



**United Nations**  
Global Compact

Transparency International Georgia (TI Georgia) is a local chapter of the global anti-corruption network and our main mission is to combat corruption in Georgia through the promotion of transparency and accountability. Over the years we grew inter-alia, in terms of the scope of activities and today we are among most active and influential Non-Governmental Organizations in the Country and we are a leading advocacy-based think tank. Still, our main function is to monitor Georgian public and private entities, as well as individuals against any corrupt and fraudulent practices, and to reveal and publicize such occurrences.

We mainly work through producing of analytical papers, lobbying, but also we do mobilize civil society and general public around certain causes which we deem to be important for the broader society of Georgia.

Promotion of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is among those directions which we focus on (both, directly and indirectly) in our work in the recent period. Generally, it has to be mentioned that CSR is something pretty novel and therefore largely unknown by the businesses. The culture of CSR has far from being entrenched in Georgian society, and only first steps are being made. Therefore, it is very important that this process is smooth, cooperative and involves all of the important stakeholders. It is particularly important that this process is directed in permanent dialogue with the government and business sector and that it is done in the spirit of cooperation, rather than obligation or enforcement.

Business sector is obviously a crucial actor in this regard. Generally, TI Georgia, constantly engages with different stakeholders in course of our activities. Business sector is definitely one of them. We are members to a number of largest and most active business associations in Georgia – namely AmCham and ICC (ex-officio Board Member). This membership of ours we use to generally keep constant communication with the business sector (as they are one of the most important sources of information for our work), but also we try to promote the culture of CSR among businesses. As mentioned above, it is crucial, that CSR is presented to the business sector as a tool of enhancing their activities, one that could bring an added value to their business, rather than framing CSR as a set of obligations companies need to pursue. This is especially important at the current stage of development of CSR in Georgia – at the initial stage – because, there have been certain unfavorable precedents when the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) involved in the promotion of CSR were pressurizing businesses to do CSR, in a demanding, rather than cooperative and engaging manner, which resulted in alienation of the business sector towards the subject. We believe, that the focus should be different from the one mentioned above – it should be more inviting towards cooperation, informative/educative and thus step-by-step engaging.

Exactly this approach is undertaken through the CSR Club Georgia and UN Global Compact Georgia Network, members of which TI Georgia is. We think these two are perfectly placed forums which allow to conduct information events and campaigns, effectively engage with the Business Sector (several large

business associations are members) and promote CSR through the power of example and by presenting the business-related positive results of particular businesses.

Another important stakeholder to engage in the CSR related activities is obviously the state, which has powers to create favorable environment conducive for CSR promotion. TI Georgia has a multi-year successful background of lobbying various issues of importance in the Government and Legislature, and CSR is among those topics we are focusing and plan to focus on in the coming years. A specific example would be our joint effort with our partner organization Civil Development Agency (CIDA), who is the founder of the CSR Club and the President of the Board of UN Global Compact Georgia, to lobby for very specific changes in the Tax Code of Georgia which would provide legislative basis for boosting certain type of CSR activities. This process is underway and we are already in the dialogue with the government, and plan to introduce the topic to the legislature next year, when the new Parliament will be assembled and operational.

In connection to our future plans, definitely we will continue to be generally very active in terms of CSR and continue all our existing engagements with different stakeholders in this regard. Apart from that, again with our partner NGOs, we plan to launch a large, multi-year and multi-dimensional project which would inter-alia focus on promotion of CSR culture, on empowering other – primarily regional – NGOs in CSR-related subjects and analyzing and enhancing the CSR-related legislation.

We believe, that through these and other, joint and individual efforts by CSOs and other stakeholders, the next few years will be decisive in development of CSR in Georgia and we are happy to be able to contribute to this process. We remain committed to promotion of CSR culture in Georgia and are confident that this is crucially important for sustainable development of Georgian business and society as a whole.

Hereby, we will be glad to have the opportunity of continuing cooperation with the Global Compact and renew our commitment to the initiative.