

MEMORANDUM

BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF REFUGEES AND ACCOMODATION OF GEORGIA AND ASSOCIATION FOR PROTECTION OF LANDOWNERS RIGHTS

Tbilisi, Georgia

March 2, 2007

The Parties to the Memorandum:

The Ministry of Refugees and Accommodation of Georgia (hereinafter referred to as the Ministry),

and

Association for Protection of Landowners' Rights (hereinafter referred to as APLR),

Expressing the desire to strengthen their cooperation as:

Restitution of the property to the ethnic Ossetians who are the victims of the conflict in early 1990-ies in former South Ossetia Region is considered to be the part of state policy of Georgia;

The Parliament of Georgia passed the Law on Property Restitution and Compensation to the People who Lost Property on the Territory of Georgia as a Result of the Conflict in Former South Ossetia Region, which provides for the mechanism for just and transparent restitution process;

APLR supports the process of restitution and initial works with the support of the USAID;

In accordance with the Law of Georgia on Internally Displaced Persons, the issue of coordination of work of state institutions, international and non-governmental organizations is put in the agenda in order to direct the restitution process in an efficient way and to protect the property and hereditary rights of those people who lost property as a result of the developments in 1991-1992 in former South Ossetia Region and fled from their permanent residence to other regions of Georgia and in foreign countries, which are acknowledged by international law and guaranteed by Article 21 of the Constitution of Georgia

The Parties have agreed as follows:

Field of Cooperation

The Parties to the Memorandum shall cooperate to take the measures necessary to begin the restitution process, including cadastral works and inventory of the property to be restituted and public education campaign for individuals who declared for the restitution:

1. APLR, with the support of the Ministry, shall insure completion of the cadastral works and inventory of the property to be restituted throughout the country. Inventory database shall

include the plan of the land parcel and building, aerial image, two photos, data on the former user, factual situation etc.

2. The Ministry shall inform central governmental agencies and local authorities on the works provided for by the Memorandum and shall try to facilitate the cooperation of governmental agencies (especially of local authorities) with APLR.
3. APLR, with the cooperation of non-governmental organizations based in North Ossetia (Russian Federation), shall ensure delivering information to displaced ethnic Ossetian population on the restitution initiative and on the mechanisms provided for by law.
4. APLR, with cooperation of non-governmental organizations based in North Ossetia (Russian Federation), shall ensure the beginning of collection of declarations for restitution and integration of these declarations into unified digital database.
5. The Ministry and the APLR shall cooperate to support other measures stipulated by the Law of Georgia on Property Restitution and Compensation to the People who Lost Property on the Territory of Georgia as a Result of the Conflict in Former South Ossetia Region, and by the Decree # 763 of December 25, 2006 issued by the President of Georgia on the Measures to be Taken for the Inventory of the Property of those Persons who Lost Property and Fled to other Georgian Regions and Foreign Countries from their Permanent Residence as a result of the Conflict in Former South Ossetia Region in 1991-1992.

The Memorandum of Understanding shall enter into force as from the date of its signature by the Parties.

The Ministry of Refugees and Accommodation

Association for Protection of Landowner' Rights

Giorgi Kheviashvili

David Giorgadze

Minister

Director

Date

Date