



**Statement by the delegation of Georgia at the OSCE Human Dimension
Implementation Meeting Warsaw, September 19-30, 2016**

Working session 16: Rights of the child

Thank you Mr. Moderator,

While Georgia aligns itself with the statement of the European Union, allow me to make the following national remarks.

The protection, promotion and respect for the rights of the child remain high on the Georgia's agenda.

In recent years, Georgia has made considerable progress in order to better protect children from abuse, violence and exploitation.

With this in mind, the Parliament adopted Georgia's first separate and specialized Juvenile Justice Code on 12 June 2015. The new Code expands the alternatives to criminal prosecution, and diversifies the sanctions available to judge to ensure that the detention and imprisonment are used only as the measures of the last resort as derived from the principle of the best interests of the child and other international standards under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and relevant international instruments.

Apart from this, the Government of Georgia pays particular attention to prevent any type of violence against minors, especially those who are living and working in the streets. The legislative package on homeless children was adopted by the Parliament of Georgia on 22 June, 2016 and came into force on 10 August 2016.

Furthermore, the new child violence referral mechanism elaborated by the special working group, under the Inter-agency Council, was adopted upon the Governmental Decree on 7 September 2016. A special scheme of integrating "street children" into the society has also been developed.

The Government of Georgia pays particular attention to the protection of children born through extracorporeal fertilization (surrogacy). In this regard, the special

amendments were introduced in 2016 aimed at protection of the best interests of children born in Georgia through extracorporeal fertilization (surrogacy) and prevention of any illegal acts against them, including violence and trafficking.

The Government of Georgia is determined to take all appropriate measures to ensure that children enjoy all the rights enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other relevant human rights instruments.

Thank you.