

**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**

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Fundamental Freedoms I

Freedom of peaceful gatherings and associations.

A number of organizational and legal measures aimed at creating the necessary conditions for the formation of civil society, the emergence and strengthening of its institutions were implemented over the past period in Uzbekistan.

Legislative basis for creation and functioning of civil society institutions were formed, laws on self-government bodies, on non-governmental non-profit organizations, on public associations and foundations, on trade unions, rights and guarantees of their activity were adopted.

Thus, such legal documents, as the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On Public Associations”, Decisions to streamline the procedure for registration of the statutes of public organizations were adopted in the first years of independence.

Development of social relations in Uzbekistan, expanding the structure, quantity and form of civil society institutions encouraged adoption of the Law “On Non-Governmental Organizations” on April 14, 1999.

The Law was first used the term of “non-governmental non-profit organization”, defined the legal status of NGOs, rights and obligations, the principles of interaction with state authorities, the procedure for creating and activity of NGOs, as well as provided opportunity for NGOs to entry into international non-governmental non-profit organizations and to support direct international connections.

The main task of the second phase of reforms (began in 2001) is consistent and gradual transition from a strong state to a strong civil society.

During this period, laws regulating the activities of the various legal forms of NGOs were adopted. They are Law “On Public Foundations” and Law “*On private homeowner cooperatives*”.

The adoption of the Laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On guarantees of activity of NGOs” and “On Charity”, as well as the Joint Resolution of the Kengashes (Councils) of the Legislative Chamber and the Senate of the Parliament “On measures of increasing support for NGOs and other civil society institutions” assisted to strengthen dialogue and social partnership.

Legal documents protect the rights and legitimate interests of NGOs, define forms, mechanisms of state support of public organizations. There were created Public Fund on Support of NGOs and other Civil Society Institutions, Commission for operating assets of the Fund under the Parliament.

The adoption of the **Concept of Further Deepening Democratic Reforms and Formation of Civil Society in the Country** was logical continuation of the reforms made in the country.

Work of the Commission for Preparation of Draft Legal Acts in the field of Formation and Development of Civil Society Institutions was formed and organized in accordance with the Concept.

A significant event in 2011 was the adoption of the Joint Resolution of the Parliament on the basis of Prime Minister's report on the implementation of the Concept of further deepening democratic reforms and formation of civil society in the country. According to this document, the Cabinet of Ministers is recommended to organize a broad discussion and public examination of draft laws prepared in the framework of the implementation of the Concept.

Implementation of these measures led to increase attention of public authorities to the activities of NGOs and helped to create the conditions for solution by NGOs the social problems, as well as implementation of socio-economic development of regions.

Establishment of the post of deputy regional governor for relations with civil society organizations was an important factor in increasing the efficiency of cooperation and social partnership between public authorities and local civil society organizations in the implementation of socio-economic development, protecting the rights, freedoms and interests of different segments of population.

An important outcome of 2013 was the entry into force of the Law "On Environmental Protection". In accordance with this Law, NGOs, self-government bodies are empowered to implement social environmental control, to participate in environmental protection. Non-profit organizations also have the right to make suggestions on violation of legislation in the field of environmental protection and rational use of natural resources to relevant state organs.

A landmark event in 2013 was the adoption of the Decree of the President "On Additional Measures to Promote the Development of Civil Society Institutions". This document simplified procedure for registration of NGOs, as well as providing their reporting. In particular, since January 1, 2014 state fee charged for the state registration of NGOs reduced 5 times, the fees charged for the state registration of NGOs symbols – 2.5 times. Period of review by judicial authorities

handling of the state registration of NGOs is twice shortened: from two months to one month.

This issue has been repeatedly considered by NGOs, which took an active part in the drafting of the Project of the Cabinet of Ministers “On measures to implement the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On Additional Measures to Promote the Development of Civil Society Instituts