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Tbilisi, Georgia

Dear Partner,

We are proud to announce that the Government of Georgia made an unprecedented decision to open its borders and welcome foreign visitors from **July 1**. It should be highlighted that Georgia will be among the first countries to open its borders by creating a safe corridor on land borders with the neighbouring countries, as well as by initiating bilateral negotiations with the other states.

Prior to this, as per anti-crisis plan of the Government of Georgia, the decision was made to resume domestic tourism from **June 15**. Thus, the tourism industry will have an opportunity to reopen and operate in compliance with international safety standards after a lockdown. Strict safety regulations will be in place for the whole tourism sector including hotels, restaurants, transportation, travel companies, and guides. The above standards will insure both the safety of tourists in the country and the people employed in the industry. Furthermore, arrangement of Special Green Tourist Zones throughout Georgia, with particular emphasis on the safety norms, will be a significant step forward towards offering a virus-free environment to tourists.

Effective measures taken by the Government of Georgia have translated into relatively low COVID-19 numbers and brought the country international acclaim for its successful fight against the virus.

Georgian National Tourism Administration has had very fruitful cooperation with the hospitality industry as they rendered their high-quality service to over 20,000 people staying in mandatory 14-day quarantine upon arrival to Georgia. The quarantine zones represented a good example of streamlined work of tourism business (hotels, catering and transportation companies) and the Government complying with strict international safety standards. The knowledge and experience gained in these trying times, will undoubtedly give the country a competitive edge and serve as a steppingstone in its further growth as a safe tourist destination.

In this light, yet another significant decision has been made during a recent communication between the Prime-Minister of Georgia Mr Giorgi Gakharia and the Secretary-General of the UN World Tourism Organization Mr Zurab Pololikashvili. The 112th Session of the **UNWTO Executive Council** will take place in Georgia as early as September 2020. The event will reinforce the worldwide image of Georgia as a safe and attractive tourism destination thanks to the broad international coverage of the event.

With this, let me express gratitude to all of you for your lasting support. We hope that this official message from the Georgian National Tourism Administration will help you resume your business and re-establish your cooperation with international partners. We are confident that with our joint efforts, we will be able to bring our tourism industry to fruition again.

Sincerely,

Head

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