

DEMOCRATIZATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN LOCAL GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES AND PUBLIC CONTROL: THE NEW REALITY OF UZBEKISTAN

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Abstract. This article examines the process of democratizing relations between local representative bodies (Kengashes of People's Deputies) and mechanisms of public control in the Republic of Uzbekistan. The research focuses on the transformational changes that have occurred in the system of public administration following the constitutional reform of 2023, which marked a transition from a centralized model to a system based on the principles of "social state" and "people's power." The article analyzes the legal foundations of public control, its institutional forms, and the practical mechanisms of interaction between deputies and civil society institutions. Special attention is paid to the analysis of new democratic institutions that ensure transparency and accountability of local authorities, such as public councils, civic hearings, and participatory budgeting. The author comes to the conclusion that modern reforms have created a constitutional basis for the development of effective public control, while its practical implementation requires further improvement of legislation and development of civil society institutions.

Keywords: democratization, public control, local government, civil society, social partnership, transparency, accountability, participatory budgeting, civic participation, constitutional reform.

Аннотация. В данной статье исследуется процесс демократизации взаимоотношений между местными представительными органами (Кенгашами народных депутатов) и механизмами общественного контроля в Республике Узбекистан. Научный поиск сфокусирован на трансформационных изменениях в системе государственного управления после конституционной реформы 2023 года, ознаменовавшей переход от централизованной модели к системе, основанной на принципах «социального государства» и «народовластия». В статье анализируются правовые основы общественного контроля, его институциональные формы и практические механизмы взаимодействия депутатов и институтов гражданского общества. Особое внимание уделено анализу новых демократических институтов, обеспечивающих прозрачность и подотчетность местной власти, таких как общественные советы, гражданские слушания и партисипаторное бюджетирование. Автор приходит к выводу, что современные реформы создали конституционную основу для развития эффективного общественного контроля, в то время как его практическая реализация требует дальнейшего совершенствования законодательства и развития институтов гражданского общества.

Ключевые слова: демократизация, общественный контроль, местное самоуправление, гражданское общество, социальное партнерство, прозрачность, подотчетность, партисипаторное бюджетирование, гражданское участие, конституционная реформа.

Introduction

The constitutional reform of 2023 in Uzbekistan has fundamentally changed the paradigm of relations between government and society. The updated Basic Law establishes that "the people are the only source of state power" (Article 7), and the state "creates conditions for the development of civil society" (Article 11) [1]. These constitutional provisions have created a legal basis for the democratization of relations between local government representatives and institutions of public control. This article analyzes the implementation of these principles at the local level, examining both the achievements and challenges of this process.

Theoretical Framework of Public Control

Public control in the modern understanding is not limited to monitoring the activities of authorities but includes a system of feedback, civic participation and co-management. This approach is implemented through:

- Institutional forms (public councils, civic chambers)
- Procedural mechanisms (public hearings, discussions)
- Digital platforms (online portals, mobile applications)

Legal Framework for Democratization

The constitutional reform created a new system of legal regulation:

1. The Constitution guarantees "the right to participate in the management of society and state affairs" (Article 33)
2. The Law "On Public Control" (2020) defines the mechanisms of civic participation
3. The Law "On Openness of Government Bodies" (2021) ensures transparency
4. Normative acts on public councils and civic hearings [2]

Mechanisms of Interaction Between Deputies and Civil Society

Modern legislation provides for various forms of interaction:

1. Public Councils under local Kengashes
2. Civic Hearings on important issues
3. Participatory Budgeting projects
4. Public Expertise of draft decisions
5. Civic Initiatives and electronic petitions

Practice and Challenges of Implementation

Despite significant progress, several challenges remain:

1. Formalism in the work of some public councils
2. Low civic activity in certain regions
3. Insufficient qualifications of both deputies and activists
4. Limited resources for implementing civic initiatives

Recommendations for Further Development

1. Develop and adopt a unified Methodology for assessing the effectiveness of public control
2. Introduce mandatory civic education programs for deputies and civil activists
3. Create a system of grants to support civic initiatives
4. Develop digital platforms for civic participation
5. Ensure gender equality and youth participation in public control mechanisms

Conclusion

The democratization of relations between local government representatives and public control institutions in Uzbekistan has become an irreversible process. The constitutional reform of 2023 created the necessary legal framework for the development of various forms of civic participation. However, the effectiveness of public control depends not only on legal norms but also on the development of civil society, changing political culture and creating practical mechanisms for interaction. The experience of Uzbekistan demonstrates that consistent implementation of democratic principles at the local level contributes to increased transparency, accountability and effectiveness of government, ultimately leading to improved quality of life for citizens.

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