

RECOMMENDATIONS OF TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL GEORGIA REGARDING THE OPEN PARLIAMENT GEORGIA ACTION PLAN 2020-2021

RECOMMENDATION #1:

PUBLISHING PROACTIVE INFORMATION ON PARLIAMENTARY CONTROL MECHANISMS

A new parliamentary control module should be added to the Parliamentary information system (<https://info.parliament.ge/v1>). This module should be visibly linked from the main website of the parliament.

Information on parliamentary control in the new module should be available in an easily editable format:

- Declaration of confidence and non-confidence for the government;
- Annual and Special Reports of the Prime Minister;
- Deputy Questions (Questions and answers are uploaded in the current system, but the system perceives an answer requesting an extension of the time limit as a proper response. The system should be able to distinguish between these two);
- Interpellation (indicating the time allotted for each interpellation, the number of questions asked at the plenary session with reference to the addressees);
- Ministerial Hour (Indicating the duration of the Minister's Hour, indicating the number of questions and answers received and the addressees);
- Inviting an official to stand before the Parliament at the plenary session (indicating the number of questions asked and the number of answers received and the author of the question);
- Listening to officials at the plenary session on their own initiative (on what issue did the official appear at the plenary session, the number of questions asked by the authors of the question);
- Inviting officials to a committee sitting (including in case of non-attendance at the committee, also, the response / letter of the accountable person should be posted on the website);
- Hearing the reports of the accountable bodies before the Parliament (including in case of postponement of the hearing of the report, the relevant conclusions (letter of the Committee and the decision of the Bureau) should be posted on the website.);
- Activities of investigative and other temporary commissions;
- Control of public funds management (reports, committee findings);
- Control and consequences of the enforcement of normative acts and transitional provisions;
- Thematic inquiry groups;
- Oversight over the Defense and Security Sector (number of meetings held by the Trust Group, the number of submitted reports, the number of information submitted on confidential procurement with reference to the structures).

RECOMMENDATION #2:

IMPROVING THE STRUCTURE OF THE ANNUAL REPORTS

In 2019, the Permanent Parliamentary Council on Open and Transparent Governance formulated the uniform forms for the annual parliamentary report and the committee reports.

In order to improve transparency, accountability and the visibility of specific data, it is recommended for additional information to be made available in these reports, including data on parliamentary control and violation of ethical norms.

- Participation of accountable persons in the committee hearings;
- Information on ethical violations (if any);
- Information on the main directions and activities of the Gender Equality Council.

As for the reports of the committees, it is recommended for the following information to be included:

- Both the statistical and generalized/substantive information in regards to the recommendations and opinions made by the committee on draft laws (including their responses);
- Information on accountable persons who have been summoned to a committee meeting (including information on the reason of failing to appear from the accountable persons).

RECOMMENDATION #3:

ACCESS TO THE PARLIAMENT WITH A SECURITY CHECK, WITHOUT THE NEED OF A PASS

The legislation of Georgia provided for citizens' right to attend committee hearings, however, there have been frequent cases when a decision on political grounds was made to temporarily cease the release of passes. This goes against the principle of the Parliament representing an institution with a direct mandate of the people.

We believe that citizens should be only required to undergo a security check to enter the Parliament. Citizens should not be dependent on the discretionary decisions of third-parties to be able to gain access to the Parliament. The Parliament of Georgia should take into account international best practice in this regard, which we believe to be the example of the rules of entry for visitors into the U.S House of Representatives and Senate buildings.