

Information regarding the implementation of Updated Recommendations for the Government of Azerbaijan

Members of OGP Government-Civil Society Dialogue Platform met on 28th December, 2017 to discuss the results of year of 2017 and recommendations of OGP Criteria and Standards Subcommittee.

In the last meeting of 2017, following decisions were adopted:

- Statute of OGP Government-Civil Society Dialogue Platform was adopted.
- Strategic Action Plan for the years of 2018-2020 was adopted
- Membership application of Ministry of Health was approved and with the inclusion of Ministry of Health, number of members of OGP Platform reached to 38.

Coordinator of OGP Government-Civil Society Dialogue Platform noted that the government and civil society dialogue upgraded with the establishment of Platform. New Strategic Action Plan provides very relevant platform for open discussions and partnership opportunities between stakeholders. He also noted that 18 round tables were conducted; more than 500 people involved to the activities of OGP Platform in 2017.

Representative of the Ministry of Justice gave presentation on newly established “Individual Electronic Window for NGOs” which eases the procedure of the grant registration and provides new opportunities for grant registration of NGOs, delivery of notification, reception of appeals, clarification of registry information and etc. Representative of the Ministry of Justice noted that they are interested in the suggestions of OGP Platform in order to make the new e-system more efficient and improved. It should be noted that with the introduction of new E-system, NGOs will submit information on their grant and receive notification in online form.¹

At this point Anti-Corruption Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan notes that this new e-system is one of initial steps have been taken to address OGP recommendations. Anti-Corruption Commission within the OGP Platform conducts regular meetings with the individual members of OGP Platform and gives financial and technical support to their activities.

It is important to note that today OGP Platform is also serving as one of the key network where important draft laws and regulations are discussed. On 6th February 2018, OGP Platform organized public discussion of draft law on “Chambers of Accounts”. Representatives of Chambers of Accounts, Members of Parliament, independent experts, scientists of Azerbaijan State Economic University and representatives of international organizations participated in the event. In the end suggestions of OGP Platform are finalized and sent to Chambers of Accounts for consideration.²

After conducting several individual discussions with members of OGP Platform and representatives of relevant state bodies, Anti-Corruption Commission notes that Recommendation 1.2 of OGP Subcommittee does not reflect current regulation. Because CSOs does not need to register every two years. Such as according to the regulations, whenever structure of CSOs is changed according to their Statute, they have to submit the copy of their decision to the relevant authority in order to keep the latest information on current board members. And this does not mean that they have to re-register their organization every two year. In practice, “extract” have been issued to every applicant within set time enshrined in the legislation.

¹ <http://ogp.org.az/az/index.php/2018/01/08/aciq-hokumet-platformasi-qht-lere-gosterilen-elektron-xidmetleri-muzakire-edib/>

² <http://ogp.org.az/az/index.php/2018/02/06/hesablama-palatasi-haqqinda-qanun-layihesinin-ictimai-muzakiresi-kecirilib/>