

Commitments:

1. **Firstly, Georgia will continue to update, enhance and develop next phases of Gender Equality, Domestic Violence and Women, Peace and Security National Action Plans. We will also develop a national Gender Equality Strategy presenting a longer term, strategic vision of my government on these issues**

Status: commitment met.

The National Action Plan on the Measures to be implemented for Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence and Protection of Victims/Survivors, as well as the National Action Plan on the Implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions on Women, Peace and Security, both covering the period of 2016-2017, have been approved as stand-alone documents by the Government of Georgia. National Action Plan on Gender Equality for 2014-2016 adopted by the Parliament of Georgia, will be revised and approved by mid-2017.

2. **Secondly, we will enhance our institutional mechanisms on gender by setting up and resourcing an inter-ministerial commission on gender under my leadership.**

Status: in progress.

In April 2016, amendment was introduced to the Law on Gender Equality and Code on Local Self-Government, which aims to establish Gender Equality Councils in the municipalities. Abovementioned legislative change implements special institutional mechanism for achieving gender equality on the local self-government level, something Georgia has never done before.

With technical support of the UN Country Team in Georgia, considerable work has been done by the Government of Georgia to develop a relevant legal framework for setting up an Inter-Ministerial Commission on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment at the high-level in the executive branch to be approved before the end of 2016. The Commission shall be mandated *inter alia* to formulate gender equality strategy and thematic action plans.

3. **Thirdly, we will continue to update and reform our legal system. It is planned to amend Labour Code of Georgia to significantly enhance the protection of women-employees' rights. We will revise the Gender Equality Law to align the mechanisms of redress of the cases of gender discrimination with the newly adopted Non-discrimination Law. We will also ratify and implement the Istanbul Convention.**

Status: in progress.

On June 19, 2014, Georgia signed the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (hereinafter - Istanbul Convention). For the aim of the ratification of Istanbul Convention, 17 legal acts were revised by the Ministry of Justice and respective package of draft amendments was prepared. Ratification of the Istanbul Convention is anticipated in 2017.

- 4. Fourthly, we will work with development partners, UN family and civil society to jointly address the practice of early marriages. Specific inter-sectorial Task Force with this purpose will be established at my office.**

Status: commitment met.

On November 26, 2015, the relevant provision of the Civil Code allowing marriage of a child between 16 and 18 upon the condition of obtaining her/his parents' consent was repealed and replaced by the court's approval in such exceptional circumstances, as pregnancy. This exceptional rule will also be repealed in January 2017 and marriages under 18 will be banned completely as per CEDAW recommendation to Georgia (of July 2014).

In September 2015, Task force on the Issues of Early Marriages was established by the Inter-Agency Council and *Gender Theme Group* (GTG) coordinated by the UN family. The main task of the Group is addressing the practice of early marriages. In December 2015, the Task Force undertook mapping of the Government Strategies and Action Plans that were relevant to address/integrate Child Marriage prevention. As a result, relevant policy recommendations were integrated in the Action Plan of the Government of Georgia on the Protection of Human Rights for the years 2016-2017.

- 5. Finally, we will initiate dedicated awareness raising campaigns on specific priority issues such as combatting violence against women and girls and domestic violence, and prevention of early marriages.**

Status: in progress.

The government (Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs, Ministry of Education and Science and Prosecutor's Office) has implemented series of awareness raising and capacity development interventions aimed at combatting violence against women and girls and prevention of early marriages.