

March 26, 2021

Ms. Ekaterine Tikaradze

Minister of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs

Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs

Tbilisi, Georgia

## Subject: Georgia Emergency COVID-19 Response Project (P173911) Virtual Implementation Support Mission February 10-18, 2021

Dear Ms. Tikaradze,

We would like to thank you and your staff for the cooperation extended to the World Bank team during the virtual implementation support mission for the Georgia Emergency COVID-19 Response Project that took place from February 10 to 18, 2021. We would like to express our appreciation for the assistance extended during the virtual visit and for the availability of officials who attended all videoconferences and provided valuable and timely information to the Bank team. The attached Aide-Mémoire presents the key findings and agreements reached during the visit.

We are pleased to note the strong implementation progress over the last few months including completion of several critical contracts of equipment and supplies to respond to COVID-19 emergencies in key defined areas and financial support provided to unemployed and self-employed individuals whose activity was affected by the crisis, as well as vulnerable households.

During the mission the team discussed project progress and the ongoing activities relevant to the achievement of the Project Development Objective, as well as specific areas where the Bank's assistance is important for dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic in Georgia. Besides the agreed actions listed in the Aide- Mémoire, the Bank team will continue to work closely with the Project Implementation Unit to prepare additional financing (AF) for the Project to provide support for the COVID-19 vaccine procurement and deployment. The AF is expected to be approved by the end of May and will provide upfront and retroactive financing for safe and effective vaccine procurement and deployment.

Please accept our assurances of highest appreciation of the continuous cooperation in dealing with the pandemic in Georgia.

Sincerely,

Sebastian Molineus Regional Director for the South Caucasus cc: Mr. Ivane Matchavariani, Minister of Finance

Mr. Nikoloz Gagua, Deputy Minister of Finance

Ms. Tamar Gabunia, First Deputy Minister of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs

Ms. Tamar Barkalaia, Deputy Minister of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs

Ms. Nino Kvernadze, Project Coordinator, Project Implementation Unit

Mr. Koen Davidse, Executive Director, the World Bank

Mr. Jan De Boer, Advisor to the Executive Director, the World Bank