



№ 49/2232

The Permanent Mission of Georgia to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and in response to its Note Verbale dated November 30, 2016 regarding the report on ways to bridge the gender digital divide from a human rights perspective, has the honour to convey the response prepared by the Government of Georgia.

The Permanent Mission of Georgia to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 23 January 2017

Office of the United Nations
High Commissioner for Human Rights
Geneva



Encl. 3 pages.

Information

regarding the Questionnaire for the report of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on ways to bridge the gender digital divide from a human rights perspective

Question 1

There are no obstacles and barriers to access to the Internet faced by women. The conditions of access to the Internet are equal to everyone in Georgia;

The Georgian National Communications Commission, within its competence, annually collects the following information:

- Number of employees in telecom sector in Georgia;
- Number of employed women in telecom sector.

According to the 2015 data¹, the number of employees in telecom sector was - 11,947, out of which 4,158 are women.

Below we are also providing the number of the GNCC employees:

- The GNCC staff consists of 67 employees (excluding technical staff); out of which 37 are women and 30 - men. Everyone has equal access to the internet;
- GNCC is supervised by 5 Commissioners, out of which 1 is a woman.

Question 2

Education Management Information System (EMIS), a LEPL under the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia, collects all data related to general education, including disaggregated data on the basis of sex (exact amount of girls and boys in schools, teachers etc.); The program of Internalization has been successfully carried out at schools by the EMIS. As a result, all Georgian public schools are connected to the Internet and to single educational intranet. However, EMIS does not collect data related to the use of Internet in terms of gender, as it is equally accessible for both male and female pupils and there are no obstacles and barriers, or limitations for female students in this regard.

All Georgian public schools are connected to the Internet and to single educational intranet. This enables teachers and students to manage the learning process with the use of internal, as well as external digital resources. In 2013-2015 the Internet speed in Georgian public schools was increased, meaning the connection in more than 40% of public schools being provided by high speed fiber-optic internet. The total expenditures in the period of 2013-2015 amounted to 10 457 604 GEL.

¹ The Georgian National Communications Commission cannot provide the 2016 data yet, since these data should be submitted by the end of January 2017.

In order to ensure access to modern ICT technologies and development of modern infrastructure, schools in the villages bordering occupied territories of Georgia have been provided with VoIP phone system; High gain wireless antennas have been installed at up to 40 public schools, which quadrupled the internet speed.

General Information:

There is an equal access to Internet both for female and male students not only at the general education level, but at the vocational and higher education levels as well in Georgia.

All public vocational training institutions of Georgia are equipped with computerized classrooms and Internet. They are equally accessible for all students, irrespective of gender. Informational Technologies, as cross-cutting competences, are integrated in all modular educational programmes as a general obligatory module. As for the enrollment in the vocational education programmes in the direction of Computing and Informatics, it is carried out on an equal footing both for males and females.

In the chart below are given data for the years 2013-2016 on the number of students enrolled in the above mentioned direction, disaggregated according to gender.

Intake	Males	Females
2013 Autumn	880	150
2014 Spring	361	86
2014 Autumn	631	167
2015 Spring	338	96
2015 Autumn	595	169
2016 Spring	320	112
2016 Autumn	705	181

And this is another chart showing the data on the number of students with active status, as well as suspended status, enrolled in the IT programs at the Bachelor’s, Master’s and the PhD levels. The data reflect the situation by January 6, 2017, disaggregated by the gender.

IT Programmes	Males	Females
Overall Number	6502	1089
Active Status Holders	4633	728
Suspended Status Holders	1869	361

Question 6

Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia, within its competence, is coordinating “No Hate Speech Movement”, campaign of the Council of Europe aimed at reducing hate speech and all forms of discrimination online. In the frame of the programme, a website was created (will be

launched in 2017), giving the possibility to all to reveal an online content (texts, video, photo) that include hate speech. Collected data will be sent to the Public Defender of Georgia. The online database is created in order to collect hate speech material, monitor and analyze collected information.

Question 7

The Prosecution Service of Georgia (PSG) has taken number of important measures in the area of combating hate crimes, including gender-based violence.

In 2016 Division of Human Rights Protection of the Chief Prosecutor's Office of Georgia elaborated recommendation for investigators and prosecutors about qualification, investigation and prosecution of hate crimes, including gender-based violence. The recommendation was circulated to all prosecutors and PSG investigators.

In August 2016 the PSG concluded a memorandum with OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights on launching the Prosecutors and Hate Crimes Training Program (PAHCT). The training of 24 prosecutors in the form of training of trainers is planned to be carried out in the framework of the program.

In 2015 PSG trained 90 prosecutors and investigators in detection, investigation and prosecution of hate crimes, including gender-based violence. In 2016 PSG trained 85 prosecutors and investigators on the same topic. Furthermore, in 2016 62 PSG interns attended 2 months training course, which largely focused on anti-discrimination issues.

Notably, the majority of the above-mentioned trainings were carried out in association with COE, EU and OSCE. The representatives of the Public Defender's Office of Georgia were also involved in the trainings as trainers.

PSG plans to continue the capacity building of its employees in the area of combating hate crimes in future as well.