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REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE
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Date: 27 June 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,

**Pre-Conference of the Parties Meeting for the WHO European Region,
Lisbon, Portugal, 11-12 September 2018.**

I have the honour to inform you that the WHO Regional Office for Europe together with the Convention Secretariat of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) plans to hold the Pre-Conference of the Parties Meeting for the WHO European Region countries. I am delighted that the Ministry of Health of Portugal will host the meeting. The meeting will be funded by the Government of the Russian Federation through the GDO project and the Government of Turkmenistan.

The Conference of the Parties (CoP) is the governing body of the WHO FCTC and is comprised of all Parties to the Convention. It keeps under regular review the implementation of the Convention and takes the decisions necessary to promote its effective implementation. CoP is held once every two years.

The eighth session of the CoP will take place from 1 to 6 October 2018 in Geneva, Switzerland. The objective of Pre-CoP meeting is to provide an opportunity for Parties to be briefed about agenda items, have the opportunity to clarify areas they might have questions and explore common positions for the WHO European Region, when applicable.

Objectives of the meeting will be to:

- Introduce key CoP8 documents
- Review and discuss the recommendations of the relevant CoP documents
- Exchange views and debate positions, agree to the extent possible, on a regional approach for presented topics for CoP8

The preliminary program of the meeting is enclosed. The working languages will be English and Russian, and simultaneous interpretation will be provided.

I have the pleasure in inviting you to nominate one participant from your country.

Travel for the participant will be arranged and paid for by this office, and he/she will also receive a daily subsistence allowance for the duration of the meeting in accordance with our travel regulations.

I look forward to receiving your nomination, giving the name, functional title and address of the proposed participant at your earliest convenience. We shall then communicate with the nominated person directly and provide the necessary documentation and administrative information in good time.

Mrs Kristina Mauer-Stender, Programme Manager of the Tobacco Control Unit (e-mail: kadirovay@who.int), is responsible for this activity and it would be appreciated if you would address your reply to her at your earliest convenience but no later than 1 August 2018.

Yours very truly,



Dr Bente Mikkelsen
Director a.i.,
Division of Noncommunicable Diseases and Promoting Health through the Life-course

Encls:

Scope and Purpose

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

H.E. Mr Gigi Gigiadze, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Embassy of Georgia, Nybrogade 10, 1st. Floor, 1203 Copenhagen K, Denmark

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, Mailing address: UN House, 9 Eristavi street, 0179 Tbilisi, Georgia