

## Formulation of the UNSDCF 2021-2025

*Webinar for Outcome 1 “Effective, Transparent and Accountable Institutions – All people in Georgia will enjoy good governance, open and accountable institutions, rule of law and equal access to justice and human rights and participation in decision making”*

### Minutes of Discussion

**Webinar organizer:** UN RCO

**Date:** 27.05.2020; 15.00-16.30

**Venue:** Online via “Zoom” platform

**Participants:** overall 77 persons attended; (list of participants is attached)

**UN RCO/host:**

Ms. Sabine Machl, UN Resident Coordinator

Ms. Marine Chitashvili, RCO Team Leader

Mr. David Mushkudiani, Partnerships and Development Finance Officer

Ms. Teona Kiknadze, RCO Executive Associate




Ms. Nestan Khuntsaria, Data Management Monitoring and Reporting Officer

**UN Country Team:**

UNDP, UNFAO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNILo, UNIOm, UNOHCHR, UNWOMEN, UNRGID

**UN External partners and stakeholders** represented by the of Government of Georgia, International Organizations, Civil Society, Academia, Private Sector nominated by the UN Agencies for Outcome 1 discussion;

### **Agenda:**

-  **Introduction of the UNSDCF 2021-2025 Formulation Process;** Sabine Machl – UN Resident Coordinator (RC)
-  **Presentation by Co-chair of the Outcome 1 Working Group;** Anna Chernyshova – UNDP Deputy Representative on behalf of the Group 1
-  **Discussion, Q/A session** – facilitated by Sabine Machl, UNRC



**Objective of the Webinar:** To ensure coordination and alignment with the Georgia's development priorities, the UN System is launching a series of online consultations with all key partners. The five webinars will focus on one of the five priority outcomes that UNCT is proposing will guide the UN's support to Georgia in the coming five years. Through a wide discussion and feedback to UNCT thinking, it will become possible to consolidate views and develop a highly relevant and nationally owned UNSDCF 2021-2026.

The first Webinar focused on Outcome 1, “**Effective, Transparent and Accountable Institutions** -All people in Georgia will enjoy good governance, open and accountable institutions, rule of law and equal access to justice and human rights and participation in decision making”, which along with other four Outcomes falls under the Overarching Priority “Enhancing Human Wellbeing, Capabilities and Social Equality”.

**Questions / Comments by participants:**

- What is the progress towards decentralization? (*Ilia Kunchulia, Georgian Farmers Association*);

*UNDP continues its work through ongoing projects on implementation of decentralization strategy action plan 2020-2021 which was adopted in December 2019. Difficulties are faced because of the situation emerged due to COVID19 pandemic, however activities under first year workplan foresee researches, assessments that are ongoing and support is provided to the government of Georgia. These will serve as a basis for proposals for changes in legislative basis, in cooperation with the MRDI different directions including services and engagement of civil society are covered and concrete results are already available.*

- Protection of rights and interests of Georgian citizens that live abroad is one of the important priorities for the Government. Does the specified output 1.1 include provision of services outside of Georgia? If not is it possible to extend the mentioned services and ensure that the Cooperation Framework include delivery of quality services to citizens residing outside Georgia, especially taking into account critical situation such as current COVID19 pandemic. (*Maka Bartaia, Consular Department at MFA*);

*Coverage of Georgian citizens abroad has not been discussed during the output formulation, however this topic should be further reviewed in Outcome 1 working group and if this is under the UN Mandate will be incorporated into the detailed framework of activities.*

- Although women's political and economic empowerment is included into the agenda, specific emphasis should be made on participation in decision making and economic empowerment of women, with stronger focus on ethnic minorities representatives and not to forget to include municipality level aspects. Efforts targeting at gender equality should be further strengthened. (*Natia surname Union “Sapari”*);
- Along with focus on cooperation with government organizations or Community Based Organizations (CBOs), attention should be made on partnership with business sector, which will enhance the participatory approach. (*Vincent Dontot – DRC*);

- Enhancement of accountability of Georgia judiciary system in front of the society in general and accountability of prosecutor's office in particular is the area which would be good to be included into the forthcoming support plans. (*Giorgi Burjanadze, Public Defender Office*);
- Make more emphasis on further capacity development of legal professionals. Suggestion to include more general provisions to Outputs. (*Giorgi Chekhani (Georgian Bar Association (GBA))*);
- Need to further strengthen independence and accountability of judiciary which is a continuous challenge in Georgia; Important components of democratic development include the freedom of media, tourism and fight against corruption. Continuously enhance Public Administration reform and pay special attention to regional development program. (*Catalin Gherman EU delegation*);
- Continue progress in reinforcing the rule of law and gender equality. Overall mainstreaming of Human rights in general terms should be uninterrupted especially at local level. Enhance work on establishment and strengthening the systems that support socio-economic rights of people. Although "COVID19" reality will differ from the current one, the long-term impact of this pandemic should be well reflected in future programs. (*Lela Akiashvili, advisor to the Prime Minister*);
- Support to undertaking quality Population and Housing Census (2020 round) and based on its data improving population data systems to map and address inequalities is of critical importance for evidence-based policy making and monitoring of SDG targets (*Paata Shavishvili, Deputy Executive Director, Geostat*);
- COVID has affected elderly population globally, therefore UN plans to continue assisting the Government of Georgia in elaboration of action plans for implementation of ageing policy and mainstreaming ageing in development strategies and processes. Also improving services for elderly population; This work will fall under good governance, participation and rights and leaving no one behind umbrella; (*Lela Bakradze, UNFPA*)

### ***Summary of points discussed:***

The following highlighted topics will be further discussed within the UN Outcome 1 Working Group and taken into account at the maximal possible extent in the UNSDCF document:

- ✚ All stakeholders in principle agree with current formulation of the Outcome and Outputs, hence the projected priorities of the UN programs for the next 5-years cycle echo expectations and priorities of the State.
- ✚ Work will be continued to further support the decentralization strategy implementation and this area will remain as priority and within the focus of attention;
- ✚ Coverage of Georgian citizens interests and rights who reside abroad should be reviewed and discussed so that this topic is sufficiently reflected in the CF document;
- ✚ Priority directions remain to be enhancement of gender equality, promotion of interests and rights of national minorities and IDPs
- ✚ Various cooperation scenarios, e.g. with civil society, business sector should be further explored and strengthened;
- ✚ Aspects that foster regional development should kept high in planning agenda;

- ✚ Combat against violence against children and development of positive parenting skills stay as priority directions;
- ✚ Support capacity building of professionals on all fronts;