



NEW UNITED NATIONS ASSISTANCE FRAMEWORK SAID TO REFLECT COMMON APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS FOR GEORGIA



Tbilisi, 22 April 2005: The relations between Georgia and the United Nations have been, and continue to be, fruitful and constructive. The Georgian government notes that the initial UN humanitarian assistance in the 1990s was critical to Georgia's efforts to recover from civil war and economic difficulties following independence. The UN activities in Georgia today include a range of areas such as poverty reduction and economic development, environment issues, capacity building in Government management and administration, respect for the rule of law, and support to the health and education sectors.

On April 22 HE Mr. Zurab Noghaideli, Prime Minister of Georgia and HE Mr. Lance Clark, UN Resident Coordinator will participate in the signing ceremony of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for Georgia covering the period 2006-2010.

This UNDAF represents the commitment of the UN organizations working in Georgia to support the national priorities of the Government and country of Georgia. This includes meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), to which the Government is strongly committed, as well as the implementation of the Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Programme (EDPRP) of Georgia.

The UNDAF is planned for the five years of 2006-2010. This is well-timed, coming at this historic moment of political and economic transition in Georgia. The UN agencies, through this UNDAF and based on national priorities, have identified five priority areas for their work over those five years. These five priority areas match well not only with the strengths and experience of the UN, but also with the pressing needs of Georgia. These five priority areas include:

1. Poverty and Economic Growth – Including to help Georgia reduce the number and percentage households living below the poverty line, especially those in extreme poverty.
2. Governance – To help strengthen the efficiency and accountability of governance structures at the central and local levels
3. Basic Social Services – Increasing the access of all Georgians to quality health services and education, and to effective community based child/family welfare services.
4. Volatility and Instability – Assisting with reconciliation, rehabilitation and peace building efforts, with helping address the development needs of ethnically mixed areas of Georgia, and reducing the risk and impact of natural disasters
5. Environment – Working towards protecting Georgia's environment, by helping reducing pollution and damage to the environment, while looking for ways that Georgia's development can be carried out using approaches that also sustain the environment.

This UNDAF document has been prepared by the UN Country Team in close consultation with the Government of Georgia, as well as with donors, civil society, academia and other relevant stakeholders. Much of this was done through several months of Working Group meetings on the priority areas. The UNDAF document has also received final endorsement by the stakeholders, including the Government, at the Joint Strategy Meeting (JSM) held in Tbilisi in February 2005.

The UNDAF reflects a common interest of the UN system to help the country overcome longstanding problems and bring about a fundamental change for the benefit of Georgia's present and future generations.

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