



Government Program

“For Strong, Democratic and Unified Georgia”

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„For Strong, Democratic and Unified Georgia“

General Overview

In the parliamentary, presidential and local self-government elections, the convincing victory of the coalition „Georgian Dream” is a clear expression of will of the Georgian population in order to carry out drastic changes in the country.

Building strong, effective, democratic institutions remains the invariable priority of the government. In order democratic reforms became irreversible and with the purpose to carry out large-scale reforms, the legislative base was significantly altered; balanced work of the state bodies was ensured; the real process of self-government construction was started; fundamental reforms of justice system is being carried out in several stages; multi-party political system is provided; freedom of expression is guaranteed; establishing public service free of political pressure was started; elaboration of short-term, medium and long-term development policy is underway.

By carrying out elections in free environment, the coalition “Georgian Dream” established the tradition of democratic elections in Georgia.

Development of institutions built upon liberal and democratic values was started and is being continued in Georgia. Ensuring the process of rule of law became irreversible; the state guarantees inviolability of the constitutional rights of our citizens; fighting crimes is steady and uncompromising, however, political persecution is inconceivable. Besides, building of judicial and law enforcement systems free of political pressure was started.

The process of unification of the country is underway with a view to carry out peaceful initiatives with the Abkhazian and the Ossetian communities, through bilateral negotiations tangible results in talks with Russia were achieved; negotiations are going on intensively with the support of the Special Representative of the Prime Minister.

Works for strengthening the country’s security and regional positions are being continued. Decisive steps are taken to obtain NATO and EU membership. On June 27, 2014 Georgia signed Association Agreement with EU meaning that Georgia-EU political and economic relations reached new level and the country’s Europeanization process is becoming irreversible. On July 18, 2014 the Georgian Parliament ratified the Agreement. From September 1, 2014 the country is moving to most important, implementation stage.

Fulfilling obligations imposed by the Association Agreement, is one of the top priorities of the Georgian Government's domestic policy that represents an important step for the country's full integration into European family. The Association Agreement also includes Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area component with EU, during implementation of which Georgia will consistently become the part of EU economy.

Implementation of Association Agreement is related to all aspects of the country's political, social and economic life. Accordingly, large-scale reforms will serve strengthening protection of human rights, deepening democracy, greater transparency, effective management, enhancing security and regional cooperation, ensuring formation of stable macroeconomic environment and favorable business climate. The agreement fully meets the government's vision on social and economic development. The mentioned above reforms, eventually, ensure the formation of the country as the European-style democracy. Work to implement Association Agreement has already started in order to activate the relevant institutional as well as administrative mechanisms with the view to introduce large-scale reforms. According to the Association Agreement with EU, harmonization of local legislation with EU regulations is being planned.

The government continues cooperation with NATO with the purpose of deepening integration and, ultimately, acquiring membership in this organization. NATO membership for Georgia represents a guarantee for strengthening the country's stability and security that, in its turn, will promote the country's sustainable and democratic development, economic growth and prosperity.

Economic policy of the Georgian government is based on principles and values of free market economy. The government will continue to work towards overcoming unemployment and poverty, creating decent welfare conditions for capable and working citizens; for this reason, unprecedented development of small and medium-size businesses and agriculture is being implemented and will further continue; the country will also proceed with reinforcing protection of property and labor rights; ensuring the country's integration into the world economic system; creating decent living conditions for citizens incapable of work, introducing a safe social environment and developing a system of social solidarity to this end; will further continue protecting and cherishing the country's cultural heritage, and promoting educational and social and economic modernization.

Important steps have been taken to ensure media independence and the government continues to work effectively in this direction. In the nearest future, quick and painless transition to digital broadcasting platform will be ensured.

Funding system of political parties provides proper allocation of resources for ensuring effective activity of the parties and conducting the election campaign adequately. In this regard, significant amendments have been already made in legislation.

The situation created as a result of total violation of property rights is in the process of investigation and the ways of its improvement are being outlined; also the facts of “elite corruption”, prevalent in Georgia earlier, are being revealed and appropriate actions are being taken.

The government policy is based on clearly expressed interests of the Georgian population. The government will continue working to increase involvement of the citizens that will become the main basis for planning and realization process of the government policy.

Program Trends

Constitutional Arrangement of the Georgian State

After taking an oath as the president of Georgia the amendments made to the Constitution of Georgia that transform Georgia, basically, from presidential republic into parliamentary republic, were put into action. However, in this new model there are a lot of gaps and vague norms that require corrections and improvements in order to create real balance between different branches of power, characterizing the rule-of-law state. For this reason, in October, 2013 the Parliament of Georgia set up the State Constitutional Commission, which works on new edition of the Constitution of Georgia.

In accordance of the new Constitution, the new governing model will be established, which, on the one hand, guarantees stability of the government, and, on the other hand, will provide legislative body and the society with real levers/mechanisms to carry out efficient and effective control over government activities.

Judiciary

The conception of judicial reform has become the basis for freeing judicial system from political impact of the state authority; justice system is becoming more and more independent and impartial day by day;

Organizational provision of judicial power is ensured by the judicial branch itself; institutional independence of judicial system will be guaranteed, including financial independence of the judiciary as well.

Significant changes have already been made, as a result, complete depolitization of the High Council of Justice have been implemented, new, democratic rules for the council member election have been introduced and, accordingly, for the first time the council judge members have been elected in accordance with the mentioned above rules. The government aims to increase even more involvement and participation of judges in the discussions related to legislative challenges. Work will be continued in order to provide proper transparency of judicial power administration and publicity of entire justice process.

Judges will be elected to the position only on the basis of the contest, in which graduates, as well as persons exempt from studying in High School of Justice will take part on equal terms; the newly selected judges will be appointed to the positions permanently after undergoing successfully three-year probation period. During the probation period, evaluation system for judges will be impartial, assessment will take place in accordance with objective criteria, taking into account international experience and recommendations.

The government focuses its work on improving quality of independence for ordinary judges. Court chairmen will be selected by the court-member judges themselves; additional guarantees for judges' independence and inadmissibility of interference during trial and proceedings will be established; authority for initiation of disciplinary pursuit towards judges will be prerogative of High Council of Justice; Developing open and transparent regulations for promotion of judges and their transfer to other courts is underway.

Criminal Justice System Reform

Improving quality of investigation activity for better crime detection and investigation is underway. Fair and adequate punishment policy for committed crime has been initiated; detention and imprisonment as a measure of punishment as well as regime for serving sentence is approaching international standards that ensures better protection of human rights.

Bail agreement institute has acquired character of fast, effective and at the same time fair mechanisms of justice; victims' interests are taken into consideration to the maximum.

Victims' rights are coming closer to requirements of European Convention on Human Rights; Revising and improvement of Criminal Code with the purpose of its liberalization and modernization is being actively implemented; Juvenile Justice Code has been elaborated.

In parallel with effective fight against crime, re-socialization policy has been started.

Reform of Prosecutor's Office

The government is actively working in order to increase public confidence of the prosecutor's office. The prosecutor office functions have been transformed and its main task is to protect public from crime, ensure legal rights of accused and convicted, as well as victims, and provide proper functioning of investigation bodies, supervising their activities.

The prosecutor's office is depoliticized and this course will be continued. Within the Ministry of Justice system, the prosecutor's office was established as an independent law enforcement body. The government is taking important measures with the view to develop professional skills of the persons working in the system of prosecutor office to enable them accept new challenges with dignity under the conditions of judicial independence and real equality of the parties in criminal process.

Reform of the Ministry of Internal Affairs

Since November, 2012 the Ministry was exempted from the political pressure and established itself as society-oriented organization with the main goal to protect the rights and security of citizens. The Ministry of Internal Affairs is depoliticized and it will not deviate from its course. Impartiality and neutrality practice, established towards electoral processes within MIA system in 2013 will be remain unchanged. The Police shall carry out its activity in full compliance with the law, democratic standards and ethical norms.

The Police will continue to focus on the community and its needs. One of the priority is further deepening confidence between the police and society. With the view of police activities, particular attention will be paid to respect of human rights, adherence to rule of law, proportionality, equality and neutrality principles. The public order maintenance opportunities will increase: Construction of new police buildings, rehabilitation of MIA infrastructure and car fleet will be continued; MIA forensic examination opportunities are being increased and improved; opening of temporary isolation wards (TIW) complying with modern standards, as well as rehabilitation of the existent ones and renewal of material and technical base, also trainings for prison personnel are being planned; medical service of the detained will be improved.

MIA heads Interagency Coordination Council for Combating Organized Crime. With regard to combating organized crime, special attention will be paid to preventive measures, among them, raising public awareness. Strategy and Action Plan for combating organized crime will be

renewed. Fighting against illegal drug circulation remains one of the main priorities. MIA actively works in the direction of balanced drug policy. Combating trafficking will also be stepped up.

Great attention will be paid to raising public awareness on the issues, such as family violence, as well as drug abuse, violence related to juveniles, also road safety and public order, improvement of child protection referral system. With the view of child protection, teaching psychology, pedagogics and legal issues has been institutionalized and at present appropriate trainings for professionals is underway.

Within MIA system, Migration Department, which will be responsible for allocation of persons illegally living in the country and their withdrawal out of the country, will be started in September, 2014. In September, 2014 temporary housing center for illegal migrants with envisaged European standards on human rights will start functioning. Electronic program for detecting illegal migrants will be launched and all border crossing points will be involved in it. Rehabilitation/modernization of border infrastructure as well as building border sector will be carried out. Emergency situation management opportunities will be improved. With the purpose of effective management and common organization of emergency situations, reform of the response system to emergency situations will be implemented.

Chemical, biological, radiation and nuclear security policy still remains one of the top priority spheres for the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The Tbilisi Regional Secretariat of the EU initiative – “Centers for sharing experience on Chemical, Biological, Radiation and Nuclear Risk Mitigation Centers (CBRN)” within MIA is successfully functioning, which transforms Georgia into key country in the mentioned above field throughout South- East Europe and South Caucasus region. The National Strategy for diminishing CBRN dangers has been elaborated. The process of Strategy Action Plan development is at the final stage. MIA opportunities for chemical, biological, radiation and nuclear safety will be increased.

MIA will pay excessive attention to improvement of legislative base. Special focus will be placed on maintenance of service quality and its improvement. MIA capacity building will be implemented by means of updating material and technical basis and developing personnel professional skills. Programs for Master’s and bachelor’s degrees will be carried out in the MIA Academy. In accordance with the ministry needs, the existent vocational training programs will be revised and new special professional training programs will be developed.

International cooperation on combating organized crime and police spheres will be deepened. With this view, the MIA priorities are as follows: enhancing cooperation with European structures, carrying out measures related to implementation of the Association Agreement, coordination of issues within the competence of MIA in the framework of visa dialogue with EU, expanding cooperation with the EU specialized agencies.

Penitentiary System Reform

The penitentiary system is oriented towards protection of the rights of the accused and defendants. Therefore, penitentiary institutions will approach European standards on living area, food ration, medical programs, hygienic norms and prisoner treatment as much as possible.

Different re-socialization projects for prisoners will be activated, religious rights of the convicted/accused as well as ethnic minority rights will be protected. Promoting employment of the convicted will be ensured; educational and vocational retraining programs will be started in the custodial and penitentiary institutions.

Special attention will be paid to vulnerable groups. In particular, medical service tailored to the specific needs of women prisoners and juveniles will be delivered. Comprehensive plan for integration of penitentiary and civil healthcare will be developed.

Multidisciplinary team will assess prisoners' risks and they will be further allocated to the institutions of different risk groups. Individual planning of the punishments will be improved. Particular attention will be paid to care about juvenile prisoners and their social involvement.

Evidence-based policy and relevant management within penitentiary healthcare system will be elaborated; Human resource management and development will be ensured and primary healthcare as well as out-patient services will be further developed; the situation and rights of vulnerable groups will be improved—they will be provided with proper service. Also, consideration mechanisms of patients' complaints will be improved. In addition, the role of medical personnel in prevention of torture and improper treatment will be strengthened.

Public Service Reform

Establishing effective public service is significant for European and Euro-Atlantic integration. Georgia has assumed responsibility for reformation of public service in front of number of international organizations. The public service model will be created, after realization of which public servant's employment and dismissal will not be dependent on politics. The law will reinforce the following basic principles of professional public servant's activity: lifetime appointment, political impartiality, career principle, obligation of the state care, protection from arbitrary dismissal from job, social guarantees and etc. Change of power will not cause dismissal of staff from public service. The law will precisely define legal grounds for dismissal of a public servant.

Work on conception of public service reform, supported by donors and international experts, has been completed; as a result, new Law on Civil Service will be created. The government has taken a number of effective steps towards modernization of civil service, functions of public service bureau have been significantly strengthened, new regulations have been put in practice.

Respect for Human Rights

Human rights protection-based policy represents one of the top priorities of the government. In order to further increase effectivity and coordination in different sectors of human rights field, the Georgian government developed and the Parliament approved „National Human Rights Strategy 2014-2020“.

„Human Rights Strategy“ defines the government’s long-term vision and priorities in the fields of human rights, among them, protection the rights of any minorities. With the view of successful implementation of the strategy, the government designed and approved action plan that covers two-year period and represents constantly renewed document, it includes the main challenges our country is facing in the sphere of human right protection. The Action Plan envisages legislative reforms and all recommendations presented by EU special representative in human rights field Thomas Hammarberg. „Human Rights Actions Plan of the Government of Georgia“ is a implementation mechanism of the “National Human Rights Strategy 2014-2020“, approved by the Parliament of Georgia.

For successful implementation of Action Plan Interagency Coordination Council for Human Rights headed by the Prime Minister of Georgia, was set up.

Education and Science

Development and improvement of education and science system is one of the top priority directions of the Government of Georgia. Therefore, the government ensures the guarantees for educational and academic freedom as well as high level of administration and financial management autonomy of appropriate institutions within the entire education space.

On completion of diagnostics for entire education system and science auditing process, long-term strategy for sustainable development of education was elaborated, implementation of which started from 2014; it includes the following interventions, focused on the country’s economic growth, in particular: developing continual lifelong study system; ensuring equality, availability and inclusion within education system; improving quality of education and science through raising result-oriented quality management and support systems; providing autonomy and institutional

development of education systems institutions; developing human resources involved at all levels of educational and scientific system; enhancing community participation and social partnership; improving education and science management system; also increasing funding of education and science system, and optimization of funding models.

As a result of strategic implementation, certain changes will be carried out at different levels of education system—scheme for entering the profession and professional development for school teachers, designed in accordance with new standards to regulate teachers' evaluation and salary compensation issues, has been enforced. From 2015 teachers' new retraining programs will be launched within higher educational institutions.

Introduction of the revised national curriculum and improvement of new textbooks will be started from 2015 and completed in 2017. Also, new scheme of school infrastructure maintenance will be launched. Rehabilitation of school infrastructure and construction of new schools will be continued. From autumn, 2014 restoration/establishment of new vocational education institutions, taking into account their geographic accessibility, will be started that will be carried out in accordance with the internationally recognized standards and models. According to systematic survey of labor market outcomes, complete revision of vocational programs will be provided. Preparation of the new modular educational vocational programs have been started and will be continued. Testing of already completed programs is being carried out successfully.

The concept of institutional accreditation at all levels of education system, which will be introduced step-by-step from 2015, has been already designed. The new system implies result-oriented evaluation, and introduction of effective mechanisms for quality monitoring. Internationalization of accreditation process, particularly in the sector of higher education, will increase reliability and promote identification and international recognition of the documents confirming qualification, issued in Georgia. At the same time, new mechanisms of higher educational institution management and funding will be introduced.

The Research and Innovation Council, headed by the Prime Minister of Georgia, to ensure enhancing the role and efficiency of science in the country's sustainable economic development will be set up; the Council will become an effective agency to promote development of scientific fields and realize scientific potential as much as possible.

Effective steps towards full integration into EU have been taken, relationships have been established with international research centers, and henceforward international scientific databases will be made available to the Georgian scientists. Georgia will have new opportunities to develop physics, engineering, computer technologies and other fields as well as participate in international researches.

Within the Association Agreement, the government assumed the responsibility to support integration of Georgia into European research Area (ERA), develop and introduce bilateral as well as multilateral scientific and technological programs, create solid basis for the Georgian researchers to successfully cooperate with European colleagues.

In the context of Georgian membership within Bologna process, the government is working actively in order to carry out integration of the country into European education space. In this regard, the process of revising National Qualifications Framework as well as relevant evaluation mechanisms and standards in the higher education system is underway.

Regarding vocational education sector, the government undertakes responsibility to rehabilitate and restore vocational educational institutions, equip them with modern resources, elaborate the concept necessary for recognition of informal/formal vocational education. The government is also committed to continue reforms of elementary and secondary education with the view of quality improvement and development of preschool education.

Civil Integration and Protection of National Minority Rights

Active participation of ethnic minority representatives in the events and decision-making processes, undergoing in the country, will be continued; all state programs related to ethnic minorities will be implemented with the involvement of their representatives.

Effective state language teaching program implementation will be one of the top priorities for the government that represents necessary prerequisite of civil integration. The government will support the process of teaching state language. The authorities will also ensure availability of education for ethnic minority representatives.

Regular media coverage of national minority problems, their achievements, culture and other important topics will be supported. The government will promote respect for culture, languages, traditions and values of national minority representatives. With the purpose to maintain identity of national minority, historical monuments and museums will be protected and developed.

The state will encourage deepening of public awareness regarding values, culture, history and religion of national minorities, as well as establishing tolerance and cultural pluralism within the society, and also developing intercultural and interreligious dialogue and ties.

Based on implementation „National Concept for Tolerance and Civil Integration and its action plan for 2009-2014“ that has been already evaluated, through consultations with general public, a new

state strategy and action plan will be worked out; in accordance with the obtained experience, the strategy and action plan will be aimed at protection of national minority rights and support in maintenance of its identity, on the one hand, and ensuring their full integration into the Georgian society, on the other hand.

Foreign Political Relations

The main tasks of foreign policy of Georgia are as follows: strengthening the country's security and sovereignty and restoration of territorial integrity, including continuation of non-recognition policy for independence of the Georgian occupied regions; the country's European and Euro-Atlantic integration; deepening strategic cooperation with the USA; consolidation relations with neighboring and regional states; de-escalation tense relations with Russian Federation and normalization of the relations based on respect for sovereignty of Georgia, its territorial integrity as well as inviolability of its internationally recognized borders; expanding close, mutually beneficial partner cooperation with European countries. Protection of rights of Georgian citizens, living abroad and strengthening contacts with compatriots living abroad represents an important direction within foreign policy sector.

One of the primary objective of foreign policy of Georgia is reinforcing the country's sovereignty and restoring its territorial integrity. In this regard, efforts of the Foreign Ministry will be focused on increasing international involvement and strengthening non-recognition policy in the process for peaceful restoration territorial integrity; building confidence and enhancing relations between the population, divided by the war and occupation lines. With the view to resolve the Russian-Georgia conflict, the government of Georgia will continue constructive participation in the framework of Geneva International Talks, which was set up on August 12, 2008 to ensure implementation of ceasefire agreement.

One of the primary tasks of the Georgian foreign policy is the country's European and Euro-Atlantic integration. This is free and unshakable choice of the Georgian society, which is considered by the population of Georgia as a major guiding line for development and which provides Georgia, as an European-type liberal-democratic state, with prosperity and the country's economic development.

The government will actively continue cooperation with EU and partner countries in the framework of „Eastern Partnership“ and „Partnership for Mobility“.

In the near future the Government of Georgia will be working to ensure the most favorable outcomes for the country to be achieved at the NATO summit in Wales that will bring Georgia closer to its goal of becoming the Alliance member. Intensive efforts are being oriented and will

be continued in the future to ensure that the country's progress, achieved in different sectors to be appropriately reflected in the final document of NATO summit in Wales. Work with the NATO member states with the purpose to expand practical cooperation with the Alliance to strengthen the country's security, as a result of the summit, is underway.

On completion of the NATO mission in Afganistan, Georgia will be still involved in NATO operation - „Resolute Support“ and in 2015-2018 will take part in the NATO Response Forces (NATO Response Force/NRF).

Georgia's integration into NATO reached the stage when the decision about membership becomes political issue. Therefore, Georgia will reinforce its efforts towards working with the NATO member state capitals in order to ensure their positive political decision on Georgia's NATO membership. Georgia, under NATO aspirant country status, will continue working towards effective implementation of the NATO integration mechanisms—completion of the annual national program and conducting the meetings, planned in accordance with the NATO-Georgia Commission agenda.

Georgia significantly contributes to global security and peace-building and in the future will continue combating the challenges that the international community is facing currently, among them active fighting against international terrorism and transnational organized crime as well as making its own contributions to energy security, arms control and their non-proliferation. Steps will be taken to present objectively and positively Georgia and its potential on the international arena, including the country's reformative experience to the outside world.

Relationships with the USA, as Georgia's main ally, will be led in accordance with the requirements provided by the Strategic Partnership Charter. The Charter is considered by Georgia as its own obligation towards its society. Georgia is taking serious efforts to enhance high-level dialogue in the fields of trade and investment, including initiation of concluding free trade agreement between two countries that will further encourage strengthening of their strategic partnership.

Foreign policy of Georgia envisages developing close political and economic relationships with neighboring and regional states. Efforts will be made to further deepening cooperation in order to implement ongoing economic as well as energy projects in the region that will make the region even more economically attractive and increases its security.

An important task is normalization of Georgia-Russian relations, based on respect for Georgia's sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of its internationally recognized borders, becoming the guarantee for de-occupation of Georgian territory and abolition on recognition of independence of the occupied regions by Russia.

The important trend of the Georgian foreign policy is further development of cooperation with European countries, which represents the issue of particular importance for the country, including the main priorities of foreign policy for Georgia—concerning its European and Euro-Atlantic integration, irreversibility of democratic development of Georgia, peaceful de-occupation of the country and ensuring its territorial integrity.

Great attention will be also paid to developing mutually beneficial bilateral as well as multilateral relations with the Middle East, Arabic world, African, Latin American, Asian and Pacific regions in the context of global partnership.

Active cooperation with international organizations and institutions, existing within their framework, among them, ensuring successful implementation of domestic democratic reforms in the country, increasing the role of international organizations in the process of peaceful resolution of the conflict, restoring trust in the divided by the war Georgian population and creating mechanisms for security and protection of human rights in the region, represents significant direction of foreign policy.

Relevant efforts for further development towards democratic system of governance will be continued. Implementation of economic diplomacy to provide economic development of Georgia, including attracting foreign investments and the country's full participation in the international economic processes, will be vital.

Economic Policy

The main goal of economic policy of the Georgian government is increase of the population's welfare that may be achieved through sustainable and inclusive economic growth, when all citizens enjoy the advantage provided by economic growth and, at the same time, general involvement of the population in the process of economic development is ensured.

Maintaining macroeconomic stability represents the prerequisite for inclusive growth as well as effective implementation of the activities, determined by economic policy. Economic policy of the government of Georgia is based upon free market economic principles that implies strict protection of property rights, free market competition and freedom of private sector in the context of effective and transparent government. With the view of successful implementation of the Georgian government economic policy, establishing appropriate environment for the development of the private sector, as the main driving force for inclusive growth and development, supporting strengthening its competitiveness and ensuring effective functioning of the fields where private sector is weak and limited, represents the issue of vital importance.

There will be the following trends in economic policy: improvement of business and investment environment; development of entrepreneurship and small and medium businesses in order to

enhance its role and share in economy; improvement of financial availability for private sector through development of new financial instruments; increase regional as well as global competitiveness of the Georgian economy through reasonable utilization of the country's relative advantages; further development of foreign trade and economic relations that will ensure growth of the Georgian products and service export; export-oriented manufacturing and promoting direct foreign investments focused on high value-added product manufacturing that represents the main source of increase in employment opportunities as well as introduction of modern and innovative technologies; besides, development of service sector that ensures strengthening the country's competitiveness, creation new jobs for the population and wider involvement of the citizens in the economic development processes. Also, it is very important to introduce the principles of green economy, and promote manufacturing of environmentally friendly goods.

Implementation of Economic Policy Measures:

In order to ensure free trade and competition in the market, the government of Georgia will develop effective implementation mechanisms, among them, through creation of independent institution. In addition, it will support to eliminate artificial barriers impeding increase and development of companies. With the purpose to improve investment environment and increase investors' confidence, investment legislation is being updated.

For effective functioning of business, the government of Georgia will promote development of mediation in solution of commercial disputes in accordance with the best world practices, and will ensure their independence.

With the view to create stable and predictable environment for advance of business, maximum transparency and stakeholders' involvement will be ensured in the process of designing business-related legislation. Besides, in order to remove additional load from business, system of regulatory impact assessment (RIA) is being elaborated with the aim to evaluate new legislative initiatives, as well as impact of the existing legislative actson business environment and economy.

In order to ensure competitive environmentunder the conditions of open market, the Georgian government is introducing internationally recognized trade protection instuments that will support development of local business and, accordingly, - increase employment opportunities.

With the purpose further development of cooperation between state and private sector, and effective utilization of public-private partnership (PPP) mechanisms, and with the help of donor support, sharing of the best international practice is underway.

The Georgian government aims at rational utilization of the state property and alsoengagement of

unused assets in economic activities, through their inclusion in private property.

To support entrepreneurship, including small and medium as well as newly set up businesses, the state will promote capacity building of small and medium entrepreneurs, availability of financial resources, strengthening export potential of the newly set up businesses and also, access to innovation technologies. All the given above will have positive impact on employment opportunities as well as increase in self-employment. Attention will be paid to enterprise development in mountainous regions.

With the view to introduce alternative ways of attracting investment funds and increase financial availability, the Georgian government will support development of the country's capital market, including development of stock exchange through its integration into international financial markets and offering attractive environment for companies.

For Georgia's integration into international economic space, export promotion and export market diversification, the government of Georgia will expand cooperation with existing and potential trade partners.

Special attention will be paid to development of preferential trade regimes within bilateral, multilateral and regional formats.

Negotiations with the USA regarding deepening trade and investment relations will be intensified.

After signing Association Agreement with EU, the Georgian government's goal is integration into EU market, the precondition of which is DCFTA implementation. With the purpose of successful implementation of DCFTA, Action Plan for 2014-2017 has been worked out. According to the plan, the legislation will be harmonized with the EU legislation and the relevant state institutions will be developed that will promote free disposition of the Georgian production to the EU market. In addition, the government together with EU and other international donor organizations will promote adaptation of private sector with DCFTA requirements.

The Georgian government aims at developing stable trade and economic relations with all neighboring and regional countries, among them, Russian Federation that will contribute to increase of export and investment flows.

Resulting from the country's favorable geographical location, the goal of the Georgian government is to formulate unified transport system for maximization of its transit potential and performing its role in trade and international cargo transportation throughout the region. In order to increase competitiveness of the transit corridor, integration into international transport system and

regional cooperation will be intensified.

The government of Georgia aims at improving transport systems through promoting development of transport infrastructure, multi-modal and inter-modal transportation and logistics centers in line with international standards. In regard to civil aviation sector, the Georgian government supports providing „open skies“ policy. The government ensures implementation of the Agreement on „Common Aviation Area between European Union and its Member States and Georgia“ that will guarantee flight safety, aviation security, environment protection, consumer rights' protection within civil aviation sector of Georgia and development of other directions in accordance with European standards, as well as integration of Georgian aviation area into common European aviation area.

The government of Georgia will advance general aviation and transport infrastructure in mountainous regions that will encourage economic development of these regions.

Advancement in the fields of information and communication technologies (ICT) represents one of the top priorities of the country since development of this sector will create high-paid jobs in the shortest period and will contribute to progress in other areas of economy.

The priority of the Georgian government is the country to play significant role concerning information and communication technologies (ICT) and innovation exports throughout the region in short-term as well as long-term prospects;

With the view of building knowledge and innovation-based economy in the country, transforming intellectual products, innovation and technologies into export goods, penetration of communication and information technologies and innovation into all spheres of science and economy of Georgia, and strengthening their competitiveness through these instruments, and in order to carry out the unified state policy and, resulting from it, implementation of strategies and programs with the purpose to establish innovation ecosystems in the country, the legal entity – Technology and Innovation Agency of Georgia was founded in February, 2014.

Number of information technology (IT) specialists as well as revenues from the given sector will be significantly increased.

Particular attention will be paid to informatization issues. High-speed internet access will be provided for settlements throughout the country.

Computerization process and raising level of knowledge on computer technologies across the regions will be continued.

Promoting implementation of applied research by increasing efficiency of their state funding is very important for enhancing competitiveness of private sector.

In order to develop state innovation and technology as well as encourage innovation activities, the relevant infrastructure – technology parks, accelerators, ICT incubators, innovation and concept-laboratories (FabLab) will be established.

The government of Georgia will support development of tourism that represents one of the essential source of economic growth, increasing employment and income opportunities. Advancement of tourist infrastructure and new tourist production as well as diversification of the existent one will be also promoted. Regular researches in order to identify and eliminate main obstacles for tourism development, its growth and service quality will be carried out.

The government aims at establishing Georgia as regional center for international events and activities; for this reason conference tourism (MICE tourism) will be encouraged.

Special attention will be paid to tourism development at regional level, improvement of service quality, promotion of small and medium tourist businesses; besides, advancement of medium-price hotels and guest houses will be encouraged. In regard to attracting investments and encouraging export, the Georgian government will intensively cooperate with the Georgian Diaspora representatives that will be reflected in promotion of the diaspora investments, attracting direct foreign investments through the diaspora, also popularization of Georgian production in the countries where our compatriots live, and export growth. These measures will contribute to encouraging economic growth as well as maintaining and reinforcing the Georgian Diaspora ties with Georgia.

Energy Policy of the Government of Georgia

The main direction of energy policy is increasing energy security and independence of the country, diminishing step-by-step dependence on imported energy resources through utilization of local energy resources, by diversification of supply sources and routes.

In the context of growing and competitive economy, availability of energy carriers represents necessary prerequisite for raising living standards in the country. In order to ensure this, the government will continue working towards priority areas, such as rational utilization of local energy resources that in short-term and long-term prospect will gradually replace import and enhance export potential, in addition, will provide readiness of energy sector in case of development energy-intensive sectors of economy as well.

Investment policy within energy sector will be based on creation additional generation capacities and implementation of the necessary large-scale infrastructure projects. Besides, investment policy should provide in long-term prospect, particularly in electric power sector, opportunity for implementation of stable tariff policy. The government will ensure creation of favorable and attractive investment environment in energy sector to attract private investments. Organizing investment promotional events by the government will become more effective, more simplified and transparent procedures will be introduced.

In regard to utilization of local resources, optimal utilization renewable energy sources remains the priority, taking into account technical, economic, environmental and social requirements and international practices.

In parallel with the mentioned above priorities, energy-saving and energy-efficient policy will be implemented with the view of carrying out effective measures and through supporting introduction of relevant technologies.

Realization of local and regional infrastructural projects will also be one of the main directions of energy policy. Construction and restoration of gas-main pipelines and high-voltage transmission networks will provide stable and reliable energy supply.

In order to improve local services for end consumers individual metering program will be completed throughout the country, moreover, gazification of the regions will be provided in accordance with technical and economic feasibility.

Within the framework of Euro-Atlantic integration, harmonization with the EU energy legislation also represents the priority. By means of relevant reforms and regulatory changes trans-border trade will be promoted, market liberalization and attraction of foreign investments will be ensured that will, in its turn, contribute to development of regional trade, increase in transit and export potential.

Labor Market Development

The government's priority is supporting development of effective and civilized labor market. The main objectives of the state policy in the formation of labor market sphere are as follows: rational utilization of the country's human resources; promotion of effective employment; gradual decrease of unemployment and improvement of work force quality.

In order to establish social justice, advancing effective employment policy and Georgia's integration into international community (first of all, into EU) within the sphere of labor relations, approaching international working standards and norms in the labor field, represent the issue of great importance .

According to the agenda of the Association with EU, the attention will be focused on elaboration of labor safety standards and effective activation of inspection mechanisms.

Active cooperation towards labor and employment promotion with international organizations and partner states will be continued, training programs for collective labor dispute mediators will be introduced and mediation institutional capacity development will be carried out; legal regulatory framework for labor migration will be designed and training and retraining state program for job seekers will be elaborated.

Significant changes have been made to the Labor Code, which have been welcomed by International Labor Organization, EU and other international organizations. State strategy and action plan on labor market formation was worked out, labor market management information system and electronic portal worknet.gov.ge have been launched, Tripartite Social Partnership Commission together with corresponding regulatory mechanisms have been set up and started, also regulatory framework, necessary for inserting amendments in legislation concerning working week length in accordance with relevant sectors and maternity leave pay, has been developed.

Healthcare

According to of the World Health Organization and the United Nations General Assembly resolutions, in regard to access to healthcare, the most important achievement in 2013 was introduction of universal healthcare program, which provide all citizens of Georgia with basic package of medical service. In accordance with the research conducted by the US Agency for International Development in 2014, 80.3% of the program beneficiaries were satisfied with outpatient services provided within universal healthcare program, and 96.4% was pleased with emergency medical care delivered at hospital level.

Further development of the healthcare sector policy and programs, among them, universal healthcare program aims at improvement of life expectancy and health state of the population. The Georgian population is now more protected from the risks of catastrophic expenses of healthcare and impoverishment. Further steps are being planned and taken in order to provide availability of qualitative medical service and medicines.

Under the conditions of the Association with EU agenda, attention will be focused on elaboration/ improvement of public healthcare policy and programs towards the priority fields, such as control of contagious infectious disease, drug addiction and mental health, blood and organ donation, tobacco control and regulations regarding qualitative improvement of healthcare services.

Efficiency of spending budget funds will be increased in order to improve administration of healthcare state programs and ensure more efforts at the level of primary healthcare. With the purpose to increase efficiency of funding within healthcare sector, “Unified Procurement Mechanism” for universal healthcare basic services will be activated.

At the same time, introduction of integrated funding system for medical care, approved throughout the world will be considered; the given system will make medical service state expenses more effective. To improve cost efficiency of state resources, further improvement of healthcare program funding (20 specific-disease-oriented healthcare programs, including early detection of diseases, diabetes and rare diseases) is underway, taking into account scientific evidences and the best international practices.

Particular attention will be paid to elaboration / introduction of qualitative medical service management systems within delivered through universal healthcare and private insurance services schemes; quality management mechanisms (mechanisms for systemic monitoring of quality indicators, internal audit, accreditation and accountability) will be elaborated and introduced step-by-step within outpatient as well as inpatient and laboratory services; substantial medical education and certification reforms will be implemented at the stage of undergraduate as well as postgraduate continuous medical education.

In accordance with infrastructural analysis within healthcare sector, identification of medical service levels and special population needs (for example, needs of the population living in mountainous areas and adjacent to conflict zones), the government will promote further development of healthcare infrastructure through supporting the state as well as private investments. In the first stage, regionalization, referral and quality management improvement systems will address mother and children services, and will gradually expanded throughout other outpatient, inpatient and emergency medical services.

As a result of emergency medical service evaluation, the reform started, which resulted in provision of emergency medical service by the state nation-wide. For modernization of emergency medical services, the ambulance staff training program is underway; fleet renewal throughout the country and dispatch service system improvement are being planned.

Pension Provision and Social Policy

Social risks caused by poverty and ageing of the population will be reduced. Individuals with disabilities and other vulnerable groups will be supported to take part in the country's social and economic life. The basic principles of accumulative pension system will be formulated, which will represent the basis for the citizens to receive their pensions through their accumulated pension contributions.

Substantial reform of pension system that envisages transfer to pension accumulation principle, will be based on compulsory pension insurance. As a result of the reform, private pension institutions will play significant role within the system. Amount of pension will depend only on service record and insurance contribution. The state will have the specific regulatory function in order to maintain system stability. In addition, the citizens with incomplete service order and insurance contributions will be granted (or replenished) social pension. As for the pensioners who are at the initial stage of the reform or reach retirement age, will receive social pension from the state not less than living wage.

In regard to social policy, purposefulness of social aid program will increase. Assessment methodology of family social-economic conditions is being changed as well through minimizing subjective evaluation, reviewing criteria, enhancing social information management system and improving administration scheme.

“The Government Action Plan 2014-2016 on Ensuring Equal Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities“ was approved to improve physical as well as social conditions of the persons with disabilities (among them, children) and support their integration into society.

In order to ensure equal opportunities for the disabled, taking into account the principles and obligations provided by the UN Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, relevant state programs/events will be planned and implemented. Transfer from “medical” model of assessment system for the persons with disabilities to “social” model will be introduced gradually; development of the network for social service institutions will be based on access to qualitative service, tailored to the individual needs of the beneficiaries.

Local Self-Government

Strong local self-government represents one of the main instruments of supporting democracy, civil society and regional socio-economical development. Its purpose is to manage the issues of local

importance independently, in accordance with its own responsibility and envisaging the interests of local population.

In February 2014 the organic law, approved by the Parliament of Georgia on „Local Self-Government Code“, implying the principles of decentralization, subsidiarity and management efficiency, creates relevant legal basis for further development of self-government—regarding territorial optimization of municipalities, enhancing functions and resources of local self-governments and improving local public services. Local self-government agencies will have elective representative and executive bodies, their own (exclusive) funds and property to carry out their mandates, they will have the conditions to better provide basic needs of each citizen with public service, living and infrastructural environment.

Further improvement of reformed system is being planned in regard to ensuring institutional, financial and economic and management efficiency, including fiscal decentralization and regulating property issues.

In addition, service center will work in municipalities, which have public service functions for citizens. In the process of local self-government territorial reorganization, local human and material resources, village intercommunity compatibility in order to create community municipalities, and other socio-economic factors will be studied in details. Units, having common socio-economic interests with common development prospects will be established; urban development of towns and cities will be carried out; within community municipalities new centers of gravity will be created; every settlement within the municipality (village, town, city) will have guaranteed by law effective mechanisms for decision-making, concerning the settlement-related issues, including participation in identification of budget priorities; effective system of continuous training program for local self-government officials will be worked out.

Besides, activation of special stimulation instruments for development of mountainous regions of Georgia is being planned. Also, effective mechanisms, reflecting municipality interests within projects of regional importance, ensuring their participation in the projects will be designed. Appropriate supporting institutional mechanisms for management of specific socio-economic and infrastructural development issues at local level, and, also, their relevant planning and implementation will be created and improved.

Regional Development Policy

The government of Georgia confirms that regional development policy represents its one of the top priorities, which is considered to play a crucial role in achieving sustainable economic growth and nation-wide success. It aims at providing comprehensive and effective regional development policy that will meet the citizens' aspirations not only using traditional equalization approaches, but also on the basis of supporting highly effective economic processes at the local level and

increasing regional competitiveness. The new government of Georgia considers identification and optimal utilization of relative advantages of the certain regions, their structural specificity, opportunities for long-term development of their different sectors and their resource-transforming potential as the condition for implementation of effective regional development policy. The government of Georgia will continue to work intensively towards comprehensive, consecutive and inclusive implementation of the approved in September, 2013 strategies for development of different regions, that, in the first place, implies preparation of appropriate action plans with the active involvement of the state governors, regional advisory councils, municipalities, relevant agencies and other stakeholders.

For successful implementation of regional development national (frame) policy and relevant processes, “Regional Development Program for 2015-2017”, adopted by the Georgian government and its effective implementation is of utmost importance. The program clearly defines main goals and objectives, appropriate priorities and measures of regional policy of Georgia, and establishes necessary conditions to provide balanced and sustainable socio-economic development of the country’s regions for the next 3 years.

Designing and implementation of the mentioned above program is extremely important in the sense that it directly responds to the Association Agreement with the EU and the corresponding provisions for implementation of the goals stated in the Association agenda. As a result of carrying out the activities, defined in the program, the following may be expected: promoting effective reduction of socio-economic inequality between the regions; enhancing the competitiveness of the country’s regions; EU regional policy planning and systemic introduction of implementation standards.

Infrastructure Development

One of the main objectives of the country is effective promoting improvement of regional development and infrastructure, - creating favorable conditions in order to cope with and eliminate existent weaknesses in this regard. Advancement of public infrastructure represents one of the essential prerequisites for regional development and poverty reduction.

Taking into account geopolitical factor, maximal integration of Georgia into international projects should be carried out; due to geographic location and traffic load with cargo transportation, new construction rules and regulations as well as construction standards will be designed. Building of new trunk roads, reconstruction of the existing ones in order to improve road-service quality, renewal and modernization of road infrastructure will be continued.

Other priority areas of infrastructural development are: placement and sorting out waste materials throughout the country complying European standards; 24-hour supplying the population living in

various regions of Georgia with drinking water; arrangement and reconstruction of water supply and sewerage system in towns and villages across Georgia, and, in general, bringing this system closer to European standards.

With the view to protect the Georgian population from natural disasters –landslides, floods, carrying out preventive measures (bank protective, avalanche and landslide control measures) will be continued.

In addition, more effective utilization of the existing long-term relations with donors will be ensured with the purpose to optimal project coordination and introduction of modern approaches, in accordance with international standards.

Agricultural Development

One of the main priorities of the Georgian government is agricultural development, the primary guarantee of which will be clearly defined agricultural policy and significant increase of financial resources within agricultural sector.

Strategic vision of the Georgian agricultural development implies creation of the environment, based on sustainable development principles, promoting competitiveness in the agriculture, stable growth of high-quality production, food safety and ensuring food security as well as poverty reduction in rural areas.

In the implementation process of the Association Agreement with EU, the reforms will be carried out comprehensively, in all directions, especially in the food safety field. The Georgian entrepreneurs will have the opportunity to step-by-step introduce international as well as European standards. As a result scope of quality product manufacturing and delivery will be expanded that will contribute to increase of production competitiveness in the European market.

The state budget, loans, grants and private investments (local as well as foreign) granted by international organizations and certain donor countries' will be a funding source of agricultural sector.

Within implementation of agricultural policy, development of agricultural land markets will be promoted; farmers' register will be founded; agricultural sector will be provided with service and raw materials; credit, agricultural leasing and insurance systems will be enhanced and expanded; small and medium farmers will be provided with accessible financial resources; development of farmers' cooperatives / associations will be actively continued. It is planned to develop agricultural processing enterprises, storage, sorting, packing and distribution sectors. provision of information and consulting services as well as scientific research for the people employed in agricultural sector

will be enhanced. Business-environment will be improved and stimulated; food security as well as food safety will be ensured and agro-biodiversity will be maintained. Regional and agricultural infrastructure development will be continued that, in its turn, includes irrigation and drainage system rehabilitation. Special attention will be paid to development of quality seed and plantproduction.

As a result of implementation of the given above policy, manufacturing within the agricultural sector, its profitability, competitiveness, income from agricultural production will increaseand living conditions of the population living in the regions will be improved. In the coming years, agricultural sector will create new jobs, welfare of self-employed persons will increase, unemployment in the rural areas will be reduced. Agricultural products, manufactured in Georgia will takeits worthy place in local as well as international market.

Tax Policy

The government tax policy will ensure attractive and stable tax environment for private sector and foreign investments as well as business start-up and development.

Several legislative initiatives are being elaborated. Within the framework of the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement between Georgia and EU, harmonization of the customs legislationwith the EU legislation will be carried out. Customs regulation will be simplified.Tax legislation will be harmonized with EU legislation in relation to the indirect taxes (VAT, excise-duty).

The state consideres a taxpayer as a partner in rebuilding the country and delivery of the improved public service to the population. Therefore, execution of tax liabilities for physical as well as legal entities will be simplified. Dialogue with business representatives will be continued in order their objective, practical problems to be considered at the legislative level. Information base (regulations, practice, established on the basis of tax and legal disputes, lawsuits) will be created in revenue servicethat will enable a unified systemic approach with the taxpayers, on the basis of which publicdecisions will be issued. Tax administration will be simplified and optimization of tax sanctions will be introducrd. The existent system of tax disputes will be improved.

Monetary Policy

According to the Constitution of Georgia, monetary policy is carried out by the National Bank that is independent in its activities. The Government of Georgia will support the National Bankin effective implemetation of monetary policy, in particular, inflation targeting regime. The main

priorities of monetary and credit, and exchange rate policy are defined in accordance with the Parliament resolution; confidence in the national currency will be promoted, and reduction of dollarization scale will be ensured; floating exchange rate regime will be maintained; healthy competitiveness between commercial banks will be supported; deposit insurance system, which will become reliable mechanism for growth of savings and stimulating investments will be introduced.

Fiscal Policy

The state provides improvements in public financial management in order to carry out increase of priority areas and social expenses, on the one hand, and stimulate the country's economy and at the same time maintain its fiscal stability through the budget, on the other hand.

Within public financial management reform, the activities aimed at budgeting, ensure: effective management and transparency of public funding; resource mobilization, necessary for the targeted policy to develop various sectors under the conditions of maintaining fiscal sustainability; and in parallel with covering social obligations, provide fiscal policy, promoting economic growth.

Common planning standards, linked to both national and sector as well as other sectoral medium-term strategic documents will be designed. Medium-term plans will be used as effective instrument to achieve fiscal stability. With the purpose to stimulate economy, in parallel with growth of the budget expenditure part, it is possible to increase the budget deficit within the specific period of time; however, over the medium-term period its low rate will be maintained. As for short-term and long-term periods, it is important to maintain the basic macroeconomic and fiscal indicators at such level that will enable to improve the rating companies' calculations to ensure the country's attractiveness from the viewpoint of appropriate investment climate.

Macroeconomic analysis and forecasting directions of the Ministry of Finance will be improved. In order to expand the budget planning process, medium-term forecasting of the state and consolidated budget tax revenues will be improved; the forecasting area will be expanded to present the sectors of economy more widely; forecasting time area will be increased that will enlarge long-term planning opportunities of the fiscal sector.

In the process of the national debt formation, sustainability of the debt portfolio will be guaranteed. Loans will be attracted at the most favourable terms, by necessity. In the mentioned above process, necessity for development of local capital markets and promotion of economic activities will be taken into account.

Work will be continued in the direction of introducing the program budget and improving the

relevant methodology, among them, methodological guidelines for spending institutions will be elaborated that will help them in effective management for preparing internal process of the program budget. Complete introduction of the result-oriented budgeting will be ensured. The mechanisms for presenting, programs and sub-programs implemented through the budget, as well as their expected outcomes will be brought closer to internationally recognized standards. Working towards the budget transparency and raising awareness will be continued with the view to ensure the Georgian citizens with all interesting and necessary information in a simple way.

Activities toward expanding functional capacities of the eBudget management will be provided. The budget formation process for legal entities of public law, autonomous republics and local self-government units will be placed within the system.

The budget accounts for legal entities of public law, autonomous republics and local self-government units will be open in unified account system of the treasury and their management will be carried out through the state treasury financial management unified information system that will enable complete and timely accountability of the budgets at all levels, and operations, conducted through legal entities of public law funds; as a result, degree of accountability will also increase. International Public Sector Accounting Accrual Standards will be gradually introduced; after achieving full compliance with these standards, government financial statements based on accrual method, will be published annually.

Internal as well as external control and audit mechanisms in the public finance management sector will be improved. In order to expand the budget process, effective utilization mechanism of conclusions and recommendations, worked out by the State Audit Office will be ensured.

Environment Protection and Rational Utilization of Natural Resources

Environment protection and rational utilization of natural resources represent one of the main priorities of the Government of Georgia.

In order to improve quality of environment management in the country, in accordance with the requirements of the Georgia-EU Association, European environmental principles and standards will be introduced step-by-step. Georgia will continue to meet its obligations undertaken through bilateral and multilateral environmental agreements.

Legal and regulatory framework for environmental directions, such as waste management, water resources' management, atmospheric air protection, forest management, reduction of natural and anthropogenic risks, nuclear and radiation safety, protection of biodiversity, sustainable management of natural resources, permit and license activities, assessment of impact on environment and strategic environmental evaluation will be improved and updated.

Gradual expanding and modernization of environment monitoring system will be carried out.

Forestry sector reform, oriented towards introduction of sustainable forest management system and improvement of their qualitative as well as quantitative indicators will be implemented. Institutions responsible for forest management will be strengthened.

Water Resources Integrated Management System that will be based on European basin management principles will be introduced gradually.

According to EU standards, quality norms of liquid fuel will be made stricter stage-by-stage. Emissions /air pollutants registration system in the atmosphere will be improved. The air quality standards will be in line with European standards.

Current permit system of environmental impact will be improved and new permit regulations, close to European standards will be created. Sectoral strategic environmental assessment system will also be introduced.

With the purpose of natural resource management and their rational utilization, more modernized licensing system for use of natural resources will be designed.

Due to the obligations, defined by the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, with the view to reduce soil erosion, prevent desertification and preserve fertile soil, mechanisms for sustainable use of land resources will be worked out.

In accordance to „Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan“ (2014-2020), measures necessary for protection of biodiversity will be taken. National Biosafety System will be drafted in the country.

The network of protected areas will be expanded and their management will be improved. Activities, oriented to developing protected areas will be carried out in order to promote ecotourism.

Modern system of waste management will be created and activated. Waste management strategy and waste management action plan, which will be focused on utilization of European methods of waste management and development of relevant infrastructure will be approved.

In the sphere of industrial accident prevention and control, the EU approaches will be put in practice; natural disasters risk assessment mechanisms will be improved; the systems of forecasting natural disasters as well as early warning of population will be established/updated.

In accordance with the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, “National Adaptation Plan for Sectors of Economy and Ecosystems” and “Low Emission Development National Strategy,”

related to climate changes will be prepared. The climate change mitigation and adaptation measures will be carried out.

The state environmental control system, which ensures meeting the legislation requirements within environment protection and natural resources utilization sectors, prevention, detection and elimination of environment pollution and illegal use of natural resources, will be improved and modernized.

Non-proliferation regime of Nuclear Weapons will be reinforced, nuclear and radiological threats and risks will be decreased, population will be protected from harmful effect of ionizing radiation. “Strategy for Radioactive Waste Management” will be developed.

The country will promote sustainable development and introduction of green economy principles.

Mechanisms for access to environmental information and public involvement in decision-making process will be elaborated and improved. Measures for environmental education and raising awareness will be supported.

Protection of IDPs’ – (Refugees’) Rights and their Support

The state is responsible for each displaced and war-affected citizen – for their lives, health, safety, social integration, living conditions, employment, protection of their property and home return. The country, taking into account IDPs’ specific needs due to their displacement, guarantees protection of their rights during the entire period of their displacement and makes every effort to ensure long-term solution of the IDPs’ problems, their settling in various regions of the country, providing them with sources of income, healthcare, social integration and resolving other issues to create necessary socio-economic conditions for secure and dignified life of the refugees. The government recognizes the restitution right of the abandoned in the permanent place of residence property that is descendible. The mentioned above right will be maintained in case of providing refugees with long-term housing as well. The state makes special efforts to plan and carry out the refugees’ return, housing and reintegration. Restoration of confidence between separated by the war Georgian-Abkhazian and Georgian-Ossetian communities, broader international involvement, realization of conflict resolution strategies based on political negotiations will become the precondition for the refugees’ return.

Conflict Resolution

Conflict resolution represents one of the most significant components of the government’s domestic and foreign agenda. In order to prepare basis for comprehensive conflict resolution, special attention will be focused on creating stabile, secure environment, establishing solid

mechanism for prevention dangers of provocations and ensuring involvement of international organizations in the process of providing guarantees for security.

Despite fundamental differences between the positions related to political resolution of conflicts, Georgian, Abkhazian and Ossetian communities should take mutual responsibility for the security of the region as well future generations. It is necessary to start negotiations on security guarantees, the mechanism of which should be designed within the format of international organizations / partners (for example, EU, OSCE or UN). Public diplomacy, social and economic rehabilitation and business projects will be given the way. Family, close and private relations, which are maintained by the population living on both sides of “dividing line” will be encouraged.

With the participation of friend-countries and international organizations supporting the NGO sector projects, contributing to dialogues of political experts between the parties, creation of “interest groups” for businessmen, journalists, women, farmers, environmentalists, medical professionals, students and others, will be significantly expanded.

The government’s strategic objective is socio-economic development of the conflict-affected regions and rural areas, in the vicinity of occupational line, and the appropriate strategy, specially elaborated for this purpose, will be launched. The given strategy, in its turn, will be based on already implemented and ongoing projects on water supply and irrigation water system restoration, school rehabilitation, clinic arrangement, gasification, targeted material aid for the local population and other directions. Working with donors and partners will be continued with the aim of helping regions around occupational line and promoting the state development policy.

Besides, the new state strategies of peaceful vision and approaches for conflict resolution, which are being designed and discussed, will be based on reconciliation, direct dialogue and confidence-building approaches under the conditions of the principles of Georgian territorial integrity and sovereignty. Work towards creating legal and institutional mechanisms, which will enable the population of Abkhazia and South Ossetian/ Tskhinvali regions to freely enjoy all the benefits and services, provided for the Georgian citizens in various spheres throughout the territory of Georgia is being continued. This is also related to the advantages and opportunities for the Georgian citizens, defined by the Association Agreement between Georgia and EU, in various sectors, as well as and prospects due to dialogue on visa-free travel between Georgia and EU.

Accordingly, one of the important tasks of the government would be to provide comprehensive information to the Abkhazian and Ossetian communities about European integration process of Georgia, including specific benefits and the values, which are envisaged by Georgia’s European development, implying protection of human rights and freedoms, identity and originality, on

the one hand, as well as familiarization with Association Agreement and Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (DCFTA) and the prospects of visa-free travel between Georgia and EU, as a result of their ongoing dialogue. Building of democratic institutions and accelerating problems relating to socio-economic development will be crucial for successful conflict resolution. State policy success in this direction should convince the Abkhazia and South Ossetia/ Tskhinvali region communities in advantages of living in unified, European country.

Defense System and Armed Forces

The main goal of the Georgian government in the defense sector is to establish institutionally strong defense system based on democratic principles, and create the professional, worthy military forces, complying with NATO standards and adequately equipped to confront the existant threats the country is facing. Defense agencies play leading role in the process of NATO membership. Accordingly, its special priority is to meet all prerequisites of Alliance membership and actively contribute to international security.

In order to achieve the aimed goals during 2013-2014 a number of important steps were taken in the defense sector that were followed by positive evaluations from inside as well as outside. In early 2014 NATO experts in their special report pointed out that the progress achieved by Georgia in defense sphere through increasing transparency, reducing corruption risks and carrying out institutional reforms and the obtained experience, should be shared to other partner and member states.

Future plans and priorities of the defense system are elaborated in details in the strategic and conceptual documents.

Each new initiative is based on past experience, analysis of the existant needs and opportunities as well as successful international practices. Under the conditions of increased global threats and limited resources, it is very important to correctly define the transformation priorities, setting up optimal terms for implementation, balanced development of priority direction and maximally efficient utilization of international aid.

Among current and planned intitutional reforms, ensuring transparency and accountability of defense system; institutionalization and improvement of management and planning systems; revision and updating of regulatory framework for the sector and renewal of inner control mechanisms represent the issues of utmost importance.

With the view to maintain high level of transparency and prevent corruption, two-year action plan on raising honesty was adopted in 2014, which defines in details the planned additional anti-corruption measures and terms of their implementation.

In order to improve management system, it is planned to further update new, already launched in 2014, three-level system of decision-making. The given system enables each employee of the defense system different structural units take active part in decision-making process.

For future planning of short, medium and long-term program budgets, resource management and development as well as modernization of the procurement designing system will be an important priority. Defense planning text-book was approved, integrated program of defense was prepared.

For better regulation of the issues within defense sector, works will be continued towards revision and updating of regulatory legislation and procedures.

Special attention will be focused on full activation of newly created Internal Audit Department and increasing efficiency of other inner controlling structures with the purpose to improve inner control mechanisms.

In regard to capacity building of the Armed Forces, creating effective of reserve and mobilization system air defense, anti-tank, reconnaissance, engineering, logistics, strengthening information and communication capacity building, improvement of military infrastructure, updating military training and education system, reinforcing special operation force, introduction of cyber security and enhancing social guarantees for military servants will represent a priority;

Work will be continued on planning and implementation of infrastructural projects, in particular, building and equipment of military bases, military barracks and mess halls that will allow military servants perform their duties adequately and in dignified conditions.

Training and education system reform will be further focused maximally on task-oriented and close-to-real combat conditions, conducting joint international trainings and also educational programs for military servants and improvement of the relevant study processes.

In order to protect social rights of the military personnel, working on support programs for wounded military servants, the families of injured or deceased military personnel, quality improvement of medical as well as nutritional provision, and also reformation of pension system will be continued. In relation to human rights, special attention will be paid to protection of the fundamental rights and freedoms (among them, confidentiality and freedom) for military servants, elimination and prevention of any forms for gender discrimination, and strengthening military and civil relations.

One of the main orienting points for the Ministry of Defence will be in future deepening cooperation with NATO and other strategic partners. The ministry of Defence will continue intensive relations with NATO, EU, the USA and other countries. Special accent will be focused on strengthening regional security and with this view on bilateral and multilateral relations with the countries in the region.

Defense diplomacy in the today's world is becoming increasingly important. The Ministry of Defence will be still particularly active in this direction. In future Georgia will be represented in the international arena not only for its military forces involved in international missions, but also as the exporting country having special positive experience in the institutional development of defense sector.

Cherishing Diaspora

The government will focus special attention to our compatriots living abroad, their involvement in Georgian socio-political, socio-economic and cultural relations, also strengthening ties between Georgia and the countries where our compatriots live and work.

The Government will continue increasing knowledge of Georgian language and Georgian awareness among our compatriots, especially school-age children living abroad. Elaboration of curriculums and retraining of pedagogues for acting abroad secondary schools having Georgian ethno-cultural component, will continue, taking into account the local educational standards of the state.

The government will continue also traditional support and assistance of Georgian Sunday schools, folk groups, sports teams and other diaspora organizations abroad.

The state authorities will continue seeking for, caring and restoring conveying the Georgian historical and cultural monuments and objects located abroad and, where appropriate, conveying them to Georgia.

The government will particularly promote establishing and activity of the Georgian diaspora organizations (including professional, scientific, cultural, youth and etc.) abroad. With the purpose of proper registering of diaspora organizations, operational communication with them, large-scale planning and implementation of diaspora activities, register of diaspora organizations will be created; all the information related to Georgian diaspora organizations abroad will be gathered in the given register, including their founders and leaders, organization goals and implemented activities..

Resulting from the requirements of the Association Agreement with the EU, the government will ensure fulfilment of the obligations concerning emigrants. The state authorities will continue cooperation with the international organizations with the view to provide information for our compatriots living abroad.

Culture

The state cultural policy will be oriented towards maintaining the country's national and cultural identity. According to the Association Agreement with the EU, cooperation with the EU will be ensured in order to develop and introduce inclusive culture policy. Besides, implementation of the UNESCO 2005 Convention on "Protection and Promotion of Diversity of Cultural Expression" will be supported in every possible way.

Important steps will be made in order to integrate the cultural sphere in the process of the country's social and economic development. For this reason setting up and development of creative industries will be promoted and supported.

Securing the principles, such as freedom of activities for the Georgian citizens in cultural sector and non-intervention of the government in the creative process will be still guaranteed.

In order to gain the aimed objectives, framework document for cultural policy and strategic plan for cultural development will be designed. Significant steps to improve the active legislative framework in the given sector will be also made. Institutional reforms of the Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection together with its member organizations will be launched.

Integration of the Georgian cultural space into the world cultural space will be continued through supporting international cultural relations.

Preservation and rehabilitation process of cultural heritage will be carried out taking into consideration the recommendations of international conventions, world-recognized standards, UNESCO and other international organizations. Popularization of cultural heritage within the country and beyond its borders will be promoted. Important steps will be made towards increasing awareness of the population.

Vital role will be provided for supporting art education institutions by the state. In accordance with the priorities given in the state programs, the best projects will be selected and their implementation will be promoted.

Revival and development of cultural life in the regions will be continued that will expressed in

proper equipping of regional theatres, rehabilitation of recreational and leisure parks together with municipalities, popularization of classical music, providing supportive methodological activities for art school pedagogues and pupils, technical assistance of folk ensembles, theatrical companies and studios through promotion campaigns and popularization.

Special measures will be carried out to protect Georgian language as the state language. The government will cherish and care for state language in order to guarantee constitutional status of Georgian language.

Sport and Youth

Non-intervention policy in the activities of sports federations and youth organizations will continue.

Promoting development of physical education and sport represents one of the main state priorities. The best alternative to use leisure time for establishing healthy lifestyle is considered as important aspect of development. On the basis of, State Sports Development Policy Document 2014-2020, based on analyzing, studying and researching the current situation in sport, was worked out and adopted, sports development strategic, specific plan that is mainly focused on availability, is being developed. Taking into account the European experience, new Sports Law will be adopted; rehabilitation and construction of sports infrastructure throughout the country will start, sports and fitness centers will be created and equipped with the modernized inventory in the regions. In the future Georgia will host a number of international sports forums.

The newly established State Academy of Physical Education and Sport was authorized. It will work in accordance with appropriate educational system complying the modern European standards and will become regional center of sports education. Special attention will be paid to the development of sport science, including sports medicine and sports law. Promoting proper physical development will become the specialists' work. Particular importance is given to education in professional sports – the Georgian Community College of Physical Education and Sports was restored and it starts functioning.

Research concerning the youth problems and challenges, which represents the basis for reformed action plan on youth policy was carried out in cooperation with international organizations. Participation of young people in decision-making process will be regulated by legislation at local and central government level, their activity forms will be determined. Strategy for recognition non-formal education and relevant standards in the field of non-formal education will be elaborated; voluntary activity will be supported. Promoting youth centers' infrastructures will be continued in all regions of the country; Youth programs complying the European standards will be

designed for better functioning of the given centers. For popularization of pro-state thinking, European, democratic and civil values, support program for youth non-governmental organizations will be improved and modernized.

With the view to support employment of young people, living in the regions as well as encourage local youth non-governmental sector, large-scale regional grant competitions in accordance with different program priorities will be continued. In order to activate and integrate young people with special needs living in the regions, special adapted programs will be implemented. With the purpose of self-realization and demonstrate talents of young people, the relevant cultural-creative, scientific and sports activities and events will be carried out. To bring young people of our country closer to Euro-Atlantic space, appropriate youth programs will be introduced and implemented in cooperation with international organizations and partner states.