



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTÉ
WELTGESUNDHEITSORGANISATION
ВСЕМИРНАЯ ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯ ЗДРАВООХРАНЕНИЯ

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE
BUREAU RÉGIONAL DE L'EUROPE
REGIONALBÜRO FÜR EUROPA
ЕВРОПЕЙСКОЕ РЕГИОНАЛЬНОЕ БЮРО

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Our reference:
Notre référence:
Unser Zeichen:
См. наш номер:

Your reference:
Votre référence:
Ihr Zeichen:
На Ваш номер:

Date: 1 February 2019

Dr Sofiko Belkania
Head, Executive Department
National Counterpart
Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the
Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social
Affairs
144, Ak. Tsereteli Ave.
0119 Tbilisi
Georgia

Dear Dr Belkania,

**First Regional Consultation on Viral Hepatitis in the WHO European Region:
Progress on the Way to Elimination
Tbilisi, Georgia, 11–13 February 2019**

As previously agreed with your Ministry, the WHO Regional Office for Europe is holding the above-mentioned meeting. The meeting is aimed at reviewing the countries' progress, challenges and exchange good practices in response to viral hepatitis, including national planning, surveillance and monitoring, prevention, testing and strengthening laboratory capacity, improving access to diagnostics and treatment and optimizing viral hepatitis management strategies in line with the updated WHO guidelines and the Action plan for the Health Sector Response to viral hepatitis in the WHO European Region (Action Plan).

The key objectives of the meeting are:

- Take stock of countries' progress in implementation of the Action Plan;
- Provide a platform for exchange of good practices in scaling up and improving health sector response to viral hepatitis;
- Review and exchange the latest evidence, WHO guidance, tools and policies, including developed by partners, viral hepatitis strategic information and response.

An outline of the scope and purpose and provisional agenda are attached. The working languages will be English and Russian. Simultaneous translation will be provided.

The meeting will start on 11 February with the official opening session at 14:00.

We would like to invite you and nominated participants from Georgia to co-organize a special session on 11 February from 15:00 to 16:00 and present the progress and lessons learned from Georgia Hepatitis C Elimination Programme.

As previously communicated, your Ministry can nominate up to five participants from your country, including:

- senior official responsible for communicable diseases/public health at national level;
- manager of the national viral hepatitis programme or national clinical expert in viral hepatitis treatment and care.

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We look forward to receiving your nominations by **5 February 2019**, providing the names, functional titles and email addresses of the designated candidates at your early convenience. We shall then communicate with them directly and provide the necessary documentation and administrative information.

Please address your reply to Dr Antons Mozalevskis, Medical Officer from the Joint Tuberculosis, HIV and Viral Hepatitis Programme at eurohep@who.int. The above-mentioned officer is the focal point for the meeting and may also provide you with more detailed information. You may send additional questions to mozalevskisa@who.int.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,



Dr Masoud Dara
Coordinator, Communicable Diseases
Division of Health Emergencies and Communicable Diseases

Encls:

Outline
Provisional agenda

Copy for information to:

H.E. Mr Victor Dolidze, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Georgia to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, Rue Richard-Wagner 1, CH-1202 Genève, Switzerland
H.E. Mr Gigi Gigiadze, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Embassy of Georgia, Nybrogade 10, 1st. Floor, 1203 Copenhagen K, Denmark
Ms Louisa Vinton, United Nations Resident Coordinator, UNDP Resident Representative, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, UN House, 9 Eristavi St., 0179 Tbilisi, Georgia
Dr Marijan Ivanusa, WHO Representative and Head of WHO Office, WHO Country Office, Georgia, 81 Barnov Street, Mailing address: UN House, 9 Eristavi street, 0179 Tbilisi, Georgia