

Permanent Mission Georgia

Thank you, Madame Chair.

My delegation would like to clarify some issues in response to the statement of Interregional Public Association of Meskhetians. Georgia fulfilled all the components of the Council of Europe accession commitment concerning repatriation of Muslim Meskhetians through adopting the relevant comprehensive law in July 2007. The adoption of the foresaid law was followed by active information campaign in all countries where descendent of displaced persons reside. Since the adoption of the law, the deadline for applying have been prolonged twice so applicants would have reasonable time to apply for repatriate status. As a result, up to 6000 adults apply for this status. Repatriates were also granted a more simplified procedure for Georgian citizenship. After obtaining Georgian citizenship a person has five years to forfeit previous citizenship. To mention, initially this period was set to 2 years. For now, only 494 persons with repatriate status applied for and all of them were granted conditional citizenship. So far none of them forfeited their previous citizenship in order to for Georgian citizenship to take effect.