

Georgian PM Irakli Garibashvili at United Nations General Assembly

Garibashvili delivered his speech on September 24

By NIKA GAMTSEMLIDZE

The Prime Minister of Georgia Irakli Garibashvili delivered a speech at the General Assembly of the United Nations. Garibashvili focused on the "stable economic development" of Georgia amid the global pandemic.

Georgian Prime Minister also discussed the irreversibility of the Euro-Atlantic foreign course taken by the country and the occupation of the Georgian regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia by Russia.

Garibashvili said that not only does Russia occupy 20 percent of the Georgian territory, it is also actively damaging Georgia's chances to become part of the European and western world.

"Nothing can stand in the way of our country's commitment to a truly global idea, nor can external forces hinder it, yet our multi-faceted freedom is challenged every day. We are witnessing a humanitarian crisis in Abkhazia and Tskhinvali every day, for which only the occupying force is responsible," said Prime Minister of Georgia.

Garibashvili called on the world community from the UN tribune to end the illegal occupation of Georgian territory by Russia and talked about the general situation in the country. He noted that starting from 2012, Georgia has managed to hold 6 democratic elections.

"All of them have been assessed as free and fair by the international community," added Garibashvili.

During his speech, Garibashvili also said that economic hardships were not



Garibashvili talked about issues in Georgia, including the situation in the occupied regions

only Georgia's problem due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, but he also said that the main aim for the country now is to create more jobs.

Georgian Prime Minister said that for Georgia, becoming part of the EU and NATO means to 'go back home':

"We'll continue to reform and modernize all aspects of our democracy and economy until we reach the highest global standards. The path to the European

and Euro-Atlantic structures means returning home because it is a civilized choice of Georgia and it is unanimously supported by the vast majority of our population," said Garibashvili.

According to the Prime Minister of Georgia, the government has prepared a comprehensive action plan, which will ensure the application for membership in the EU by 2024.

Prime Minister Gharibashvili met with

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres at the General Assembly. During the meeting, Irakli Gharibashvili focused on the difficult situation in the occupied territories of Georgia. He also undermined the importance of the UN's role in restoring the format of the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanism in Gali.

Garibashvili attended the 76th General Assembly of UN in New York on September 20-25.



Garibashvili stated that Georgia continues working towards becoming part of the Western world

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Heated argument between politicians was condemned by the EU Ambassador

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Carl Hartzell responds to the incident near the EU office between Melia and Kobakhidze

Heated argument between politicians was condemned by the EU Ambassador



The argument between Melia and Kobakhidze took place on September 23, in front of the EU office in Tbilisi

EU Ambassador said that he was very alarmed by the situation created after the confrontation

By NIKA GAMTSEMLIDZE

Ambassador of the European Union to Georgia Carl Hartzell responded to the incident near the EU office in Georgia on September 23. The statement of the EU Ambassador was issued by the EU Embassy in Tbilisi.

He stated that the security situation created after the confrontation at the office was alarming.

On September 23, Carl Hartzell, together with other EU member states, hosted an indi-

vidual meeting with the leaders of the Georgian political parties to discuss the current election process in the country.

Near the office, Chairman of Georgian Dream Irakli Kobakhidze, and UNM leader Nika Melia confronted each other. EU Ambassador said that he was saddened due to the aggression near the office. However, he welcomed the fact that one of them apologized to the public and called on them to remain calm.

He also said that he was alarmed by the situation that

followed the confrontation, saying that he had to communicate with the relevant state services. The EU Ambassador once again condemned the acts of violence in the pre-election context and called for their prompt and in-depth investigation.

“Next week, on the election day, all Georgian voters should enjoy a peaceful environment, allowing them to exercise their democratic right by casting their ballots freely, safely, and without fear of violence or intimidation,” added Hartzell.

He said that it is the re-

sponsibility of the Georgian government to make sure the rights of Georgian citizens are safe.

Irakli Kobakhidze, Chairman of the Georgian Dream, later said he wanted to apologize to the public for his words.

Georgian Dream believes that the response of the EU Ambassador to Georgia, Carl Hartzell, to the confrontation between Nika Melia and Irakli Kobakhidze should have been different. According to the ruling party, the ambassador did not assess the incident accu-

rately. “Such statements could become a kind of green light for Nikanor Melia to carry out new provocations,” said Kobakhidze.

Georgian Dream MP Shalva Papuashvili responded to Hartzell’s statement, saying that it is fortunate that “he did not condemn the provocation of Nika Melia.”

A heated verbal confrontation happened between Nika Melia and Irakli Kobakhidze near the EU Delegation office in Tbilisi on September 23.

\$15 Million ADB Loan to Help Georgia Procure COVID-19 Vaccines

Weather

Monday, September 27

Day ☀️ Clear
High: 23°C

Night 🌙 Clear
Low: 11°C

Tuesday, September 28

Day ☁️ Partly Cloudy
High: 22°C

Night ☁️ Partly Cloudy
Low: 14°C

MANILA, PHILIPPINES (24 September 2021) — The Asian Development Bank (ADB) today approved a \$15 million loan to help the Government of Georgia procure and deploy coronavirus disease (COVID-19) vaccines and strengthen the country’s capacity to implement its vaccine program.

The project will support Georgia’s National Vaccines Deployment Plan by purchasing and delivering an estimated 700,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines as well as syringes, safety boxes, and other items for administering vaccines. It is financed through ADB’s \$9 billion Asia Pacific Vaccine Access Facility launched in December 2020 to offer rapid and equitable vaccine-related support to ADB developing member countries.

“Vaccines are critical to reduc-

ing the spread and severity of COVID-19,” said ADB President Masatsugu Asakawa. “This project will help save lives in Georgia and restore the confidence of citizens. ADB is fully committed to helping Georgia manage the adverse health, social, and economic impacts of COVID-19 and this project is a key part of ADB’s holistic support for the country’s pandemic response.”

The government aims to vaccinate 60% of the total adult population in 2021, or about 1.7 million people. ADB’s COVID-19 Vaccine Support Project under the Asia Pacific Vaccine Access Facility for Georgia will procure enough vaccines to inoculate about 300,000 people, or about 8% of Georgia’s total population. The government’s vaccination program prioritizes health workers, residents and staff of long-term

care centers, elderly persons and persons with chronic diseases, and essential service providers.

The project will also strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labor, Health, and Social Affairs to implement the national vaccination program. Health workers and vaccination staff will receive gender sensitivity training and gender equality awareness messages will be incorporated into communications plans and guidelines for mobile teams to reach women and marginalized groups.

The project builds on ADB’s earlier support for Georgia’s COVID-19 response. This includes a \$100 million loan to support social protection and businesses affected by the economic slowdown; a \$200 million

policy-based loan to strengthen Georgia’s social protection, fiscal, and debt management systems; and a \$2.5 million grant to increase testing capacity and procure medical equipment.

Georgia joined ADB in 2007 and the bank has since become one of the country’s largest multilateral development partners with committed loans amounting to \$3.92 billion and technical assistance projects worth \$28.9 million. ADB’s development priorities in Georgia include expanding trade, creating jobs, and combating poverty by developing economic corridors.

ADB is committed to achieving a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific, while sustaining its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty. Established in 1966, it is owned by 68 members—49 from the region.

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43, Chovelidze st., Tbilisi, 0108, Georgia
Founded by Prof.

Zaza Gachechiladze
Tamar Gachechiladze
Publisher

Mob.: +995 599 565621; +995 577 760000
E-mail: messenger@messenger.com.ge
http://www.messenger.com.ge/

Nino Metreveli
Commercial Director

Mariam Mchedlidze
Editor-in-Chief

Natalia Kochiashvili
Executive Editor

Khatuna Gogichaishvili
Layout Designer, Photographer

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