



INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS AND INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE IN CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION

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This article analyzes international standards and foreign experience in civil society participation in public administration. It examines the role of international legal norms, public consultation mechanisms, digital participation tools, and institutional cooperation between the state and society. The study highlights comparative practices and emphasizes balancing legal, organizational, and cultural factors.

Key words: civil society, public administration, international standards, citizen participation, public consultation, e-government, human rights, digital governance, social partnership, transparency and accountability

The development of civil society institutions and their participation in public administration is largely determined not only by national characteristics, but also by international standards developed within the global legal and political space. These standards establish common guidelines, define the framework for acceptable interactions between the state and society, and serve as a tool for assessing the effectiveness of national governance models.

International documents enshrine the fundamental principles upon which civil society participation is based. First of all, we are talking about human rights and freedoms, including freedom of association, expression of opinion and participation



in government. These provisions are reflected in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which emphasizes the right of everyone participate in the governance of your country, both directly and through freely elected representatives [1]. These norms form the foundation on which national participation mechanisms are built.

The work of international organizations is particularly significant in developing standards for civil society participation. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), analyzing the interaction between state and society, proposes the concept of "citizens as partners," which identifies three levels of participation: information, consultation, and active involvement in decision-making. This approach allows us to structure forms of participation and assess the degree of their development in different countries [2].

During plenary sessions and thematic panels, the participants of the seminar will discuss the role of NMIRF in ensuring the practical implementation of recommendations of the UN treaty bodies and the Universal Periodic Review, the use of digital tools for tracking recommendations, the development of regional and interregional networks, as well as mechanisms for engaging parliaments, national human rights institutions and civil society.

The workshop will contribute to deepening the international dialogue on the establishment and strengthening of national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up, consolidation of the NMIRF International Network, as well as the formal adoption of the NMIRF International Network Action Plan for the



period 2026-2031, developed on the basis of the Asunción Declaration and Marrakesh leadership base [3].

In the United States of America, mechanisms for public consultation and participation in rulemaking have been significantly developed. The "notice and comment" procedure allows citizens and organizations to express their comments on draft regulations that are subject to review by government agencies. This ensures a high level of transparency and accountability in governance. In the countries of the European Union, forms of social partnership are actively developing, involving the participation of trade unions, employers and public organizations in the formation of public policy. This model makes it possible to take into account the interests of various social groups and reduce the level of conflict in society. At the same time, the participation of civil society is not episodic, but systemic in nature.

International standards and foreign experience allow us to draw an important conclusion that the effectiveness of civil society participation is determined not only by the presence of legal norms, but also the quality of their implementation. Jürgen Habermas emphasized that the key condition for effective interaction is the existence of a developed public sphere, in which open discussion of socially significant issues takes place and public opinion is formed [4]. From the author's perspective, without the public opinion of civil society, the author's opinion risks becoming a formal procedure.

Continuing our analysis of international standards and international experience, it is important to consider that modern models of civil society participation are



developing in a context of increasingly complex governance processes and growing global interconnectedness. This is leading to the development of new approaches that emphasize not only formal participation procedures but also the quality of interaction, the level of citizen engagement, and the ability of civil society institutions to influence final decisions.

In Scandinavian countries, particular attention is paid to developing trust as a fundamental resource for interaction. A high level of trust between the state and society allows for the effective implementation of even those forms of participation that are not formally enshrined in legislation. This suggests that legal mechanisms must be complemented by social and cultural conditions that promote the active participation of citizens.

The experience of the United Kingdom is interesting, as it actively utilizes public consultation mechanisms and regulatory impact assessments. Before making significant decisions, government bodies hold discussions with public organizations, the expert community, and citizens. This approach allows for the identification of potential risks and the adjustment of management decisions at the planning stage. J. Keane, analyzing the development of civil society in modern conditions, notes that its effectiveness depends on the ability to maintain independence and a critical position in relation to the state, even with active interaction with it [5]. The author believes that this provision highlights the need to maintain a balance between cooperation and autonomy, without which civil society participation may lose its significance.



The practice of a number of European countries shows that the effective participation of civil society requires institutional reinforcement and clear procedural regulation. In particular, in France and Germany, public consultation mechanisms are widely used in the development of regulations, as well as public council institutions, which include representatives of various social groups. These structures not only serve an advisory function but also participate in developing recommendations that are taken into account when making decisions. This model allows for the interests of various social groups to be taken into account and reduces conflict in society.

In South Korea, electronic interaction platforms are actively developing, allowing citizens to submit petitions, participate in discussions of government initiatives, and influence decision-making online [6]. This experience allows citizens to easily contact government agencies, express their opinions, and participate in public life.

Estonia has implemented one of the most effective e-government models, providing citizens with access to government services, the opportunity to participate in decision-making, and a high level of transparency in government activities [7].

For the Republic of Uzbekistan, foreign experience is of interest not only for the adoption of specific mechanisms but also as a source of understanding the general patterns of interaction between the state and society. It demonstrates that sustainable results are achieved through a combination of legal, organizational, and cultural factors. Simply copying individual elements without taking into account the national context does not provide the expected effect.

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