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THE HIGH-LEVEL EURO-ASIA REGIONAL MEETING ON IMPROVING
COOPERATION ON TRANSIT, TRADE FACILITATION
AND THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Ha Noi, 7 March 2017

Your excellences, distinguished participants, dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,
Good morning,

It is my deep honour and the great pleasure to having this particular opportunity to address High – Level Meeting for the Euro – Asia Region on Improving Cooperation on Transit, Trade Facilitation and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

First of all let me convey my sincere appreciation to:

Government of Vietnam, UN-OHRLLS, WCO, IRU as well as UN Institutions involved in organization of this High – Level Meeting in this beautiful city Ha Noi.

Sustainable development is the pathway to the future that we want for all. It offers a framework for economic growth, social justice, environmental stewardship and strong governance. In this process, we should ensure that the 2030 agenda enjoys the widest possible public support and engagement.

As the representative of Georgia Revenue Service, the integrated border management governmental institution, which established in 2007, I would like to touch upon the several issues which are relevantly pointed out in Vienna Program of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024

Fundamental transit policy issues

Harmonization, simplification, standardization and modernization of transit rules and documentation were driving principles of Georgia's reforms implemented in this area. The freedom of transit is ensured by the Georgian legislation, the transit is free of any customs duties and what is the most important it does not require a guarantee in a form of surety, deposit or other monetary or non-monetary means. Nevertheless, as the Contracting Party to the TIR Convention, economic agents involved in trade can provide a guarantee in a form of the TIR Carnets in the Georgian

customs crossing point of entry, albeit this is not mandatory by the Georgian national legislation. The e-visa procedure is in place which enables simple obtaining of the document for the drivers.

Integration in the European Union is the cornerstone of Georgia's foreign and internal policy. Effective implementation of Association Agreement between EU and Georgia is very important for political association and gradual economic integration with the EU.

Correspondingly, prospective accession of Georgia to the Convention on the Simplification of Formalities in Trade in Goods, and the Convention on a common transit procedure and preparation for the implementation of the New Computerized Transit System (NCTS) have been envisaged as the top priority in the Socio-Economic Development Strategy of Georgia 2020. At the same time taking into account strategic interest of Georgia to promote its role as the transit hub for the region it became an 11th country to join the Central Asia Regional Economic cooperation project. I do hope that Georgia's participation in CAREC could increase synergies in the region and strengthen economic ties through regional cooperation.

(Joint use agreement- Turkey, ARMENIA, information exchange- AZERBAIJAN, GUAM, Silk Road, lapis lazuli)

Infrastructure development and maintenance

In September 2016, the Prime Minister of Georgia presented a governmental project on construction of the transport network linking all regions of Georgia. Plans include the construction and reconstruction of railway stations, ports and airports, as well as construction and renovation of the tourism infrastructure. In total, by the year of 2020, construction and reconstruction will be conducted on 1000 km of highway at an approximate cost of 3.5 billion USD. The separate plan is dedicated for implementation of Universal Internet Program that will make internet available additionally for 800,000 people, Starting the construction of Anaklia deep sea Port in west Georgia; and one of the most important for the region Tbilisi-Baku-Kars railway's coming into full swing for 2017. I use this opportunity and present our gratitude to the customs colleagues of Azerbaijan and Turkey for their willingness and dedication to create the effective, coordinated and modern customs control mechanism based on

trilateral cooperation which will facilitate the competitiveness of this sub region and Euro-Asia region.

International trade

Georgia has free trade regime with EU, CIS countries and Turkey. The free trade Agreement was signed with EFTA countries and in the near future the country will become the contracting party of Pan Euro Meditation convention of preferential rules of origin which enables to implement the diagonal cumulation among EU, EFTA, Turkey and Georgia. The negotiation of free trade Agreement was finalized with the People's Republic of China and Hong Kong China.

Trade facilitation WTO Georgia

The Parliament of Georgia ratified the Protocol of Amendment to insert the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement into Annex 1A of the WTO Agreement on November 27, 2015. The instrument of acceptance for the Protocol was officially deposited with the WTO on January 4, 2016 and relevant notifications concerning A, B, C categories were also sent to WTO.

Let me conclude at this point and state that Georgia will continue to work hand in hand with its partners to make Sustainable development happen, through an ambitious and comprehensive post-2015 development framework.

Thank you for your attention.