****

**Final remarks by H.E. Ms. Khatuna Totladze,**

 **Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia**

**23rd Session of the UPR Working Group of the UN Human Rights Council**

**Geneva, 12 November 2015**

Mr. President, Excellences, Distinguished delegates,

On behalf of my delegation I would like to thank the delegations for their participation and engagement in the UPR process. I would also like to express our sincere gratitude to the members of the Troika and the Secretariat for their tireless efforts and contribution to the preparation of the report.

We are grateful for your comments, questions and recommendations that acknowledged the steps aimed at strengthening the protection of human rights in my country and addressed the existing challenges. Due to the time constraint we were unable to address all issues, but I hope we managed to cover a significant part of them, including those related to the reforms in the justice and law-enforcement sectors, prosecutor’s office, penitentiary system, freedom of media, fight against ill-treatment, women’s and children’s rights and other issues. We will address the remaining issues during the adoption of the outcome of the review.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Out of 203 recommendations received, 142 enjoyed Georgia’s support. Most of the supported recommendations are already in the process of implementation. 7 recommendations were noted and the remaining 54 will be examined in due course.

In order to keep the international community updated on the status of implementation of the recommendations supported during the 2nd cycle of the UPR, Georgia pledges to submit a mid-term report.

I assure you that we will proceed to the follow-up process in a good faith and in a close dialogue with all relevant actors.