



**Speech presented by the
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Member of the Parliament of Georgia
Coordinator for the Gender Equality Advisory Council
Under the Speaker of the Parliament of Georgia**

Madam Chairperson
Distinguished experts of the Committee
Excellencies
Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my honor and privilege to address the thirty-sixth session of the Committee on Elimination of Discrimination against Women and to present Georgia's report on implementation of the CEDAW.

Madam Chairperson
Distinguished members of the Committee

First of all I would like congratulate the members of the Committee who got re-elected at the 14th meeting of the States parties to the Convention this June. I know that your efforts will continue to enhance the important work done by the Committee in monitoring and support of the implementation of the CEDAW. And here I would also congratulate and welcome the newly elected members of the Committee.

I would also like to thank you, Ms. Me.9w (-) Tj 4.5 0 TD 0.sdi Tw 0.0207 Tj 85.5 6ic -0.1875
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defense sector, law enforcement, energy supply and security, and education. Economic reforms require longer time to affect individual citizens, however the Government is making consistent and continuous steps for setting the proper policies and regulations. Georgia's integration into the Euro-Atlantic structures is one of the high priorities for Georgia and the Government is steadily advancing towards fulfilling the requirements set by these organizations.

The most painful and hindering issues for the development in our country are the unresolved territorial conflicts in Abkhazeti and South Osseti. These conflicts resulted in internal displacement of almost 300,000 Georgians, which especially affects the social security system, along with the extremely sensitive political challenge to return these people to their homes. The resolution of these conflicts through peaceful means is the major objective of the Government of Georgia, where the support of international community, international organizations and most of all, the UN can play a vital role.

Along these reforms gender equality issues were also brought up to the state level, which e madeTw D 0.110mmunity,e5. il Tw (peo254 143.25 922 Tw (eff Tcs t a(e nadj1149 Tba.79

others. The National Action Plan was signed in by the President of Georgia, where all the activities, responsible agencies and specific dates were outlined for the implementation of this law.

- **The Labor Code**

Till May 2006 Georgia used the Soviet Labor Code adopted in 1973, which has been numerously amended during the last years. The new Labor Code adopted in 2006 sets much more liberal regulation of employment in Georgia – allowing the contract between the employer and prospective employee to negotiate most of the terms. However, the code sets minimal standards, including parental leave, number of working hours per week (41 hours), overtime work, safety at work, etc. Several international indices gave high rating to the Georgian Labor Code from the economic reform point of view.

- **The Law on Elimination of Domestic Violence, Protection and Assistance of Domestic Violence Victims**

This law was adopted in June 2006, which introduces the term “domestic violence” into Georgian legislation, as well as new mechanisms of protection of victims – restraining and defense orders, state’s obligation to provide social services, shelters and rehabilitation centers for the victims and abusers. The adoption of the National Action Plan by the Government is required by the end of the year.

- **The State Concept on Gender Equality**

First of all I would like to emphasize the wonderful cooperation of the Parliamentary Council and the Government Commission in the process of drafting the national strategy documents – the State Concept on Gender Equality and National Action Plan for its Implementation. The Concept provides for the main directions of the gender equality policy and is adopted by the Parliament. The Concept recognizes the internationally acclaimed principles of gender equality in all spheres of life and provides the framework for introducing and implementing measures for prevention and elimination of all forms of discrimination on the ground of sex and for the active pursue of gender equality.

I would like to specifically recognize the special support provided by the UN Agencies - UNDP, UNIFEM and UNFPA in advancement of gender equality in Georgia. I would also like to thank OSCE and USAID for their continuous support in this field.

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