

**Opening statement
for
Launch of the UNECE assessment on how non-tariff measures,
adopted in the COVID-19 context, influenced end-to-end supply
chains in Georgia, with a specific focus on Micro, Small and
Medium-Sized Enterprises**

Geneva, 30 September 2020

Your Excellency, Ms. Natia Turnava, Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia

Ms. Sabine Machl, UN Resident Coordinator in Georgia

Dear colleagues and friends,

On behalf of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, welcome to this online presentation on UNECE's study on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on micro, small and medium sized enterprises (MSMEs) in Georgia.

This study is aimed at helping member States address the adverse effects of the pandemic. Our studies on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade have proved to be an excellent tool for member States to identify bottlenecks in their trade flows. Similarly, this particular study has created a superb link between trade and safety and sound society equipped to tackle the issues of the day.

This initiative falls under UNECE's larger umbrella for addressing this crisis and its consequences. Our Action Framework for Responses to the COVID-19 crisis includes three main pillars:

- 1) Facilitate connectivity, including border crossings and digital tools in trade and transport;
- 2) Address transboundary and other risks, through multilateral agreements, standards and statistics; and
- 3) Support to a green and resilient recovery.

Supporting member States in their transition to a circular economy has been, and will be, another one of our key focus areas in this regard.

Today's event proves how all this work that we carry out in the United Nations is exclusively geared towards the good of people in member States, their prosperity, well-being and continued equal opportunities. This is our contribution towards Building Back Better, in the heart of the Sustainable Development Goals.

My secretariat works very closely with Minister Turnava's team, and I look forward to hearing more about the very positive results of our cooperation and joint efforts.

Thank you.