

Interagency Coordinating Council for Combating Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Threats¹

March 14, 2014 Tbilisi, Georgia

Protocol of the first Session

The first session of the Interagency Coordinating Council for Combating Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Threats was held in the Ministry of Internal Affairs on March 14th, 2014. The session was chaired by Mr. Levan Izoria, the Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs. The representatives of Special and Emergency Measures Center of the MoIA, Emergency Management Department of the MoIA, Border Police of the MoIA, Patrol Police Department of the MoIA, Counterterrorist Center of the MoIA, Operative-Technical Department of the MoIA, Expert-Forensics Main Division of the MoIA, Reforms and Development Agency of the MoIA, International Relations Department of the MoIA, LEPL Levan Samkharauli National Forensics Bureau, LEPL I. Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University E. Andronikashvili Institute of Physics, Department of Agriculture and Food of the Ministry of Agriculture, Customs Department of LEPL Revenue Service, Nuclear and Radiological Safety Problems Commission of the National Academy of Sciences, Defence Policy and Planning Department of the Ministry of Defense, National Center for Disease Control and Public Health (NCDPC), State Security and Crisis Management Council, National Security Council, the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection, Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA), the US embassy and United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) attended the session.

Mr. Levan Izoria, the Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs, the Chairman of the Interagency Council welcomed the participants and introduced the agenda of the meeting. Due to the geostrategic location of Georgia and whole Caucasus region, the Chairman mentioned the necessity of formation of specific approaches towards biological, radiological and nuclear threats. He emphasized the National Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Threats Reduction Strategy, which was approved by the government decree № 164 on 14th of February 2014 and its objectives. The Chairman mentioned that on the basis of the Strategy, the corresponding Action Plan will be elaborated. According to this Action Plan, necessary legislative amendments will be initiated, relevant standards will be developed, current capacities will be improved and new introduced, upon necessity, material and financial resources will be appropriately redistributed and etc.

Moreover, attention was paid to the role and functions of the Interagency Coordinating Council established with the purpose of institutionalizing approaches towards CBRN threats and supervising the implementation of the strategy priorities, including the elaboration of the Action

¹ The Interagency Coordinating Council for Combating Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Threats was established on 21st of February 2014, by the Resolution N201 of the Government of Georgia.

Plan and the control over its implementation. The Chairman also underlined the importance of the involvement of international partners in the process of elaboration and implementation of the Action Plan.

During the session, members of the Council presented their agency role in the CBRN security field.

The representative of the Legal Entity of Public Law Levan Samkharauli National Forensics Bureau stated that official list of chemical and toxic substances and the toxicity level finding checklist do not exist in Georgia. The representative also addressed Council members with the request to prepare a petition on the referred checklist's adoption on the legislative level.

The representative of UNICRI made a presentation during the session. UNICRI representative introduced the functions of the Centre to the Council members and presented the outline of the Action Plan. The representative also noted that UNICRI's experts are ready to provide assistance to the working groups in the process of developing the Action Plan.

The Secretary of the Council raised the issue of electing the candidate for Deputy Chairman position and nominated the candidacy of the Deputy Minister of Environment and Natural Resources Protection. Based on joint decision of the Interagency Council, the Deputy Minister of Environment and Natural Resources Protection Mr Shalva Amirejibi was elected as a Deputy Chairman of the Council.

For the purpose of elaborating the Action Plan of the CBRN Strategy, the Council approved thematic working groups of the CBRN Interagency Coordinating Council:

1. Working group on chemical safety
2. Working group on biological safety
3. Working group on radiological / nuclear safety

The members of the Council were charged with presenting appropriate competent candidates in thematic working groups.

Members were handed the schedule for elaborating an Action Plan of the Strategy with the purpose of subjecting it to the procedure of mutual consent. The members were also charged with presenting respective remarks in the nearest future.

At the abovementioned session, the representative of the Reforms and Development Agency provided members of the Council with brief information on the CBRN Science and Consequence Management Congress to be held on 1-5 June. He also referred to the model trainings which the Emergency Situations Management Department of the MoIA will conduct in cooperation with the units of the US European Command.

At the end of the session, the Chairman of the Council underscored the importance of the role played by the US and significance of the support of the latter with regard to the mentioned issue.