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Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the  
Netherlands

## **Recommendations**

### **For Elaboration and Effective Implementation of a State Policy Focusing on Ensuring Gender Equality, Access to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation**

By the Greens Movement of Georgia and a Coalition of Partner Organizations

The Greens Movement of Georgia and its partner organizations, after studying and analyzing the state policy regarding gender equality in Georgia, make the following observations:

The decisions taken by the Government of Georgia, clearly set an agenda for the dynamic development of a process for achieving gender equality in the country. However, the terms for implementing international political documents and agreements do not guarantee the level of ambition set out by the international community in this regard.

The Greens Movement requests that state policy and legal acts related to gender equality are in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goals; including targets and indicators agreed upon at the UN Summit in September 2015 which has been adopted by 193 countries.

Taking into account Georgian reality, out of the adopted 17 global goals, The Greens Movement at this stage recommends that special emphasize should be given to those targets and indicators focusing on achieving gender equality in regards to access to water and sanitation.

Considering the measures for ensuring the populations access to safe drinking water and sanitation, the Greens Movement recommends that national implementation plans should also be in accordance with the targets and standards set out by the Water Convention of the UN Economic Commission for Europe in their “Water and Health Protocol”. In addition, the government should ratify the Protocol and ensure proper implementation of international obligations.

The Greens Movement further recommends:

- The State should urgently adopt flexible and effective legislative norms for wastewater treatment and safety; as well as apply strong practical measures for their implementation;
- To achieve meaningful success in this sector it is necessary to elaborate an effective system of participatory monitoring based on clear indicators. It is therefore necessary that the Civil Society are involved in developing these indicators and methods of interpreting results;
- The government should urgently elaborate an action plan to be achieved by 2020, setting our specific targets for ensuring gender equality. Including eradicating existing negative factors hampering the realization of gender equality; making irreversible positive dynamic; and consider following the plan below:
  - a) Ensure the civil society's and interested persons conditions for involvement and right are guaranteed. Measures to stimulate their involvement must be implemented in a gender balanced manner; particularly in the areas of the management of drinking water and sanitation supply management, and other social issues,
  - b) Establish effective measures, backed with resources from awareness raising of the population, regarding gender equality, drinking water and sanitation;
  - c) Create a comprehensive legislative base that is harmonized with EU legislation and integrates water resources management which takes into consideration the interests of all;
  - d) Form an independent regulatory legal entity which ensures that legislation and the National Action Plan are enforced;
  - e) The independent regulatory entity should monitor the State bodies' plans and programs regarding the achievement of gender equality, including budget planning;

- f) Consider reserving significant credit resources in the State budget for socially unprotected individuals of the population; in order to reduce women's unpaid care burden according to target 5.4 of the SDGs (gender budgeting);
- g) Establish state bodies and state controllers working with ensuring safe sanitary and hygienic conditions for the population;
- h) Take obligation to ensure, in nearest future, to provide all citizens with safe drinking water and sanitation in their homes.
- i) Ensure gender analysis of all related legislative acts, policies and programmes.