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Date: 25 March 2021

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.
0119 Tbilisi
Georgia

Dear Ms Gabunia,

WHO/Europe medicines and health products regulatory support

In response to the unprecedented challenges relating to the provision of equitable access to COVID19 medicines including vaccines, WHO/Europe is providing enhanced support to national regulatory authorities (NRAs) and governments for regulatory preparedness for medicines and health products (MHP).

MHP markets differ from other retail markets as they require extensive regulation to ensure the MHP in circulation meet the standards for quality, safety, and effectiveness. A strong MHP regulatory system builds public confidence in health care systems and professionals and protects the public from exposure to substandard and falsified (SF) MHP.

WHO/Europe supports NRAs and governments through a regulatory support group to contribute to the strengthening and development of the regulatory system for MHP. This includes promoting the participation of NRAs in existing international and regional regulatory initiatives including benchmarking; prioritizing support for establishing and strengthening regional and sub regional NRAs networks; and facilitating the strengthening of NRAs, which includes capacity building.

As part of its work, this group will meet virtually to enable rapid communication and provide support for legal and regulatory aspects associated with access to medicines, including COVID19 vaccines. Support will also include the provision of information updates and guidance on relevant procedures and raising awareness of the critical need to involve NRAs in deployment and safety monitoring.

WHO/Europe kindly requests that you nominate a National Focal Point and a deputy, by providing the names and email addresses to NRAWHOEurope@who.int, by **15 April 2021 at the latest** to join the informal regulatory support group on MHP.

Should you have any questions or require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us by email, at the address above.

Sincerely yours,

Dr Natasha Azzopardi Muscat
Director
Division of Country Health Policies and Systems

Copy for information to:

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Ms Sabine Machl, United Nations Resident Coordinator, UN Development Coordination Office, UN House, 9 Eristavi St., 0179 Tbilisi, Georgia

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