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Abstract: This article analyzes the fundamental political, legal, and institutional reforms being implemented in the processes of forming and developing civil society in New Uzbekistan. The author studied the activities of civil society institutions, mahallas, non-governmental non-profit organizations, mass media, and political parties within the framework of the New Uzbekistan concept and highlighted their role in ensuring human rights and freedoms, increasing the social activity of youth and women.

Keywords: civil society, political parties, new Uzbekistan, democratic reforms, public control, mahalla institute, youth activism, gender policy.

Introduction

Civil society is the foundation of any democratic state, an important factor in stabilizing its political system. In the conditions of New Uzbekistan, the development of civil society has been elevated to the level of state policy. As President Sh.M. Mirziyoyev noted: “We must develop a new political environment, civil society, and the rule of law as an inseparable, interconnected system”. The essence of this process is that the construction of civil society is not only the task of the state, but also is carried out in cooperation with all segments of society - political parties, the mahalla, the media, non-governmental organizations, and citizens.

The legal framework for the development of civil society in New Uzbekistan has been fundamentally renewed since 2016. The new version of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan (2023) defines civil society as a subject that participates equally with the state in the management of public life. Article 14 of the Constitution states: “The state is responsible to society, protects the rights and freedoms of citizens, and ensures their participation in state and public affairs”. This serves to ensure the legal independence of civil society and political institutions. At the same time, the Laws “On Public Control”, “On Non-Governmental Non-Commercial Organizations”, “On Political Parties”, and the new edition of the Law “On Mass Media” guaranteed the institutional activity of civil society entities.

Literature review

Scientific research and practical analysis of the processes of civil society development in New Uzbekistan have reached a new level in recent years. Analysis of the literature shows that scientific research in this area is mainly formed on the basis of the works of President Sh.M. Mirziyoyev, the national legislative base, as well as scientific and theoretical research.

First of all, the conceptual foundations of the development of civil society are defined in the works of President Sh.M. Mirziyoyev “Strategy of New Uzbekistan” and “In the Year of Ensuring Human Interests and Raising Democratic Reforms to a New Level”. The Head of State emphasizes the role of citizens' initiative, public control, and the mahalla institution in reforming society. These ideas express the concept of civil society in the policy of New Uzbekistan as the main pillar of the relationship between the state and society.

The newly amended Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan (2023) recognizing civil society as an equal participant in state governance marks a new stage in national legal thought. At the

same time, the laws “On Non-Governmental Non-Commercial Organizations”, “On Public Control”, “On Political Parties”, and “On Mass Media” strengthened the legal and institutional independence of civil institutions. These documents serve as a legal basis for ensuring the active participation of citizens in state decisions. Also, Presidential Decree No. UP-60 ("On the Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan") adopted in 2022 defined the development of civil society as a priority area of national development policy. It provides for new mechanisms such as public control, support for non-governmental organizations, public hearings, and open public administration. This, in turn, laid the foundation for strengthening partnership relations between civil society and the state.

M. Kyrgyzboev's article “Socio-Political Foundations of Civil Society Institutions” extensively covers the interrelationship of civil society institutions with the political system and their participation in democratic processes. In his opinion, in New Uzbekistan, civil institutions have begun to act as a bridge between the state and society. Also, such authors as N. Juraev, S. Saidov, F. Davronova, in their works, scientifically substantiated the importance of public control, political culture, and gender policy in strengthening civil society. They paid special attention to issues of civic activity, the possibilities of public influence on state decisions, and the development of public consciousness.

At the same time, the works of international researchers J. Habermas, L. Diamond, and E. Giddens illuminate the philosophical and political-legal foundations of the theory of civil society. J. Habermas' work “Between Facts and Norms” analyzes the legal basis of public dialogue, the rule of law, and civil participation. While L. Diamond studied the institutional role of civil society in the process of democratic consolidation, A. Giddens connects civic activity with the criteria of social justice and solidarity in the concept of the "third way” (The Third Way). The analysis “Civic Engagement and Open Government”, published by the OECD (2020), highlights international experience in increasing civic engagement and implementing the principles of open government, which is closely related to the processes of democratic modernization in New Uzbekistan.

Analysis of the literature shows that the scientific and practical foundations of the development of civil society in New Uzbekistan are formed through national concepts, constitutional reforms, and the activities of the mahalla institution. Scientific sources are significant because they are aimed at viewing civil society as a partner of public administration, increasing the social activity of youth and women, and institutionalizing the principles of public control and openness.

Methodology

In the study of the processes of civil society development in New Uzbekistan, political-philosophical, systemic, institutional, and comparative analysis methods were used. The ideas of President Sh.M. Mirziyoyev on the reforms of New Uzbekistan, the theory of public dialogue of J. Habermas, the concepts of civil society and democracy of L. Diamond and A. Giddens were taken as a methodological basis. The study used historical-analytical and content-analytical methods to analyze the legal and institutional foundations of civil society institutions. The legal foundations and practical mechanisms of civil society were studied through the content of the Constitution, laws, Presidential decrees, and state programs. Through the comparative analysis method, the experience of Uzbekistan was compared with civil society models in foreign countries. Also, based on empirical data, reforms in the system of social activity of youth and women, the mahalla institute, and public control were analyzed.

Analysis and results

A fundamental turning point in the development of civil society is taking place in the New Uzbekistan. Since 2016, political, legal, and institutional reforms in the country have brought all

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pillars of civil society, including the activities of political parties, mahallas, non-governmental non-profit organizations, mass media, and citizens, to a new level.

The newly amended Constitution defines civil society, along with the state, as a subject governing social life. The laws “On Public Control”, “On Non-Governmental Non-Commercial Organizations”, and “On Political Parties” created a legal basis for the implementation of citizens' initiatives and the consideration of public opinion in public administration.

The mahalla institution, as a model of national civil society, has become a bridge of dialogue between the state and the citizen. In her work, the level of social activity and responsibility has increased through the “Family-Mahalla-School” partnership, the “Youth Leader” and “Women's Activist” systems.

State programs aimed at increasing the political and social activity of youth and women (for example, “Youth - the decisive force in building a New Uzbekistan”, "Gender Equality Strategy") have strengthened the humanistic and democratic content of civil society.

Based on this, the following results were obtained:

In the new Uzbekistan, civil society has acquired an institutional basis as a priority area of state policy.

The principles of political pluralism, public control, and openness have been put into practice.

The mahalla institution, as a national model of civil society, has expanded its social, spiritual, and unifying functions.

The social dynamics of civil society has been strengthened by increasing the activity of youth and women.

New forms of dialogue between the state and society have developed - digital platforms, public hearings, and civic initiatives.

The process of developing civil society in New Uzbekistan is at the center of democratic reforms. This process ensures the sustainable democratic development of the country by glorifying human dignity, forming an open state administration, and ensuring the social activity of citizens.

Conclusion

The process of developing civil society in the new Uzbekistan has become the central direction of the democratic reforms being carried out in the country. This process is based on such priority principles as the glorification of human dignity, the formation of an open and effective state administration, and ensuring the social and political activity of citizens. Thus, the legal, institutional, and ideological foundations of civil society are being steadily formed in the country.

In the conditions of New Uzbekistan, a radical turning point is observed in the development of civil society. At the center of this process is the individual, their rights and freedoms, personal dignity, and an active civic position. The activities of the main institutions of civil society - political parties, mahallas, non-governmental non-profit organizations, and the mass media - have acquired a new meaning and quality. They are manifested as important institutions that ensure the principles of balance and partnership in relations between the state and society.

In particular, new trends have been observed in the activities of political parties, which have formed as an important democratic mechanism directing the interests of society towards state policy. Thanks to the parties, the atmosphere of political competition has expanded, the effectiveness of parliamentary activity has increased, and public control and civic engagement have reached a new level.

As a result, civil society in New Uzbekistan is now taking shape not at the level of a theoretical idea or conceptual principle, but as a real political and social structure operating in practical life, participating in the management of society. It has become one of the main factors in

strengthening democratic values in the country, developing relations between the state and society based on cooperation and openness.

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