Improving the effectiveness of non-governmental organizations

Kenzhetayeva Assel¹
Aliyeva Anel Sagadiyevna²

¹ doctor of Economics, Professor, Professor of the Finance Department of the Faculty of Economics; Gumilyov Eurasian National University; Republic of Kazakhstan
² second-year master's student; Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan; Republic of Kazakhstan

Abstract.
The tasks facing Kazakhstan today require enhanced interaction between the state and non-governmental organizations, a systemic reset of civil society institutions. It is necessary to involve public organizations and activists more widely and deeply in the preparation and implementation of reforms. To do this, first of all, it is necessary to ensure open discussions of all national projects and strategic documents. In this matter, any imitation, creating the appearance of a dialogue is unacceptable. We must awaken civic activity in the country and launch a process of conscious and constructive partnership between the state and society. It is for this reason that we are developing public councils under central and local executive state bodies, as well as in the quasi-public sector [1]. Non-governmental organizations play a key role in the formation and implementation of participatory democratic structures. Their authority is explained by the responsible and constructive role they play in society. Official and unofficial organizations, as well as grassroots movements should be recognized. The nature of the independent role that non-governmental organizations play in society dictates the need for real participation; therefore, independence is one of the basic and integral properties of non-governmental organizations and an indispensable condition for real participation. Today, when the world community is striving to move away from irrational development models and embark on the path of environmentally safe and sustainable development, one of the main tasks facing it is to promote understanding of a common goal in all segments of society. The ability to ensure an understanding of such a goal will depend on the willingness of all segments of society to participate in truly broad cooperation and dialogue and on the recognition of the independent role, obligations and special potential of each.

Keywords:
civil society
non-governmental organizations
presidential address
strategy «Kazakhstan-2050»
Non-governmental organizations, including non-profit organizations representing the groups covered by this section of Agenda 21, have recognized and diverse experience, expertise and capacity in areas that will be of particular importance for the implementation and review of environmentally sound and socially oriented sustainable development. Thus, the community of non-governmental organizations is a global network that should be connected to the work to achieve these common goals, empowered and strengthened.

Non-governmental organizations also need to develop cooperation and interaction among themselves in order to increase their effectiveness as participants in sustainable development activities.

In order to enhance the role of non-governmental organizations as public partners, the United Nations system and Governments, in consultation with non-governmental organizations, should begin a process of considering formal procedures and mechanisms that would ensure the effective participation of these organizations at all levels, from policy development and decision-making to implementation.

Governments and international bodies should encourage and ensure the participation of non-governmental organizations in the development, establishment and evaluation of formal mechanisms and procedures at all levels.

Governments will need to adopt or make more effective, depending on the specific situation in countries, any legislative measures that would facilitate the creation of advisory groups in non-governmental organizations, and ensure that non-governmental organizations have the right to defend public interests through legal mechanisms [2].

The strategy «Kazakhstan-2050»: the new political course of the established state and the «Plan of the Nation «100 concrete steps» also indicated the relevance of the «reset» of the non-governmental sector, identified the need to form new approaches and platforms for working with civil society institutions.

The amendments made to the legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan on the state social order made it possible to introduce the sectoral principle and expand the participation
of relevant state bodies in the implementation of joint social projects with NGOs.

The introduction of new forms of NGO funding in the form of grants and awards was the result of recognition of the non-governmental sector as one of the active institutions of civil society in solving social problems, which contributed to an increase in the number of citizens employed in the civil sector.

In order to ensure transparency and independence of the procedures for the distribution of grant funds, in accordance with the Decree of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated December 31, 2015 No. 1192 «On certain issues of grant financing of non-governmental organizations», a non-profit joint stock company «Center for Support of Civil Initiatives» was established, which is an operator in the field of grant financing.

In order to improve the system of the state social order in 2018, the procedure for the formation of the state social order was legislatively regulated and standards were developed. For the first time, the evaluation of the results of the implementation of NGO projects at the expense of state funding has been introduced.

The concept of development of local self-government in the Republic of Kazakhstan until 2020 has influenced the civic activity of Kazakhstani, increased their interest and willingness to participate in solving issues of local importance.

The concept defined the following forms of state support for non-governmental organizations:

- informational (coverage of the activities of the non-governmental sector in solving social problems in the media, assistance to NGOs in creating their own media);
- advisory (clarification of legislative and regulatory acts, provision of information on registration, methods and directions of work, foreign and domestic grant-givers, opportunities for obtaining state support, data on NGOs existing in the country);
- methodical (development of methodological recommendations, materials, reference books);
- organizational and technical (holding round tables,
POLITICAL SCIENCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

seminars, conferences, trainings, other actions with NGOs aimed at solving socially significant problems);

assistance through the state social order (development and (or) implementation of targeted social events (actions, programs) aimed at solving specific socially significant problems, as well as participation on a competitive basis in the implementation of republican and local targeted programs) [3].

Kazakhstan NGOs are universal and can engage in any activity - and, as a rule, there is no reason to talk about the professionalism of this NGO in any particular field, because no one knows exactly how many NGOs there are in the country, what they specifically do, how many jobs they create, what the professional skills of specialists are [4].

The analysis of the results of public monitoring of the quality of public services during the International Conference «Improving the system of public services» (2013) showed a low level of readiness of NGOs for this work, the lack of a sufficient circle of NGOs with the appropriate base and specialists [5]. «The proportion of professional NGOs specializing in the provision of high-quality social services is still too small to maintain a healthy competitive environment in the sector; in fact, limited freedom of choice and action within the framework of the state social order has led to the fact that many NGOs have stopped looking for new forms and methods of work, introducing innovative technologies; objective transfer of approaches to the organization of work, the assessment of results from the public sector to the NGO sector did not have the best effect on the qualitative composition of the sector; often experienced, stable NGOs consciously refuse to participate in competitions for state social orders, and gradually curtail their activities, specialists go to business and international organizations, where they are quite in demand» [6]. According to surveys of the heads of Kazakhstani NGOs, by now there is a situation when - the main source of funding is the state social order; at the same time, “the most transparent and objective respondents consider the procedures for providing funds in international organizations, the least transparent and
objective procedures for providing funds from the state;

- In some regions, monitoring of the effectiveness of NGO projects within the framework of the state social order has been organized, the evaluation criteria and procedure have been developed by the NGOs themselves;

- the services of most NGOs are reduced to holding one-time actions [7];

- according to the majority of respondents, not all NGOs work with proper quality; in most cases, NGO services are vague, difficult to measure, and sometimes impractical, respectively, their quality cannot be assessed [8].

It should be noted that our attempt in the summer and autumn of 2015 to verify these conclusions, as part of our own survey of NGO managers and employees, came across an unexpected «technical» problem; it turned out that the vast majority of NGOs are not at their stated addresses and phone numbers — contacts had to be established «in a roundabout way». At the same time, in eight out of ten cases, employees of NGOs currently funded under the state social order, nevertheless, claimed that «they are no longer doing this».

Until recently, there were two main sources of funding for NGOs in Kazakhstan: grants within the framework of foreign funding and a state social order. At the same time, the state did not allocate money for development, purchase of equipment, training of employees and support of NGO initiatives — according to the law, this was regarded as making a profit and misuse of budget funds with all the ensuing sanctions.

Therefore, grants within the framework of foreign financing were so important for NGOs. In Kazakhstan, the largest NGO donors until recently were the UN Agencies, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the World Bank, the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and its subcontractors (Eurasia Foundation, Partner Consortium, etc.), the Hivos Institute, the Friedrich Ebert Foundation; the Soros Kazakhstan Foundation — as well as the embassies of the USA, Germany, Canada, England, the Netherlands, Israel, Japan, etc. All these funds, organizations and institutions, to one degree or another, are the guides of the foreign policy of these states, the instruments of their «softpower». Concern about the «systemic
duality» of the goals of NGOs funded by foreign donors and international grant-giving organizations has found expression in several resolutions of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The state increases the costs of the social order for the non-profit sector, in this regard, there is a need to increase the responsibility for the targeted spending of budget allocations. The creation of a single NGO database will finally help to count the number of active and inactive NGOs. The topics of the projects will be determined not by officials of different levels, but by NGOs themselves. A certain part of the state funding will be allocated for the development of NGOs - it turned out that the state does not care whether an NGO has an office, website, computers, staff. Currently, a decree of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan on the implementation of the new law is being developed - it will specify what percentage of funding NGOs will be able to direct to their own needs - we are talking about 15-20% of the amount of the state grant.

Kazakhstani NGOs will now have to account for the money received through the state social order and grants (both state and non-state). This will increase reporting, but, on the other hand, significantly increase transparency. All NGOs will have to report on their activities in the republican official periodical media; administrative liability of NGOs is provided in the form of a fine or temporary suspension from activities in case of failure to provide accurate information for the database. The emphasis is on the integrity and law-abiding nature of NGO representatives - the measures of responsibility provided for in the draft law are very soft.

In many countries of the world, much tougher approaches are used. In international practice, the principle of transparency of the activities and accountability of third sector organizations to society is based on different priorities. In America and Russia, mandatory and very detailed information about foreign financing is put at the forefront. In the UK, in order to have a special status and enjoy privileges, NGOs must account for all charitable funds coming into their accounts and comply with a special code of ethics. In Germany and France, it is considered especially important to observe the principle of professional preparedness and
comply with the declared industry specialization.

Further prospects for improving the interaction of state bodies and improving the efficiency and quality of NGO services can be assessed in the context of the discussion of draft laws:

- «On Access to information», which provides conditions for obtaining any necessary information for public institutions about the work of the state and quasi-public sector;

- «On Public Councils», which formulates and strengthens the role of NGOs as an institution of public control.

To date, there are already separate institutions of public control in the Republic of Kazakhstan: the Public Chamber under the Majilis of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan, consultative and advisory bodies, public councils under state bodies and institutions. Public organizations and associations take some part in public control, but in general, the activities of public control institutions have not yet become a noticeable factor affecting the activities of the system of authorities and management; the activities of individual subjects of public control have not developed into an integral system.

The «Anti-Corruption Strategy of the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2015-2025» emphasizes the need to develop public control in Kazakhstan [9]. At the same time, it is noted that the introduction of such control requires not only the activation of civil society institutions, but also appropriate legislative regulation.

References:
[1] The official website of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Message of the Head of State Kosym-Jomart Tokayev to the people of Kazakhstan dated March 16, 2022. - URL: https://www.akorda.kz/ru/poslanie-glavy-gosudarstva-kasym-zhomarta-tokaeva-narodu-kazahstana-1623953 Date of application:06.08.2022 year


The concerns of Kazakhstani NGOs regarding the draft law are groundless, the «curator» of the new document is sure// International News Agency. October 19, 2015.-URL: http://www.inform.kz/rus/article/2835484 Date of application: 07.08.2022 year


Expert survey «Assessment of the potential of non-profit organizations of the Mangistau region and the level of interaction with government agencies» // NGO «Eco Mangystau», 2013.–URL: http://ecomangystau.kz/doc/Ocenka_potenciala.pdf Date of application: 11.08.2022 year


The Anti-corruption Strategy of the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2015-2025 was approved by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated December 26, 2014 No. 986 // IS Paragraph.-URL: http://online.zakon.kz/ Date of application: 20.08.2022 year