



**The Permanent Parliamentary Council on Open and
Transparent Governance Annual Activity Report
2017**



Contents

1. Introduction	3
2. Development and Approval of the Second Action Plan of Open Parliament Georgia	3
3. Implementation of the Second Action Plan of Open Parliament Georgia	6
4. Participation of the Council in Local and International Events	13

1. Introduction

The Permanent Parliamentary Council on Open and Transparent Governance (hereafter: the Council), according to the [#9/3 order](#) of the Chairman of the Parliament of Georgia, was created on January 16th in 2017, based on the inter-fractional principle. The council consists of eleven members. These members, apart from the Chairman of the Parliament, include 6 members from the parliamentary majority party, 2 members from the parliamentary minority, and 2 representatives from opposition parties that are not part of the parliamentary minority. The main purpose of the activities of the Council is ensuring the transparency of the Parliament, drafting the Action Plan of the Parliament of Georgia within the framework of the Open Government Partnership (OGP), and monitoring the implementation of said Action Plan. Irina Pruidze, a member of the Parliament, was appointed Chairperson of the Council by the order of the Chairman of the Parliament.

A Consultative Group, chaired by the Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI) and consisting of 15 local and international civil society organizations, supports the Council in the development and implementation of the Open Parliament Georgia Action Plan.

2. Development and Approval of the Second Action Plan for Open Parliament Georgia

In the beginning of 2017, The Permanent Parliamentary Council on Open and Transparent Governance, with the support of the Consultative Group, drafted the Second Action Plan that initially encompassed activities to be implemented in 2017-2018. However, as recommended by the Open Government Partnership Secretariat, the Action Plan was subsequently split into two parts, with the Action Plan for 2017 having been approved separately. This change served to establish a new practice, according to which the Open Parliament Action Plan was to become the part of the National Action Plan, under independent monitoring.

For the development of the Action Plan, the Open Parliament Council, along with the Consultative Group, held 4 workshops in 2017. As a result, the final version of the 2017 Action Plan was adopted without further revisions on the September 18th, 2017 session of the Parliamentary Bureau. Participants of the same session additionally decided to incorporate the Public Defender's Office of Georgia into the Consultative Group working with the Permanent Parliamentary Council on Open and Transparent Governance.



The 2017 Action Plan consists of 24 commitments and is based on the main principles of the Open Government Partnership (OGP): access to information, citizen engagement, accountability, transparency of parliamentary activities, technologies and innovation.

The action plan consists of the following commitments:

1. Guaranteeing Civic Engagement

1.1 Introduction of an electronic petition system

1.2 Ensuring the engagement of Georgian citizens in the process of constitutional review

1.3 Introduction of an electronic system for submitting legislative suggestions and legislative initiatives, as well as an electronic system for supporting said suggestions and initiatives by the citizens, through the web page of the Parliament

1.4 Development of procedures and forms for holding public consultations within the framework of the legislative process

1.5 Adapting the building of the Parliament to people with disabilities and ensuring access by people with disabilities to the services offered by the Parliament to the citizens

1.6 Raising public awareness regarding the Open Government Partnership (OGP)

1.7 Simplifying the procedures for entrance to the Parliament building for citizens

1.8 Elaborating a “Civil Society Organizations Development Concept”

2. Guaranteeing Availability of Information

2.1 Widening the scope of the list of public information for proactive publication on the Parliament website

2.2 In the process of discussing draft laws, clear visual indication of the amendments made to the initial versions of draft laws and their publication on the website of the Parliament in a timely fashion

2.3 Proactive disclosure of information on the Parliament website regarding the activities carried out by Majoritarian MPs

2.4 Timely disclosure of information related to review of reports and committee hearings of individuals elected by the Parliament, preparation and disclosure of relevant video protocols on the Parliamentary website

2.5 Preparing and publishing one or two year action plans at the beginning of every year by parliamentary committees

3. Parliamentary Accountability

3.1 Institutionalizing the annual meeting between the Parliament of Georgia and civil society organizations

3.2 Drafting annual reports of parliamentary activity

3.3. Developing a self-assessment tool for the Parliament of Georgia

4. Transparency of Parliamentary Activity

4.1 Increasing the transparency of the activities of investigation and other provisional commissions

4.2 Elaboration of a monitoring system of public information reports (also known as “December 10 Reports”)

4.3 Elaboration of a Code of Ethics for the members of the Parliament of Georgia

4.4 Improvement of the content of the explanatory notes

4.5 Defining the obligation for the justification of introducing changes to the agenda of committee sessions and improving the regulations related to accelerated procedure for reviewing draft laws

4.6 Oversight/Monitoring of the activities implemented by the Government of Georgia within the framework of the Open Government Partnership (OGP)

5. Technologies and Innovation

5.1 Creating a public information module and simplifying access to information related to parliamentary activity (including publishing documents in an easy-to-use format)

5.2 Elaboration of the updated structure of the website of the Parliament

Among the 24 commitments in the Action Plan, 5 of them were introduced by the Parliament of Georgia, while the other 19 belong to the member CSOs and international organizations of the Open Parliament Georgia Consultative Group. Each commitment was developed as a result of a joint effort.

The members of the Open Parliament Georgia Consultative Group, whose initiatives were reflected in the 2017 Action Plan, include: European Union (EU), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI), United States Agency for International Development (USAID) – (GGI), Transparency International Georgia (TI), Georgian Young Lawyers Association (GYLA), National Democratic Institute (NDI), Civil Society Institute (CSI), German Federal Enterprise for International Cooperation (GIZ), JumpStart Georgia.

The Action Plan was developed with the support of the European Union project “Strengthening Parliamentary Democracy in Georgia”, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI).



3. Implementation of the Open Parliament Georgia Action Plan

For the effective implementation of the commitments outlined in the action plan, 5 working groups were created:

1. Adaption of the rules and procedure for public consultation in legislative processes; introduction of a feedback mechanism for comments (written or electronic) left by citizens on draft laws;
 - *The working group held 1 extended and several internal meetings.*
2. Improving the contents of the explanatory notes:
 - *The working group held 1 extended and several internal meetings.*
3. Developing a Code of Ethics;
 - *The working group held 5 extended and several internal meetings.*
4. Elaborating the Civil Society Organizations Development Concept;
 - *The working group held 1 extended and several internal meetings.*
5. Elaboration of the updated structure of the website of the Parliament;
 - *The working group held 3 extended meetings, including a 2-day field workshop, and*



several internal meetings.

Commitment 1.2. of the 2017 Action Plan – at the behest of the Council, the Steering Commission on Public Consideration of the draft revision of Constitution of the Parliament of Georgia took into account the recommendations of the National Democratic Institute (NDI) and held public discussions according to the new rules and procedures.

Within the framework of the public consideration of the draft revision of the constitution, public meetings were held in two stages. The I stage included: Kutaisi, Ambrolauri, Chokhatauri, Batumi, Zugdidi, Akhaltsikhe, Gori, Telavi, Mtskheta, Rustavi and Tbilisi; while the II stage included: Zestaponi, Samtredia, Signaghi, Khulo, Kaspi, Ozurgeti, Mestia, Kazbegi, Martvili and 9 districts of Tbilisi – in total, 29 meetings. The public discussions were held at theaters, cultural centers, universities, centers for civic engagement and other public spaces.

The information regarding the progress of the public consideration meetings was regularly provided to the Georgian public through media outlets and the Parliament website, while the information regarding the amendments in the agenda or other changes was published instantly on the Parliament website and the social media.

The draft of the Constitution and related explanatory note that reflects any amendments, with explanations, is published on the Parliament website.

Citizens had an opportunity to submit their considerations and suggestions in written form during the meetings, as well as through electronic mail and/or the Chancellery.

During the consideration period, over the period of one month, citizens were able to listen to and submit their considerations up until the final day. The considerations that were submitted were reflected in the summary protocol that was published on the Parliament website as soon as the meetings were concluded. Each meeting was broadcast live.

In order to implement commitments 1.1; 1.3; 1.4; 1.2; 2.5; 3.1 and 4.6 – a draft document of the amendments to be introduced in the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Georgia was prepared. The draft document includes amendments that are planned within the framework of the 2017 Action Plan. The draft also incorporates the change in the name of the Permanent Parliamentary Council on Open and Transparent Governance. At the behest of the members of the Council, it will be hereafter established as the “Permanent Parliamentary Council on Open Governance”.

Among the commitments outlined in the Open Parliament Georgia 2017 Action Plan, 13 were implemented fully, while 11 were implemented partially.

Open Parliament Georgia 2017 Action Plan				
N	Commitment	Planned Implementation Dates	Current Situation	Status
	1. Guaranteeing Civic Engagement			
1	1.1. Introduction of an electronic petition system			Partially Implemented
	* Initiating relevant amendments to the Rules of Procedure for refining the process of reviewing petitions	December 2017	Draft amendments were developed and initiated	Implemented
	* Developing the technical assignment of the platform	December 2017		Not Implemented

2	1.2 Ensuring the engagement of Georgian citizens in the process of constitutional review			Partially Implemented
	* Refining the text of the amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament	October 2017	The text is ready and has been included in the draft amendments of the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament	Implemented
	* Approving the text of the amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament	December 2017	The draft amendments of the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament has been initiated	Partially Implemented
3	1.3 Introduction of an electronic system for submitting legislative suggestions and legislative initiatives, as well as an electronic system for supporting said suggestions and initiatives by the citizens, through the web page of the Parliament			Partially Implemented
	* Developing a draft of the amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament	December 2017	The draft has been developed	Implemented
	* Approving the amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament	December 2017	Draft amendments in rules and procedures was initiated	Partially Implemented
4	1.4 Development of procedures and forms for holding public consultations within the framework of the legislative process			Partially Implemented
	* Development of procedures and forms for holding public consultations within the framework of the legislative process	December 2017	The draft was developed and initiated	Implemented
	* Elaborating the types and forms of feedback mechanisms and approving relevant instructions	December 2017	The draft was developed and initiated	Partially Implemented
5	1.5 Adapting the building of the Parliament to people with disabilities and ensuring access by people with disabilities to the services offered by the Parliament to the citizens			Partially Implemented
	* Developing a project for the adaption of the Tbilisi Parliamentary Building to persons with disabilities	August 2017	The project has been prepared	Implemented
	* Elaborating the concept for the delivery of services (submission of notices, access to information, etc.) and participation in meetings by persons with disabilities, with the participation of relevant organizations and taking into account the principles of universal design	October 2017	The conception is in development	Partially Implemented
	* Preparing the relevant normative acts and infrastructure (technologically)	December 2017	The infrastructure has been technologically prepared	Partially Implemented
6	1.6 Raising public awareness regarding the Open Government Partnership (OGP)			Partially Implemented

	* Organizing meetings for members of the Parliament. The goal of the meetings is to raise awareness about OGP and Sustainable Development Goals	December 2017	One meeting was held between members of the Parliament and the civil society, where the Open Parliament Action Plan was discussed	Partially Implemented
7	1.7 Simplifying the procedures for entrance to the Parliament building for citizens			Implemented
	* Providing a simple, visible explanation on the Parliament website regarding the rules of entry into the Parliamentary Building	September 2017	Information regarding visits to the Parliament has been placed on the website in the form of a banner in a visible spot	Implemented
8	1.8 Elaborating a "Civil Society Organizations Development Concept"			Implemented
	* Refining the Civil Society Organizations Development Concept	December 2017	The text has been prepared	Implemented
2. Guaranteeing Availability of Information				
9	2.1 Widening the scope of the list of public information for proactive publication on the Parliament website			Implemented
	* Implement amendments to the order of the Chairman of the Parliament regarding the information for proactive publication	September 2017	Amendments were made to the order of the Chairman of the Parliament regarding the information for proactive publication	Implemented
	* Defining the list of information that needs to be processed statistically	September 2017	The list was developed, by the Consultative Group and the Permanent Parliamentary Council on Open Governance	Implemented
	* Publishing the information outlined in the commitment on the Parliament website	Permanent		////////
	* Preparing and publishing annual statistical information	Permanent		////////
10	2.2 In the process of discussing draft laws, clear visual indication of the amendments made to the initial version of draft laws and their publication on the website of the Parliament in a timely fashion			Implemented
	* Development of a concept for reflecting amendments to draft laws in a visible manner	August 2017	The concept was developed	Implemented
	* Reflecting amendments to draft laws in a visible manner and publishing them on the website	Permanent	The process of uploading the amendments to the website has been initiated	Implemented
11	2.3 Proactive disclosure of information on the			Implemented

	Parliament website regarding the activities carried out by Majoritarian MPs			
	* Creating a dedicated space on the individual webpages of Majoritarian MPs for the publication of information regarding their activities	September 2017	The dedicated spaces were created	Implemented
	* Indicating the address of the majoritarian bureau, the hours of reception and the contact person on the individual pages of the Majoritarian MPs on the website	September 2017	Contact information is listed on the MPs' websites. Additionally, the websites now list the addresses of their respective Facebook pages..	Implemented
12	2.4 Timely disclosure of information related to review of reports and committee hearings of individuals elected by the Parliament, preparation and disclosure of relevant video protocols on the Parliamentary website			Implemented
	* Publication of information about reports, publication or relevant video protocols on the Parliament website	Permanent	The amendment to the commitment had been included in the list of information for proactive publication	Implemented
	* Publication of information on the committee hearings of individuals elected by the Parliament, preparation and disclosure of relevant video protocols on the Parliamentary website	Permanent	The amendment to the commitment had been included in the list of information for proactive publication	Implemented
13	2.5 Preparing and publishing one or two year action plans at the beginning of every year by parliamentary committees			Implemented
	* Determining the format and contents of the action plan of the committee	October 2017	The format and contents of the action plan of the committee have been determined	Implemented
	* Amendment on the development of annual action plans in the provisions of the committees	October 2017	Most of the committees have implemented the amendment	Implemented
3. Parliamentary Accountability				
14	3.1 Institutionalizing the annual meeting between the Parliament of Georgia and civil society organizations			Partially Implemented
	* Implementing the relevant amendment to the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament	December 2017	The draft amendments have been initiated	Partially Implemented
	* Annual meeting between the Parliament and CSOs	Permanent	The 2017 is currently in the planning stage	Partially Implemented
15	3.2 Drafting annual reports of parliamentary activity			Partially Implemented
	* Determining the primary content of the annual reports	October 2017	The primary content of the annual reports has been determined	Implemented

	* Implementing the relevant amendment to the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament	December 2017	The information regarding the preparation of reports has been approved and included in the list of information for proactive publication	Partially Implemented
	* Developing relevant information processing standards and unified report form	October 2017	The unified report form is currently under development	Partially Implemented
16	3.3. Developing a self-assessment tool for the Parliament of Georgia			Partially Implemented
	* Analyzing best practices for parliamentary self-evaluation	November 2017	In the process of talks with IPU	Partially Implemented
	* Developing a self-evaluation tool for the Parliament	December 2017	Currently under development	Partially Implemented
4. Transparency of Parliamentary Activity				
17	4.1 Increasing the transparency of the activities of investigation and other provisional commissions			Implemented
	* Determining and approving the list of information regarding the activity of the investigation committee for publication	November 2017	The information has been approved and included in the list of information for proactive publication	Implemented
	* Publishing the information regarding the activity of the investigation committee	Permanent		Implemented
18	4.2 Elaboration of a monitoring system of public information reports (also known as "December 10 Reports")			Implemented
	* Preparation of the draft amendments to the Rules of Procedure for the review procedure at the consolidated committee session meetings of December 10.	December 2017	The draft has been prepared	Implemented
19	4.3 Elaboration of a Code of Ethics for the members of the Parliament of Georgia			Partially Implemented
	* Developing the enforcement mechanisms and sanctions	June 2017	The draft of the Code of Ethics, with enforcement mechanisms and sanctions, has been prepared	Implemented
	* Initiating and approving the Code of Ethics	November 2017	Initiated	Partially Implemented
20	4.4 Improvement of the content of the explanatory notes			Implemented
	* Prepare a package of relevant legislative amendments to improve the contents of the explanatory notes	December 2017	The contents have been prepared	Implemented
21	4.5 Defining the obligation for the justification of introducing changes to the agenda of committee sessions and improving the regulations related to accelerated procedure for reviewing draft laws			Implemented

	* Preparing the draft amendments to the Rules of Procedure	December 2017	The draft has been prepared	Implemented
22	4.6 Oversight/Monitoring of the activities implemented by the Government of Georgia within the framework of the Open Government Partnership (OGP)			Partially Implemented
	* Developing oversight methodologies	December 2017	Currently under development	Partially Implemented
	* Approving relevant amendments to the Rules of Procedure	December 2017	Amendments to the Rules of Procedure have been initiated. The amendments are also included in the Council's Statute.	Partially Implemented
5. Technologies and Innovation				
23	5.1. Creating a public information module and simplifying access to information related to parliamentary activity (including publishing documents in an easy-to-use format)			Implemented
	* Creating a public information module	August 2017	The module has been created	Implemented
	* Proactively publishing documents and databases on the Parliament website, including Open Data	Permanent		////
24	5.2. Elaboration of the updated structure of the website of the Parliament			Implemented
	* Developing an updated structure of the website	December 2017	The structure was developed	Implemented

4. Participation of the Council in Local and International Events

On April 4, 2017, the members of the Permanent Parliamentary Council on Open and Transparent Governance met the Deputy Director of Open Government Partnership, Joe Powell, and the Civil Society Coordinator, Paul Maassen.

During the meeting, it was remarked that Georgia is an active participant of Open Government Partnership and is one of the leaders in the region when it comes to OGP. At the meeting, the foreign guests were introduced to the implemented reforms and future plans related to the Partnership.

On April 21, 2017, the Chairperson of the Open Parliament Council, **Irina Pruidze**, met the students and lecturers of the International Anti-Corruption Academy. She talked about the achievements of Georgia's anti-corruption policy and drew attention to the activities of the legislative body of the country pertaining to this matter.

On May 19-20, 2017, the **Global Legislative Openness Conference** was held in Ukraine, attended by the Chairperson of the Permanent Parliamentary Council on Open and Transparent Governance **Irina Pruidze**, members of the Council: **Giorgi Kakhiani**, **Kakhaber Kutchava**, **Otar Kakhidze**, and the Secretary General of the Parliament **Nikoloz Natenadze**. The Global Legislative Openness Conference was hosted by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine.

At the conference, participants discussed the transparency of parliamentary activities, citizen trust, code of ethics, Parliament and Open Government Partnership, technologies, news and innovations. During one of the sessions of the conference, the Chairperson of the Council **Irina Pruidze** offered a report on the Open Government Partnership Action Plan of Georgia and the main priorities defined by Georgia for the period of its chairmanship (2017-2018).

Members of the delegations from the Parliament of Georgia also attended meetings organized by the National Democratic Institute (NDI) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) while in Kiev.

One of the sessions of the meeting organized by the National Democratic Institute (NDI) was dedicated to the Parliament of Georgia. During this session, the Chairperson of the Permanent Parliamentary Council on Open and Transparent Governance Irina Pruidze spoke about the active involvement of the Parliament of Georgia in Open Government Partnership and the 2017-2018 Action Plan of Georgia.

At the meeting organized by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), “Regional Roundtable – Parliament and Sustainable Development Goals”, **Kakhaber Kutchava** spoke about the implementation of sustainable development goals related to environmental protection and natural resources.



In May 2017, the Executive Director of the Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI) - the Chairperson of the Consultative Group with the Permanent Parliamentary Council on Open and Transparent Governance – **Giorgi Kldiashvili** was chosen to be a member of the Steering Committee of Open Government Partnership (OGP).

On June 12, 2017, the members of the Permanent Parliamentary Council on Open and Transparent Governance met the Chairman of the Board of Directors of NDI, **Madeleine Albright**, and members of the Board of Directors. The Chairperson of the Permanent Parliamentary Council on Open and Transparent Governance Irina Pruidze introduced them to the Parliamentary Openness Action Plan.

On July 5, 2017, the Permanent Delegation of the Parliament of Georgia held a conference with the title: “**The Role of the Georgian Parliament in the Implementation of the OGP Action Plan**” within the framework of the session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) in Minsk.

The Head of the Parliamentary Delegation, **Sofio Katsarava**, introduced the delegation representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly and the heads of the delegations of various countries to the main priorities of the Open Government Partnership Action Plan, drawing special attention to the role and involvement of the Parliament.

The Chairperson of the Permanent Parliamentary Council on Open and Transparent Governance **Irina Pruidze** held a presentation regarding the activities and action plan of the Council at the event. Following the presentation, a discussion was held, during which the delegation representatives shared their experiences with each other and discussed the action plans of their respective countries. The goal of the discussion was to further strengthen open governance throughout the world.



On September 19, 2017, the Prime Minister of Georgia **Giorgi Kvirikashvili** assumed the Chairmanship of the Open Government Partnership from his predecessor, the President of France **Emmanuel Macron**, at the 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly. Giorgi Kvirikashvili will lead the Open Government Partnership initiative, which now counts 75 countries among its members, starting October 1, 2017, until October 1, 2018 (1 year period). Georgia is the sixth chairman country of the Open Government Partnership. Persons who also attended the meeting included the Minister of Justice of Georgia **Thea Tsulukiani**, who represents Georgia in the Steering Committee of OGP, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, Deputy Prime Minister **Mikheil Janelidze**.

On November 17-23, the Chairperson of the Permanent Parliamentary Council on Open and Transparent Governance **Irina Pruidze** attended the Open Government Partnership Americas Regional Meeting in the capital of Argentina, Buenos Aires, held as part of the Open Government Week.



As part of the Open Government Week, **Irina Pruidze** made a report about the achievements of Georgia in legislative openness and the activities of the Permanent Parliamentary Council on Open and Transparent Governance. Parallel to the conference, Irina Pruidze also met the Chairmen of the Foreign Committees of the Senates of Chile and Argentina, members of the House of Representatives and a senator from Paraguay. During these meetings, apart from topics related to open governance, they also discussed cooperation between their respective parliaments, support for the territorial integrity of Georgia and the development of trade and economic partnerships between the countries.

On November 28, 2017, as part of the Open Government Week, the Parliament of Georgia hosted an event titled: “Accessible Parliament for All”. The event was attended by the members of the Parliament of Georgia, people with disabilities, local associations and non-governmental organizations working on this issue, representatives of the Government of Georgia and representatives of CSOs and international organizations.

Irakli Kobakhidze, Chairman of the Parliament of Georgia, offered opening remarks, where he talked about the importance of the accessibility of the Parliamentary Building for all citizens, in order to allow the citizens to exercise their rights and interests, and be actively involved in civil life and decision-making processes. He also remarked that the Parliament of Georgia will become fully accessible to those with mobility and vision restrictions in the nearest future.

The Chairman emphasized the fact that, according to the norms established by the newest edition of the Constitution of Georgia, the state is obligated to create special conditions for persons with disabilities to be able to realize their rights and interests, which will in turn facilitate their equal involvement and participation in civic and political activities.



The Chairperson of the Permanent Parliamentary Council on Open and Transparent Governance **Irina Pruidze** presented the Open Parliament 2017 Action Plan to the members of the meeting, and also discussed the activities implemented by the Council over the course of the year.

First Deputy Chairman of the Human Rights and Civil Integration Committee, **Rati Ionatamishvili**, along with the representative of the non-governmental organization “Mariani”, Mariam Mikiashvili, presented the adaption plan of the Parliamentary Building of Georgia, the purpose of which is to facilitate unhindered movement of people with mobility or vision restrictions on the territory of the Parliament.

The adaption plan of the Tbilisi Parliamentary Building was drafted by the Parliament of Georgia, with the support and assistance of the non-governmental organization “Mariani”. The initiative was supported by the European Union (EU), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), with the cooperation of the Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI).

The event held as part of the Global Legislative Openness Week ended with a discussion and a reception.



On December 18-19, 2017, a two-day workshop was held in Tbilisi, initiated by the Open Parliament Council Working Group with the support of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), the European Union (EU), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI).

The goal of the workshop was the discussion of the transparency of the legislative process and the question of the greater citizen engagement.

The workshop opened with the introductory remarks from **Eka Beselia** - Chair of the Legal Issues Committee. Associate Legal Officer at the ODIHR Yuri Marchenko, Coordinator for the Governance Sector at the EU Delegation to Georgia Sophie Huet Guerriche and Gigi Bregadze - Democratic Governance Team Leader at UNDP in Georgia, also offered introductory remarks at the workshop.

Over the course of the event, a discussion regarding the main forms of public participation in parliamentary legislative activities was held under the direction of invited experts (Melanie Sully – Austria, Sandra Pernar – Croatia, Liia Hänni - Estonia).

