



Important Aspects of Evaluating the Foundations of the Development of Civil Society Institutions

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Abstract: *The article analyzes the process of building a civil society, the features of indices for assessing the development of civil society in a number of countries, as well as some of the author's conclusions on improving the indices for assessing civil society.*

Keywords: *The rule of law, non-governmental non-profit organizations, civil society, development of civil society, assessment of the level of development of civil society, index of assessment of the level of development of civil society, empirical base, representativeness, consensus, transformation*

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Introduction

During the years of independence, Uzbekistan chose the path of development to build a legal state and civil society. In a short period of time, the legal basis for building such a society was formed based on the norms of international law and the experience of developed countries. It was announced that building a civil society in the country is a strategic goal. Especially in the next four years, certain factors of the civil society were also manifested in Uzbekistan.

By the present time, it has become a priority of state policy to approach the further development of the state authorities as an urgent task of the aspects characteristic of the legal state and civil society. The principle that the President of the country Sh.M. Mirziyoev put forward: "The people should not serve for the state agencies, but the state agencies should serve to our people" [1] is a guarantee of the existence and development of the civil society. After all, setting strategic tasks such as "deepening democratic reforms aimed at improving the state and society and strengthening the role of parliament and political parties in the modernization of the country, reforming the state administration system, developing the organizational and legal foundations of the public service" also indicate the formation of civil society in the country.

Literature analysis

Our current socio-political life itself shows that the reforms to build a civil society in the country are progressing on the basis of consistency, stability, and nationalism. Of course, in building such a society, not only international experiences, but also the restoration of national traditions are given important attention. The principle of building a civil society belonging to our national heritage - the motto "Strength is in justice" - has the opportunity to find its solution again today.

The concept of civil society has been manifested in various forms throughout the long period from antiquity to the Western Enlightenment. [2]

In the modern interpretation, this category appears for the first time in the works of European philosophers at the beginning of the 18th century. At that time, this concept was understood as a political association formed for the purpose of eliminating social conflicts that arise between citizens and are socially harmful by means of rules [3].

The conditions shown in the scientific literature as the roots of modern civil society, including the development of trade, the specialization of industry and production types, and the settlement of the division of labor, the development of commodity-money relations [4], were inextricably linked with the emergence of cities, which in many aspects were the opposite of the society of the Middle Ages. In particular, we know that in Europe, the formation of centralized states, independent of the rule of the church, happened simultaneously with the development of cities. While interpreting the civil society as a society based on private property, a number of thinkers considered the city and its culture as the basis of the values characteristic of the modern society [5].

Current modern stage of civil society began in the 20th century, i.e. its socialization period. From the ancient polis, European nations reached such a stage of development in terms of the periodicity of the next stages of development, that in this period, the necessary elements of civil society emerged as a group of people who are independent, but are able to unite for their personal interests. As a result, the essence of the civil society expanded and the opportunities for thinking increased. This new situation found its expression in the ideology of liberalism, based on the recognition of the political and economic rights of people within the framework of the law, in somewhat advanced countries.

As the most important political phenomenon of the new era, the idea of "civil society" created a system of concepts and interpretations in its evolution. At this point, it is worth noting that the concept of "civil society" is constantly contrasted with the phenomenon of "state". We know that the liberal interpretation of civil society was studied by political science researchers such as T. Hobbes, J. Locke and S. Montesquieu, and this category was introduced by them in order to reflect the historical progress of mankind, to express the transition of man from the first "savage" state to a developed lifestyle. In this sense, it is evidenced by the fact that the developed society, which represented discipline and civil relations, was contrasted with the simple or ignorant society in the natural state of those times.

One of the main ideas of S. L. de Montesque (1689-1755), one of the scientists who interpreted civil society from the point of view of the status of state power, is the theory of separation of powers. In his work entitled "Spirit of Laws", he considered the state as the result of public agreement aimed at eliminating mutual enmity of citizens in civil society. He clarified the concepts of citizenship and state, noting that both of them have their own laws and their sphere of influence. According to him, civil society manages the mutual relations of citizens, and the state ensures the political rights and freedom of people. S. Montesque explains it like this: "...for a citizen, freedom is peace of mind based on confidence in his own security. In order to achieve such peace, there should be such a government that in this case one citizen does not fear another citizen" [6].

Emphasizing the application of laws in civil society, S. Montesque writes that "when I go to a country, I am interested not in the presence of good laws, but in how the laws are obeyed..."[7]. The relationship between the state and civil society is based on a contract. By its essence, these relations have developed, because the state and civil society together have created conditions for ensuring the life and activity of individuals and satisfying the basic needs of a person through it (relationships are meant). The state protects people's rights, limits enmity with the help of power, eliminates threats to the lives of relatives and blood relatives, worries about their material wealth; civil society keeps the authorities in check.

The development of civil society is inextricably linked to the traditions of the ancestors, if the event of its departure from the historical framework is observed, then the destruction of the entire social organism can be observed. Preservation of history is considered as a moral duty of the prospective generation. According to E. Bjork, the political system and society's activities are stable and constantly

moving as a whole, and this situation means the adaptation of the political and social institutions of the state to the character and morals of the people in accordance with the gradual processes. E. Bjork focuses on studying the role of history in politics[8].

Accordingly, it is appropriate to recognize that E. Burke founded a new approach to many socio-political phenomena, human nature, civil society and political power.

Civil society, in a narrow sense, is directly related to legal society, in other words, they cannot exist without each other. Civil society represents the interaction of free and equal individuals, not controlled by the state, in the conditions of market and democratic legal statehood. It is a social space where individual rights and private interests are freely exercised.

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Forms of a democratic state in our imagination and the creation of the political and philosophical essence of governance in it, the composition of the city of virtues (meaning the state) and the classification of what kind of moral person should be the leader in it are in line with the direct theoretical requirements of building a democratic society today. In this regard, Abu Nasir Farabi said, "The leader or head of chiefs elected by them will not be absolute. They will be elevated, tested, most noble and worthy of leadership. Therefore, such leaders set their voters free, protect them from external enemies" [9], it is noteworthy that he systematized the moral and cultural values related to the provision of democratic principles in state administration. This is explained by the fact that Farabi's ideas such as "the ruler should not be absolute", "the will of the voters", "freedom" remain the main idea of democracy, which is considered a unique product of human culture, not only in his time, but also today.

According to the conclusion of political scientist M. Kyrgyzboev, as a synthesis of the opinions of various scientists, "civil society is:

firstly, it is a human unity, which includes primary non-state systems, voluntarily formed in the economic, social and spiritual spheres of community life;

secondly, it is a complex of economic, social, family, national, spiritual, moral, religious, production, personal and non-state relations in society;

thirdly, it is a society where free individuals, voluntarily formed organizations, and citizens are protected by laws from oppression, interference, or homogenization by various bodies, in which they have a permanent opportunity to express themselves" [10].

Analysis and results

In the period of the current reforms implemented in the country, a new urgent task of acquiring theoretical views and practical ideas about civil society is being put on the agenda of life. In particular, indicators such as the stages of civil society development, signs, factors, and level of development are of great importance for the countries that are going through the transition period in defining their positions, setting new tasks, and comparing their level of development with other countries in the world. From this point of view, to have knowledge about the development indices of the civil society in the present period means to understand one's own time.

One of the important aspects of civil society research is to measure the stages and levels of its development. For these purposes, many different indicators and indices are used in social and humanitarian sciences of the present time. They consist of indices that allow classifying the level of civil society in countries or individual regions, as well as indicators of criteria for their democratization.

An indicator is a piece of information (about a complex system) that allows us to think about the state of the entire system. The growth or change of any indicator requires interpretation and understanding. Moreover, it is natural that the needs for indicators are high in order to be able to assess the situation at a glance.

With the help of indices, it is possible to evaluate various aspects of civil society: the quality of life, the self-esteem of the population, the level of freedom, the level of influence on politics, the size of civil trust in the main political institutions, the activity of the social sector, the level of political and civil participation, etc.

The non-uniformity and unconventionality of many of the obtained results do not allow us to draw broad generalizations and promising conclusions based on them; but, at the same time, these obtained results can reveal social and political changes, allow a comparative analysis of a particular country or its regions.

Often, the empirical basis for the calculation of indices consists of data obtained through periodic surveys of the population on a representative sample (taking into account the contribution or share of gender, age, education and regionalization). We will think about some of the indicators and indices of civil society development and its democratization levels, which are more important.

CIVICUS Civil Society Index [11]. Since 2005, in some of the CIS countries, CIVICUS Civil Society Index has been conducted based on the project of the "World Alliance for Civil Participation" organization. The project focused on researching civil society organizations and encouraging citizen engagement. The index reflected the state of civil society structures, the external environment in which they live and work, the values practiced and defended by civil society organizations, and the effects of these organizations.

The measurement of these structures includes the activity and size of the non-governmental social sector in the country, its components, the procedures of their interactions, and the resources owned by civil society institutions. The measurement of the external environment is carried out according to the following dimensions: the values, norms and attitudes promoted and expressed by civil society institutions, consensus and conflicts between them.

The measurement of values refers to the legal, political and socio-cultural conditions of the functioning and development of civil society, its interactions with the state, business, and international non-governmental organizations. Impact measurement is concerned with assessing the concrete impact of civil society on finding solutions to socio-economic and political problems. Separate indicators have been developed for each of these dimensions. Some of them are universal, while others are used to measure specific social and cultural changes.

"Civil Society Development Index" is a new international program that provides opportunities for countries to constantly compare their civil society with international standards, based on which ways of its development are developed. Ultimately, this index serves as a tool for developing and evaluating goals and programs for the development and strengthening of civil society[12].

Another indicator of civil society development is the "Non-Governmental Organizations Tolerance Index". This index was developed by Freedom House, which represents the level of development of non-governmental or non-profit organizations in the country under study. "Resilience Index of Non-Governmental Organizations" is a tool for comparative assessment of the level of development of civil society, which includes seven groups: organizational capacity, financial capabilities, rights protection activities, the ability to express social interests, service offering, infrastructure and public image. They are measured on a scale from 1 to 7 (1 – good importance, 7 – bad importance). An indicator from 1 to 3 means that the NGO is durable, 4 is average, and from 5 to 7 there are obstacles to the development and sustainability of the NGO [13].

In the following decades, theoretical views on the criteria (indicators) of the maturity of civil society and its ability to influence human development are developing. Scientists define the following social participation indicators as one of the criteria for the maturity of civil society and the ability to influence human development:

- Total number of NGOs;
- the number of active NGOs;
- Population involved in NGO activities;
- Events and projects implemented with the participation of NTT;
- how much recognition of individual NGOs and mass media by the public;
- level of implementation of state decisions adopted on the basis of public participation;
- The volume of financing based on funds received by NGOs from various sources;
- Volume of services performed with the participation of NGOs;
- Contribution of NGOs to GDP;
- NGO's contribution to the progress achieved in national programs.

But, in our opinion, the following should be included among these indicators:

- development of a separate special system for evaluating the process of building a civil society in the countries that have lived under autocracy for a long time and have gained independence;
- When evaluating the activities of NGOs, it is necessary to take into account the extent to which they were able to include the wishes of the social strata representing their interest in state decisions;
- When evaluating the activity of the NGO, it is necessary to take into account how much of the measures they implemented had an effect on the improvement of the situation of social strata;
- It is necessary to develop special indicators on the extent to which NGOs have a positive effect on the activities of state authorities;
- It is necessary to develop indicators that assess the influence of state bodies on the management of NGOs as a negative factor.

Conclusion

Great changes have been made in the field of civil society building in Uzbekistan: the legal framework for ensuring human rights and freedoms has been developed, significant attention has been paid to the development of civil society institutions, the transformation of self-governing bodies into institutions that represent the interests of citizens, the development of mechanisms for conveying the concerns and problems of the population to the government, reconstruction of public authorities as public service bodies, ensuring openness of the country to foreign countries, application of democratic values formed in international organizations and developed countries to reforms of society and state building, and other fundamental changes.

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In general, in conclusion, in our opinion, in countries that have begun their independence and are forming a civil society, creating conditions for people to develop themselves, to realize their rights and

freedoms is one of the most urgent tasks. After all, the state of Uzbekistan is deepening the reforms for the development of civil society.

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