

JULY, 2017



Public Discussion - Importance of Dialogue with the Private Sector during Policy Development



On July 12, 2017, IDFI organized a discussion on the topic of the Importance of Public-Private Dialogue (PPD) at the Legislation Drafting Stage with the support of USAID Governing for Growth (G4G) Program.

The event was attended by over 30 representatives of state and private institutions and was part of a series of discussions aiming at raising awareness on the need of PPD at each stage of policy development.

The meeting launched with IDFI's presentation of the results of its 2016 monitoring of the legislation drafting stage. IDFI team

discussed the practice of PPD in the Georgian Parliament, stressed the importance of PPD at the initial stage of policy development and presented recommendations for improving the quality of PPD in Georgia.

[Learn more](#)

Where Does Gender Equality Begin?



According to official statistics, Georgia is one of the leaders in gender selective abortions. In 2010, the right to life was taken from 25,000 girls. The 2015 United Nations Population Fund study found that for every 100 newborn girls there are 110 newborn boys. Often, while discussing gender inequality, the issue of education, social integration, and violation of other rights of women are mentioned. However, many of us omit one important fact: unborn baby girls, who do not know what ideas and stereotypes are in the world, are stripped from the right to life!

Each of us, regardless of gender, should think how many good children and future mothers, and happiness has been lost; what the result will be if this continuous... (?) To solve this problem, we must first recognize the tragic reality we live in.

[Learn more](#)

Georgian CSOs address Vice President of the United States

We, the undersigned, the representatives of Georgian civil society organizations would like to address you ahead of your visit to Georgia, to point out outstanding issues we see most important for the democratic development and statecraft in Georgia as well as for the security and stability in the region.

[Learn more](#)

Education - SDG 4



Sustainable development means achievement of short, medium and, most importantly, long-term economic prosperity via use of natural resources in an optimal way. For this, it is necessary to raise productivity, which is determined mostly by human capital. In the age of technology and innovation, an educated society is the best human capital. Therefore, I think the most important Sustainable Development Goal is ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all, because fulfilment of all other goals depends on achieving this one.

According to Chekhov, "more clever and educated persons are needed, because humanity strives for better life; consequently, their number will increase until they reach a majority." Having a quality education system is necessary for the development of any country, including Georgia, which will allow it to contribute to world progress.

[Learn more](#)

Public Holidays in Europe and Georgia

A draft law prepared by the Ukrainian Institute of National Memory proposes reducing the number of public holidays in Ukraine from 11 to 9. The draft law proposes altogether cancelling public celebration of May 1-2, substituting March 8 with March 9 (Shevchenko Day), May 9 with May 8 (day of memory and reconciliation), and the first Monday after Pentecost with the day of the family in September.

Following the announcement of the draft law, a Ukrainian web portal Bird in Flight published [statistics](#) on public holidays in Europe and around the world. IDFI decided to look at how Georgia compares to the rest of the world in this regard, especially considering recent debates about adding yet another public holiday.

[Learn more](#)

Inclusive, Safe, Sustainable Development of Cities and Georgia



The fact that in recent years the number of individuals and organizations interested in city problems and urban issues has increased gives reason for hope. However, the number of professional urbanists and city planners is still small in Georgia. Apart from the ineffectiveness of decision-makers and governing circles, healthy city development is also hindered by the indifference of its population.

[Learn more](#)

Ensure Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education and Promote Lifelong Learning Opportunities for All



Throughout the centuries, the concept of receiving and giving education has changed many times. Initially, education was the domain of families and churches. The very first educational institution was formed in Ancient Egypt. Studying in school was a privilege reserved for the elite; therefore, only highest social classes received formal education. The right to education becomes the concern for the society only after the Enlightenment.

Famous representatives of the Enlightenment: Rousseau, Voltaire, Locke, Diderot, etc. have discussed the social nature of education. They believed that education was foundational basis for social and spiritual emancipation of a human. For this reason, they started to spread knowledge via press and encyclopedias.

[Learn more](#)

IDFI's Guide for Facebook Users - How to Ensure Personal Security



IDFI has prepared a special guide for Facebook users to help them protect their personal security.

Facebook is the most popular social network in Georgia with more than 2 million Facebook accounts registered in the country. Because of this, it is especially important that each user knows the potential risks of using this social network and, more importantly, knows how to ensure their personal security online.

In addition to simple tips, the guide also contains detailed information about creating strong passwords, receiving email alerts when an account is accessed from a new device, launching a Security Checkup, and using the so called "Security Key".

[Learn more](#)

Achieve Gender Equality and Empower All Women & Girls



The conditions of women have always been a topic of discussion. In history, philosophy, natural sciences etc. these problems were reflected differently with various conclusions being reached. Religion put special emphasize on the role of women in society and family, on their inherent traits, good and bad sides. For thousands of years, women were deprived the ability to fully express their intellect. Christianity always threatened women with anathema and reinforced their dependency. In the Middle Ages, this attitude was strengthened and relations with the "weaker sex" were declared to be sin.

[Learn more](#)

The Coalition for an Independent and Transparent Judiciary Calls on the Government of Georgia to Change Composition Rules and Procedures of the Commission for the Selection of the Strasbourg Court Judicial Candidates



The Coalition for an Independent and Transparent Judiciary calls on the Government to change the composition rules (composition) and procedures of the Commission for the selection of the Strasbourg Court judicial candidates. If the majority of the Commission members continue to represent the government branches, representatives of independent institutions will stay in the minority and the Commission will continue to act according to the same procedures. Correspondingly, the involvement of the Commission in the selection process will not ensure the selection and submission of appropriate candidates to Strasbourg.

[Learn more](#)

Urgent Action Needed to Combat Climate Change and Its Impact



Climate change is one of the most important challenges of the modern world. Global warming was noticed in 1970's, when the world was faced with rising annual average temperatures and frequent natural disasters.

Today, it is scientifically proven that climate change is happening throughout the world. The impact of climate change, such as glaciers and ice caps melting, the so called "heat waves", droughts, heavy rains, rise of the sea level, flooding, landslides, tsunamis, avalanches and storms are becoming stronger and more frequent.

Climate change also alters nature and ecosystems, and increases the risk of epidemics. The intensity of negative consequences of greenhouse effects grows every year. All this makes the need to come up with a solution more urgent. The global discussion on this issue has been going on for quite long.

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Institute for Development of Freedom of Information
+995 322 921514; info@idfi.ge www.idfi.ge