**UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

**37th SESSION**

**REVIEW OF GEORGIA**

**INTERVENTION BY TURKEY**

**(26 January 2021)**

Madame President,

We warmly welcome the distinguished delegation of Georgia and thank for the comprehensive presentation today.

Turkey commends the determination of Georgian Government to improve human rights in cooperation with international human rights promotion mechanisms.

We are pleased to see that the recently reformed electoral system provided a sound basis for holding democratic and competitive parliamentary elections in 2020.

We share the concern of Georgian authorities regarding the human rights situation in Abkhazia and Tskhinvali regions as well as the rights of IDP’s.

We positively evaluate the steps taken in the framework of Civic Equality and Integration Strategy and Action Plan for 2015-2020.

We appreciate and encourage the steps taken by Georgia to eliminate all forms of discrimination and to fight against hate crimes.

We appreciate the constructive approach Georgia has displayed to date regarding the repatriation process of the Meskhetian Turks.

Within this context, **we recommend** Georgia to take further measures to address the difficulties of the returnees in acquiring Georgian citizenship, language learning, education and employment.

We wish the Georgian delegation a successful review.

I thank you.