

**Statement by the delegation of Georgia  
At the 25<sup>th</sup> OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum  
“Greening the Economy and Building Partnerships for Security”  
First preparatory meeting, Vienna, 23-24 January, 2017**

**Session I: Good Governance and Corruption Prevention**

I would like to thank our distinguished speakers for the interesting presentations and sharing their national practices.

Ensuring fight against corruption and establishment of accountable and transparent governance system are issues of utmost importance on Georgia’s reform agenda. By signing and ratifying the EU-Georgia Association Agreement, Georgia committed itself to carrying out extensive reforms and building an accountable, efficient, effective, transparent and professional civil service.

Today, allow me to briefly share with you Georgia’s experience in fight against corruption, where Georgia has had quite a remarkable breakthrough in recent years. As a result of extensive reforms, it has transformed from a corrupt post-Soviet state to one of the least corrupt countries in the world;

In 2015 Georgia has successfully met all benchmarks in relation to fight against corruption as provided by the EU-Georgia Visa Liberalization Action Plan.

Georgia’s performance is well reflected in various international surveys and rankings. Among them, Trace International in its *Global Business Bribery Risk Index* 2016 ranked Georgia 13th out of 199 countries.<sup>1</sup> Likewise, according to the Transparency International’s *Global Corruption Barometer Survey* only 4%,<sup>2</sup> of Georgia’s population has had an experience or come across the cases of bribery in 2013.

In the World Bank publication - “Fighting Corruption in Public Services, Chronicling Georgia’s Reforms” the World Bank notes that “since 2003, Georgia has had unique success in fighting corruption in public services. It goes on to say that “Georgia destroys the myth that corruption is cultural and gives hope to reformers everywhere who aspire to clean up their public services.”<sup>3</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.traceinternational.org/trace-matrix/>

<sup>2</sup> For more information - <http://www.transparency.org/gcb2013/country?country=georgia>.

<sup>3</sup> World Bank, “Fighting Corruption in Public Services, *Chronicling Georgia’s Reforms*” (2012).

The significant legislative and policy reforms carried out following the recommendations from our partners in the OECD-ACN and GRECO; *inter alia* focused on:

- Open Government reforms where Anti-Corruption Council worked on the transparency and accountability Agenda of Georgia;
- Further steps were taken towards ensuring even better public procurement standards in Georgia;
- Civil Society was effectively engaged in the Development and revision process of the Anti-Corruption Strategy and its Action Plan, as well as in the monitoring of its implementation.
- In order to increase the accessibility of open data, support the development of e-services and e-applications, stimulate business activities, increase public sector transparency and its accountability web-portal [www.data.gov.ge](http://www.data.gov.ge) have been created and became fully operational two years ago<sup>4</sup>.
- Comprehensive revision of the access to information provisions has been carried out and the drafting process of the new Freedom of Information Act is underway.
- Legislative amendments have been passed in order to establish asset declaration monitoring system of high officials.
- Furthermore, to overhaul the institution of whistle-blowers, to ensure their protection and compliance with international standards, relevant amendments have been introduced to the legislation on protection of whistle-blowers. To ensure the practical use and implementation of the provisions on whistleblowing, the relevant software called “Red Button” has been developed on the official web-page of the Civil Service Bureau;
- The private sector representatives have been actively involved into the development of the national Anti-Corruption Policy since 2013. Apart from the state institutions, such as Competition Agency, Business Ombudsman, Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development, etc., the following organization represent the business sector in the Anti-Corruption Council: American Chamber of Commerce, Economic Policy Research Center, Research Center for the Elections and Political Technologies and Georgian Business Association. etc.
- Prevention of Corruption in relation to Private Sector has been identified as one of 14 Strategic Priorities of Fight against Corruption in the process of development of the new anticorruption strategic documents – new Anti-Corruption Strategy and its Action Plan for 2015-2016 and 2017-2018. At this state, the primary goal is to raise awareness on the issues of business integrity, to establish transparent principles of corporate management.

All of this is to say that for the last several years Georgia has moved to a new stage in fight against corruption and much like in European democracies, the main target for Georgia

---

<sup>4</sup> *The Open Data Portal is the resource for publication of open data (data which can be freely accessed, used and reused) owned by government institutions, which allows citizens get access to the public information that is proactively published by the responsible agencies in the search-friendly web-page.*

now is to enhance preventive policies, achieve a high level of transparency and accountability, increase access to public information and enhance involvement of citizens, further improve corruption prevention mechanisms and take advantage of new technologies and innovative approaches in public governance.