



South Caucasus Conference “Freedom of Religion or Belief”

11-12 September 2014

Hotel Sheraton Metechi Palace, Tbilisi, Georgia

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

DAY 1 - 11 September, 2014

Time	Topic	Speaker(s)	Moderator
09:15 - 09:45	Registration - Sheraton Metechi Palace, <i>Salkhino & Lile</i>		
10:00 - 10:15	Welcome and Opening of the conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Amb. Hans Horbach - Embassy of the Netherlands in Tbilisi • Ms. Lela Piralishvili - Head of PR and Foreign Relations Department State Agency for Religious Issues of Georgia • Ms. Ewa Chylinski - ECMI Caucasus Regional Director 	
10:15 - 10:40	Presentation of speakers & participants		
10:40 - 11:10	Introduction to the conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caterina Bolognese - Head of CoE Office in Georgia • Oliver Reisner - Attache, EU Delegation to Georgia • Giorgi Sordia - Senior Researcher, ECMI Caucasus 	
11:10 – 11:50	Provisions for freedom of religion in the context of the OSCE commitments	Mr. Dmitry Kabak - OSCE / ODIHR Advisory Panel of Experts on Freedom of Religion or Belief	
11:50 - 12:10	Coffee break - Sheraton Metechi Palace, <i>Ballroom Foyer</i>		
12:10 - 12:25	Legal provisions, anti-discrimination and other national regulatory frameworks in South Caucasus countries	Mr. Beka Mindiashvili - Public Defender's office of Georgia	UN OHCHR Vladimir Shkolnikov
12:25 - 12:40		Ms. Anush Margaryan - Public Defender's office of Armenia	
12:40 - 12:55		Mr. Rashid Rumzada - Public Defender's office of Azerbaijan	
12:55 - 14:00	Discussions/Q&A anti-discrimination regulatory frameworks		
14:00 - 15:00	Lunch - Sheraton Metechi Palace, <i>Karavansarai & Terrace</i>		
15:00 - 15:15	Rights and opportunities for religious communities in South Caucasus countries	NGOs in Georgia	ECMI Caucasus Ewa Chylinski
15:15 - 15:30		NGOs in Armenia	
15:30 - 15:45		NGOs in Azerbaijan	
15:45– 16:30	Discussions/Q&A (part 1) Rights and opportunities of religious communities in South Caucasus		
16:30 - 16:45	Coffee break - Sheraton Metechi Palace, <i>Ballroom Foyer</i>		
16:45 - 17:45	Discussions/Q&A (part 2) Implementation of freedom of religion in South Caucasus	Moderation by UN OHCHR Vladimir Shkolnikov	
17:45	End of day 1		
18:30	Dinner - Sheraton Metechi Palace, <i>Karavansarai & Winter Garden</i>		



Kingdom of the Netherlands



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DAY 2 - 12 September, 2014

Time	Topic	Speaker(s)	Moderator
09:15 - 09:45	Registration - Sheraton Metechi Palace, <i>Salkhino & Lile</i>		
10:00 - 10:10	Opening of the Day 2	H.E. Kees van Baar - Human Rights Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands	
10:10 - 10:25	Outline of commitments to freedom of religion in South Caucasus countries	Mr. Zaza Vashakmadze - Head, State Agency for Religious Issues, Georgia	ECMI Caucasus - Ewa Chylinski
10:25 - 10:40		Mr. Gündüz İsmayilov - Deputy Head, State Committee for the Work with Religious Organizations, Azerbaijan	
10:40 - 10:55		Mr. Davit Mikaelyan - Chief Specialist, Division for Ethnic Minorities and Religious Affairs, State Committee on Religious and Ethnic Affairs, Armenia	
10:55 - 12:00	Discussions/Q&A on commitments to freedom of religion in South Caucasus countries		
12:00 - 12:15	Coffee break - Sheraton Metechi Palace, <i>Ballroom Foyer</i>		
12:15 - 13:20	Relationship and collaboration between the main confessions and other religious congregations in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia	Religious Organizations	UN OHCHR Vladimir Shkolnikov
13:20 - 14:00	Non-traditional religions in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia	Minority Religious Congregations	
14:00 - 15:00	Lunch - Sheraton Metechi Palace, <i>Karavansarai & Terrace</i>		
15:00 - 16:40	Discussion and recommendations on observance of freedom of religion in South Caucasus	Moderation by OSCE ODIHR Dmitry Kabak	
16:40 - 17:00	Final Remarks and Conclusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Kees van Baar - Human Rights Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands • Ms. Ewa Chylinski - ECMI Caucasus Regional Director 	
17:00	Coffee break - Sheraton Metechi Palace, <i>Ballroom Foyer</i>		
17:00 - 19:00	Time for individual consultations and meetings between delegations and conference participants		
19:00	Dinner - Sheraton Metechi Palace, <i>Karavansarai & Winter Garden</i>		