

Statement by H.E. Mr. David Tsiklauri
Deputy Minister, the Ministry of Economic Development of Georgia
Head of the Georgian Delegation to the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference
(Antalva, Turkey 6-24 November 2006)

Excellence, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to begin by expressing my Government's sincere appreciation to the Government of Turkey for hosting this very important event and the International Telecommunication Union for their excellent work done during passed years. I am delighted that have an honor to participate in such an important and responsible event.

On behalf of my Government, I should like to assure the International Community that the foreign policy of my country remains unchanged. It will continue to be firmly based on universal human values and principles, on international law, and on the principles of friendly relations with neighbors near and far. Georgia will not deviate from the course of democratic development and economic reforms.

In conjunction with, I have a pleasure to declare, that Georgia remains faithful to the principles declared by ITU Convention and Constitution and is ready to be involved in further actions coordinated by the ITU.

We recognize greatest role of the Recommendations, Resolutions, financial or technical assistance of the International Telecommunication Union. I want to thank authorities of the ITU, who actively supported us in implementation of various regional projects in previous years and hope that cooperation will continue. Georgia is ready for future active cooperation with ITU member states regarding telecommunications issues and will not break basic principles of ITU Constitution and Convention.

Mr. Chairman, allow me touch upon a few questions which my country undertakes. First of all, I have to mention that the development of telecommunication sphere is extremely important for our country's democratic system. While, one of the priorities for Georgia's future development is the creation of modern info-communication sphere, that considers establishment of electronic Government, transparency of legislation, digitalization of law, usage and computer penetration, utilizing the new generation technologies for mobile communication networks and other.

Also, I would like to express deep concern that despite our notices Russian authorities continue the support of illegal actions of Russian Radiocommunication companies by permitting illegal construction and exploitation of radio communication networks in the territory of Georgia (conflict zones), and by providing illegal international connections to companies operating in those areas.

According their actions are broken sovereign rights of Georgia, and several international agreements, particularly, Agreement between the Government of Georgia and the Government of Russian Federation on Co-

operation in the field of Communications (signed in 1994), and "Agreement between the Government of Russian Federation and the Government of Georgia to recover Economic co-operation and return refugees" (signed in 2000), International norms of law, ITU Constitution and Legislation of Georgia.

We hope that the above mentioned actions will be eradicated by related entities of the Russian Federation and we are ready for constructive co-operation with them. As well, we remain hopeful that newly elected authorities of the ITU and Member States will aware in the current situation and will react upon the above stated fact, as the mentioned violation, basically infringement of country's sovereign right, can be repeated in every State. Therefore we ask you for the proper evaluation of the stated fact.

In conclusion, I have a pleasure to congratulate the new team of the ITU which will be formed in these days and wish them further successfully operation.

I would like one more time to express my respect to the conference participants and wish all of you success on this conference and in future activities.

Thank you

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D. G. G. G.', written in a cursive style.