The Second Meeting of the Working Group on Integration of the State Commission on Migration Issues

Date: 29-31.05.2018

Place: Gudauri, Hotel Marco Polo

Chairman: Irakliy Kokaia

Secretary: Rusudan Asatiani

Participants attending the meeting*

*[-] persons absent

Participants of the Second Meeting of the Working Group on Integration of the SCMI			
	Ministry of Internally Displaced Person from Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees		
Irakli KOKAIA	Head of Department on Migration, Repatriation and Refugee Issues		
Zviad LATIBASHVILI	Head of Department of Internal Audit		
Nino MESKHI	Deputy Head of Department on Migration, Repatriation and Refugee Issues		
Irakliy LOMIDZE	Head of Division of Asylum Issues of the Department on Migration, Repatriation and Refugee Issues		
Rusudan ASATIANI	Head of Division of Migration, Repatriation and Integration Issues of the Department on Migration, Repatriation and Refugee Issues		
Grigol AKHOBADZE	1 st Category Senior Specialist of Division of Migration, Repatriation and Integration Issues of the Department on		

	Migration, Repatriation and Refugee Issues	
Nita TODRIA	3 rd Category Senior Specialist of Division of Migration, Repatriation and Integration Issues of the Department on Migration, Repatriation and Refugee Issues	
	UNHCR Representation in the	
	South Caucasus	
	(Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia)	
Yoko AKASAKA	UNHCR Deputy Regional Representative	
Marat ATAMURADOV	Senior Regional Programme Officer	
Christina BUNEA	Regional Protection Officer	
Ricarda McFalls	Consultant in Socio-economic Integration Issues	
Tea KVIRIKASHVILI	Protection Associate	
	Secretariat of the State Commission on Migration Issues	
Gvantsa ABESADZE	Secretary on Legal Issues	
	IOM	
Tsiuri ANTADZE	Technical Assistant	
	ICMPD	
Zura KORGANASHVILI	Project Manager	
	Non-profit Legal Entity 'Public Defender'	
Irina PUTKARADZE	Chairperson	
Mariam BOLGHASHVILI	PR Specialist	
	Ministry of Internal Affairs	

Natia MIRVELASHVILI	Chief Specialist of the Legal Division of the Department of Fight Against Illegal Migration	
Natia CHELIDZE	Tbilisi City Hall First Deputy Head of Administration	
Giorgi TABATADZE	MFA Director of Consulate Department	
	Ministry of Education and Science	
Ana BARAMIA	Senior Specialist of the Department on Strategic Planning and Public Relations	
Ia Vakhtangishvili	1st category Chief Specialist of the Department of General Education Management and Development	
	LEPL National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement	
Ana MAISURADZE	Head of Service for International Education	
	LEPL Zurab Zhvania School of Public Administration	
Ketevan MAKHARASHVILI	Director	
	National Center for Teacher Professional Development	
Nino GVARAMADZE	Civic Education Consultant	
	Public Service Development Agency	
Davit AKHVLEDIANI	Quality Insurance Specialist of the Public Centers and E- governance Component	
Tamta PAPUASHVILI	Public Defender's Office	
	Senior Adviser on Migration, Repatriation and PIPs Issues	
	MoLHSA	
Elza JGERENAIA	Head of Department of Labor and Employment Policy	

Nino JAPARIDZE	Labor Contractor of the Labor and Employment Policy Department	
	Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development	
Teona BABUNASHVILI	LEPL Enterprise Development Agency, Program Manager	
	Employers Association	
Mikheil KORDZAKHIA	Vice-President	
	Georgian National Bank	
Irine MELIKIDZE	Department of Protection of Client Rights and Education	
	State Security Service	
Sulkhan GOTSADZE	Head of Main Service	

Attached documents:

- 1. Agenda of the meeting;
- 2. List of participants;
- 3. Work-chart;
- 4. Presentations/reports;

Minutes

Mr. Irakli Kokaia, the Head of Department on Migration, Repatriation and Refugee Issues of the Ministry of IDPs from the Occupied Territories, Refugees and Accommodation (hereinafter, MRA) made welcoming remarks and observed the importance of two-fold integration for both the persons with the international protection (hereinafter, PIP) on the one hand, and for the hosting societies – on the other. He explained the need of State policy on integration and its timely implementation, as well as the negative consequences in the case of failure.

Mr. Irakli Kokaia made the review of PIPs' situation in Georgia regarding their integration and talked about the importance of activities implemented in this field. He mentioned that the meeting was attended by the representatives of various entities and international organizations. Therefore, within the environment of engagement of the participants and the healthy discussion it was important to reflect in the working

document the challenges accompanying the process of integration of PIP and the relevant responding activities.

Mr. Irakli Kokaia passed the floor to the UNHCR Deputy Regional Representative in the South Caucasus—Ms. Yoko Akasaki. She once again underlined the importance of integration as a dual process and the necessity of having both PIPs' willingness to be integrated and support from the side of hosting community. She also explained the importance of involvement of the Government and international organizations in the given process and noted that the UNHCR Representation had been actively participating in the ongoing processes and expressed the readiness to further assist Government of Georgia in strengthening the existing local resources for the integration purposes in the future.

Ms. Yoko made a comprehensive review of integration process and stressed on the obligations of hosting countries in dealing with such processes. It was mentioned that taking into consideration specific situation of persons having with International Protection it is of primary importance to have their right to life protected on a high level. Moreover, there is a need to ensure access to other rights, including the right to education, health, employment and/or accommodation. Ms. Yoko underlined that the Government was responsible not for the material implementation of those rights for the PIPs, but for development of sustainable implementation mechanisms based on the relevant legislation. Such mechanisms would enable PIPs to enjoy the specific rights.

At the end of her presentation Ms. Yoko noted that the UNHCR welcomes the progress achieved by the Georgian authorities in the field of PIPs integration and called upon the authorities attending the meeting to be actively engaged in the discussion.

As per the Agenda, the floor was taken by Mr. Irakliy Lomidze, the Head of Division of Asylum Issues of the Department on Migration, Repatriation and Refugee Issues of the MRA. . He reviewed the international documents determining the PIP's rights, as well as the rights applicable to PIP under the Convention and Georgian Law on International Protection. Mr. Lomidze gave a broad interpretation of the scopes of each relevant right. In addition, he explained he definition of PIP under the Georgian law and provided statistics on PIPs in Georgia (country of origin, referral and persons with the status) (see Annex - Presentation).

Ms. Rusudan Asatiani continued with the presentations and further elaborated the issue related to the state policy on PIPs integration. She underlined the importance of engagement of participating agencies in this process. Ms. Asatiani provided a broader interpretation of the components of integration process and of particular aspects that were of particular importance for successful accomplishment of each and every direction. She also noted roles of different agencies in dealing with the complex process of integration and explained that the working group on integration issues would have to encourage a coordinated exchange of views and initiatives and identify the relevant actions in the field of integration. She finally expressed her hope on continued cooperation between the agencies, within the usual regime.

The next speaker, Ms. Christina Bunea from UNHCR Office talked about the importance of PIP integration and the recommended international standards. She explained that due to the lack of universal definition for 'integration', States had a wide discretion to identify the approaches for the integration of PIPs. She mentioned that the Georgian legal framework, in principle, is in compliance with the international standards. It was mentioned that due to the lack of universal definition of 'integration' as well as some supporting factors, it was clear that the knowledge of the language of host community was necessary for engagement into the daily life. It is equally important to know the history and culture — cultural integration, while the awareness raising in civic education and naturalization could be considered as the ultimate result of successful integration. Therefore, it is important to put the emphasis on the issues, which have been identified at the stage of participatory assessment (Participatory Assessment conducted in the first quarter of 2018 by the UNHCR in cooperation with the Ministry that was aimed at identifying of the PIPs' needs and challenges). She expressed the readiness of UNHCR office to share this document, if requested. Ms. Christina Bunea mentioned that the UNHCR Office would assist Georgia to establish a common system for successful management of PIPs integration process.

Ms. R. Asatiani mentioned that the issues and challenges that had been identified during the participatory assessment would be considered in the course of the meeting.

The Chairperson of the NGO "Public Defender" Irina Putkaradze talked about activities implemented at the Integration Center for Persons with International Protection in Georgia (hereinafter, Integration Center). She provided the results of activities implemented within the framework of the 2017 State Program "Supporting Integration of Persons with International Protection" and the activities funded by the UNHCR Office, as well as the activities planned for 2018 (see Annex - presentation).

According to the Agenda Ms. Todria presented the Results of 2017 State Program on Reintegration Assistance to the Migrants Returned to Georgia and introduced the changes – based on the lessons learnt - made to the 2018 State Program. . She mentioned that from 2018 the integration Center would receive and provide consultations to the returned migrants. It would be encouraging factor for interaction between the local population and the persons with international protection. In addition, there is a plan to fund pilot group/joint projects on the issues related to the income generation (see Annex - presentation).

Ms. Rusudan Asatiani introduced the chart for the activities of the working group and explained the specificities for its accomplishment. It was mentioned that the challenges and existing opportunities identified in the course of the meeting on the basis of sharing of views would be precisely reflected in the chart. After that the chart will be distributed among all participating parties in order to get the feedback on responding measures from specific agencies, within the framework of their competences; as well as the possible timeline for their practical implementation (see Annex – Activity Chart).

The next panel was entirely dedicated to the discussion of the rights, opportunities and challenges faced by the PIP in the field of education.

The representative from the Ministry of Education and Science Ms. I. Vakhtangishvili talked about the Georgian Language Program for school-age PIPs. She reviewed the curriculum, as well as the specificities of its implementation. Ms. Vakhtangishvili explained the grounds for inclusion to and exclusion from the program of the school-age persons with international protection (See Annex - Report).

Mr. Marat Atamuradov asked whether it was possible to apply the program to other regions of Georgia, in addition to Tbilisi. Ms. Vakhtangishvili stated that there had been no requests from the regions regarding inclusion in the program. Mr. I. Kokaia also confirmed that fact and from his side asked about possible hiring of program implementing teacher at Martkopi School. Ms. Vakhtangishvili said that the Ministry of Education and Science was ready to assign one teacher to Martkopi School and added that if necessary, the program could cover other regions of Georgia too.

It was mentioned that there was no coincidence between registration of asylum seekers and starting date of language program, causing considerably long waiting-time for enrolment. Ms. Asatiani was interested whether the program beneficiaries could re-pass the course. Ms. Vakhtangishvili gave a positive answer and added that the school age PIPs may apply to the specific school without engaging in the language program and in case if language barrier appears, to pass individual curriculum, which is based on national curriculum.

Ms. Nino Gvaramadze continued elaborating around the right to education of persons with international protection. She touched upon the awareness raising among teachers on the PIPs rights and presented to the participants the teachers' retraining module, which had been developed in cooperation with the UNHCR Office (see Annex - Presentation).

At the end of her presentation participants proposed to organize teachers' trainings on the issues related to foreigners and cultural sensitivities, when necessary and on the basis of statistics.

Ms. N. Chelidze, the representative of Tbilisi City Hall Administration overviewed the issues regarding the pre-school establishment and noted that no particular problems had been identified within Tbilisi regarding enrolment or education at the pre-school establishments.

During the discussions participants touched upon the issue regarding the need to have registry and relevant statistical data on children with international protection. Ms. Chelidze responded that the kindergartens do not have registries indicating the status of a child and therefore, statistics on of PIP children is not available; neither the problems regarding the language barrier and communication had ever been recorded. Ms. Natia noted that if necessary the Pre-school Agency would conduct registration of children with the indication of their legal status and produce relevant statistics.

As per the Agenda meeting was continued with the presentation of Ms. Baramia on access to the vocational education for the persons with international protection. She noted that the vocational

education is fully funded by the State for everybody, including the PIPs. Ms. Baramia reviewed the preconditions and the levels of education at the vocational institutions. She added that the entry exams in the vocational establishment are already available in Russian, Armenian and Azerbaijanis languages. Persons enrolled in the vocational institution would learn Georgian language Module. She also mentioned that there was only one person with international protection who expressed willingness to undergo vocational education.

In the course of discussion participants assumed that such a low referral to the vocational colleges are caused by the low awareness among PIPs and agreed to plan awareness raising activities towards the given direction with active participation of the Integrations Center.

Ms. E. Jgerenaia continued discussion about professional training/retraining, including the qualification raising courses and the specificities related to the enrollment. It was revealed that the PIPs had a little knowledge about the training/retraining courses; another problem was the language barrier for registration at the Worknet. Given the situation, MRA expressed readiness to involve staff of the Integration Center in the process of PIPs' registration at the Worknet.

Recognition of formal and informal education and qualification was the next item on the Agenda. This issue was presented by Ms. Maisuradze who overviewed general rules and conditions for recognizing education and qualification. She mentioned that due to the specific situation of PIPs different mechanisms for recognition of their education and qualification is required – without submission of certain documents. Ms. Maisuradze mentioned that the legislation of Georgia enabled persons with international protection to have their knowledge and qualifications recognized however, specific rules for its implementation had not been developed. In addition, she mentioned that that the work towards this direction is in progress and expressed the readiness to cooperate with the MRA and be involved in bilateral processes aimed at developing the relevant mechanisms.

Ms. Maisuradze also mentioned that there had been only one case of applying for recognition from the side of PIPs. In the given case a person submitted the written application and referred to his refugee status. If a person makes no reference to his/her legal status, otherwise there is no method for systematic recording. Ms. Maisuradze added that e-application system was planned to be introduced, thus providing the possibility to process statistics on PIPs addressing their agency. However, it would not be possible to process the old statistics since the data was provided in a printed form and its digitalization would be rather expensive exercise requiring a lot of resources. UNHCR representative expressed the readiness of the Office to support the Ministry of Education and Science in e-registration and, if necessary, in digitalization of written applications.

During the discussion it was mentioned that the small number of applications could be the result of lack of information among the PIPs on the possibility of recognition of education.

Participants noted that due to the reforms planned in the system of vocational education it was hard to speak about the existing situation with regards to recognition of informal education, since the rules and mechanisms would also be changed in the course of reform. Ms. Maisuradze stressed that the work was

in progress and the involvement of the MRA was very important in developing the mechanisms for recognition of informal education.

Ms. Tea Kvirikashvili provided information regarding the 'European Qualifications Passport for Refugees' and Georgia's ability to be involved in that process. She talked about specifics and advantages of the said document.

Regarding the given initiative Ms. Maisuradze stated that it was already decided to share that mechanism. Therefore, the UNHCR offered cooperation in this direction and sharing of existing resources and experience.

Ms. A. Baramia talked about the issues related to the access to education for PIPs and explained about possibilities for PIPs to be enrolled in the higher education institutions. She also provided information on preconditions for involving foreign students in the high education system and added that statistics on PIPs enrolled in the high education is not available due to the lack of necessity to record the given data. Ms. Baramia explained the situation regarding the Georgian language course for the students at a bachelor level.

Participants discussed the importance of planning and implementation of awareness raising activities concerning the existing opportunities to acquire higher education by the PIPs.

The next speaker, Ms. K. Makharashvili talked about activities implemented at the Integration Center within the framework of 2017 State Program on Georgian Language Learning Courses, as well as the activities to be implemented under 2018 State program within the framework of Memorandum of Cooperation with the MRA (see Annex - Presentation).

Ms. Makharashvili also talked about the access to courses for learning of Georgian Language in the regions and their experience in this field. She offered, if necessary, to provide free courses of Georgian language for PIPs in the regions. In addition, the possible was revealed to distribute Georgian Textbooks also in the electronic form in the regions.

Participants considered the possibility to offer Georgian language courses also to the asylum seekers. With this respect the MRA stated that during the planning of State budget they would submit proposal to the Ministry of Finance regarding the relevant increase of the budget for the LEPL Zurab Zhvania School of Public Administration. This proposal was positively accepted by Ms. Makharashvili.

Ms. Makharashvili continued with the overview of electronic modules for the education of PIPs and mentioned that Zhvania School had elaborated a few electronic textbooks that were freely accessible online. She added that the electronic textbook on Civic Education had already been developed and expressed readiness to develop them to the specific needs of persons with international protection.

Ms. Makharashvili noted that it was also possible to develop textbooks in Georgian History to meet the specific needs of persons with international protection.

The MRA expressed willingness to be engaged in this process, depending on the specifics of target group and the thematic needs.

Mr. D. Akhvlediani talked about the use of infrastructure of Public Centers for PIPs' integration purposes. Based on the experience, Mr. Akhvlediani introduced the Public Centers as a platform for fast and effective delivery of specific services to the different target groups near to their residential area. On behalf of the Agency he expressed the readiness to offer the spaces of Public Centers for educational purposes of persons with international protection, as well as for provision of other relevant services.

Ms. R. Asatiani opened the second day briefly summarizing achieved agreements by the participants and presented the topics included in the Agenda.

The next panel discussion was devoted to the economic integration of persons with international protection. The Head of Department of Labor and Employment Policy of the Ministry of Labor, Health and Social Affairs Ms. E. Jgerenaia talked about the programs on employment opportunities for 2018. She overviewed the services offered under the program and explained the content of each of them.

Ms. R. Asatiani offered Ms. Jgerenaia to present to the MRA her vision on cooperation, based on the specificities of persons with international protection. In response Ms. Elza Jgerenaia noted that the MoLHSA would offer to the PIPs group consultations, professional consultations and carrier planning activities. It was mentioned that the involvement of the Integration Center would be of paramount importance with the view to eliminate language barrier for the target group.

Participants raised several initiatives concerning preparation of the PIPs for the Employment Forum of the MoLHSA and possibilities of their engagement in such forum. According to the given situation, the Integration Center would develop the relevant professional profiles for IPPs and prepare them for the Employment Forum.

According to the Agenda, Mr. M. Kordzakhia – Vice-President of Employers Association continued with the overview of the PIP Integration and the Related Challenges. He presented the profile of activities of the Association and the data base specificities.

Mr. M. Kordzakhia noted the low level of awareness regarding PIPs among the employers and, accordingly, the lack of interest among the employers towards the given target group. At the same time he expressed readiness to facilitate a dialogue in the specific regions and with the specific business sectors on the issues related to the economic integration of PIPs, as well as to cooperate with the MRA.

Within the format of cooperation between the MoLHSA and the Employers Association it was offered to communicate between the abovementioned parties professional profiles of persons with international protection on a monthly basis.

Ms. T. Babunashvili elaborated the issues related to the business/entrepreneurship promotion for PIPs. She observed the scope and area of activities of the LEPL the Enterprise Development Agency (see Annex - Presentation).

It was mentioned that no valid mechanism existed to fund micro and small scale businesses for the persons with international protection, as it applied only to the citizens of Georgia having the status of a natural person. Ms. Rusudan expressed her willingness to agree among the agencies the issue of identifying PIPs as a target group when planning the program for the next year. It also was mentioned that the legal entities registered in Georgia had the opportunity to enjoy funding of credits for start-ups or business development that would be also possible to apply to the legal persons/business entities established by the persons with international protection.

In the context of economic integration of the PIPs Mr. I. Kokaia talked about the practice existing at the Integration Center concerning the income generating projects funded by the UNHCR for the PIPs. That was a real positive initiative since it considered provision of free grants. Mr. Kokaia noted that he prefers gradual transition from this approach to the model that could accumulate funds from the funded projects and use them for funding of new projects. As an example Mr. Kokaia proposed to establish a foundation for accumulating the certain portion of profits/loses derived from the funded projects and then use them for funding the beneficiaries, i.e. to create the model for self-financing. Mr. M. Atamuradov suggested that while planning integration activities they would have to avoid overlapping, including the content and the sources of funding. The representative of the secretariat of the State Commission on Migration Issues explained that the mechanism of Coordination Meetings on projects elaborated by the Secretariat are conducted at least twice per year, with participation of all organizations (state entities, international organizations or NGOS), which are involved in the process of development of the specific activities. The given mechanism served for excluding the dubplication/overlapping of activities. The speaker once again called upon the agencies and partner organizations to use this particular format in the planning process of the activities.

At the end of this panel the representative of the National Bank Ms. I. Melikidze elaborated the issues related to the excess of PIPs to the banking services. She talked about restrictions against opening of bank accounts, transfers and credits. She explained that the National Bank had the list of certain countries (21 countries) the citizens of which were not allowed to open the accounts and proceed with transactions; relevantly the said approach applied to the persons with international protection from certain countries.

In the course of presentation the participants identified the problems that the PIPs were facing with regards to opening the accounts in foreign currency and money/pension transfer from the country of origin. They also pointed to the lack of statistics on restrictions of the access to the banking services for a concrete person and number of PIPs addressing the banks.

Ms. Melikidze stated that the PIPs were able to use different communication means to address National Bank of Georgia in case of problems or restrictions. Therefore, the MRA confirmed its readiness to inform the PIPs about such possibility.

The next panel of the meeting covered the issues related to the realization of the rights to health for the PIPs and identification of challenges and existing opportunities in this field.

Instead of the representative from the relevant entity (who failed to be present at the meeting) Ms. Jgerenaia talked about opportunities of PIPs to have access to the National Health Programs. She reviewed various health programs that were accessible for the PIPs and provided information on intended changes in the future. It became clear that all 24 programs funded from the State budget were accessible for PIPs, as for the target group. The exception was the C-hepatitis, which also would become accessible in 2019.

Mr. Lomidze noted that it was necessary to identify the epidemic diseases among the asylum seekers. He mentioned that such need was found after getting the information on the fact of epidemic outbreak in certain countries of origin. That was an acute issue since it posed the threat to the health of the staff of the Ministry who had direct contact with the beneficiaries. Ms. Jgerenaia also said that the necessary screening against epidemic diseases for asylum seekers is free at the clinics providing the public services. She noted that for the additional detailed information it was important to establish communication with the National Control Disease Center under the Epidemiological Supervision Program.

During the discussion participants considered the possibility to include the PIPs in the Municipal healthcare programs. The representative of Tbilisi City Hall talked about this issue (see Annex - Report). The MRA, with the aim to accommodate within one system the programs offered by the Ministry of Health and the local Municipalities, expressed its readiness to have coordination and additional meetings with Tbilisi City Hall.

Ms. Jgerenaia also touched upon the issues related to the staff of medical institutions, PIPs and awareness raising activities. She mentioned that their agency provided the medical staff with necessary information, although more intensive campaign was being planned.

The next panel discussion was dedicated to issues related to social protection of persons with international protection. Key-note speaker of that panel Ms. N. Japaridze talked about the possibility to get the State pension and social allowances. She explained the grounds for getting the State pension and how the persons with international protection were involved in that process. She noted that in the case of foreigners the pension was provided only to the persons having the residence permit and uninterrupted 10 years of residence in the country. It became clear that the persons with international protection had no access to the State pension (although there was a theoretical possibility for it). The discussion showed the gaps in the legislation on social assistance for the PIPs, as well as inconsistences between the laws and normative acts that made unclear whether it was possible to grant the PIPs the status of socially vulnerable and enjoy the relevant benefits. The representative of the Agency explained that the PIPs had no access to such service. The MRA representative noted that it was necessary to regulate that issue.

Ms. N. Chelidze mentioned that the PIPs had the opportunity to be engaged in the Municipal programs of Tbilisi City Hall for which the main requirement was the registration in Tbilisi. Ms. Rusudan said that this information was very important for the Ministry, as currently the Ministry provided assistance to the vulnerable beneficiaries for the accommodation of disabled persons through the financial support of the UNHCR Office, which would be exhausted; therefore, it would be necessary to establish sustainable systemic tool at the State or Municipal level.

In the course of discussion participants noted about the possible accommodation of the PIPs at Tbilisi Municipal Shelter. It was explained that the most important precondition for accommodation was the person's ability to take care of him/her independently. The MRA expressed its readiness to hold the meetings with Tbilisi City Hall for coordination purposes.

Mr. I. Lomidze had a question related to the accommodation of persons with the need of permanent care at a Municipal or State level (disables or persons with other serious diseases, etc.). Ms. Nino, the representative of the Social Service Agency referred to the community organizations, which worked on the mentioned issue, also mentioned about necessity of further communication with the Agency.

At the end of the panel the Director of the Consulate Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mr. G. Tabatadze talked about the freedom of movement and recognition of travel documents of persons with international protection. Mr. Tabatadze stated that there had been no particular cases showing the problem concerning recognition of travel documents of the PIPs. Mr. Tabatadze asked the MRA to submit the information on the challenges existing in this direction and expressed the readiness to conduct the corresponding measures, including provision of additional information to the consulates.

At the end of two-day meeting Ms. R. Asatiani, together with participants, reviewed the challenges and opportunities identified in the field of PIPs integration, as well as the accomplished work-chart. She said that the document would be distributed to all participating parties in order to get their proposals on responses to the specific challenges and the terms for implementation.

The representative of Public Defender's Office Ms. Tamta Papuashvili thanked the coordinator of the working group for inviting the representatives of the Office. It also was mentioned that the Public Defender's Office had already applied to the MRA and requested their involvement in the Working Group on Integration. The Ministry responded that the issue would be considered at the next meeting of the State Commission on Migration Issues.

On behalf of the UNHCR Office Mr. M. Atamuradov expressed his gratitude to all organizations and entities for their participation and again expressed the readiness to support the Agency in implementing the integration activities.

The representative of the Secretariat of the State Commission on Migration Ms. G. Abesadze called on participants for coordinated cooperation. The entities were asked to identify the activities for elaborating 2019 action plan to the National Migration Strategy 2016-2020, considering the information and needs identified in the course of two-day meeting.

At the end Mr. Kokaia made the concluding remarks. He thanked to the UNHCR Office and the Secretariat of the State Commission on Migration for the support provided by them. He also thanked the participating agencies for their involvement and active position.

Irakliy Kokaia

Chairman of the Meeting

Rusudan Asatiani

Seceretary of the Second meeting of the Working Group