2015, which defined the schools/classes where the following languages of ethnic minorities were introduced: Ossetian, Avar, Udi, Assyrian, Kurdish. Specifically, the teaching of these languages was introduced in the following schools and classes: Ossetian language for I-IX grades in public school of Tsitskanaantseri village of Kvareli municipality, for I-XII grades in public schools of Phona and Areshperani villages of Lagodekhi municipality; Avar language for I-IX grades in public schools of Tiva, Chantliskuri and Shorokhi villages of Kvareli municipality; Udi Language - for I-VI grades in public school of village Zinobiani of Kvareli municipality; Assyrian language for V-XI grades in public school of village Old Kanda of Mtskheta municipality; Kurdish (Kurmanji) – for in X-XI grades of Tbilisi N 79 public school;
- In accordance with the Order No. 702 of 13 September 2016 by the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia, the amendment was made to the order No.1255 and sub-paragraph "f" was added to the paragraph 1, which determined teaching

of Chechen language as an optional subject (two-hours per week). Teaching of Chechen language was established for V-VI grades in public schools of villages Omalo, Duisi, Dumasuri, Birkiani and Jokolo of Akhmeta municipality;

- Since 2017 Abkhaz language courses (Sunday school) are functioning at Batumi public school # 14 and public school of village Pheria of Khelvachauri municipality;
- Important step was adoption of “Law on State Language” in July 2015, for the protection and development of ethnic minority languages. This law defines the state language status, its use and protection tools. The law is important in the sense that it contains a number of provisions concerning the use of ethnic minority languages. The law defines the "national minority language" as a non-state language traditionally used by Georgian citizens living in a compact settlements. The law defines certain possibilities for the use of minority languages, in particular access to preschool, general and higher education in minority languages.

The state ensures service of interpreter during the communication between the State or local self-government bodies and persons belonging to ethnic minorities; In case of necessity, the local self-government body shall ensure the translation of the normative act into the minority language; national minority language can be used for conducting various activities in local language, except for a meeting of local self-government bodies; in the municipalities where national minorities live compactly, national minority languages may be used to disseminate public information in the form of posters or advertisements;

- Since 2016 Spring enrollment, ethnic minorities have the opportunity to undertake professional testing in Russian, Azerbaijani or Armenian and to complete state funding for vocational education programs. In order to improve the knowledge of the state language, ethnic minority students have an opportunity to take Georgian module before starting the educational process (professional programs);
- Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia since 2010 implements the “1+4” program that offers simplified procedures for the representatives of ethnic minorities, inter alia, Armenians and Azerbaijanis to enroll in higher education institutions of Georgia by passing only one exam in their native language, with one year in Georgian language training followed (in case of obtaining of 60 credits) by four years of undergraduate studies in a program of their own choice. In 2011- 2015 it was possible for Abkhazian entrants to take the General Aptitude Test in Russian language and exams in other subjects in Abkhaz language. Since 2016-2017 academic year the General Aptitude Test became available in Abkhaz language, while access to General Aptitude Test in Ossetian language is ensured 2015-2016 academic year.

Examining the number of ethnic minorities representatives enrolled in the higher education institutions from and the relevant dynamics, we will clearly see the drastic increase in the number of ethnic minority students in Georgian higher

education institutions. For example, on the basis of the results of the General Aptitude Tests in Azerbaijani and Armenian Languages at the Unified National Exams 2015, there were 522 entrants enrolled on the basis of Azerbaijani tests and 219 entrants enrolled based on Armenian tests. In 2016, the number of those enrolled on Azerbaijani-language test increased up to 660, and the Armenian-language test - to 300 students. In 2014, 194 entrants were financed with state grant based on the results of Azerbaijani- and Armenian-language tests of general skills at the unified national examinations. (General Aptitude Test in Azerbaijani language – 99 entrants, General Aptitude Test in Armenian language - 95 Entrants).

Statistics: In 2012, 589 non-Georgian students were enrolled in higher educational institutions of Georgia, in 2013 - 890, in 2014 - 673, in 2015 - 741; in 2016 - 960.

- The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia carried out number of educational activities, including the academic curriculum of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and focused on human rights education programs. Namely, on the issues of equality, human rights and racial discrimination, as well as non-discrimination. Also, special training programs for preparation and training of district inspectors, patrol and border police officers included training courses in "multi-ethnic society", "public-oriented police". Trainings for non-discrimination were regularly conducted by police officers at the Ministry of Internal Affairs Academy. Since 2016-17 academic year a one-year educational program in Georgian language is available, therefore, "1+4 Program" is also delivered in the Academy. The program also functions in the Davit Agmashenebeli Academy of Defense.

Article 15

The Parties shall create the conditions necessary for the effective participation of persons belonging to national minorities in cultural, social and economic life and in public affairs, in particular those affecting them.

Participation of ethnic minorities in public, cultural and economic life is one of the most important priorities of the Government of Georgia. This is included in the Civic Equality and Integration State Strategy, which defines objectives in the following directions: promoting ethnic minorities in political decision-making process; promoting social and regional mobility; promoting professional education etc. In this respect, creating appropriate conditions for civic mobilization of ethnic minorities that is an important precondition for ensuring involvement of ethnic minorities in various fields.

Regarding participation of ethnic minorities in social and political life, the aim of the Government of Georgia is encouraging and promoting employment of the minorities in public sector, raising awareness with respect to social and political processes, increasing level of knowledge of state language among public servants as

well as supporting integration of ethnic minorities living in the regions. In this regard, the following activities were implemented:

- Positive trends were observed with respect to activities carried out for ethnic minorities by the Central Election Commission of Georgia (CEC). CEC carries out a number of important activities in the above-mentioned direction. In particular, it ensures preparation of precinct election commission members of ethnic minorities with regard to elections procedures, translation of election documentation into Armenian and Azerbaijani languages, preparing and showing advertising videos in Armenian and Azerbaijani languages on Public Broadcaster and regional TV stations, implementing education programs for ethnic minority voters, holding information meetings and employing ethnic minorities representatives at the administration of CEC. CEC defines funding directions for grants competition, including for specific target groups (among them, ethnic minorities). Similar to previous years, Legal Entity of Public Law - the Center of Electoral Systems Development, Reforms and Trainings has provided local NGOs with grants in this direction; in 2016 the projects of 8 local civil society organizations were financially supported with total amount of over 200,000 GEL.
- The Government of Georgia makes efforts to involve ethnic minority representatives in political decision making process. This is achieved in case of Akhalkalaki and Ninotsminda municipalities where ethnic Armenians are proportionally represented in local self-government bodies. Ethnic Armenians hold governor's, deputy governor's and other key positions. The Government of Georgia maintains systemic approach towards developing qualifications of public servants in the regions. This approach aim at ensuring social and political involvement of ethnic minorities.

Among the ongoing projects, the programs implemented by Zurab Zhvania School of Public Administration (operational since 2006) is of utmost importance. The purpose of the school is to deal with a lack of qualified personnel in the regions of compact settlement of ethnic minorities and mountainous regions through developing qualifications of public servants. Also, to improve the knowledge of state language among public servants and other interested persons and promoting their integration into society.

In order to achieve these goals, the school carries out two major programs:

- **State Language Teaching program** for all interested persons (teaching process takes place in 10 regional training centers of the School; mobile groups are deployed in 67 villages. In 2016, 3193 beneficiaries were involved in the program;
- **Public Governance and Administration Program** is carried out for municipal public servants, employees of local enterprises and non-entrepreneurial (non-commercial) legal entities founded by municipalities, as well as the staff members of governors' administration, Resource Centers of the Ministry of

Education and Science of Georgia and public school administration (in 2016, 410 employees of public institutions participated in training). Zhvania School also carries out data filing and e-governance training course (up to 100 public servants participated in the course) and a course in Georgia's Euro-Atlantic integration (up to 200 public servants were involved in the course).

- Improving the knowledge of state language among public servants and in general representatives of ethnic minorities is a top priority for various state agencies. In particular, Georgian language courses for Kvemo Kartli and Samtskhe-Javakheti population are carried out at local public centers by the Ministry of Justice of Georgia. During 2015, Georgian language courses were attended by 90 people at Foka, Kabali, Kvareltskali and Sartichala public centers. In 2016, Georgian courses at 4 public centers in Samtskhe-Javakheti and Kvemo-Kartli regions (Kazreti, Poka, Kabali, Sadakhlo) were attended by 97 participants.
- From civic integration viewpoint, implementation of regional development programs by the Government of Georgia is considered to be an important step. In 2013 and 2016 the Government of Georgia approved several-year strategies for development of the Georgian regions, among them those compactly populated by ethnic minorities. Representatives of the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia, along with minority representatives were involved in the development of the programs. Ultimately, development strategies of all nine regions of Georgia (Imereti, Mtskheta-Mtianeti, Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti, Samtskhe-Javakheti, Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti, Kakheti, Guria, Kvemo Kartli, Shida Kartli) were approved. The strategies include issues such as protection of ethnic minorities and promoting their full integration into the society. In the course of developing strategies, SWOT analysis was used which revealed the key directions and issues for regional development. Considering challenges with regard to ethnic minorities, the strategy reflects the following tasks: a) development and implementation of specific programs aimed at integration of ethnic minorities in public and political life; b) ensuring dissemination of information at languages of ethnic minorities with regard to political, social and cultural life of the country; c) promoting participation of ethnic minorities in local self-government bodies.
- In order to ensure access of ethnic minority representatives on state healthcare programs and social services the Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Protection of Georgia has conducted information/awareness raising campaign in the regions of compact settlement of ethnic minorities. Within the campaign the information materials were prepared. Among them, in 2016 brochures on monetary social assistance (in Russian – 1000 copies, in Azerbaijani – 2000 copies and in Armenian – 2000 copies) were prepared and delivered.
- In case of non-Georgian convicts of a penitentiary system, social department ensures their involvement in Georgian Language Teaching program. In 2015, 52 and in 2016 – 128 convicts were involved in Georgian Language program.

- In 2014-2015, the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs developed a special teaching module – “Electronic/distance teaching of Georgian Language for Armenian-language and Azerbaijani-language young people”, which was uploaded on the site www.teach.ge and is available free of charge.
- An internship program at public service is an initiative by the Office of the State Minister of Georgia for Reconciliation and Civic Equality which aims at increasing civic and political involvement of ethnic minority representatives. The internship program implying deployment of ethnic minority students in various public agencies (ministries, local self-government bodies, Public Defender’s Office, other agencies) is available for “1+4” program students who are selected through competition. This pilot program was launched in 2017.
- If we consider minority involvement in parliamentary activity as a defining indicator of political participation of ethnic minorities, the positive trend is already obvious. Ethnic minorities are represented in every term of the Parliament of Georgia. However, their number and percentage constantly varies. Considering the total number of ethnic minorities in the country, the most adequate and proportional representation was in the Parliament of Georgia elected in 2016, where ethnic minorities are represented by 11 Parliament Members (PM), amounting to 7.3% of the total number of MPs. This indicator, unlike the same indicator from the previous term of the Parliament, is closer to total percentage of ethnic minorities in the country (see Annex 3).
- One of the main priorities of the Government of Georgia is ensuring civic integration through promoting employment and sustainable economic development. In this respect, for the last period the conceptual approach was reviewed and solid economic interventions were undertaken. In particular, according to Civic Equality and Integration State Strategy consideration of regional development problematic within the context of involvement of ethnic minorities is a novelty. Therefore, activities of the agencies responsible for regional projects are integrated into the policy of ethnic minorities support and protection. Within the framework of the indicated policy, the number of infrastructural projects and financial investments in the regions of compact settlement of ethnic minorities has significantly raised. Many investment projects have been implemented in the regions with compact settlement of ethnic minorities supported through the budget of the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia, local municipal budget as well as international organizations. Those projects cover roads rehabilitation of local and international importance, construction/rehabilitation of local schools, bridges, irrigation/drinking water systems, arrangement of external lighting, cultural centers, stadiums, sports halls, clubs, etc. Sub Department of the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia and LEPLs Roads Department of Georgia and Municipal Development Fund of Georgia under the Ministry were actively involved in implementation of infrastructural projects in the regions of compact settlement of ethnic minorities. *Below, there is a table demonstrating infrastructural projects for three regions indicating an increasing*

trend and creating preconditions for employment of ethnic minorities and sustainable economic development.

Costs in GEL of infrastructural projects implemented in the regions of compact settlement of ethnic minorities (with the support of Regional Development Fund):

| | <i>Kvemo Kartli region</i> | <i>Samtskhe-Javakheti region</i> | <i>Kakheti region (Lagodekhi and Akhmeta municipalities)</i> |
|------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| 2014 | 14,789,000 | 12,657,987 | 4,379,000 |
| 2015 | 20,761,300 | 13,818,000 | 4,344,000 |
| 2016 | 23,269,781 | 15,450,642 | 5,511,190 |

Indicators of costs incurred in the regions of compact settlement of ethnic minorities, total number of population in municipalities and list of ethnic groups:

| Municipality | Ethnic Groups | Period | Population based on 2014 census | Costs in GEL |
|---------------------|--|---------------|--|---------------------|
| Rustavi | Georgians, Azerbaijanis, Armenians | 2012-2016 | 125 103 | 41 395 941 |
| Bolnisi | Azerbaijanis, Georgians | 2013-2016 | 53 590 | 6 179 228 |
| Gardabani | Azerbaijanis, Georgians | 2012-2016 | 81 876 | 10 674 047 |
| Dmanisi | Azerbaijanis | 2012-2016 | 19 141 | 9 537 280 |
| Tetritskaro | Azerbaijanis, Georgians | 2012-2016 | 21 127 | 6 339 507 |
| Marneuli | Azerbaijanis, Georgians, Armenians | 2012-2016 | 104 300 | 15 638 078 |
| Tsalka | Armenians, Greeks, Azerbaijanis, Georgians | 2012-2016 | 18 849 | 6 824 474 |
| Akhalsikhe | Georgians, Armenians | 2012-2016 | 20 992 | 14 369 416 |
| Akhalkalaki | Armenians | 2012-2016 | 45 070 | 10 939 774 |
| Adigeni | Georgians, Armenians | 2012-2016 | 16 462 | 7 442 254 |
| Aspindza | Georgians, Armenians | 2012-2016 | 10 372 | 8 171 994 |

| | | | | |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|-----------|--------|-----------|
| Ninotsminda | Armenians, Russians | 2012-2016 | 24 491 | 7 223 744 |
| Borjomi | Georgians, Armenians, Ossetians | 2012-2016 | 25 214 | 13 31 853 |

In addition, many local self-government and regional projects are implemented by various NGO funds and projects. **In 2016**, the measures carried out in accordance with the mentioned projects in the regions compactly populated by ethnic minorities are as follows:

Samtskhe-Javakheti Region:

- LEPL–**Municipal Development Fund** financed 5 projects with the costs of 9 417 020 GEL.
- Under the **Village Assistance Program** 410 projects with the total costs of 3 665 668 GEL were financed.
- **High Mountainous Settlement** (Akhalkalaki, Adigeni, Ninotsminda municipalities) **Development Fund** financed 9 projects with the total costs of 1 374 832 GEL
- **Roads Department** financed 9 projects, with the total costs of 16 591 857 GEL.
- **Solid Waste Management Company Ltd.** financed 3 projects with the total costs of 1 038 585 GEL in Borjomi Municipality.

Kvemo Kartli Region:

- Under the **Village Assistance Program**, 436 projects with the total costs of 6879074 GEL were implemented.
- **Solid Waste Management Company Ltd.** financed 4 projects with the total costs of 3 915 232 GEL in Rustavi, Tetrtskaro and Tsalka municipalities.
- **Roads Department** financed 11 projects, with the total costs of 13 826 606 GEL.
- **LEPL – Municipal Development Fund** financed 4 projects with the costs of 5 390 708 GEL in Dmanisi and Tetrtskaro municipalities.
- **High Mountainous Settlement Development Fund** financed 2 projects with the total costs of 816 001 GEL in Dmanisi and Tsalka municipality.

Kakheti Region:

- Under the **Village Assistance Program** 209 projects with the total costs of 1 849 276 GEL were implemented.
- **LEPL – Municipal Development Fund** financed 1 project with the costs of 970 301 GEL in Lagodekhi municipality.
- **Roads Department** financed 14 projects, with the total costs of 49 843 341 GEL in Kakheti region.

Article 16

The Parties shall refrain from measures which alter the proportions of the population in areas inhabited by persons belonging to national minorities and are aimed at restricting the rights and freedoms flowing from the principles enshrined in the present framework Convention.

The government of Georgia fully shares the requirements under article 16, reflected in resettlement and migration policy. Within the above-mentioned policy no actions were carried out directed at changing proportion of population within the regions settled by ethnic minorities. This is confirmed by the results of the Census carried out in 2014, according to which, general ratio of population has remained unchanged within the regions and municipalities compactly populated by ethnic minorities.

Article 17

- 1. The Parties undertake not to interfere with the right of persons belonging to national minorities to establish and maintain free and peaceful contacts across frontiers with persons lawfully staying in other States, in particular those with whom they share an ethnic, cultural, linguistic or religious identity, or a common cultural heritage.***
- 2. The Parties undertake not to interfere with the right of persons belonging to national minorities to participate in the activities of non-governmental organisations, both at the national and international levels.***

From civil participation view, the practice of recent years indicates that ethnic minorities have adequate possibilities to participate in civil processes. The state also promotes institutional mechanisms for communication, consulting and advocacy, in particular:

- Council of National Minorities under Public Defender's Office of Georgia, established in 2005, serves as a communication and consultation channel between the government and ethnic minorities. The Council includes over 100 ethnic minority public associations regardless their number and geographical location. The Council is authorized to voice any issues related to minorities and develop political recommendations. The purpose and mandate of the Council is quite extensive and it is equipped with monitoring and evaluation functions. In this respect, annual involvement of the Council in carrying out implementation monitoring of the Civic Integration Strategy is particularly important.
- With respect to civic integration, there is also an important mechanism at the level of municipalities, in particular, in accordance with the Civic Equality and Integration State Strategy and Action Plan for 2015-2020, consultation mechanism – Public Advisory Council at the Administrations of State Attorney–Governors in

the regions of compact settlement of ethnic minorities will become operational in 2017; the representatives of local authorities as well as ethnic minority representatives will participate in the work of Council.

- Another important consultation mechanism is “Megobrobis Sakhli” (Friendship House) which was founded in 2006 by the Mayor of Batumi. The organization unites all ethnic associations registered in Adjara Autonomous Republic. “Friendship House” of Batumi is financed from the local budget; activities implemented aimed at popularization of ethnic diversity of Adjara and protection of cultural identity;
- The importance of the organizations oriented at consultation and involvement of ethnic minorities in Tbilisi and regions is also determined by their participation in various international mechanisms for preparing alternative reports regarding situation with ethnic minorities in Georgia.

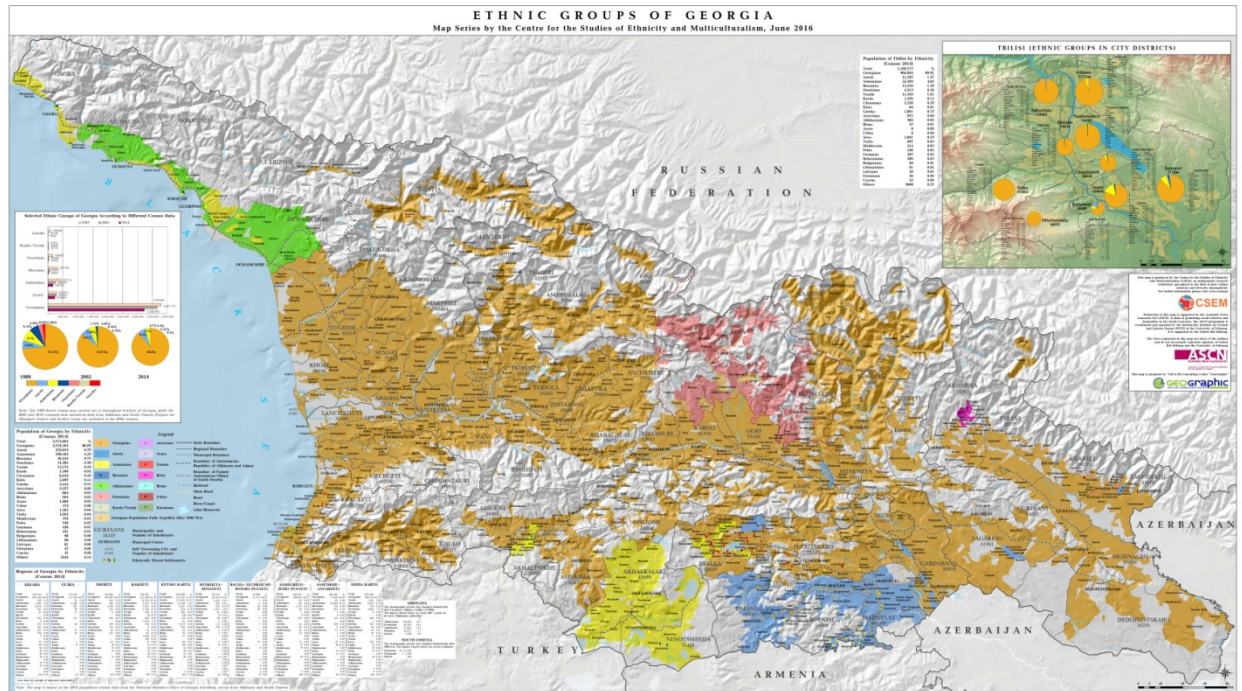
Article 18

- 1. The Parties shall endeavor to conclude, where necessary, bilateral and multilateral agreements with other States, in particular neighboring States, in order to ensure the protection of persons belonging to the national minorities concerned.*
- 2. Where relevant, the Parties shall take measures to encourage trans-frontier cooperation*

Bilateral agreements concluded by the Government of Georgia with Azerbaijan and Armenia comply with the above-mentioned article. Several dozens of agreements, developing relations and promoting trans-frontier cooperation in the fields such as environment protection, healthcare, cultural cooperation, sports, border control, economic relations etc. have been concluded until present time. See the complete list of the agreements in Annex 5.

Annex 1

Ethnic Map of Georgia as of 2017

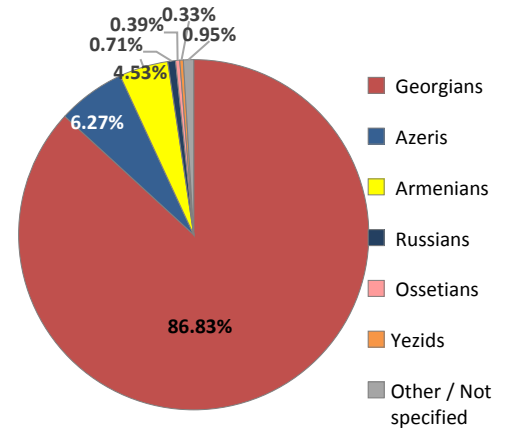


Source: Center for the Studies of Ethnicity and Multiculturalism

Annex 2

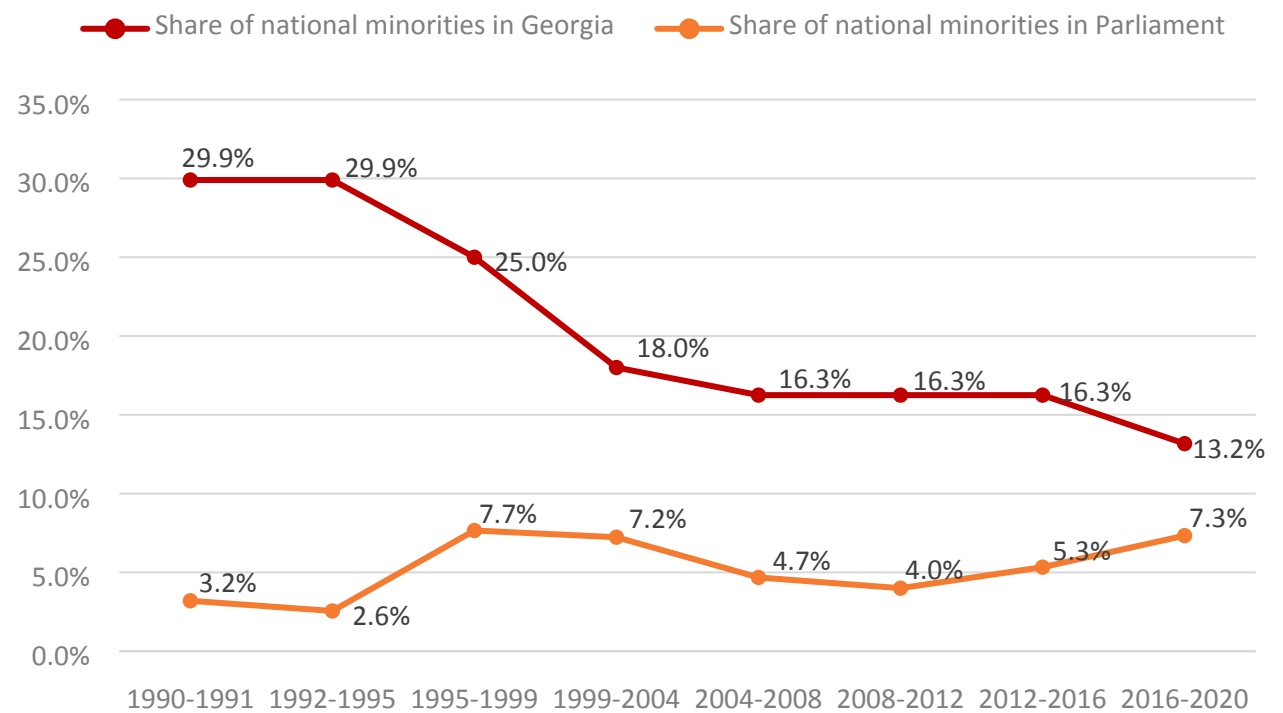
List of Ethnic Groups of Georgia Indicating Number and Statistical Data (Based on 2014 Census)

| | | |
|--------------|-----------|--------|
| Georgians | 3,224,564 | 86.83% |
| Azerbaijanis | 233,024 | 6.27% |
| Armenians | 168,102 | 4.53% |
| Russians | 26,453 | 0.71% |
| Ossetians | 14,385 | 0.39% |
| Yazidis | 12,174 | 0.33% |
| Kurds | 1,596 | 0.04% |
| Ukrainians | 6,034 | 0.16% |
| Kists | 5,697 | 0.15% |
| Greeks | 5,544 | 0.15% |
| Assyrians | 2,377 | 0.06% |
| Turks | 1,663 | 0.04% |
| Jews | 1,405 | 0.04% |
| Avars | 1,060 | 0.03% |
| Abkhazians | 864 | 0.02% |
| Moldavans | 770 | 0.02% |
| Poles | 740 | 0.02% |
| Roma | 604 | 0.02% |
| Germans | 438 | 0.01% |
| Belorussians | 431 | 0.01% |
| Udis | 174 | 0.00% |
| Bulgarians | 98 | 0.00% |
| Lithuanians | 98 | 0.00% |
| Latvians | 81 | 0.00% |
| Estonian | 47 | 0.00% |
| Czechs | 37 | 0.00% |
| Other groups | 4,240 | 0.11% |
| No answer | 1,104 | 0.03% |



Annex 3

Ethnic minorities in Parliaments of 1990-2016



Source: Center for the Studies of Ethnicity and Multiculturalism

Annex 4

Measures carried out to preserve culture and identity of ethnic minorities (2013-2016)

2013—agencies involved in planning and carrying out activities: the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia, Office of the State Minister of Georgia for Reconciliation and Civic Equality, National Parliamentary Library of Georgia, the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs of Georgia.

- With the initiative of the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia, a project of Georgian-Armenian and Georgian-Azerbaijani computer mega-game “United Georgia” was carried out. The game aims at introducing diversity of Georgian culture, teach Georgian language to Armenian and Azerbaijani population in the regions compactly settled by ethnic minorities and in Tbilisi and promote their integration into Georgian cultural space;
- LEPL Mirza-FataliAkhundov Museum of Azerbaijani Culture carried out a project aimed at restoring the tradition of manual weaving of carpets in the villages compactly populated by Azerbaijani population in Kvemo Kartli region. Clubs teaching weaving were organized at the museum, where young generation studied manual weaving technology;
- Bilingual (Georgian and Ossetian) collection of rhymes by Ossetian writer and public figure Giorgi Dzugaev – “Ossetian Romance” was published (author of the project - NGO “The Caucasian Mosaic”);
- A collection of works by Armenian writer Gagik Davityan was published in Georgian language;
- Georgian State Museum of Theatre, Music, Cinema and Choreography organized an exhibition demonstrating Georgian-Jewish cultural relations;
- Association of Polish Women Living in Georgia - “Friendship” celebrated Polish days. Georgia was visited by the head of the Polish diaspora living in the North Caucasus with a delegation of 30 people for the event;
- D. Shevardnadze National Gallery organized an exhibition demonstrating cultural heritage of Georgian Jews;
- A multicultural festival “Under One Sky” was organized by the Office of the State Minister of Georgia for Reintegration; the festival was supported by the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection; participants were the representatives of ethnic minority schoolchildren and folklore groups;
- Tbilisi City Hall organized visit of an Armenian painter to Tbilisi, who held meetings with the students of #1 Art School of Tbilisi; within the same program, students of Tbilisi Public School #98 also visited one of the most famous educational complexes of Erevan, where a program of teaching Georgian language has been carried out for several years;
- Several educational and cognitive projects and master classes were organized at art schools of Tbilisi City Hall, which included introduction and popularization of

works of representatives of Tbilisi ethnic-minority culture. Students of ethnic minorities were actively involved in this activity;

- National Library organized 14 events with cooperation of collaborating institution in 2013. Painting and photo exhibitions, concerts, and book presentations were among the events. Unique materials from the archives of the National Library on national minorities were shown during the events;
- Presentations dedicated to the history, folklore and culture of the people of the North Caucasus were organized under the initiative of the Office of the State Minister of Georgia for Reintegration and with support of the National Parliamentary Library of Georgia. The event commemorating 69 years since deportation of Chechen and Ingush people; a book by Kist writers Kh. Khangoshvili and D. Pankeli– “Abragebi” (Abreks) was translated from Georgian into Russian language;
- On the initiative of the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs, famous Georgian poet’s - VazhaPshavela’s poem “Stumar–Maspindzeli” (Host and Guest) was staged in Azerbaijani, Abkhaz, Ossetian and Russian languages as a radio play, recorded on a DVD (5,000 pieces) and delivered among students;
- On June 21, Georgian and Armenian young people living in village of Shaumiani visited Tbilisi;
- In June, schoolchildren from the villages of Akhmeta municipality visited Tbilisi. The students visited Museum of Ethnography, attended Khridoli martial art show and participated in various games; they also attended European Championship in the Sports Palace of Tbilisi;
- In June, the village Chvishi of Vani municipality hosted competition “Galaktionoba 2013” (named after Georgian poet GalaktionTabidze); ethnic minority representatives of non-Georgian educational institutions of Gardabani and Marneuli participated in competition;
- In October, a multiethnic cultural festival “Kakheti 2013” within “Youth Policy Development Program” was held in Lagodekhi National Park. Within the festival, each municipality presented cultures of ethnic minorities and Georgian folk culture; exhibition, degustation/competition of local cuisines of ethnic minorities of Kakheti region was held. A concert with participation of local folk dances and music groups was organized;
- With the assistance of Lagodekhi municipality, youth festival was organized in Bolnisi; 600 young people, including representatives of ethnic minorities, participated in the festival. Also, exhibition and sale of works of art and sports events were held.

2014 - agencies involved in planning and carrying out activities: the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia, Office of the State Minister of

Georgia for Reconciliation and Civic Equality, National Parliamentary Library of Georgia, the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs of Georgia.

- Many events were planned to celebrate 26 centuries of friendship between Georgian and Jewish people within the frame of “Supporting Culture of National Minorities” Program of the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection. In particular, a gala concert held by LEPL Shota Rustaveli State Professional Theatre; opening of Ethnographic and Historical Museum of Jews named after G. Baazov; exhibition reflecting life of Jewish people in Georgia; project “26th Century” in electronic format which reflected all memorable events of relationship between Georgian and Jewish people;
- Mirza-Fatali Akhundov Azerbaijani Cultural Center carried out the project “Azerbaijani Manually Woven Carpets”;
- Ossetian writer Napi Jusoit’s collection of rhymes “Mountains My Cradle” was published in Georgian and Ossetian languages;
- A book, “100 Great Georgians”, was published in Azerbaijani language;
- A catalogue “Nakh Art” was prepared for publication;
- On the initiative of Cultural- Educational Center “Hayrtun”, two albums “Armenian Artists of Georgia in the II Part of the 20th Century” and “Illustrations of Old Tbilisi” were prepared for publication;
- As part of multiethnic festival “Under One Sky” music and folklore festivals were held;
- Up to 30 participants from 4 countries held 4 concerts within Caucasus Jazz Festival;
- 21 events were held at the National Parliamentary Library of Georgia, including painting and photo exhibitions, concerts, book presentations. Unique materials from the archives of the National Library on national minorities were displayed during the events. Also, the following activities were implemented: “Georgian-Circassian Dialogue”, Sergo Parajanov’s movie show, an event dedicated to 70 years since Ingush deportation; events dedicated to Chechen and Ingush people, to the memory of Mr. Ariel Sharon, Mr. Frunzik Mkrtichyan; presentation of translation of the books by Ketevan Davrishev, concert dedicated to works by Ian Hammer, etc.;
- Under the auspices of the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs 540 young people representatives of ethnic minorities attended international sports tournaments in water polo, rugby and judo held in Tbilisi,
- International Football Festival of Meskheti-2014 among juniors was held in Akhaltsikhe; 400 young people from 14 teams participated in the festival and two teams from Armenia and Azerbaijan were invited;
- Festival “**Magic Flute**” was held in Tsalka, which implied master classes and rehearsals for young flute players;
- For Georgian and Ossetian young people training and educational tournament - “**Young Peace-Keeping Express**” was organized as a result of which up to 20

participants visited 5 countries (Turkey, Greece, Macedonia, Serbia, Kosovo) and got familiar with the life of European youth;

- Training was held on **interpersonal skills and communication management** attended by up to 50 Armenian, Azerbaijani, Kurd, Kist, Russian and Chechen young people. Also, 50 young people attended training on project management at Kvareli Justice Training Center; personal development trainings and seminars were held for 120 young people within the project “**Young People without Barriers**”;
- For providing information on the process of EU integration of Georgia, a program “Together for the European Choice” was carried out for young people; information meetings and discussion seminars were held in Akhalkalaki, Akhaltsikhe, Ninotsminda, Adigeni, Aspindza and Borjomi municipalities.

2015 - agencies involved in planning and carrying out activities: the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia, Office of the State Minister of Georgia for Reconciliation and Civic Equality, National Parliamentary Library of Georgia, the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs of Georgia , The City Hall of Batumi, Administrations of State Attorney-Governor in Kvemo Kartli, Samtskhe-Javakheti and Kakheti regions, regional municipalities.

- Al. Griboedov Russian State Drama Theater staged 121 plays, including 3 premiers, dedicated to the 170th anniversary of foundation of the theater. The theater presented 12 plays within various festivals abroad;
- LEPL Tbilisi Heydar Aliyev Azerbaijani State Drama Theater presented 8 plays and carried out 2 tours;
- Tbilisi Petros Adamyan Armenian State Drama Theater performed 9 local plays and 1 visiting play;
- LEPL David Baazov Georgian-Jew Relations History Museum organized presentation of 2 books, 1 performance, 2 movie shows, 2 performances and 1 lecture in 2015. On May 18, 3 events dedicated to International Day of Museum were organized; activities aimed at inventory of the museum funds and searching for/collection of funds were underway. The museum hosted former Ambassador of Israel to Georgia, teachers and professors from Jerusalem National University. In September, the museum held an evening dedicated to the days of Jewish Culture – “Bridges”;
- LEPL Mirza Fatali Akhundov Museum of Azerbaijani Culture held 6 meetings, 1 seminar, 8 events, including the conference of the writers from the cities of Ganja and Kutaisi, an evening dedicated to 75th anniversary of the writer E. Mahmudov, photo exhibition “Justice to Khojalo”. A presentation of the book “Zelimkhanis Sitkvis Mtzvervali” (the Peak of the Words of Zelimkhan) and presentation of 2 new publications. Five exhibitions were held, including the one on May 21th,

organized by the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection regarding cultural diversity day. Meetings with participation of representatives of Azerbaijani and Georgian organizations; a meeting with the students of Azerbaijani Architecture University was held with the purpose of delivering information on the terms of enrolment of foreign students;

- At the National Parliamentary Library of Georgia Azerbaijani Cultural Heritage Exhibition and presentation of 3 publications were organized. In July an exhibition dedicated to 203 anniversary of Mirza Fatali Akhundov was held; Mirza Fatali Akhundov Museum of Azerbaijani Culture along with the Georgian State Museum of Theatre, Music, Cinema and Choreography were the organizers of the exhibition. In September, classic music concerts dedicated to 130th anniversary of Uzeir Hajibekov were held in Marneuli, Gardabani and Bolnisi. A concert dedicated to 100th anniversary of Rashid Beibutob, with participation of an orchestra from a music school of the city of Khirdalan was organized;
- A revised project of Norasheni (Tbilisi) church rehabilitation was prepared;
- Rehabilitation of village Kvirike (Kobuleti municipality) Mosque roof was implemented;
- Inventory and documenting of German heritage within the territory of Georgia (historical settlements, places of worship and social and industrial architecture) was completed. Also, the cultural heritage monuments requiring immediate conservation interventions were identified;
- Monitoring of Osman monuments located within the territory of Georgia was carried out;
- The project of LEPL Mirza-Fathali Akhundov Museum of Azerbaijani Culture – „Azerbaijani Carpets – Retaining the Tradition” was continued; five persons were employed in the project; nineteen persons studied the art of weaving carpets;
- LEPL the Museum of Theatre, Music, Cinema and Choreography, for the first time, published an album “German Artists in Georgia”, which relates to the activity of German artists in Georgia;
- An exhibition – “Sergo Parajanov – A Dream of XXI Century” dedicated to life and activity of the great creator working in Georgia was held;
- A bilingual, Ossetian-Georgian, collection of rhymes by Ossetian writer Kosta Khetagurov was published, it fully presents the works by the Ossetian poet;
- Non-governmental organization “Women’s Solidarity” organized Ossetian music evening, presenting pieces of Ossetian classic composers;
- On the initiative of the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection, in the regions of compact settlement of ethnic minorities (Ninotsminda, Bolnisi), bilingual intellectual mega game “United Georgia” was presented; also current production of Georgian film-making – “Moira” by L. Tutberidze and short motion Georgian pictures were shown;
- As a result of close cooperation with partner institutions, 10 events were organized in the National Parliamentary Library of Georgia. These included

painting and photo exhibitions, also book presentations. Unique materials related to ethnic minorities archived within the National Library funds were exhibited. Ukrainian-Georgian, Abkhazian-Georgian, Russian-Georgian, Armenian-Georgian and Georgian-Ossetian dictionaries were uploaded within the unified base of dictionaries within the National Library;

- Armenian school of Patara Pamaji, Akhaltsikhe municipality was provided with 500 books;
- “The Armenian Community of Georgia” and “Yazid’s House of Georgia” organized event within the project “Towards tolerance” at the exhibition hall of the National Parliamentary Library of Georgia;
- An event dedicated to 71 years since deportation of Chechen and Ingush people was organized;
- The day of Circassian language and culture was celebrated; the event was organized by Circassian Culture Center and with assistance of the National Parliamentary Library of Georgia;
- As part of the project – „Azerbaijani Carpets – Retaining the Tradition” Azerbaijani cultural heritage exhibition was organized at the exhibition hall of the National Parliamentary Library of Georgia. A memorandum of cooperation was signed between the National Library and Mirza-Fathali Akhundov Museum of Azerbaijani Culture;
- An exhibition of Rasim Gasanov’s paintings – “Freedom” was organized at the National Parliamentary Library of Georgia;
- The Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs continued recording audio plays (“Gamzrdeli” (Master), the Knight in the Panther’s Skin) in Georgian, Armenian and Azerbaijani languages; within the project, presentations were organized, DVDs were prepared and distributed in the regions of Georgia;
- 2-month training course – “Active Youth and Free Space” was organized for ethnic minority youth of Lagodekhi municipality. The purpose of the course was improving knowledge and experience through informal education;
- A training course “Civic Activity Diverse Georgia” was organized; ethnic minority young people from Kakheti region participated in the course;
- Cultural, creative and cognitive training/seminars “Let’s Know Each Other Better” with the participation of Georgian and ethnic-minority youth from Tbilisi and Samtskhe-Javakheti region were organized;
- Within archaeological expedition, at the base of National Nastakasisi Museum funds, archaeological excavations were organized. 50 representatives of ethnic minority groups (Azerbaijani, Armenian, Russian, Ossetian, Kist) from Kakheti region participated in the expedition;
- Representatives of various ethnic minorities participated in a literary competition - “Georgia is My Homeland”;

- Various cultural, educational and sports activities were implemented in penitentiary institutions; convicts belonging to ethnic minorities were actively involved in these activities;
- Administrations of State Attorney-Governor in Kvemo Kartli, Samtskhe-Javakheti and Kakheti regions carried out various cultural projects and events, including: celebrating public/religious festivals, carrying out concerts, literary competitions, exhibitions, and music and theater festivals; organizing summer camps. Construction of a library was launched in Marneuli; various activities took place in municipality houses of culture and village clubs.

2016 - agencies involved in planning and carrying out activities: the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia, Office of the State Minister of Georgia for Reconciliation and Civic Equality, the Ministry of Corrections of Georgia, National Parliamentary Library of Georgia, the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs of Georgia, Tbilisi City Hall and Municipality Council, Batumi City Hall, Administrations of State Attorney-Governor in KvemoKartli, Samtskhe-Javakheti and Kakheti regions, local municipalities.

- Al. Griboedov Russian State Drama Theater carried out many activities in 2016: 118 plays, including 7 premieres attended by 5000 spectators; also, 7 visiting performances in the regions, 2 tours abroad which were attended by 950 spectators;
- Tbilisi H. Aliyev Azerbaijani State Drama Theater staged two plays, including 5 premieres;
- Tbilisi Petros Adamyan Armenian State Drama Theater presented 15 plays, including 1 premier, and 7 tours in the regions. Visiting plays were staged in 9 villages;
- David Baazov Georgian Jew Relations History Museum carried out the following activities: a scientific conference “Tbilisi-Jerusalem”, inventory and digitalization of the museum funds, inventory of the library and the museum, searching and digitalization of the materials on Georgian Jews in the 19th century press; 11 events in total were organized during the year;
- LEPL Mirza-Fathali Akhundov Museum of Azerbaijani Culture held 3 exhibitions, 1 presentation of a video clip, 3 meetings;
- LEPL Smirnov’s Museum completed inventory process;
- Inventory of German cultural heritage in Georgia was completed, in particular: in Tetrtskaro, Tsalka, Marneuli and Dmanisi municipalities and Didube district of Tbilisi. Up to 150 objects were recorded as a result of the inventory. Field and recording cards were prepared for each object. In addition, a map of Georgia was prepared with marked German cultural heritage objects identified;

- A status of immovable cultural heritage monument was granted up to 40 German cultural heritage objects, including Trialeti Church located on Khramhesi street in the village of Trialeti, Tsalka municipality;
- With the funding of the Foundation for Protection and Rescuing Georgian Historical Monuments rehabilitation of Norasheni Church was carried out;
- The project “Retaining Tradition of Azerbaijani Manually Woven Carpets” was carried out with support of the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection;
- For the purpose of retaining uniqueness of the culture of ethnic minorities the following events were implemented: a concert dedicated to 85th anniversary of Michael Tariverdiev; publication of bilingual Georgian-Ossetian collection of the Ossetian writer Giorgi Bestauti by non-governmental organization “Caucasian Mosaic”; a concert dedicated to 100th anniversary of Rashid Beibutov; scientific session “Circassian, Abkhaz, Ossetian and Georgian-Caucasian civilization support” organized by LEPL Center of Circassian (Adyghe) Culture Center; “Khamsa” (Quintet), a modern ballet made on the music of the famous Composer Polad Bülbüloğlu, E.Mechitova Caucasian Jazz Festival which unites famous creative groups of Georgia and the Caucasus. An international festival of carpets aimed at collecting, sharing and making connections between carpet producers was held in Akhaltsikhe;
- Folk concerts and art competition of various ethnicity representatives were organized within the project “All cultures are different, but equal” in Marneuli and Ninotsminda municipalities. In Tbilisi a photo exhibition reflecting these competitions and concerts was organized;
- Classic music evening “A celebration of Diversity” was organized by non-governmental organization “Ethnic Culture Society”. The authors of the project selected talented young people from various parts of Georgia and held a meeting at the concert hall of A. Khachaturyan Tbilisi Music School;
- A catalogue “Diverse Georgia in Placards” as a part of the project by non-governmental organization “Art Support Center” was prepared and published; placards were printed and displayed;
- A catalogue reflecting works by Sergo Parajanov within the project “Sergo Parajanov’s Tbilisi” was published;
- Anniversary and creative evening of the master of Georgian choreography - Omar Khubaev - was held;
- “Caucasian Culture festival in Pankisi” was held;
- Folk concert with the participation of Tush Nakh people within the project “Popularization of Cultural Heritage of National Minorities” was organized;
- In May 2016, Cultural Diversity Day was celebrated in the village of Duisi;
- Album “Pankisi Gorge and a master of Kist dances” aiming at preserving, demonstrating and popularizing local dance traditions was organized;

- Album-catalogue “Nakh art” presenting information on Nakh works of art, traditional culture, applied and decorative arts, ancient artisanship technologies and mastery was published;
- Nakh fairy tales for children aimed at popularization of ancient Nakh fairy tales, traditions, everyday culture was prepared for publication in Georgian language;
- Book fund of village libraries (villages of Jokholo and lower Khalatsani) was provided by the Central Library Book Fund; also, the library of village Duisi restored its status;
- Ethnographic museum got additional 15 exhibit items, mostly due to public donations;
- Information meetings were organized twice a month at penitentiary institutions; there is a room at each penitentiary institution for spiritual rituals and meeting with spiritual fathers;
- 4 events were organized at the National Library, including exhibitions of paintings and photos, book presentations. Ukrainian-Georgian, Abkhaz-Georgian, Russian-Georgian, Armenian-Georgian and Georgian-Ossetian dictionaries were placed in the unified base of dictionaries within the National Library;
- “Union of Tbilisi Youth Centers” under Education, Sports and Youth Service of Tbilisi City Hall carries out the project “Friendship House”; various project and events took place, in particular: a meeting with representatives of Russian diaspora, meeting on culture of Roma, information meeting for young people belonging to ethnic minorities residing at various parts of Georgia, a conference on the topic of women’s engagement, etc.;
- During 2006-2016 Tbilisi City Assembly assigned a name of ethnic minority representatives to 11 streets in Tbilisi within the framework of process naming geographical objects;
- In 2016, a catalogue of Georgian and Azerbaijani artists was published with the assistance of the Culture Service of Tbilisi City Hall. The catalogue was displayed at the exhibition hall of the National Parliamentary Library of Georgia;
- In 2016, within the frame of “Tbilisoba” celebration Azerbaijani corner was arranged; folk music and dances were performed, degustation of national cuisine was also organized;
- In September 2016, an event “Stories of Friendship of Peoples” with financial support of Cultural Events Center of Tbilisi City Hall was organized. Various ethnic minority groups from the regions as well as from Tbilisi participated in the event;
- In 2016, “House of Friendship” founded by non-commercial legal Entity “Batumi Cultural Center” organized meetings with the representatives of ethnic minorities;
- Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs of Georgia continued staging/recording audio plays on DVDs –Vazha Pshavela’s “Host and Guest” (in Georgian, Abkhaz, Ossetian, Azerbaijani and Russian languages); Akaki Tsereteli’s “Gamzrdeli” (Master) in Georgian and Abkhazian languages, Shota Rustaveli’s “The Night in

the Panther's Skin”(in Georgian, Armenian and Azerbaijani languages). The above-mentioned DVDs were distributed in different regions of Georgia;

- Expedition “Chaokhi 2016” was organized within “Expedition in Chaokhi of Alpine camp,” where young people representatives of ethnic minorities participated;
- Sports training in judo was carried out throughout the year for 150 young people living in village of Duisi in Pankisi Gorge.

Annex 5

Bilateral Agreements Concluded between Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia

Bilateral agreements between Georgia and Azerbaijan:

1. Agreement between the Republic of Georgia and Republic of Azerbaijan on Cooperation in Healthcare Matters. Signed on 3 February 1993, effective on 3 February 1993;
2. Agreement between the Republic of Georgia and Republic of Azerbaijan on Transit Supply of Iranian Gas to Georgia. Signed on 3 February 1993, effective on 3 February 1993;
3. Agreement between the Republic of Georgia and Republic of Azerbaijan on the Basis of Relations in the Field of Customs. Signed on 3 February 1993, effective from the day of signing, 3 February 1993;
4. Agreement between the Customs Committee of the Republic of Georgia and the Customs Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Customs Registration of Transit Cargos. Signed on 3 February 1993, effective on 3 February 1993;
5. Agreement between the Customs Committee of the Republic of Georgia and the Customs Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Cooperation in the Field of Customs. Signed on 3 February 1993, effective on 3 February 1993;
6. Agreement between the Customs Committee of the Republic of Georgia and the Customs Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Fight Against Illegal Turnover of Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. Signed on 3 February 1993, effective on 3 February 1993;
7. Agreement between the Customs Committee of the Republic of Georgia and the Customs Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Opening Customs Checkpoints. Signed on 3 February 1993, effective on 3 February 1993;

8. Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of Georgia and the Republic of Azerbaijan in the Field of Agriculture and Food Industry. Signed on 3 February 1993, effective on 3 February 1993;
9. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Cooperation in the Field of Healthcare. Signed on 3 February 1993, effective on 3 February 1993;
10. Agreement between the Republic of Georgia and Republic of Azerbaijan on Visa Free Cross-Border Movement of their Citizens. Signed on 3 February 1993, effective on 3 February 1993;
11. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Guarantees of the Rights of their Citizens in the Field of Pension. Signed on 3 February 1993, effective on 3 February 1993;
12. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Cooperation in Cultural, Scientific and Humanitarian Matters. Signed on 3 February 1993, effective on 3 February 1993;
13. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Cooperation in Fighting Against Smuggling and Violation of Customs Procedures. Signed on 07/05/95, effective 10/08/1996;
14. Treaty between Georgia and the Republic of Azerbaijan on Strengthening Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Security; Signed on 08/08/96, effective 02/1997;
15. Minutes on consultations between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan; signed on 08/03/96, from the day of signing;
16. Treaty between Georgia and the Republic of Azerbaijan on Assistance and Legal Relations on the Cases of Family and Criminal Law; signed on 08/03/96, effective on 20/03/97;
17. Agreement between the Government of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Free Trade; signed on 08/03/96, effective on 10/07/96;

18. Agreement between the Government of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the Principles of Trade and Economic Cooperation; signed on 08/03/96, effective on 10/07/96;
19. Agreement between the Government of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Promoting Investments and Mutual Protection; signed on 08/03/96, effective on 10/08/96;
20. Agreement between the Government of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Commercial Sailing; signed on 08/03/96, effective on 10/07/96;
21. Agreement between the Government of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Industrial Cooperation; signed on 08/03/96, effective on 10/07/96;
22. Agreement between the Government of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Cooperation in the Fields of Economy and Food; signed on 08/03/96, effective on 10/07/96;
23. Contract between the Government of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Elaboration and Renovation of Some Existing Pipelines, Creation of New Pipelines and Transportation of Oil through the Territory of Georgia by these means; signed on 08/03/96, effective on 08/03/96;
24. Agreement between the Ministry of Justice of Georgia and the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the Field of Forensic Examination; signed on 08/03/96, effective on 08/03/96;
25. Memorandum of the Mutual Commission of Azerbaijan and Georgia on the Issues of Demarcation and Delimitation of State Border Between Georgia and the Republic of Azerbaijan; signed on 20/12/96, effective on 20/12/96;
26. Minutes of the meeting of the working groups of the State Commissions on Issues of Demarcation and Delimitation of State Border Between Georgia and the Republic of Azerbaijan; signed on 05/12/96, effective on 05/12/96;
27. Minutes of the meeting of representatives of Georgia and the Republic of Azerbaijan on Issues of Demarcation and Delimitation of State Border. Signed on 17/12/96, effective on 17/10/96;

28. Agreement between the Government of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Development of Passenger Traffic Development. Signed on 18/02/97, effective on 29/01/98;
29. Agreement between the Government of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Cooperation in the Field of Environmentally Clean Automated Special Transportation and its Infrastructure. Signed on 18/02/97, effective on 08/05/97;
30. Convention between the Government of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Prevention of Double Taxation and Elimination of Non-payment of Taxes on Income and Property. Signed on 18/02/97, effective on 01/12/97;
31. Agreement between the Government of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Cooperation in the Matters of Compliance with the Tax Legislation and Mutual Assistance. Signed on 18/02/97, effective on 01/12/97;
32. Agreement between the Government of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Restructuring Indebtedness of the Government of Georgia towards the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan; signed on 02/97, effective on 15/05/98;
33. Agreement between Georgia and the Republic of Azerbaijan on Cooperation in Oil and Gas Industry. Signed on 18/02/97, effective on 10/07/97;
34. Agreement between Georgia and the Republic of Azerbaijan on Cooperation in Border Issues. Signed on 18/02/97, effective on 01/12/97;
35. Agreement between the Government of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Exchange of Representatives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia and the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Signed on 18/02/97, effective on 25/02/99;
36. Agreement between the Government of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Cooperation in Prevention and Elimination of Emergencies. Signed on 18/02/97, effective on 08/05/97;

37. Agreement between the Government of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Cooperation in the Field of Environmental Protection. Singed on 18/02/97, effective on 08/05/97;
38. Agreement between the Government of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Cooperation in the Field of Education. Singed on 18/02/97, effective on 08/05/97;
39. Agreement between the Government of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Cooperation in the Field of Youth Affairs. Singed on 18/02/97, effective on 08/05/97;
40. Agreement between the Government of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Cooperation in the Field of Culture. Baku. Singed on 18/02/97, effective on 08/05/97;
41. Agreement between the Government of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Scientific and Technical Cooperation. Singed on 18/02/97, effective on 08/05/97;
42. Agreement between the Government of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Cooperation in the Fields of Geodesy, Cartography, Cadastre and Remote Sensing. Singed on 18/02/97, effective on 10/07/97;
43. Agreement between the Government of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Cooperation in the Fields of Standardization, Metrology and Certification. Singed on 18/02/97, effective on 10/07/97;
44. Minutes of the meeting of the working groups of the State Commissions on Issues of Demarcation and Delimitation of State Border between Georgia and the Republic of Azerbaijan; signed on 21/02/97, effective on 21/02/97;
45. Minutes of the meeting of the working groups of the State Commissions on Issues of Demarcation and Delimitation of State Border between Georgia and the Republic of Azerbaijan; signed on 06/06/97, effective on 06/06/97;
46. Minutes of the meeting of the working groups of the State Commissions on Issues of Demarcation and Delimitation of State Border between Georgia and the Republic of Azerbaijan; signed on 22/04/97, effective on 22/02/97;

47. Agreement between the Government of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Cooperation in the Field of Exchange and Export Control. Signed on 27/12/97, effective on 15/06/98;
48. Agreement between the Government of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the Principles of Indirect Tax for Export and Import of Goods (work, service); signed on 27/12/1997, effective on 06/07/1998.
49. Agreement between the Government of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Cooperation in the Field of Electricity. Signed on 27/12/97, effective on 15/06/98;
50. Agreement between the executive Government of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Cooperation in the Field of Tourism. Signed, effective on 25/02/99;
51. Agreement between the executive Government of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Cooperation in Fight against Economic and Financial Violations. Signed on 09/11/1998, effective on 06/04/1999;
52. Memorandum on Introducing Amendments into the Agreement signed on February 18, 1997 in Baku on Exchange of Representatives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia and the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Signed on 09/11/1998, effective on 25/02/1999;
53. Agreement between the Government of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Mutual Regulation of the Matters Related to the Activity of Embassies. Signed on 22/03/2000, effective on 21/08/1999;
54. Agreement between the Government of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Cooperation in the Field of Communications. Signed on 22/03/2000, effective on 21/07/2000;
55. Agreement between the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of Georgia and the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Cooperation in the Field of Labor and Social Protection of Population. Signed on 22/03/2000, effective on 28/07/2000;

56. Agreement between the Government of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Exchange of Legal Information. Signed on 22/03/2000, effective on 28/07/2000;
57. Agreement on Cooperation between the Ministry of Justice of Georgia and the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Signed on 22/03/2000, effective on 28/07/2000;
58. Contract on Transit, Transportation and Sale of Natural Gas through the South Caucasus Pipeline System within the Areas of Georgia and Azerbaijan and beyond. Signed on 29/09/2001, effective on 04/02/2002;
59. Memorandum on Cooperation between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Signed, Baku, 18/11/1992, effective on 18/11/1992;
60. Agreement between the Ministry of Defense of Georgia and the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Cooperation in the Field of Defense. Signed on 16/12/2002, effective on 27/08/03;
61. Agreement between the Government of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Adjustment of the Indebtedness of Georgia towards Azerbaijan in accordance with “the Agreement of February 18, 1997, between the Government of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Restructuring Indebtedness of the Government of Georgia towards the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Signed on 07/10/2003, effective on 18/07/2005;
62. Agreement between the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia and the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Cooperation in the Field of Education. Signed on 04/03/2004, effective on July 2nd, 2004;
63. Agreement between the Government of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Cooperation in the Field of Information; Baku; signed on 04/03/2004, effective on 24/11/2004;
64. Agreement between the Government of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Coordination of the Operation of Railway Transport; signed on 14/06/2004, effective on 24/11/2004;

65. Agreement between the Government of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Extending Cooperation in the Field of Energy; signed on 14/06/2004, effective on 11/11/2004;
66. Agreement between the Ministry of Finance of Georgia and the Ministry of Taxation of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance; signed on 14/06/2004, effective on 29/12/2004;
67. Agreement between the Government of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Restructuring of Indebtedness of Georgia towards the Republic of Azerbaijan; signed on 17/08/2006, effective on 28/03/2007;
68. Memorandum between the Government of the Republic of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Making Amendments into the Agreement on Air Traffic; signed on 20/05/2009, effective on 30/11/2009;
69. Agreement between the Government of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Cooperation in the Field of Intellectual Property Protection; signed on 20/05/2009, effective on 29/07/2009;
70. Memorandum between the Government of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Making Amendments into the Agreement of March 8, 1996 on Free Trade; signed on 20/05/2009, effective on 29/07/2009;
71. Agreement between the Government of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Exchange and Mutual Protection of Information; signed on 26/10/2011, effective on 09/04/2012;
72. Agreement between the Government of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Mutual Administrative Assistance in the Field of Customs; signed on March 17, 2014;
73. Agreement between the Government of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Prevention, Restriction and Alleviation of Emergency Outcomes; signed on August 1, 2013;
74. "Agreement on Baku-Tbilisi-Kars rail line between the Governments of Georgia, Turkey and Azerbaijan", signed on February 7, 2007;

Bilateral Agreements between Georgia and Armenia:

1. Memorandum on Mutual Cooperation between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Georgia and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia; effective: 17.07.1992.
2. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Armenia on development of Trade and Economic Cooperation; effective: 17.07.1992.
3. Agreement between the Customs Committee of the Republic of Georgia and the Customs Committee of the Republic of Armenia on Fight Against Illegal Movement of Psychotropic substances; effective: 19.05.1993.
4. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Armenia on Cooperation in the Field of Communications; effective: 19.05.1993.
5. Agreement between the Customs Committee of the Republic of Georgia and the Customs Committee of the Republic of Armenia on Opening Customs Checkpoints of both States; effective: 19.05.1993.
6. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Armenia on Cooperation in the Field of Sports. Effective: 19.05.1993.
7. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Armenia on Cooperation in the Field of Tourism Effective: 19.05.1993;
8. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Armenia on Recognition of Visas. Effective 19.05.1993;
9. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Armenia on Cooperation in Cultural, Scientific and Humanitarian Matters. Effective 19.05.1993.

10. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Armenia on the Main Principles of Transit Carriage. Effective 19.05.1993.
11. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Armenia on Cooperation in the Field of Geodesy, Cartography and Remote Sensing.
12. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Armenia on Cooperation in the Fields of Standardization, Metrology and Certification. Effective 03.12.1993.
13. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Armenia on Cooperation in the Field of Healthcare. Effective 19.05.1993.
14. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Armenia on Cooperation in the Field of Free Trade. Effective 11.11.1998.
15. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Armenia on Legal Assistance in Criminal Cases. Effective 23.10.2001.
16. Agreement between the Government of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Armenia on the Main Principles of Creating Financial and Industrial Groups. Effective 18.12.1998.
17. Agreement between the Government of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Armenia on Promoting Investments and Mutual Protection. Effective 18.01.1999.
18. Agreement between the Government of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Armenia on Industrial Cooperation. Effective 11.11.1998.
19. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Armenia on Coordination of Rail Transport. Effective 19.05.1993.
20. Agreement between the Government of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Armenia on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Matters of Considering Tax Legislation. Effective 04.07.2001.

21. Agreement between the Government of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Armenia on Exchange of Information and Cooperation in the Field of Fighting Tax Legislation Violations. Effective 04.07.2001.
22. Agreement between the Government of the republic of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Armenia on Rule of Regulation and Requirements of 1992 Debt Liabilities. Effective 19.05.1993.
23. Memorandum between the Government of the republic of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Armenia on Regulation of a Number of Economic Relations. Effective 15.06.1993.
24. Memorandum between the Government of the republic of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Armenia on Agreement of the Conditions of Mutual Supply of Goods. Effective 01.01.1994.
25. Agreement between the republic of Georgia and the Republic of Armenia on Transfer. Effective 10.10.2000.
26. Agreement between the Government of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Armenia on Scientific-Technical Cooperation. Effective 28.09.1998.
27. Agreement between the Government of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Armenia on Cooperation in Prevention of Emergencies and Elimination of their Outcomes. Effective 31.05.2000.
28. Agreement between the Government of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Armenia on Cooperation in the Field of Education. Effective 29.09.1998.
29. Consular Convention between Georgia and the Republic of Armenia. Effective 30.12.1999.
30. Memorandum of Consular Cooperation between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia. Effective 03.05.97.
31. Agreement between Georgia and the Republic of Armenia on the Prevention of Double Taxation and Elimination of Non-payment of Taxes on Income and Property. Effective 03.07.2000.

32. Agreement between the Government of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Armenia on Cooperation in the Field of Environment and Natural Resources Protection. 30.11.1999.
33. Agreement between the executive Government of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Armenia on Cooperation in the Field of Protecting Industrial Property. Effective 21.09.1999.
34. Agreement between the executive Government of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Armenia on Cooperation in the Field of Geodesy, Cartography and Geo Informatics. Effective 07.06.1999.
35. Agreement between the Executive Government of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Armenia on the Principles of Indirect Tax for Export and Import of Goods (work, service). Effective 07.06.1999.
36. Agreement between the executive Government of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Armenia on Cooperation in the Field of Qualifying Examinations of the Highest Qualified Scientific and Scientific-Pedagogical Staff. Effective 14.06.2001.
37. Agreement between the Ministry of justice of Georgia and the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia on Cooperation in the Field of Legal Examination. Effective 04.03.2005.
38. Agreement on Cooperation between the Ministry of Justice of Georgia and the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia. Effective 04.03.2005.
39. Agreement between the Ministry of Culture of Georgia and the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth Affairs of the Republic of Armenia on Cooperation in the Field of Culture. Effective 30.07.1999.
40. Agreement between Georgia and the Republic of Armenia on Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Security. 12.03.2004.
41. Agreement between Georgia and the Republic of Armenia on Cooperation on the Basis of Cooperation in the Field of Customs Operation. Effective 24.06.1993.
42. Agreement between the Customs Committee of Georgia and the Customs Committee of the Republic of Armenia on Cooperation in Customs Operations. Effective 15.06.1993.

43. Agreement between the Government of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Armenia on Restructuring Indebtedness of the Government of Georgia towards the Government of the Republic of Armenia. Effective 20.12.2005.
44. Agreement between the Executive Government of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Armenia on Exchange of Legal Information. Effective 03.03.2005.
45. Agreement between the Government of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Armenia on Restructuring Indebtedness of the Government of Georgia towards the Government of the Republic of Armenia. Effective 08.02.2006.
46. Agreement between the Government of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Armenia on International Road Traffic. Effective 05.06.2006.
47. Agreement between the Government of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Armenia on Fight against Capturing Vehicles and Ensuring their Return. Effective 06.12.2006.
48. Memorandum between the Ministry of Finance of Georgia and the State Customs Committee of the Republic of Armenia on the Rule of Interaction in Exchanging Statistical Information. 26.02.2008.
49. Agreement between the Government of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Armenia on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Customs Matters. Effective 20.06.2008.
50. Agreement between the Government of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Armenia on Air Traffic. Effective 06.03.2008.
51. Memorandum between the Government of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Armenia on Introducing Amendments into the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Armenia on Free Trade of August 14, 1995. 21.04.2009.
52. Memorandum on Cooperation between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia. Effective 30.11.2011

53. Agreement between the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia and Security Service at the Government of the Republic of Armenia on Cooperation in the Field of Borders. Effective 28.02.2012.
54. Agreement between the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs of Georgia and the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs of the Republic of Armenia on Cooperation in the Matters of Youth. Effective 28.02.2012
55. Agreement on cooperation between the Ministry of Culture and Monuments Protection of Georgia and the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Armenia. The Program for the years 2013-2015 is effective from January 17, 2013;
56. Agreement between the Government of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Armenia on Construction of a New Bridge along the Border of Armenia and Georgia, at Bagratsheni Checkpoint within the Project “North Corridor Modernization Project”. The Agreement is effective from June 17, 2015;
57. Agreement between the Government of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Armenia “on Exchange and Mutual Protection of Classified Information”, effective from April 1, 2015;
58. Agreement between the Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Protection of Georgia and the Ministry of Health of Armenia on Cooperation in the Field of Healthcare. Effective from June 1, 2017;
59. Agreement between the Government of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Armenia on “The Activity Border Representatives – Border Commissioners”. The agreement is effective from February 3, 2017.

Annex 6

Decree of the Government of Georgia

№ 1740

August 17, 2015

On Approval of the State Strategy for Civic Equality and Integration and Action Plan for 2015-2020

The attached State Strategy for Civic Equality and Integration (Annex 1) and Action Plan for 2015-2020 (Annex 2) to be approved in accordance with the first paragraph of Article 6 of the Law of Georgia “On organization, competence and functioning procedures of the Government of Georgia” .

Prime Minister I. Garibashvili

Annex 1

State Strategy for Civic Equality and Integration

Introduction

Democracy strengthening and development is one of the main goals of both the Georgian society and the Government of Georgia, and to achieve this it is necessary to provide equality between individuals. Protection of ethnic minority rights and promotion of a society that is based on the principles of diversity and pluralism largely determines a country’s democracy degree and development.

Georgia is a multiethnic country, where the law grants each person equal rights and obligations and protects his/her identity. Every single citizen of Georgia is a source of strength and value to the country. Alongside with the dominant ethnic group - Georgians - representatives of different ethnic groups have played a significant role in the country's development throughout various stages of history. These ethnic groups

(excluding Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia) make about 16%³ of the country's population. Their majority - ethnic Armenians and Azeris - are densely settled in the south -Samtskhe-Javakheti and Kvemo-Kartli regions-, as well as in the east of the country-Kakheti region. Georgia attaches particular importance to the preservation of identity and civic integration of the population living within its integral territories of Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, since these regions are currently occupied by the Russian Federation and the ethnic groups residing there are facing the threat of assimilation. Accordingly, basic postulates of the strategy also apply to the ethnic groups living in these regions, given that they are an integral part of the population of Georgia.

Protection of identity of ethnic minorities is safeguarded in the regions densely populated by the ethnic minorities; however the low degree of their integration with the rest of the society remains a challenge, which, among other factors, can be attributed to some extent to the density of their settlements. At the same time, representatives of some relatively small ethnic minorities are settled in various towns and regions of Georgia, and they are almost fully integrated into different facets of the societal life, though still require support in maintaining their identity.

In recent years, the country has achieved significant progress in terms of civic equality. Legal safeguards have been created and implementation mechanisms for these legal regulations have been put in place. Additionally, the cultural identity of ethnic minorities are preserved and protected. Nonetheless, the current process of civic integration has certain needs and poses challenges, effective response to which would facilitate the full realization of the potential of a significant part of the population and uphold the rights of ethnic minorities as full-fledged citizens of Georgia.

This strategy aims to provide civic equality and integration, so that citizens of Georgia, regardless of their ethnic origin, could contribute to the country's economic development, political and social life and democratic development process. Provision of civic equality and integration will, in turn, contribute to the maintenance of interethnic and intercultural peace and stability.

Ensuring equality between individuals and facilitating civic integration is a positive obligation undertaken by the country according to the Constitution of Georgia and its international treaties and conventions, which implies not only creation of an appropriate legislative environment, but also fostering o realization of these rights.

The Government of Georgia is well aware of the tasks faced by it regarding protection and enhancement of ethnic minority rights, as well promotion of development of a democratic society based on civic equality. Under the leadership of the Office of the State Minister of Georgia for Reconciliation and Civic Equality, "The State Strategy for Civic Equality and Integration and respective Action Plan for 2015-2020" was developed in order to strengthen the standing of ethnic minorities and fulfill the country's positive obligations. The action plan sets out strategic and mid-term goals for provision of ethnic minority rights and civic integration and defines the role of

³ 2002 population census www.geostat.ge

government agencies in achieving these objectives. A 5-years validity term is specified for the document. At the end of each calendar year, an action plan for the following year will be developed and presented to the Government of Georgia, which will be based on the objective of this strategy and reflect any specific additional measures needed to fulfill these objectives. Furthermore, interim and final reviews are intended to ensure the maximally successful achievement of the strategy goals and objectives.

The purpose of this document is to assist public authorities in implementing their work towards protection of ethnic minority rights, to ensure coordinated and unified inter-agency efforts, and to establish and implement consistent policy in various areas of public life that seeks to improve the level of civic participation of ethnic minorities.

I. The Vision for Civic Equality and Integration Policy

In 2005, by joining the "European Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities," Georgia made a commitment to respect the identity of ethnic minorities and create suitable conditions for realization of ethnic minority rights. Consequently, Georgia's state strategy for civic equality and integration is aimed at ensuring civil unity and equality and, through promoting ethnic and cultural diversity, aims to effectively implement its civic integration policy. The strategy is focused on creating equal opportunities for all citizens, regardless of ethnic origin or cultural identity.

Georgian cultural diversity has centuries-old traditions, positive experience of tolerant co-existence and positive development. Diversity represents a valuable asset of Georgia and a resource for the democratic and stable development of the country. The civic integration policy is based on international experience and international standards set forth by political-legal regulations concerning ethnic diversity management. Georgia, as a member of the UN, Council of Europe, OSCE and other international organizations, is ready to share, adopt and implement, in keeping with Georgia's specificities, international practices and regulations successfully implemented in the field of ethnic minority protection and civic integration. Georgia remains adherent to the commitments made when joining the Council of Europe in 1999. The strategy shares other international agreements and documents, including:

- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;
- Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;
- Recommendations and guidelines of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance;
- The Lund, the Hague, the Oslo recommendations and the Warsaw and the Ljubljana guidelines of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities.

The strategy also provides for the EU-Georgia Association Agreement signed in 2014, one of the main aims of which is to implement democratic reforms, including through protection and integration of ethnic minority rights and cultural diversity. The Strategy is entirely based on an approach which implies provision of civic equality

and diversity management. The strategy considers the national policy regarding ethnic minorities in the context of Georgia's European choice and political reforms.

The Strategy reflects achievements in the civic equality process accumulated during the past years in the country, including the practice, success and challenges of the "National Concept for Tolerance and Civic Integration and Action Plan for 2009-2014", which in turn necessitate adequate responses and resolutions⁴. The civic equality and integration strategy is based on a vision that implies equality for all citizens, not only in the legal field, according to the law and before the law, but in reality as well, in order to ensure that every human being, as a citizen, is able to fully participate in all spheres of public life. Consequently, the strategy is based on a comprehensive and integrated approach.

The main aim of the Strategy is the protection of the identity and cultural heritage of each member of the society. *Civic integration* encapsulates creation of favorable conditions for the full participation of representatives of all ethnic minority groups. For this purpose, the Georgian state will utilize various methods of support and promotion existing in the international practice. *Protection* entails maintenance and revealing of ethnic and cultural identities.

The existing strategy and action plan takes into account not only the active interaction with representatives of ethnic minorities, but the Georgian-speaking population as well. It is important that all members of the society are involved in the civic integration process. During the strategy implementation process, the state will closely cooperate with the National Minorities Council at the Public Defender's Office, as well as with NGOs, international organizations, ethnic minority representatives and experts.

Special attention should be given to the level of knowledge of the state language by ethnic minorities, which still remains a serious challenge. According to data from 2002, only 30%⁵ of the non-ethnic Georgian population has knowledge of the state language. The lack of knowledge of the state language hinders significantly their full participation in the country's political, economic and social life. Accordingly, the strategy regards knowledge of the state language as one of the main instruments of civic integration and aims to raise the level of knowledge of the Georgian language.

II. Strategic Goals

The goals and objectives formulated in the document outline important prerequisites of ethnic minority rights protection. The ultimate goal of the state policy is the long-term promotion of proper participation of ethnic minority representatives in different systems, be it political institutions, public service, civic society, economy, private sector or education sphere. The main strategic objectives i.e. preferred long-term

⁴ "Tolerance and National Integration Strategy and Action Plan for 2009-2014" Performance Assessment, June 2014 (www.smr.gov.ge)

⁵ 2002 population census www.geostat.ge

changes in the society, which the strategy plans to accomplish, are as follows:

- Representatives of ethnic minorities participate equally and fully in the civic and political life;
- Equal social and economic conditions and opportunities are created for ethnic minority representatives;
- Representatives of ethnic minorities have access to high quality education at all levels and the level of the state language knowledge is improved;
- Culture of ethnic minorities is preserved and tolerant environment is encouraged.

1. Equal and full-fledged participation in civic and political life

The purpose of the strategy in terms of civic equality is the provision of public political development of civic positions, beliefs and ideas of ethnic minority representatives, which implies the strengthening and effective implementation of the principles of equality. The strategy is also aimed at creating an equal electoral environment and promoting informed political choices from ethnic minorities. The civic integration strategy is focused, on the one hand, on the formal, quantitative increase in ethnic minority representation and participation, and, on the other hand, it strives to strengthen the legal, professional and institutional standing of ethnic communities and society, which is a crucial prerequisite for implementing a successful integration policy.

Provision of the above-mentioned goals involves the following areas:

- Increasing political involvement
- Improving civic participation
- Increasing access to media and information
- Raising awareness on ethnic minority rights

The above-mentioned refers to all of the country's ethnically and culturally diverse groups, including small, dispersed and vulnerable ethnic groups. The process of civic integration also involves introduction of provision of the gender equality principle into the ethnic minority communities.

The set strategic goal will be achieved by accomplishing the following intermediate objectives:

1.1. Supporting small and vulnerable ethnic minorities

Working on the issue of small and vulnerable ethnic groups requires special care. Small ethnic groups become part of the overall civic integration policy within the framework of the strategy. In order to enhance their involvement, a working group will be established within the state inter-agency committee; the group will be dedicated to studying and solving the problems faced by small and vulnerable ethnic

minority groups, and it will develop specific measures and recommendations for these groups. Coordination and institutional governance of state programs will be also improved.

A major task for this mid-term goal is:

- Developing and implementing a policy concerning small and vulnerable ethnic minority groups

1.2. Gender mainstreaming

In terms of reflecting gender issues, the strategy is a supplementary document of the country's gender policy, which aims to protect the rights, meet the needs and facilitate the integration of women belonging to ethnic minorities, as well fulfill the recommendations of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. The action plan provides for elimination of the gender inequality, promotion of women's rights and encouragement of their active participation in the society life. Involvement of men is also envisaged in the gender equality provision process.

1.3. Increasing access to state administration and law-enforcement agencies and mechanisms for ethnic minority representatives

Significant challenges for achieving the above-mentioned objective are the following: providing access to administrative proceedings, investigations and courts; improving the minority representatives' involvement at the level of law enforcement agencies and governors' administrations; improving access to public services for ethnic minority representatives, as well as increasing ethnic minorities' participation at all levels of training and re-training of public administration specialists.

In this regard, the lack of knowledge or insufficient understanding of the state language among ethnic minorities poses a serious challenge, which, on the one hand, results in their informational isolation, and, on the other hand, becomes a major obstacle when dealing with government agencies in establishing legal relations, such as initiation of administrative proceedings, participation in local self-governing processes, the administration of justice and so forth. Accordingly, the action plan entails measures designed to promote elimination of this barrier and improve legal communication with the central authorities. At the same time, it is important that ethnic minority representatives employed in the public sector are encouraged to improve their knowledge of the state language.

Major tasks for this mid-term goal are:

- Increasing access to administrative proceedings among ethnic minority representatives living in the regions densely populated by ethnic minorities;
- Improving participation of ethnic minorities at the level of Administrations of State Attorney- Governor in the regions;
- Improving access to public services for ethnic minority representatives;
- Increasingly involving and professionally developing ethnic minority representatives in public administration and public service, including law enforcement agencies.

1.4. Encouraging ethnic minority representatives' participation in the political decision-making process

The percentage of ethnic minority representatives participating in the country's political institutions is low compared with their percentage among the general population. The role of the Central Election Commission is imperative with regard to participation of ethnic minorities in the political decision-making process; it continues to attract representatives of ethnic minority communities to the election administration within the framework of preparation of the electoral administration. Apart from voter's rights, attention shall be paid to attracting ethnic minority representatives to political parties. It is planned to carry out a purposeful policy regarding political parties to ensure the inclusion of ethnic minorities in party lists by increasing their interest. The Action Plan also provides awareness raising activities on civic integration, political participation of ethnic minorities and diversity management among political party representatives both in central and regional administrations.

In order to improve the legal framework concerning these issues, the strategy envisions creation of a special inter-agency working group, which will study successful modes of promoting political participation among ethnic minorities, review international practices and existing legal mechanisms, discuss the possibility of using these tools in Georgia and, if necessary, prepare proposals.

In order to encourage ethnic minority participation in the political decision-making process, regional and local levels of governments will follow Europe's example and establish public advisory councils, the function of which will be to bring the matters that are important for the ethnic minority representatives to the decision-makers, in order to create reports and recommendations, initiate specific proposals and monitor and evaluate all governmental decisions and programs that are in any way related to ethnic minority needs. Public Advisory Councils will be established with the participation of civil society organizations, community representatives and relevant governmental agencies.

Major tasks for this mid-term goal are:

- Ensuring that ethnic minorities have an informed choice and a right to vote;
- Encouraging participation and involvement of ethnic minority representatives in activities of political parties and election party lists;
- Increasing participation of ethnic minorities in public service.

1.5. Improving access to media and information for representatives of ethnic minorities

Media plays a special role for successful progress of the integration process, both through its coverage of topics related to ethnic minorities and their involvement in various regions, as well as in its inadmissibility to use hate speech, a fact which necessitates a sharp response if violated. In this context, the state will work with media organizations to enable them to jointly promote the popularization of the Code of Conduct for Public Broadcasting, which obliges all broadcasters to follow the principles of equality and tolerance. At the same time, the political socialization of

ethnic minorities and the civic integration process require increased access to information in native ethnic languages. The Georgian Public Broadcaster plays a leading role in the present media and information component of the strategy, the purpose of which is to strengthen awareness about current social, economic and political activities among ethnic minorities, as well as promote common national, democratic values. In addition, it is required to spread awareness concerning ethnic minority-related issues and provide its coverage according to high professional standards.

Major tasks for this mid-term goal are:

- Facilitating access to broadcast programs and electronic/printed media in minority languages;
- Providing media coverage of ethnic minority issues in broadcast programs and ensuring ethnic minorities' participation;
- Promoting tolerance and cultural pluralism in the media.

1.6. Raising public awareness about ethnic minority rights

Accomplishment of the above-mentioned goal entails informing the general population, as well as ethnic minority communities on the "Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities". This process also requires that the state conducts media campaigns aimed at raising public awareness about the "European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages", which targets various groups, including regional Governors' offices, local administrations, law enforcement agencies and other public institution employees. In addition, fulfillment of the Framework Convention requirements will be monitored and reported.

2. Creating equal social and economic conditions and opportunities

Georgian legislation protects the socio-economic equality of all citizens of Georgia. However, due to a number of reasons (lack of knowledge of the state language, geographical factors, low-level of social and political participation) there is a risk that ethnic minorities find out themselves in unfair circumstances in terms of exercising their economic and socio-political rights. Consequently, the strategy sets out special measures.

In terms of civic integration, it is imperative to create socio-economic programs that would increase the level of communication between ethnic minorities, the ethnic Georgian population and state agencies, while improving access of the ethnic minorities to social services. When implementing their own sectorial strategies and socio-economic programs and services, state agencies will take ethnic minority needs into consideration.

The strategy is based on the EU-Georgia Association Agreement signed in 2014, one of the main chapters of which, "Employment, Social Policy and Equal Opportunities", provides for an inclusive labor market, a system of social security, social inclusion and anti-discrimination policies for vulnerable groups, including ethnic minority communities.

2.1. Social and regional mobility

The strategy takes into account the encouragement of social and regional mobility of ethnic minorities. In order to achieve this goal, the regions populated by ethnic minorities will be provided with infrastructure development and employment opportunities, as well as social programs and services in the languages they are able to understand.

2.2. Providing vocational and adult education

Vocational and adult education for ethnic minorities ensures their adaptation to the labor market and provision of employment opportunities. In order to achieve these objectives, the task set envisages to increase participation of ethnic minorities in vocational schools through the development of appropriate mechanisms, which implies development and implementation of the relevant policy- aimed at increasing the ethnic minorities' access to vocational education, based on conducted studies of vulnerable groups, involving ethnic minorities. In order to increase full and equal access to vocational education among ethnic minority groups, it is also important to expand the network of vocational educational institutions and provide the delivery of the high-quality vocational education: establishment of new vocational educational institutions across the country, arrangement of student accommodation for colleges, and creation of labor market-oriented vocational education programs. In addition to the above-mentioned recommendations, it is important that adults of different professional groups have access to the national state language learning – using an approach adapted to the needs of a respective group. In this regard, it is planned that the regional training centers of the LEPL - Zurab Zhvania School of Public Administration - expand their services to include a wider and more diverse scope of users and create mobile groups of educators that would organize language courses in various villages. It is important that the professional development programs are in line with the general policy of civic integration of ethnic minorities and carry out vocational programs relevant for economic development of the region and for labor market.

3. Improving access to quality education and increasing state language knowledge

This document is fully compatible with the government's policy in the field of education and state language.

Providing pre-school, general, vocational and higher education and increasing access to quality education are priority objectives for the state, which should significantly contribute to the dissemination of national values among citizens, promote economic prosperity and establish the civil equality culture.

Georgia has more than two hundred non-Georgian language schools, which is an important achievement in terms of ethnic minority rights. However, the quality of education remains a challenge for non-Georgian language schools, in particular they are in need of improving the quality of their textbooks and enhancing teacher qualifications through trainings, both of which are essential prerequisites for the

proper social, economic, political and regional involvement of ethnic minorities. The educational system not only determines a citizen's degree of socialization and future professional prospects, but is directly linked to teaching and promotion of the state language, which nowadays is the main factors determining the poor level of civic integration of the ethnic minority population. This strategy includes an educational policy aimed at combating the needs of not only ethnic groups in densely populated settlements, but also dispersed ethnic groups. Consequently, by taking into consideration the interests and needs of ethnic minorities, this document entails the provision of effective measures designed to create real opportunities for accessing quality education.

3.1. Increasing access to pre-school education

In order to attain this mid-term goal, it is important to provide quality education at the pre-school education level by improving the infrastructure, creating educational resources and offering professional development trainings for teachers and administrative staff.

Access to pre-school education and quality pre-school education are essential for the development of cognitive, social and linguistic skills and abilities and, hence, for preparation to the school education. In this regard it is important, first of all, to create special pre-school education programs with different teaching models, as well as the development of training standards and school curriculums. Establishment of appropriate infrastructures, creation of teaching resources in pre-school institutions, and professional qualification trainings for teachers and staff are needed for the successful implementation of the developed programs and for the achievement of strategy goals.

3.2. Increasing access to basic quality education both in state and native languages

Successful implementation of the civic integration policy requires improving the quality of education in non-Georgian language schools and providing access to quality education – in both the state and native languages. The action plan aims to fulfill these objectives by adopting the following measures: improving and expanding access to the national curriculum and textbooks, raising qualifications of the non-Georgian language school personnel, improving the professional development of the school administration staff, promoting the bilingual education reform, improving the state language teaching among ethnic minorities and ensuring the maintenance of native languages.

It is important that textbooks reflect the diversity existing in Georgia and do not contain stereotypical or discriminatory elements. Improved bilingual textbooks should be prepared and published. The action plan envisages a number of measures aimed at fulfilling these objectives.

Another prerequisite for the quality education provision is the further professional training of teachers. In the context of ethnic minority rights, the above means developing a policy for the professional training of teachers at non-Georgian language schools and teaching them the state language, as well as training future teachers. It is

essential and prioritized to ensure that teachers and students know the official state language, but it is also equally important to preserve native languages.

3.3 Increasing access to higher education

Providing young representatives of ethnic minorities in Georgia access to quality higher education is an important priority. The current preferential policy (the so-called "1+4" scheme) has made a significant contribution to improving access to higher education for ethnic minorities, respectively, the policy will be continued and further refined. The action plan includes a commitment of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia – creation of a system for assessing the Georgian language knowledge, as well as appropriate instruments. It is important to involve graduates educated under the preferential scheme in the teaching process at non-Georgian language schools, and also to develop and fund such university training programs, which are aimed at improving the quality of universal education in non-Georgian schools, teaching native and state languages, as well as employing young representatives of ethnic minorities in priority areas in Georgia. The higher education preferential scheme will continue until non-Georgian language schools increase the level of knowledge of the state language and the quality of its general education.

4. Preservation of culture of ethnic minorities and establishment of tolerant environment

The *protection* provided by the strategy is focused on maintenance and development of ethnic minorities' cultural identity elements, such as language, traditions, art and cultural heritage. At the same time, popularization of ethnic minorities' culture will help push forward *civic integration* by strengthening the values of diversity and tolerance among the general population.

The major mid-term goals needed for achieving this objective include:

- 4.1 Reflecting the role and importance of ethnic minorities when developing and implementing cultural policies;
- 4.2 Promoting and protecting ethnic minorities' cultural heritage;
- 4.3 Promoting cultural diversity.

The above-mentioned aim involves promotion of protection and development of both tangible and intangible cultural values of ethnic minorities. In particular, it provides for registration and inventory of cultural heritage sites of ethnic minorities, fortification and restoration of monuments, support of ethnic museum and theater activities and utilization of library tolerance as a tool for inter-cultural and educational integration. Cultural diversity will also include a better understanding of Georgian culture by ethnic minorities, especially by youth.

III. Strategy Implementation, Reporting, Monitoring and Evaluation Modalities

The strategy is accompanied by an Action Plan providing for specific objectives, programs and general measures for the period of 2015-2020. In addition, at the end of each year, relevant agencies will be responsible for developing an action plan for the subsequent year, which will outline specific projects and activities - in accordance with the goals set by this strategy and general activities, under consideration of the already-achieved results and shortcomings revealed. A State Inter-Agency Commission will be created to monitor and report on implementation of the goals and activities set out in the strategy; the Commission will be coordinated by the Office of the State Minister of Georgia for Reconciliation and Civic Equality. The Commission will comprise all the major public institutions that have assumed relevant responsibilities according to the strategy and action plan(s), including: the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection, Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure, Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs, Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Affairs, Ministry of Corrections, Ministry of Agriculture, Tbilisi and Batumi Municipal Councils, Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, D. Aghmashenebeli National Defense Academy of Georgia; Administrations of State Attorney – Governor in Kvemo Kartli, Samtskhe-Javakheti and Kakheti regions, Georgian Public Broadcaster and Central Election Commission. The Council of National Minorities operating under the Public Defender's Office will also be involved in the work of the Commission. Thematic working groups will continue to operate within the Inter-Agency Commission. This format gives the Commission an opportunity to engage in discussions with various non-governmental organizations, experts and other stakeholders.

The abovementioned responsible agencies will undertake implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan within their competence.

It is important to take into account the risk factors that may prevent the Strategy implementation. Such factors may include international/regional economic instability adversely affecting the country's financial and economic situation, as well as negative political developments in the region or other force majeure circumstances. However, the recent past shows that adverse international developments/processes could not slow down or seriously jeopardize implementation of civic integration.

The strategy development process involved NGOs, international organizations, experts and various ethnic minority groups, whose needs and recommendations served as a basis for formulation of strategic and mid-term goals, as well as the respective tasks and events. Accordingly, the Action Plan envisages a number of measures for the effective implementation of the ethnic minority integration policy. Participation of ethnic minority representatives in the monitoring and assessment process will also be important for successful implementation of the Strategy and Action plan.

In December 2014, the Council of National Minorities at the Public Defender's Office presented alternative monitoring results of the implementation assessment of the "National Concept for Tolerance and Civic Integration and respective Action Plan for 2009-2014". The Georgian government welcomes implementation of the alternative monitoring of the action plan, as well as disclosure of the implementation assessment and recommendations –both by the Council of National Minorities and other interested parties.

At the same time, this Strategy provides additional mechanisms for the evaluation and monitoring of ethnic minorities rights and the process of civic integration. Two comprehensive evaluations (quantitative and qualitative) will be prepared during the implementation period: an intermediate and final assessment by the completion of the implementation process. The aim of the evaluation is to measure the long-term impact of the goals and objectives envisaged by the strategy using pre-designed, scientifically-proved indicators, which allow for comparison. The assessment will be conducted for all strategic objectives using the "objective indicators" determined in the Action Plan, which will be developed by appropriate specialists. The assessment will be conducted by a party with relevant experience. Additionally, at the end of each year, the Office of the State Minister of Georgia for Reconciliation and Civic Equality, along with the members of the Inter-Agency Committee, will undertake monitoring and evaluation of the Strategy and Action Plan in terms of relevant implementation "indicators". The monitoring and evaluation results will be discussed together with relevant agencies, non-governmental and international organizations, which will be both observers and implementers of certain activities envisaged by the Action Plan.

Action Plan for 2015–2020

| Strategic Goal 1. Equal and Full Participation in Civic and Political Life | | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|--|------------------------------|
| Interim goal | Objective | Activities | Indicators | Responsible Agency | Implementation period |
| 1.1 Support to small and vulnerable ethnic minority target groups | 1.1.1 Developing and implementing policy for small and vulnerable ethnic minorities | 1.1.1.1 Creating a working group in the state interagency commission on vulnerable ethnic minorities | 1.1.1.1 Reports of the working group meetings and activities, problems identified | Office of the State Minister for Reconciliation and Civic Equality State Interagency Commission | 2015–2017 |
| | | 1.1.1.2. Taking relevant measures for issuing certificates to persons without birth certificates, which will provide documentation for said persons | 1.1.1.2 Decrease in the number of persons without documentation; The number of documentation issued | Ministry of Justice of Georgia | 2015-2020 |
| | | 1.1.1.3 Reflecting educational needs of vulnerable ethnic groups in educational programs | 1.1.1.3 A report on implemented programs which will reflect the number of participating students | Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia | 2015-2020 |
| | | 1.1.1.4 Supporting the literature-publishing work respective the cultural diversity protection | 1.1.1.4 The number of the prepared and published works that demonstrate the country's cultural diversity | Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia | 2015-2017 |

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| | | 1.1.1.5 Creating and establishing standards for teaching languages of small ethnic minority groups | 1.1.1.5 Small ethnic minority languages being taught in certain schools under a special program | Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia | 2015-2018 |
| 1.2 Gender Mainstreaming | 1.2.1 Supporting the elimination of gender discrimination | 1.2.1.1 Conducting informational campaigns on gender equality issues in the regions densely populated by ethnic minorities | 1.2.1.1 Awareness of ethnic minority members on gender equality issues | Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia Local self-government bodies; LEPL- David Agmashenebeli National Defense Academy | 2015-2017 |
| | | 1.2.1.2 Supporting gender equality during the implementation of the regional development policy | 1.2.1.2 The number of women in local governmental and non-governmental structures | Administrations of State Attorney-Governor | 2015-2020 |
| | | 1.2.1.3 Establishing short-term programs aimed at identifying and supporting women leaders | 1.2.1.3 The number of women leaders identified and their active participation in the social life | Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia Administrations of State Attorney-Governor Local self-government bodies | 2015-2017 |

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| 1.3 Increasing access to state administrative and judicial bodies and mechanisms for members of ethnic minorities | 1.3.1 Supporting the translation of documents drawn up in non-state languages for non-Georgian speaking citizens living in regions densely populated by ethnic minorities - as required | 1.3.1.1 Elaboration of a draft legal act in order to translate for non-state language speaking citizens the documents drawn up in non-state languages that are to be submitted to administrative bodies | 1.3.1.1. Elimination of difficulties associated with the documents to be submitted | Administrations of State Attorney-Governor Local self-government bodies | 2015-2020 |
| | 1.3.2 Improving the involvement of ethnic minorities in the Administration of authorized state representatives-Governors | 1.3.2.1 Formation of an advisory council at the administration of authorized state representatives-Governors, with the participation of ethnic minority representatives | 1.3.2.1 Analysis of the advisory council composition, number and frequency of meetings; discussed topics; decisions made | Office of the State Minister of Georgia for Reconciliation and Civic Equality Administrations of State Attorney-Governor | 2015 |
| | | 1.3.2.2 Promoting the involvement of ethnic minority representatives in various departments of the administration of authorized state representatives-Governors | 1.3.2.2 Analysis of the number of ethnic minority members in various departments of the administration of authorized state representatives-Governors | Administrations of State Attorney-Governor | 2015-2020 |

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| | | 1.3.2.3 Implementing an internship program for ethnic minority members in the administration of authorized state representatives- Governors | 1.3.2.3 Analysis of the number of interns of non-Georgian ethnic origins in the administration of authorized state representatives- Governors | Government of Georgia Administrations of State Attorney-Governor | 2015 |
| 1.3.3 Improving access to community services for ethnic minority members | 1.3.3.1 Developing informational materials and media products on social services and ongoing government programs (psychosocial rehabilitation, educational programs, latest legislative regulations) in ethnic minority languages and their distribution in the regions; holding informational meetings | 1.3.3.1 The data on the number of ethnic minorities using social services and programs; the number of beneficiaries | Office of the State Minister of Georgia for Reconciliation and Civic Equality Ministry of Justice of Georgia Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia Local self-government bodies; Ministry of Corrections of Georgia The Georgian Public Broadcaster | 2015-2017 | |

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| | | | to be asked for | |
| | 1.3.3.2 Informing accused/ convicted ethnic minority representatives on their rights | 1.3.3.2 The accused convicted persons are provided with informational materials | Ministry of Corrections of Georgia | 2015-2020 |
| 1.3.4 Increasing the involvement and professional development of ethnic minorities in public administration and public service | 1.3.4.1 Developing a learning program for public officers belonging to ethnic minorities | 1.3.4.1 The data on representatives of ethnic minorities in the LEPL- Zurab Zhvania School of Public Administration | Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia The LEPL- Zurab Zhvania School of Public Administration and regional centers of the school Office of the State Minister of Georgia for Reconciliation and Civic Equality | 2015 -2020 |
| | 1.3.4.2 Providing periodic internships in public institutions for young people belonging to ethnic minorities | 1.3.4.2 Number of the interns enrolled in various public structures and the data on their employment | LEPL- Civil Service Bureau Office of the State Minister of Georgia for Reconciliation and Civic Equality Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia | 2015–2017 |

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| | | | <p>Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development of Georgia</p> <p>Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia</p> <p>Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Security of Georgia</p> <p>Ministry of Justice of Georgia</p> <p>Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia</p> <p>Local self-government bodies</p> | |
| 1.3.5 Improving the state language knowledge by public servants belonging to ethnic minorities | 1.3.5.1 Training public servants belonging to ethnic minorities within the three levels of the state language teaching program (A1, A2, B1) | 1.3.5.1 The level of knowledge of the state language among the retrained public servants belonging to ethnic minorities | <p>Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia</p> <p>LEPL- Zurab Zhvania School of Public Administration</p> | 2015-2020 |

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| | 1.3.6 Recruiting ethnic minority representatives to law enforcement agencies | 1.3.6.1 Training ethnic minority representatives in the corresponding high education institutions | 1.3.6.1 An increase in the involvement of representatives of ethnic minorities in law enforcement agencies | LEPL- Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia | 2015–2020 |
| 1.4 Encouraging participation of ethnic minorities in the political decision-making process | 1.4.1 Providing the opportunity for ethnic minorities to vote and make informed decisions | 1.4.1.1 Translating materials related to the election process into ethnic minority languages | 1.4.1.1-1.4.1.3 The results of surveys conducted among ethnic minorities about their awareness on election procedures and election subjects | The Central Election Commission of Georgia to be asked for | 2015-2017 |
| | | 1.4.1.2 Preparing and distributing audio, video and online materials in ethnic minority languages; providing the corresponding materials to local resource-centers of the Central Election Commission of Georgia | | | |
| | | 1.4.1.3 Providing small grants for CSO's and ethnic minority communities for informational campaigns about the importance of elections and strengthening the election culture | | | |

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| | | 1.4.1.4 Training the Election Administration members belonging to ethnic minorities in election procedures | 1.4.1.4 The number of the ethnic minority representatives whose skills have been improved in the training center | The Central Election Commission of Georgia to be asked for The Training Center of the Central Election Commission of Georgia | 2015–2017 |
| | 1.4.2 Encouraging the involvement of ethnic minority representatives in electoral party lists and activities of political parties | 1.4.2.1 Creating training courses for political parties on cultural and ethnic diversity management issues | 1.4.2.1 Studying the programs and election platforms of political parties, appearances of party leaders during the campaign | Office of the State Minister of Georgia for Reconciliation and Civic Equality Interagency Commission; International organizations | 2015–2018 |
| | | 1.4.2.2 Developing a manual for political parties on the European experience of civic integration and ethnic minority management | 1.4.2.2 Developing and publishing the manual; political parties are aware of the European experience on implementing civic integration policies | Office of the State Minister of Georgia for Reconciliation and Civic Equality State Interagency Commission International organizations | 2015-2017 |

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| | 1.4.3 Improving the legal framework for political participation | 1.4.3.1 Elaboration by the interagency working group of an optimal model for strengthening political participation of ethnic minority representatives, keeping in mind international experience. | 1.4.3.1 Legislation Analysis (the Law of Georgia on "Political Associations", the Election Code of Georgia, the Local Self-Government Code) | Office of the State Minister for Reconciliation and Civic Equality State Interagency Commission Government of Georgia | 2015–2017 |
| 1.5. Improving access to mass media and information for representatives of ethnic minorities | 1.5.1 Providing access to broadcasting programs and electronic/printed media in minority languages | 1.5.1.1 Financing media-products in ethnic minority languages and providing their distribution in the regions populated by ethnic minorities | 1.5.1.1 Analysis of accessibility of media-products in minority languages in the regions densely populated by ethnic minorities | The Public Broadcaster to be asked for Ministry of Finance of Georgia Local self-government bodies | 2015-2017 |
| | | 1.5.1.2 Providing accused/convicted persons with the appropriate periodicals | 1.5.1.2–1.5.1.3 The level of awareness of accused/convicted persons | Ministry of Corrections of Georgia | 2015-2020 |
| | | 1.5.1.3 Providing the appropriate public broadcasting for accused/convicted persons | | | 2016-2020 |

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| | 1.5.2 Providing coverage of ethnic minorities-related topics and participation in ethnic minority languages in broadcasting programs. | 1.5.2.1 Encouraging the production of programs in ethnic minority languages at the Public Broadcaster | 1.5.2.1 Programs produced in ethnic minority languages | The Georgian Public Broadcaster to be asked for | 2015-2017 |
| | | 1.5.2.2 Participation of representatives of ethnic minorities at the Public Broadcaster and active broadcasting of their problems | 1.5.2.2 Analysis of the programs aired by the Public Broadcaster | The Georgian Public Broadcaster to be asked for | 2015-2017 |
| | 1.5.3 Supporting the establishment of tolerance and cultural pluralism in the media | 1.5.3.1 Popularization of the Public Broadcaster's Code of Conduct | 1.5.3.1 The meetings held with the participation of interested parties concerning the Public Broadcaster's Code of Conduct | The Georgian Public Broadcaster to be asked for | 2015-2017 |
| 1.6. Informing the society on the rights of ethnic minorities | 1.6.1 Complying with the European Framework Convention on the "Protection of National Minorities" and raising the public awareness about the European Charter on the "Regional or Minority Languages" | 1.6.1.1 Developing a plan of activities for carrying out an informational campaign on the European Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities; implementing the informational campaign in the | 1.6.1.1 Results of a survey on the essence, meaning and needs of the European Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities based on different regions and | Office of the State Minister of Georgia for Reconciliation and Civic Equality Local self-government bodies | 2015-2020 |

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| | capital and regions; reflecting information on ethnic minority rights in the implemented educational programs | government agencies | LEPL- Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia | |
| | 1.6.1.2 Monitoring fulfillment of the commitments made under the European Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and development-presentation of a corresponding report | 1.6.1.2 Analysis of the report on the implementation of the European Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities | Office of the State Minister of Georgia for Reconciliation and Civic Equality Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia | 2015-2020 |
| | 1.6.1.3 Implementing an informational campaign with the aim of raising awareness on the “European Charter on Regional or Minority Languages”; continuing the work of the intergovernmental committee developing recommendations about the fulfillment of Georgia’s commitments concerning the European Charter on "Regional or Minority Languages" | 1.6.1.3 Informing of the public on the essence, importance and needs of the European Charter on "Regional or Minority Languages" in accordance with various regions and departments Analysis of the work of the intergovernmental commission developing recommendations for the fulfillment of Georgia’s commitments concerning the “European Charter on Regional or Minority Languages" | Office of the State Minister of Georgia for Reconciliation and Civic Equality Local self-government bodies | 2015-2016 |

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| 1.6.2 Raising awareness of public servants and ethnic minority target groups in the field of ethnic minorities' rights and antidiscrimination legislation | 1.6.2.1 Providing trainings and materials for public servants on the rights of ethnic minorities and antidiscrimination legislation | 1.6.2.1 The number of trained personnel | LEPL- The Training Center of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia Ministry of Corrections of Georgia LEPL- the Training Center of the Ministry of Corrections; The Public Defender's Office of Georgia to be asked for | 2015-2016 |
| | 1.6.2.2 Informing the convicts belonging to ethnic minorities on their rights | 1.6.2.2 The convicts who possess information on their rights | Ministry of Corrections of Georgia LEPL- the Training Center of the Ministry of Corrections and Legal Assistance | 2016-2020 |

| Strategic Goal 2. Creating Equal Social and Economic Conditions and Opportunities | | | | | |
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| Intermediate goal | Objective | Activities/action | Indicator | Responsible Agency | Implementation Period |
| 2.1. Supporting social and regional mobility | 2.1.1 Supporting the improvement of economic conditions of ethnic minorities | 2.1.1.1 Developing infrastructure and supporting employment in the regions densely | 2.1.1.1 The number of projects implemented in various regions of Georgia; analysis of the | Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia; | 2015-2017 |

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| | | populated by ethnic minorities; supporting Entrepreneurship and business | employment of local residents | Governors' Administrations | |
| | | 2.1.1.2 Providing access to data analysis results of the labor market informational system | 2.1.1.2 Analysis of the development of economic relations of regions densely populated by ethnic minorities | Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia Governors' Administrations | 2015-2018 |
| | 2.1.2 Supporting the improvement of the social status of ethnic minorities | 2.1.2.1 Providing information about social services and government programs (healthcare, regional development, agriculture) | 2.1.2.1 The number of residents using government services; the number of persons involved in the government programs | Office of the State Minister of Georgia for Reconciliation and Civic Equality Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Services of Georgia Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia Local self-government bodies | 2015-2020 |
| | 2.1.3 Providing vocational and adult education | 2.1.3.1 Accessibility of vocational training courses | 2.1.3.1 Offering appropriate training courses in vocational | Vocational educational institutions | 2015-2020 |

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| | | | educational institutions | LEPL- Zurab Zhvania School of Public Administration | |
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Strategic Goal 3. Providing Access to High Quality Education and Improving Knowledge of the State Language

| Intermediate goal | Objective | Activities/action | Indicator | Responsible Agency | Implementation Period |
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| 3.1. Increasing access to pre-school education for representatives of ethnic minorities | 3.1.1 Developing a pre-school education program, developing learning resource modules, elaborating professional development programs for teachers and administrative staff | 3.1.1.1 Developing relevant programs and educational resources for school preparedness | 3.1.1.1 The corresponding pre-school educational programs and resources are developed for children of ethnic minority representatives | Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia | 2016-2019 |
| | | 3.1.1.2 Training teachers at pre-school institutions and schools for school preparedness in the regions densely populated by ethnic minorities | 3.1.1.2 The school preparedness program is available for teachers in regions densely populated by ethnic minorities. The teacher's professional development program is in place and a minimum of 20% are prepared to | Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia (LEPL-National Center for Professional Development of Teachers) Higher Education institutions of Georgia Local self-government bodies | 2018-2019 |

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| | | | implement this program | | |
| | | 3.1.1.3 Offering to pre-school institutions the appropriate infrastructure needed to implement the developed pre-school educational programs | 3.1.1.3 The schools/preschool institutions in densely populated areas, where the school preparedness programs are being implemented, are equipped with the appropriate infrastructure and equipment | Local self-government bodies | 2015-2016 |
| 3.2 Increasing access to quality general education in both state and native languages | 3.2.1 Improving-developing the national curriculum and educational resources to support the introduction of quality bi-lingual education | 3.2.1.1 Developing a National Lingual Education Concept for the National Curriculum | 3.2.1.1 The Lingual Education Concept has been developed and approved | Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia | 2016-2019 |
| | | 3.2.1.2 Creating a guidebook for bilingual education in non-Georgian language schools based on the Lingual Education Concept , and translation of such into Armenian and Azerbaijani languages | 3.2.1.2 The education guidebook is available to non-Georgian language schools | Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia (LEPL-National Center for Professional Development of Teachers) | 2015-2019 |

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| | | 3.2.1.3 Translating and providing mechanisms of high quality translation of the new textbooks with classification codes for the primary level with the involvement of non-Georgian language schools and community-based organizations | 3.2.1.3 Revised textbooks with classification codes compliant with the national curriculum and approved by the Ministry of Education and Science have been translated and made available to non-Georgian language schools | Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia | 2016-2020 |
| | | 3.2.1.4 During the process of developing new textbooks and providing them with classification codes - development of such mechanisms that would provide for elimination of discriminatory and stereotypical elements in the said textbooks | 3.2.1.4 The school textbooks reflect the diversity existing in Georgia; they are free from stereotypes and discriminatory elements, and are consistent with the principles of culturally sensitive teaching | Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia | 2016-2020 |
| | 3.2.2 Supporting the professional development of non-Georgian language school teachers | 3.2.2.1 Teaching the state language to teachers in non-Georgian language schools | 3.2.2.1 50% of the teachers in non-Georgian language schools are learning A2 level language courses | Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia (LEPL-National Center for Professional Development of Teachers) | 2015-2017 |

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| | | forming part of the professional skill training module | LEPL- Zurab Zhvania School of Public Administration and its regional training centers Public schools Interested non-governmental organizations | |
| | 3.2.2.2 Providing training materials and professional development programs in native or comprehensible language | 3.2.2.2 Professional development programs and training materials are available to non-Georgian language school teachers in their native languages | Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia (LEPL-National Center for Professional Development of Teachers) Interested non-governmental organizations | 2015-2020 |
| | 3.2.2.3 Providing the opportunity to conduct mandatory subject-related exams in native languages for teachers in non-Georgian language schools | 3.2.2.3 Subject-related exams are offered in native languages to non-Georgian language school teachers | Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia (LEPL-National Center for Professional Development of Teachers) LEPL-National Assessment and Examination Center | 2016-2019 |

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| 3.2.3 Supporting the ongoing educational reform in non-Georgian language schools | 3.2.3.1 Providing professional development to school principals in a language they understand, regarding: a) the management of public organizations; B) the financial management and internal audit for public officials; C) public procurement; D) human resource management and record-keeping for public officials; E) multi-component and multi-level courses of the state language | 3.2.3.1 School principals have been trained | Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia | 2015-2020 |
| | 3.2.3.2 Creating a strategy and action plan for bilingual education in non-Georgian language schools | 3.2.3.2 The strategy and action plan has been developed | Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia | 2015-2018 |
| | 3.2.3.3 Training teachers of various subjects to establish bilingual teaching at the primary level | 3.2.3.3 A bilingual teaching and learning system has been introduced in 50% of the densely populated regions | Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia (LEPL-National Center for Professional Development of Teachers) | 2016-2020 |

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| | 3.2.3.4 Conducting informational meetings with target groups about the planned and ongoing innovations in the educational system | 3.2.3.4 The target groups have been informed on the innovations in the education system | Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia | 2015- 2020 |
| | 3.2.3.5 Developing wage policies for the bilingual education | 3.2.3.5 Wages of the teachers participating in the bilingual education have been defined and laid out in the rule formulating teachers' wage | Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia | 2016-2020 |
| 3.2.4 Improving the state language teaching for representatives of ethnic minorities | 3.2.4.1 Creating opportunities for professional development of non-Georgian teachers of the state language | 3.2.4.1 The state language is being taught effectively in non-Georgian language schools; the level of knowledge of the pupils in reading, listening and speaking has significantly improved | Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia (LEPL- National Center for Professional Development of Teachers) Public and private providers LEPL- Zurab Zhvania School of Public Administration and regional centers of the school | 2015-2020 |

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| | | 3.2.4.2 Sending qualified teachers to non-Georgian language schools in order to teach ethnic minorities the state language | 3.2.4.2 Up to 100 consultant-teachers have been sent to non-Georgian language schools | Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia (LEPL-National Center for Professional Development of Teachers) | 2015–2020 |
| | | 3.2.4.3 Providing Georgian language courses to non-Georgian speaking convicts | 3.2.4.3 The number of convicts involved in the Georgian language learning process; number of the implemented courses | Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia Ministry of Corrections of Georgia | 2015-2020 |
| | 3.2.5 Increasing the quality of native language teaching in non-Georgian language schools | 3.2.5.1 Integrating the native language curriculum into the national curriculum | 3.2.5.1 The ethnic minority subject group curriculum has been integrated and approved into the national curriculum | Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia | 2016-2020 |
| | | 3.2.5.2 Developing and implementing mechanisms for the entry into the profession, professional development, encouragement and career growth for native language teachers teaching in Armenian and Azerbaijani | 3.2.5.2 The standard and corresponding training-modules for teachers have been developed | Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia (LEPL-National Center for Professional Development of Teachers) | 2016-2018 |

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| | | languages | | | |
| | | 3.2.5.3 Supporting the initialization of training programs for future teachers of Armenian and Azerbaijani as a native language in Georgian Higher Education institutions, and launching encouragement mechanisms by increasing quotas | 3.2.5.3 The number of people wishing to enroll, those who enrolled and graduated from higher education institutions as a result of the quoting has increased by at least 50% | Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia Higher Educational institutions of Georgia | 2015-2020 |
| 3.3 Increasing access to higher education | 3.3.1 Providing and supporting preferential policies | 3.3.1.1 Conducting informational meetings with the public on preferential policies | 3.3.1.1 As a result of the preferential policies (the so-called "1 + 4") in the Georgian Language Training Program, the number of persons wishing to enroll, enrolled students, and graduates has increased by at least 20% | Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia and its local structural entities LEPL-National Assessment and Examination Center Higher educational institutions of Georgia Local government agencies | 2015-2016 |

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| | | 3.3.1.2 Creating an instrument to assess the level of knowledge of the Georgian language | 3.3.1.2 An instrument to assess the level of knowledge of the Georgian language has been developed | Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia | 2016-2020 |
| 3.4 Providing vocational and adult education | 3.4.1. Increasing the participation of ethnic minority representatives in professional colleges, as well as providing access to the state language learning for the adult population | 3.4.1.1 Developing and establishing mechanisms for supporting the increase of access to professional development for representatives of ethnic minorities | 3.4.1.1 The access to professional education has increased for representatives of ethnic minorities | Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia Professional colleges Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs of Georgia | 2015-2017 |
| | | 3.4.1.2 Expanding the network of professional educational institutions | 3.4.1.2 The access to professional education has increased for representatives of ethnic minorities | Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia | 2015-2020 |

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| | | 3.4.1.3 Offering state language learning courses to the adult population of the regions densely populated by ethnic minorities | 3.4.1.3 The level of knowledge of the state language among the adult population has improved | Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia LEPL- Zurab Zhvania School of Public Administration | 2015-2019 |
| | | | | LEPL- Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University The President's Administration to be asked for | 2015 |
| | | 3.4.1.4 Developing the program and creating new thematic courses in the LEPL- Zurab Zhvania School of Public Administration, keeping in mind the needs associated with the professional development of public officials | 3.4.1.4 A renewed government administration program is functioning in the LEPL- Zurab Zhvania School of Public Administration | Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia (LEPL- National Center for Professional Development of Teachers) LEPL- Zurab Zhvania School of Public Administration | 2015-2016 |

| Strategic Goal 4. Preserving Ethnic Minorities' Culture and Promoting a Tolerant Environment | | | | | |
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| Intermediate goal | Objective | Activities/action | Indicator | Responsible Agencies | Implementation Period |
| 4.1 Reflecting the role and importance of ethnic minorities in the development and implementation of cultural policies | 4.1.1 Improving the activities aimed at preservation of ethnic minorities' culture; providing coordination with regional and local entities | 4.1.1.1 Supporting cultural activities | 4.1.1.1 – 4.1.1.2 The scale of implemented activities | Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia | 2015-2018 |
| | | 4.1.1.2 Involvement of the non-governmental sector in cultural activities; support of their initiatives | | | |
| | | 4.1.1.3, Defining goals and objectives determining the budget, planning within the framework of supporting ethnic minority culture | 4.1.1.3 Analysis of the activities implemented in the direction of ethnic minority culture support | Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs of Georgia Local self-government bodies | 2015–2018 |
| | | 4.1.1.4 Supporting theaters and museums | 4.1.1.4 Renewed infrastructure; analysis of the activities of theaters and museums | Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia | 2015-2018 |

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| 4.2 Protection and popularization of ethnic minorities' cultural heritage | 4.2.1 Protecting material and non-material cultural values of ethnic minorities | 4.2.1.1 Rehabilitation-reconstruction of monuments | 4.2.1.1 – 4.2.1.2 The condition of cultural monuments has improved | Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia LEPL- National Agency for Cultural Heritage preservation of Georgia | 2015-2018 |
| | | 4.2.1.2 Continuation of the accounting and inventory of cultural monuments | | | |
| 4.3. Encouraging cultural diversity | 4.3.1 Developing an intercultural dialogue | 4.3.1.1 Developing and implementing a unified policy for the state library | 4.3.1.1 Developing, adopting and effectively implementing a document that reflects the policy | Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia National Library of the Parliament of Georgia | 2015-2018 |
| | | 4.3.1.2 Supporting the work of libraries as tolerant, intercultural-educational facilities | 4.3.1.2 The condition of libraries and the interest of the local residents in their services | Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia National Library of the Parliament of Georgia | 2015-2018 |

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| | | 4.3.1.3 Supporting intercultural programs and sport activities | 4.3.1.3 The level of interest in the implemented activities; the scale of activities | Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia Ministry of Corrections of Georgia | 2015-2020 |
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