



Tbilisi, 21 May 2004

**The Dutch Government provides major support to the project “Support to Implementation of the Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Program of Georgia”**

The Dutch Government took urgent steps to provide major support to the project “Support to implementation of the Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Program (EDPRP) of Georgia”, committing up to USD 202,640. The goal of the project is to increase the capacity of the Georgian Government for the efficient and timely implementation of the EDPRP and includes activities such as preparation of detailed working plan for Georgian Government for the year 2004, development of the middle term (2005-2007) priorities and action plan, elaboration of the economic and social indicators system for the EDPRP monitoring, preparation of the necessary Governmental decisions drafts to improve EDPRP coordination and implementation and elaboration of the Communication Strategy.

With poverty an increasingly serious issue for Georgian society as a whole, international community, through a Framework Group of donors, has assisted the Government in preparation of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Program. Framework Group of Donor included UNDP (chair), Dutch Government, IMF, World Bank, EC, DFID, USAID, Government of Germany and provided technical assistance and policy advice.

Implementation of the activities envisaged by the project will assist the Georgian Government, namely the Ministry of Economy to effectively coordinate activities of the governmental agencies involved in socio-economic development of the country, ensure their alignment to the priorities stated in EDPRP as well as make the whole Georgian society aware of achievements and drawbacks attained during the project implementation phase. Establishing effective coordination and monitoring unit within government as well as involvement of broad public participation in reviewing results obtained by EDPRP implementation will create objective pre-conditions for achieving economic growth and reducing poverty. Its effective implementation will be crucial to reach the Millennium Development Goals, to which Georgia committed itself.

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