ANALYSIS OF REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS GOVERNING THE PARTICIPATION OF CIVIL SOCIETY INSTITUTIONS IN STATE AND PUBLIC GOVERNANCE

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Annotatsiya. *Ushbu tadqiqotda fuqarolik jamiyati institutlarining davlat va jamiyat boshqaruvida ishtirok etishini tartibga soluvchi normativ-huquqiy asoslar tahlil qilinadi. Bunda yangilangan Konstitutsiya, nodavlat notijorat tashkilotlari, mahalla, ommaviy axborot vositalari va jamoatchilik nazorati to‘g‘risidagi qonunlarga e’tibor qaratiladi. Shuningdek, ushbu institutlarning davlat organlari bilan hamkorligini rivojlantirish va jamoatchilik nazorati mexanizmlarini takomillashtirish yuzasidan amaliy takliflar ilgari suriladi.*

Kalit so‘zlar: *fuqarolik jamiyati, normativ-huquqiy hujjatlar, nodavlat notijorat tashkilotlari (NNT), jamoatchilik nazorati, jamoatchilik kengashlari, mahalla, ommaviy axborot vositalari, Konstitutsiya, ijtimoiy sheriklik.*

Аннотация. *В данном исследовании анализируются нормативно-правовые основы участия институтов гражданского общества в государственном и общественном управлении — обновленная Конституция, законы об ННО, махалле, СМИ и общественном контроле. Также выдвинуты практические предложения по совершенствованию их взаимодействия с госорганами и укреплению механизмов общественного контроля.*

Ключевые слова: *гражданское общество, нормативно-правовые акты, негосударственные некоммерческие организации (ННО), общественный контроль, общественные советы, махалля, средства массовой информации, Конституция, социальное партнерство.*

Abstract. *This study analyzes the regulatory framework governing the participation of civil society institutions in state and public governance, focusing on the updated Constitution, laws on NGOs, mahalla, mass media, and public control. Additionally, practical proposals are presented to enhance their cooperation with state bodies and improve public control mechanisms.*

Keywords: *civil society, regulatory acts, non-governmental non-profit organizations (NGOs), public control, public councils, mahalla, mass media, Constitution, social partnership.*

Introduction

The active participation of civil society institutions in state and public governance is one of the most critical and key directions in building a modern democratic state and forming a legal society. In recent years, the Republic of Uzbekistan has implemented large-scale institutional and regulatory reforms to enhance the role of citizens in managing state and public affairs, strengthen the legal status of non-governmental non-profit organizations (NGOs), mass media (media), self-governing bodies of citizens, and public councils, as well as build a solid and modern legal foundation for their activities.

The system of regulatory acts governing the effective interaction between civil society institutions and state power and governance bodies has reached a conceptually new stage. The main objective of this section is to conduct a scientific, theoretical, and practical analysis of the legal foundations of civil society institutions' activities in the Republic of Uzbekistan, the forms of their participation in state governance, and the legislative acts regulating their efficiency.

1. Constitutional and Legal Foundations of the Activities of Civil Society Institutions

The legal groundwork for the activities of civil society institutions is strongly reflected in the updated Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The inclusion of a dedicated chapter on civil society institutions in the newly revised Constitution and the clear definition of their role in state and public life marked a priority step toward deepening democratic values in the country.

Chapter XIII of the Constitution is directly entitled "Civil Society Institutions," where non-governmental non-profit organizations, trade unions, political parties, mass media, and self-governing bodies of citizens are designated as the main pillars of civil society [1].

Article 127 of the Constitution guarantees that civil society institutions, including non-governmental non-profit organizations, form the basis of civil society and that their areas of activity are regulated by law [1]. At the same time, the Constitution defines the state's obligations to support the activities of civil society institutions and create equal legal conditions for their free operation.

The right of citizens to participate in the management of state and public affairs is consolidated in Article 36 of the Constitution, and this right is exercised directly as well as through their representatives [1]. This constitutional norm serves as the primary legal source for the participation of civil society institutions in public control and the decision-making process.

2. Analysis of Legislation Regulating the Activities of Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organizations

Non-governmental non-profit organizations (NGOs) are among the most essential and dynamic elements of civil society. In the Republic of Uzbekistan, the main legislative acts regulating the activities of NGOs include:

The Law "On Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organizations" (April 14, 1999). This law establishes the creation of NGOs, their rights and duties, guarantees of their activities, and dissolution procedures [2]. Article 4 of the Law guarantees the independence of NGOs and prohibits interference in their internal affairs by state bodies and their officials [2].

The Law "On Guarantees of the Activities of Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organizations" (January 3, 2007). This legislative act regulates the mechanisms for ensuring the financial and material-technical stability of NGOs, as well as the use of state subsidies, grants, and social orders [3]. According to Article 8 of the Law, the state provides financial support to NGOs by allocating state grants and subsidies for the implementation of socially important projects [3].

In recent years, several bylaws have been adopted to simplify the state registration procedure for NGOs, reduce state fees for registration, and digitize their accountability system. This contributes to the quantitative growth of NGOs and their initiative in solving social problems in society.

3. Legal Status of Public Control and Public Councils

The institution of public control is of decisive importance in ensuring the openness, transparency, and efficiency of state power and governance bodies. The Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Public Control" (April 12, 2018) is the main specialized document regulating relations in this field [4].

Article 3 of the Law defines the subjects of public control as citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan, self-governing bodies of citizens, non-governmental non-profit organizations, and mass media [4]. Article 6 of this Law outlines the following forms of public control:

- Submitting applications and inquiries to state bodies;
- Participating in open board meetings of state bodies;
- Public discussion;
- Public hearing;
- Public monitoring;
- Public expertise;
- Hearing of reports of state body heads by self-governing bodies of citizens [4].

In addition, a regulatory framework has been developed for establishing Public Councils under state governance bodies and local executive authorities. The Model Regulation "On the Public Council under State Bodies," approved by Resolution No. PP-3837 of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on July 4, 2018, established the organizational and legal mechanisms of these councils [5]. Public Councils serve as a bridge in combating corruption in the activities of state bodies, conducting expertise on draft regulatory acts being adopted, and ensuring that citizen interests are taken into account.

4. The Role of Self-Governing Bodies of Citizens and Mass Media in State Governance

Self-governing bodies of citizens (mahalla) represent a unique national institution of Uzbekistan's civil society model. The Law "On Self-Governing Bodies of Citizens" (New edition, April 22, 2013) reinforced the position of the mahalla institution in public governance [6]. Pursuant to Article 7 of the Law, self-governing bodies of citizens are not included in the system of state power bodies and resolve issues of local importance based on the interests of citizens, historical, and national characteristics [6].

Today, the mahalla institution has become an important subject authorized not only to provide social support, but also to exercise public control at the local level and monitor the implementation of state programs.

Mass media (media) operate as the information pillar of civil society and a tool for shaping public opinion. The Law "On Mass Media" (January 15, 2007) and the Law "On Principles and Guarantees of Freedom of Information" (December 12, 2002) constitute the legal foundation of media activities [7]. These laws guarantee the freedom to search, receive, and disseminate information, as well as the prohibition of censorship. The role of media in covering the activities of state bodies and exercising public control has increased significantly as a result of recent reforms in the information sphere.

5. Strategic and Conceptual Directions for the Development of Civil Society

Support for civil society institutions is carried out through systematic and long-term strategic documents. In this regard, Decree No. UP-6181 of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated March 4, 2021, "On Approval of the Concept for the Development of Civil Society in 2021–2025," holds a special place [8].

This Concept outlines the following priority directions for the development of civil society:

- Further improving the legal foundations of civil society institutions;

- Enhancing mechanisms for providing state support and assistance to civil society institutions;
- Creating necessary conditions for the active participation of civil society institutions in state and public governance;
- Expanding the participation of civil society institutions in the implementation of state social projects;
- Ensuring the openness and transparency of the activities of civil society institutions [8].

This strategic document created an important foundation for establishing equal and effective social partnership relations between civil society institutions and state bodies.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The analysis shows that a sufficiently robust and developed regulatory framework governing the participation of civil society institutions in state and public governance has been formed in the Republic of Uzbekistan. The updated Constitution, specialized laws, and Presidential decrees provide legal guarantees for the free and effective operation of these institutions.

However, to further increase the practical application and efficiency of regulatory acts, it is advisable to put forward the following proposals:

1. **Improving the mechanisms of the Law "On Public Control":** Legally defining the procedure for mandatory consideration of public expertise and public monitoring results by state bodies, as well as liability mechanisms for non-compliance.
2. **Adopting the Code "On Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organizations":** Developing a code on NGOs in order to unify scattered regulatory acts in the field of civil society into a single, cohesive system.
3. **Enhancing the independence of Public Councils:** Involving more independent experts and NGO representatives in public councils under state bodies, as well as ensuring their financial and organizational independence.

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