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# History of the Establishment of Non-Governmental Non-Governmental Organizations of Invalids in Uzbekistan (1991-2014)

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**Abstract:** In the article on the basis of official documents and factual material shows the creation of a system of non-governmental and non-profit organizations of the disabled in ensuring their economic and social well-being, also the article reveals the creation of mechanism of social protection of people with disabilities, developed in the years of independence of Uzbekistan.

**Keywords:** People with disabilities, social protection, rehabilitation, implementation.

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In accordance with international trends, the degree of development of any society is determined by the state's attitude to human rights, the presence of conditions for the implementation of the rights and freedoms of individuals, the mechanisms of protection of citizens' rights.

Respect for human rights is a fundamental principle in the development of a democratic society, which most countries of the world are engaged in building. In Uzbekistan, in accordance with international law, persons with disabilities are full citizens of the state and social protection is one of the five principles put by the President in the basis of socio-economic development of Uzbekistan. That is why the welfare of socially vulnerable groups, including the 780,000 people with disabilities living in the country, is at the heart of Uzbekistan's social policy.

Uzbekistan was the first country in CIS that in 1991 developed and adopted the Law "On social protection of disabled people in the Republic of Uzbekistan" (in 2008 the Law was adopted). (In 2008 the law was adopted in its new version), the first in the CIS developed and approved standards for providing an accessible environment for the disabled, establishing administrative responsibility of officials for violation of the legislation on the accessibility of facilities for people with disabilities.[1]

The rights of people with disabilities in our country have recently been paid more and more attention. To a large extent this is due to the adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2006, which Uzbekistan signed in 2009. Currently, at the state level, substantial work is being done to prepare for the ratification of the Convention. The Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan has sent to all relevant ministries and departments a draft national plan of action in preparation for the ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to study and supplement it. We would like to emphasize that this draft was developed by public organizations of persons with disabilities in the framework of the Advisory Council on Disability under the NANNOUz.[2]

This Advisory Council, is a consultative public body that brings together representatives of leading NGOs, specialized government agencies and a number of international organizations

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(as observers) working to promote the rights and interests of persons with disabilities.

The main tasks of the Council are:

- Promotion of ratification by the Parliament of Uzbekistan of the UN Convention "On the Rights of Persons with Disabilities", as well as implementation of public control over the implementation and execution of this Convention after its ratification.
- Development of proposals for submission to the legislative and executive authorities of the Republic of Uzbekistan of draft normative legal acts in the field of social protection of persons with disabilities.
- Development of proposals to improve social policy and the mechanism for its implementation and the organization of social partnership between NGOs and government agencies.
- Coordinating the activities of NGOs of persons with disabilities in the discussion and implementation of issues relating to the vital activities of persons with disabilities in Uzbekistan.
- Preparation of proposals to improve state policy in the sphere of social protection of the disabled, taking into account the positions of public associations of the disabled.[3, 12]

The signing of the Convention is evidence of Uzbekistan's agreement with the fundamental principles on which the modern state policy with respect to the disabled is based, of the country's readiness to comply with international standards, political, economic, social and other fundamental rights of people with disabilities.

Ratification of the Convention will significantly expand the role of NGOs in promoting the interests of persons with disabilities. The Convention imposes obligations on States to include persons with disabilities, as well as their representative organizations, in all policy processes to ensure that their interests are protected in the development of legislative and regulatory documents in all spheres. Thus, Article 4(3) of the Convention states: "In the development and application of legislation and policies to implement this Convention, and in other decision-making processes relating to persons with disabilities, States Parties shall closely consult with persons with disabilities [4].

At the same time, in addition to the fact that ratification of the Convention offers great opportunities for NGOs of disabled persons, it also imposes significant responsibility for their activities. In accordance with the provisions of Articles 33, 34, 35 of the Convention, participation of NGOs of persons with disabilities, in monitoring the implementation of the Convention, as well as the preparation of alternative reports, and the establishment of international cooperation is envisaged.[5]

Today in the Republic of Uzbekistan a massive stratum of NGOs providing support to persons with disabilities has been formed. They are represented both by large organizations of the republican type, numbering more than 100,000 members, and by mobile organizations of the city and oblast levels, promptly solving problems of persons with disabilities in their territory. According to the Ministry of Justice, there are 76 NGOs registered in Uzbekistan that work in the field of social protection for persons with disabilities. There are children's, youth, women's, sports organizations of the disabled, as well as organizations of the disabled dealing with accessibility of infrastructure, education, employment, providing legal, professional, psychological services, etc. These organizations include the Uzbek Society of the Disabled, the Uzbek Society of the Deaf, the Uzbek Society of the Blind, the National Paralympic Association, the Republican Center for the Social Adaptation of Children, the Association of Business Women with Disabilities, the Nur Association of Businessmen with

Disabilities, the Association of Soldier-Internationalist Disabled, the Chernobyl Association, the OpaSingilar Society of Women with Disabilities, the Millennium Social Assistance to Young Disabled, the Status Legal Aid Center for Disabled People, the Society for the Protection of Disabled Persons.

The largest of these are the Uzbek Society for the Disabled, the Society for the Blind and the Society for the Deaf and Mute, which has branches in all 12 regions of Uzbekistan, the Republic of Karakalpakstan and the city of Tashkent, that is, in 24 cities and 119 districts.

In October 2012, in order to promote the ratification and implementation of the UN Convention "On the Rights of Persons with Disabilities", as well as the establishment of social partnership between government agencies and public organizations of persons with disabilities in the field of social policy and civil society development, an Advisory Council of Public Organizations of Persons with Disabilities was established under the NANNOUz. If at the beginning of its activity the Advisory Council comprised 7 NGOs of the disabled, today it includes 28 NGOs of the disabled. Republican Center for the Social Adaptation of Children, Uzbek Society for the Disabled, Nur Association of Entrepreneurs of the Disabled, Status NGO, Mehribonlik NGO, OpaSingillar NGO, Millennium NGO, Association of Women Entrepreneurs with Disabilities, NGO "MehrKozda", Uzbek Society of the Deaf, NGO "Yoruglik", Society for the Protection of Children with Disabilities "Uygunlik", National Paralympic Association of Uzbekistan, NGO "PanokhShulasi" and others. [7]

During the two years of its activity the Advisory Council achieved tremendous results, first of all, in terms of consolidation of public organizations of the disabled and establishment of social partnership with state organizations. For example:

1. NAP was presented and additionally discussed with NGOs, state bodies and international organizations (May 7, 2014)[8,11].
2. The finalized NAP was officially submitted on behalf of the CC to the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan (July 2014).
3. The Cabinet of Ministers adopted the draft NAP without changes and officially sent it to all relevant ministries and agencies for review and feedback (August 2014 - copy attached)[9].

Information about the positive experience of preparing the draft NAP on the part of NGO LSI is regularly voiced by state officials as an example of civil society activities. Partnerships between CC and all political parties of Uzbekistan are established.

An agreement has been reached to nominate LSI as candidates for deputies of regional legislative bodies. [10,13]

In the Republic of Uzbekistan much has already been done for the disabled, much is being done now, and we believe that in a country where civil democratic society is being developed and established, opportunities for the livelihood of all segments of the population will be taken into account in the necessary context. People with disabilities in Uzbekistan firmly believe that this can and should be realized in their country.

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