



PC.SHDM.DEL/17/17
28 June 2017

ENGLISH only

**Statement as delivered by the delegation of Georgia in response to the
Statement made by the Representative of the Georgian Muslims Union at the
2017 Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting
Session II: Revisiting the normative status and scope of the right to freedom
of religion or belief – issues of conceptualization and the challenge of
implementing OSCE commitments**

Vienna, June 23, 2017

Thank you Mr. Moderator,

The Government of Georgia is committed to the protection of the rights of religious minorities in the country. According to the decree of the Government of January 2014, Georgia has started to provide a financial aid to the religious minorities as a partial and symbolic compensation for the damage, suffered during soviet regime. In these frames, Islamic religious unions in 2016 received around 2.7 million and the same amount will be received this year.

Despite having no obligation in this regard, the Government has ensured that the religious sites are returned to the minorities. Up to day, about 160 mosques, both shi and sunni have been returned and this process continues.

In Batumi, in close cooperation with the Muslim community, a reconstruction project of the existing mosque has been developed. Within this project, new plot of land is allocated, so that the mosque will be expanded with 1500-2000 square meters. The Government of Georgia will bear the expenses for this project.

I would like to draw your attention to the Anti-discrimination law, the purpose of which is to eliminate all forms of discrimination in public and private sector and ensure equal enjoyment of rights for everyone, prescribed by law irrespective of any ground.

Finally, I would like to stress that the Georgian Government is fully dedicated to the fulfilment of the relevant OSCE commitments and stands ready to implement them in good faith.

Thank you.