

Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia

Responses to the questionnaire on sport and healthy lifestyles as contributing factors to the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health

1. Engagement in sport and physical activities should be available for all levels of society in order to promote healthy lifestyle. In our view, UN Member states should develop and implement mass sport (sport for all) targeted programs.
Healthy lifestyle should be a subject and present an integral part of lifelong learning programs, which will promote relevant attitudes towards sports and healthy lifestyle;
2. There is “**State’s Sports Policy Document**” adopted by the Government of Georgia in 2014. The document defines main directions for sport development, among them supporting mass sport and promotion of healthy lifestyle (The document is enclosed to the present letter). Currently, healthy lifestyle is not covered by the present “Law on Sport” of Georgia. Under the auspices of the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs of Georgia, a dedicated working group is set in order to draft amendments for the current “Law on Sport”. Promotion of healthy lifestyle will be included in a new legislation.
In April, 2014, the Government of Georgia also adopted the revised “**State’s Youth Policy Document**”. One of the strategic domains, along with education, employment is health. There are detailed descriptions of the challenges and tasks discussed in the Article 4 (“Health”) of the document that should be addressed and implemented by public and non-governmental organizations as well as other stakeholders;
3. There are number of challenges that the government is facing, in the process of introducing healthy lifestyle, namely, it has the opportunity to evaluate existing (real) situation and plan following steps more effectively. There are many benefits in the process of introducing healthy lifestyle, which are connected to the improvement of population’s health, reduction of use of alcohol, tobacco and drugs, attitude towards gambling and prevention of criminal and etc.;
4. The best way for the introduction of healthy lifestyle to society can be promotion of sports and physical activities through planning and implementing relevant programs in educational institutions. For example, in Georgia, through introducing school sport program – “School Sports Olympiad” the number of school children involved in sports and physical activities increased significantly. Introduction of mass sport targeted programs and regulated competition system;
5. In order to promote the involvement and availability of vulnerable groups, among them women, children and people with special needs in sport and physical activities the State can develop relevant voucher packages, which will enable them to use with sports and recreation services; The Government should also ensure researches and results management in this field;

6. UN non-member states and other actors should encourage individuals to participate in sport and adopt healthy lifestyles, such as international donor organizations and private investments.