**GEORGIA**

**THE 31st session of the UPR Working group**

**UPR of BElize**

 Geneva, 12 November 2018

My Delegation warmly welcomes the Delegation of Belize and thanks H.E Mr. Patrick Andrews, Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the presentation of the national report.

Georgia commends Government of Belize for efforts aimed at harmonizing its national legislation and policies to international human rights’ standards.

We positively note the ratification of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Optional Protocol to the CAT and United Nations Convention against Corruption since the previous UPR cycle and the establishment of Belize Crime Observatory in 2015, for better tracking of crime patterns, in line with the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

Georgia welcomes inclusion of Human Rights Education in the National Primary and Secondary schools’ curriculum; as well as ongoing drafting process of an Anti-Discrimination Bill to address issues of discrimination against persons living with HIV/AIDS.

While acknowledging the positive steps made by the Government of Belize, Georgia would like to note that works are remaining to be done towards better protection of persons against trafficking and assisting victims of trafficking. Therefore, we encourage Belize to continue with its efforts to this end.

While recognizing achievements made by the Government of Belize, Georgia would like to offer the following **recommendations**:

* To continue with the efforts aimed at establishment of the national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles;
* To consider extending a standing invitation to the special procedures mandate holders.

We wish the Delegation of Belize a successful UPR.