

Shota UTIASHVILI

Head of Informational-Analytical Department of Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia

Distinguished participants and guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, on behalf of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia allow me to express my sincere gratitude to the International Black Sea University for the organization of the International conference where the participant from different countries have the opportunity to present their views and researches on the specific and important issues of the black sea and Caspian sea regions.

Among other essential elements of Security and stability in the world, as well as in the south Caucasus region, is the ability of the governments to solve the crime related problems including fight against organized crime, which represents danger to the Human Rights, good order, rule of law and democracy of each country.

Since the rose revolution the Government of Georgia declared fight against organized crime in its every manifestation as one of the top priorities for the country. Considering that organized crime goes beyond national borders, it constitutes threat not only to a single state, but to the international community. The Government of Georgia adopted coherent, coordinated and wide-ranging strategy for fight against organized crime.

On the international level, Georgia is a party to all the major international instruments in fight against organized crime. In its effort to enhance the measure on national and international levels, initially Georgia became a party to the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime, so called “Palermo Convention” on 7th of June 2006. The introduction of new legislation and its implementation, particularly to seize assets, has proved effective and apparently led to many major criminals, the so called “thieves in law” leaving the country.

Fight against organized crime involves many directions, but most of all, relies on the effectiveness of the Law-enforcement system. Therefore, one of the key directions in the fight against organized crime was the establishment of highly qualified, respected and corruption-free police. Since 2004, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia has undergone a number of major reforms and has succeeded in regaining public trust and effectively curbing criminality, especially in its organized forms.

One of the grave forms of the organized crime is the corruption. Corruption is a complex social, political and economic phenomenon which undermines democratic institutions, slows economic development and contributes to governmental instability. As the causes of corruption are many and varied, the government of Georgia has taken essential preventive, enforcement and prosecutorial measures since the Rose Revolution in 2003 to escape from under the cloud of political corruption and dishonesty. An anti-corruption program was one of the key reforms that the current Georgian government implemented.

Noteworthy to mention is that the one of the top priorities of the Police Reform was the implementation of the border reform. The safe and protected borders contribute to the fight against transnational organized crime, not only in the Caucasus region, but also in the entire Europe.



Chapter 1: Welcoming Ceremony Speeches

The complexity of tasks performed at a border requires the integrated approach to the Border Security. That was the base for the special attention given to the creation of the National Integrated Border Management Strategy of Georgia. This Strategy was developed by the Temporary Inter-Agency Commission at the National Security Council with the assistance of the EU Special Representative to South Caucasus and was approved by the Presidential Decree in February 2008. This document sets targets which should be achieved throughout the five years.

Stability in the South Caucasus has to be of outmost importance to our Partner Countries, considering the convenient geo-strategic position on the world map. Georgia also represents a reliable hub as part of the alternative energy corridor for Europe. Serious progress reached by Georgia in developing a modern democratic State should be recognized and supported by International Community. The measures taken in fight against organized/transnational crime must be unified and supplemented by the adequate measures of other countries. The best practices of one country can be shared by others. This is the only way of achieving the stability, security and the prosperity in every region of the world.

At the end I would like to thank you for your attention and wish the conference to be successful and productive.

