



## Press Release

### **Law Regarding Conflict of Interest, Incompatibility and Corruption of Public Officials Draft Law Discussion**

**Friday, 22 September 2006** – On September 22, 2006 the Public Servants' Financial and Property Status Bureau of Ministry of Justice of Georgia together with United Nations Association of Georgia will conduct the informative meeting for high rank officials and other stakeholders dedicated to the discussion of a draft “Law Regarding Conflict of Interest, Incompatibility and Corruption of Public Officials” in the hotel “Tbilisi Marriott”, Tbilisi.

The presentation is organized within the “Reform of the Public Servants' Financial and Property Status Bureau of the Ministry of Justice” sub-project framework supported through UNDP Governance Reform Programme Capacity Building Fund in cooperation with the Development and Reform Fund under the President of Georgia.

The Public Servants' Financial and Property Status Bureau of Georgia, which was initially established at the Chamber of Control and later has become a subordinate body to the Ministry of Justice, is a body in charge of monitoring incomes of public servants in an attempt to track down possible corruption cases. The Bureau pays attention to deadlines for submitting declarations by public servants and helps ensure their complete fulfillment.

To increase efficiency of the Bureau in inspecting income declaration data and in prompt addressing of possible irregularities, the Ministry of Justice in cooperation with UNAG has launched a new initiative known as Partnership for Development – “Reform of the Public Servants' Financial and Property Status Bureau of the Ministry of Justice”. The project started in March this year and will last until October 2006.

The aim of the project is to strengthen the Bureau through elaboration of relevant policy and developing legal recommendations, elaboration of guidelines for the declarer, introducing innovations in daily work of the Bureau, and supporting production of promotional materials including the web-page.

Draft “Law Regarding Conflict of Interest, Incompatibility and Corruption of Public Officials” has been elaborated by experts hired within the frames of a given initiative. The process of draft law elaboration has implied involvement of all main stakeholders. The presentation is a part of this process. Among the invited guests are high rank representatives of executive and legislative branches of the government, representatives of UNDP and DRF, members of working group. Planned discussion is aimed at encompassing views of all main stakeholders regarding the issue.