



United Nations Development Programme

# PRESS RELEASE

## **Global Human Development Report 2005 Launched in Georgia International cooperation at a crossroad: Aid, trade and security in an unequal world**

*Georgia is ranked 100 out of 177 countries*

**September 16, 2005, Tbilisi** - United Nations Development Programme office in Georgia launched Global Human Development Report (HDR) 2005 on September 16. In line with the main topics of the 2005 Human Development Report, the launch focused on development of private sector and trade, which are vital for Georgia's further human development and progress towards Millennium Development Goals. Another major topic of discussion was the relationship between development and conflict. In HDR 2005 it is noted that the great majority of countries in the 'middle and low' human development category have experienced violent conflicts since 1990. Georgia is one of the middle- human-development-category countries where resolutions of the conflicts are critical for human development in the country.

The HDR commissioned by UNDP was first launched in 1990 with the single goal of putting people back at the centre of the development process. Each report focuses on a highly topical theme in the current development debate, providing path-breaking analysis and policy recommendations. This year the Report warns the international community that regardless of substantial overall progress toward development globally, many countries are actually falling behind. The Report calls for swift and dramatic changes in global aid, trade and security policies to fulfil the promises to free humanity from extreme poverty, made by the international community five years ago at the Millennium Summit.

The report is probably most famous for its Human Development Index (HDI). HDI is an attempt to look beyond per capita income as a measure of human progress by also assessing it against factors such as average life expectancy and literacy rates. 177 countries around the globe are ranked according to their HDI value, including Georgia. Georgia ranks this year 100, based on figures recorded in 2003, with a HDI value of 0.732. Georgia is established in the group of medium-developed countries with a medium HDI (i.e. above 0.505).

Compared to the Central and Eastern Europe and CIS countries Georgia is below the average which is 0.802 for the region (Azerbaijan is ranked 101 and Armenia 83.) The main factor pulling down Georgia's HDI value is the low level of GDP per capita. Looking at figures such as life expectancy and adult literacy Georgia is doing relatively well, particularly the education

index (0.9) is well above the world average which is 0.77, however less than Central and Eastern Europe and CIS countries which is 0.94.

For the fifth successive year, Norway tops the HDI with a value of 0.963. This year, the ranking reveals that 18 of the world's poorest countries, which a total population of 460 million, are doing worse on most key human development indicators than they were in 1990 and Niger is at bottom of HDI with a value of 0.281.

Globally, Human Development Report 2005 was delivered to world leaders of the 191 United Nations' member states in preparations for the 2005 World Summit, which is the largest-ever gathering of heads of state and governments. The Summit which is now underway in New York, will assess the progress and recommend further actions toward achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The MDGs include pledges to halve extreme poverty, reduce child deaths by two-thirds, and achieve universal primary education by 2015.

UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative Lance Clark launched the 2005 Human Development Report together with State Minister for Economic Reforms Mr. Kakha Bendukidze and State Minister for Conflict Resolution Mr. Giorgi Khaindrava.

Global Human Development Report 2005 as well as additional information about the Report is available at <http://hdr.undp.org/2005>

#### **ABOUT UNDP:**

*The United Nations Development Programme is the UN's global development network, advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience, and resources to help people build a better life. UNDP started its activities in Georgia in 1994 and contributed during the transition period with financial resources, knowledge and experience in the areas of poverty reduction, governance, human rights, ICT, sustainable development, and Conflict Prevention and Recovery in cooperation with national and international donors.*

*For more information please visit: [www.undp.org.ge](http://www.undp.org.ge)*

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