PROBLEMS AND ASPIRATIONS OF UZBEKISTAN ON THE WAY TO GLOBAL CIVIL SOCIETY

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Abstract. Today, modern global problems are forcing all representatives and organizations of civil society to unite to solve pressing problems. This makes it possible to form new actors in global civil society. As a result, new strategies of action appear at the global level, which changes our understanding of the modern world and the possibilities of civic activism. Therefore, this article analyzes the aspirations and opportunities of Uzbekistan for the integration of global civil society.

Keywords: INGO’s, social movements, civil society, global civil society, globalization, global governance, cooperation.

Introduction

In the scientific discourses, “Global Civil Society” is used as the basic concept, since in the era of globalization, the activities of all significant actors in international political, social, and economic relations have acquired a global character. In the modern era, civil society goes beyond the borders of national states, and become a factor in international life, which carries with it a positive integrating tendency that allows the development of civil initiative on an international scale.

Global civil society is a civil society that has transcended national states and acts on an international scale, uniting representatives of different countries in its networks and organizations and directing its activity to the global public good, that is, to overcoming the consequences of natural disasters, preventing humanitarian conflicts and catastrophes, the fight against the HIV / AIDS epidemic, the solution
of environmental problems, the protection of human rights, the formation of international democratic coalitions, etc. [1.p. 156]

The term "global civil society" is used to mean "developing social matter, taking the form of international non-governmental organizations, transnational informal networks, advocacy groups and social movements" [2, p.342].

The formation of a global civil society was mainly due to two reasons: 1) the very nature of global problems (for example, environmental protection) leads to the emergence of public actors demanding international collective management of these problems and not only by national governments;

2) the growing need to create international decision-making systems related to global problems creates the prospect for national societies of losing control of the domestic political process [3].

Today, Uzbekistan is striving to integrate the global civil society at a fast pace. Therefore, a thorough analysis of the activities and attempts of Uzbekistan in the integration of global civil society is necessary. One of the priority areas for integration to the global civil society of Uzbekistan is the development of civil society institutions. The state, implementing a policy of social partnership, encourages the development of non-governmental organizations, among which a certain part carries out human rights activities. It is difficult to overestimate the role and importance of these organizations in strengthening democratic values in the minds of people, increasing their political and civic engagement, expanding the scale and deepening of the democratic transformations taking place in the country. More than 250 laws have been adopted governing relations between the state and civil society institutions. Among them, an important role is played by the laws “On the Openness of the Activities of Government Agencies and Management” and “On Social Partnership” and other laws.

Today in Uzbekistan there are more than 9.7 thousand non-governmental non-profit organizations, including about 70 international and foreign representative offices of foreign INGOs. The state pursues a policy of social partnership and is actively developing civil society institutions. Significant work in the field of
ensuring human rights, improving the legal, political culture of citizens is carried out by the media. An extensive legal field has been created for their successful and active activity in Uzbekistan, which continues to improve taking into account international experience and the realities of our time.

**Analysis of research and publications.**

In the course of studying this issue, scientific articles, dissertations, monographs were studied. As well as documents and materials of international organizations were analyzer.


In addition, the scientific work of a number of foreign researchers was studied, such as Anheier H., Glasius M., Kaldor M. Introducing Global Civil Society // Global Civil Society. 2001 / Ed. H. Anheier et al. - Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001., Chandhoke N. How Global is Global Civil Society? // Journal of World-Systems Research. Dec, 2005 .-- Vol. 11. - No. 2

From these scientific works it became known that any project of a global civil society should be part of the social base of world government. However, while the real mechanisms for the implementations of such projects are in their infancy.

**Research methodology**

The theoretical basis of this work was composed of classical fundamental research methods such as observation, comparative analysis, synthesis, generalization, induction, deduction, and a systematic approach. In addition, they are modern conceptual developments, ideas and theoretical positions of domestic and foreign authors involved in studying the problems of the development of global civil society. The method of work of international rating organizations and their impact on the development of civil society in Uzbekistan is taken into account.
Why is Uzbekistan striving for a global civil society?

As you know, the process of development of national millennial statehood was interrupted by the period of colonialism. In this regard, the problem of building their own national statehood, creating a democratic, legal, socially just society has acquired particular importance. In the process of political reform of society, the following stages can be distinguished:

The first stage is 1991-1994. dismantling, liquidation of the old, one-party, administrative-command system and the relevant authorities, the creation of the political, legal foundations of the new statehood, the formation of a political and administrative structure. The defining events of this stage are the nationwide election of the President of Uzbekistan, the adoption of a new Constitution, the introduction of a new election system, the election of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan on December 25, 1994.

The second stage - 1995-1999, it institutionalized democracy by strengthening the multi-party system, developing democratic institutions and consolidating the system of separation of powers.

The third stage - 1999-2000 - began with the holding of parliamentary elections at the end of 1999 and the elections of the President of Uzbekistan in January 2000 and aimed at achieving stable and effective functioning of democratic institutions.

Parliamentary and presidential elections were open, with the participation of all registered parties, with equal opportunities for all participants. They became significant phenomena, as they were carried out on the basis of a multi-party system and demonstrated the openness of the electoral process.

The system of state power began to be based on the democratic principle of separation of powers (legislative, executive, judicial). Each of them acts independently, at the same time, interacting with each other, which serves as a guarantee against excessive concentration of power in one body, a clear distribution of powers and responsibilities.
The head of state and executive power in the Republic is the President, acting as a guarantor of the observance of the rights and freedoms of citizens. Constitution and laws of Uzbekistan.

The executive power is represented by the Cabinet of Ministers, headed by the President, and the mayor of cities and regions. The Cabinet of Ministers provides guidance on the effective functioning of the economy, social and spiritual spheres, implementation of laws, decisions of the Oliy Majlis, decrees, decrees and orders of the President of the country.

The created system of executive authorities is fundamentally different from the previous one, primarily in that it plays the role of coordinator and regulator of economic policy, and the planning and distribution functions are eradicated.

In order to strive for civil society, the republic’s leadership is carrying out new reforms in the field of the judiciary, is forming a legal mechanism guaranteeing the fundamental rights of man and citizen, their freedom and duties.

In general, in Uzbekistan, until 2016, large-scale work was done to develop and strengthen the foundation of civil society. However, many believe that the regime of I. Karimov was autocratic in nature. He very rarely listened to the opinions of international organizations, INGOs and others. Thus, corruption secretly developed in the country, a decrease in the level of education, health care, freedom of speech, and a systematic violation of human rights was observed. In turn, this led to an increase in people's contentment with state bodies. All these negative phenomena did not give the comprehensive development of Uzbekistan and greatly influenced the image of Uzbekistan on the world stage.

In our opinion, in order to solve these negative phenomena, the integration of Uzbekistan to international organizations is needed, which give their recommendations for eliminating negative phenomena. We think that this is the only solution for the optimal solution to the problem.

Therefore, the open policy of the new President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev is aimed at strengthening relations with INGOs and other
international organizations. Since, without their help, we will not be able to integrate into a global civil society.

**Factors providing integration to the Global Civil Society of Uzbekistan.**

The development of modern civil society in Uzbekistan is influenced by conflicting trends and the transformation of global development. The country is diversifying interest groups. In these conditions, the importance of scientific philosophical and political analysis of the development of civil society in the context of globalization and the problems of balanced relations between society and the state as the main factors of socio-political stability is growing.

H.Anheyer, M.Glasius and M.Kaldor in their well-known work expressed the idea of three dimensions of global civil society: 1) the spread of institutes of INGOs, 2) the spread of information technologies, 3) the growth of civic participation. [4]

The problem of the relationship of Uzbekistan with INGOs and international organizations as a factor in sustainable development is reflected in the institutional, structural and functional approaches to the philosophical and political analysis of civil society. The scientific knowledge accumulated in this area, the analysis of the constructive aspects and shortcomings of existing theories are necessary to determine the optimal approaches to the development of a system theory and a strategy for the formation of civil society in Uzbekistan.

Indian researcher Krishan Kumar believes that this should not be done in a negative or bad way. This should not be done in a negative or carping spirit; rather it is the necessary prelude to strengthening and promoting both the idea and the reality of global civil society. [5. P 432]

The analysis shows that every state that seeks integration of the global civil society needs to fulfill its obligations to citizens. And also, observe and comply with generally accepted international norms, laws and democratic principles.

In the course of the study of the issue, we revealed that there are important factors that must be taken into account for the integration of the global civil society. These factors are as follows: liberalization of national legislation;
decentralization of public administration; State bodies reporting to civil society institutions; the presence of civil society institutions; opening, democratic and transparent elections; gender equality; ensuring human rights; freedom of speech and the media; openness of the state to other states and international organizations; willingness to cooperate with international organizations.

**Gender issue.**

The countries of Central and Eastern Europe, as well as Central Asia, have a long history of struggle for gender equality. However, two and a half decades of unprecedented political, economic and social transformations in the region have had deep and lasting gender-differentiated consequences, which were different in different countries.

Today, in many countries of the Europe and Central Asia region, there is a significant gap between men and women in employment and remuneration. Women make up slightly less than half of the workforce in the region, and earn on average 30% less than men. The World Bank Group in Uzbekistan on gender issues focuses on four key areas:

- Increasing the availability of human resources;
- Removing restrictions to expand and improve employment;
- Removing barriers to women in ownership and control of assets;
- Strengthening women's activities and increasing their role in attracting men to participate. [6]

The Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan clearly articulates the principles of non-discrimination and equal rights for women and men, but the government has not yet adopted an official policy on Gender Equality and Empowerment for Women. However, both Strategies for improving the country's well-being for 2008–2010 and 2012–2015, offer targets for achieving gender equality in selected priority sectors.

We believe that gender issues should be addressed not only by women's organizations, as individual leaders sometimes suggest, this component should be deeply embedded in the work system of absolutely all organizations. The most
important thing is that you first need to correctly perceive this issue. From an early age, we must explain to our children about the main principles of gender equality. But if the family retains patriarchal principles, the idea of her future role in the family only as a housewife is introduced into the consciousness of children, especially girls. She will be formed in the future exactly the way her parents and future spouse want to see.

Therefore, work has begun in the republic to improve legislation relating to the interests of family and women. When developing draft laws, we take into account, first of all, ensuring the rights of women, both in the family and in society. A draft Law on Prevention of Domestic Violence has been developed, work has begun on a draft Law on Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men, and proposals are being made to amend the Family Code and other legal acts.

As regards the low level of women's representation at the decision-making level, indeed, we have very few women in leadership positions. But now work has already begun in this direction. To ensure targeted training of women for leadership positions, we launched a project to increase the capacity of women’s cadres who are able to actively participate in public and public administration. In Uzbekistan (March 4, 2020), 5 women were appointed to the heads of regional administrations. They became mayors of 5 cities. This is evidence that the issue of gender equality in public administration is resolved in an evolutionary way.

Of course, the problem of gender inequality in the family, society and economy is very relevant for Uzbekistan. But in order to solve any problem, you must first understand its causes. The main roots of gender inequality are laid in existing stereotypes of worldview and human behavior. It is in accordance with them that the gender distribution of functions occurs. A man is the head of the family, who must ensure her material well-being. Therefore, investments in qualification, education, professional and career growth of boys, boys, men, and not girls, girls and women are so important. The function of women is the “guardian of the family hearth,” responsible for family life and raising children.
Education, professional and career growths are in the background for them. We believe that:

- Women’s gender stereotypes are often no less exposed than men;
- They are the main carriers of these stereotypes, passing them on to their children (both girls and boys);
- Men sometimes suffer from gender stereotypes no less than women, unable to bear the burden and responsibility of the sole head of the family and the “earner”.

Another reason for gender inequality in our country is the widespread occurrence in the interaction between people of a rigid (sometimes informal) hierarchy and authoritarian management methods. Rigid hierarchical and authoritarian models of decision making and management often dominate in government, in business and in the family. Meanwhile, women, as a rule, are more likely than men to compromise and agree. Accordingly, in the prevailing hierarchical models, they and others perceive them as foreign elements. They are hence the difficulties with a career and the performance of managerial functions. Hence the second role in family decision making.

Gender stereotypes, as well as violations of women's rights and freedoms, must be fought through school curricula, propaganda, personal examples, special projects that protect gender equality and suppress any form of gender discrimination. But in reality, such cultural stereotypes are overcome very slowly. We must be patient and work hard, including breaking existing stereotypes among women themselves.

The main obstacle is the existing stereotypes about the traditional role of women in society, the upbringing and education of girls and boys on the basis of Muslim traditions, without taking into account the changes taking place in the modern world and the need to be other more confident, well-educated and motivated individuals, regardless of gender. [7]

And so, international standards are gradually affecting social life in the country, gender policy is being strengthened, and women's daily lives are
improving. However, there are certain cultural perceptions that limit the role of women within mothers and women. This framework does not allow Uzbekistan to fully integrate global civil society.

The influence of INGO’s on the development of civil society in Uzbekistan

On March 7, 2019, a Commission was established in Uzbekistan to coordinate work with priority international ratings and indices. Specialized structural units have been created in ministries and departments, as well as contacts have been established with such rating organizations as the World Bank, the United Nations Development Program, the World Economic Forum, and international rating agencies.

In addition, in order to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of the process of working with international ratings and indices, close cooperation has been established with international rating consultants and experts. Today, active work is underway to further improve the position of the Republic of Uzbekistan in priority international ratings and indices:

- increased initiative of ministries and departments;
- improving the position of Uzbekistan in the OECD risk list classification system;
- improving the position of Uzbekistan in political and legal ratings;
- improving the position of Uzbekistan in economic ratings;
- reflection of the position of Uzbekistan in the global competitiveness index;
- improving the position of Uzbekistan in the indicators of public administration of the World Bank;
- increasing the competitiveness of the economy of the Republic of Uzbekistan and increasing competition in the private sector.

According to the results of 2019, the total score of Uzbekistan obtained in the Corruption Perception Index increased from 22 to 23 points, the position of the republic in the rating decreased by 1 point. The main reason for this by the
commission noted the factor of increasing the positions of Tajikistan and Eritrea from 21 to 25 points and from 20 to 24 points, respectively.

According to the sub-indicator “Corruption among government officials”, organizations of the Economist Intelligence Unit and Freedom House rated Uzbekistan at “0” points. The main reasons are as follows:

- demolition of residential buildings of citizens;
- impunity of officials in cases of violation of the rights of citizens;
- the presence of domestic corruption in the field;
- the deterioration of the situation with the rule of law in the judicial system.

It was emphasized that the adopted legislative acts are not being sufficiently implemented in practice, rating organizations do not receive comprehensive information about the reforms being carried out in the republic.

The World Wide Press Freedom Index is an annual study on the state of freedom of the press, published by the non-governmental organization “Reporters without Borders”. The methodology includes an assessment of both objective parameters (for example, the number of journalists injured at work) and subjective. The reason is that quantitative indicators do not always reflect the full picture, and they are often supplemented by qualitative assessments of experts. For example, a high number of media does not necessarily indicate their diversity. In 2019, Uzbekistan takes the 160th place in this rating, although over the past year they have risen by 4 levels. The best indicator for the country was in 2002 - 120th place, and then Uzbekistan only fell. It is worth noting that the rating gives an estimate of 180 countries. The best of them are Norway, Sweden and the Netherlands, Turkmenistan, Eritrea and North Korea close the list.

This suggests that, without ensuring freedom of speech in the country, we cannot, it speaks of the development of civil society. This is one of the important factors in the integration of global civil society.

The Rule of Law Index is a global study and the accompanying ranking of countries around the world in terms of their legal environment, which is based on universal principles of the rule of law. It is worth noting that according to studies
by the World Justice Project in Uzbekistan, one of the best crime indicators in the world. The World Justice Project has published the Rule of Law Index. The index consists of 8 factors, which in turn are subdivided into subfactors. We are particularly interested in the factor “Order and Security”.

As part of this factor, the situation with order and security in 99 countries of the world is considered, in particular, countries were evaluated by the effectiveness of the fight against three forms of violence:

1. Crime (in particular murders; kidnapping; burglary; armed robbery; extortion and fraud);
2. Political violence (including terrorism; armed conflict and political unrest);
3. Violence as a way of expressing personal discontent arising from a loss of confidence in the police and the criminal justice system.

The first place in the index for this factor is occupied by Japan (coefficient 0.92), the last - Pakistan (0.30). The second place is occupied by Singapore with a coefficient of 0.91, but 3 countries followed by the same coefficient: Denmark, Hong Kong and Uzbekistan.

Thus, Uzbekistan overtook the United States, Belgium, Norway (they have a coefficient of 0.85), Estonia (0.84), Ukraine (0.82), Kazakhstan (0.79), Kyrgyzstan (0.74), Russia (0.74) and other countries.

International independent experts have recognized that Uzbekistan is one of the three countries where it is best and most successful in combating crime. The objectivity of the research is not in doubt, as for other factors, Uzbekistan, unfortunately, have taken somewhere not high, but somewhere penultimate places:

1. Restriction of authority of government institutions - 97th place
2. The absence of corruption - 81 place
3. Protection of fundamental rights - 95th place
4. The transparency of government institutions - 78th place
5. Order and safety - 5th place
6. Compliance with laws - 59th place
7. Civil justice - 58th place
8. Criminal justice - 59th place

In the general index, Uzbekistan was in 73rd place, while Russia, for example, in 80th. The first place was taken by Denmark, the second by Norway, the third by Sweden.

The World Justice Project (WJP), an international independent non-profit organization, promotes the rule of law, a principle that recognizes the priority of law over the state and ensures the accountability of all its individuals and institutions. The rule of law ensures sustainable economic growth for society, promotes the accountability of governments throughout the world, and encourages respect for fundamental human rights.

Despite this, there are good changes in Uzbekistan. The United Nations published the 2019 World Happiness Report. Uzbekistan took 38th place in the ranking - the highest result among the CIS countries. The first five of the happiest countries in the world include Finland, Denmark, Switzerland, Iceland and Norway. The most unlucky countries according to the UN are Afghanistan, South Sudan, Zimbabwe, Rwanda, and the Central African Republic. Also, according to the report, Tashkent became the most optimistic city. The authors of the study determine the level of happiness by six indicators: GDP per capita, duration and quality of life, social support, freedom of decision-making, generosity and perception of corruption. [8]

The role of domestic NGOs in integration

National Movement "Yuksalish" together with the Public Fund for the Support of Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organizations and Other Civil Society Institutions under the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan is responsible for ensuring the active involvement of civil society institutions in the systematic analysis of problems that impede the increase of the Republic of Uzbekistan in major international ratings. Their main task is to develop proposals to eliminate negative phenomena, as well as to bring information about the results of large-scale reforms in the country to the drafters of international ratings, including through the allocation of subsidies, grants and the provision of social orders.
In modern conditions, even non-governmental organizations at the national level act as part of a global civil society. [9] Of course, the Yuksalish National Movement also seeks to become an INGO, and it will contribute to the integration of global civil society.

The research results and relevant information will be published on a single portal “The Republic of Uzbekistan in International Ratings”. Unfortunately, Uzbekistan is not yet represented in the following world ratings:

- in the Global Innovation Index 2018;
- in the Global Competitiveness Index 2018;
- in the ranking of the safest countries of the world according to the version of the financial journal Global Finance (the assessment is made according to such criteria as “war and peace”, “personal security of citizens” and “risk of natural disasters”);
- in the World Prosperity Index 2018 (The Legatum Prosperity Index 2018) (the index is compiled on the basis of indicators that reflect different aspects of society and the parameters of social welfare: economics, entrepreneurship, management, education, healthcare, security, personal freedoms, social capital, ecology);
- in the Industrial Competitiveness Index - Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Limited (Deloitte Global), Council on Competitiveness.

Therefore, the priority task of State and civil society institutions is to eliminate all existing problems and fulfill all the requirements of international organizations. They will facilitate the application in Uzbekistan of the criteria and indicators of priority international ratings, allowing measuring the quality of management and the effectiveness of policies, evaluating the transformation processes taking place in the country and developing priority areas for reform.

Other research institutes in the country will identify factors (including barriers to legislation) that determine Uzbekistan’s low ratings, develop national indices for self-assessment, establish dialogue with international organizations and rating
agencies, and conduct opinion polls to identify problems. We believe that it will accelerate the integration process and increase the image of our country.

**Discussion**

The activity of global civil society in the dissemination of Western liberal values as universal objectively contributes to the process of erasing the economic and cultural characteristics of different countries of the world. [10, p. 11].

Russian researcher L.A. Gainutdinova believes that INGOs (USA) use the principle of “soft power” to achieve their goal. [11]. Yes, we do not refute this version, since all INGOs use “soft power” tools. However, in their activities they bring more benefits to the developing countries of the world.

Most experts and researchers are quite skeptical about the global status of INGOs as a "civil society". They believe that although it is extremely necessary, it is from the very initial stage of formation [12, p. 11].

Thanks to INGOs, many developing countries have the opportunity to integrate the global community. In this they find the opportunity to work together to solve internal problems and approach world standards.

The activities of INGOs are divided into two main components: participation on the basis of consultative status in events organized by the UN system and other intergovernmental organizations, as well as advocacy, charity events, large-scale various forums and round tables, summits, and the formation of public opinion through MEDIA. In Uzbekistan, the consultative status of the MPNO is observed.

Despite differences in ideologies and views on the path of global reorganization, reformist or radical approaches, the international communities of INGOs are beginning to realize the systematic nature of civilization challenges and threats that pose global risks. In this regard, there is an awareness of the complexity, interconnectedness and interaction of various security dimensions.

Some researchers think that in many Central Asian states INGOs have a problem with accreditation. “The main obstacle is to expanding the participation of global civil society in the work of these institutions, many call their accreditation policy” [13, p. 17]. However, accreditation, as a rule, means that there are
requirements for public associations on the part of international organizations that these associations must meet in order to have the right to participate on an equal footing in events held by an international institution.

**Conclusion**

Having studied this problem, we came to the conclusion that, like traditional and national civil societies, global civil society is trying to spread its ideology, position and vision. They support a network of units and activists, as well as coordinate the cooperation of national organizations by initiating world forums on various problems of world development.

Today, the global civil society of the European Union has reached a level of development when, within the framework of the political process, it has great potential to influence the determination of the vector of the future development of the European integration process. Therefore, the Central Asian states need to consider the issue of mutually beneficial cooperation and approximation to world standards in all sectors of public life.

As M. Tysyachnyuk notes: “To a greater extent transnational identity and global civil society form special cross-border environments, such as the world civic forum, the world civic economic forum, and the anti-globalist movement. This forms a social environment in which a new global identity complements the national” [14. C. 14-15]

**Suggestions.**

We believe that for global integration, Uzbekistan needs to do the following:

- significantly strengthen its presence, activity and initiative in large-scale events and projects, both in the UN system and in other intergovernmental organizations, putting forward well-developed and realistic initiatives in the form of projects, programs or hotel constructive solutions;

- active expanded cooperation of domestic NGOs with INGOs. Develop collective initiatives with INGOs. Pay particular attention to social, economic, environmental, humanitarian and "anti-corruption" areas.
An important issue is the change in the constructive direction of relations and positions of the government of Uzbekistan to international non-governmental organizations.

Many researchers believe that INGOs act globally; forcing global organizations to seek answers to global challenges, implement the rights and norms guaranteed to citizens by international treaties and agreements, acting on the basis of a single global consciousness that unites participants [15; 11]

Civil society will be most effective when it acts simultaneously at all levels where political action takes place: locally, nationally and globally.

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