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REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE
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Date: 25 April 2018

Dr Sofiko Belkania
Head, Executive Department
National Counterpart
Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs
144, Ak. Tsereteli Ave.
0119 Tbilisi
Georgia

Dear Dr Belkania,

**GLOBAL OUTBREAK ALERT AND RESPONSE NETWORK (GOARN) PLANNING
MEETING FOR THE EASTERN EUROPEAN AND RUSSIAN SPEAKING COUNTRIES
BELGRADE, SERBIA, 14-15 JUNE 2018**

The Emergency Programme (WHE) of the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe is convening the GOARN Planning Meeting for the eastern European and Russian speaking countries, focusing on initiating the process of regional strengthening of the GOARN 2.0 and enhancing the pool of partner institutions within the region.

The main objective of the meeting is to discuss joint activities, led by the WHO Regional Office for Europe and informed by stronger regional conversation to ensure a comprehensive approach to health emergency preparedness, readiness and response. It is also organized to facilitate information sharing and advocacy in order to enhance the impact and effectiveness of health-related humanitarian and recovery activities. An outline of the scope and purpose please find attached.

The Meeting is organized by the WHO Emergency Programme in the WHO Headquarters, the GOARN Operational Support Team (OST), the WHO Regional Office for Europe and Country Office in Serbia, and with the financial support from the Government of the Russian Federation.

The working languages will be Russian and English. Simultaneous translation will be provided.

We are expecting that the nominated institution would cover the travel and subsistence costs to attend. Some limited WHO support may be available upon request to cover the costs of travel and accommodation.

I would be grateful to receive your nominations (max. 2 representatives from each relevant organization), giving the names, titles and addresses of the nominated participants, at your earliest convenience, but no later than 11 May 2018. We shall then communicate with them directly and provide them with the necessary documentation and administrative information in good time.

The institution must fulfil some basic criteria to be eligible to join GOARN: (a) Capable to provide expertise for alert and outbreak response; (b) Not a commercial entity; (c) Typically academic institutions, research institutions, or specialized public health agency; (d) Nominated organization should be able to follow the Guiding Principles for International Outbreak Alert and Response (please see Annex 2).

Please consider nominating participants from the National Center for Disease Control and Public Health, as most of them were invited to/attended the first European GOARN meeting in 2016, to ensure continuity and strengthen technical cooperation.

I would very much appreciate it if you would address your reply to Dr Dorit Nitzan, Coordinator, Health Emergencies and Programme Area Manager, Emergency Operations (EMO), at nitzankaluskid@who.int, with copy to Dr Oleg Storozhenko, Technical Officer at storozhenkoo@who.int and Mr Tim Deibel, Programme Assistant at deibelt@who.int, latest by 11 May 2018.

Yours very truly,



Dr Nedret Emiroglu
Director of Programme Management
Director of the Division of Health Emergencies and Communicable Diseases
WHO Regional Office for Europe

Encls:

Scope and purpose
Guiding Principles for International Outbreak Alert and Response

Copy for information to:

H.E. Mr Victor Dolidze, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Georgia to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, Rue Richard-Wagner 1, CH-1202 Genève, Switzerland
Mr Niels Scott, United Nations Resident Coordinator, UNDP Resident Representative, United Nations Development Programme, UN House, 9 Eristavi St., 0179 Tbilisi, Georgia
Dr Marijan Ivanusa, WHO Representative and Head of WHO Office, WHO Country Office, Georgia, 81 Barnov Street, Apt.4, 0179 Tbilisi, Georgia