

of the Council. Therefore, on the second stage of voting, non-judicial members of the Council have no influence on the selection process and this does not allow for decision-making on the basis of consensus;

- The Chairperson has certain broad powers, and there is also an evidence of the duplication of functions with the High Council of Justice;
- Functions of the deputy chairpersons of the Supreme Court are vaguely defined in the legislation. The need for this position, that actually creates a hierarchy in the Supreme Court, is unclear;
- The legislation grants excessive powers to the Supreme Court Plenum, including the right to file constitutional submission, and the right to determine the amount of a monthly supplement to the official salary of a member of the Supreme Court; Moreover, competencies are duplicated between the Plenum and the High Council of Justice;
- The practice of the Supreme Court shows that under the decree of the Supreme Court's Plenum, a judge of a particular Chamber exercises judicial power in another Chamber. As a result, the judges are authorized to consider cases falling within the jurisdiction of all three Chambers. Decrees adopted by the Supreme Court's plenum in this regard are identical;
- According to the rule adopted by the High Council of Justice, the case is assigned to the Chairperson of the hearing (reporting judge). The rule does not envisage the procedure for selecting the other two members of the panel, which creates the risk of their arbitrary selection.

Taking into account international standards, the report includes specific recommendations in order to support further reform of the Supreme Court of Georgia.

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For further information please contact: Magda Gugava, Communications Manager, “Institute for Development of Freedom of Information” (IDFI), +995 599 420 206, m.gugava@idfi.ge



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