

Irakli Gharibashvili Addresses the 28th UN Climate Change Conference: Georgia's Commitment to Climate Action

By Liza Mchedlidze

The Prime Minister of Georgia, Irakli Gharibashvili, delivered a speech at the 28th UN Climate Change Conference in Dubai. He emphasized that Georgia places a significant emphasis on addressing climate crises and has implemented important measures in that regard.

Gharibashvili stated that over 500 million US dollars have been allocated from Georgia's state budget this year for environmental impact mitigation and adaptation measures:

"In Georgia, we take the responsibility of dealing with climate crises seriously, and we have already taken important steps in this direction. This year, over 500 million US dollars have been allocated from the state budget for environmental impact mitigation and adaptation measures. Additionally, our national infrastructure development plan already includes low-carbon and climate change adaptation measures, totaling USD 300 million per year," Gharibashvili said.

Gharibashvili said that the severe effects of climate change require urgent action for resilience. He emphasized the need for major international efforts, including halving global emissions by 2030, sequential contributions to the loss and damage fund, and a framework for global climate adaptation.



Gharibashvili also called for fulfilling the 100 billion USD per year pledge and doubling funding for climate change adaptation commitments.

"The visible effects of climate change, increasingly severe and with devastating impacts on both people and the environment, call for accelerated efforts to ensure resilience. Therefore,

I firmly believe that major international efforts must be sustained worldwide to deal with climate crises. These efforts include:

Halving global emissions by 2030 and maintaining the 1.5°C limit in line with the Paris Agreement; Sequential implementation of contributions to the loss and damage fund;

Development of a framework

for achieving the global goal of climate adaptation.

Additionally, the pledge to finance efforts to deal with climate change, in the amount of 100 billion USD per year, must be fulfilled. Commitments to double funding for climate change adaptation efforts must also be met," The Prime Minister stated.

Gharibashvili highlighted

that almost 85% of the electricity consumed in the country is sourced from renewable sources. However, he emphasized that further increasing this share remains a strategic priority. Furthermore, he announced with pleasure that Georgia is joining the 28th United Nations Climate Change Conference Global Pledge on Renewable Resources and Energy Efficiency.

U.S. State Department Releases Report on Georgia's Commitment to Counterterrorism

By Liza Mchedlidze

The U.S. State Department has issued the Country Reports on Terrorism 2022, offering a comprehensive overview of Georgia's unwavering commitment to counterterrorism efforts.

The report provides a detailed account of Georgia's multifaceted approach to counterterrorism, highlighting achievements, challenges, and ongoing efforts to ensure the

nation's security and contribute to global stability.

According to the report, throughout the year, the country maintained robust engagement, solidifying its position as a crucial security ally of the

United States. Notably, the terrorism situation within Georgia remained calm and stable, with the State Security Service successfully preventing an attempted assassination plot allegedly led by Iranians associated with the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps in November.

Based on the report, in the realm of legislative measures and law enforcement, Georgia's Criminal Code actively criminalizes terrorism and related activities. The government has introduced stricter measures to address the false reporting of terrorist acts and has secured convictions for individuals with affiliations to ISIS.

The U.S. State Department noted that Georgia's focus on border and maritime security was evident in its efforts to enhance capabilities. The implementation of the Integrated Border Management Strategy, deployment of advanced surveillance systems, and collaboration with international partners showcased a commitment to strengthening security measures. Despite challenges along its internationally recognized

land border with Russia, the Georgian Border Police and Coast Guard demonstrated competence in managing initial response capabilities.

The report highlighted Georgia's proactive stance on the international stage, demonstrating its commitment to global counterterrorism initiatives. Actively engaging in diverse international organizations, including the United Nations, the Council of Europe, and INTERPOL, Georgia showcased its dedication. Furthermore, the nation's participation in UN, EU, U.S., and NATO training and conferences, coupled with its application to join the European Union, underscored a strong commitment to fostering international collaboration.

According to the report, efforts to counter violent extremism within Georgia were evident in initiatives focusing on minority integration, education, media access, youth, and cultural diversity. Additionally, the country prioritized countering the financing of terrorism, participating in organizations like MONEYVAL and the Egmont Group.



The Department of State issued the 2022 Country Reports on Terrorism (CRT). Each year, the CRT provides insight on important issues in the fight against terrorism and helps the United States make informed decisions about policies, programs, and resource allocations as we seek to build counterterrorism capacity and resilience around the globe.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY MESSENGER STAFF

Herczynski Urges Inclusiveness and Constructive Approach for EU Candidacy Status



In two weeks, on December 14-15, the European Union leaders will meet in Brussels to decide on an enlargement package. This includes ten countries aspiring to join the EU, with Georgia being considered for the first time. EU Ambassador to Georgia, H.E. Pawel Herczynski, shared on Sunday that this is a particularly emotional moment for him.

The Ambassador stressed the significance of unity and collaboration to secure candidate country status for Georgia. He expressed optimism that the positive recommendation would be taken into consideration by the 27 EU member states.

“On November 8, the European Commission provided a positive recommendation to 27 states to grant Georgia candidate status. I sincerely hope that the 27 states will take into account this positive recommendation. Although we will have to wait two more weeks before knowing this decision, let’s be patient and hopeful,” he said.

Herczynski acknowledged the progress made in recent days and urged continued efforts for reforms, emphasizing the need for inclusiveness and a constructive approach from both the government and the opposition.

“Reforms are necessary for the current and future steps before Georgia becomes a full member of the European Union. I am glad that the government acted promptly and submitted

the 9-step action plan to Brussels a few days ago. My colleagues at the European Commission will review this action plan, and they will provide feedback.

Everyone should work together to complete these nine steps, requiring inclusiveness from the government and a constructive approach from the opposition,” he added.

Georgian Government Highlights Commitment to Protecting Rights of Persons with Disabilities



December 3 marks the International Day for the Protection

of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. In a released statement, the Georgian Government reaffirmed its commitment to giving top priority to safeguarding the rights of individuals with disabilities and integrating their interests into state policies.

“It is important to highlight that in 2023, the state submitted a report on the rights of persons with disabilities to the UN Committee, outlining the legal status of persons with disabilities in the country. Subsequently, the committee issued recommendations to the state.

The interdepartmental coordination committee for the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, established at the initiative of the Prime Minister in 2021, will persist in promoting and coordinating the implementation of the recommendations received from the committee, working in conjunction with the Advisory Council of Persons with Disabilities.

As per the Law of On the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, public institutions continue to collaborate with organizations dedicated to the rights of persons

with disabilities to develop and execute annual action plans.

On September 5, 2022, the Government of Georgia approved the second national strategy for the protection of human rights for 2022-2030, and on March 23, 2023, the strategy received parliamentary approval. This comprehensive document encompasses all fundamental rights and freedoms, with a specific focus on safeguarding the rights of vulnerable groups.

To achieve the outlined goals and objectives of the national strategy, efforts are underway to develop a national action plan for the protection of human rights covering the years 2024-2026.

These policy documents give special attention to the rights of persons with disabilities, emphasizing tasks that ensure the equality and accessibility of persons with disabilities, with a particular focus on the needs and challenges faced by women with disabilities and persons with disabilities residing in the regions.

The state remains committed to caring for its citizens and ensuring a dignified life for all,” the government’s administration’s statement reads.

UNFPA High-level Meeting on Accelerating National Commitments to Eliminate Harmful Practice of Child Marriage

A high-level meeting on the importance of Accelerating National Commitments to Eliminate Harmful Practice of Child Marriage was held on December 1, at the initiative of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

The event was opened by Dr. Sabine Machl, UN Resident Coordinator in Georgia, and Mr. Erik Illes, Head of Development Cooperation and Deputy Head of Mission of the Kingdom of Sweden to Georgia.

The discussion on the importance of joining efforts to promote the coordination of state institutions in order to eliminate the harmful practice of child marriage was facilitated by Mariam Khan, UNFPA Representative in Türkiye, Country Director for Azerbaijan and Georgia.

The participants of the discussion included: Ms Baia Kvitsiani, Member of the Standing Parliamentary Council for Gender Equality, Ms Tamar Makharashvili, Deputy Minister

of Education and Science of Georgia, Ms Rusudan Kokhodze, Director of the Agency for the State Care and Assistance for the (Statutory) Victims of Human Trafficking, Mr Giorgi Osadze, Director of Human Rights Protection and Investigation Quality Monitoring Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia, Ms Londa Bichikashvili, Head of the Department of Prosecutorial Activities Supervision and Strategic Development of the Prosecutor’s Office of Georgia, Mr Niko Tatulashvili, Advisor of the Prime Minister on the Human Rights issues, and Ms Tozu Gulmamedova, Lawyer, women’s rights activist.

The event aimed to support a dialogue between government agencies and civil society representatives on current efforts and gaps to be addressed in order to jointly take steps to eliminate child marriage.

The prevalence rate of child marriage in Georgia remains at 13.9 percent¹. The recent tragic cases involving adolescent girls in Georgia demonstrated significant gaps that need to be urgently addressed. The participants of the meeting emphasized the importance of raising awareness of adolescents of the support services they should turn to when needed. In addition, they



highlighted the need for strengthening the coordination mechanism among state institutions to ensure a holistic approach to the problem, so that adolescent girls are protected as much as possible from the harmful practice of early marriage. The focus of the discussion was on empowering adolescents and creating opportunities for their development - as an important strategy for elimination of this harmful practice.

The meeting focused on the issue of further tightening the legislation in order to criminalize any manifestation of child marriage, such as the practice of betrothal adolescent girls’ families often practice.

The meeting was held within the framework of the Joint UN Programme for Gender Equality, which is funded by the Government of Sweden, and was dedicated to the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence.

¹ The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Georgia Country Office, In-Depth Analysis of the Georgia 2018 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS 2018): Child Marriage in Georgia, 2018. Available at: <https://georgia.unfpa.org/en/publications/child-marriage-georgia>

Weather

Monday, December 4

Day Partly Cloudy High: 19°C

Night Clear Low: 7°C

Tuesday, December 5

Day Partly Cloudy High: 16°C

Night Mostly Cloudy Low: 7°C

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On the occasion of the National Day of Romania H.E. Ambassador Răzvan Rotundu and Mrs. Elena Rotundu held a Reception on November 30.











