



Tbilisi, Georgia – Transparency International has released the 2008 Corruption Perception Index (CPI) in which Georgia ranked 67th of the 180 countries listed. The CPI ranks countries according to the level of perceived political corruption. The score is based on a survey of residents, foreign businesspeople and local analysts.

Georgia's score of 3.9 points out of a maximum of 10 is an improvement over the 2007 score of 3.4. This constitutes a continuation of the positive trend that began in 2004, since which, on average, Georgia's rating has improved by 0.5 points annually.

The Corruption Perception Index (CPI) is based on results collated over the two preceding years – in this case 2007 and 2008. This is to ensure that the index captures the longer term picture. As the accompanying analysis states, Georgia's score is more a reflection of the results of reforms implemented in 2007 than of those in 2008 itself.

If Georgia is to continue this positive trend and improve its ranking for the upcoming 2009 survey, it must take measures to solve the problems highlighted by Transparency International-Georgia when the CPI was published last year. These measures include:

- (1) Planning and implementing civil service reform more effectively in cooperation with stakeholders
- (2) Improving scrutiny of the financial and assets declarations of public officials
- (3) Implementing active preventive measures against corruption
- (4) Creating an improved and more transparent plea bargaining system
- (5) Raising the level of adherence to freedom of information regulations
- (6) Improving the system of public procurement
- (7) Ensuring more effective scrutiny of government spending
- (8) Reforming the judiciary to increase public confidence in the courts.

Methodology

The CPI is compiled by Transparency International Secretariat, combining results from several surveys by a variety of well-known international organizations to create a consolidated score for each country. This year, a total of seven surveys were used to calculate Georgia's score including:

1. The Bertelsmann Foundation's *Bertelsmann Transformation Index* (2008), which assesses the government's capacity to punish and contain corruption;
2. The World Bank's *Country Policy and Institutional Assessment* (2007), which covers corruption, conflicts of interest, the diversion of funds, and anti-corruption efforts and achievements;
3. Freedom House's *Nations in Transit* (2007), which measures the extent of corruption as practiced in governments, as perceived by the public and as reported in the media. It also covers the implementation of anticorruption initiatives;
4. Global Insight's *Country Risk Ratings* (2007), which measures the likelihood of encountering corrupt officials, both in the form of petty bureaucratic corruption and high-level political corruption;



5. Merchant International Group's *Grey Area Dynamics* (2007), which covers corruption, ranging from the bribery of government ministers to inducements paid to the "humblest clerk".
6. The World Economic Forum's *Global Competitiveness Report* (2007), which measures the extent to which unofficial payments and bribes are prevalent in the way governments function.
7. The Asia Development Bank's *Country Performance Assessment*, which measures the effectiveness of existing political and institutional mechanisms in overcoming poverty, promoting sustainable development and the efficient use of preferential aid.