



# PERFORMANCE EVALUATION OF THE PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COUNCIL OF OPEN GOVERNMENT

(11 DECEMBER 2020 – 17 JUNE 2022)

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# CONTENTS

<b>Introduction</b>	4
<b>Chapter 1. Mandate and Composition of the Council</b>	6
<b>Chapter 2. Development and Implementation of the Action Plan</b>	8
<b>Chapter 3. Implementation of the Commitments envisaged in the Action Plan</b>	10
3.1. Supporting and Monitoring the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by the Parliament	10
3.2. Improvement of the Supervisory Activity of the Parliament	10
3.3. Improving Access to Information	12
3.4. Ensuring Civil Engagement	14
3.5. Improving the Transparency of Parliament Activities	14
3.6. Enhancing Parliamentary Openness	15
3.7 Strengthening and Advancing Legislative Process	15

# INTRODUCTION

The report is developed by Transparency International Georgia within the framework of the parliamentary monitoring project and it evaluates the performance of the Parliamentary Standing Council of Open Government (hereafter – the Council) in the Parliament of 10th Convocation in a period between **11 December 2020 and 12 June 2022** (hereafter – the reporting period).

The report examines and evaluates the activities of the Council as well as the fulfillment of the commitments taken under the Action Plan.

The report is based on the FOIAs requested from the Parliament, as well as information available on the website of the Parliament and monitoring conducted by our organization.

## *Key Findings*

There is close cooperation between the Parliamentary Standing Council of Open Government and the civil society. Despite the fact that the Council takes into consideration most of recommendations of the civil society while developing an action plan, timely implementation of commitments remains a challenge. There are several challenges in parliamentary work in terms of information accessibility, civic engagement, and openness. It still remains a problem for citizens and representatives of civil society and media to enter the building of the Parliament and attend the sessions. Since the fall of 2021, a steel barricade was erected at the entrance of the building, but the Parliament including the Parliamentary Standing Council of Open Government did not respond to this issue.

## Statistical Data

- The Council held **4 meetings** during the reporting period;
- **19 working groups** were created under the Council;
- **3** of the 19 commitments under the 2021-2022 Action Plan were fully implemented, the work is still underway on rest of the commitments.

## Achievements

- The Parliament introduced the [amendments to the Rules of Procedure](#) which envisaged implementation of the commitments taken under the action plan, namely, the rule of preparing and issuing the decision about creating a working group by the parliamentary committee, outlining the timeframe and objectives for working process, producing statistics of working groups and proactively publishing minutes/audio recordings of public meetings;
- In order to implement a commitment under the action plan, the **statute** of the Human Rights and Civil Integration Committee was **amended**. Pursuant to the amendment, following the hearing of the Public Defender's reports, at the stages of preparing and sharing feedback with the Committee, the responses provided by the government agencies will be published within 3 days on the website.
- **The statute of the Healthcare and Social Issues Committee was amended** which ensured that the Committee would periodically publish reports about the oversight platform of the government's health programs on the parliament website.
- The Office of the Parliament developed a methodology/plan for the functioning and continuity of the Parliament's work during a state of emergency as well as a state of crisis.

- Following the action plan commitment, the Caucasus Research Resource Center (CRRC) with the support of the European Union (EU) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) conducted research on “Mechanisms and effectiveness of Civic Engagement into the Parliamentary Activities”
- The renewed [Citizen Engagement Center](#) started functioning in Parliament.

## Challenges

There was a problem for representatives of civil society and media entering the building of the Parliament and they were refused entry groundlessly. Since the fall of 2021, a steel barricade was erected at the entrance of the building<sup>1</sup>, but the Council did not respond to this issue.

- **Only 3 of the 19 commitments** under the 2021-2022 Action Plan **were fully implemented**, the work is still underway on rest of the commitments. The deadline for fulfilling the commitments is by the end of 2022, however, per the action plan, some of the commitments had a specific timeline and the implementation of them are already behind due date.
- The following significant commitments embodied in the action plan were not implemented within the timeline:
  - A set of amendments to the rules of procedure that would ensure enhancing parliamentary oversight during a state of emergency were not developed. The amendments have to consider the possibility of remote parliamentary work during a state of emergency.
  - No changes were adopted to improve the structure of reports of the Parliament and Committees.
  - No changes were made for the proactive publication of information on control mechanisms. In particular, the Parliament had to create a working group that would discuss a new module about the control on the website, present it to the Council, and integrate the new module into the Parliament website. It is especially important that the information about the control over the defense and security sector is transparent.

## Evaluation and Recommendations

During the reporting period, it still remained a problem for citizens and representatives of civil society and media to enter the building of the Parliament and attend the sessions. The Council did not respond to this issue.

Although the 2021-2022 Action Plan envisages important commitments in terms of parliamentary activity, some of them are still not fulfilled.

- The Council should be interested in the cases of groundless refusal to entry to the Parliament building.
- The Council’s action plan has to include more ambitious commitments and should take into consideration the recommendations<sup>2</sup> of the Open Government Partnership about action plans. It is not the number of commitments of the action plan that is important, but their content and scale.
- The Parliament of Georgia should simplify the procedure for citizens to enter the building, citizens should be able to enter the parliament building without an entrance pass, but only going through a security check.

1 “Iron structures being dismantled from the Parliament area”, [www.interpresnews.ge](http://www.interpresnews.ge) 14.07.2022, <https://bit.ly/3znzzMe>

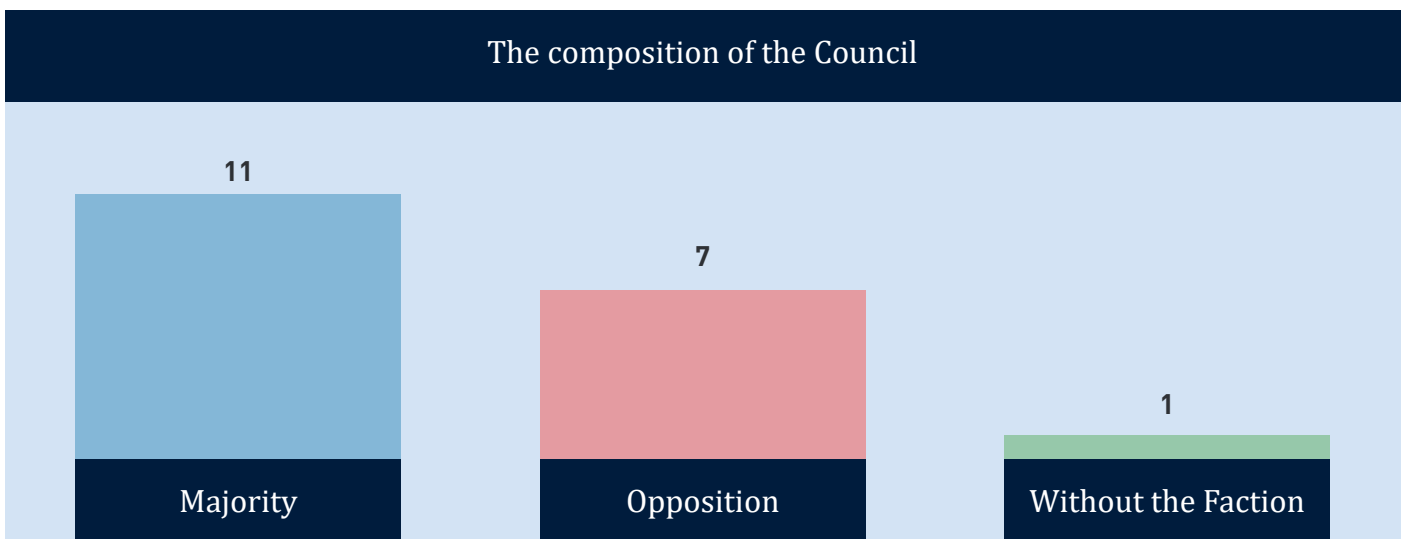
2 OGP National Handbook Rules and Guidance for Participants, <https://bit.ly/3CEGvFA>; Government Point of Contract Manual, <https://bit.ly/3SclMyO>.

- It is essential that the Council implements commitments taken under the action plan within the set deadlines. Moreover, the activities of the working groups should be more vigorous.
- The Council should develop and adopt a set of amendments to the Rules of Procedure that would increase the role of the Parliament during a state of emergency.
- A unified updated form of parliamentary and committee reports should be approved which will include a wider range of activity-related information.
- A new module about the parliamentary control mechanism should be developed.
- The Parliament website still needs to be improved and it is important that the information on the website is easily accessible to interested persons.

## CHAPTER 1. MANDATE AND COMPOSITION OF THE COUNCIL

*The goal of the Parliamentary Standing Council of Open Government shall be to ensure the openness, transparency, and accountability of the Parliament based on the principles of open government and the systematic and coordinated work of the Parliament in this direction.*

The Parliamentary Standing Council of Open Government (hereafter – the Council) was created in the Parliament of 10th Convocation on January 21, 2021. Until May 27, 2021, Mariam Kvrivishvili<sup>3</sup> was the Chairperson of the Council and then Givi Mikanadze replaced her.



<sup>3</sup> The parliamentary mandate of Mariam Kvrivishvili was terminated due to her appointment as a Deputy Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development.

## Members of the Council:



**GIVI MIKANADZE**  
(Chairperson of the Council)



**GIORGI AMILAKHVARI**



**TEONA AKUBARDIA**



**MARIAM LASHKHI**



**LEVAN IOSELIANI**



**ANA TSITLIDZE**



**NINO IOBASHVILI**



**EKA SEPASHVILI**



**IRAKLI ZARKUA**



**MIKHEIL SARJVELADZE**



**AVTANDIL ENUKIDZE**



**NIKOLOZ SAMKHARADZE**



**MAKA BOTCHORISHVILI**



**ALEKSANDRE RAKVIASHVILI**



**TINATIN BOKUCHAVA**



**ANA NATSVLISHVILI**



**MAIA BITADZE**



**TAMAR KORDZAIA**



**KHATIA TSILOSANI**

### ***Cooperation of the Council with the Executive Branch and Civil Society***

One of the primary functions of the Council is monitoring the implementation of the action plan developed within the framework of the Open Government Partnership as well as activities carried out in the sphere of open government. On May 19, 2022, the Council heard the activity report carried out by the Open Governance Interagency Coordination Council.

The [Consultative Group](#) supports the Council in development and implementation of the Open Parliament Action Plan. The Consultative Group is comprised of 14 local non-governmental organizations, one international organization and the Public Defender's Office. The Consultative Groups is chaired by the Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI).

## CHAPTER 2. DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION PLAN

The Council develops actions plans and interim and final reports on their implementation. The Council and the Consultative Group develops the Open Parliament Action Plan. The Parliament is responsible for implementation of commitments envisaged by the action plan. Local and international organizations are actively involved in this process.

The Council's fourth [Action Plan for 2021-2022](#) consists of **19 commitments**.<sup>4</sup> The commitments of the action plan are divided into seven directions:

- 1. Supporting and Monitoring the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals by the Parliament*
- 2. Strengthening Parliamentary Oversight*
- 3. Improving Access to Information*
- 4. Ensuring Civic Engagement*
- 5. Increasing Transparency of the Parliamentary Work*
- 6. Enhancing the Openness of the Parliament*
- 7. Strengthening and Advancing Legislative Process*

12 commitments were initiated by local and international organizations; 4 – Public Defender, 1 – Public Defender and an international organization; 1 – the Education and Science Committee and an international organization; 1 - Parliamentary Budget Office.

In order to fulfill each of the commitments envisaged in the Open Parliament Action Plan **19 working groups** were created. The working groups are [comprised](#) of MPs from the Council, Public Defender, and the representatives of local, international and non-governmental organizations.

On July 6, 2021, the Council presented an activity and an assessment [report](#) of the action plan to the bureau.

Working Group	Chairperson of the Group	Number of Sessions
Commitment 1.1 Development of the 2022-2024 Action Plan for Monitoring the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals	Nikoloz Samkharadze (Majority)	4 Meetings
Commitment 2.1 Strengthening the Capacity and Improving the Awareness of the Parliament Regarding State (Public) Debt	Eka Sepashvili (Majority) Irakli Zarkua (Majority)	2 Meetings and 1 Webinar
Commitment 2.2 Obligation to Create a Working Group on the Proposals of the Public Defender of Georgia and Define the Terms of Work of the Group	Mikheil Sarjveladze (Majority)	1 Meeting
Commitment 2.3 Increase the Role of the Parliament During a State of Emergency	Khatia Tsilosani (Majority)	3 Meeting and 1 Webinar

<sup>4</sup> Commitments are initiated by: Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), National Democratic Institute (NDI), United States Agency for International Development/Good Governance Initiative (USAID/GGI), Transparency International Georgia (TI-G), Georgian Young Lawyers' Association (GYLA), German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), Public Defender of Georgia, Parliamentary Budget Office and Education and Science Committee of the Parliament.



Commitment 3.1 Publishing the Feedback Received from Agencies/ Stakeholders Regarding Draft Laws	Tamar Kordzaia (Opposition)	1 Meeting
Commitment 3.2 Publishing the Responses of the Agencies to the Reports of the Public Defender of Georgia/ Relevant Parliamentary Resolutions	Mikheil Sarjveladze (Majority)	1 Meeting
Commitment 3.3 Ensuring the Transparency of the Activities of Working Groups Established within Parliamentary Committees	Mikheil Sarjveladze (Majority)	2 Meetings
Commitment 3.4 Introducing Deadlines for the Publication of the Minutes of the Meetings of Parliamentary Committees on the Website	Mikheil Sarjveladze (Majority)	2 Meetings
Commitment 3.5 Publishing Audio Recordings of the Meetings of Parliamentary Committees Related to Draft Laws	Mikheil Sarjveladze (Majority)	2 Meetings
Commitment 3.6 Publishing the Reports from the Government's Health Programs Oversight Platform on the Parliament Website	Mikheil Sarjveladze (Majority)	1 Meeting
Commitment 3.7 Conducting an Information Campaign Regarding the New Website of the Parliament	Levan Ioseliani (Opposition) Eka Sepashvili (Majority)	1 Meeting
Commitment 3.8 Proactively Disclosing Information on Parliamentary Control Mechanisms	Mikheil Sarjveladze (Majority) Aleksandre Rakviashvili (Opposition)	No Meeting was held
Commitment 4.1 Strengthening Civic Engagement in Parliamentary Activities	Givi Mikanadze (Majority) Teona Akubardia (Opposition)	6 Meetings
Commitment 4.2 Raising Citizen Awareness Regarding New Legislation	Giorgi Amilakhvari (Majority)	2 Meeting and 1 Training
Commitment 5.1 Improving the Structure of the Annual Reports of the Parliament	Khatia Tsilosani (Majority)	1 Meeting
Commitment 5.2 Improving the Effectiveness of the Ethics Council of the Parliament of Georgia	Tamar Kordzaia (Opposition)	1 Meeting
Commitment 6.1 Annual Conference on Topical Issues of the Parliamentary Openness	Givi Mikanadze (Majority) Giorgi Amilakhvari (Majority) Eka Sepashvili (Majority)	2 Meetings
Commitment 6.2 Strengthening Regional Cooperation in the Framework of the Parliamentary Openness Initiative in Eastern Partnership Countries	Givi Mikanadze (Majority) Maka Botchorishvili (Majority) Eka Sepashvili (Majority)	2 Meetings
Commitment 7.1 Developing a Recommendation Methodology for Financial Justification of the Explanatory Notes of the Draft Laws	Irakli Zarkua (Majority)	3 Meetings

## CHAPTER 3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMITMENTS ENVISAGED IN THE ACTION PLAN

### 3.1. SUPPORTING AND MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS)<sup>5</sup> BY THE PARLIAMENT

Activity envisaged under the Commitment	Initiated by	Status
Analyze implementation of the Action Plan of the Parliament for 2019-2020 for the Implementation and Monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals	<i>United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)</i>	<i>Implemented</i>
The Action Plan of the Parliament for the Implementation and Monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals for 2021-2022 was elaborated based on the analysis.		

Activity envisaged under the Commitment	Initiated by	Status
Elaborating the 2022-2024 Parliament Action Plan for the Implementation and Monitoring of Sustainable Development Goals	<i>United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)</i>	<i>Not implemented within the set deadline,<sup>6</sup> implementation is ongoing</i>
Implementing the 2022-2024 Parliament Action Plan for the Implementation and Monitoring of Sustainable Development Goals		<i>Implementation is ongoing<sup>7</sup></i>
Within the framework of the working group, the 2022-2024 draft Action Plan of the parliament for the implementation and monitoring of Sustainable Development Goals was developed with the support of an expert. The draft Action Plan was discussed at the working meeting with the wide participation of the representatives of the committees and the parliament office. It was agreed at the meeting that the draft required an adjustment taking into account the needs and resources of the Parliament. Currently, the work is not completed. <sup>8</sup>		

### 3.2. IMPROVEMENT OF THE SUPERVISORY ACTIVITY OF THE PARLIAMENT

Activity envisaged under the Commitment	Initiated by	Status
<i>Strengthening the capacity of the Parliament and raising awareness regarding the state (public) debt</i>	National Democratic Institute (NDI)	Partially implemented

5 The Sustainable Development Goals are set of 17 goals and 169 targets agreed by all UN member states with the aim to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. They address the global challenges we face, including those related to poverty, inequality, climate, environmental degradation, prosperity, and peace and justice. <https://www.unicef.org/georgia/sustainable-development-goals>

6 Implementation deadline 12.2021

7 Implementation deadline 12.2022

8 Deadline for implementation of the activity is December 2021

During the reporting period, a guide on processes related to state (public) debt was developed within the working group, with the support of an expert and in cooperation with the Finance and Budget Committee. The document reviews the role of various actors, including parliament, in ensuring the availability and transparency of information on debt and international standards. The activity under this commitment is **partially implemented**. According to the provided information, the presentation and placement of the guide on the website of the Parliament are planned. The deadline for implementation of this activity was February 2022.

This commitment also requires implementation of two additional activities: conducting relevant trainings for awareness raising and annual public discussions on the state budget. In December 2021, a public webinar on the topic “Review of the State Budget of Georgia for 2022” was held, as well as **infographics** on the budget were prepared and published on the website to inform citizens. Also, the state budget review plan was developed.

Activity envisaged under the Commitment	Initiated by	Status
Codify the Obligation to Establish a Working Group on the Proposals of the Public Defender of Georgia and Define the Terms of Work of the Group	Public Defender (Ombudsman) of Georgia	Implemented
<p>The commitment is <b>fully implemented</b>. <b>An amendment was adopted</b> to the statute of the Human Rights and Civil Integration Committee, according to which the committee creates a working group within 1 month after the submission of the Public Defender’s annual report to the Parliament. The working group should study the feasibility of sharing the suggestions provided by the Public Defender’s report.</p>		

Activity envisaged under the Commitment	Initiated by	Status
Increase the Role of the Parliament During a State of Emergency	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	Partially implemented
<p>According to the action plan, this activity is composed of two components:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developing a methodology/plan for the business continuity of the Parliament during a state of emergency (as well as crisis situations). The activity is <b>fully implemented</b>. According to the provided information, in order to get acquainted with the best international practices, a webinar was held on the topic “Strengthening the role of the Parliament during emergency situations: challenges and opportunities for Georgia”. Within the framework of the working group, with the support of international and local experts, the following documents were prepared and shared with working group members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concept of digital transformation of the Parliament;</li> <li>• Parliamentary supervision in emergency situations, recommendations for the Parliament;</li> <li>• Support the use of electronic tools in the Parliament, evaluation report;</li> <li>• Business continuity management policy of the Parliament and business continuity plans of the structural units of the apparatus.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Pursuant to the international best practices, <b>initiating amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament</b>, which will establish special procedures for the functioning of the Parliament during the state of emergency, including (a) Operating in a remote mode; (b) A special parliamentary oversight mechanism is defined to be implemented during a state of emergency. This component of the commitment <b>has not been implemented</b>. According to the plan, December 2021 was defined as the deadline for its implementation.</li> </ol>		

### 3.3. IMPROVING ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Activity envisaged under the Commitment	Initiated by	Status
Publishing opinions/feedback on draft laws received from agencies/interested parties	Public Defender (Ombudsman) of Georgia	Partially implemented, implementation is ongoing
<p>The working group agreed that work on the implementation of this activity would begin after approving <a href="#">amendments</a> to the Parliament's Rules of Procedure. Following the approval of amendments in the Rules of Procedure, the order of the Chairmen of the Parliament <i>"On the approval of the standard for the proactive publication of public information and the request for public information in electronic form"</i> should also be updated. Drafting the amendments to the order of the chairman is underway. It will be discussed at the meeting of the working group.</p>		

Activity envisaged under the Commitment	Initiated by	Status
Publishing the responses of the agencies on the report of the Public Defender of Georgia/the relevant resolution of the Parliament	Public Defender (Ombudsman) of Georgia	Implemented
<p>In order to implement the activity, by the decision of the Bureau of the Parliament on August 2, 2021, <b>amendments were made to the statute of the Human Rights Committee</b>. Following the hearing of the Public Defender's report in parliament, agencies submit their opinions and present them to the committee. Response sent to the committee will be published on the website within 3 days of their receipt.</p>		

Activity envisaged under the Commitment	Initiated by	Status
Ensuring the transparency of the activities of the working groups created in the parliamentary committees	Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI)	Partially implemented
<p>Parliament approved <a href="#">amendments</a> in the Rules of Procedure with regard to the establishment of the working group of the committee. In particular, the following issues included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the procedure for preparing and issuing the committee decision;</li> <li>• deadlines and goals of the work process;</li> <li>• The issue of compiling statistics of working groups and issues related to the proactive publication of minutes/audio recordings of public meetings of groups.</li> </ul> <p>This commitment also envisaged the second activity, in particular, a proactive publication of information about working groups, which <b>is not implemented</b>.</p>		

Activity envisaged under the Commitment	Initiated by	Status
Introducing deadlines for publishing the minutes of parliamentary committee meetings on the website	Public Defender (Ombudsman) of Georgia	Implemented
<p>Amendments to the rules of procedures were developed, which determined that the minutes of the committee meeting and the audio recording should be published on the web page within 14 days after the end of the meeting.</p>		

Activity envisaged under the Commitment	Initiated by	Status
Publication of audio recordings of parliamentary committee meetings regarding draft laws	Public Defender (Ombudsman) of Georgia,  Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI)	Partially implemented
<p>As for the proactive publication of the record of the committee discussion/hearing, relevant <a href="#">amendments</a> were made to the Rules of Procedures of the Parliament. In addition, amendments to the order of the Chairman of the Parliament “On the approval of the standard for the proactive publication of public information and the request for public information in electronic form” has been prepared.</p>		

Activity envisaged under the Commitment	Initiated by	Status
Publication of reports of the oversight platform of government health care programs on the website of the Parliament	United States Agency for International Development/Good Governance Initiative (USAID/GGI)	Partially implemented
<p>During the reporting period, the committee prepared “The first <a href="#">report</a> of monitoring and evaluation of the universal health care program of the Health and Social Affairs Committee of the Parliament of Georgia”.</p> <p>An amendment was made to the statute of the Health and Social Affairs Committee, according to which the committee was allowed to periodically publish government health program oversight reports on the website of the Parliament. Although, the said reports have not been published yet.</p>		

Activity envisaged under the Commitment	Initiated by	Status
Conducting an information campaign about the new website of the Parliament	United States Agency for International Development/Good Governance Initiative (USAID/GGI)	Partially implemented
<p>In order to prepare the information campaign, various activities were carried out, in particular, a video material was prepared regarding the remote services provided by the new website. However, the campaign was not started during the reporting period.</p>		

Activity envisaged under the Commitment	Initiated by	Status
Proactive publication of information about parliamentary control mechanisms	Transparency International Georgia  Georgian Young Lawyers’ Association	Not implemented, implementation is ongoing
<p><b>The commitment</b> envisages publication of the following information on parliamentary control:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● In case of inviting an official accountable to the Parliament to the plenary and committee sessions, or <i>sua sponte</i>, the decision/request to summon official should be additionally indicated in the document and the audio recording of the session should be published.</li> <li>● In case of inviting officials to the meeting of the committee, the date of attendance should be placed on the website, and in case of non-attendance, the answer/letter of the accountable person (if any);</li> <li>● a written report prepared by the thematic speaker of the committee (Article 45 of the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Georgia) or an audio recording of the report presented at the committee session;</li> <li>● the questions sent by interpellation, the written answer received and the full recording of the plenary session of the Parliament;</li> </ul> <p>These activities were supposed to be carried out in 2021, but they <b>were not implemented</b>.</p>		

### 3.4. ENSURING CIVIL ENGAGEMENT

Activity envisaged under the Commitment	Initiated by	Status
Strengthening civil engagement in parliamentary activities	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI), United States Agency for International Development/ Good Governance Initiative (USAID/GGI)	Partially implemented
<p>The study envisaged under the commitment - “Citizen engagement Mechanisms in the Parliamentary Activities and Evaluation of their Effectiveness” was completed in January 2022.</p> <p>The deadline for developing the Center for Citizen Engagement Strategy and Action Plan, was adjusted to December 2022. The working group agreed that the implementation of this activity will begin after the completion of the strategic development plan of the Office of the Parliament.</p>		

Activity envisaged under the Commitment	Initiated by	Status
Informing citizens about new legislation	Education and Science Committee United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	Partially implemented
<p>A unified format of the information sheet (legislative digest) was developed with the involvement of the expert and the working group. The expert presented full and short versions of the legislative digest that were discussed in the committees and both versions were approved. The leading committee selects the law on which the legislative digest will be prepared, based on topics of public interest. During the 2022 fall session, legislative digests will be prepared and posted on the Parliament website in a pilot mode.</p>		

### 3.5. IMPROVING THE TRANSPARENCY OF PARLIAMENT ACTIVITIES

Commitment	Initiated by	Status
Improving the Structure of the Parliament’s Annual Report	Transparency International Georgia	Not implemented within the set deadline, implementation is ongoing
<p>During the reporting period, the following outputs <b>could not be delivered</b>: to modify structure (form) of the annual report of the Parliament and the reports of the committees, to submit the set of modifications to the Council, to submit the new structure (form) of the reports to the Bureau for its approval.</p> <p>In order to study the international best practice and ensure expert engagement, with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) an expert was selected who will also develop recommendations regarding the implementation of the commitment.</p>		

Commitment	Initiated by	Status
Improving the effectiveness of the Parliament Ethics Council	National Democratic Institute (NDI)	Not implemented within the set deadline, implementation is ongoing
<p>The commitment envisaged raising awareness of the Ethics Council members, as well as other deputies and the office of the parliament, and ensuring access to information on the activities of the Council. During the reporting period, the Ethics Council was not established in the parliament. Following the implementation of the commitment, one working group meeting was held. A handbook of the Code of Ethics for a Member of Parliament and a brief guide to the Rules of conduct stipulated in the Code of Ethics were shared among the group members.</p>		

### 3.6. ENHANCING PARLIAMENTARY OPENNESS

Commitment	Initiated by	Status
Annual Conference on topical issues of Parliamentary Openness	German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ)	Partially implemented
<p>During the reporting period, the concept of an annual conference on topical issues of Parliamentary Openness was developed and shared among the members of the working group. It is expected to fulfill the commitment within the deadline defined by the action plan.</p>		

Commitment	Initiated by	Status
Strengthening regional cooperation within the framework of the Parliamentary Openness initiative in the Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries	German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ)	Partially implemented
<p>The members of the working group set the spring-summer period of 2022 as the approximate date of the first meeting within the framework of the initiative of parliamentary openness in the Eastern Partnership countries in order to strengthen regional cooperation. The further development of events at the international level, in particular, the invasion of Russia in Ukraine, a member of the Eastern Partnership, and the ongoing war hindered the implementation of the planned activities.</p>		

### 3.7 STRENGTHENING AND ADVANCING LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

Commitment	Initiated by	Status
Develop a recommendatory methodology for the financial justification of the explanatory note to the bill	Parliamentary Budget Office	Partially implemented
<p>Following activities were envisaged under the commitment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disseminate the document developed by the Parliamentary Budget Office among interested parties for their feedback and recommendations; Review the received recommendations</li> <li>Develop final document</li> <li>Following the publication of the document create a video and conduct trainings for the stakeholders.</li> </ul> <p>The methodology document was developed and disseminated among the stakeholders during the reporting period.</p>		