

Criteria of the Open Government Georgia's Forum Membership for Non-governmental Organizations, Bases for termination of membership and Rules of Decision-Making

In accordance with the Decree of the Government of Georgia № 110, dated February 13, 2020, criteria of the **Open Government Georgia's Forum** (hereafter - the Forum) membership for the non-governmental organization shall be defined. Pursuant to the Decree:

1. A non-governmental organization intending to become a member of the Forum addresses the Speaker representing the non-governmental organizations of the forum (hereafter - Co-Speaker) in written form.
2. The criteria of Forum membership for a non-governmental organization are determined and approved by the Forum member non-governmental organizations.
3. Co-Speaker of the Forum notifies the Secretariat (Public Administration Unit, Policy Planning and Coordination Department of the Administration of the Government of Georgia) on the enrollment of a new member or termination of membership of the existing member in written form.
4. The Secretariat submits a request to the Council Chairperson on the enrollment of a new Forum member non-governmental organization to the Council.

I. Criteria for Membership

A non-entrepreneurial (non-commercial) legal entity registered and acting in Georgia complying with the following selection criteria shall join the Forum: ¹

1. With its activities explicitly supports values and principles of the Open Government Partnership's (OGP);
2. Has experience of working in at least one area of the OGP Challenges;²
3. Has at least 3 years of continuous working experience by the moment of submitting a letter of intent on the Forum membership;
4. No public officials or/and members of a political party are represented in the board of the organization;
5. Organization does not practice hate speech;
6. Organization discloses information on funding and its activities.

II. Rules for enrollment of a new member of the Forum

- Forum member non-governmental organizations with the right to vote shall approve the decision on enrolling a new forum member by a two-thirds majority;
- Co-Speaker of the Forum shall notify the Open Government Georgia's Secretariat on the decision of new non-governmental organization enrollment in written form.

III. Grounds for Termination of Forum/Council membership

¹ Authority and responsibilities of the Forum are established by the Decree of the Government of Georgia № 110, February 13, 2020.

² OGP Challenges are as follows: 1. Improving public services, 2. Increasing public integrity, 3. More effectively managing public resources, 3. Creating safer communities, and 5. Increasing corporate accountability.

Grounds for termination of the Forum/Council membership for a non-governmental organization are as follows:

- Dissolution of the organization;
- Statement on the termination of the membership by a representative of the organization;
- Unauthorized absence of the majority of meetings (50%+1) by a representative of member organization during a year;
- Violation of the membership criteria;
- Termination of the membership of the Forum shall automatically terminate membership of the Council.

IV. Rules for Decision-Making on Termination of Forum/Council Membership

When grounds for termination of Forum/Council membership of a non-governmental organization exist:

- The Secretariat informs the Co-Speaker of the Forum on the absence of non-governmental organization at the majority of meetings held in a one-year time frame;
- Violating requirements of membership criteria authorize Forum members to address the Co-Speaker of the Forum in written form, requesting to discuss termination of membership;
- Co-Speaker of the Forum notifies member organization in written form within three days on the request to review its membership; Co-Speaker of the forum informs Open Government Georgia's Secretariat as well; Organization submits a written notice to the Co-Speaker of the Forum within ten days after receiving the request;
- Forum member non-governmental organizations with the right to vote approve the decision on termination of membership by a two-thirds majority;
- Co-Speaker of the Forum notifies the Open Government Georgia's Secretariat on the decision of terminating/granting continuation of membership in written form.