

## [IDFI's Executive Director Selected as Member of the Open Government Partnership Steering Committee](#)



The selection committee had a challenging task of arriving from 29 accomplished and motivated civil society candidates to a shortlist of 10 candidates, striking a balance between individual experience and expertise, diversity, and regional balance vis-a-vis the composition of the Steering Committee as a whole.

Members of the selection committee consisted of two volunteers from the community, current members of the Steering Committee

and the Support Unit - [Undral Gombodorj](#) (Director, Democracy Education Center, Mongolia), [Laura Neuman](#) (Director, Global Access to Information Program, The Carter Center, United States), [Mukelani Dimba](#) (OGP Steering Committee), [Aidan Eyakuze](#) (OGP Steering Committee) and [Paul Maassen](#) (OGP Support Unit) - started the process by looking at the submitted paperwork to individually rank each of the candidates using three criteria: [leadership, working across stakeholders, and ability to read and represent the interests of civil society.](#)

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## [Civil Service Reform Continues with Delays](#)



The Georgian civil service reform is one of the most important reforms in the field of governance. In addition to being a crucial part of the Georgia - EU Association Agreement, the reform

represents a strategic goal of the Georgian Government's Four Point Plan. However, during the course of reforms, several challenges remain that could negatively affect its successful and effective implementation.

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## [Corruption Risks of the New Amendments Related to the National Bank of Georgia](#)



IDFI considers that adoption of amendments to the law threatens the principle of equal approach to the public institutions. The draft law creates an unequal approach to the members of the Board, and limits the application of the principle of openness and accountability on the governing councils/boards of public institutions. The amendments, negatively affect the prevention of corruption among high officials as well.

IDFI believes that without consultations with all interested parties the adoption of these amendments rules out the possibility to study the risks, and creates negative precedent. Consequently, IDFI calls on the parliament of Georgia not to adopt amendments to the Law on Conflict of Interest and Corruption without risk analysis and involvement

of all stakeholders. The parliament should ensure open and transparent process before adoption of the amendments that serves prevention and fighting corruption in the country.

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## [IDFI Held a Public Lecture on UN Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\) in Telavi](#)



IDFI Held a Public Lecture on UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Telavi. The lecture aimed to increase public awareness about UN SDGs. The event was held in Iakob Gogebashvili Telavi State University. Students, members of the academia, representatives of NGO's and local government attended the meeting.

During the lecture, IDFI analyst Mariam Tutberidze spoke about the [17 goals](#) of sustainable development, and the role each person must fulfill in order to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all. Ana Kvernadze from the Administration of the Government of Georgia informed the attendees about the objectives the government plans to achieve as part of this initiative.

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## [Is Law of Georgia on Occupied Territories Enforced?](#)

The Ministry also stated that it was unable to launch an investigation against Yuri Luzhkov because he had illegally visited occupied territories in 2010 and the 6 year limitation period had already passed by the time he visited Georgia in 2017.

The justification given by the Ministry of Internal Affairs about Luzhkov's case indicates that it either fails to keep the black list up to date, or does not have the political will or is otherwise unable to execute the Law on Occupied Territories.

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## [Why are Sustainable Development Goals Important?](#)



One of the frequent questions about the SDGs – why we need one more framework when there are international conventions, national level policies and strategies that address issues targeted in the 2030 Agenda. Despite the continuous dispute around the preceding Millennium Development Goals and whether they were feasible and relevant

for all countries (not just poorest), the important lesson learned derived from their implementation is that having time-bound, universal goals result in greater mobilization of the global community, strengthen collaboration and networking of stakeholders across the sectors, countries and regions, and promote innovation and sharing of expertise and best practices. Examples of impact of such mobilization of resources may include achievements in the health sector, such as reduction of child mortality and universal access to healthcare.

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## [IDFI Hosted Public Discussion on Internet Regulations](#)



On June 15, 2017, IDFI organized a workshop on the regulation of blocking, filtering and removal of online content. Representatives of the government, business, media and civil society attended the meeting.

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## Free Industrial Zones and Taxation Secret - Court of Appeals Decision on the Case IDFI vs. State Revenue Service



After conducting an in-depth analysis of the information requested by IDFI and carefully studying legislative acts regulating the topic, the court asserted that information on the inspection of the FIZ by the Revenue Service and relevant documents does not constitute tax secrecy; therefore, the Revenue Service was ordered to fully release the information requested by IDFI.

We hope that the Revenue Service will fully agree with the court's rationale on the subject and will disclose the information on the inspection of FIZ requested by IDFI in the nearest future.

[Learn more](#)

## Analysis of the Proposed Amendments to the Law of Georgia on Broadcasting



The Parliament of Georgia has recently starting working on amendments to the Law of Georgia on Broadcasting. According to the First Channel of the Georgian Public Broadcaster (GPB), the draft law has already been registered in the Parliament.

[Learn more](#)