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Priority directions for the development of civil society in Uzbekistan

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Abstract—This article discusses the strategic directions of the development of civil society for the medium and long term. Moreover, an important task is to initiate, fundamental and applied research with the participation of scientific and expert circles in the field of development of civil society; the development of indicators for assessing the progress of civil society; the level of interaction of its institutions with state bodies, as well as their contribution to the socio-economic development of the country.

The next priority area is the organization of the developmental proposals on improving the organizational, legal and economic foundations of the civil society institutions` activities.

Particular attention is also required to increase the effectiveness of social partnership and public control; create favorable conditions for expanding the participation of civil society institutions in public administration; further strengthening their organizational capacity, and organizing capacity-building trainings development specialists

Keywords- *civil society, social partnership, public control, fundamental research, standard-settings, training*

I. INTRODUCTION

Among the key tasks identified by the Development Strategy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2017 – 2021 in the area of reforming the state and social construction system was the improvement of public management, including the development of modern forms of public control, increasing the effectiveness of social partnership, the development of public and political activity of civil society institutions.

There is an urgent need to develop proposals for the formation of a national model and determine on its basis the strategic directions for the development of civil society in the medium and long term perspectives.

The essence of the problem lies, first of all, in the fact that today the current legislation does not have a clear definition of the concept of “civil society”, which would fully comply with both historical traditions and the mentality of the people, and the national development model of the country defined in the Action Strategy.

It should be noted that in the world there are many conceptual and theoretical models of the formation and development of civil society (Khoros, 1998). And not all of them are acceptable for Uzbekistan (Syryamkina and Stupnikova, 2015).

It seems appropriate in this matter to rely on those theoretical conclusions that consider civil society and the state as two interrelated forms of a single society that have common goals and act as partners in achieving these goals through the interaction of relevant state and public institutions (Zhuravleva, 2015; Nemtoi, 2015).

At the same time, in the presence of not only the stated, but also other theoretical approaches, one of the significant gaps is that the current state programs of fundamental and applied research do not set the task of critically analyzing existing theoretical concepts and developing on this basis conceptual and theoretical approaches to the formation of a national model for the development of civil society in Uzbekistan.

In view of the foregoing, it seems appropriate to organize the development and introduction of substantiated proposals on the inclusion of such tasks as:

- assessment of the applicability for the conditions of Uzbekistan of the Concept of unity of the state and civil society, acting as partners in achieving common goals of the country's development;
- determination of the development methodology, based on the specified Concept, of strategic directions for the development of civil society in Uzbekistan for the medium and long term perspectives;
- identification of effective state-legal mechanisms for the formation and support of civil society institutions.

II. INITIATION OF BASIC AND APPLIED RESEARCH ORGANIZATIONS

An important task today is to initiate, with the participation of scientific expert circles, and the organization of fundamental and applied research in the field of development of civil society.

As the studies on adopted governmental programs, such as the Fundamental Research Program "The development of society, the theory of statehood and law, the competitiveness of the economy" and the Program for Applied Research, as well as "Development of the scientific foundations for further deepening democratic reforms, the formation of civil society, modernization and liberalization of National Economy" show that there is a urgent need for conducting comprehensive researches on the development of civil society.

Relevant studies are carried out by scientists and specialists from the Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the National Center for Human Rights, the National University of Uzbekistan, Tashkent State Pedagogical University, the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and a number of other central and regional higher educational institutions. Sociological surveys and public opinion studies on the development of civil society are regularly conducted by the public center named "Public Opinion" and the Independent Institute for Monitoring the Formation of Civil Society (Parmanov and Halbekov, 2019; Parmanov, 2016).

In 2017 – 2018, a number of scientific works were submitted for the defense of Doctor of Science and Doctor of Philosophy, within the basic and applied research programs of the state. In the last period, educational institutions have been provided with a number of educational and teaching aids on the "Fundamentals of Civil Society" subject and related subjects (Jalilov and Muhammadiev, 2015).

In general, the ongoing researches on this topic reveal the main features and significance of the formation of civil society in Uzbekistan (Abdukhalilov, 2018; Gaffarova, 2018; Sadykova, 2016; Matibaev, 2017).

However, it should be noted that the ongoing researches on the development of civil society is fragmented. They are carried out by various scientific and educational institutions in different branches of knowledge, and, as a rule, have insufficient applied value.

This appears to be mainly due to the following circumstances.

Firstly, state programs of basic and applied research on the development of civil society and its individual institutions are not connected by a single program-target approach. They do not set the goal of developing conceptual and theoretical foundations of a national model for the development of civil society in Uzbekistan.

In contrast to the practice used in many foreign countries, in the organization of applied research on the development of civil society, there is no such form as a state social order. State scientific and technical programs of applied research on this topic, links to which are posted on the website of the Ministry of

Innovative Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan, are simply a list of topics on which applicants are allowed to defend their dissertations. They do not indicate the goals and expected results that the state would like to receive based on the results of relevant studies. The deadlines for the implementation of specific studies, the stages and directions of their further development are not defined. According to individual experts, this is one of the factors leading to insufficient practical significance of those works that are classified as applied research on the development of civil society and its institutions.

Secondly, the development of basic and applied research on the formation of civil society and its institutions is largely hampered by the lack of a single scientific and analytical center in the country until recently to conduct relevant research.

In this regard, it should be noted that, in accordance with the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated June 28, 2013 No PD-1990 “On measures to further improve the system of training of legal personnel”, as part of the Tashkent State Law University, on the basis of the abolished Institute of Philosophy and Law Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Center for Legal Research was established. Among other priorities, this Center is entrusted with the task of carrying out fundamental and applied research in the field of improving and developing the legal framework for the further democratization of state power and administration, and the formation of civil society.

In accordance with the approved regulations on the Center, the Department included the Department of Legal Problems of State Building and Management, the Department of Legal Problems of Deepening Market, Socio-Economic Reforms and the Department for the Study of Problems of Reforming the Judicial Legal System. Scientific departments on legal issues of the formation of civil society in this Center were not created.

At present, the activities of the Center for Legal Studies have been discontinued due to the formation on its basis, in accordance with the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated April 13, 2018 No PD-5415 “On measures to radically improve the activities of bodies and institutions of justice in the implementation of state legal policy”, Research Institute of Legal Policy under the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The functions of this Institute do not include research on the development of civil society.

Based on the foregoing, it seems appropriate to carry out such tasks as initiating fundamental and applied research in the field of development of civil society, such as:

1. Organization, together with the Ministry of Innovative Development, the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Independent Institute for Monitoring the Formation of Civil Society, the National University of Uzbekistan and other leading scientific and educational institutions have carried out an inventory of scientific works during 1992 - 2019 on the development of civil society.

On this basis, it is proposed to identify relevant topics on which it is advisable to continue research, as well as make proposals on forms of state support for relevant work with the aim of creating, in the future, a scientific school on the development of civil society.

2. Initiation of the development of a separate State program of basic and applied research on the formation of civil society by the period of 2021, as an independent section of a single State program for the development of science and technology.

3. Preparation, together with the Ministry of Innovative Development, the Independent Institute for Monitoring the Formation of Civil Society, the National Association of Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organizations of Uzbekistan and other interested organizations and making suggestions on the formation of a single package of orders for applied research on various aspects of social partnership, public control, public

councils at state bodies and other issues from interaction of civil society with the state bodies and economic management (Zhuravleva, 2015; Nemtoi, 2015; Kornienko and Syryamkina, 2015).

At the same time, it seems appropriate to highlight such priority tasks of applied research as:

- increasing the level of civic consciousness, civic and public activity of the population;
- forms and methods of participation of civil society institutions in solving problems of socio-economic development and pressing problems of the population;
- human rights, volunteer activities, forms and methods of its implementation, and etc.

4. Consideration of the creation of modern platforms for organizing relevant scientific discussions and laboratory research and making suggestions:

- the opening of a permanent scientific and methodological seminar for relevant scientific, expert discussions, “brainstorming”, etc. on fundamental and applied research on the formation of civil society;
- involve the seminar as trainee researchers, students of the Presidential Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the University of World Economy and Diplomacy, leading universities, and other educational institutions that train expert and analytical staff (Vasilescu et al., 2010).

III. DEVELOPMENT OF INDICATORS FOR ASSESSING THE DEVELOPMENT OF CIVIL SOCIETY

An important direction in the development of civil society is the development of indicators for assessing the development of civil society, the level of interaction of its institutions with state bodies, as well as their contribution to the socio-economic development of the country.

The lack of a unified methodology for appropriate monitoring and sociological research does not allow an objective assessment of the state and development trends of civil society in the country. The reports periodically prepared on these issues are fragmented and, as a rule, do not go beyond the statistical data on the number of civil society institutions (Abdukarimov, 2018; Abdukarimov, 2016).

In many relevant reports and reviews, the assessment of the level of development of civil society in the country is carried out on the basis of only indicators on the number of registered non-governmental non-profit organizations, existing bodies of self-government of citizens and other public institutions.

These studies say nothing about the growth of civic and social activity of the population, for example, as the number of events held locally by organizations of political parties, the Youth Union, the Women's Committee, self-government bodies of citizens and other public organizations were not mentioned. Most of these events are educational and explanatory in nature, are not aimed at resolving issues of concern to the population, and their coverage is ten times lower than the number of people contacting the Presidential Reception Centers and Public Service Centers on issues of interest to them.

Last year, for the first time, an attempt was made to assess the contribution of civil society institutions to the country's socio-economic development. However, the basis for this assessment was the indicators of entrepreneurial and industrial-economic activity of NGOs and other civil society institutions, moreover, these evaluations have been carried out by them in order to solve their constitutional tasks.

Many experts are also skeptical about the validity of the use of the employment and labor relations bodies and statistics authorities' indicators to measure the number of people working in civil society institutions as one of the indicators of the population's employment level.

According to some experts, one of the evaluation criteria should be the degree of participation of civil society institutions in the development and implementation of socio-economic development programs. At the same time, it is advisable to evaluate the contribution to the socio-economic development of the country in quantitative terms as the economic effect of the practical implementation of the proposals made by civil

society institutions and their innovative programs and projects aimed at improving the efficiency of economic and social reforms (Arond et al., 2019).

The study of relevant foreign experience shows, in many democratically developed countries an extensive system of indicators for the development of civil society has been developed, and the methodology for their application in monitoring and sociological research and the preparation of relevant analytical reports based on their results (Pozharskaya and Namazova, 2006; Mukhaev, 2008; Pavlenko, 2008).

In this regard, it seems important to organize the joint work of the Independent Institute for Monitoring the Formation of Civil Society, the National Association of Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organizations of Uzbekistan, and the Public Opinion Public Center for information and analytical support of such tasks as:

1. Development and coordination with interested organizations of a system of indicators that determine, taking into account relevant international experience:

- level of legal culture and civic engagement of the population;
- level of public and political participation of the population;
- level of organization of civil society;
- values of civil society;
- the level of influence of civil society institutions on the solution of economic social and political problems, as well as on the behavioral, value, political and other attitudes of the population;
- the economic, social, political and cultural situation in which civil society exists.

2. Mutual coordination of plans and methods for conducting relevant studies with the aim of organizing the preparation of an analytical report on the state and development trends of civil society based on the implementation of the State program “Years of Active Investments and Social Development”.

IV. ORGANIZATIONAL, LEGAL AND ECONOMIC FOUNDATIONS OF THE ACTIVITIES OF CIVIL SOCIETY INSTITUTIONS

The next priority area is the organization of the development of proposals on improving the organizational, legal and economic foundations of the activities of civil society institutions.

As the results of the relevant monitoring studies show, despite the creation of an extensive legislative base, a number of systemic problems and shortcomings take place in the legal regulation of the processes of formation of civil society and the activities of its institutions.

Firstly, one of the significant gaps in the current legislation in the field of civil society is the lack of a clear legal definition of the relevant terminology.

Thus, the definition of such concepts as “civil society”, “institute of civil society”, “public administration”, “public control”, etc., is not clearly defined in any legislative act, although these terms are used quite widely.

For example, the Law "On the Rules of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan" provides for the participation of representatives of civil society institutions in the discussion of bills in the committees of the Legislative Chamber. The Law on Social Partnership defines social partnership as the interaction of state bodies with non-governmental non-profit organizations and other civil society institutions.

Secondly, the mutual compliance between the various levels of legal regulation of the activities of civil institutions is not fully ensured.

Thus, the key legal norms on non-profit organizations that make up the institutional basis of civil society are defined by the Civil Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan. A number of these norms were further developed in the Laws “On Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organizations”, “On Public Funds”, “On Citizens Self-Government Bodies”.

At the same time, apart from the norms of the Civil Code, separate laws have not regulated the issues of the formation and activities of consumer cooperatives, associations of legal entities. To a certain extent, non-governmental non-profit organizations include partnerships of private homeowners, but they are not classified as non-governmental non-profit organizations, either in the Civil Code or in the Law on Non-State Non-Profit Organizations.

It also requires a clear legislative definition of the legal status of non-governmental educational institutions, which in practice in some cases are classified as non-governmental non-profit organizations. This practice, in particular, exists in some foreign countries (Banks, 2014).

The Law "On Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organizations" only defines such an organizational-legal forms as an institution with the significantly narrowing the relevant norms of the Civil Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan. At the same time, the reference norm of the Civil Code stating that the specifics of the legal status of certain types of state and other institutions are determined by law, with the exception of state institutions, practically does not find further development in other legislative acts.

In parallel with the Law on Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organizations, the Law on Public Associations in the Republic of Uzbekistan, adopted in 1990, continues to be in force. In accordance with this Law (Article 1), "political associations, mass movements, trade unions, women's, youth and children's organizations, organizations of veterans and disabled people, scientific, technical, cultural, educational, sports and other voluntary societies are recognized as public associations, creative unions, fraternities, associations and other associations of citizens."

As can be seen from this definition, it significantly goes beyond the definition of public associations in the Civil Code and in the Law on Non-State Non-Profit Organizations. At the same time, a certain contradiction arises regarding the classification of voluntary societies as public associations (many of which, rather, in their organizational and legal form are institutions) and associations (in the Civil Code, associations are considered as one of the forms of association of legal entities).

A comparison of the Law "On Public Associations in the Republic of Uzbekistan" with the Laws "On Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organizations" and "On Political Parties" simultaneously with the noted discrepancies indicates the presence of a large number of duplicate and parallel legal norms.

In connection with the foregoing, a number of experts consider it appropriate to take account the elimination of parallelism in the legislative regulation of civil society institutions, which takes place in many norms of the Laws "On Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organizations", "On Guarantees of the Activities of Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organizations" and "On Public Associations in the Republic of Uzbekistan" with the simultaneous termination of the obsolete Law on Public Associations.

Thirdly, there are no necessary procedural mechanisms to ensure the effective participation of civil society institutions in the development of legal acts.

Thus, the current legislation provides for various forms of participation of civil society institutions and the population directly in the consideration and preliminary discussion of draft laws and the consideration of public opinion in the development and adoption of legal acts.

Along with constitutional norms, relevant issues are considered by the Laws "On the nationwide discussion of draft laws", "On regulatory legal acts", "On the procedure for preparing draft laws and their submission to the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan", and others.

The Law "On Public Control" provides for such forms of public control as public discussion, public hearing, and public examination on issues of public importance, including draft regulatory legal acts.

However, all of these legislative norms are scattered; the legislation lacks procedural mechanisms for their practical implementation. A significant gap is the lack of legislatively established norms governing such

forms of preliminary assessment of regulatory documents as the organization of their discussion on special sites on the Internet and the conduct of a legal experiment.

Fourth, there are a number of gaps in the legislative regulation of the activities of political parties and their deputy associations and their interaction with other civil society institutions.

The legislation does not take into account the dual nature of political parties, which, being a key institution in the formation of representative bodies of state power, at the same time, are an important institution of civil society, perform the functions of representing and protecting the rights and legitimate interests of various social groups of the population.

The functions of political parties, such as:

- systematic study of the basic interests and needs of the social groups of the population that make up their electorate;
- development and promotion of their programs to solve problems arising in society;
- participation in the dialogue between representative bodies of state power and the population;
- political education of the population and the development of its social and civic activity.

Meanwhile, as the study of relevant international experience shows, political parties are vested with these and other similar functions in the laws governing the activities of parties in the Federal Republic of Germany, Bulgaria, Spain, Latvia and other countries.

Parties in Uzbekistan do not participate in the formation of budget requests and the development of draft state and local budgets. There are no procedural mechanisms for taking into account the views of parties at the stage of drafting the State budget and the budgets of state trust funds and the development of the structure of public spending in the current legislation. The participation of parties in budgeting is reduced only to the discussion of relevant projects at the stage of their adoption.

The legislation also does not explicitly provide for the participation of party structural units in the implementation of public control and their interaction in this area with other civil society institutions (Zhuravleva, 2015).

Fifth, as noted in the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated May 4, 2018, the legislative standards governing the registration of non-governmental non-profit organizations, the procedure for their activities, provide for excessive bureaucratic requirements and obstacles, are outdated and do not meet modern requirements.

Similar problems exist in the organization of the activities of non-state media, which also, in accordance with the generally accepted classification in the international community, belong to civil society institutions (Banks, 2014; Kulsariyeva and Nassimova, 2014).

In view of the foregoing, it seems important to organize, within the framework of the relevant activities of the Advisory Council on the Development of Civil Society under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the joint work of the Independent Institute for Monitoring the Formation of Civil Society, the National Association of Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organizations of Uzbekistan and other interested organizations to implement the Improvement Concepts approved by the President of the country standard-setting and Lana practical measures for its implementation. In this case, it is important to pay special attention to solving problems such as:

- organization of an inventory of the legislative framework governing the formation of civil society and the activities of its institutions and the development of proposals for the systematization of legal acts, including their revision;

- increasing the level of influence of public discussions on the rule-making process by organizing effective work to involve citizens, civil society institutions, the media, business entities and science representatives in this process;
- development of proposals for the revision (abolition) of unreasonable restrictions, unnecessary administrative procedures and outdated regulatory mechanisms in by-laws and regulations related to the activities of civil society institutions.

V. IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF SOCIAL PARTNERSHIP AND PUBLIC CONTROL

Particular attention is also required to increase the effectiveness of social partnerships and public control, and to create favorable conditions for expanding the participation of civil society institutions in public administration (Arond et al., 2019).

As it is known, in accordance with the legislative definition, the main object of social partnership is cooperation between state bodies and civil society institutions in solving the problems of the country's socio-economic development, as defined in the Action Strategy.

However, a field study of the sectors of socio-economic development, formed in August last year with the aim of accelerating the development of regions, shows that the participation of civil society institutions in this work, with the exception of citizens' self-government bodies, is minimal.

On the one hand, this is a significant drawback in the work of sectors and their leaders, sometimes lacking the necessary skills in organizing joint work with representatives of civil society institutions. We also have to admit that often the initiatives of public organizations run into bureaucratic bureaucracy and the lack of understanding by some representatives of the authorities of the need for interaction with the “third sector”.

On the other hand, it is necessary to understand that social partnership involves equal and equally proactive participation of the parties - partners in solving common tasks for them. And the manifestations of counter-initiative and perseverance in these matters on the part of civil society institutions, unfortunately, are also very few.

In this regard, it is necessary to pay attention to the following circumstances.

Firstly, one of the main systemic reasons that hinder the manifestation of initiative in these issues by non-governmental non-profit organizations and other civil institutions is the presence of significant gaps in the determination of the relevant procedural mechanisms.

For example, the Law “On Social Partnership” determines that state bodies may, with their consent, involve non-governmental non-profit organizations and other civil society institutions in the development and implementation of socio-economic development programs, as well as in the development and implementation of these programs, they collect proposals from interested non-governmental non-profit organizations and other civil society institutions.

However, in the current legislation, the procedure for the participation of civil society institutions in this matter is not defined by any legislative act.

Secondly, there is no adequate system for an objective assessment of the effectiveness of social partnership.

Noting the “positive trends in the development of the practice of social partnership,” the relevant documents and materials routinely operate with growth figures for completed social projects, state grants received, etc.

Many of the social projects carried out at the expense of public funds through the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, khokimiyats of the regions, are divorced from life, are educational and explanatory in nature, and are not aimed at improving existing legislation and law enforcement practice.

This is largely due to shortcomings in the work of public commissions for social partnership. They do not carry out monitoring and evaluation of the state of social partnership in solving practical issues of social, socio-economic development in the relevant territory, they do not develop specific measures to improve work in this direction.

Thirdly, it requires further improvement both the legislative regulation of the implementation of the state social order and the relevant law enforcement practice.

It is noteworthy that both legislative norms and the practice of holding tenders for obtaining a state social order are fundamentally different from the practice of holding tenders (tenders) for the purchase of equipment, the performance of work and services for the needs of state bodies.

In the second case, a procedure has been established in accordance with which the relevant state body places a media announcement on competitive bidding, which clearly defines what it intends to purchase, in what volume, with what parameters, etc.

And when a state social order is submitted, in most public commissions and councils created under the relevant state bodies, only a list of topics is published on which you can apply for a state grant.

With such a question, in the opinion of many experts, there is no state order proper, which clearly sets out exactly what social work and under what conditions the state, in the person of the relevant body, intends to order from one of the civil society institutions that has submitted the best proposals for the competition. Moreover, the best, first of all, from the point of view of the expected, practically significant social or economic result.

Fourth, it is necessary to expand the scope of objects of social partnership and public control.

For example, the development of non-state spheres of social services, pensions for the population, social support and rehabilitation of people with disabilities is unjustifiably dropped out of this sphere. Meanwhile, international experience shows that social partnership in this area is widespread in the USA, France, Sweden, Germany, Japan, the Republic of Korea and other countries of Europe, Asia and the American continent (Banks, 2014).

Fifth, social partnership is unjustifiably limited only by the relationship between the state and civil society institutions.

In this regard, it is necessary to pay attention that the main goal of the Strategy of Action is to ensure the prosperity of the country and the growth of the welfare of society. Including social partnership aimed at solving precisely these problems.

However, entrepreneurship is the main driving force behind the Economic Reform Strategy. Moreover, it is in this environment that the middle class is formed, which in all theoretical concepts of civil society is considered as its system-forming basis, as a factor in ensuring the stability of social development.

In this regard, some experts consider a significant gap that neither the legislative, nor the practical subjects of entrepreneurship are considered as a third party to social partnership.

At the same time, the experience of other countries, in particular, Japan, the Republic of Korea, a number of EU and CIS states, shows that in these countries the so-called “three-sector” model of civil society development is preferred. Under this model, not only the state sponsors promising projects of civic institutions, but business entities take an equally active part in financing social projects and supporting civil society institutions.

Given all these circumstances, it seems appropriate to organize the joint work of the relevant commissions of the Advisory Council on the Development of Civil Society under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, as well as the Independent Institute for Monitoring the Formation of Civil Society and the National Association of Electronic Mass Media in such areas as:

- Organization of effective systematic monitoring of the practice of social partnership and public control;
- prompt identification of deficiencies in the organization of social partnership, timely submission of proposals to the relevant state bodies and civil society institutions to address them;
- within the framework of participation in the implementation of the Concept for the improvement of standard-setting activities, taking into account progressive international experience, the development and proposal of amendments to the Law on Social Partnership, providing for the transition from a two-sector to a three-sector model of its implementation;
- ensuring the timely development and approval of an action plan for the implementation of informational, analytical and methodological support for the activities of public councils, assisting them in introducing effective mechanisms for exercising public control over the activities of government bodies in accordance with the Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated July 4, 2018 “On measures organization of activities of public councils under state bodies. ”

VI. STRENGTHENING THE ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY OF CIVIL SOCIETY INSTITUTIONS

Recently, the trend of quantitative growth of non-governmental non-profit organizations and other civil society institutions has become stable.

According to the Ministry of Justice, as of July 1, 2018, 9478 non-governmental non-profit organizations and their individual divisions passed state registration in the justice authorities. In particular, 6475 non-governmental non-profit organizations passed state registration, 3003 non-governmental non-profit organizations and their individual divisions passed registration.

Out of a total of 513 non-governmental non-profit organizations are organizations of republican significance. Among them, 30 branches and representative offices of international and foreign non-governmental non-profit organizations. 8965 non-governmental non-profit organizations operate at the regional and local level.

The largest number of non-governmental non-profit organizations are registered in the city of Tashkent (808), in Ferghana (802), Samarkand (745) and Andijan (701) regions.

Nevertheless, despite the positive dynamics, many experts believe that it is too early to talk about the high level of development of civil society institutions in the country.

First, with the exception of a small group of mass public associations of republican significance - trade unions, political parties, the Youth Union, etc., non-governmental non-profit organizations do not provide a high level of public and civic participation of the population (Arond et al., 2019). In 2017, a little more than 21 thousand people worked on a voluntary basis in non-governmental non-profit organizations registered by the justice authorities.

Secondly, in considering the organizational and structural issues of civil society institutions, relevant studies usually do not fall below the city and district level.

Meanwhile, the civic and political activity of people is manifested where they live, i.e. in the mahallas. In the makhallas there are advisers on youth affairs, on working among women and strengthening the institution of the family, on developing family entrepreneurship, preventing crime, etc. However, advisers, members of the Kengash gathering of citizens is a relatively small asset, numbering no more than a few dozen people. Then, as the national average, the population living in the territory of one gathering of citizens exceeds 3 thousand people.

As the relevant monitoring studies show, only in a small part of the citizens' self-government bodies are advisers an asset around which the lower levels of civil society institutions operating in the mahall are grouped - primary organizations of the Youth Union, Women's Committee, veteran councils, lower levels of

environmental organizations, protection organizations consumer rights etc. In most self-government bodies, such an internal infrastructure is absent.

However, the main task of self-government is not only to actively work with the mahalla kengash. Based on the priorities of the Action Strategy, it is important to involve as many citizens living in the mahallas in active participation in public administration.

A study of foreign experience shows that in many developed countries, civil society institutions have an extensive infrastructure at the grassroots level. And this is considered one of the criteria for the development of civil society, providing the necessary conditions for the growth of civil and political participation of the population.

For example, the experience of Japan shows that in their historically established self-governing communities, volunteer organizations actively provide social support to vulnerable groups of the population. For this purpose, public funds are created, supported not only by the state, but, first of all, by business entities. Other social groups operate within the communities, contributing to the creation of an environment of good neighborliness, mutual support and cohesion.

Similar examples can be found in other countries of the world. This is an experience which, with appropriate adaptation, can very well be applied in the conditions of Uzbekistan.

According to experts, in order for this experience to be actively introduced, it is necessary that, as part of the mahalla kengashes, among the advisers, the number of initiative people be able to become a kind of "crystallization center" for the formation of civil society structures inside the mahalla. It is important that such non-governmental non-profit organizations as the Youth Union, the Women's Committee, the Nuroniy Foundation, the Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan, the Consumer Rights Protection Federation, etc., take counter-initiative on these issues.

VII. ORGANIZATION OF TRAINING AND IMPROVING THE QUALIFICATION OF SPECIALISTS.

An important area of state and public support for the development of civil society institutions is the organization of training and advanced training of specialists for the "third sector".

So, for example, last year the total number of employees of non-governmental non-profit organizations amounted to 37317 people, of which 381 were foreign citizens. 30004 people were employed on a regular basis, 4256 people were employed on a part-time basis. and 3,057 people were hired on a temporary basis under contracts. 21,160 people worked on a voluntary basis.

According to relevant foreign experience, work in civil society institutions requires not only high civic engagement, but also specific professional training (Vasilescu et al., 2010). However, the training of such specialists in higher educational institutions of the country is practically not conducted.

The only exceptions in this matter are:

- preparation of bachelors in the specialty "Information Service and Public Relations" (PR technologies), which opened in 2018 at the newly organized University of Journalism and Mass Communication of Uzbekistan;

- The opening of the Institute for the Study of Youth Problems and Training of Perspective Personnel at the Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the organization of advanced training for senior personnel in the field of public administration on the basis of newly organized regional branches of the Academy.

In addition, the National University of Uzbekistan, with the support of UNICEF, is launching the Program "Improving the Education and Practice of Social Work in Uzbekistan", the purpose of which is to develop the profession of a social worker to ensure social protection of vulnerable groups.

Until 2015, the shortage of relevant personnel in civil society institutions was filled to a certain extent due to the training of political scientists. However, since 2015, their training has been discontinued with the simultaneous introduction in the educational institutions of the teaching of the subject “Fundamentals of Civil Society”.

With a few exceptions (Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs), the teaching of this subject is informative and educational in nature and conducted in isolation from the scientific analysis of existing conceptual and theoretical models for the development of civil society and the assessment of the acceptability of these models to determine strategic directions for development civil society in Uzbekistan for the medium and long term (Tolen et al., 2014).

Teaching the foundations of civil society is also not accompanied by training in the specialties in demand in the "third sector". Such as, for example, specialists in social management, social psychology, economics and management in non-governmental non-profit organizations, organization of dialogue with the population, specialists in other areas of public policy and social sciences (Vasilescu et al., 2010; Medvedeva, 2015; Yarullin and Gabdrahmanova, 2015).

In this regard, it seems appropriate, within the framework of the relevant standing commissions of the Advisory Council on the Development of Civil Society under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, together with the Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Ministry of Higher and Secondary Education, the Independent Institute for Monitoring the Formation of Civil Society, and the National Association of Non-State Non-Profit organizations of Uzbekistan and other interested organizations:

- initiate a critical analysis of existing curricula and related manuals on the subject “Fundamentals of Civil Society” with the development, based on its results, of uniform state educational standards on this issue;
- prepare and make proposals on the organization of training in higher educational institutions of the country for civil society institutions in the specialties demanded by them in social management, social marketing, social psychology, political technologies, etc .;
- to develop a set of measures for information-analytical, methodological and organizational assistance to the activities of the regional branches of the Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan in solving the problems of advanced training of leading personnel of the public administration system;
- consider organizing regular seminars, trainings, and other interactive forms of raising the level of knowledge and qualifications of employees and the asset of civil society institutions, including organizing the exchange of experience with foreign and international non-governmental organizations.

VIII. CONCLUSION

In order to form a national model and determine on its basis strategic directions for the development of civil society in the medium and long term, it seems appropriate to carry out tasks such as:

- organization of an inventory of scientific works performed in 1992 - 2019 on problems of the development of civil society, identify relevant topics on which it is advisable to continue research;
- initiation of the development of a separate State program of fundamental and applied research on the formation of civil society for the period up to 2021, as an independent section of a single State program for the development of science and technology;
- preparation and introduction of proposals on the formation of a single package of orders for applied research on various aspects of social partnership and public control;

-opening of a permanent scientific and methodological seminar to conduct relevant scientific, expert discussions, “brainstorming”;

- development and coordination with interested organizations of a system of indicators that determine, taking into account relevant international experience, the level of legal culture and civic engagement of the population, the level of public and political participation of the population, the level of organization of civil society, etc.;

- organization of an inventory of the legislative framework governing the formation of civil society and the activities of its institutions and the development of proposals for the systematization of legal acts, including their revision;

- increasing the level of influence of public discussions on the rule-making process by organizing effective work on involving civil society institutions;

- development of proposals for the revision of unreasonable restrictions, excessive administrative procedures and outdated regulatory mechanisms in by-laws;

- within the framework of participation in the implementation of the Concept for the improvement of standard-setting activities, taking into account progressive international experience, the development of proposals for amending the Law on Social Partnership, providing for the transition from a two-sector to a three-sector model of its implementation;

-organization in higher educational institutions of personnel training for civil society institutions in the specialties demanded by them in social management, social marketing, social psychology, political technologies, etc.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The author is grateful to the Independent Institute for Monitoring the Formation of Civil Society and the Tashkent State Law University for the opportunity to receive valuable comments and suggestions from colleagues on the topic of the study.

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