

**WRITTEN INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY GEORGIA IN ACCORDANCE WITH
PARAGRAPH 54 OF THE CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS OF THE HUMAN
RIGHTS COMMITTEE (CCPR/C/GEO/CO/5)**

A. Information on the implementation of paragraph 12

1. On November 30, 2022, the Law of Georgia on the Fight against Corruption (its previous name was Law of Georgia on Conflict of Interest and Corruption in Public Institutions) entered into force. With this change, chapter V³ on the protection of whistle-blowers remained unchanged, which details the guarantees that whistle-blowers enjoy, such as inadmissibility of harassment, coercion, humiliations, oppression, as well as safeguarding anonymity, in connection with the fact of incrimination.
2. In addition, the amendment made in the same Law on 29 May 2024, added Part 5 to Article 20³ with the following content: “The Anti-Corruption Bureau shall be authorized to provide legal and/or psychological counselling to a whistle-blower and to forward information, document or evidence relating to the fact of incrimination to the appropriate body/official for responding to it.”
3. Since 1 January 2022, the Ministry of Justice of Georgia through the LEPL National Agency of Public Registry (NAPR) has been implementing nationwide systematic land registration across 59 municipalities in Georgia. The reform covers both previously unregistered land plots and correction of the registration errors and overlapping boundaries made 15-20 years ago.
4. Within the framework of systematic registration, all services provided by NAPR to the citizens are free of charge, including cadastral survey of land plots, retrieval of documentation, recognition of ownership rights over informally occupied land and registration of property rights.
5. By January 2025, the cadastral coverage of the country exceeded 90% and by that indicated date, more than 1.85 million land plots were surveyed and more than 1.3 million land plots were registered. The process is ongoing.
6. The reform will continue until December 31, 2025, ensuring accessibility and inclusivity of the process, and allowing all individuals to register their land title.
7. Considering the challenges related to corruption, the fight against corruption is dealt with on the level of national security. With the aim to grant this task to the politically neutral, independent and highly accountable agency, based on the international practice, according to the Law of Georgia on the State Security Service of Georgia (SSSG), prevention, detection and suppression of corruption was determined as one of the directions of activity of the SSSG. Separate structural unit within the SSSG - Anti-Corruption Agency (SSSG ACA) - performs these functions. The SSSG ACA is entitled to combat malfeasance, corruption-related crimes and to investigate criminal cases within the scope of its competence, as well as to undertake measures for the prevention, detection and elimination of corruption in public service.
8. The SSSG ACA successfully continues its work in terms of effective criminal investigations on corruption-related and other crimes falling under its investigative competence. The SSSG ACA has successfully conducted investigation into a number of malfeasance and corruption-related crimes, where public officials (e.g. mayors, deputy mayors, chairpersons of local municipalities, employees of ministries, etc.) were engaged. In 2022-2025

(as of 31 May), the Agency launched investigations into 138 criminal cases and brought criminal charges against 314 individuals.

9. The fight against corruption is one of the top priorities under the 2022-2027 Strategy of the Prosecution Service of Georgia (PSG).

10. In 2022, 7 individuals prosecuted for corruption were high-level officials, such as the First Deputy Head of the State Security Service, 2 Municipality Governors, the Mayor, the Chairman of the Municipal Council, the Chairman of the Commission at the Municipal Council and the member of the Municipal Council.

11. In the same period, 6 individuals convicted of corruption were high-level officials, such as 2 Mayors, the Deputy Mayor, the Municipality Governor, the Deputy District Prosecutor and the head of the legal entity of public law.

12. The high-level officials prosecuted for corruption in 2023 included the Minister and the Deputy Minister of Finance and Sectoral Economy of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia, the Head of the LEPL Agency for Projects and Programs Supporting Internally Displaced Persons Living Conditions of the Ministry of Finance and Sectoral Economy of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia, the Chairman of the City Municipal Council, the First Deputy Mayor, the Municipality Governors, the Deputy Chairman of the Municipal Council, the members of the Municipal Council and the high level official of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

13. The high-level officials prosecuted for corruption in 2024 were the head and the deputy head of a police unit.

14. Over the last decade, the judiciary of Georgia has undergone a substantial transformation. The constitutional reform, along with the waves of judicial reforms and numerous additional legislative amendments, have resulted in the creation of new institutions and innovative mechanisms, which greatly enhanced the judiciary's independence, efficiency, accountability, and transparency.

15. A major step to this end has been the transformation of the High Council of Justice (HCoJ) into a politically neutral body. Since 2013, the representatives of other branches of the government have been fully excluded from the membership of the HCoJ. To create solid guarantees for the institutional independence of the judiciary, the Constitution now states that the HCoJ shall be accountable only before the Conference of Judges - a body that consists of all judges in Georgia.

16. One of the key achievements of the reform is the introduction of the system of lifetime appointment of judges that further guarantees the individual independence of judges.

17. Georgia has a competitive, merit-based, objective, and transparent system of selection and appointment of judges of all court instance. The law provides for the pre-established and detailed criteria for the evaluation of the judicial candidates, the requirement for the HCoJ to make decisions by open ballots and to publish the reasoned judicial nominations/appointments for public security. The meaningful right to appeal the decisions of the HCoJ in the process of nomination/appointment of judges is also ensured.

18. Based on substantial amendments to the legislation of Georgia and to promote fight against corruption, the Anti-Corruption Bureau (hereinafter, "the Bureau/ACB") was established as an independent agency.

19. The Bureau was entrusted to deliver recommendations and develop policies regarding the issues in terms of public officials' asset declarations, political finance monitoring, and whistleblower protection.
20. Legislative amendments were prepared in May 2024 to the Law of Georgia on Fight against Corruption and its accompanying legislative acts. Because of these amendments, the Interagency Anti-Corruption Council was abolished, and its functions were fully incorporated into the mandate of the Bureau.
21. In 2024, under amendments to the Law of Georgia on Fight against Corruption, the mandate of the Bureau was extended to encompass ethics, integrity, and accountability.
22. Within the scope of its authority granted by the Law of Georgia on Fight against Corruption, the Bureau is currently working on a revision of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy and the development of its Implementation Action Plan. As part of this process, the Bureau has carried out the core activities and research necessary for the development of a results-oriented strategy and its corresponding implementation action plan.
23. As of today, the Bureau carries out its activities through various electronic information systems: The Electronic Asset Declaration System for Public Officials (declaration.acb.gov.ge); The Electronic Political Finance Declaration System (fms.acb.gov.ge); The Political Finance Monitoring Platform (monitoring.acb.gov.ge); The Whistleblowing Platform Administered by the Bureau (mkhileba.acb.gov.ge).
24. In the light of entry into force of Law of Georgia Foreign Agents Registration Act, the ACB recently successfully completed development of foreign agents registration platform fara.acb.gov.ge. The platform incorporates registration system and ensures public access to documents submitted by the registrants as well as Bureau's decisions/conclusions and all relevant legislative acts via inbuilt search and research too.
25. From 1 September 2023, the Bureau was assigned specific functions defined by the Law, including, ensuring the receipt of asset declarations of officials - control of completion and submission of the declarations, their storage, ensuring their publicity and carrying out their monitoring as well as implementation of other relevant measures in this area.
26. The main goal for the Bureau in terms of controlling the asset declarations, apart from mere online publication of these documents, is to check and verify the accuracy of the information submitted therein by the officials.
27. 48 hours period for publishing the declaration online was extended to 1 month (with additional possibility to extend the deadline for 1-month period). The Bureau will have enough time to check the formal criteria of the declarations. As a result, the Bureau is able to carry out more detailed examination to verify the information to be published in electronic databases administered by the ACB.
28. If the declaration does not meet the requisite criteria and the respective official fails to correct the defect within the specified period, he/she will be fined, and the declaration will automatically be subjected to monitoring (which does not exclude subsequent fines for other violations detected during the monitoring process). If incomplete or incorrect data is entered in the official's asset declaration intentionally and if there are essential elements of a criminal conduct, the Bureau shall forward the respective declaration and accompanying materials to the relevant law enforcement body for further proceedings.
29. As of 24 May 2023, the definition of the "public official" who will be subject to the declaration regime has been broadened. Hence, the General Prosecutor and other high-ranking

officials of the prosecutor's office, and all prosecutors, are also obliged to declare their financial assets.

30. The utmost purpose of the monitoring of asset declarations is to verify the transparency, accountability and integrity of the activities of officials employed in the public sector. The currently active monitoring system, involves monitoring of declarations submitted by all (approximately 7,500) officials, which significantly increases trust in the public service. The declarations submitted by officials is published on the website of the ACB and thus, is available to the public.

31. Within the period of 1 January to 31 December 2024, 6,970 individuals submitted their declarations electronically.

32. Out of the selected public officials, 658 individuals were subjected to monitoring. By the end of 2024, monitoring procedures were completed for 353 officials. The results were as follows: in 319 cases, the monitoring was concluded with no deficiencies; In 34 cases, the monitoring was concluded and violations were found.

33. In accordance with the Law, the Bureau develops appropriate proposals for the improvement of whistle-blower protection measures, issues relevant recommendations regarding whistle-blower protection, and implements activities related to this field in compliance with the Law.

34. Whistle-blower protection mandate was transferred to the Bureau from 1 September 2023. Whistleblowing is ensured via following website: mkhileba.acb.gov.ge.

35. To develop mechanisms for providing free legal assistance and psychological counselling to whistle-blowers a trilateral Memorandum was signed among the Bureau, the Georgian Bar Association and the Legal Aid Service.

36. In 2024, under amendments to the Law of Georgia on Fight against Corruption, the mandate of the Bureau was extended to encompass whistle-blower protection (including the provision of legal and psychological assistance).

37. The Bureau supports raising public awareness on anti-corruption matters, including the implementation of appropriate educational initiatives. Increasing awareness in the field of fight against corruption is essential for all segments of society.

38. State Procurement Agency is permanently working towards improving good governance and transparency in the public procurement in Georgia.

39. In 2016, State Procurement Agency initiated comprehensive reforms in public procurement in Georgia. Reform agenda envisaged modernization of public procurement landscape in the country.

40. Aim of the reform was to approximate Georgian public procurement legislation with EU acquis, increase transparency, accountability and further streamline procurement process. In February 2023, Parliament of Georgia adopted new Public Procurement law, which will enter into force in 2027.

41. In 2021 new independent and impartial institutional model of review system, Dispute Resolution Council was established. New institutional setup of review system is fully in-line with EU standards.

42. The relevant statistics of criminal cases (corruption-related and other crimes) and accused persons in recent years:

Table 1. Investigation of corruption

	Types of corruption	2022	2023	2024
Investigations <i>(cases)</i>	Corruption in public and private sectors	315	233	221
	Corruption in public sector	216	159	155
	Corruption in private sector	99	74	66

Table 2. Prosecution of corruption

	Types of corruption	2022	2023	2024
Prosecutions <i>(persons)</i>	Corruption in public and private sectors	268	244	188
	Corruption in public sector	150	153	83
	Corruption in private sector	118	91	105

Table 3. Convictions for corruption

	Types of corruption	2022	2023	2024
Convictions <i>(persons)</i>	Corruption in public and private sectors	203	144	151
	Corruption in public sector	117	105	64
	Corruption in private sector	86	39	87

Table 4. Statistics on asset confiscation in corruption cases

	2022	2023	2024
Confiscation (in EUR)	1 578 600	130 031	2 117 922

43. In 2022-2024, the court convicted 286 persons for corruption in the public sector out of whom 25% were imprisoned, 32% were fined and 43% received suspended sentences.

Table 5. Record of the fight against high-level corruption

Year	Prosecutions <i>(Persons)</i>	Convictions <i>(Persons)</i>
2022	7	6
2023	12	4
2024	2	3

Table 6. The relevant statistics of whistleblowing reports in the recent years

Year	Received Reports	Criminal Investigation Started	Reports forwarded to other	Reports being examined	Reports with no signs of crime	Reports attached to existing
------	------------------	--------------------------------	----------------------------	------------------------	--------------------------------	------------------------------

			responsible agencies			criminal case
2022	90	21	38	9	15	7
2023	47	14	12	7	13	1
2024	53	11	31	2	7	2
2025 (as of 31 May)	12	1	7	3	1	0

B. Information on the implementation of paragraph 22

44. On 21 March 2020, in response to the declaration of COVID-19 as a global pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO) and in view of the severe and imminent threat to public health posed by the rapid spread of the virus, a state of emergency was declared throughout the entire territory of Georgia.

45. On the same date, in accordance with Article 4 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and Article 15 of the European Convention on Human Rights, the Permanent Mission of Georgia to the United Nations and the Permanent Representation of Georgia to the Council of Europe formally notified the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, respectively, of Georgia's decision to derogate from certain obligations under the Covenant and the Convention.

46. By official communications dated 30 and 31 December 2022, Georgia's Permanent Missions to the United Nations and to the Council of Europe formally notified the respective Secretaries-General that the special measures would cease to apply as of 1 January 2023 and would not be further extended. Accordingly, as of that date, Georgia fully resumed implementation of all obligations previously affected by the derogation.

47. Notably, the absence of any communicated application before the European Court of Human Rights or individual communication submitted to United Nations treaty bodies challenging the emergency measures may be regarded as indicative of the understanding that the measures were considered necessary, proportionate, and consistent with Georgia's obligations under international human rights law.

48. When COVID-19 vaccines became available, the Georgian government took all possible steps to launch a vaccination program.

49. Measures taken to promote vaccination: Home Vaccination Services - beginning 25 August 2021, A(A)IP Medical Holding initiated a vaccination plan for homebound individuals with limited mobility, deploying brigades to their locations; "Get Vaccinated and Win" Lottery: As part of a vaccination promotion campaign, a lottery for COVID-19 vaccine recipients started on 13 September 2021 (<https://stopcov.lotto.ge/#/>); Targeted Consultations for Seniors: Since October 2021, family, district, and village doctors and nurses began consulting with the population aged 60 and over, encouraging vaccination; Financial Incentive for Seniors: From 8 November to 31 December 2021, citizens aged 60 and over received a one-time payment of 200 GEL for getting vaccinated.

50. In parallel with the National Vaccination Plan, an action plan for COVID-19 vaccine communication was developed with expert involvement.

51. With support from the WHO and the EU, the website www.vaccines.ncdc.ge was developed, providing citizens with evidence-based vaccination information. Evidence-based materials were routinely prepared.

52. To support the vaccination process, continuous informational meetings were held in the capital and regions, both online and in-person, with state representatives, heads of local municipalities, and municipal public health officials to discuss and support vaccination-related issues.

53. Informational and educational videos were translated into Armenian and Azerbaijani. These videos included detailed registration instructions, answers to common vaccination questions, and information about possible side effects.

54. Within the State Program Health Promotion, the Health Promotion Educational Campaign in the Context of COVID-19 was ongoing on the Center for Disease Control's Health Promotion Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/HealthPromotionGeorgia/>.

55. Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in Georgia, pro-active measures have been taken to ensure protection and support of ethnic minority representatives, including through timely access to information and awareness raising on coronavirus-related issues, including hygienic measures and regulations, lockdown measures/regulations.

56. Since 3 March 2020, the following have been implemented: Government information web-portal www.StopCov.ge in seven languages; Dissemination of printed, digital and audio-visual materials on the Coronavirus in minority languages; Online consultancy (hot-line 144-1) in Armenian and Azerbaijani language. In order to mitigate negative social-economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, food and hygienic items have been delivered to socially vulnerable ethnic minority families.

57. In total: in 2020-2021, up to one million information printed materials on hygienic measures and regulations, lockdown measures/regulations, Coronavirus management and anti-crisis plan, COVID-19 vaccination issues were prepared in minority languages and delivered in the regions densely populated by ethnic minorities.

C. Information on the implementation of paragraph 50

58. During an election period, the fundamental role of the Ministry of Internal Affairs is to maintain public order throughout the country and to ensure that elections are conducted in a free, democratic, and secure environment. The Ministry approaches this mandate with the utmost responsibility, implementing an immediate legal response to every incident that falls within its competence. To this end, the Ministry was actively involved in the preparatory processes for the 2024 parliamentary elections. Consequently, prior to the elections, an order was issued by the Minister of Internal Affairs aimed at ensuring the free, secure, and peaceful conduct of the parliamentary elections, as well as preventing and responding to legal violations. The order explicitly defined the obligation of all police officers to strictly adhere to the principle of political neutrality while performing their official duties.

59. An updated edition of the Manual for Employees of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia during the Election Period was approved, its observance being mandatory for all personnel within the Ministry's system.

60. The MIA actively participated in the Inter-Agency Commission for Free and Fair Elections, which, within its competence, reviewed information on electoral violations provided by the

media, as well as by political parties and observer organizations. The Commission's members, which included representatives from political parties and non-governmental organizations alongside state agencies, received information on the electoral process. The MIA was actively engaged in the Commission's work and responded immediately to reports of violations.

61. In 2024, the Department of Human Rights Protection of the Office of the Prosecutor General of Georgia conducted the monitoring of cases of illegal interference in the professional activities of journalists. Based on the monitoring results, on 24 February 2025, the PSG issued the guideline on effective procedural guidance over cases of illegal interference in the professional activities of journalists and violence against journalists. The guideline outlines international standards, best practices, and relevant case law on the protection of journalists. It aims to provide prosecutors with clear and effective guidance for handling cases of illegal interference with journalists' professional activities and violence against them, ensuring compliance with international human rights standards.

62. To enhance the electoral dispute resolution process, the Central Election Commission (CEC) conducted significant training courses and workshops.

63. In 2022, the CEC implemented a professional training program for members of District Election Commissions (DEC) and employees of the CEC Office in various areas, including: "Capacity building for DEC's in administrative proceedings related to election disputes and administrative proceedings related to election disputes".

64. Within the framework of the 26 October 2024 elections, a workshop was organized Settlement of Electoral Disputes (Uniform and Effective Examination, and Proper Substantiation of Decision), in which members of the DEC participated.

65. In order to promote a uniform understanding of electoral dispute procedures and legislation, a working meeting was held with representatives of local non-governmental organizations and parties registered for the 26 October 2024 elections. The participants of the meetings were provided with detailed information about legislative novelties, the rights and obligations of election subjects and observers, and election disputes.