

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTÉ WELTGESUNDHEITSORGANISATION ВСЕМИРНАЯ ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯ

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

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Our reference: Notre référence: Unser Zeichen: См. наш номер: Your reference: Votre référence: Ihr Zeichen: Ha Baш HOMED: Date: 16 January 2020

Ms Tamar Gabunia
First Deputy Minister
National Counterpart
Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from
the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and
Social Affairs
144, Ak. Tsereteli Ave.
Tbilisi 0119
Georgia

Dear Ms Gabunia,

I have the honour to inform you that the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe (WHO/Europe), the Department of Health Emergency Information and Risk Assessment with support of the WHO Country Office in Georgia is planning to conduct a 6-day mission on 10-15 February, to undertake an evaluation of existing early warning and response provisions and the respective needs of the country. Please be also kindly informed that this activity was preliminary discussed and agreed with the management of National Centre for Disease Control and Public Health of Georgia.

The 68<sup>th</sup> WHO/Europe recently endorsed the 2018-2023 action plan to improve public health preparedness and response in the WHO European region in compliance with the IHR (2005) requirements. With this action plan, the WHO/Europe committed to support State Parties in strengthening and maintaining adequate public health surveillance capacities through implementation of an early warning and response function into their public health surveillance system.

As part of delivering on its commitments, WHO/Europe has developed a strategy and dedicated tools to support IHR State Parties with implementation of the action plan. Among such tools is the one for evaluation of in-country capacities for early warning and response. While the 2018-2023 action plan is aimed to support all IHR State Parties in the WHO European region, Georgia is among the fifteen countries identified for priority action.

The results of the mission will constitute the first step of the process to establish well-functioning and needs-based early warning and response mechanisms in Georgia.

Please note that all associated costs will be covered by WHO.

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I hope that this proposal, including dates, will be accepted and supported by the Ministry.

I thank you for your continuous collaboration.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Silviu Domente

WHO Representative and Head of WHO Country Office

WHO Country Office, Georgia

Copy to: Dr Amiran Gamkrelidze, Director General

National Center for Disease Control and Public Health