

Statement by Shalva Tsiskarashvili, DPR of Georgia

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Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, on behalf of the Government of Georgia I would like to convey deepest condolences to the people and Governments of Haiti and Chile in respect to the tragic loss of human life during the recent earthquakes.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me congratulate you and the members of the Bureau of the 54th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women for the productive work.

My delegation associates itself with the statements made by Spain and Ukraine on behalf of the European Union and the Eastern European Group, respectively.

Mr. Chairman,

Georgia has presented the Report on the Implementation of Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action by the Government of Georgia to the Commission. This report is focused on discussing the activities in 2005-2009.

This period was marked by a multitude of both achievements and challenges. On the one hand the presidential and parliamentary elections were marked with an active participation of women, and, on the other hand it was women and elderly who suffered the most as a result of 2008 August War and consequent ethnic cleansing. The war added up thousands of women and girls to hundreds of thousands of IDPs and refugees.

The five-year reporting period was marked by serious improvements in legislation. In 2009 the Parliament of Georgia discussed the draft law on gender equality, which was adopted at the first hearing. The adoption is anticipated within weeks from now.

In 2006 Advisory Council on Gender Equality at the Head of the Parliament was established. The activities of the Council were praised by the CEDAW Committee in 2006. Based on the importance of the activities carried out by the Council, it was given the permanent status. This change also responds to the recommendation of the CEDAW Committee on establishing a permanent institutional mechanism.

Gender Equality Council supports the activities of partner organizations, information-sharing and coordination. At the same time, the UN agencies and other international organizations still play key roles in supporting important initiatives.

In 2006 several significant legal initiatives were implemented. The laws on “Combating Domestic Violence” and “Combating Trafficking in Human Beings” were adopted. Subsequently, in 2007 the biannual National Action Plan on Combating Domestic Violence for 2007-2008 was approved. In 2009 another biannual National Action Plan on Combating Domestic Violence for 2009-2010, was approved.

The State Concept on Gender Equality, elaborated in cooperation with the women’s non-governmental organizations, was adopted by the Parliament of Georgia in 2006.

The Government and the civil society continued their cooperation, which resulted in opening shelters for the victims of domestic violence, in implementation of the rehabilitation and preventive programmes are carried out with the participation of the law enforcement agencies and civil society.

The Government approved the National Action Plan on Gender Equality for 2007-2009, which provides for the creation of the gender equality legislation, conducting gender expertise of the legislation, filling existing gaps, conducting awareness-raising activities for the state structures.

Many parts of the NAP have been implemented, including the elaboration of the gender equality legislation, awareness-raising, capacity building of the media, carrying out educational programs, while some others are still to be done in order to foster democratic values and ensure the promotion of greater gender equality in the country. Georgia is committed to continue efforts for the implementation of our commitments in order to improve quality of life of women in the country.

Thank you