

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTÉ WELTGESUNDHEITSORGANISATION ВСЕМИРНАЯ ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯ ЗДРАВООХРАНЕНИЯ

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE BUREAU RÉGIONAL DE L'EUROPE REGIONALBÜROFÜREUROPA ЕВРОПЕЙСКОЕ РЕГИОНАЛЬНОЕ БЮРО

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WNTD 2018 GEO

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Date: 23 May 2018

Dr David Sergeenko Minister of Labour, Health and Social Affairs

Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs 144. Ak. Tsereteli Ave. Tbilisi 0119 Georgia

Honourable Dr. David Sergeenko, Minister of Health, Labour and Social Affairs

On 31 May, WHO and partners mark World No Tobacco Day (WNTD), highlighting the health and other risks associated with tobacco use, and advocating for effective policies to reduce tobacco consumption.

On the global level the World No Tobacco Day 2018 coincides with a range of global initiatives and opportunities aimed at addressing the tobacco epidemic and its impact of public health, particularly in causing the death and suffering of millions of people globally. These actions include the WHOsupported Global Hearts and RESOLVE initiatives, which aim to reduce cardiovascular disease deaths and improve care, and the third United Nations General Assembly High-level Meeting on the Prevention and Control of NCDs, being held in 2018.

At the country level the World No Tobacco Day 2018 coincides with the first month of implementation of most visible tobacco-control measures in Georgia – the introduction of the smokefree policy and ban of advertising and promotion.

Every year, the Director General of the WHO, awards selected most prominent institutions and individuals that contributed to the progress in the tobacco-control. Only six such awards will be distributed among the 53 European member states, and Georgia is among them. While there was a broad coalition of partners contributing to the advance in Georgia, the award will be symbolically given to Dr. Akaki Zoidze.

We kindly invite you or your representative to contribute at the short event marking the World No Tobacco Day, with the main goal to support progress in the law implementation in Georgia. The event is scheduled for Wednesday, 31 May, 12.00 – 13.15 and will take place in hotel Tbilisi Marriott (Rustaveli ave #13), it will be followed by short reception.

The preliminary programme is presented below:

12.00–12.30	Introduction and key speeches	Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs: Implementation of the tobacco control legislation in Georgia
		Ministry of Internal Affairs: Enforcement of smoke free regulations by the MIA
		Municipality of Tbilisi: Enforcement of TAPS ban in Tbilisi Municipality

WHO Country Office, Georgia

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12.30-12.40	Tobacco Breaks Hearts	Kakha Gvinianidze
	World No Tobacco Days	WHO Country Office Georgia
12.40-13.00	Short Reflections from the	Representative of the National Center for Disease Control
	audience and Discussion	and Public Health
		Ministry of Finance
		George Bakhturidze
		Head of Tobacco Control Alliance
13.00-13.15	WNTD 2018 Award	Marijan Ivanusa
	Ceremony	Representative of WHO in Georgia
		Akaki Zoidze, Awardee of WNTD 2018
		Chairman of the Committee of Healthcare and Social Issues
		of the Parliament of Georgia

We kindly ask you to confirm your participation at the WNTD national event, as well as to nominate the contact person with whom we could discuss further details.

Please, respond at your earliest convenience at gvinanidzek@who.int, cc gvinanidzek@who.int.

The WHO Country Office Georgia avails itself of this opportunity to renew the assurances of its highest consideration.

Yours very truly,

Dr Marijan Ivanuša

WHO Representative and Head of WHO Country Office

Cc: Sopo Belkania, National Counterpart for Strategic Collaboration with WHO