

UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW
23rd Session – 10 November 2015
STATE UNDER REVIEW: GEORGIA

(Statement by Turkey)

Mr. Umut DENİZ

Mr. President,

We cordially welcome the distinguished delegation of Georgia.

Turkey highly appreciates Georgia's determination to effectively address the recommendations of the first UPR cycle. We welcome the steps taken to further protect and promote human rights through focused institutional strategies in various fields.

In particular, we commend the achievements in the areas of violence against women and gender equality, as well as pertinent initiatives aiming to strengthen the rights of persons with disabilities and to ensure proper social inclusion of vulnerable groups.

Turkey also welcomes the comprehensive reform process in the judiciary, leading to considerable improvement in the criminal justice area and in the penitentiary system.

Regarding the repatriation of Meskhetian Turks, we appreciate the constructive approach of the Government, which led to the adoption of a dedicated strategy. We encourage Georgia to continue its efforts, especially addressing the difficulties on acquiring citizenship, language learning, education and employment.

Our recommendations are as follows:

1. Strengthen ongoing efforts against domestic violence by establishing adequate monitoring and investigative mechanisms.
2. Ratify the Istanbul Convention of the Council of Europe on violence against women and domestic violence.
3. Accede to the Optional Protocol to the CRPD.
4. Ensure that all allegations of torture and ill-treatment are thoroughly investigated by an independent mechanism.
5. Improve the birth registration system to guarantee registration for every child with the issuance of a birth certificate.
6. Adopt a comprehensive action plan to accelerate the repatriation process of Meskhetian Turks, including measures to facilitate their integration and taking into account educational needs of their children.
7. Take concrete steps to lift or extend the two-year limitation, applicable to Meskhetian Turks who are granted conditional Georgian citizenship, to relinquish any other citizenship previously held.

I thank you, Mr. President.