



Press-Release

Parliament of Georgia Finalizes its Third Open Parliament Action Plan

TBILISI. 7 June 2018 – The Parliament of Georgia has finalized the elaboration of its commitments for the 2018-2019 Open Parliament Action Plan, which include: supporting the implementation and monitoring of 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, increasing accountability before the citizens, developing deeper awareness of the public on parliamentary democracy, and strengthening its oversight of the transparency of Government activities.

On 7 June, seven commitments for the third Open Parliament Action Plan (2018-2019) were discussed by the members of the Permanent Parliamentary Council on Open Governance and its Consultative Group. The event was supported by the European Union (EU), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI).

Participants were welcomed by **Irina Pruidze** – Chairperson of the Permanent Parliamentary Council on Open Governance, **Sophie Huet-Guerriche** – Governance Sector coordinator at the EU Delegation to Georgia, **Gigi Bregadze** – UNDP Democratic Governance Team Leader, and **Giorgi Kldiashvili** – IDFI’s Executive Director.

“Similar to the previous Action Plans, the third document is the result of a co-creation and participatory process involving Members of Parliament, local government, civil society, academia, and youth representatives. The new plan consists of seven ambitious commitments, each employing a large number of tasks that the Parliament has to accomplish in the course of the next two years. As usual, the key focus is laid on making the Georgian Parliament more open and accountability to its citizens,” – said Irina Pruidze.

Governance Sector coordinator at the EU Delegation to Georgia Sophie Huet-Guerriche reiterated the support of the European Union to the Parliament of Georgia in its efforts to exercise its representative role and become more open to citizens. “Engagement of citizens in policy and legislative making is crucial in democratic societies. Greater openness of the legislative process enables citizens to engage more effectively in policymaking by providing access to information about the laws under consideration, as well as opportunities to influence legislative agenda” – stated Sophie Huet-Guerriche.

Ideas and suggestions for the Open Parliament Action Plan 2018-2019 were collected during the public consultations in eight cities of Georgia – Telavi, Rustavi, Marneuli, Akhaltsikhe, Kutaisi, Zugdidi, Batumi and Tbilisi – held throughout March-April 2018. The new Action Plan also includes commitments initiated by local municipalities, private sector and youth (through the contest – Your Idea for Open Parliament). Public consultations as well as today’s workshop is organized by the Parliament with assistance from the EU, UNDP and IDFI.

Media Contact:

- Ana Gochashvili, Parliament of Georgia, +995 599 999908, agochashvili@parliament.ge
- Tamar Mikadze, Delegation of the European Union to Georgia, +995 32 2943763, tamriko.mikadze@eeas.europa.eu
- Sophie Tchitchinadze, UNDP in Georgia, +995 599 196907, sophie.tchitchinadze@undp.org
- Meri Makharashvili, IDFI, +995 599 500137, m.makharashvili@idfi.ge