**Information prepared by the Government of Georgia in response to the Questionnaire of the UN Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to**

**an adequate standard of living, and on the right to**

**non-discrimination in this context**

 **1. Please provide any statistical indicators regarding the health, mortality and morbidity consequences of inadequate housing and homelessness in your country, disaggregated by sex, race, immigration status, age and disability, or other grounds, if and where possible. Please also provide references to any documentation (written, visual or otherwise) of the lived experiences that lie behind these statistics.**

The Government of Georgia does not aggregate statistical data regarding the health, mortality and morbidity consequences based on inadequate housing and homelessness.

2. **Please refer to the provisions of your state's constitution or human rights legislation which guarantee the right to life and explain whether these apply to circumstances where homelessness or inadequate housing place health, security or life at risk and whether positive obligations of governments have been recognized in this context. Please provide references to any relevant cases or other examples, if available.**

According to Article 15 of the Constitution of Georgia everyone has the inviolable right to life and this right shall be protected by law. In addition, Article 37 of the Constitution stipulates that everyone shall have the right to live in healthy environment.

Furthermore, the Constitution of Georgia, as it is prescribed by Article 39, does not deny other universally recognized human rights and freedoms, which may not refer to in it but stem from its principles.

Since 1994 Georgia is a state party to the 1966 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. According to Article 6 of the Law of Georgia on International Treaties of Georgia the latter shall be considered as integral part of the legislation of Georgia and, according to the same legal act and to the Constitution of Georgia, unless they contradict the Constitution and Constitutional Agreement of Georgia, shall take precedence over domestic normative acts.

It also should be mentioned that Article 1 of the Law of Georgia on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination outlaws all forms of discrimination based on listed (thought the list is not exhaustive) characteristics. One of the protected features expressly mentioned in the text of the article is the place of residence.

The Constitution of Georgia by its Article 7 also stipulates that the state recognizes and protects universally recognized human rights and freedoms as eternal and supreme human values. While exercising authority the people and the state shall be bound by these rights and freedoms as directly acting law.

Pursuant to Article 4 of the Law of Georgia on Health Care, a universal and equal accessibility of health care for the population is provided within the limits of the State obligations undertaken by the state health care programs.

There is no particular law in domestic legislation that provides holistic regulations related to the right for housing. Existing norms, related to this right, are general and are included in the Law on Social Assistance issued December 29, 2006. In addition to defining who the right holders are, the document stipulates responsibilities and scope of local and central governments.

According to the Law of Georgia on Social Assistance in addition to other responsibilities local authorities are obliged to provide shelters to homeless people and register them.

The same law determines the term - homeless person, that is as a person, having no permanent living place and registered as a homeless, in the local self-government. According to the Article 4b of the Law, shelter is explained as a provider of social service, supplying food and night shelter for homeless.

On February 7, 2014 Government of Georgia adopted the decree N131, on Technical Regulations about Approving Minimum Standards for Temporary Shelter for Homeless Persons. The document defines essential norms for shelter arrangements and functioning.

Based on the stipulations of this decree the term – homeless was defined for shelter potential service users: a person living in the open air, that does not have any permanent living place, legal income or there is no property registered on his/her name, or a person who currently lives on the street, with the risk to his/her life.

In 2015 Tbilisi City Council built a 24 hour facility in Lilo district, aimed at providing long term shelter for homeless, that offers beneficiaries a place for spending nights, food and medical service. The utility can accommodate 240 persons. In addition, programs ensuring shelters for homeless are carried out in different cities by the local self-governments as well (Zugdidi, Bolnisi, Ozurgeti, etc.).

For the physical accessibility to the healthcare services by persons with disabilities, special approach is foreseen in terms of their safe transportation. Above mentioned is reflected in the regulatory documents; in particular, both in the provisions for the licensing of the hospital, as well as in the defined requests for the ambulatory services (Decree №385 of the Government  of Georgia of December 17, 2010 “On Adoption of the Regulation for Licensing of Medical Activities and Rules for the Issuance of Permits and Conditions for Stationary”; Decree №359 of the Government  of Georgia of November 22, 2010 “On Adoption of Technical Regulations for the High-risk Medical Activities”; Order №01-25/N of 2013 of the Minister of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia ”On the Approval of Determination of the Classification of Medical Interventions and Identification of Minimum Requirements in Primary Healthcare Institutions").