

Statement of Georgia

Dear Participants,

It is my pleasure and honor to address the distinguished audience. I would like to express my gratitude to the team of the ESCAP Secretariat for the excellent organization of this meeting and for keeping focus on the fulfillment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

As you are aware, dear colleagues, Georgia presented its second voluntary national review (VNR) last year. We ensured that all stakeholders were involved and every interested party was eligible to send written comments and suggestions. It worth to mention that secretariat received over 200 feedback submissions.

ESCAP energy division with cooperation of Georgian side prepared SDG7 Roadmap for Georgia. Roadmap describes different scenarios for achieving SDG7. We trust that cooperation in this field will continue and will further facilitate achievement of SDG7 goals.

As the same time, we should admit that for Covid-19 pandemic presents challenge for implementation of SDGs Georgia, as it is for other countries. Nevertheless, Georgia is committed to move forward in implementation of SDG targets.

The outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic represents enormous challenge and it has interrupted Georgia's positive economic trajectory. GDP growth rate dropped to -6,1% and foreign trade narrowed by 20%.

In the summer of 2020 Government of Georgia approved and started to implement anti-crisis economic plan for different sectors of economy which will facilitate fast economic recovery.

According to IMF projections Georgia will ensure fastest economic recovery in medium term among regional and European countries. Consequently, Medium-term growth is projected to be 5.3 percent supported by infrastructure spending and sustained structural reforms.

In order to ensure quality of education and to guarantee access to education in times of lockdown during the pick of spread Covid-19 pandemic Georgia elaborated online learning tools as well as TV school (lessons were broadcasted by one of the dedicated TV Chanel). It gave possibility to reach every school children.

Georgia moved a lot of SDG related activities to the online format. Now we have SDG secretariat meetings online as well. Different working groups are meeting online to assess progress achieved in the SDG implementation.

Georgia is steadfast in further implementation of reforms. We have already accomplished and continue to implement legislative and institutional reforms in order to ensure and guarantee effective public services, open and fair competition on the market, proper protection of property and intellectual rights and freedom of access to free judiciary. Georgia also is investing in infrastructure development which will facilitate achievement of SDGs.