



— 2020 —

GOVERNMENT REPORT TO CITIZENS OF GEORGIA

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS OF GEORGIA



Despite the global pandemic, the Georgian Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe achieved important outcomes:

- ✓ The Georgian Chairmanship launched new working methods enabling the Committee of Ministers to function smoothly amid the pandemic;
- ✓ The Committee of Ministers adopted Declaration on the COVID-19 pandemic;
- ✓ Joint Declaration was adopted by the Georgian, Greek and German Chairmanships on Human Rights and the Environment – one of the key priorities of the Georgian chairmanship;
- ✓ Roundtable - Child-Friendly Justice – Converging Experience on Restorative Justice in Europe was held online;
- ✓ Work was completed on complementary joint procedure between the Committee of Ministers and the Parliamentary Assembly in response to a serious violation by a member State of its statutory obligations.





On behalf of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, Georgia, during a six-month term of its chairmanship, made 8 statements on important international events and dates.

Events held in 2020 within the scope of the Georgian Chairmanship:

- Informal exchange of views at the level of Ministers' Deputies on Strengthening Democracy through Youth Engagement in the Council of Europe and its Member States;
- High-level Conference on Environmental Protection and Human Rights;
- International Conference on Civil Participation in Decision Making (online);
- Roundtable - Child-Friendly Justice – Converging Experience on Restorative Justice in Europe (online);



HIGH-LEVEL VISITS CONDUCTED IN 2020:

- Minister of Foreign Affairs submitting a report on the activities of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to the Parliamentary Assembly;
- President of Georgia speaking before the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe;
- Minister of Foreign Affairs participating as President of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe in the meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council.

Georgia joined Co-operation Group to Combat Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in Drugs (POMPIDOU GROUP) thus becoming its 41st member.

On 15 May, Georgia passed Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to Greece.



Assisting Georgian citizens living abroad in their host countries;

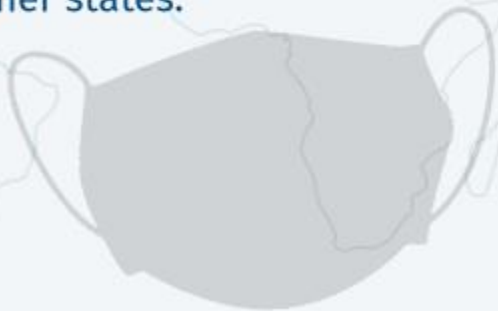
Ensuring organized and gradual repatriation of Georgian citizens to their country;

Providing medical supplies and vitally needed resources to Georgia amid the global pandemic restrictions;

Mobilizing financial assistance from international financial institutions and partner states.

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Preventing the spread of Coronavirus in Georgia



GEORGIA





Identification of and communication with Georgian citizens living abroad

Evacuation of Georgian citizens from high-risk countries
during the early stages of virus outbreak

IRAN



CHINA



ITALY



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Preventing the spread of Coronavirus in Georgia



Process of repatriation of Georgian citizens living abroad

Cooperation with the airlines and scheduling/planning flights

Identification of those wishing to repatriate

Providing effective assistance to people with special needs



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74 flights



from 27 countries

Number of people
repatriated



22,862

Number of people
assisted in host countries



23,296

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Ministry of Foreign Affairs during COVID-19 Pandemic – Mobilization of International Assistance



INTERNATIONAL DONORS

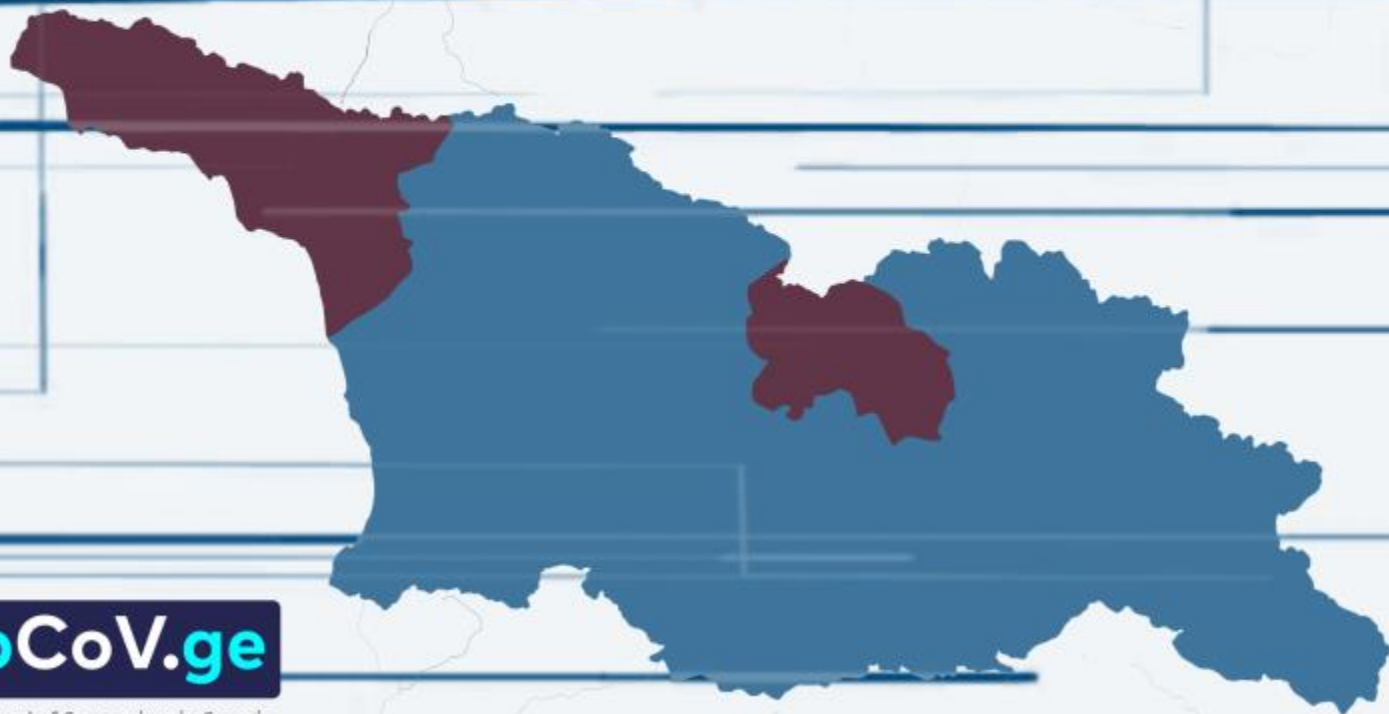
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Preventing the spread of Coronavirus in Georgia

- European Union – up to €430 mln EUR assistance in bilateral and multilateral formats
- U.S. – USAID – \$14 36 7875 USD, Centre for Disease Control and Prevention – \$3 000 000 USD
- European Countries – various types of financial and humanitarian aid
- United Nations - COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund – \$1 mln USD
- People’s Republic of China – 55 thousand tons of medical supplies
- Japan – Antiviral drug Avigan worth ¥300 000 000 JPY (\$2.8 mln USD)
- Republic of Korea – \$300 000 USD in humanitarian assistance, various pandemic-related supplies
- International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) – Equipment for rapid detection of COVID-19 and €10,2 mln EUR
- Republics of Azerbaijan and Turkey – various types of medical raw materials and equipment



Activities of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in response to COVID-19 Pandemic



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Preventing the spread of Coronavirus in Georgia



Maintaining the Russia-Georgia Conflict High on the International Agenda

- Ensuring that Russia implements the EU-mediated Ceasefire Agreement of 12 August 2008
- Improving the grave human rights situation
- Facilitating the return of internally displaced persons and refugees





Territorial Integrity and Sovereignty

- Mobilizing the international community's efforts to stop the illegal processes in the occupied territories
- Making efforts towards the effective use of the Geneva International Discussions
- Ensuring the unhindered functioning of the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanisms
- Strengthening the non-recognition policy, minimizing risks and putting an end to the occupation regimes' illegal contacts
- Increasing the international engagement to help reconciliation and confidence-building efforts
- Mobilizing the international community against the Russian hybrid warfare, disinformation campaigns and cyber attacks



Territorial Integrity and Sovereignty

The Russia-Georgia Conflict and the occupation regime's illegal activities were thoroughly discussed



The International Religious Freedom or Belief Alliance
foreign ministers' meeting and forum



Territorial Integrity and Sovereignty

- United Nations Human Rights Council Resolution on Cooperation with Georgia
- United Nations General Assembly Resolution on Status of internally displaced persons and refugees from Abkhazia, Georgia, and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, Georgia
- Human Rights Report of UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
- United Nations Secretary General's Report on Status of internally displaced persons and refugees from Abkhazia, Georgia, and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, Georgia
- 2019 Compilation Report on Human Rights Violations in the Russia-occupied Territories of Georgia, prepared by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and distributed as UN's official document
- Council of Europe Secretary General's 21st and 22nd consolidated reports on the Conflict in Georgia



Territorial Integrity and Sovereignty

- Decision of the Committee of Ministers' Deputies of the Council of Europe – Council of Europe and Conflict in Georgia
- Joint Declaration of the five foreign ministers representing the previous, current and three succeeding Chairs of OSCE, which, compared to the statements of the past few years, gives a much deeper insight into the Russia-Georgia conflict.
- Statement of the 13th round of Georgia-EU Human Rights Dialogue
- U.S. Department of State's 2019 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices
- Joint Statement of the U.S.-Georgia Strategic Partnership Commission's Working Group on People-to-People and Cultural Exchanges
- UK Human Rights and Democracy Report 2019



Integration with the European Union



- Prime Minister's working visit to Brussels
- Sixth meeting of the EU-Georgia Association Committee
- Prime Minister's participation in Eastern Partnership leaders' video conference
- Prime Minister's video conferences with the President of the European Council; President of the European Commission; High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy; European Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement
- Foreign Minister's participation in EU and Eastern Partnership ministerial meetings; in a meeting with European Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement
- EU Action Plan for Integration was put into effect in 2020
- EU released Report on the implementation of the EU Association Agreement (AA) with Georgia. The document provides a positive image of the implementation of the Association Agreement with Georgia
- Work began on the development of EU-Georgia Association Agenda 2021 - 2027
- European Commission released Report on visa-free movement in EU/Schengen area. The document positively assesses Georgia's efforts towards fulfilment of visa liberalization requirements
- Meetings of five thematic groups of the EU-Georgia Sub-Committee on Economic and other Sector Cooperation
- Meeting of the Heads of Georgian and EU delegations within the framework of EU-Georgia Strategic Security Dialogue



Integration with the European Union

New Sectors for Georgia-EU Negotiation



Transport



Energy



Digital
Technologies



First Liaison Prosecutor was appointed for Georgia on signing Eurojust-Georgia Cooperation Agreement

Georgia continues to contribute to the EU Missions in



Central African
Republic



Mali

Work continued on further developing EU projects:

- 4 new twinning projects were launched and the work on preparation of 5 new projects began
- By participating in Erasmus+ Project, Georgia retains the 6th place among 141 partner countries
- Georgia ranks 3rd in terms of participation in EU's Black Sea Basin Cross-Border Cooperation Programme
- Up to 17 Georgian agencies received assistance under the European Commission's Technical Assistance and Information Exchange instrument



Integration with NATO



Georgian Prime Minister's visit to NATO and meeting with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg



Georgian Foreign Minister's visit to NATO and participation in NATO-Georgia Commission meeting



Approval of new package of measures at the NATO Foreign Ministerial to strengthen NATO's support to Georgia and Ukraine to enhance security in the Black Sea region



Georgian Foreign Minister's participation in a meeting of the North Atlantic Council held at the level of foreign ministers to discuss security in the Black Sea region



Approval of updated Substantial NATO-Georgia Package (SNGP)





Integration with NATO

Expanding partnership with Georgia and upholding Open Door Policy declared as a priority in the expert group report "NATO 2030: United for a New Era"

Georgian President's and Foreign Minister's telephone conversations with NATO Secretary General

Approval of the 12th Annual National Programme for 2020 by the Alliance and preparation of ANP self-assessment document

Conduction of seven meetings of the NATO-Georgia Commission

Arrival of Standing NATO Maritime Group Two (SNMG2) in Poti and conduction of joint exercise training with the Georgian Coast Guard





Strategic Partnership with the U.S.



Visit of U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to Georgia



Visit of the Chairperson of the Parliament of Georgia to the U.S.



Working visit of the Minister of Foreign Affairs to the U.S.



Strategic Partnership with the U.S.



Georgia Support Act - bipartisan legislation asserts the United States' firm support for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia and enhances the country's defence capacities

Consolidated Appropriations Act for 2020 gives \$132 025 000 mln USD to Georgia - 50 percent increase in financial aid the U.S. Congress has provided to Georgia over the past five years

National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)



Strategic Partnership with the U.S.

- ✓ Georgia successfully meets GSP eligibility requirements and retains all advantages under the U.S. trade preference program, which allows duty-free entry into the United States for 3,500 products
- ✓ Successful implementation of the Georgian Defense Readiness Program (GDRP) Regular joint exercises: "Fighting Spirit" and "Noble Partner"
- ✓ Meeting of the U.S.-Georgia Strategic Partnership Commission's Working Group on People-to-People and Cultural Exchanges
- ✓ Opening of Consulate General of Georgia in San Francisco
- ✓ Georgian Foreign Minister's participation in the third Ministerial to Advance Freedom of Religion and Belief



European Partners



Georgian President's and Foreign Minister's telephone conversations and video conferences with their European counterparts

Creation of Georgian-German Forum in German Bundestag

Regular meeting of the Georgian-German-French political triangle hosted by Germany

Ninth round of Georgia-UK Wardrop Strategic Dialogue

Austria's regional ambassadorial meeting in Tbilisi. Georgian Foreign Minister spoke before the participants of the meeting

First bilateral visit of the Netherlands Foreign Minister after a pause of 10 years

Visit of Swedish Foreign Minister Ann Linde

Visit of Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó, following global pandemic restrictions

Political consultations with Austria, Switzerland, Romania and Portugal

Georgian Foreign Minister's visit to Poland

Ireland's Parliament held a hearing on Georgia



Consistent Neighbourhood Policy



Bilateral and Multilateral Meetings
Telephone Conversations and Video Conferences
On Regional Cooperation Issues





Bilateral Diplomacy - Asian and Pacific Countries and Latin American and Caribbean Countries



Speaker of the Parliament of Malaysia paid a visit to Georgia



Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia held a meeting with Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of India on the sidelines of the Munich Conference



President of Georgia held telephone conversations with Presidents of the Republic of Korea and the Republic of India



Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia held telephone conversations and video conferences with representatives of Japan, Republic of Korea, Tajikistan, Kyrgyz Republic and Turkmenistan



Bilateral Diplomacy - Asian and Pacific Countries and Latin American and Caribbean Countries



Political consultations were held with Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and India



Honorary Consulate of Georgia started functioning in Bangkok



Political consultations were held between Georgia and Peru



Georgia and Grenada signed Agreement on Visa Exemption for Holders of Ordinary Passports

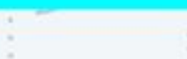


Multilateral Diplomacy



Active campaigning in support for the candidates nominated by Georgia to various international organizations

- Gocha Lortkipanidze became the first-ever candidate from Georgia to be elected as Judge of International Criminal Court (ICC)
- Sopio Kiladze was elected as the first Georgian member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) for the period 2021-2025
- Nino Kajaia, a candidate from Georgia was elected to the position of legal advisor of the BSEC Permanent International Secretariat
- Government of Georgia renominated Zurab Pololikashvili as Georgia's candidate to the position of Secretary General of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) for the period 2021-2025
- Government of Georgia renominated the candidate from Georgia as a member of the Council of Administration (CA) and the Postal Operations Council (POC) of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) for the period 2021-2024





Multilateral Diplomacy

- Active campaigning in support for the candidates nominated by Georgia to various international organizations
- From 1 January Georgia will take over the Chairmanship of GUAM for one-year-term
- The Ministry participated in international initiatives for arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation in regard to weapons of mass destruction





Multilateral Diplomacy – OSCE, UN



- Side Event co-organized by Georgia: “International Response to Crimea's Occupation: the Next Steps”
- Georgia participated in the 17th Annual South Caucasus Media Conference organized by the Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media
- In September 2020 Georgia became the chair of the Working Group on Democracy and Technology of the Community of Democracies - global intergovernmental coalition



Multilateral Diplomacy – UN, OSCE, Council of Europe



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COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

- Inviting representatives of international observer organizations and partner countries to monitor the 2020 parliamentary elections and providing facilities for their work amid the pandemic
- In September 2020 Georgia became the chair of the Working Group on Democracy and Technology of the Community of Democracies - global intergovernmental coalition
- Georgia was invited to participate in Sweden-initiated informal group of friends "Friends in Defence of democracy". The inaugural meeting of the group was held at the level of ministers, within the framework of the High-Level Week of the 75th session of the UN General Assembly



Multilateral Diplomacy – UN, OSCE, Council of Europe

- Georgia participated in the Special Session of the UN General Assembly in Response to the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Pandemic
- Meeting of the Group of Friends of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) was co-hosted by Georgia, Japan, Thailand and the World Health Organization
- “International Response to Crimea's Occupation: the Next Steps” - side Event co-organized by Georgia within the framework of the 27th OSCE Ministerial Council
- Georgia submitted its voluntary national review (VNRs) on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 2020 held under the aegis of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
- Georgia presented its national experience in the fight against early and forced marriages during the UN Human Rights Council, within the framework of the EU initiative: Good Human Rights Stories



Multilateral Diplomacy – UN, OSCE, Council of Europe

- Within the framework of HLPF, Georgia co-sponsored and co-organized various side events involving representatives of international organizations and states
- Georgia participated in the 17th Annual South Caucasus Media Conference organized by the Office of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media
- The 45th regular session of the Human Rights Council adopted a new resolution initiated by Georgia, Canada, Sweden, Uruguay and Fiji on women's and girls' human rights. The resolution was cosponsored by 64 countries across the world
- Work began to implement projects planned under the Council of Europe Action Plan 2020-2023



Economic and Cultural Diplomacy

- Four business delegations arrived in Georgia; online meetings were held with business communities of France and Sweden
- Feasibility study on Free Trade Agreement between Georgia and Israel was completed
- Fifth session of the Intergovernmental Commission on Economic Cooperation between Georgia and Belarus was held
- The Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Georgia expanded its network of cooperation in 2020 and cooperation memorandums were signed with the Chambers of Commerce of Madagascar, United Arab Emirates, Kyrgyzstan, Kuwait and London
- Japanese-language website WWW.LETSGOGEORGIA.COM was launched in Japan.



Economic and Cultural Diplomacy

- Official website of Georgian Embassy to China began to operate on China's popular media platform WEIBO
- The poem "The Knight in the Panther's Skin" (Vepkhistkaosani) by Shota Rustaveli was translated into Hindi by the Indian poet, professor and translator
- The Republic of Korea expressed its willingness to launch joint feasibility study on free trade agreement between Korea and Georgia
- Georgia was the focus country at the 68th Trento International Film Festival (Italy) where a wide range of Georgian films were presented and other events showcasing Georgian cultural heritage were held
- International Fund established under the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions allocated \$88.000 USD to fund the project from Georgia



Relations with Diaspora

Building and repair works for the Leville Georgian-French Cultural Centre and Georgian Academy

5 meetings of the Compatriot Status Commission; compatriot status was granted to 129 persons

Georgian language integration programme textbooks were sent to Sunday schools abroad

Webinar for the winners of the grant programme "Be Your Country's Young Ambassador"

Presentation of Practical Guide for Legalization to Georgian citizens living in Italy, through the support of the International CLIVAR Monsoon Project Office (ICMPO)



Relations with Diaspora

The first regional conference on diaspora engagement in the private sector development. It is the first case when representatives of the countries of the Eastern Partnership and Black Sea Region were brought together to discuss opportunities of diaspora engagement in the private sector development and to express their interest in future cooperation in this regard.

ONLINE MEETINGS IN
ITALY, GREECE, SPAIN, GERMANY, FRANCE, U.S., GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND
WITH HEADS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF DIASPORA ORGANIZATIONS



GOVERNMENT REPORT TO CITIZENS OF GEORGIA



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