**To: CRPD Committee**

**Input for: DGD art. 11 Asia Pacific, Eastern Europe and Central Asia**

**Coalition for Independent Living, Georgia**

Dear Committee members, my name is Ketevan Khomeriki. I am speaking on behalf of Coalition for Independent Living, Georgia.

Taking into the consideration in Georgia existing policies, recent COVID-19 pandemic and increased risk situations in the region, we would like to ask Committee Members to include on General Comment on Article 11 following obligations towards the State Parties to ensure safety of disabled people:

1. Obligation for State Parties to develop and adopt detailed plans, protocols and guidelines not only for immediate emergency situations, but States should have adequate long-term visions, strategies and guidelines on how to ensure the safety of disabled people after their evacuation from risk situations. States should have very clear protocols on how to accommodate disabled people for an extended period of time and provide all information in accessible formats. Accessible information should be provided through different means and disabled people belonging to ethnic minorities should not be left without relevant information. As happened, for example, in Georgia at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. Obligation of States Parties to international cooperation. Developed countries with higher incomes are more equipped, have more expertise, and have well-developed risk reduction strategies and evacuation plans. States should better cooperate with each other and share their expertise at the highest level. Best practices should be shared and, if possible, available online. States can find out what international human rights obligations exist and how to apply them to risk situations, however, there is still a lack of development of detailed plans and concrete steps. Here, states should cooperate.
3. All stakeholders involved in risk situations, evacuation plans, and risk reduction protocols must be trained. Including airport staff. A week ago at the airport, while transfering a wheelchair user from airport wheelchair to his own wheelchair, an airport staff could not assist properly and a wheelchair user fell on the floor. The airport staff were unable to assist the person, even to lift him up. Again, international cooperation and sharing the best practices will be helpful in such cases as well.
4. Obligation to ensure that evacuation plans for disabled people from airplanes are in line with human rights standards.
5. Obligation of State Parties to accommodate the needs of internally displaced disabled people. First aids, shelters, information, all infrastructure, services should be designed in line with the UN CRPD.