



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
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Date: 9 February 2017

Mr Giorgi Kvirikashvili
Prime Minister of Georgia
7 Ingorokva St
0114 Tbilisi
Georgia

Our reference:	KMA/yvk	Your reference:
Notre référence:		Votre référence:
Unser Zeichen:		Ihr Zeichen:
См. наш номер:		На Ваш номер:

Dear Prime Minister,

It is with great pleasure that I have been informed about your reappointment as Prime Minister of Georgia. On behalf of the WHO Regional Office for Europe, please accept my warm congratulations.

I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to congratulate Georgia on the significant progress in the implementation of the Government's initiatives to move towards universal health coverage and to eliminate hepatitis C. The WHO Regional Office for Europe fully supports those initiatives and will continue to promote this important work in the future.

I am writing to also acknowledge the continuous work by your Government in addressing noncommunicable diseases, particularly tobacco control. Your leadership and commitment in protecting the Georgian population from the tobacco epidemic, through the ongoing implementation of the National Tobacco Control Action Plan and the proposed revisions to tobacco control legislation currently under discussion in Parliament, is crucial in order to protect adults and children from smoking initiation and tobacco-related harm. The above actions would allow Georgia to fulfil its obligations under the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) and the Association Agreement between the European Union and Georgia, contributing to the European integration process. I hope that your country will continue to maintain its clear commitment to tobacco control with the aim to protect the health of the people in Georgia and beyond.

Recognizing the need to adopt effective measures to address tobacco-related harm, the WHO FCTC is in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) recently adopted by global leaders, and is considered one of the "means of implementation" to reach SDG 3 – the overall health goal. In the WHO European Region, 16% of all deaths in adults over 30 years of age are attributable to smoking. At the same time, there is compelling global and regional evidence that strong tobacco control policies and their effective implementation lead to better health and economic outcomes in countries.

The WHO Regional Office for Europe is committed to continuing its support to Georgia in this noble goal, leading to improved health and economic outcomes for the benefit of the Georgian people.

Yours very truly,



Dr Zsuzsanna Jakab
Regional Director

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