**Questionnaire on the right of persons with disabilities to participation in decision-making**

1. Please provide information on the legislative and policy framework in place in your country related to the status, establishment, resourcing, and functioning of representative organizations of persons with disabilities at the national, regional and local levels.

*In Georgia, the rights of persons with disabilities are protected under the Georgian law “On Social Protection of Persons with Disabilities” (adopted on 14 June, 1995). The Article 8 of the abovementioned law stipulates, that “persons with disabilities and their representatives have a right to create public associations, including various funds in conformity with the rules stated by Georgian legislation in order to protect their rights and interests with the aim to support and rendering the service”.*

*According to the abovementioned law, the state should implement economic measures in order to support the social integration and development of persons with disabilities and the public associations created by them.*

1. Please provide information on existing legislation and policies aimed at ensuring that persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, including children with disabilities, are consulted and involved in decision-making processes that directly or indirectly concern them.

*Chapter 20 of “Human Rights Action Plan of Georgia” (for 2014-2015 years) which wasapproved by the resolution of Government N 445 in 9 June 2014, provides the component of the engagement of persons with disabilities in the process of adjustment of national legal framework in conformity with international standards and establishes the obligation of participation of the abovementioned people in the decision – making process in regard to the process of developing of plans and programs.*

*Moreover, “National action plan on the provision of persons with disabilities with equal opportunities” (for 2014 – 2016 years) which was approved by the resolution of government N 76 in 20 January 2014, with the provision of persons with disabilities or/and their representative organizations with the opportunity to participate, in the process of development target strategies, plans, programs and events, states the obligation to create/enforce councils on the issues of persons with disabilities at regional and local level with the participation of persons with disabilities or/and their representative organizations.*

1. Please provide information on any consultative body or mechanism established to consult and engage with representative organizations of persons with disabilities, including information about their composition, criteria for membership (nomination, appointment, election, etc.) and functioning;

*The office of the Prime-Minister has established a functioning state coordinating council on the issues of persons with disabilities. This council represents the permanent advisory organ of Government of Georgia in the sphere of protection of persons with disabilities and carries out coordination of the implementation of state program in the mentioned sphere.*

*The Council covers the representatives of executive power as the members of this organ. The representatives of organizations of persons with disabilities are taking part as the members of the council.*

*In the framework of Tbilisi City Hall, there is established Council which is functioning on the issues of persons with disabilities, which aims the development of city policy concerning the persons with disabilities and the consideration of their needs and interests in the process of decision-making. Along with other members, the members of the Council are experts of this sphere.*

1. Please provide information on the efforts undertaken at national, regional and/or local levels to strengthen the capacity of representative organizations of persons with disabilities, in order to facilitate their participation in legislative, policy and other decision-making processes;

*In Georgia, at national, regional and local levels there is a need for more efforts to be undertaken to strengthen the capacity of representative organizations of persons with disabilities. “National action plan on the provision of persons with disabilities with equal opportunities” prescribes the obligation of participation of persons with disabilities in legislative, policy and other decision-making processes.*

*According to the information at hand, at the local level, the full involvement the person with disabilities is not provided in the functioning of the local representative organs in all municipal organs.*

1. Please explain whether and how persons with disabilities participate in monitoring the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (art. 33, para. 3), and in the nomination of experts to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (art. 34, para. 3).

*In Georgia, Public Defender of Georgia has the main function to monitor observation, promotion and implementation of the UN Convention 2006 on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; to monitor protection of the rights of persons with disabilities; to ensure constant contact and cooperation with national and private bodies/organizations.*

*According to the existing model, the monitoring mechanism includes the Consultation Council of the National Monitoring Mechanism of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, group of experts and the Department for Protection of Rights of Persons with Disabilities of the Public Defender.*

*The main function of the Consultation Council should be provision of consultations to the National Monitoring Mechanism /the Public Defender’s Office of Georgia in the light of determining content, strategy, priorities, methodology and plan of the monitoring aimed at monitoring implementation of the convention.*

*Members of the Council present their opinions to the Public Defender  on the action plan to be conducted by the National Monitoring Mechanism, thematic studies and various strategic documents, also, any other issues important for the mechanism activities.*

*The Consultation Council includes staff of the Public Defender’s Office of Georgia, persons with disabilities, their representative organizations, and representatives of organizations working on the issue.*

*Members of the council are presented to the Public Defender by organizations of persons with disabilities based on certain criteria, as well as their experience, reputation and impartiality.*

*For the purpose of conduction of the monitoring, expert groups are also chosen whose function will be to carry our studies of monitoring field work, thematic work and prepare relevant reports. Experts are chosen by the Public Defender’s Office through the open competition with participation of the Consultation Council.*

1. Please identify the main challenges faced by the diversity of persons with disabilities in participating in mainstream and disability-specific decision-making processes at the national, regional and local levels, including challenges faced by persons who experience multiple discrimination (e.g., on the basis of disability, age, gender, ethnic origin, geographical location).

*At the national, regional and local levels, there are some relevant challenges in participating in mainstream and disability-specific decision-making processes. These challenges are the following: the low public awareness, inaccessible physical environment, transport and public objects that significantly hinders their ability to lead independent lives and often emerges as a ground for discrimination of persons with disabilities.*