

Registration code _____

**Decree of the Government of Georgia No
Of _____ 2015, Tbilisi**

**On creation of Basin Management Consultation and Coordination
Councils and Approval of Typical Charter**

Article 1

Pursuant to part 3, chapter 13, article 43, paragraph 3, subparagraph ‘a’ of the law of Georgia on “Water Resource Management”, with the view of providing consultations, proposals and conclusions and coordination of the parties during the elaboration and implementation of Integrated River Basin Management Plans, Consultation and Coordination Councils (hereafter the “council”) shall be formed at the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia.

Article 2

Councils shall be established based on basin-territorial principle. One basin council shall be formed per river basin district.

Article 3

Council composition shall be defined and approved for each river basin district separately.

Article 4

The appended Typical Charter (annex 1) of basin council is approved.

Article 5

Decree shall be enacted upon promulgation.

Prime Minister

Irakli Garibashvili

Typical Charter of Basin Management Consultation and Coordination Council

Article 1. General provisions

1. Consultation and Coordination Council for basin management (hereafter the “Council”) is an advisory body at the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia.
2. Main goal of the Council is to ensure cooperation between the governmental and non-governmental entities with the view of protection and wise use of water resources within appropriate basin district.
3. The Council activity is guided by Georgian Constitution, Georgia’s international treaties and agreements and other legislative and normative acts.
4. Structure, authority and rule of activities of the Council are determined by this provision.

Article 2. Council composition and structure

1. Council composition is determined by the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia (MENRP).
2. Council can consist of the staff members of MENRP and other state agencies (including their local bodies), representatives of municipality sectoral bodies within the basin district, representatives of NGOs and international organizations engaged in relevant field, experts and scientists, as well as representatives of organizations engaged in the activity that causes significant impact on water resources, large water users, water user associations and other stakeholders.
3. Council members can be recalled by the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources Protection, upon proposal of a nominating body or own initiative.

Article 3. Council Objectives and Authority

1. Basic objectives include:

- a) Providing consultations, proposals/recommendations and conclusions on specific issues concerning the protection and wise use of water resources during the elaboration of Integrated River Basin Management Plans;
- b) Review of River Basin Management Plans prior to submission to the Government of Georgia for approval;
- c) Participation in public discussions during elaboration of River Basin Management Plans;
- d) Coordination of the activities of parties involved in River Basin Management Plan development;
- e) Participation in drawing up and discussion of the economic, social and other development plans at appropriate basin district on the issues related to protection and wise use of water resources;
- f) Preparation of expert reports on the issues arising during the elaboration of Integrated River Basin Management Plan; raising the issue and requesting the revision of a plan in case of any additional impact/potential impact on the river basin;
- g) Acquaintance with the reports on the activities related to water resources, undertaken by executive bodies of local self-government in relevant basin district;
- h) Strengthening the cooperation and sharing information between state agencies, communities and water users to contribute to the river basin management;
- i) Designing a project to attract finances for conduction of activities under the management plan.

2. The council is entitled to retrieve (request) from state agencies and other institutions information required for the fulfillment of its objectives in line with the rules provided by the law.

Article 4. Organizing Council's Work

1. Council chairperson heads the council and organizes meetings. The chairperson is appointed by the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia.
2. In case of the absence of Council chairperson, the deputy chairperson, or other member of the Council nominated by chairperson performs his duties.
3. Council sessions are convened in accordance with the timeline approved by the Council. If necessary, early session can be held by chairperson or at least one third of the council members.
4. Council session agenda is approved by Council chairperson.

5. Council chairperson and members are entitled to raise a question at the session, for which the initiator shall present to the chairperson the documents related to the subject matter not later than 14 days before the session.
6. Council session agenda and materials related to the agenda issues shall be delivered to the members not later than 5 days before the session.
7. Information on the planned council session and the preliminary agenda shall be published 5 days prior to the session.
8. At Council session, decision is made through open vote by a simple majority.
9. For decision-making at Council session, attendance of more than half of the members is required.
10. Recommendations adopted by Council will be sent to appropriate state institutions and municipalities.
11. Minutes of the session and other documents adopted at the session will be kept in the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection, which provides the access to these documents for council members and public upon request.

Article 6. Organizational and technical assistance for Council activity

1. Administration and analytical support for Council activity is provided by the Water Resource Management Office of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection.
2. Organizational and technical assistance is provided by appropriate river basin district management body, which spreads information on Council formation, composition, as well as the date, location and agenda of sessions via public information media and ensures the publicity of session decisions.

Article 7. Final Provision

Council Regulation can be cancelled or modified by the Decree if the Government of Georgia.