

PERMANENT MISSION OF GEORGIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AND OTHER
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AT GENEVA

N 8/56-02

შენევაში გაეროს განყოფილებასთან და სხვა საერთაშორისო ორგანიზაციებთან საქართველოს მუდმივი წარმომადგენლობა გამოხატავს პატივისცემას გაეროს ადამიანის უფლებათა დაცვის უმაღლესი კომისრის ოფისის მიმართ და პატივი აქვს გადასცეს საქართველოს გარემოს დაცვისა და ბუნებრივი რესურსების სამინისტროს ინფორმაცია, რომელიც ეხება გაეროს ადამიანის უფლებათა საბჭოს N 7/22 რეზოლუციას სუფთა და უსაფრთხო წყლით სარგებლობის თაობაზე.

შენევაში გაეროს განყოფილებასთან და სხვა საერთაშორისო ორგანიზაციებთან საქართველოს მუდმივი წარმომადგენლობა სარგებლობს შემთხვევით, რათა კვლავ დაუდასტუროს გაეროს ადამიანის უფლებათა დაცვის უმაღლესი კომისრის ოფისს თავისი ღრმა პატივისცემა.

DD

შენევა, 2010 წლის ივნისი



გაეროს ადამიანის უფლებათა
დაცვის უმაღლესი კომისრის ოფისი

შენევა

დანართი: 3 გვ.

OHCHR REGISTRY

24 JUN 2010

Recipients :.....SPD.....
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Unofficial Translation

N 8/56-02

The Permanent Mission of Georgia to the UN Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and has the honor to submit the information of the Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources of Georgia regarding the Human Rights Council Resolution 7/22 on the issue of the human rights obligations related to access to safe drinking water and sanitation.

The Permanent Mission of Georgia to the UN Office and other International Organizations at Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, June 23, 2010

**UN Independent Expert on the issue
of human rights obligations related to
access to safe drinking water and sanitation
ESCR Section**

U NHCHR

GENEVA

Encl.: 3 p.

OHCHR REGISTRY

24 JUIN 2010

Recipients :.....*SPD*.....
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Questionnaire

"Good Practices" related to Access to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation

Description of the Practice:

Name of the Practice: Reform of the Water Supply and Sanitation Sector. In 2009 Legal Entity of Public Law- Water Supply Regional Development Agency has been established (from 2010 – LTD "Joint Water Supply Company" under the Ministry of Economic Development of Georgia)

Aim of the Practice: The main purpose of the practice is drinking water supply sector reform to establish a realistic framework for providing good quality water in a sufficient quantity to the population of Georgia in order to secure their health and well-being.

Target groups, population of the country

Partners involved: : Ministry of regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia. Ministry of Economic Development of Georgia. Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia. regional and municipal authorities

Duration of Practice: from 2009

Financing: medium term

Brief outline of the Practice: Improvement of the Water Supply and Sanitation situation for population of Georgia, the introduction of modern management system through the services responsible for water supply to regions and effective provision of water resources to population.

1. How does the practice meet the criterion of availability?

Georgia is blessed with enough water for any purpose. However, at present only a minority of the Georgian population is supplied continuously with sufficient quantities of good quality drinking water. It is planned to achieve the following main goals: improvement of water supply existing in regions, fund-raising for the development of water sector, implementation of relevant scientific researches etc.

2. **How does the practice meet the criterion of accessibility?**

Overall, it was estimated in 1999 that, 95% of the urban and 60% of the rural population have access to regular supply of drinking water of some kind (centralized supply, standpipe in yard, public standpipe, boreholes).

3. **How does the practice meet the criterion of affordability?**

In Georgia as a whole, an average value of water and wastewater services affordability (as percentage share of W&WW payments in average income per capita in Georgia in 2003) amounted to 1,35% in 2003.

This value is lower than the threshold level established by international financing institutions (3-4%). Level of costs coverage from households tariffs in the settlements of Georgia is low. Cross-subsidizing of households water and wastewater tariffs is applied everywhere.

The tariff reforming is planned now, but low-income households will have a social support.

4. **How does the practice meet the criterion of quality/safety?**

In accordance with the Water Law of Georgia, three zones of sanitary protection are established for all drinking water intakes. The Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia is responsible for the drinking water quality control.

5. **How does the practice meets the criterion of acceptability?**

Mostly water is of an acceptable color, odor and taste. There are separate facilities for women and men in public places.

6. **How does the practice ensure non-discrimination?**

In Georgia there is no discrimination regarding race, color, sex, age, language, religion, political or other opinion, national and social origin etc.

7. **How does the practice ensure active, free and meaningful participation?**

The new Constitution adopted in August 1995 guarantees every citizen full, objective, and timely information about their living environment, and allows their participation in important decision-making procedures, both as individuals and NGOs.

8. **How does the practice ensure accountability?**

Designation of responsibilities and coordination in this field is in process. Between the planned activities of the LTD "Joint Water Supply Company" are: provision of coordination and cooperation with relevant governmental and non-governmental

organizations, cooperation with local and international scientific and non-governmental organizations, tight cooperation with open public.

9. What is the impact of the practice?

The reform started in 2009 and the results achieved can not be fully estimated yet. But it can be considered that in many towns and settlements the situation with water supply for population has been improved.

9. Is the practice sustainable?

It can be considered that the reform has good perspectives, taking into account international cooperation concerning the development of water supply sector in Georgia, sustainable financing from national budget and introduction of modern management system in the water supply and sanitation sector.

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