Anti-Corruption Reforms and Citizens participation in the decision making process of self-government bodies case of Georgia

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International Ratings of Georgia

• According to 2017 Business Bribery Risk Index by Trace International, Georgia is ranked 25th out of 200 countries with the risk score of 23 out of 100;

• Experience of bribery according to the Global Corruption Barometer Survey 2017 prepared by Transparency International is only 7%;

• World Bank Doing Business survey 2017 places the country at number 16th (23rd place in 2016) among 190 states;
International Ratings of Georgia

• According to the World Justice Report Rule of Low Index 2017-2018, Georgia is the strongest overall rule of Law performer within Eastern Europe and Central Asia, holding 1\textsuperscript{st} Place and globally 38\textsuperscript{th} among 11 states;

• According to the \textit{Corruption Perception Index of 2017} prepared by the \textit{Transparency International}, Georgia ranks 46\textsuperscript{th} among 180 states and constantly remains the first in the region with the score of 56;

• According to the \textit{Heritage Foundation in Economic Freedom} 2017, Georgia scores 76 with the ranking 13\textsuperscript{th} or 3\textsuperscript{rd} globally (among 180 countries) and 5\textsuperscript{th} in the region.
Some steps to fight Corruption

• Georgia has strengthened the anticorruption institutional and legislative framework;
• Create the on-line state procurement system, which is constantly improving;
• Establish online asset declarations system and later monitoring mechanism for the asset declarations of public officials (principle `everybody sees and knows everything`);
• Develop E-Treasury and E-Budget programs and etc.
Anti-Corruption Council

• Develops anticorruption policy;
• Ensures diligent implementation of international recommendations;
• Coordinates and monitors implementations of the Anti-Corruption Strategy and Action Plan;
• Anti-Corruption Action Plan for 2017-2018 consists of 24 commitments of 24 responsible agencies which are in compliance with OGP principles – transparency, accountability, public participation, technologies and innovations for transparency and accountability.
Modern Agenda to Fight Corruption

Georgia has moved to a new stage of fight against corruption and Currently the main target for Georgia is:

• achieve higher level of transparency and accountability;
• increase access to public information;
• enhance involvement of citizens;
• further improve corruption prevention mechanisms;
• take advantage of new technologies and innovative approaches in the public governance.
Open Government Partnership - Georgia

• Georgia joined the initiative in September, 2011;

• Open Government Georgia’s Forum (Forum) - regular coordination mechanism of Open Government Georgia on the national level;

• Georgia will host the 5th OGP Global Summit in Tbilisi, Georgia, on July 17-19, 2018. The Summit will be hosted by the Prime Minister of Georgia.
Citizens participation in the decision making process of self-government bodies case of Georgia
Forms of Citizen Participation

According to the law on local self governance, the forms of citizen participation in the local self-governance are the following:

- **General Assembly** of a settlement;
- Petition;
- Council of civil advisors;
- Participation in the sessions of a Municipal Assembly (Sakrebulo);
- Reporting on implemented work by elected officials (Mayor and Municipal Assembly (Sakrebulo) members);
General Assembly of a settlement

• Any voter registered in the settlement is a member of the General Assembly. The owners of real estate on the territory of the settlement and other adults who live in the settlement also have the right to participate in General Assembly.

• General Assembly discusses important social and economic issues of the settlement and prepare relevant proposals to submit it to municipal authorities.

• Discusses infrastructure projects before the adoption in the local budget.

• Makes decision to organize important events for the settlement, for instance, volunteer involvement of the local population in the cleaning of the area, in the charitable activities, in the repair and maintenance of infrastructure and so on.
General Assembly of a settlement

• By the initiative of municipal authorities, the General Assembly may consider the issue of privatization of municipal property located in the territory of the settlement.

• Discusses the setting and changing of the settlement boundaries.

• The General Assembly can also submit petition to the Municipality Council (Sakrebulo), and in this case it is no longer necessary to collect signatures.

• The law obliges the municipal authorities to consider decisions of the General Assembly and notify the reasoned answer to the Members of the General Assembly.
Petition

At least 1% of voters registered within municipality are entitled to develop and submit to the Municipal Assembly, practically any issue that concerns the population, such as:

• a draft of a normative administrative-legal act;
• General principals of administrative-legal acts, or amendments or some other specific proposals;
• Common problems or issues which population want to be discussed by the municipal council.

In the big cities and municipalities the Municipal Assembly (Sakrebulo) has the right to grant the petition to lower number of voters than 1%.
Petition

• The Code stipulates the general principles of petition submission, meanwhile the Municipal Assembly defines the detailed procedure for submitting the petition in electronic form

• In some municipalities the petition can be submitted online as an electronic document;

• From December 2015 to January 2018, 77 petitions have been submitted to the Municipal Assembly.
Civil Advisors Council

• According to the Code, the Civil Advisory Council is the Mayor's advisory body.

• The Civil Advisory Council is composed of representatives of private sector, NGOs and local population.

• Creation of Civil Advisory Council is mandatory for all Mayors.
Civil Advisors Council

According to the Code, Mayor is obliged to submit for discussion to the Civil Advisory Council:

• The draft budget of the municipality;
• Spatial planning;
• Proposals on the names of geographical objects;
• Infrastructural and social projects.

Civil advisory councils were created in all 64 municipalities and in all 10 districts in Tbilisi.
Participation in the sessions of a Municipal Assembly

Any person has the right to attend public meetings of Municipal Assembly and its commissions without preliminary notice;

The law obliges the municipality to place seats in the meeting hall for those who wish to attend the public sessions of Municipal Assembly and its commissions.

Persons attending the sessions have the right without preliminary permission, but only with the consent of the chair of the meeting, ask questions to the rapporteur, make an explanation and statement, submit the information.
Reporting on implemented work by elected officials (Mayor and council (Sakrebulo) members)

Municipal Mayor and Municipal Assembly members are obliged to hold public meeting with the municipal voters at least once a year and submit a report on the implemented work during a year.
On-going process in Georgia

Government of Georgia with the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure is developing the decentralization strategy for 2018-2027 which aims at:

1. Enhancing the role of self-government in deciding the local issues, among them infrastructural projects, social protection, local economic development, cultural heritage, tourism and rural development and etc.

2. Expending the responsibilities of Municipalities and appropriate financial recourses (up to 7% of GDP);

3. Establishing reliable, accountable, transparent and result-oriented self-governance.
Thank you for your attention!