



საქართველოს შრომის, ჯანმრთელობის  
და სოციალური დაცვის მინისტრი  
**MINISTER OF LABOUR, HEALTH AND SOCIAL  
AFFAIRS OF GEORGIA**



KA030153134335117

საქართველო, თბილისი 0159; აკ.წერეთლის გამზ. 144; ტელ.: (+995 32) 251 00 11; ფაქსი: (+995 32) 251 00 19; ცხელი ხაზი: (+995 32) 251 00 33; 251 15 05;  
ელ.ფოსტა: info@moh.gov.ge

144 Ak.Tsereteli ave., 0159, Tbilisi, Georgia; Tel.: (+995 32) 251 00 11; Fax: (+995 32) 251 00 19; Hot line: (+995 32) 251 00 33; 251 15 05; E-mail: info@moh.gov.ge

**№ 01/21751**

**06 / April / 2017**

Dr. Vera Luiza da Costa e Silva  
Head of the Secretariat  
WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control

Dear Dr. da Costa e Silva,

It is my great honor to express sincere gratitude on behalf of the Georgian Government for being selected as FCTC2030 Partner Country. We feel extremely privileged to be granted such an exceptional opportunity in very highly competitive environment. Georgian Government acknowledges the responsibility of the new role and is ready to accept the challenge to advance tobacco control to the maximum standard with the support of the WHO FCTC Secretariat and the international community.

Having in mind the prevalence of smoking among men (almost 57%), Georgia belongs to the worst performing countries in the WHO European Region. Additionally to that the prevalence of smoking among women, despite still being relatively low, has almost doubled in the recent years. The alarming figures clearly indicate a need for strong and imminent action in the area of tobacco control.

Georgian Government has prioritized tobacco control as an integral part for combating premature mortality and morbidity caused by the major noncommunicable diseases, acknowledging that tobacco use is the single risk factor responsible for all of them. Since 2013 multisectoral Tobacco Control National Committee was established led by the Prime Minister of Georgia. Throughout the work of the Committee Georgia has adopted Tobacco Control National Strategy and Action Plan and amendments to tobacco control bills have been submitted to the Parliament. This is the breaking point for Georgia to demonstrate that whole of government considers tobacco use as a major health and economic burden for the country. Once new tobacco control bills are adopted it will be crucial to put all efforts in the enforcement of new stricter regulations. Despite of the commitment of the Government of Georgia to significantly change tobacco related situation, resources remain restricted and external support has a vital role.

I believe that status of FCTC2030 Partner Party will help to fill this gap and open new opportunities for Georgia to achieve our common goal, to reduce tobacco related premature mortality and morbidity in the country and improve health and well-being of Georgian citizens.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to you, Dr. da Costa e Silva the assurance of my highest consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Minister

David Sergeenko