

**Theses of A.Khamdamov, Deputy Director, Independent Institute for  
Monitoring the Formation of Civil Society, for OSCE Meeting of Fulfillment  
of Human Dimension Commitments by Participating Countries in 2014**

(Warsaw, September 22 – October 3, 2014)

**Democracy at national, regional and local levels**

**I**

Construction of a democratic state with steadily growing economy, formation of an open civil society is the goal that Uzbekistan set since independence.

The country has implemented a number of measures aimed at ensuring the free functioning of various civil institutions. So, as of January 1, 2014 the number of registered NGOs exceeded **7,800** units, most of which operate in the regions of the country. Meanwhile, as of January 1, 1991 only **95** NGOs worked in the country, and as of January 1, 2000 this number reached **2,585** units.

The number of citizens' gatherings and self-government bodies (Mahalla) was **more than 10,000**.

State authorities and public organizations, consolidating and supporting NGOs are:

**1. National Association of NGOs of Uzbekistan (NANNOUz, [www.ngo.uz](http://www.ngo.uz))** was created on the initiative of 150 NGOs in 2005. The Association provides information, technical-organizational and moneyed assistance to NGOs. Currently, NANNOUz has its resource centers in 12 regions, combines potential of more than 400 public organizations, and consolidates their efforts in the implementation of social projects and programs;

**2. Public Fund for Support of NGOs and other civil society institutions under the Parliament of the Republic of Uzbekistan ([www.fundngo.uz](http://www.fundngo.uz))** was created according to the Joint Resolution of the both Chambers of Parliament “On measures to increase support for NGOs and other civil society institutions” in 2008. The Fund’s activity is regulated by the Parliamentary Commission, whose members are representatives of the Senate and the Legislative Chamber of the Parliament, as well as members of state authorities and public organizations. In accordance with decisions of the Parliamentary Commission, more than **28.9** billion UZS were allocated for grant competitions, subsidies and social orders of civil society organizations in 2008-2013;

**3. Independent Institute for Monitoring the Formation of Civil Society (www.nimfogo.uz);**

**4. Municipal Governments (Khokimiyats) (www.gov.uz/ru/resources);**

**5. The Women's Committee of Uzbekistan;**

**6. Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan.**

## II

It can be noted that during 2011-2013 3 international conferences on increasing the participation of NGOs in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were organized at the initiative of NGOs in Tashkent.

Regional forums and National Forum of NGOs were held at the initiative of NANNOUz in the regions and in Tashkent in November – December, 2012, 2013.

Proposals for the State Program “Year of Well-being and Prosperity” and “Year of Healthy Child” are prepared and submitted to the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan within the framework of these forums.

## III

**Annual international conferences aimed at discussion of conditions and prospects of development of the various aspects of civil society are held by NIMFOGO both in Uzbekistan and abroad.** In particular:

1. In December, 2011 Uzbek-Japanese Round Table on “Topical Issues of Social Partnership of NGOs and State Authorities” was held in **Tokyo (Japan)**. The Round Table was attended by representatives of Lower House of Parliament, ministries and departments responsible for work with non-governmental sector, heads of NGOs of Japan scientists and experts of the University of Tsukuba. Bilateral meetings with the heads of the *Uzbekistan-Japan Friendship Association*, Japan NGO Center for International Cooperation, *International Center for Central Asian Research and Education*, the University of Tsukuba, *Central Asia and Caucasus Research Institute*, “Japan platform”, “Japan Foundation” and “Nippon” Fund were also held during the Uzbek delegation’s visit to Japan.

2. In 2013, Round Table on “Enhancing the role and importance of civil society in the process of state modernization and democratization: experience of Uzbekistan and Belgium” was held during the **visit of Uzbek delegation to Belgium;**

3. From 17 to 21 September, 2013 **visit of Uzbek delegation to France** was carried out. The purpose of the visit was exchange of experiences, study of international practices of institutional framework of social control and social partnership. Meetings with experts and specialists were held in the Mission of

Cooperation with Civil Society, *Directorate General of Globalisation, Development and Partnerships* of French Foreign Ministry, Institute of Forecasting and Security in Europe, Foundation for Political Innovation, Center for International Studies at the Institute of Political Sciences, and others. Uzbek – French Round Table on “Improving the institutional arrangements for cooperation between state and civil institutions: experience of Uzbekistan and France” was held;

4. On September 17-18, 2013, international scientific workshop on the: “Civil institutions and public examination of legal acts: democratization of lawmaking” was organized **in Samarkand**. The event was attended by members of Parliaments, experts from Russia, Germany, France, Belgium, Estonia and others;

5. On November 21, 2013 international conference on “Improving the institutional framework of NGOs activities in the field of social, human development: experience of Uzbekistan” was organized by NIMFOGO and its partners **in Tashkent**. The event was attended by experts from the United States, Great Britain, Russia, France, Japan, Germany, Belgium, representatives of UN agencies, USAID, *Friedrich Ebert Foundation*, International Center for Non-Profit Law (ICNL), deputies of Parliament, government officials, representatives of research and educational institutions, scientists, activists of civil institutions, NGOs and media.

The information and materials gathered during the visits and events were used in the development of draft laws “On the openness of public authorities and administration” “On social control in the Republic of Uzbekistan” and “Social Partnership”;

#### IV

**The results of studies made by Institute indicate strengthening the role and importance of NGOs in the implementation of democratic reforms in the country in recent years, the development and implementation of major government programs of social and economic development.**

During 2012-2013 representatives of NGOs actively participated in the development and implementation of the “Year of Family” and “Year of Well-being and Prosperity” State Programs.

Implementation of the “Year of Family” State Program at the national level involved 23 local NGOs and at the regional level - more than 320 NGOs. 31 republican NGOs and more than 430 NGOs from regions took part in the implementation of the “Year of Well-being and Prosperity” State Program. Level

of NGOs involvement in the implementation of government programs increased by 34%.

However, NGOs are the main performers and subcontractors of 34 from 88 points of the Set of Additional Measures to Implement the UN Millennium Development Goals in Uzbekistan for the Period 2011-2015 approved in 2011.

## V

Institutional mechanisms of government and NGOs interaction in addressing the socio-economic development, protection of the rights, freedoms and interests of different segments of population have been created and are functioning. As of January 1, 2014, leaders and activists of non-governmental organizations are members of more than **40** permanent republican interdepartmental committees (councils, working groups), established in accordance with the decisions of the President and Government. In particular:

- Republican Interdepartmental Commission to Combat Human Trafficking;
- *State* *Commission for the Coordination of activities to combat the spread of HIV;*
- Interagency Council on the Coordination of the Work of State Authorities on Legal Advocacy and Education;
- Commission for Minors under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan;
- Public Council under the Ministry of Defense;
- *Interagency Working Group to monitor the observance of the human rights and freedoms by law enforcement and other government agencies.*
- *Inter-agency Expert Group on Monitoring of the implementation of the National Action Plan in the framework of CEDAW and others.*

## VI

There is a growing involvement of members and activists of NGOs in the development and discussion of proposals to improve the legislation. So, more than 2 thousand of local NGOs representatives (in 2012 - 1.2 thousand) took part in public debate and public examination of the draft law “On Environmental Protection”, “On Social Partnership” and “On Social Control” in 2013. Proposals and recommendations submitted for analysis and generalization to the relevant expert groups for drafting laws.