



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MINISTRY OF FINANCE RELEASES NEW SECTORAL BREAKDOWN OF INTERNATIONAL AID BY DONORS

Transparency International Georgia applauds the Ministry of Finance's continued efforts to raise public awareness about how international aid is spent

Tbilisi, 7 July 2009 – Transparency International Georgia applauds the Ministry of Finance's continued steps to inform the public about how international aid is being spent in Georgia. The Ministry posted a document on their website that lists donor assistance, both grants and loans, committed thus far towards the Joint Needs Assessment, the basis on which the 2008 Brussels Conference was organized.

TI Georgia criticized the Donor conference in October for its lack of transparency and accountability, and for not consulting with the Georgian parliament and civic organizations. The Ministry of Finance has taken a clearly different approach by regularly meeting with civic organizations, including TI Georgia, and by posting updates of donor assistance to their website.

Commenting on the Ministry's decision to provide additional information by sector, Tamuna Karosanidze, Executive Director of Tbilisi-based TI Georgia, said, "Publication of this kind of information helps to build trust with the public. We hope to see other government agencies, donors and international NGOs follow the Ministry of Finance's example by providing comprehensive and credible information about how these aid funds are actually spent, not just on commitments made."

Media contact:

Tamuna Karosanidze

Executive Director of TI Georgia

tamuna@transparency.ge

Tel: (+995 32) 92 14 03 or 99 93 35

Transparency International Georgia has been working to combat corruption, improve governance and strengthen democracy in Georgia since 2000. TI Georgia is a non-profit, non-partisan organization legally registered in Tbilisi. As a national chapter of Transparency International, TI Georgia is an independent organization. It has no financial ties or reporting lines to the international secretariat in Berlin, but TI Georgia is able to draw on the secretariat's experience and expertise in combating corruption worldwide.

Notes to Editors

The initial list of pledges by country and sector by the World Bank can be found at:

<http://go.worldbank.org/38ZWL0Z600>