



April 5, 2013

Letter from National Budget Group (NBG) to International Budget Partnership (IBP)

National Budget Group (NBG) is a civil society coalition which all of members have broad experience in budgeting. During last 7 years, NBG organized public hearings and trainings, additionally prepared timely and relevant recommendations for decision-makers on budget transparency, accountability and participation in Azerbaijan. NBG actively cooperates with International Budget Partnership (IBP), Global Movement for Budget Transparency, Accountability and Participation (Global BTAP), Open Government Partnership (OGP) and other relevant international initiatives.

After carefully considering the results of the Open Budget Survey 2012 and Open Budget Index 2012, National Budget Group expresses fully concord and consent regarding to the results. NBG approves that these results properly reflect the situation in Azerbaijan on budget transparency, accountability and participation. Also, NBG acknowledges that survey methodology and research process is very credible and relevant to reveal real situation and main inclinations in any given country including Azerbaijan. Open Budget Survey 2012 and Open Budget Index 2012 identified main challenges and shortcomings of Azerbaijan's budget process, budget system and budget documentation in terms of transparency and engagement.

NBG is calling the Azeri government, legislature and supreme audit institution to undertake serious reforms in order to increase budget transparency, accountability and participation in Azerbaijan. Especially, Azeri Government should publish and immediately disclose a citizen's budget which provides main budget information in understandable language; also it should publish pre-budget statement to launch pre-budget debates. Azeri Parliament should conduct fair and sincere public hearings during the budget discussion in the legislature. Supreme Audit Institution should enrich the content of audit reports and include all extra-budgetary funds to this auditing mechanism.

NBG is ready to be reliable and sustainable partner of this reform process as active non-state actor.

Sincerely,


Galib Abbaszade
NBG Coordinator

NBG was established as coalition by 9 non-governmental organizations in February, 2006 which all of these members have broad experience in budgeting. Our mission is transforming initiatives on transparent and effective usage of budget into public interest. Main purposes of NBG are: increasing and popularization of budget information; publicizing budget issue for providing public oversight over budgetary issues; improving the budget legislation; achieving transparency and effectiveness of budget expenses, as transparency issue is mostly related to expenses; participation in budget process and achieving public influence in decision-making process; providing accountability in budget process and increasing the effectiveness of budget implementation; and participation in international budgeting initiatives.