



STAGES OF THE EMERGENCE AND DEVELOPMENT OF NON- GOVERNMENTAL NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS.

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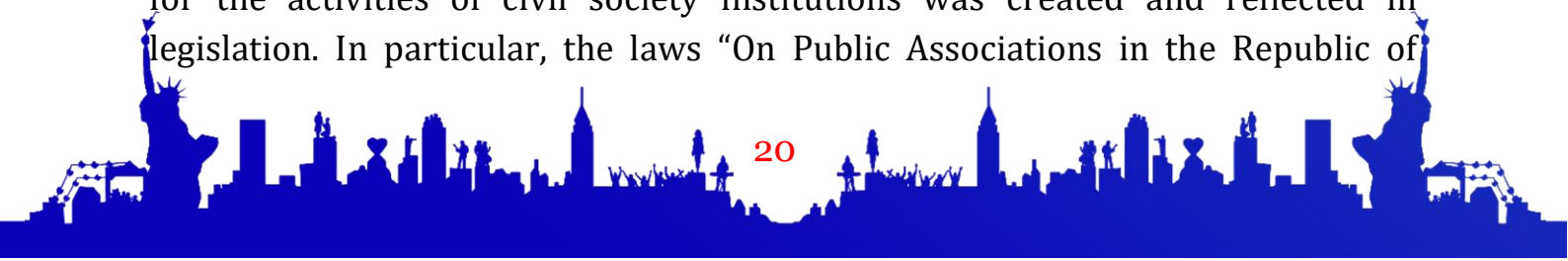
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In recent decades, non-governmental non-profit organizations (NGOs or NPOs) have played an increasingly vital role in addressing social, economic, and environmental challenges across the globe. Unlike government institutions or profit-driven businesses, these organizations are formed by individuals or groups who aim to serve the public interest without seeking financial gain. The development of NGOs has followed a dynamic historical trajectory, influenced by political, economic, and cultural shifts in various societies. Understanding the stages of their emergence and development provides insight into how civil society evolves and how collective action can address pressing issues in communities. This paper explores the key phases through which non-governmental non-profit organizations have emerged, evolved, and adapted to meet changing societal needs.

We will analyze the process of emergence and development of non-governmental non-profit organizations and other civil society institutions, conditionally dividing them into three periodic stages.

The first stage covers the years 1991-2004. This period was a period of formation of new civil society institutions that fully correspond to democratic principles. These include international organizations such as “For a Healthy Generation” (1993), “Ecosan” (1992), “Amir Temur International Foundation” (1993), “Golden Heritage International Foundation” (1995), “Imam al-Bukhari International Foundation” (1998), “Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur International Foundation”, “Mahalla” Foundation (1992), “Nuroni” Foundation (1996), “Kamolot Social Movement” (“Kamolot Republican Youth Foundation”, 1996) 2000), “Mehri” Women's Society, “Olim Women's Association” (1992), “Ijtimoiy Fikr” Public Center (1997), “Oila” Scientific and Practical Center (1998).

Another achievement of this period is that for the first time, the legal basis for the activities of civil society institutions was created and reflected in legislation. In particular, the laws “On Public Associations in the Republic of





Uzbekistan" (1991)[1], "On Trade Unions, Guarantees of Their Rights" (1992)[2], "On Self-Government Bodies of Citizens" (1993)[3], "On Political Parties" (1996)[4], "On Advocacy" (1996)[5], "On Mass Media" (1997)[6], "On Non-Governmental Non-Commercial Organizations" (1999)[7], "On Public Funds" (2003)[8], "On Elections of the Chairman (Aksakoli) of Citizens' Meetings" and His Advisers" (2004)[9] and the Civil Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan (1995) were adopted. At this stage, a wide path was opened for the opening of representative offices of various foreign non-governmental organizations in our country with specific goals. Many of these organizations, under the pretext of promoting democratic values in our country, acted in pursuit of goals that were contrary to our national interests and that foreign (Western) countries were supposed to implement in Central Asia, particularly in Uzbekistan.

The second stage - 2005-2016, during the period of active democratic reforms and modernization of the country, serious changes also occurred in the activities of civil society institutions. Firstly, during this period, foreign non-governmental organizations, which presented themselves as disseminators of democratic values, revealed their true goals. They tried to instill in the minds of the population, especially the youth, ideas that were completely contrary to our national values, traditions and customs, our rich cultural heritage, our spirituality, ideas that expressed a way of life that was alien to our oriental way of life. However, these attempts were shattered by the deep roots of national values, which have been ingrained in the blood, mind, heart, and consciousness of our nation for thousands of years, and these attempts ended in failure. In 2005, a draft Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On a set of measures aimed at increasing the social and political activity of non-governmental non-profit organizations and developing civil society institutions" was prepared. It provided for specific measures to increase the social activity of non-governmental non-profit organizations and develop civil society institutions. On June 23, 2005, Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On measures to support the development of civil society institutions in Uzbekistan" No. 107 was adopted. In 2005, the National Association of Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organizations of Uzbekistan (NANOU) was established on the initiative of more than 150 non-governmental non-profit organizations from all regions of our republic. Currently, the Association has more than 2,341 non-governmental non-profit organizations as members, which has become a sufficiently powerful mechanism capable of implementing projects of various levels.





The adoption of the laws “On the renewal and further democratization of state governance and strengthening the role of political parties in the modernization of the country” and “On amendments to the Constitutional Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan and certain articles of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan”, developed at the initiative of our President in 2007, was an important historical step in the socio-political life of our country.

Also, these periods are characterized by the active participation of civil society institutions in the socio-political life of our society as a result of state support for them. Currently, more than 5,500 civil society institutions are operating in our country. On July 3, 2008, the Council of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Council of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan adopted a joint resolution “On measures to strengthen support for non-governmental non-profit organizations and other civil society institutions”. According to it, in order to financially support non-governmental non-profit organizations and other civil society institutions, a decision was made to establish a Public Fund for Supporting Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organizations and Other Civil Society Institutions under the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan, as well as a Parliamentary Commission to manage the Fund's funds. The importance of the joint decision is to provide financial support to public funds and non-governmental non-profit organizations to further increase their activity in the life of society and thus to strengthen the self-reliance of citizens. Also, the social interests and needs of citizens are satisfied to a greater extent through the activities of each NGO that is financially and financially strong. This, in turn, means the application of the principles of civil society.

At this stage, a number of laws were adopted, including the laws “On Guarantees for the Activities of Non-Governmental Non-Commercial Organizations” (2007), “On Charitable Activities” (2007), “On Social Partnership” (2014), the regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On the Procedure for the Liquidation of Non-Governmental Non-Commercial Organizations” (2015), “On the Procedure for State Registration of Non-Governmental Non-Commercial Organizations” (2014), and the joint resolution of the Council of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Council of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On Measures to Strengthen Support for Non-Governmental Non-Commercial Organizations and Other Institutions of Civil Society” (2008).





The third stage is a new one and covers the period from 2016 to the present. At this stage, a number of regulatory legal acts were adopted aimed at ensuring the functioning of non-governmental non-profit organizations in line with the ongoing democratic reforms. In particular, the Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On additional measures to increase the effectiveness of public control over reforms in the socio-economic sphere in our country, as well as the active participation of citizens in democratic changes” is considered one of the most important regulatory legal acts at this stage.

The fact that the Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On Measures to Support the Activities of the Center for the Development of Civil Society” dated October 30, 2019, assigned the Center for the Development of Civil Society the task of “organizing a systematic study and analysis of the state of regulatory and legal regulation of civil society development and the practice of law enforcement in this area, preparing proposals to improve the organizational, legal and economic foundations of the activities of civil society institutions, and creating favorable conditions for expanding their participation in public governance” can also serve as a clear basis for the above information[10].

In recent years, the Addresses of our President to the Oliy Majlis and through it to our people, which have become a unique tradition in the governance system of Uzbekistan, also address the issue of improving the activities of non-governmental non-profit organizations as one of the important institutions of civil society. In particular, the Address sent on December 29, 2020 stated: “It is necessary to direct the activities of the Public Fund for Supporting Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organizations and Other Civil Society Institutions to solving urgent problems in the localities. In particular, non-governmental non-profit organizations will be widely involved on the basis of a social order in identifying existing problems, analyzing them in depth, developing proposals for their solutions, and ensuring public control over their implementation”[11].

As a result of the measures taken, the regulatory and legal framework that provides legal guarantees for non-governmental non-profit organizations and meets modern democratic requirements and international standards has been further improved. In particular, the Laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On Non-Governmental Non-Commercial Organizations”, “On Guarantees for the Activities of Non-Governmental Non-Commercial Organizations”, “On Public Control”, the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On Approval of the Concept for the Development of Civil Society for 2021-2025” and a number of Government Resolutions were adopted.



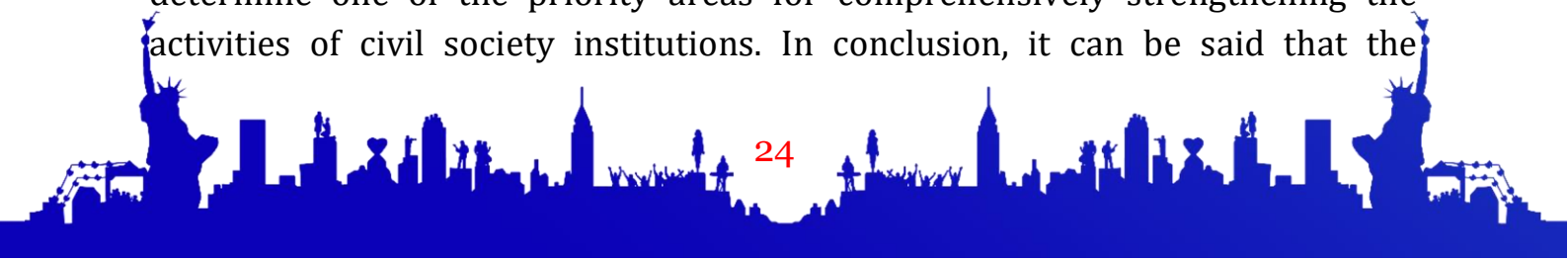


The Concept for the Development of Civil Society for 2021-2025 sets the task of increasing the volume of state support for civil society institutions in the form of subsidies, grants and social orders by 1.8 times in 2025 and bringing the amount of allocated funds to 70 billion soums.

Also, in 2022, the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On the Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan for 2022-2026” was adopted. Its 20th direction was to support the initiatives of the Public Fund for Support of Non-Governmental Non-Commercial Organizations and Other Civil Society Institutions under the Oliy Majlis, the National Center for Human Rights, the Federation of Trade Unions, and the founders of the “Development Strategy” Center to reorganize the activities of the “Development Strategy” Center into a research and “think tank” center in accordance with international standards and to assign the following additional tasks. Thus, such conceptual documents as the Strategy of Actions, the New Development Strategy of Uzbekistan for 2022-2026, and the “Uzbekistan-2030” Strategy set a number of goals, objectives, and indicators for the further development of civil society[12].

In addition, the new edition of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, adopted by referendum in 2023, included for the first time a chapter entitled “Institutions of Civil Society” and the inclusion of this concept in the constitution, which served as a legal basis for firmly strengthening the legal status of civil society institutions.

In the works, speeches and reports of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, special attention is paid to the activities of civil society institutions and non-governmental non-profit organizations. In particular, it is not without reason that Chapter 2, Paragraph 7 of Shavkat Mirziyoyev’s “Strategy of the New Uzbekistan” is called “Free and Open Civil Society”. It contains considerations on the priority areas of civil society development and proposals for the implementation of a number of tasks based on an in-depth analysis of national legislation in the field, law enforcement practice, and the study of advanced foreign experience. In particular, the head of state's reasonable proposals that “in order to create the necessary conditions for the free functioning of civil society institutions, their active participation in state and public governance, and to further improve the mechanisms for their support by the state, it is necessary to adopt the Code of Non-Governmental Non-Commercial Organizations and accelerate the work on the establishment of the Public Chamber” can be said to determine one of the priority areas for comprehensively strengthening the activities of civil society institutions. In conclusion, it can be said that the

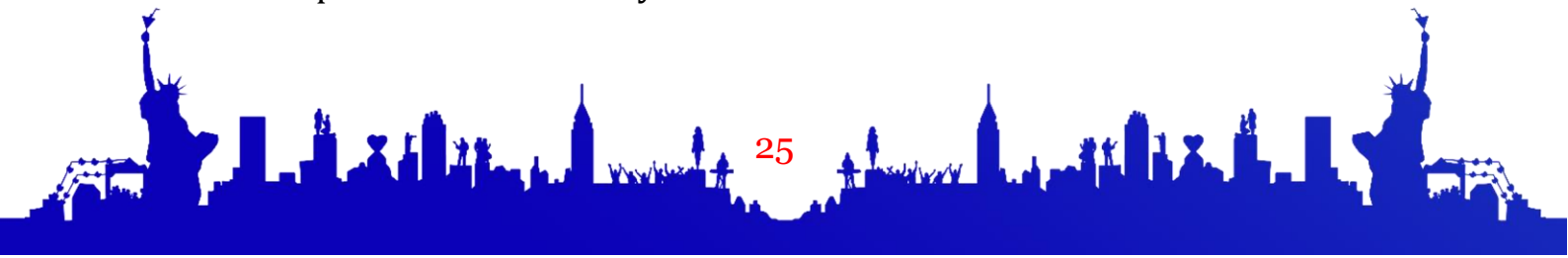




formation and development of non-governmental non-profit organizations (NGOs) in the Republic of Uzbekistan was one of the important steps in building civil society during the years of independence. In the early years, NGOs were formed to increase the socio-political activity of citizens, establish democratic values in society, and protect human rights.

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