

Chairperson of the Parliament of Georgia
Kutaisi 4600, №26 Irakli Abashidze Avenue
Palace of the Parliament

Order №17/3

12.02.2016

**On Approval of the Charter of the Permanent Parliamentary Council
on Open and Transparent Governance**

According to articles 107 (“11”, “23” and “33.6”) and 283¹ (“1”) of the Parliament’s Rules of Procedure:

1. Attached Charter of the Permanent Parliamentary Council on Open and Transparent Governance is approved.
2. Order enters into force upon the public announcement.
3. Order may be appealed within a month after its public announcement in the Administrative Branch of Kutaisi City Court (address: Kupradze st. 11, Kutaisi)

David Usupashvili

Approved by the №17/3 order of
the Chairperson of the Parliament of Georgia,
February 12th, 2016

Charter of the Permanent Parliamentary Council on Open and Transparent Governance

Preamble

The Parliament of Georgia recognizes and protects individual's right to access the parliamentary information and to participate in the decision-making process. Citizen engagement in legislative activities and participation in decision-making process, as well as ensuring access to parliamentary information is an obligation recognized by international agreements, international standards and norms of the democratic Parliament. The Parliament of Georgia, guided by the Declaration on Parliamentary Openness, with the purpose of implementing the abovementioned right establishes the Permanent Parliamentary Council on Open and Transparent Governance.

Chapter I

General Provisions

Article 1

1. Permanent Parliamentary Council on Open and Transparent Governance (hereafter – the Council) is established by the order of the Chairperson of the Parliament of Georgia.
2. The Council is guided in its work by the Constitution of Georgia, the Parliament's Rules of Procedure, and other legal acts, by this Charter and other normative acts of the Chairperson of the Parliament.
3. Authority of the Council, membership and the functioning is determined by this Charter.

Chapter II

Authority of the Council

Article 2

1. The Council has authority to:
 - a) Elaborate and present the strategy and the action plan of the Open Parliament Georgia to the Bureau of the Parliament of Georgia for further approval.

- b) Ensure the coordination and monitoring of the implementation process of the strategy and the action plan of the Open Parliament of Georgia;
- c) Invite the representatives and/or experts of international and local organizations from relevant areas, and form working groups, during the elaboration and implementation process of the strategy and action plan of the Open Parliament Georgia;
- d) Elaborate and approve the monitoring and assessment mechanism for implementing the strategy and action plan of the Open Parliament Georgia, prepare relevant recommendations when necessary;
- e) Request any information and document related to the elaboration and implementation process of the strategy and action plan of the Open Parliament Georgia;
- f) Provide analysis of Georgian legislation, prepare proposals and plan measures designed to improve parliamentary openness and transparent governance in the Parliament;
- g) Monitor Parliamentary Openness and transparent governance in the Parliament, as well as access to information, and prepare relevant recommendations;
- h) Fulfill other obligations defined by the legislation.

2. The Council is obliged to:

- a) After the end of the spring session, but no later than July 1st, present a public intermediary report regarding the implementation of the strategy and action plan of the Open Parliament Georgia and publish it on the website of the Parliament of Georgia;
- b) Annually, before the end of the fall session, present to the Bureau of the Parliament of Georgia a report regarding the implementation of the strategy and action plan of the Open Parliament Georgia and publish it on the website of the Parliament of Georgia;
- c) No later than 6 months after fulfilling the strategy and action plan of the Open Parliament Georgia, elaborate a new strategy and action plan of the Open Parliament Georgia.

Chapter III

The Membership of the Council

Article 3

Members of the Council are:

- a) The Chairperson of the Parliament of Georgia;
- b) One representative from each of the parliamentary factions;
- c) Member of the Parliament, who is not a member of any of the parliamentary factions.

Article 4

1. The Chair of the parliamentary faction presents the candidate for the membership of the Council to the Chairperson of the Parliament of Georgia in a written form;
2. The members of the Parliament, who are not members of any of the parliamentary factions, present the candidate for the membership of the Council to the Chairperson of the Parliament of Georgia in a written form, via mutual agreement;
3. If the parliamentary faction, having presented the candidate for the membership of the Council, dissolves, existing quota abolishes and the Council continues its activities with the remaining members;
4. Concessions on the membership quotas of the Council are possible among the parliamentary factions united under the parliamentary majority, as well as among the parliamentary factions united under the parliamentary minority. The Chairperson of the Council shall be notified about the decision in written form, within 5 days after the decision is made;
5. The membership of the Council is approved by the order of the Chairperson of the Parliament of Georgia.

Chapter IV

Rules of Procedure of the Council

Article 5

1. The Council is chaired by the Chairperson of the Parliament of Georgia, or on his behalf by a member of the Council.
2. The Council meets according to necessity, however, not less than twice during the parliamentary session
3. Council meeting is convened by the Chairperson.
4. The agenda of the Council meeting is approved by the Chairperson.
5. The following individuals have the right to propose additional issues on the agenda:
 - a) Member of the Council;
 - b) Member of the Consultative Group.
6. Decision about the issues set out in paragraph 5 of this Article is made by the majority of votes of the members present on the meeting of the Council.
7. The agenda of the meeting is public and accessible to everyone. The agenda is approved, published on the website of the Parliament of Georgia and is sent to the members of the Council and the Consultative Group, 5 days prior to the Council meeting.

8. The Council is authorized, if the majority of the members are present at the meeting.
9. The Council makes decisions by a majority of votes of the members present on the meeting of the Council. When the votes on each side are equal, the Chairperson has a casting vote.
10. Council decision is registered by the minutes of the Council meeting, signed by the Chairperson.
11. Upon the invitation of the Chairperson, any individual can take part in the Council meeting.

Article 6

1. The Council establishes a Consultative Group (hereafter - Consultative Group), which takes part in the Council meetings, offers recommendations and assists the council in effectively fulfilling its duties.
2. The members of the Consultative Group are the representatives of the international and local organizations or/and experts working in the framework of “Open Government Partnership” (OGP).
3. The establishment of the consultative group is registered via the minutes of the meeting of the Council.
4. Those willing to become a member of the Consultative Group shall address the Chairperson of the Council, clarifying the motivation of membership.
5. The Council deliberates on the request of the candidate and makes a decision on accepting the person from the majority of votes.
6. The Chairperson of the Consultative Group is elected by its members for a one year term. One and the same person can be elected to the position of the Chairperson only twice.
7. The meeting of the consultative group is convened by the chairperson of the consultative group.
8. The consultative group makes decisions by a majority of votes.

Article 7

1. The Council has a Council Secretary. An authorized person from the Cabinet of the Chairperson of the Parliament of Georgia performs the functions of the Council Secretary.
2. Council Secretary:
 - a) Performs organizational and procedural functions;
 - b) Provides the Council with necessary information, technical equipment and ensures adequate conditions for holding meetings and other activities of the Council;
 - c) Prepares Council draft decisions;
 - d) Registers Council meeting reports;

- e) Performs other organizational functions according to the competences of the Council.

Chapter V

Final Provisions

Article 8

1. The Chairperson of the Parliament of Georgia approves the Council Charter by the order.
2. The Chairperson of the Parliament of Georgia amends the Council Charter by the order.