



NGOs Statement about “Panorama Tbilisi” Project

On July 16, 2015 media released information stating that LEPL Technical and Constructions Supervision Agency of the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia issued a construction permit on Panorama Tbilisi project. We would like to voice our position about the decision and state, that:

The Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia and Technical and Constructions Supervision Agency completely ignored official application of nearly 17 organizations and 5000 individuals about making decision on [REDACTED] Tbilisi A project by conduct of public administrative proceeding;

Conduct of public administrative proceeding on the one hand would have allowed all interested parties to express their position about the project and on the other hand would have assisted to implementation of public discussion on the issue;

While implementation of the project on the location generates number of remarks and unanswered questions (including in terms of transportation, ecology and cultural heritage), transparency of decision making process becomes even more decisive;

Though, authors of the application are not informed why administrative agencies refrained to use granted competence allowing conduct of public administrative proceeding on the issue including interests of public at large;

The Ministry and the Agency, and accordingly state [REDACTED] attitude clearly demonstrate their obligation in terms of accountability and transparency to the citizens;

We opine that ignorance of high public interest in the process of issuing construction permit on Panorama Tbilisi Project and making decision without involvement of interested public groups questions state declared policy in terms of protecting main

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principles (transparency, accountability, civil involvement) of open governance partnership (OGP);

We realize importance of investments and economic development for the country, though we would like to remind the state authorities that the city belongs to people rather than to any natural and legal person with a title on the concrete land and making a decision in hastened and nontransparent manner, without public involvement, violates democracy governance principles.

Undersigned Organizations:

Georgian Young Lawyers' Association

Tiflis Hamkari

Green Alternative

Institute for the Development of Freedom of Information