

President Zourabichvili Stresses the Separation of Politics and Business for Joint Country Development

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

The President of Georgia, Salome Zourabichvili, met with representatives of small and medium-sized businesses at Orbeliani Palace.

In her address, President Zourabichvili conveyed the idea that there should be a significant distance between politics and business. She expressed the belief that both sectors should work collaboratively to contribute to the country's development but should maintain independence as much as possible. Zourabichvili highlighted that this perspective aligns with European rules.

"Politics should stay as far away from business as possible. Both should jointly develop the country but remain as independent as possible. This aligns with one of the European rules. While it's a global reality that big business and politics are often intertwined, the more independence and freedom there is, the more business will spread its wings. This is my wish for you," said the president.

Zourabichvili acknowledged that while there is a theoretical opportunity for Georgia to export its products to the EU, this potential is not fully realized due to practical challenges. She highlighted the need for increased funding and support to meet



the standards set by the EU. Additionally, she stressed the importance of making these standards more accessible for Georgian products to be accepted in the EU market.

The Georgian President underscored the importance of widely disseminating information and ensuring that businesses are thoroughly informed about the opportunities and requirements associated with EU markets.

"I know that those of you here do not need an explanation of how much this country needs to get closer to Europe and, ultimately, join the European Union. As representatives of the Georgian business, your future and development depend, on the one hand, on close relations with various EU countries and, on the other hand, on more active entry into the EU market. While theoretically, we have the opportunity to export our products, in practice, we all know it is not utilized to its full potential. More funding and support are required to meet EU standards, and these standards should be made more accessible for our products to be accepted in the EU market. All of this information needs to be disseminated more widely, and businesses should be informed," Zourabichvili stated.

Foreign Minister Darchiashvili Condemns Ginturi's Murder by Russian Forces as Another Act of Violence Against Ethnic Georgians

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, Iliia Darchiashvili, addressed the participants of the session at the 30th meeting of the Council of Ministers of the OSCE.

In his address, Darchiashvili, stated that for more than 15 years, Russia has been continuing its illegal occupation of the indivisible regions of Georgia, Abkhazia and Tskhinvali, in gross violation of the fundamental principles and norms of international law.

"For 15 years, Russia has continued its illegal occupation of Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali region, which are integral parts of Georgia. The population living in the occupied territories are victims of severe human rights violations. Isolated by barbed wire, they are separated from relatives, agricultural lands, and religious services, deprived of freedom of movement and basic needs. Illegal arrests and abductions have become an established practice, endangering people's lives.

The recent killing of a Georgian citizen, Tamaz Ginturi, by the Russian occupying forces near the village of Kirbali in the Gori municipality, is another act of violence against ethnic Georgians," Darchiashvili stated.

As the minister emphasized in his speech, the full-scale military aggression carried out by Russia against Georgia in 2008 violated the international order, setting a precedent that was followed by the annexation of Crimea by Ukraine in 2014 and the ongoing aggressive war in Ukraine.

"Russia's full-scale aggression against my country in 2008 was followed by Russia's annexation attempt in

Ukraine on the Crimean Peninsula in 2014. The ongoing war in Ukraine and Russia's aggression have put the international order and security in the region at risk," Darchiashvili said.

The MFA minister stated that the country is committed to peace, emphasizing two main goals: the de-occupation of Georgian territory from the Russian Federation and the reconciliation of divided societies.



The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Georgian Foreign Minister Iliia Darchiashvili Meets With Swedish Counterpart Tobias Billström



The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, Iliia Darchiashvili, met with his Swedish counterpart, Tobias Billström as part of the OSCE Ministerial framework. The ministers discussed key aspects of bilat-

eral cooperation between Georgia and Sweden.

Darchiashvili expressed Georgia's view of the Kingdom of Sweden as a friend and reliable partner, underscoring the significance of Sweden's support for Georgia on its path toward European integration.

According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the ministers also welcomed the European Commission's recommendation to grant candidate status to Georgia and deliberated on the next steps in this regard.

"The Head of the Foreign Ministry of Georgia thanked Tobias Billström for the unwavering support of the country and emphasized Sweden's significant contribution to the EU monitoring mission. During the meeting, the parties also discussed strengthening the political dialogue between Georgia and the Nordic countries. Iliia Darchiashvili invited his colleague to visit Georgia," the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia stated.

Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Nikoloz Samkharadze Meets with Slovak Ambassador Matus Busovsky

The Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, Nikoloz Samkharadze, met with the newly appointed Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to Georgia, Matus Busovsky. According to the press service of the Parliament of Georgia, the parties discussed the existing relations between Georgia and Slovakia and explored ways to strengthen cooperation at the parliamentary level.

The conversation covered the possibilities of deepening relations in the fields of trade and economy, tourism, and culture. Discussions during the meeting included topics such as the European integration of Georgia, the issue of granting the status of a candidate country, the steps taken by the authorities, and future plans.



Samkharadze briefed the ambassador on the challenging situation in the occupied regions of Georgia, Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali region, and the increasing threats emanating from Russia.

The parties discussed regional security issues, emphasizing the significant role of Georgia in the peaceful resolution of the ongoing conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan and in ensuring regional stability overall. The ambassador reiterated Slovakia's firm support for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Georgia, as well as the country's European integration.

Signing Ceremony of the 2 Projects Within the GGP Grassroots Human Security Grant Program Of the Embassy of Japan in Georgia

On November 28, 2 projects have been signed funded by the Government of Japan, based on the goodwill of the Japanese people to the Georgian People. The selected projects cover different sectors and regions of Georgia and are united in one goal – strengthening human se-

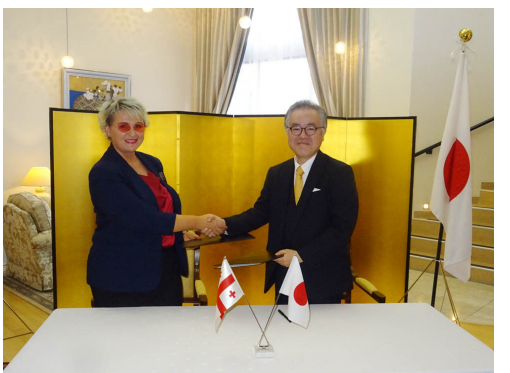
curity of local people. The total grant amount 142 200 USD. The funded projects are as follows:

1. Provision of Community Bus in Oni Municipality;
2. Rehabilitation of Day Care center in Khobi Municipality.

The Signing Ceremony was attended by the Ambassador of Japan, H.E. **ISHIZUKA Hideki**; Deputy Minister at Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Ter-

ritories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia and Acting Director of Social Service Agency, Tamila Barkalaia; State Representative in Racha Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti region, Papuna Margvelidze; Deputy State Representative in Zemo Svaneti and Samegrelo region, Davit Khukhaleishvili; Mayor of Oni Municipality – Sergo Khidisheli; Deputy Mayor of Khobi Municipality, David Beraia; – Deputy Director of Social Service Agency, Tea Gvaramadze; Chairwoman of the Board at Education and Development Centre "Toliskuri",

Gvantsa Kikaleishvili. The projects are funded within the GGP Grassroots Human Security Grant Program of the Embassy of Japan in Georgia. Since the independence of Georgia, Japan has provided 215 grants within the GGP Grassroots Human Security Program, totaling 21,851,311 USD, in addition to other grant schemes. The GGP program aims to support human security in Georgia in the following priority fields: environment protection, agriculture, infrastructure, healthcare, social care and education.



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Weather

Friday, December 1

Day Partly Cloudy
High: 15°C

Night Partly Cloudy
Low: 4°C

Saturday, December 2

Day Partly Cloudy
High: 16°C

Night Partly Cloudy
Low: 6°C

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On the occasion of the Brazilian Republic Day, the Ambassador of Brazil in Tbilisi, H.E. Mr. Oswaldo Biato Júnior held a reception on November 29.









