

**Statement of the Minister of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories,  
Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia, Ms. Ekaterine Tikaradze**

Honorable President, Honorable Director General, Distinguished Delegates

First of all, I would like to take this opportunity and thank you all for enormous efforts and solidarity in the fight against COVID19.

Starting from January, Georgian government has been taking drastic measures to contain the spread of COVID-19 by employing adequate social distancing measures, mobilizing healthcare facilities and establishing fever response programs at primary care level. The key factor determining our success was rapid response and prevention, in particular, targeted testing, isolation and treatment of all possible cases. Technology solutions enabled us to continue teaching at schools and universities and promote online working platforms. We have launched a special application for contact tracing to protect health of every citizen.

20% of our country is occupied, unfortunately, that is why the central government of Georgia does not have full information about the epidemic situation in the occupied Abkhazia and Tskhinvali Regions. The Central Government of Georgia with support of UN agencies and other international partners is ready to provide assistance to its citizens in the occupied territories.

The joint and highly coordinated actions of the government and relevant institutions enabled us to contain the infection and keep the virus positive cases minimal.

The pandemic showed us once again, how important it is to strengthen capacity of primary care services, advance regulatory framework for adequate infection control and expand our programs for immunization and chronic disease management to minimize devastating outcomes of comorbidities.

Guidance provided by the WHO through the whole national response has been extremely helpful. We appreciate the opportunity to join the solidarity trial and will do our best to contribute towards joint efforts for finding COVID related solutions.

I thank You!