



საქართველოს ოკუპირებული ტერიტორიებიდან დევნილთა, შრომის,
ჯანმრთელობისა და სოციალური დაცვის მინისტრი

Minister of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories,
Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia



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საქართველო, თბილისი 0119, აკნერეთლის გამზ.144; ტელ.: (+995 32) 251 00 11; ცხელი ხაზი: (+995 32) 251 00 26; 15 05; ელ.ფოსტა: info@moh.gov.ge
144 Ak.Tsereteli ave., 0119, Tbilisi, Georgia; Tel: (+995 32) 251 00 11; Hot line: (+995 32) 251 00 26; 15 05; E-mail: info@moh.gov.ge

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Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
WHO Director- General
WHO Headquarters in Geneva
Avenue Appia 20
1202 Geneva

Your Excellency,

On behalf of the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia I would like to avail myself of the opportunity and express the assurance of my highest consideration to You and the World Health Organization – the prominent leader in the field of improvement of population health and wellbeing all over the world.

The Government of Georgia is proud of the long-term collaboration with the WHO and, hereby, we would like to assure you in our keen interest in further strengthening this partnership. Furthermore, we are grateful indeed for the number of the technical, expert and humanitarian supports provided by the WHO over the last 26 years.

With this letter, we would like to kindly notify you that in recent weeks the Russian authorities and mass media have again provoked false allegations and slander towards the Lugar Laboratory of the National Center for Disease Control and Public Health of Georgia- as if the illegal activities, such as creation of chemical, biological and genetic weapons are being conducted at the Laboratory, and even experiments are carried on humans.

Once again, we would like to underline our position, announced for already multi-times, that the Lugar Laboratory is a high level Public Health and Scientific Research facility in the Region whose main functions are timely diagnostics of infectious diseases and identification of pathogens, as well as fundamental and applied scientific studies.

Despite our multiple arguments that this kind of activities do not take place, this information is spread increasingly and even commented from Russian top official circles.

Since the establishment the laboratory is open not only for the researchers from various clinics and universities of Georgia, but for international partners, community representatives and mass media as well.

In the framework of the joint scientific projects, a number of scientists from various countries had been working at the Lugar Center. The scientists from Russia had been conducting trainings under the auspices of the WHO. However, the accusations from Russian officials still continue.

The 3 labs (Polio, Influenza and Measles / Rubella) are accredited by WHO; 5 labs (Rota viruses, Invasive Meningitis, Malaria, Salmonella and AMR) are connected to WHO / EQA network. The Center has international ISO accreditation in clinical laboratory studies (bacteriology, serology).

In order to provide transparency, Georgia is ready to host the Peer Review Compliance Visit Exercise to meet the requirements of the UN BioWeapon Convention (BWC), planned at the Lugar Center on 14th-15th of November, 2018. The event is organized by the

Georgian and German sides and will be participated by experts from more than 20 countries. It is noteworthy, that participation was also offered to the Russian side – that was, unfortunately, categorically refused.

Georgia, to reiterate its openness about the ongoing research at the Lugar Laboratory to the whole international community, is ready to invite the international experts' mission under the auspices of the World Health Organization to assess the activities of the Lugar Laboratory.

We are very concerned about this situation and truly count on your kind support on this highly sensitive matter and kindly request your consent to provide a group of specialists in Georgia to study the infrastructure of the Lugar Center and the ongoing processes in the shortest time. Hereby, we would like to inform you that all expenses related to the visit of the mission will be provided by the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia.

Please, accept once again the assurances of our highest consideration.

Sincerely Yours,

Minister

SIGNED/SEALED
ELECTRONICALLY 

David Sergeenko