**Submission of the Government of Georgia for the OHCHR annual thematic study on the rights of persons with disabilities in accordance with the HRC resolution 43/L.34**

Recreation and leisure

**1(a). Does your country have laws, policies, plans, strategies or guidelines1 and departments at any level of government relating to the inclusion of persons with disabilities in mainstream (not disability-specific) recreational and leisure physical activity, including but not limited to:**

* **Private settings: Private gymnasiums, sports clubs, sports associations and foundations, summer camps, marathons, swimming pools, among others;**
* **Public and private tourism platforms: tourism facilities (e.g. beach, mountain, forest, among others), including services for persons with disabilities;**
* **Public settings in urban areas: Urban sports trails, cycling trails, public physical training, yoga, recreational sports, playgrounds for children, recreational facilities for older persons, among others.**
* **Nature trails: hiking trails, nature centers, toilets, viewing platforms, count with accessibility and services.**

Georgian National Tourism Administration accomplished several infrastructural projects related to facilities for disabled people. In 2015 Mtskheta's, cultural monuments that are major tourist attractions of the city were adopted to correspond needs of people with disabilities. Samtavro Monastery, Antiokia Church, Shiomgvime Monastery, Svetitskhoveli Cathedral - all these monuments were made easily accessible by installing ramps for wheelchair users, tactile trails for people with limited eyesight. There were also installed small models of the monuments cut from the same stone that the churches were built with at the entrance so the people with limited eyesight can touch them and learn outlines and shapes of the monuments. Ramps were also installed at the entrance of the Tourism Information Center in Mtskheta. There was also elevator for wheelchair users installed at the entrance of Svetitskhoveli Cathedral.

In 2017 GNTA accomplished project to make Tskaltubo Central Park and Tvisi Lake near the park easily accessible for wheelchair users so they can enter and move through the park without assistance.

Education

**2(a). Does your country have laws, policies, plans, strategies or guidelines on physical education in public and private schools, including in special education, informal education and extra-curricular activities, relating to the inclusion of persons with disabilities, particularly children and young people, to avoid their exclusion or exemption from physical education and facilitating contact with disability-specific sports? What are the objectives of these instruments?**

Law of Georgia on General Education emphasizes the role and importance of inclusive education and equal rights of all students to have access to general education.

National Curriculumcontains academic standards and timetables. National Curriculum is a very flexible and inclusive document. Chapter 5 of the National Curriculum (INCLUSIVE EDUCATION) distributes inclusive education principles and regulations across all members of the *school* community including the board of management, principal, teachers etc. National Curriculum provides an opportunity for every school to discuss and assess the way pupils with special educational needs are included in their schools. Academic standard on sport and physical education is instrumental in the evaluation, testing and use of the equipment, facilities and protective gear utilized in sports and recreational activities. Georgia believes - given the right help, children with disabilities can participate in almost any sport or exercise, by developing an individual educational plan based on the National Curriculum and tailored specially for each student with special needs.

Within the framework of the project on inclusive physical education the Ministry developed the guidelines on adaptive, inclusive sport and trained sport teachers.

In 2018-2019, within Project “Let’s Learn and Rest Together”, the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport organized various summer schools for students including for students with special needs. The goal was to promote inclusion of students with special needs and develop their competences in various fields. For summer school participants’ entertainment, sports and cognitive activities, including cinematography were arranged.

**2(b)(i). Are teachers and professors of physical education trained to include students with disabilities in either mainstream or disability-specific physical education?**

There were individual attempts to help several sport teachers on special education needs in sports during the Inclusive education program atLEPL National Center for Teachers Professional Development (agency under the Ministry), thoughno systematic trainings are provided for majority of Sport teachers.

**2(b)(ii). Do persons with disabilities who want to be teachers and professors of physical education have access to equal certification to exercise the profession?**

LEPL National Center for Teacher Professional Education organizes exams for entrants, students and teachers. When registering for the exam, the applicant indicates the special needs for the exam which is confirmed by a medical document.

The Center registers such candidates and provides appropriate means to conduct the examination in specially organized spaces.  For example, this year the experts of the Center produced Braille script collection for Visually Impaired entrants. Provided examination conditions for the deaf, blind entrants in regards to physical moving etc, in compliance with all examination norms.

Sports

**3(a). Does your country have national, regional and local sports departments addressing and promoting competitive sports that cover both mainstream and disability-specific sports, either integrated or separated?**

TheMinistry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport o fGeorgia is the state body responsible for sports, and the Georgian Paralympic Committee is responsible for the development of sports for people with disabilities. The Ministry recognizes the Paralympi Committee and funds the annual calendar (competitions, gatherings, training proces sinside and outside th ecountry).

**3(b). Do disability-specific competitions have a similar structure to mainstream competitions, either integrated or separated, to organize local, regional, national, continental and international competition?**

Generally, sports events in Georgia, where people with disabilities participate, are held with the same structure, but independently.

**3(c). What are the challenges that persons with disabilities face to access training centers prepared for high-performance sports at local, regional and national levels?**

TheParasportDevelopmentCenterislocatedinTbilisi and isaccessiblemoreorless for everyone in around 20 sports, althoughtheproblemmayariseintermsofmovingaroundthecity. As for the regions, none of the regions has a sports center for people with disabilities.

**3(d). Are there laws, policies and mechanisms in place to ensure fair distribution of public grants, awards and other financial support to ensure that sportspersons with disabilities have equal opportunities to succeed in competitive sports?**

Thestateapproachisequalforboth,personswithdisabilities and otherathletesintermsofremuneration and bonuses. Thisisregulatedbylaw and statepolicy.

**3(e). Please provide information on the organizational structures of disability-specific sports, including examples and good practices. Kindly consider the following aspects when replying:**

**\* Are they separate structures, or are they integrated into mainstream federations and clubs?**

- Please check the answer to the first question and also, several sports federations in the country have a special direction in the structure to support people with disabilities. They ensure the involvement and development of persons with disabilities in relevant sports.

**\* Are they decentralized covering the whole territory or they only operate in capital city/area?**

- In terms of activities, the Georgian Paralympic Committee covers the entire territory of Georgia, but there is only one sports center in the country as mentioned above, which is specifically designed / targeted for the training of persons with disabilities and is equipped with appropriate equipment / infrastructure. Based on the above, the focus is on the capital.

**\*Are they sports-discipline specific, or they integrate multiple disciplines?**

- Dependsonsport. Theyareusually separate disciplinesbutsomeofthemuniteseveraldisciplines.

**\* Do they receive equal funding opportunities compared to mainstream sports?**

- The amount of funding for the Paralympic Committee is determined in accordance with their needs, on the basis of the recognition of the sports organizations under the Ministry and the recommendation of the Funding Council by order of the Minister. It is also noteworthy that the Paralympic Committee's share of funding is higher than that of many other recognized sports organizations. Funding includes financing the training process of various Georgian para athletes, buying sports equipment, participation in international tournaments and other activities.

**\*Are joint activities between sportspersons in disability-specific sports and mainstream sports encouraged or carried out to facilitate exchange among sportspersons within similar disciplines?**

- During the year, with the involvement of the Ministry, various grassroots ports events are held, where the existing, developed and new sports in the country are presented. Involvement in sports activities is possible for anyone. Also, para-athletes are involved in the course of the events and call on the population to become more active.

**\*Are persons with disabilities considered in sports beyond their role as sportspersons, including as referees, coaches, spectators, administrators, workers, volunteers in the sports industry, board members, among others?**

- All sports complexes built by the Ministry since 2012 are equipped with a special road for people with disabilities, which facilitates their safe and trouble-free movement to the facility, therefore, anyone can attend various national and international sports events. Also, sports activities involve young people who want to integrate into society and bring more benefits to the country, and this could be done by sports volunteering.In several organizations, persons with disabilities work in the administrative, middle and upper management, for example, at the Paralympic Center and the Paralympic Committee. Both the Ministry and various community groups often turn to our athletes with disabilities, who are fortunately very well known, for the promotion of sports and the establishment of a healthy lifestyle. They are distinguished by social responsibility and activism.