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*The Social Programs Foundation is a local non governmental organization, established March 8, 2000. The founders of the organization and majority of its 18 regular members are IDPs from Abkhazia region of Georgia. The mission of the organization is to facilitate solutions to the internal conflicts in Georgia and working on displacement related issues.*

Internal conflicts in Abkhazia (1992-1993) and South Ossetia (Tskhinvali region) (1989-1992) resulted in massive displacement of 247 000 persons (6 % of the population of Georgia).

In recognition of unmet needs, the Government of Georgia in 2006 assigned the State bodies, international agencies, national and international NGOs, IDPs themselves, experts and consultants to develop a State National Strategy on IDPs.

The State National Strategy, adopted on the 2 of February 2007, presents a national framework addressing needs of IDPs, and contains two main goals/objectives:

- a) Authorities shall create conditions which allow internally displaced persons to return in safety and with dignity, to their homes or places of habitual residence; and shall support those who voluntarily returned to their homes or places of habitual residence.
- b) Authorities shall endeavor to facilitate the integration of IDPs into the mainstream of society and create dignified living conditions during displacement;

The document was widely recognized by all organizations and agencies involved in the process.

The document presents general provisions that have to be implemented in the reality through the action plan. At present, an action plan for implementation of the Strategy is being developed.

We believe that the action plan should specifically determine each stage of regulating different problems. It is in our opinion extremely important to bring domestic legislation in compliance with the international standards and UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement.

The Georgian domestic legislation in general and the Georgian Law on Forcibly Displaced Persons – Persecuted (Law on IDPs) in particular does not state the principle of inadmissibility of discrimination in reference to the IDPs and local population.

- We recommend the relevant authorities to reflect Principle 4 of the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement into the domestic legislation. This principle refers to the inadmissibility of discrimination not only between the IDPs and other citizens, but among IDPs as well.
- Consequently, in order to strengthen the rights of IDPs, we recommend that the UN Guiding Principles no. 14, 15 and 18 are incorporated into Georgian legislation. This is necessary in order to ensure the IDPs right to choose the place of residence, protect them from forcible return and resettlement and ensure their right to an adequate standard of living. Without discrimination, IDPs should be provided with safe housing and necessary essential assistance throughout Georgia.