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Ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues ,

Ensuring universal access to quality education represents one of the top priorities of the Government of Georgia. Current Strategy of Education and Science recognizes the responsibility of the Ministry to develop inclusive education and support the right to education for all.

With the aim to ensure access to free of charge quality Pre-School and General Education as the most important prerequisite for the further successful development of each individual, the Ministry is driven by the principle of inclusiveness and equity.

The Ministry implements the Programme on the Second Opportunity at Receiving Education through Social Inclusion. It targets street children, Roma, repatriates and Meskhs who do not have Georgian citizenship, children/youth and students with disabilities and special educational needs (SEN), and students who belong to other vulnerable groups.

The Law of Georgia on General Education was harmonized with the CRPD education-related provisions. It introduced the terms of inclusive education, pupils with special educational needs and individual curricula.

According to the legislative amendments, teachers shall consider special educational needs of students during the teaching process. The Law also introduced a definition of a special teacher and his/her responsibilities.

Guided by the overarching obligation to provide uninterrupted and quality educational services for students throughout Georgia, the Ministry has developed various response mechanisms and tools to ease the negative impact of the Pandemic. Georgia's efforts and success were acknowledged and highly praised by the international community - OECD, Microsoft Corporation and UNICEF

After the New Law on Vocational Education entered force, links were established between VET and other levels of education and the process of integrating secondary education into vocational has begun.

Bearing in mind the principle of inclusiveness, a variety of services (sign language translators, support staff, inclusive education specialists, individual assistants, etc.) were introduced in public VET institutions. Special trainings for teachers were also planned and implemented.

In order to ensure access to higher education, the Ministry implements a Students’ Social Support Program, by means of which, representatives of various vulnerable groups are financed by the State.

In 2019, Program on preparation for post-school education for people living on the occupied territories was launched, ensuring the right of higher education for the population of Georgia's occupied territories.

Few words on programs for Ethnic minorities:

Ethnic minorities have access to education at all levels (pre-school, general, higher, and vocational) in their native language. There are 207 non-Georgian public schools and 84 non-Georgian sectors at schools in Georgia.

The Ministry, implements the Support Program for non-Georgian language schools. Its main objective is to enhance the professional development of teachers and facilitate education of non-Georgian schools located in the regions densely populated by minorities.

The National Curriculum and textbooks were translated into the languages of main ethnic minorities. The languages' teaching standards are approved for small ethnic minorities and teaching is provided upon request.

A bi-lingual programme will be implemented in non-Georgian schools. The selection of bi-lingual teachers is ongoing; selected candidates will teach in non-Georgian schools.

The Ministry implements “1+4” Programme that provides simplified enrolment procedures at higher education institutions for representatives of ethnic minorities. The program is very popular among ethnic minority youth.