



## PRESS RELEASE

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**For the first time in Caucasus, Model UN on Gender Issues will be conducted**

*Tbilisi, June 18, 2006* – The **Ilia Chavchavadze conference hall of the Parliament of Georgia** will host Caucasus Model UN on gender issues for Armenian, Azerbaijani and Georgian Students. The official opening of the event will start at **Sunday June 18, 11:00 A.M.**

During this simulated UN General Assembly meeting representatives of youth and student organizations from the three Caucasus countries will try to adopt the new Universal Convention on the gender issues. Focus will be on the potential for introducing a gender-balanced quota system among political parties and in the executive government. It is the first UN role modeling session that deals with gender issues in the whole of Caucasus.

“Model UN is a great way for the young participants to get practical experience in negotiation, international law and non-violent conflict resolution.” Mr. Otto Kantaria, expert from the UNAG comments the upcoming event.

The Model UN participants will be greeted by members of the Parliamentary Gender Equality Advisory Council, established within the framework of the UNDP Gender and Politics Programme, as well as other Parliamentarians.

The goal of this Model UN session is to give students knowledge on Gender issues, and the importance of gender equality as a major instrument in achieving democracy in the Region; to discuss existing problems regarding gender balance in different countries with different legislation, culture and tradition; and to discuss Gender Quotas as an effective instrument to achieve gender balance in top-level decision making.

The event is part of the UNDP Gender and Politics Programme, funded by the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) and implemented by the Parliament of Georgia and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Co-organizer and implementer of the Model UN is United Nations Association of Georgia (UNAG). UNAG has long, substantial experience in organizing Model UN sessions on different topics in Georgia and the Caucasus.

Additional Information:

Model UN is a worldwide recognized diplomatic game, which enables its participants to get better acquainted with different topics and issues, to act as country's delegates to UN within the framework of certain regulations. The Model UN Sessions include a Security Council, a General Assembly, and an Economic and Social Council, each of which allows delegates to test their abilities as diplomats, behind-the-scenes dealmakers, orators, or speechwriters.

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