



№20160202

25 February 2016

Dear Mr/Ms,

With this letter we would like to express our support for the initiative of Tbilisi City Hall on its participation in the Open Government Partnership (OGP) Pilot Program.

From the very first years of OGP, Georgia was one of the active members and supporters of the core principles of OGP: transparency, citizen participation, accountability, technology and innovation. Government of Georgia, with the support of the non-governmental organizations, has already initiated and implemented two National Action Plans. In 2015, with the [support of civil society, the Parliament of Georgia was also involved in the Open Government Partnership](#) and committed to improve the involvement of citizens in parliamentary activities, to increase access to information, to publish the documents in a user-friendly format, etc.

[Institute for Development of Freedom of Information \(IDFI\)](#) is the leader local CSO which supports the Government and the Parliament of Georgia in implementation of the principles of OGP. Director of IDFI is the Co-Chair of the Open Government Georgia's Forum which coordinates the development and the implementation of the OGP Action Plan of the Government of Georgia. At the same time, IDFI leads the Consultative Group formed by the representatives of non-governmental and international organizations. Consultative Group assists the Permanent Parliamentary Council on Open and Transparent Governance in elaboration and implementation of the Open Parliament Georgia Action Plan. [IDFI is also a supporting organization of the Declaration on Parliamentary Openness](#) and is the only Georgian non-governmental organization [which endorsed the Joint Declaration on Open Government for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#).

IDFI welcomes the pilot program for supporting the involvement of local governments in Open Government Partnership, since it will ensure the implementation of the principles of transparency, openness and accountability at the local level. It is essential to ensure the efficient functioning of the local governments as they have direct impact on people's lives.

Tbilisi is the capital of Georgia and one of the leading regional centers, thus it is important to strengthen the openness and the accountability of Tbilisi City Hall. Though in the recent years there has been a significant success regarding the proactive disclosure of public information, Tbilisi City Hall still lacks the effective mechanisms for supporting the public participation and engagement of citizens in decision making process. [IDFI was supporting the Tbilisi City Hall in creation and](#)

implementation of a new concept of the web-page of Tbilisi City Hall that guaranteed proactive access of public information and formation of a citizen-oriented informational web-system.

IDFI believes that involvement of Tbilisi City Hall in OGP pilot program will directly affect the lives of its residents, will boost transparency, openness, and accountability of Tbilisi City Hall and will also be a huge incentive and example for other local governments in Georgia to get involved in the OGP and support the implementation of the principles of Open Government.

Sincerely,

Giorgi Kldiashvili



Director, Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI)

Co-chair of the Open Government Georgia's Forum

