

OPEN PARLIAMENT ACTION PLAN 2021-2022



PARLIAMENT OF GEORGIA



PERMANENT PARLIAMENTARY COUNCIL ON OPEN GOVERNANCE



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ON OPEN GOVERNANCE





Shalva Papuashvili

Chairperson of the Parliament of Georgia

Since its establishment, the activities of the Permanent Parliamentary Council on Open Governance have been aimed at developing a culture of openness in the Parliament of Georgia, increasing the transparency of parliamentary activities, facilitating access to parliamentary information, and promoting the involvement of citizens in the legislative process. The fact that Georgia was one of the first countries to develop and adopt the Open Parliament Action Plan in 2015 indicates that strengthening of the parliament in this regard is a priority.

Since then, our legislative body has come a long and difficult way and has made significant progress in improving open governance. One of the successful steps in this regard was the introduction of a new website of the Parliament of Georgia to the public in accordance with the commitment of the Third Action Plan of the Permanent Parliamentary Council on Open Governance. The new website allows interested parties to receive comprehensive information

about the activities of the Parliament, to involve in the legislative process, and to ensure that their interests are properly represented in the highest legislative body of the country. Members of the Parliament, Staff of the Parliament, and representatives of the international and local civil society were involved in development of the new website.

The Parliament of Georgia remains committed to democratic values through the development of the 2021-2022 Fourth Action Plan of the Permanent Parliamentary Council on Open Governance and continues to share the best practices of democratic countries and improve on the results achieved thus far.

Our goal is to make the Parliament more open, transparent, oriented on implementing new technologies, and accountable, which, ultimately, will be reflected in the well-being of our citizens.



Givi Mikanadze

**Chairperson of the Permanent
Parliamentary Council on Open
Governance**

In the modern era, a democratic state where a higher representative body is not accessible to the citizens is inconceivable. Openness, transparency, and accountability are the main principles of a government bearing great responsibility.

The Parliament of Georgia has taken important steps since 2015 to become more accessible, transparent, and accountable to its citizens while ensuring the involvement of civil society and each citizen in the decision-making process. Through the fourth Open Parliament Action Plan 2021-2022, the Permanent Parliamentary Council on Open Governance continues to improve on the results achieved through parliamentary oversight, access to information, citizen involvement, transparency in Parliament, parliamentary openness, and the legislative process. One of the important directions of the Council is to promote and monitor the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The role of the members of parliament as representatives of the people in developing policies that are citizen-oriented and tailored to their needs, in ensuring accountable, inclusive and transparent governance, which is a necessary precondition for the sustainable development of the country, is great.

Although the Covid-19 pandemic has posed particular challenges not only for us, but for some time around the world hampered the development of parliamentary openness, as a result of the reforms carried out within the framework of open government, citizens have opportunities to use the tools of digital democracy to continue to control the activities of the Parliament, to have access to public information, to participate in the decision-making process.

The Open Parliament Action Plan for 2021-2022 was developed in active cooperation with the civil sector, taking into account the current situation and the latest challenges. I believe our next steps will help strengthen the link between the public and the Parliament and make the work of the Parliament even more pluralistic, open, and participatory.

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1. SUPPORTING AND MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS) BY THE PARLIAMENT

1.1. Elaborating the 2022-2024 Parliament Action Plan for the Implementation and Monitoring of Sustainable Development Goals	
Lead Agency	Parliament of Georgia
Partner(s)	Public Institution
	Civil Society/International Organizations/Private Sector
Initiator	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Current Situation and Challenges	<p>In July 2019, the Bureau of the Parliament of Georgia approved the Parliament's 2019-2030 Strategy and 2019-2020 Action Plan for the Implementation and Monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals. The strategic document is based on the principle of Leave No One Behind and reflects the vision of the Parliament for achieving the SDGs in Georgia, as well as its role in this process. The strategy builds on the results of the Parliament's self-assessment conducted in June 2018, which identified the Parliament's capabilities and needs in meeting the SDGs.</p> <p>The strategy identified four main areas: Law-making, Budget Process, Oversight, and Citizen Engagement, and the two-year action plan contained four tasks and 29 actions. The period and parties responsible for the implementation of the plan - from both committees and staff - were identified.</p> <p>The strategy noted that the post-2020 action plans should be drafted by the Permanent Parliamentary Council on Open Governance in the following years.</p> <p>As of this date, only a part of the 2019-2020 Action Plan has been implemented. It is vital to carry out all remaining and relevant activities as well. In addition, in order to achieve the goals set by the strategy, it is recommended to develop a 2022-2024 action plan, which would describe the activities that have yet to be implemented, as well as measures identified to meet new needs.</p>
Main Objective	Involvement of the Parliament in the implementation and monitoring of the sustainable development agenda through an open, consultative, and participatory process
The Challenge Addressed by the Commitment	Improving Public Services

1.1. Elaborating the 2022-2024 Parliament Action Plan for the Implementation and Monitoring of Sustainable Development Goals

OGP Principles	Access to Information	Accountability	Citizen Engagement	Technologies and Innovation
		✓	✓	✓
Sustainable Development Goal Addressed by the Commitment	All (17) goals			
Milestones to Fulfil the Commitment	Participating in the Implementation	Start Date	End Date	Indicator
1. Analyze the implementation of the Action Plan of the Parliament for 2019-2020 for the Implementation and Monitoring of the SDGs	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Parliament of Georgia	08/2021	09/2021	The analysis of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Action Plan of the Parliament for 2019-2020 is completed
2. Based on this analysis, develop an Action Plan of the Parliament for the Implementation and Monitoring of the SDGs 2022-2024	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Parliament of Georgia	09/2021	12/2021	The Action Plan of the Parliament for the Implementation and Monitoring of the SDGs for 2022-2024 is elaborated
3. Implement the Action Plan of the Parliament for the Implementation and Monitoring of the SDGs for 2022-2024	Parliament of Georgia	01/2022	12/2022	At least 70% of the action plan is fulfilled

2. STRENGTHENING THE OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES OF THE PARLIAMENT

2.1. Strengthening the Capacity and Improving the Awareness of the Parliament Regarding State Debt				
Lead Agency	Parliament of Georgia			
Partner(s)	Public Institution			
	Civil Society/International Organizations/Private Sector		National Democratic Institute (NDI)	
Initiator	National Democratic Institute (NDI)			
Current Situation and Challenges	<p>During the COVID-19 pandemic, the volume of state debt, especially foreign debt, increased significantly. According to the state budget for 2021, the ratio of government debt to GDP was 60.1 percent, which exceeds the threshold allowed by the Organic Law of Georgia on Economic Freedom. As a comparison, the debt-to-GDP ratio before the pandemic was 41-42 percent.</p> <p>As of 2021, the total debt of the government is 32.1 billion GEL, of which 79 percent is foreign debt. In the 2021 state budget, the debt for 2021 alone is 5.3 billion GEL (the budget was set at 18 billion 400 million GEL).</p> <p>Given the current situation, it is important to strengthen the role and capacity of the Parliament in the process of state debt management, improve the access to debt-related information, and increase the transparency of the indicated data. In this process, first of all, it will be important to raise the awareness of the members of the Parliament of the tenth convocation and to strengthen their capacities in relation to the process of debt collection and control; Increase access to and transparency of the information related to the debt.</p>			
Main Objective	Strengthen the capacity of the Parliament in relation to state debt through awareness-raising and effective use of oversight mechanisms; Increase access to and transparency of state debt information.			
The Challenge Addressed by the Commitment	Transparency, accountability, access to information, improving citizen engagement			
OGP Principles	Access to Information	Accountability	Citizen Engagement	Technologies and Innovation
	✓	✓	✓	
Sustainable Development Goal Addressed by the Commitment	Goal 16			

2.1. Strengthening the Capacity and Improving the Awareness of the Parliament Regarding State Debt

Milestones to Fulfil the Commitment	Participating in the Implementation	Start Date	End Date	Indicator
1. Develop a guide on state debt-related processes	National Democratic Institute (NDI)	07/2021	02/2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A guide on state debt-related processes, which reviews the rules prescribed by various normative acts of Georgia in relation to state debt, the powers of the various actors involved in this process, including the Parliament, and the international standards on transparency and access to information on debt is developed by the National Democratic Institute (NDI) expert, in cooperation with relevant parties • The guide is shared with the Parliament and other target groups
2. Raise awareness of the members of Parliament, parliamentary staff, civil society, and other target groups on the processes related to state debt (trainings/information meetings, brochures)	National Democratic Institute (NDI), Parliament Training Center	2021 fall session	2022 spring session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A training module on state debt is created in cooperation with the Parliament Training Center • Trainings are conducted for members of the Parliament and staff • Information meetings are held for civil society, media, and other target groups • Brochures containing relevant information are prepared and disseminated
3. Hold annual public hearings on the topic of the state budget	Parliamentary Finance and Budget Committee, National Democratic Institute (NDI)	2021 fall session	2021 fall session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A plan for the public hearings process on the state budget is developed • Public hearings regarding the state budget is held (due to the pandemic, these hearings can be held online)

2.2. Cofidy the Obligation to Establish a Working Group on the Proposals of the Public Defender of Georgia and Define the Terms of Work of the Group

Lead Agency	Parliament of Georgia			
Partner(s)	Public Institution	Public Defender of Georgia		
	Civil Society/International Organizations/Private Sector			
Initiator	Public Defender of Georgia			
Current Situation and Challenges	According to the established practice of the recent years, in order to discuss the proposals of the Public Defender addressed to the Parliament and given in the annual report, a working group should be set up by a resolution of the Parliament, which is an individual legal act. However, this good practice is not reinforced by a legal document of a normative nature, and at the same time, the terms and deadlines for the establishment of the group, its work, and submission of a summary report to the Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights and Civil Integration, and its discussion timeframe by the committee are not specified.			
Main Objective	Guarantee the recent good practice through the statute of the Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights and Civil Integration, define the terms for the working group and the Committee on Human Rights and Civil Integration, make the process more organized, and increase its transparency and efficiency.			
The Challenge Addressed by the Commitment	Accountability; transparency.			
OGP Principles	Access to Information	Accountability	Citizen Engagement	Technologies and Innovation
		✓		
Sustainable Development Goal Addressed by the Commitment	Goal 16			
Milestones to Fulfil the Commitment	Participating in the Implementation	Start Date	End Date	Indicator
1. Prepare a draft amendment to the Statute of the Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights and Civil Integration regarding the proposals submitted by the Public Defender to the Parliament and present it during a session of the Committee	Public Defender of Georgia, Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights and Civil Integration	07/2021	09/2021	The project for the amendments to the Charter of the Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights and Civil Integration regarding the establishment of a working group on the proposals of the Public Defender to the Parliament is created and presented to the Committee hearing.

2.3. Increase the Role of the Parliament During a State of Emergency

Lead Agency	Parliament of Georgia			
Partner(s)	Public Institution			
	Civil Society/International Organizations/Private Sector		United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	
Initiator	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)			
Current Situation and Challenges	<p>The effective functioning of the Parliament of Georgia during a state of emergency is critical to maintain democratic processes in the country and to ensure transparency and accountability of the government activities. The role of the Parliament is further enhanced in parliamentary democracies, where the legislative body is endowed with broad legislative and oversight powers. The developments around COVID-19 have shown that, in order to fulfill the above functions, the Parliament needs appropriate regulatory framework/procedures to ensure that its work is unimpeded and it exercises its constitutional powers effectively under the state of emergency. At the same time, during a state of emergency, when the powers of the government can be significantly increased and the rights of citizens, as well as economic or other activities, can face restrictions, the role of the parliament is crucial in terms of both overseeing governmental decisions and ensuring transparency and accountability to citizens.</p>			
Main Objective	<p>During the state of emergency:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increasing the role of the Parliament in the process of eliminating existing threats and guaranting the unimpeded flow of its activities; 2. Effective oversight of the relevant activities of the government; 3. Ensuring the transparency and accountability of the parliamentary activities. 			
The Challenge Addressed by the Commitment	Improving public service			
OGP Principles	Access to Information	Accountability	Citizen Engagement	Technologies and Innovation
	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sustainable Development Goal Addressed by the Commitment	Goal 16			

2.3. Increase the Role of the Parliament During a State of Emergency

Milestones to Fulfil the Commitment	Participating in the Implementation	Start Date	End Date	Indicator
<p>1. In accordance with the international best practice, initiate amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Georgia to establish special procedures for the functioning of the Parliament during a state of emergency, including:</p> <p>(a) Allowing to conduct working processes remotely;</p> <p>(b) Establishing a special parliamentary oversight mechanism to activate during the state of emergency.</p>	UNDP, Parliament of Georgia	07/2021	12/2021	Amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament, which would define the special procedures for the functioning of the Parliament during a state of emergency, are initiated
<p>2. Develop a methodology/plan for the business continuity of the Parliament during a state of emergency (as well as in terms of the state of crisis)</p>	UNDP, Parliament of Georgia	07/2021	09/2021	The business continuity methodology/plan of the Parliament in a state of emergency (as well as in other crises) is developed.

3. IMPROVING ACCESS TO INFORMATION

3.1. Publishing the Opinions Received from Agencies/Stakeholders Regarding Draft Laws				
Lead Agency	Parliament of Georgia			
Partner(s)	Public Institution			
	Civil Society/International Organizations/Private Sector			
Initiator	Public Defender of Georgia			
Current Situation and Challenges	The information published in the files related to the draft law is substantial, but it does not include the written opinions/conclusions/proposals received by the Committee from the agencies/stakeholders regarding the draft law.			
Main Objective	Accumulate and publish information on the written opinions/conclusions/proposals sent by the agencies/stakeholders to the Parliament on the draft laws in a single space on the website			
The Challenge Addressed by the Commitment	Transparency			
OGP Principles	Access to Information	Accountability	Citizen Engagement	Technologies and Innovation
	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sustainable Development Goal Addressed by the Commitment	Goal 16			
Milestones to Fulfil the Commitment	Participating in the Implementation	Start Date	End Date	Indicator
1. Begin the publication of official expert opinions/conclusions/proposals received by the committees from the agencies/stakeholders in the files related to draft laws (subject to exceptions/limitations prescribed by the law), except those of private content and character submitted to the committee in relation to the draft laws or the issues subject to regulation by draft laws.	Staff of the Parliament	12/2021	Continuous	Publication of written opinions/conclusions/proposals received by committees from agencies/stakeholders in the files related to draft laws are initiated and continues

3.2. Publishing the Responses of the Agencies to the Reports of the Public Defender of Georgia/ Relevant Parliamentary Resolutions

Lead Agency	Parliament of Georgia			
Partner(s)	Public Institution			
	Civil Society/International Organizations/Private Sector			
Initiator	Public Defender of Georgia			
Current Situation and Challenges	The procedures for hearing the report of the Public Defender in the Parliament, envisages preparation of the opinions of the agencies in 2 stages and sharing with the Committee on Human Rights and Civil Integration: 1) the positions of the agencies regarding the information and recommendations reflected in the parliamentary report itself (including whether they agree with the recommendations or not); 2) provision of information by the agencies to the Committee on the fulfillment of the tasks reflected in the resolution following the adoption of the resolution regarding the report of the Public Defender by the Parliament. These materials contain extremely important information on vital human rights issues in the country but, unlike the report of the Public Defender, they are not published.			
Main Objective	Ensuring that the mentioned information (responses of agencies) is available to all stakeholders, including civil society organizations working on the issue in question, by publishing the information on the Parliament's website.			
The Challenge Addressed by the Commitment	Accountability; transparency.			
OGP Principles	Access to Information	Accountability	Citizen Engagement	Technologies and Innovation
	✓			✓
Sustainable Development Goal Addressed by the Commitment	Goal 16			
Milestones to Fulfil the Commitment	Participating in the Implementation	Start Date	End Date	Indicator
1. Prepare amendments to the charter of the Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights and Civil Integration on the obligation to publish the responses of the agencies, and submit them to the Committee sitting for approval	Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights and Civil Integration	07/2021	09/2021	Amendments to the statute of the Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights and Civil Integration on the obligation to publish the responses of the agencies are prepared and presented during a sitting of the Committee

3.3. Ensuring the Transparency of the Activities of Working Groups Established within Parliamentary Committees

Lead Agency	Parliament of Georgia	
Partner(s)	Public Institution	
	Civil Society/International Organizations/Private Sector	Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI)
Initiator	Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI)	
Current Situation and Challenges	<p>The Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Georgia provide for the establishment of working groups of the Committee to facilitate the work of the Committee of the Parliament of Georgia, to prepare to address legislative and other current issues, although the rules, structure, topics, terms of the work process, goals, and obligation to publish the results produced by the working group are not regulated at this stage. Consequently, the working group meetings held to discuss specific legislative initiatives or amendments largely carry an internal, less formal character. As a result, the information about the discussions is not systematically gathered and there is a lack of awareness about the nature of such meetings and the steps taken towards addressing the issues under consideration. The information on the meetings can be reflected in the Committee Report. However, this does not ensure the organized nature of the working group, the transparency of the process, and does not ensure the possibility to evaluate the ongoing discussions around the draft laws or other documents.</p> <p>To ensure transparency of the activities of the working groups set up within the parliamentary format (with the involvement of the executive branch, civil society, and other stakeholders), it is advisable to issue the decisions on the establishment of such working groups and proactively publish them.</p> <p>The decision should define the purpose of the working group, the issues it is going to address, and the information about the persons involved in the working group. In case the working group meetings are of public nature (i.e. they are not closed at the request of the executive, civil society, or stakeholder) the minutes of the meeting and/or the audio recording of the meeting describing the topic of the discussion in the working format, the discussion held and the agreed positions, will be prepared and published on a corresponding page of the relevant committee of the website of the Parliament after the meeting,</p>	
Main Objective	Improving the efficiency, openness, and transparency of the Parliament and promoting the involvement of citizens in the oversight activities conducted by the Parliament	
The Challenge Addressed by the Commitment	Improving citizen engagement	

3.3. Ensuring the Transparency of the Activities of Working Groups Established within Parliamentary Committees

OGP Principles	Access to Information	Accountability	Citizen Engagement	Technologies and Innovation
	✓	✓	✓	
Sustainable Development Goal Addressed by the Commitment	Goals 16 and 17			
Milestones to Fulfil the Commitment	Participating in the Implementation	Start Date	End Date	Indicator
1. Elaborate the amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Georgia (Article 46) regarding the preparation and publication of a committee decision on the establishment of a working group of the committee, the timeline and the objectives of the work process, the compilation of working group statistics and proactive publication of the minutes/audio recordings of the public meetings of the working groups	Parliament of Georgia, Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI)	07/2021	02/2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A draft amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Georgia (Article 46) is developed • The draft amendment to the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Georgia (Article 46) is initiated
2. Proactive publication of the decisions (if any) of a committee on the establishment of a working group (which is of a public nature); Compilation and proactive publication of working group meeting statistics; Proactive publication of the minutes of public meetings of the working groups.	Parliament of Georgia, Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI)	10/2021	06/2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publication of committee decisions on the establishment of working groups has begun • Statistics on working group meetings are being produced and published proactively • Minutes of the meetings of public nature are published proactively

3.4. Introducing Deadlines for the Publication of the Minutes of the Meetings of Parliamentary Committees on the Website

Lead Agency	Parliament of Georgia			
Partner(s)	Public Institution			
	Civil Society/International Organizations/Private Sector			
Initiator	Public Defender of Georgia			
Current Situation and Challenges	The minutes of the sittings of the committees are usually published on the website of the Parliament. The practice, however, varies greatly from committee to committee. In some cases, the publication of the protocols on the website may take up to several months.			
Main Objective	Definition of a certain term by the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Georgia for the publication of the minutes of committee meetings, which will facilitate public access and increase transparency.			
The Challenge Addressed by the Commitment	Accountability; transparency			
OGP Principles	Access to Information	Accountability	Citizen Engagement	Technologies and Innovation
	✓	✓		✓
Sustainable Development Goal Addressed by the Commitment	Goal 16			
Milestones to Fulfil the Commitment	Participating in the Implementation	Start Date	End Date	Indicator
1. Elaborate and initiate a draft amendment to the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament to reflect the obligation to publish the minutes of the meetings of Parliamentary Committees within a specified period of time	Parliamentary Committee on Procedural Issues and Rules	09/2021	12/2021	A draft amendment to the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Georgia to reflect the obligation to publish the minutes of the meetings of Parliamentary Committees within 14 working days, is elaborated and initiated



3.5. Publishing Audio Recordings of the Meetings of Parliamentary Committees Related to Draft Laws				
Lead Agency	Parliament of Georgia			
Partner(s)	Public Institution		Public Defender of Georgia	
	Civil Society/International Organizations/Private Sector		Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI)	
Initiator	Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI); Public Defender of Georgia.			
Current Situation and Challenges	The Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Georgia provide for the publication of only the transcript of the plenary session and the bureau sitting. The minutes of the meeting drawn up after a committee discussion are general and do not describe in detail the problematic aspects revealed through the discussions during the committee hearings or during the submission of a specific bill. Although bills are often discussed in more depth at committee sittings, their audio recordings are not permanently posted on the website, which prevents a full understanding of the legislative process to the public. It should be noted that the sittings of the committees are broadcast live, although the record is only available for a certain period of time on the website of the Parliament; There is no archive of audio recordings of committee sitting, which is one of the problems in the analysis of a particular bill in terms of an in-depth study of the opinions and arguments expressed during its consideration.			
Main Objective	Improving the efficiency, openness, and transparency of the Parliament and improving the mechanisms for the involvement of civil society in legislative processes			
The Challenge Addressed by the Commitment	Transparency, improving citizen engagement.			
OGP Principles	Access to Information	Accountability	Citizen Engagement	Technologies and Innovation
	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sustainable Development Goal Addressed by the Commitment	Goals 16 and 17			

3.5. Publishing Audio Recordings of the Meetings of Parliamentary Committees Related to Draft Laws

Milestones to Fulfil the Commitment	Participating in the Implementation	Start Date	End Date	Indicator
1. Amendments to the Order of the Chairperson of the Parliament "On the Rules for Proactive Publication of Public Information and the Approval of the Standard for Requesting Public Information in Electronic Form" regarding the proactive publication of the recordings of committee discussions/hearings	Parliament of Georgia, Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI)	09/2021	12/2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amendments to the Order of the Chairperson of the Parliament of Georgia "On the Rules for Proactive Publication of Public Information and the Approval of the Standard for Requesting Public Information in Electronic Form" is elaborated • Amendments are made to the Order of the Chairperson of the Parliament of Georgia "On the Rules for Proactive Publication of Public Information and the Approval of the Standard for Requesting Public Information in Electronic Form"
2. Proactive publication of committee hearings and creation of an archive using the Parliament website or other electronic sources obtained as a result of a survey	Parliament of Georgia, Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI)	09/2021	02/2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A survey to introduce an optimal temporary/permanent mechanism for the publication of audio recordings of committee hearings is conducted • Audio recordings of the committee sittings are being published



3.6. Publishing the Reports from the Government’s Health Programs Oversight Platform on the Parliament Website				
Lead Agency	Parliament of Georgia			
Partner(s)	Public Institution			
	Civil Society/International Organizations/Private Sector		United States Agency for International Development/Good Governance Initiative (USAID/GGI)	
Initiator	United States Agency for International Development/Good Governance Initiative (USAID/GGI)			
Current Situation and Challenges	<p>As a result of intensive work with the Healthcare and Social Issues Committee of the Parliament of Georgia and with the support of the United States Agency for International Development/Good Governance Initiative USAID/GGI, an electronic public health program monitoring and evaluation platform has been established. The aim of the platform is to strengthen the Parliament in the direction of analyzing and evaluating government program expenditure.</p> <p>The platform helps the Committee to introduce innovative standards of fact-based monitoring and evaluation, through which the Committee will be able to routinely update data and evaluate programs.</p> <p>The analytical electronic platform has the capacity of data processing in many ways and present them with simplified visualizations. This platform helps Parliament carry out effective committee oversight activities and make the mechanism for monitoring government programs accessible to all stakeholders.</p> <p>Providing public access to periodic reports created using the government oversight and monitoring electronic tool for public health programs will help ensure openness and transparency of information on the Parliament’s website and enable the Parliament to provide the general public with the latest information regarding its oversight activities.</p>			
Main Objective	Ensuring public access to periodic reports created by means of the electronic tool for monitoring government health programs through publication on the Parliament website			
The Challenge Addressed by the Commitment	Technologies and Innovation, improving citizen engagement, access to information, accountability			
OGP Principles	Access to Information	Accountability	Citizen Engagement	Technologies and Innovation
	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sustainable Development Goal Addressed by the Commitment	Goal 16			
Milestones to Fulfil the Commitment	Participating in the Implementation	Start Date	End Date	Indicator
1. Publication of the reports of the online platform for oversight of government health programs on the website of the Parliament	Staff of the Parliament, United States Agency for International Development/Good Governance Initiative (USAID/GGI)	09/2021	12/2021	Customer-friendly online monitoring platform reports with relevant visualization are published on the website of the Parliament

3.7. Conducting an Information Campaign Regarding the New Website of the Parliament

Lead Agency	Parliament of Georgia			
Partner(s)	Public Institution			
	Civil Society/International Organizations/Private Sector		United States Agency for International Development/Good Governance Initiative (USAID/GGI)	
Initiator	United States Agency for International Development/Good Governance Initiative (USAID/GGI)			
Current Situation and Challenges	<p>Following the launch of the new website of the Parliament in test mode, it is necessary to launch an internal and external information campaign regarding the website. With the launch of the new website, new electronic services of public involvement will emerge, and timely and effective delivery of which will require informing the representatives of the parliamentary committees and relevant departments.</p> <p>It is also important to inform the external audience about the information and services available through the new website. As a result of the planning and implementation of the information campaign, the new website of the Parliament will ensure the involvement of citizens and provide opportunities to receive feedback.</p>			
Main Objective	Conduct an information campaign regarding the new website			
The Challenge Addressed by the Commitment	Access to Information, accountability, improving citizen engagement, technologies and innovation			
OGP Principles	Access to Information	Accountability	Citizen Engagement	Technologies and Innovation
	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sustainable Development Goal Addressed by the Commitment	Goal 16			
Milestones to Fulfil the Commitment	Participating in the Implementation	Start Date	End Date	Indicator
1. Conduct an information campaign regarding the new website of the Parliament	United States Agency for International Development/ Good Governance Initiative (USAID/ GGI), Parliament of Georgia	09/2021	12/2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal and external information campaigns regarding the new website are conducted The staff of the Parliament are informed regarding the services of the new website

3.8. Proactively Disclosing Information on Parliamentary Control Mechanisms

Lead Agency	Parliament of Georgia	
Partner(s)	Public Institution	
	Civil Society/International Organizations/Private Sector	Transparency International - Georgia (TI-G); Georgian Young Lawyers Association (GYLA).
Initiator	Transparency International - Georgia (TI-G); Georgian Young Lawyers Association (GYLA).	
Current Situation and Challenges	<p>The Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Georgia define several oversight mechanisms, the effective implementation of which depends on the transparency of the implementation process and outcomes. In 2020, the updated official website of the Parliament of Georgia was launched, with improvements in terms of transparency of information related to parliamentary activities. As of now, information on certain oversight mechanisms is published on the website of the Parliament. A separate column within the new website was devoted to oversight. However, the separate graphs of the control mechanisms included in it are not filled out or provide incomplete data. At this stage, the website is running in test mode, and after launching the final version, it is important for it to be fully informative and all the graphs to be filled. Therefore, in relation to parliamentary control, it is advisable to have in detail the following information posted on the website in the parliamentary control module:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Details should be provided regarding the questions of an MP, in particular: the current system uploads questions and the answers received, but the system perceives a letter requesting the addressee to extend the deadline for answering as a response. The request for an extension of the term should be separated from other answers in the system with a corresponding notation and placed in a separate field; • Audio recordings of the ministers' reports and Q&A, as well as a schedule defined by the Bureau, including amendments to it, should be published in the module on the Minister's Hour. • In case an official accountable to the Parliament is invited to the plenary and committee hearings, or comes on his/her own initiative, the document reflecting the decision/request to summon the official should be additionally indicated and the audio recording of the hearing should be published. • In case an official is invited to the sitting of the committee, the date of attendance at the committee should be posted additionally on the website, while in case of absence, the answer/letter of the accountable person (if any) should be posted; • In case a hearing of a report is postponed, relevant information should be placed in the module for hearing the reports of other bodies accountable to the Parliament; • The public funds management control module should include reports, including committee conclusions regarding the draft budget and annual/quarterly budget spending reports; • The defense and security sector control module should include the following information: number of meetings held by a Trust Group, number of reports submitted, number of information submitted on secret procurement with reference to the structural entities; 	

3.8. Proactively Disclosing Information on Parliamentary Control Mechanisms

Current Situation and Challenges	<p>The following should also be published on the website:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letters by committees requesting information and responses received from corresponding authorities in accordance with Article 41 of the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Georgia; • A written report prepared by the thematic speaker of a committee (Art. 45 of the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Georgia) or an audio recording of the report submitted to the committee hearing; • A written version of the Prime Minister's report on the implementation of a government program by the government, the report itself and an audio recording or transcript of the subsequent discussion. • A complete record of questions sent by interpellation and the written answers received, and the complete record of the plenary session of the Parliament; • Written version of the public part of reports of the State Security Service, a record of its presentation to the plenary session, including questions and answers, and a resolution adopted by Parliament. 			
Main Objective	Proactive disclosure of information on parliamentary control mechanisms			
The Challenge Addressed by the Commitment	Improving the efficiency, accountability, openness, and transparency of the Parliament and promoting the involvement of citizens in the oversight functions of the Parliament			
OGP Principles	Access to Information	Accountability	Citizen Engagement	Technologies and Innovation
	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sustainable Development Goal Addressed by the Commitment	Goal 16			
Milestones to Fulfil the Commitment	Participating in the Implementation	Start Date	End Date	Indicator
1. The working group discusses the new module of parliamentary control and its connection to the main page of the parliament	Parliament of Georgia, Transparency International - Georgia (TI-G), Georgian Young Lawyers Association (GYLA)	07/2021	12/2021	A working group meeting on the technical details of the new module are held
2. The working group presents the outline of the new module to the Permanent Parliamentary Council on Open Governance for consideration.	Parliament of Georgia, Transparency International - Georgia (TI-G), Georgian Young Lawyers Association (GYLA)	07/2021	12/2021	The new module is discussed by the Council
3. Integrating the new module into the website of the Parliament of Georgia	Parliament of Georgia	2021	2021	The new module is integrated into the website of the Parliament of Georgia

4. ENSURING CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT

4.1. Strengthening Citizen Engagement in Parliamentary Activities

Lead Agency	Parliament of Georgia	
Partner(s)	Public Institution	
	Civil Society/International Organizations/ Private Sector	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI); United States Agency for International Development/Good Governance Initiative (USAID/GGI).
Initiator	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI); United States Agency for International Development/Good Governance Initiative (USAID/GGI).	
Current Situation and Challenges	<p>Within the framework of the Open Parliament Action Plan for 2018-2019, a Citizen Engagement Center has been established in the Parliament of Georgia that, based on the approved concept, offers completely novel services to citizens. These include services to ensure direct participation in parliamentary life, as well as services to get acquainted with the activities of the parliament and receive current news.</p> <p>Through affordable and quality service, the Citizen Engagement Center should ensure citizen engagement in the activities of the legislative body and discussions of current issues and facilitate effective cooperation between citizens and the structural units of the Parliament.</p> <p>To ensure effective work, the Citizen Engagement Center currently requires a long-term development strategy and an action plan (for a period of 2 years) accompanied by a mechanism for monitoring the implementation of the plan. The long-term strategy and action plan will lay the foundation for the effectiveness of the activities, enable the Center to analyze the human and infrastructural resources required for the activities outlined in the action plan, and clarify the long-term development vision of the Center, which is essential for sustainable development.</p> <p>In addition, the staff of the Parliament do not have up-to-date/complete information on the mechanisms of citizen involvement in parliamentary activities and are not properly informed about the uses of electronic mechanisms of the Parliament.</p> <p>With the goal of increasing citizen involvement in parliamentary activities, within the framework of the European Union (EU) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) project - "Consolidation of Parliamentary Democracy in Georgia" - the Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI) will conduct a study on the mechanisms for citizen involvement in parliamentary activities and their effectiveness. The study will identify the challenges related to the parliamentary engagement mechanisms and will analyze ways to address them. This study will be important for the effective functioning of the Citizen Engagement Center of the Parliament of Georgia and for facilitating communication between the Parliament of Georgia and the citizens.</p> <p>The Citizen Engagement Center of the Parliament will start functioning this year, which will greatly alleviate the overburdening of the organizational department of the Parliament. The concept of the Citizen Engagement Center envisages the provision of various services to citizens, and it is therefore important that the citizens' reception staff have complete and up-to-date information on the possibilities of citizen involvement in parliamentary activities.</p>	

4.1. Strengthening Citizen Engagement in Parliamentary Activities

Current Situation and Challenges	<p>Increasing the efficiency of the activities of the bureaus of the majoritarian members of the Parliament, along with the lack of awareness of the employees of the bureaus regarding the participation of the citizens in the parliamentary activities, is still a big challenge. Raising the awareness of the staff of the bureaus and the voters of the respective constituency is one of the important directions of the renewed civil reception of the Parliament, the implementation of which requires significant human and financial resources. In accordance with the concept of the Citizen Engagement Center, plans include assigning a person responsible for raising the awareness among majoritarian bureaus from the Engagement Center, all with the ultimate goal of raising the awareness of citizens. In order to facilitate the proper functioning of the Engagement Center, it is necessary to prepare an information-training course on the mechanisms of engagement in parliamentary activities and to train the staff of the bureaus. The introduction of the training course will increase the efficiency of the activities of the bureaus along with facilitating the involvement of the bureaus in parliamentary activities and the monitoring of their activities. At the same time, the training course serves to raise the awareness of the population of a particular constituency about the avenues of involvement in parliamentary activities and will facilitate the rapid and effective work of the Citizen Engagement Center of the Parliament.</p> <p>Conducting an information campaign in the respective constituency of a particular bureau will be aimed at raising public awareness in order to facilitate engagement in parliamentary activities. This campaign, on the one hand, will popularize the goals of the Parliament and, on the other hand, will increase the involvement of the population in parliamentary activities.</p>			
Main Objective	<p>Develop a long-term strategic development vision and action plan for the Citizen Engagement Center in order to ensure the sustainable development of the Center, to guarantee effective results, and to establish a systemic mechanism for the involvement of citizens in parliamentary life. Promoting the awareness of parliamentary staff and the involvement of civil society in parliamentary activities.</p>			
The Challenge Addressed by the Commitment	<p>Transparency, accountability, improving citizen engagement, access to information, technologies and innovation</p>			
OGP Principles	Access to Information	Accountability	Citizen Engagement	Technologies and Innovation
	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sustainable Development Goal Addressed by the Commitment	Goals 16 and 17.			
Milestones to Fulfil the Commitment	Participating in the Implementation	Start Date	End Date	Indicator
1. Conduct a study on the mechanisms of citizen involvement in parliamentary activities and their effectiveness	UNDP, Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI)	07/2021	10/2021	The study is conducted
2. Elaborate the strategy and action plan of the Citizen Engagement Center based on the results of the research study	United States Agency for International Development/Good Governance Initiative (USAID/GGI) and the Parliament of Georgia	10/2021	12/2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A consulting firm is hired • A long-term strategic development document for the Citizen Engagement Center is elaborated • A 2021-2022 action plan of the Citizen Engagement Center is developed

4.1. Strengthening Citizen Engagement in Parliamentary Activities

<p>3. Develop a guide for the staff of the Parliament regarding, among others, the Citizen Engagement Center, the mechanisms for citizen involvement in parliamentary activities/electronic services</p>	<p>Parliament of Georgia, Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI)</p>	<p>10/2021</p>	<p>06/2022</p>	<p>A guide for the staff of the Parliament, including the staff of the Citizen Engagement Center on the mechanisms for citizen involvement in parliamentary activities/effective use of electronic services is developed</p>
<p>4. Train the staff of the Parliament, including the Citizen Engagement Center, on the topic of effective use of opportunities for participation in parliamentary activities/effective use of electronic services</p>	<p>Parliament of Georgia, Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI)</p>	<p>04/2022</p>	<p>10/2022</p>	<p>The training of the staff of the Parliament, including the staff of the Citizen Engagement Center, is completed</p>
<p>5. Develop distance online training program modules for the staff of the bureaus of majoritarian members of Parliament in the following areas: a) Standards for communication with citizens; b) Mechanisms for ensuring parliamentary openness and principles for their implementation.</p>	<p>Parliament of Georgia, Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI)</p>	<p>04/2022</p>	<p>10/2022</p>	<p>Corresponding distance online training modules is developed for the staff of the bureaus of majoritarian members of the Parliament</p>
<p>6. Conduct an information campaign for the constituents of the majoritarian members of Parliament regarding the role and powers of the bureau of a majoritarian member</p>	<p>Parliament of Georgia, Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI)</p>	<p>02/2022</p>	<p>06/2022</p>	<p>Information on avenues of involvement in parliamentary activities including through the bureaus of majoritarian members of Parliament is provided to citizens through easy-to-understand information brochures</p>

4.2. Raising Citizen Awareness Regarding New Legislation

Lead Agency	Parliament of Georgia			
Partner(s)	Public Institution			
	Civil Society/International Organizations/Private Sector		United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	
Initiator	Parliamentary Committee on Education and Science; United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).			
Current Situation and Challenges	<p>Through its involvement in the OGP initiative, the Parliament of Georgia has introduced a number of mechanisms to increase the openness and transparency of the legislative body. Commenting on a bill, submitting a petition, collecting signatures for a legislative initiative, including in electronic form - these and other mechanisms facilitate the participation of citizens in the legislative process.</p> <p>Nevertheless, information about laws adopted by Parliament is not widespread among citizens. This is often due to the complex language of the law, which may only be understood by lawyers and/or field experts. In some cases, the law is also misinterpreted and disseminated in this way in the society.</p> <p>The aim of the presented initiative is to inform the citizens about the new legislation. In particular, the relevant parliamentary committee in cooperation with the Public Relations and Information Department, shall prepare a brief information digest about the newly-adopted law, as well as amendments to the law. The information about the essence and purpose of the new legislation shall be presented and posted on the Parliament's website in simple and easy-to-understand language.</p> <p>Preparing an information leaflet on amendments to the law/new laws and sharing it with the public will help individual citizens or different interest groups to better understand the essence of the law and how it affects them, their activities, and their daily lives.</p>			
Main Objective	Raising the awareness of citizens on the topic of new legislation adopted by the Parliament of Georgia and facilitating their involvement in the legislative process			
The Challenge Addressed by the Commitment	Improving public service			
OGP Principles	Access to Information	Accountability	Citizen Engagement	Technologies and Innovation
	✓	✓	✓	
Sustainable Development Goal Addressed by the Commitment	Goal 16			

4.2. Raising Citizen Awareness Regarding New Legislation

Milestones to Fulfil the Commitment	Participating in the Implementation	Start Date	End Date	Indicator
<p>1. Establish a working group within the Permanent Parliamentary Council for Open Governance, which will be tasked with:</p> <p>(a) Development of a unified format/standard of the information leaflet on adopted laws;</p> <p>(b) Determining the type of bills (amendments to the law) on which such an information leaflet should be prepared.</p>	Parliamentary Committee on Education and Science, UNDP	07/2021	10/2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The unified format/standard of the information leaflet is developed • The type of amendments to the law on which an information leaflet should be prepared is determined
2. Training of the staff of the Committees and the Public Relations Department in information leaflet preparation techniques	Parliament Training Center, UNDP	11/2021	01/2022	The staff of the Committees and the Public Relations Department have the relevant skills to prepare a brief information leaflet on the amendments to the law/new laws in accordance with the established standard
3. Preparation of information leaflet on laws/amendments adopted by the Parliament and posting on the Parliament's website on a pilot basis (by at least 5 committees)	Parliamentary Committees	2022	2022	The information leaflet on laws/amendments adopted by the Parliament is being prepared and posted on the Parliament's website on a pilot basis (by at least 5 committees)

5. IMPROVING THE TRANSPARENCY OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE PARLIAMENT

5.1. Improving the Structure of the Annual Reports of the Parliament				
Lead Agency	Parliament of Georgia			
Partner(s)	Public Institution			
	Civil Society/International Organizations/Private Sector		Transparency International – Georgia (TI-G)	
Initiator	Transparency International – Georgia (TI-G)			
Current Situation and Challenges	<p>In 2019, within the framework of the Action Plan of the Permanent Parliamentary Council for Open Government, the Parliament developed a unified form for the Parliament’s annual report and committee reports.</p> <p>For transparency, accountability, and visibility of specific data, it is advisable that the annual report of the Parliament also include the information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On the participation in hearings of persons accountable in the framework of committee meetings; • On cooperation with international and local experts, organizations (indicating the relevant issue or initiative within the framework of cooperation); • On the composition of advisory board/boards and the activities carried out; • On discovered cases of ethical misconduct (if any). <p>As for the form of committees’ reports, it is advisable to include the information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On summoning the accountable persons to the meeting of a committee (including the specific reason for non-appearance of the accountable persons). • On the composition of the advisory board and its activities. 			
Main Objective	Improving the quality of accountability			
The Challenge Addressed by the Commitment	Accountability, transparency			
OGP Principles	Access to Information	Accountability	Citizen Engagement	Technologies and Innovation
	✓	✓	✓	
Sustainable Development Goal Addressed by the Commitment	Goal 16			

5.1. Improving the Structure of the Annual Reports of the Parliament

Milestones to Fulfil the Commitment	Participating in the Implementation	Start Date	End Date	Indicator
1. Preparation of amendments to the annual report of the Parliament and the report forms of the committees by a working group	Parliament of Georgia, Transparency International – Georgia (TI-G)	2021	2021	A meeting of the working group is held
2. Submission of the package of changes prepared by the working group to the Permanent Parliamentary Council on Open Governance	Parliament of Georgia, Transparency International – Georgia (TI-G)	2021	2021	The recommendations are discussed by the Permanent Parliamentary Council on Open Governance
3. Submission of the new forms for annual reports of the Parliament and reports of the committees to the Bureau of the Parliament for approval	Parliament of Georgia	2021	2021	The new forms are submitted to the Bureau of the Parliament for approval

5.2. Improving the Effectiveness of the Ethics Council of the Parliament of Georgia

Lead Agency	Parliament of Georgia			
Partner(s)	Public Institution			
	Civil Society/International Organizations/Private Sector		National Democratic Institute (NDI)	
Initiator	National Democratic Institute (NDI)			
Current Situation and Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In February 2019, the Parliament of Georgia adopted the Code of Ethics for Members of Parliament; • In June 2019, the Parliament approved the composition of the Ethics Council; • In November 2019, the Board Charter and other special forms were approved, such as: Gift Registry Form, Complaint Form, Conflict of Interests Form; • Several members resigned from the council in November 2019 as a result of political processes; • In January 2020, political factions nominated new council members; • The composition of the Ethics Council did not have elected co-chairs in the Parliament of the 9th convocation, and consequently the Council could not perform its functions - it did not receive complaints, review, monitor the implementation of the Code of Ethics and ensure its implementation. 			
Main Objective	Ensure the effective functioning of the Ethics Council so that the Council guarantees adherence by members of Parliament to the high ethical standards of conduct set forth in the Code of Ethics, as well as promoting public confidence in the Parliament of Georgia, ensuring the performance of his or her duties by a member of Parliament in a dignified and conscientious manner, protecting a member's reputation, honor, and dignity.			
The Challenge Addressed by the Commitment	Raising good faith in the public sector			
OGP Principles	Access to Information	Accountability	Citizen Engagement	Technologies and Innovation
		✓		
Sustainable Development Goal Addressed by the Commitment	Goal 16			

5.2. Improving the Effectiveness of the Ethics Council of the Parliament of Georgia

Milestones to Fulfil the Commitment	Participating in the Implementation	Start Date	End Date	Indicator
1. Raise awareness of the members of the Ethics Council on the rules of ethics established by national legislation and international standards and the work of the Ethics Council	Parliament Training Center, National Democratic Institute (NDI)	2021 fall session	2021 fall session	The trainings on the rules of ethics established by national legislation and international standards and the work of the Ethics Council for its members are conducted
2. Raise awareness of the members of parliament and staff about the rules of ethics established by national law and international standards and the work of the Ethics Council	Parliament Training Center, National Democratic Institute (NDI)	2021 fall session	2022 spring session	The trainings on the rules of ethics established by national legislation and international standards and the work of the Ethics Council for members of parliament and staff are conducted
3. Provide access to information on grievance redress procedures on the Parliament website (electronic grievance form and grievance procedures are readily available on the Parliament’s website)	Parliament of Georgia	2021 fall session	2021 fall session	Information on grievance procedures with the Ethics Council and the electronic grievance form are available on the Parliament’s website
4. Raise citizen awareness of the rules established by the Code of Ethics and the work of the Ethics Council (information meetings, brochures, infographics, social media campaigns)	Parliament of Georgia, National Democratic Institute (NDI)	2021 fall session	2022 spring session	Information meetings to raise citizen awareness on the rules established by the Code of Ethics and the work of the Ethics Council are held, social media campaigns are conducted, brochures and infographics are prepared

6. IMPROVING PARLIAMENTARY OPENNESS

6.1. Annual Conference on Topical Issues of the Parliamentary Openness				
Lead Agency	Parliament of Georgia			
Partner(s)	Public Institution			
	Civil Society/International Organizations/Private Sector		German Federal Enterprise for International Cooperation (GIZ)	
Initiator	German Federal Enterprise for International Cooperation (GIZ)			
Current Situation and Challenges	<p>Since 2015, the Parliament of Georgia has implemented many important initiatives within the framework of parliamentary openness. It is important to establish an annual scientific conference to promote parliamentary openness, hosted by the Parliament of Georgia, and thus encourage dialogue on parliamentary activities with academia, think tanks, and political foundations across the country along with a new understanding of parliamentary openness. The conference will contribute to the emergence of new ideas and initiatives to improve the work of the Parliament and will encourage research or empirical observations on various issues. This will ultimately have an impact on decision-making based on research.</p> <p>Holding an annual conference on the issues of Parliament openness requires:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a conference concept ; • Institutionalization of the conference format ; • Holding the first annual conference. 			
Main Objective	Improving citizen engagement and the quality of accountability			
The Challenge Addressed by the Commitment	Transparency, Accountability			
OGP Principles	Access to Information	Accountability	Citizen Engagement	Technologies and Innovation
	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sustainable Development Goal Addressed by the Commitment	Goal 16, subgoals 16.6 and 16.7			



6.1. Annual Conference on Topical Issues of the Parliamentary Openness

Milestones to Fulfil the Commitment	Participating in the Implementation	Start Date	End Date	Indicator
1. Develop the concept for the annual conference	Parliament of Georgia, German Federal Enterprise for International Cooperation (GIZ)	2021	2021	The concept for the conference has been developed
2. Hold the conference	Parliament of Georgia, German Federal Enterprise for International Cooperation (GIZ)	2022	2022	The first annual conference has been held
3. Institutionalization of the format of the conference	Parliament of Georgia, German Federal Enterprise for International Cooperation (GIZ)	2022	2022	The annual conference of the Parliament has been institutionalized

6.2. Strengthening Regional Cooperation in the Framework of the Parliamentary Openness Initiative in Eastern Partnership Countries

Lead Agency	Parliament of Georgia	
Partner(s)	Public Institution	
	Civil Society/International Organizations/Private Sector	German Federal Enterprise for International Cooperation (GIZ)
Initiator	German Federal Enterprise for International Cooperation (GIZ)	
Current Situation and Challenges	<p>Since 2015, the Parliament of Georgia has implemented many important initiatives in terms of parliamentary openness. In 2019, with the OGP celebrating its 10th anniversary, the European Commission conducted an extensive and inclusive consultation to identify future policy objectives, setting out 5 policy objectives after 2020. In general, there is a consensus that the Eastern Partnership is strong and brings real benefits to the daily lives of citizens across the region. The EU pays particular attention to strengthening the principles of open governance in the Eastern Partnership countries and promotes a number of initiatives to this end. The aspirations and challenges facing the Eastern Partnership countries are similar. Georgia plays a leading role in the implementation of reforms among Eastern Partnership countries. Parliamentary institutional cooperation and sharing of experience between countries will, on the one hand, help improve the functioning of the parliament, and, help the Eastern Partnership - achieve political goals after 2020 on the other, namely - a partnership that protects and a partnership that empowers. Eastern Partnership countries face largely the same challenges in terms of parliamentary openness. Within the framework of parliamentary openness, regional cooperation will enable the sharing of good practices and achievements, the development of joint efforts to address challenges, as well as promoting institutional cooperation in the Parliament.</p> <p>Regional cooperation within the Eastern Partnership within the framework of parliamentary openness requires:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating a joint work format at the initiative of the Parliament of Georgia • Developing an action plan for 2021 and 2022 and implementing joint activities; • Encouraging good practices of parliamentary openness in the Eastern Partnership countries; • Developing and implementing recommendations for parliamentary institutional development. 	
Main Objective	Access to Information, raising the quality of accountability	
The Challenge Addressed by the Commitment	Accountability, transparency	

6.2. Strengthening Regional Cooperation in the Framework of the Parliamentary Openness Initiative in Eastern Partnership Countries

OGP Principles	Access to Information	Accountability	Citizen Engagement	Technologies and Innovation
		✓	✓	✓
Sustainable Development Goal Addressed by the Commitment	Goal 16, subgoals 16.6 and 16.7			
Milestones to Fulfil the Commitment	Participating in the Implementation	Start Date	End Date	Indicator
1. Create a joint work format for Eastern Partnership parliamentary openness at the initiative of the Parliament of Georgia	Parliament of Georgia, German Federal Enterprise for International Cooperation (GIZ)	2021	2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The work format is developed • The first meeting is held
2. Develop an action plan for 2021 and 2022 and implement joint activities	Parliament of Georgia, German Federal Enterprise for International Cooperation (GIZ)	2021	2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2022 action plan is developed • The activities set out in the plan are implemented
3. Encourage the introduction of the good practice of parliamentary openness in the Eastern Partnership countries	Parliament of Georgia, German Federal Enterprise for International Cooperation (GIZ)	2022	2022	Good practice of parliamentary openness in Eastern Partnership countries is studied and incentives are implemented

7. SUPPORTING AND IMPROVING THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

7.1. Developing a Recommendation Methodology for Financial Justification of the Explanatory Notes of the Draft Laws	
Lead Agency	Parliament of Georgia
Partner(s)	Public Institution Entities with the right of legislative initiative
	Civil Society/International Organizations/ Private Sector Transparency International - Georgia (TI-G)
Initiator	Budget Office of the Parliament of Georgia
Current Situation and Challenges	<p>Completing the section for the financial justification of the explanatory notes of the draft laws remains a constant challenge for the initiators of a draft law. This is attributed to the fact that there is no guideline agreed between the stakeholders that would allow the initiator of the bill to know how to make a complete financial justification in the explanatory note. The Parliamentary Budget Office, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Georgia, has been checking the financial substantiation of explanatory notes of all legislative initiatives since 2012 and has been submitting appropriate conclusions to the Bureau of the Parliament.</p> <p>While the Organic Law of Georgia “On Normative Acts of Georgia” includes the components of financial influence of the explanatory note, but these are only according to the names of the paragraphs and sub-paragraphs. The initiator lacks the ability and detailed information to know how to present complete and full financial justification.</p> <p>In order for the information on the financial impact to reflect the expected financial impact of the legislative initiative, it is necessary to have a relevant recommendation document that would include general guidelines for preparing financial impact assessment and basic requirements for each component of information to be submitted in accordance with the structural unit as prescribed by the law.</p> <p>In 2016, the Parliamentary Budget Office developed the “Recommendation Methodology for the Preparation of Financial Justifications for the Explanatory Note of a Draft Law” and posted it on the website http://pbo.parliament.ge/ge/costestimates/role-approach</p> <p>As this methodology was prepared directly by the Budget Office, it is important to discuss it with the relevant stakeholders, the subjects with the right of legislative initiative (the direct beneficiaries of this document), and to prepare a final recommendation document agreed with stakeholders and post it on the website of the Budget Office.</p>
Main Objective	Supporting and improving the legislative process; Facilitating further refinement of the financial impact assessment mechanism of legislative initiatives and its implementation in practice.
The Challenge Addressed by the Commitment	Improving public service

7.1. Developing a Recommendation Methodology for Financial Justification of the Explanatory Notes of the Draft Laws

OGP Principles	Access to Information	Accountability	Citizen Engagement	Technologies and Innovation
Sustainable Development Goal Addressed by the Commitment	Goal 16			
Milestones to Fulfil the Commitment	Participating in the Implementation	Start Date	End Date	Indicator
1. Sending the document developed by the Budget Office - "Recommendation Methodology for the Preparation of Financial Justifications for the Explanatory Note of a draft law" - to stakeholders to gather opinions and recommendations on the document	Parliamentary Budget Office	07/2021	12/2021	"Recommendation Methodology for the Preparation of Financial Justifications for the Explanatory Note of a draft law" is disseminated among stakeholders by the Budget Office and opinions and recommendations are received (if any)
2. Discuss the opinions and recommendations on "Recommendation Methodology for the Preparation of Financial Justifications for the Explanatory Note of a draft law", prepare the finalized document	Parliamentary Budget Office, Transparency International – Georgia (TI-G)	2022	2022	"Recommendation Methodology for the Preparation of Financial Justifications for the Explanatory Note of a draft law" is discussed with stakeholders and the document is finalized
3. Send the final version of "Recommendation Methodology for the Preparation of Financial Justifications for the Explanatory Note of a draft law" to stakeholders for awareness-raising purposes and publish it on the website of the Budget Office in Georgian and English	Parliamentary Budget Office	2022	2022	The final version of "Recommendation Methodology for the Preparation of Financial Justifications for the Explanatory Note of a draft law" is sent to all stakeholders for awareness-raising purposes and is published on the website of the Budget Office in Georgian and English
4. Create a video on the preparation of the financial justification of the explanatory note of draft laws and post it on the website of the Parliamentary Budget Office	Parliamentary Budget Office, Transparency International – Georgia (TI-G)	2022	2022	The video on the preparation of the financial justification of the explanatory note to draft laws is created and posted on the website of the Parliamentary Budget Office
5. Conduct trainings on the preparation of the financial justification of the explanatory note of draft laws for stakeholders	Parliamentary Budget Office, Transparency International – Georgia (TI-G)	2022	2022	Trainings on the preparation of the financial justification of the explanatory note of draft laws for stakeholders is conducted



ევროკავშირი
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