

The Historical Review of the World Experience of Development and Functioning of Non-Governmental Organizations

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Abstract: In this article we take into consideration the experience gained by some aspects in the history of formation and development of nongovernmental organizations in the Republic of Kazakhstan of various issues in society. The urgency of this research is determined by the alternative pattern of political system transformation in the Republic of Kazakhstan. The authors of the article by performing analysis take into account the circumstance that the government gives a proper consideration and swiftly reacts to challenges arising during civil society development, and by this means notably promotes its authority and legitimacy. Thus, formation of civil society in the Republic reflects objective terms of the changes aimed at shifting Kazakhstan society towards modern economic and political relations providing stability of the state development

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1. Introduction

Liberalization of political system in any state is aimed at expansion of not only the number of civil people taking part in social political life but also at their integration into the system of state relations under the norms defined by the Constitution.

In this regard non-governmental organization development is an apanage of transformable society which per se encourages and expands the methods of cooperation between institutes of civil society and the government. Therefore non-governmental organizations (hereinafter referred to as NGOs) have recently become a topical issue in research on viable processes of social, economic, and political development.

Non-governmental organizations which are entities of the Third Sector have evolved and received recognition from the public for recent decades in many countries of Global Community in developing as well as in postindustrial, postsocialistic ones [1].

It is a well known fact that developed countries of Global Community consider NGO as the most essential unit of civil society. The Third Sector was formed there as a spare controlling instrument for social relations. The governments of these countries support non-governmental sector development with the view to budget deficit declining. Moreover in developed counties it was finally recognized the fact that Non-governmental organizations are more flexible structures in comparison to state bodies. As a result it is often more profitable for a state to transfer funds to independent non-commercial organizations,

obviously, in exchange for clear, concrete, and controllable responsibilities from their part than to create additional organizations by itself.

In developed counties non-governmental organizations perform the following functions:

- to be an intermediate party between a state, various social groups, and some citizens protecting their rights and interests;
- to prevent monopolization by a state in political, economic and other spheres of society assuring social control for the government and its structures including control for its following the regulations of national and international legislation;
- to support decreasing abuse of power in economy, easing negative process in social sphere thereby maintaining a stable situation in society;
- not pursuing the aim of gaining profit to redistribute resources available for a state and society and to encourage their reasonable use, moreover to create and attract additional financial, material, intellectual and other resources which are transferred to satisfy common and individual interests;
- to promote expansion of knowledge, norms, and values of civil society, to encourage extension of pluralism;
- to inform the government about views of the public concerning various social, economic, and other issues;
- to be an instrument of a direct realization of social initiatives in society;
- to provide training for qualified human resources including state workers;.

For example now in the USA there is one of the most developed structures of civil society in the world, where millions of citizens have active stands, take part in many non-governmental organizations moreover taking under a number of functions which in Europe are performed by the government. It is an interesting fact that in the USA nearly one third of all budget expenditure for social and cultural needs is transferred to non-governmental organizations including more than a half of all federal expenditure for social welfare, culture, science, and humane purposes. More than 1 million non-governmental organizations in the USA have a budget at 9% of Domestic Product of the country. Cooperation between a state and local self-governing bodies with non-governmental organizations is an important element for increasing efficiency of application of funds especially which are allocated for social needs [2]. By way of argument like we can refer to the fact that American NGO lobbied the acceptance of valid pension legislation.

The experience of NGO in Europe in many aspects is a not novel thing in spite of its independency in far as the European concerning issues on civil society formation after World War II were supported by the experience and assistance of the US where these issues had been theoretically and practically researched. Herewith in Europe civic initiatives are actively supported aimed at further development of social structures both on municipal and federal levels. They are Non-governmental organizations that deal with civil political rights, protection of rights of individual social groups, and give assistance in their realization.

Altogether in 22 countries in Europe there are around three million Non-governmental organizations and about 100 thousand various funds. Herewith the total number of Non-governmental organizations is 1, 1 trillion USD what is equal to Gross National Product in Italy and Great Britain [3].

In Europe civil society was an instrument of transformation. Main targets of NGO in Europe are assurance of democratic development and protection of democratic achievements.

Notably in Germany Non-governmental organizations historically played a role of an instrument for settling disputes between different social groups between poor and rich citizens since they are more supportive in solving social issues than charity and patronship. By the mid of 90-th XX Century more than 2 million German citizens were involved in the Non-governmental sector. At the present time this number has highly increased.

In Great Britain traditions of Non-governmental organizations originated since XIX Century. The Third Sector is a powerful branch in

economy. The most famous Non-governmental organizations have income evaluated in tens of millions GBR. On the whole in Great Britain around 200 thousand charity organizations are registered.

In some countries, among which the Netherlands is, NGOs are self-financed by means of membership fees. It allows them to remain independent from the government though at some point the government supports them financially. The experience gained by the Netherlands is quite valuable if we consider it in terms of NGO democratization. Thus, for example, a well-known all over the world ecological organization in the Netherlands "Friends of the Earth, the Netherlands" takes an active part in policies of the country. This activity takes up to 80% of working time of this organization that is seemed to deal only with ecological issues. In general terms NGOs in the Netherlands are quite active in the domestic policy of the country. Referendums and public hearings in the Netherlands at different levels are often held. It allows to sustain a stale situation in society and prevents from giving law to various corporative groups in terms of essential issues of the country, provinces, and the cities.

NGOs in Eastern Europe as well as the whole civil society are in the process of formation. In experts' opinion the target of organizations in Eastern Europe is to support development of democratization, its protection from a possible turn of events towards "safety" of powerful leadership and limited freedoms. At the same time particular regimes were set or still being set for organizations of humanitarian assistance in Croatia and Bosnia. Some legal frameworks permit certain types of NGOs to exist only for specific purposes. For example, an organization distributing grants can be registered only as a fund. In such cases it is appropriate to require from a fund that claims for registration to have a certain baseline property upon condition that there are other forms for legal bodies that claim to register NGO due to other purposes.

In Islamic countries historically non-governmental organizations mainly deal with welfare work, solve social issues of disadvantaged population. At the present time only in Iran there are more than 20 thousand non-governmental organizations among which we can find organizations that had been formed a few centuries before.

In India the plan of national development involves cooperation of NGO and the government concerning the realization of the program on anti-poverty struggle. Thereby it is recognized that NGO can take the lead of such activities, organize charity events, involve citizens in planning and developing of socially significant programs, they can provide the necessary assistance for development program realization

In a number of countries the governments set a limit to NGO activity. For example in the Argentine, Ecuador, Japan, Southern Korea, and Taiwan such a community can be registered only in case if the authorized Ministry finds that purposes for realization of which it is created will support public welfare.

In Singapore the government supports NGOs to employ staff, provides them with not used state premises for peppercorn rent, encourages NGOs to get premises in residential area, and finances up to 50% of the capital and transaction costs of organizations established by NGOs for purpose of social welfare [4].

In Malaysia the government closely cooperates with NGOs in realization of the programs aimed at enhancement of social welfare in such issues as struggle against poverty, prevention of HIV/AIDS, expansion of awareness of ecological and gender problems.

In Hong Kong the most part of NGOs receives 70-80% of their income from the state direct financing [5].

In Vietnam according to the Decree of the president in 1957 communities must obtain a permit for registration in order to support community formations that have legitimate purposes as well as to protect and unite social democratic systems.

In Egypt according to the Legislation it is necessary for a non-governmental organization to obtain a permit from Social Relation Ministry that has jurisdiction for a certain sphere of NGO activity as well as from National Security Department.

In the Legislation of the Russian Federation there are two laws: "Concerning Charity work and charitable organizations" (1995) and "Regarding noncommercial organizations" (1996) that have a direct bearing on NGO activity in the Russian Federation. It is emphasized that noncommercial organizations are organizations the main purpose of which is not gaining profit and distributing it among participants [5]. Noncommercial organizations can be governmental as well as nongovernmental. In case when criteria for a commercial organization in Russia governmental or nongovernmental are taken as a basis, then among noncommercial organizations the nongovernmental organizations take the leading part. By this term we mean any voluntary formed organization of citizens with socially beneficial purposes. NGOs in Russia got a powerful boost for development in 1980-1990. During this period the methods of cooperation between state, business, and civil society were reconsidered. By the present moment more than 300 thousand of NGOs have been registered where 2 million Russian people work. More than 30 million Russian citizens annually obtain support from their NGOs [6]. In Russia as well as in Kazakhstan, on the one hand, there is a quite

developed chain of NGOs, but there is no an appropriate feedback, i.e. the governmental structures give ear to NGOs representatives only in cases profitable for them; otherwise those issues are just disregarded. A large number of citizens still remain deedless. It indicates that under the current quite active and numerous group of actually forming civil society in Russia a large number of the people do not fully understand the role of NGO in society.

In Former Soviet Republics priorities of NGOs are conditional on political and economic situations, and NGO development as a rule is performed in these spheres. Nongovernmental sector in Former Soviet Republics has its own peculiarities of development: the formation of civil society took place only after 70 years when Command and Administration System in the government finished its functioning under which the most part of the people did not fully understand their rights and were not able to stand up for them due to paternalistic mentality and state tough policy excluding pluralism and freethinking. So called "nongovernmental organizations" existed in the course of single state policy under party state control within the command economy where the term development itself was substituted by administrative command planning. Some part of them was self-financing and gained some profit self-sustainedly but nearly all had additional financing from the state budget.

In Uzbekistan there are about 400 NGOs, i.e. there are 17 organizations per 1 million citizens. By the present moment in Uzbekistan a range of directions the non-governmental sector is actively working at has been defined. However, NGOs dealing with issues of culture, art, and mass media have not gained a significant support in development and expansion yet [7]. In spite of the fact that today in Uzbekistan legal basis for development of NGO institutions is more supportive, and in Kyrgyzstan political situation is notable for being more unclosed as well as for the fact that the number of NGOs per capita is considerably bigger than in other countries of Central Asia. The term "non-governmental organization" (NGO) is not involved by the Legislation of Kyrgyzstan, by the present time it is just borrowed from the international practice. Moreover, it should be noticed that non-governmental organizations oriented to society development are not separated out by the Legislation.

In Tajikistan 400 non-governmental organizations are officially registered among which we can find 30 social ones. This situation of the small number of NGO is caused by the fact that until recently the state fees for registration of non-governmental organizations in Tajikistan were the highest in CIS [8].

It is well known that civil society development is a necessary condition for democracy formation in a state. Civil society is a social order towards which modern democratic societies are steadily moving. It is a type of society which offers an individual a huge number of options and freedom for realization of his rights.

In recent times we can see an increasing tendency towards integration of NGOs from different countries of the world. The number of international NGOs is increasing what is caused by the following facts:

1. Emergence of global problems;
2. In many cases insufficient resources of some states and international intergovernmental organizations to solve these issues;
3. Growth of democratic processes in internal and external affairs, institutional aspect of which is international NGOs;
4. Shift in national interests of states (from state interests, sovereignty towards human values as human rights and environmental protection);
5. Increasing willingness of some individuals all over the world to strengthen control over the processes of reaching decisions on the issues dealing with their own life interests;
6. Expansion of transboundary intercourse and social activity in different countries as well as potential of technological progress.

In contrast with highly developed democratic states Kazakhstan after becoming an independent state underwent only the initial stage of civil society development. Therefore, in Kazakhstan we cannot see conventional democratic traditions and developed institutions of civil society. However, today we can announce that during the sovereignty period the Republic succeeded in civil society formation. One of these vivid progresses in democracy that we can mention is activity of the citizens of the country which is rising and can be viewed in vigorous growth of non-governmental organizations.

One of the main functions of non-governmental organizations is activity aimed at formation of stable situation in society. Figuratively speaking, NGOs infiltrate interests of social groups and give a state a direction for solving topical social issues.

The first period, the beginning of the 1990th, was considerably marked by mutual distrust between the state and non-governmental organizations. On the one hand, it was determined by no legal and actual division between political parties and non-governmental organizations. No sooner than the mid of the 1990th we can mention a certain separation of social political organizations and nonpolitical social organizations. On the other hand, it was a quite

complicated situation for establishing good relations between self-regulating non-governmental organizations and quasi-state public structures including the ones that were formed during the Soviet Union period.

We can notice the moves towards cooperation between the state and independent non-governmental organizations even by mid of the 1990th. At this point we should mention such international conferences as "Recognition of the Third Sector in Kazakhstan" (1994), "NGO and Law in Central Asia" (1995) [9], "Cooperation of the state and NGO: civil society development, legal basis for NGOs" (1998).

As the following important stage of social partnership between the state and NGOs we can take into consideration the network project "Interlegal" Foundation that was simultaneously carried out in Moscow, Saint Petersburg, Almaty, and Odessa in 1996-1997 [10].

The second stage, in our opinion, starts since 2001. This is a period of NGO legal basis formation in Kazakhstan. On 16th January, 2001 the Law "On Noncommercial Organizations" was adopted, according to one of its provisions "the state shall encourage formation and activity of noncommercial organizations". Moreover, according to this law "noncommercial organizations can cooperate with state bodies by concluding agreements with them and performing certain kind of works for them" [11].

In respect of the Message by the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Nazarbayev N.A., in 2001 with involvement of a number of NGO representatives project development "The Concept of State Support for Non-Profit (Non-Governmental) Organizations" takes its rise. The Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations of Kazakhstan played a significant role in development and consideration of this document. The final variant of the Concept was accepted by the Government decree №85, dated 23 January, 2002.

Since 2003 till the present time we can announce about the inception of a new stage of NGO development in the Republic. The beginning of the third period of development of non-governmental sector in Kazakhstan was marked with the Civil Forum held in October, 2003. This is a stage of formation of constructive cooperation between state bodies and NGOs. Recognition of NGO role and significance by the state bodies by means of having equal partnership and delegating a part of their functions in social field taking into consideration a mobile, effective, and prompt reaction to problems occurred in society can be viewed as the result of this stage.

Synergetic effect resulted in a growing number of NGOs. At the present time in the country we can

count over 25 thousand registered noncommercial organizations. About 18 thousand of them are defined as NGOs. This number does not only reflect the quantity, but also the activity of processes of NGO structural development and thematic association, for instance, such as: local government and non-formal education system development, participation in budget processes, public revenue monitoring in oil business, human rights, ecological, social, and media organizations as well as many other things, i.e. a large number of civil initiatives by means of carrying out socially important projects [12]. Therefore, the condition and level of nongovernmental organization development in Central Asian region directly depend on social economic and political indicators of these countries. International experts claim that Kazakhstan if we compare the level of NGO influence on social life and civil society activity is noticeably marked among the other countries of the same region. Moreover, the most important fact is that according to their opinion only Kazakhstan has the necessary equilibrium of factors and conditions for formation of a mature and well qualified basic group of nongovernmental organizations.

To summarize analysis of NGO activity in different countries of the world we can come to the following conclusion that in some countries (for instance, in the USA) NGOs undertake a number of state functions, especially in the field of social and cultural development. Furthermore, the government provides large sum to finance NGOs in this field what in its turn supports in achieving positive results. NGOs of a number of countries (the USA, Western Europe) also take an active part in formation of practical state policy by means of promoting civic initiatives and their lobbying, as well as public relations monitoring. Relations between the state and nongovernmental sector are established in a well defined way what drastically brings down a chance of conflicts in their cooperation.

Thus, one of the main targets of NGOs, according to their world activity, is to protect democratic rights and freedoms as well as energetic efforts in poverty alleviation. In various countries NGOs created certain mechanisms to have influence on reaching governmental decisions by involving population masses. This international experience is valuable for Kazakhstan since NGOs in Kazakhstan can have the same opportunities of active involvement in this field.

2. Conclusion

To sum up the mentioned above we should notice that for twenty years of independency in

Kazakhstan progress achieved by Non-governmental sector became evidential. However, the government implements it fully neither for succeeding in its activities nor obtaining of trust from the public. It is necessary to encourage NGO development by means of different forms in the country. Forasmuch as the more Non-governmental organizations concerned with issues mentioned above we have, the weaker pressure the government has on these issues, and the more stable situation we have in every region of the country and in Kazakhstan in general.

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