

Sh.M. Zhandossova<sup>1</sup> , M.M. Nurov<sup>2\*</sup> ,  
Zh.Z. Kuanyshbayeva<sup>3</sup> 

<sup>1</sup>Institute of Philosophy, Political Science and Religious Studies, CS MSHE RK, Almaty, Kazakhstan

<sup>2</sup>Turan University, Almaty, Kazakhstan

<sup>3</sup>Abai Kazakh National Pedagogical University, Almaty, Kazakhstan

\*e-mail: markhabbatnur@gmail.com

## GLOBAL TRENDS AND LOCAL FEATURES OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF MODERN CIVIL SOCIETY

This study examines the complex dynamics of civil society development in the modern world, characterized by the interaction of global trends and local features. The work is devoted to a comprehensive analysis of the evolution of institutions of civic participation in the context of a changing system of international relations. The purpose of the research is to identify and scientifically analyze the systemic relationships between global trends and local trajectories of civil society development. The work is aimed at identifying key global trends in the development of civil society, conducting a comparative analysis of regional models of civic participation and studying the impact of digitalization on the transformation of forms of civic engagement. The research methodology is based on an interdisciplinary approach integrating theoretical concepts and methods of political science, sociology and international relations. Systematic, comparative, institutional and constructivist approaches are used, as well as methods of content analysis. The main results of the study demonstrate ambiguous and contradictory trends in the development of civil society, due to the dialectic of global and local. The key mechanisms of adaptation of universal models of civic participation to specific socio-cultural and political contexts, as well as the impact of global crises on the institutional development of civil society in various regional contexts, have been identified. The value of the research lies in systematizing knowledge about the transformation of traditional forms of civic engagement under the influence of digitalization and globalization, as well as in identifying new opportunities for transnational cooperation between non-state actors in a changing international environment.

**Key words:** civil society, globalization, digitalization, transnational cooperation, civic engagement.

Ш.М. Жандосова<sup>1</sup>, М.М. Нуров<sup>2\*</sup>, Ж.Ж. Куанышбаева<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>ҚР ФЖБМ ФК Философия, саясаттану және дінтану институты, Алматы, Қазақстан

<sup>2</sup>«Тұран» университеті, Алматы, Қазақстан

<sup>3</sup>Абай атындағы Қазақ ұлттық педагогикалық университеті, Алматы, Қазақстан

\*e-mail: markhabbatnur@gmail.com

## Қазіргі азаматтық қоғам дамуының әлемдік тенденциялары мен жергілікті ерекшеліктері

Бұл зерттеу жаһандық трендтер мен жергілікті ерекшеліктердің өзара әрекеттесуімен сипатталатын қазіргі әлемдегі азаматтық қоғам дамуының күрделі динамикасын қарастырады. Жұмыс халықаралық қатынастардың өзгермелі жүйесі контекстінде азаматтық қатысу институттарының эволюциясын жан-жақты талдауға арналған. Зерттеудің мақсаты – жаһандық трендтер мен азаматтық қоғам дамуының жергілікті траекториялары арасындағы жүйелік қатынастарды анықтау және ғылыми талдау. Жұмыс азаматтық қоғам дамуының негізгі жаһандық үрдістерін айқындауға, азаматтық қатысудың өнірлік модельдеріне салыстырмалы талдау жүргізуге және цифрандырудың азаматтық белсенділік нысандарының трансформациясына әсерін зерттеуге бағытталған. Зерттеу әдістемесі саяси ғылымның, әлеуметтанудың және халықаралық қатынастардың теориялық тұжырымдамалары мен әдістерін біріктіріп пәнаралық тәсілге негізделген. Жүйелік, салыстырмалы, институционалдық және конструктивистік тәсілдер, сондай-ақ мазмұнды талдау әдістері қолданылады. Зерттеудің негізгі нәтижелері жаһандық және жергілікті диалектикадан туындаған азаматтық қоғамның дамуындағы екіұшты және қармақ-қайышы тенденцияларды көрсетеді. Азаматтық қатысудың әмбебап модельдерін нақты әлеуметтік-мәдени және саяси контекстерге бейімдеудің негізгі тетіктері, сондай-ақ жаһандық дағдарыстардың әртүрлі аймақтық контексттердегі азаматтық қоғамның институционалдық дамуына әсері анықталды. Жүргізілген зерттеудің құндылығы цифрандыру мен жаһанданудың ықпалымен азаматтық белсенділіктің дәстүрлі нысандарын трансформациялау туралы білімді

өзгермелі халықаралық, орта жағдайында мемлекеттік емес акторлардың трансұлттық, ынтымақтастығы үшін жаңа мүмкіндіктерді анықтау болып табылады.

**Түйін сөздер:** азаматтық, қоғам, жаһандану, цифрандыру, трансұлттық ынтымақтастық, азаматтық белсенділік.

Ш.М. Жандосова<sup>1</sup>, М.М. Нуров<sup>2\*</sup>, Ж.Ж. Куанышбаева<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Институт философии, политологии и религиоведения КН МНВО РК, Алматы, Казахстан

<sup>2</sup>Университет «Туран», Алматы, Казахстан

<sup>3</sup>Казахский национальный педагогический университет имени Абая, Алматы, Казахстан

\*e-mail: markhabbatnur@gmail.com

## Глобальные тенденции и локальные особенности развития современного гражданского общества

В данном исследовании рассматривается сложная динамика развития гражданского общества в современном мире, характеризующаяся взаимодействием глобальных трендов и локальных особенностей. Работа посвящена комплексному анализу эволюции институтов гражданского участия в контексте меняющейся системы международных отношений. Целью исследования является выявление и научный анализ системных взаимосвязей между глобальными трендами и локальными траекториями развития гражданского общества. Работа направлена на определение ключевых глобальных тенденций развития гражданского общества, проведение сравнительного анализа региональных моделей гражданского участия и исследование влияния цифровизации на трансформацию форм гражданской активности. Методология исследования основана на междисциплинарном подходе, интегрирующем теоретические концепции и методы политической науки, социологии и международных отношений. Применяются системный, сравнительный, институциональный и конструктивистский подходы, а также методы контент-анализа. Основные результаты исследования демонстрируют неоднозначные и противоречивые тенденции в развитии гражданского общества, обусловленные диалектикой глобального и локального. Выявлены ключевые механизмы адаптации универсальных моделей гражданского участия к специфическим социокультурным и политическим контекстам, а также влияние глобальных кризисов на институциональное развитие гражданского общества в различных региональных контекстах. Ценность проведенного исследования заключается в систематизации знаний о трансформации традиционных форм гражданской активности под влиянием цифровизации и глобализации, а также в выявлении новых возможностей для транснационального сотрудничества негосударственных акторов в условиях меняющейся международной среды.

**Ключевые слова:** гражданское общество, глобализация, цифровизация, транснациональное сотрудничество, гражданская активность.

## Introduction

The development of civil society in the modern world is characterized by ambiguous and contradictory trends that require a comprehensive scientific understanding. The dialectic of global and local in the evolution of institutions of civic participation creates a unique research context that allows us to identify both universal patterns and specific trajectories of the development of civic initiatives in various socio-cultural and political conditions. The relevance of this issue is due to the increasing role of non-state actors in the system of international relations, the transformation of traditional models of civic participation under the influence of digitalization and globalization, as well as the aggravation of contradictions between universalist concepts of civil society and their local interpretations.

In modern scientific discourse, the systemic interrelationships between global trends and local tra-

jectories of civil society development, as well as the mechanisms of adaptation of universal models of civic participation to specific socio-cultural and political contexts, have not been sufficiently studied. There is a lack of a holistic understanding of how digitalization and new communication technologies are transforming traditional forms of civic engagement and creating new opportunities for transnational cooperation between non-state actors. The impact of global crises (the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, and geopolitical instability) on the institutional development and functional capabilities of civil society in various regional contexts has not been sufficiently studied.

*The object of this research* is civil society as a multidimensional socio-political phenomenon and a subject of international relations. The subject of the research is global trends and local features of the development of institutions and practices of civil society in the modern world.

*The purpose of the research* is to identify and scientifically analyze the systemic relationships between global trends and local trajectories of civil society development in the context of the transformation of international relations. To achieve this goal, the following tasks have been set:

- To identify the main global trends in the development of civil society in the modern world.
- To conduct a comparative analysis of regional models and institutional forms of civil society.
- To investigate the impact of digitalization on the transformation of forms of civic engagement and mechanisms of transnational interaction.

The methodological basis of the research is an interdisciplinary approach that integrates theoretical concepts and methods of political science, sociology, and international relations. The work uses systematic, comparative, institutional and constructivist approaches, methods of content analysis.

The practical significance of the work is determined by the possibility of using its results to improve strategies for the development of civil society, optimize the mechanisms of interaction between international organizations and non-governmental actors, as well as to develop educational programs on the issues of civil society and international relations.

## **Materials and methods**

The methodological basis of the research is an interdisciplinary approach that allows integrating theoretical concepts and methods of political science, sociology and international relations for a comprehensive analysis of global trends and local features of the development of civil society. This approach provides a multidimensional consideration of the object of research, considering political, social and cultural factors.

A systematic approach is used to conceptualize civil society as a complex dynamic system operating in interaction with the state, the market, and the private sector. This method made it possible to identify the structural components of civil society, to determine the nature of the links between them and the mechanisms of their functioning in various socio-political contexts, as well as to trace the evolution of civil society as an integrated system under the influence of global processes.

The comparative method is used to compare the models of civil society development in different regions of the world (Western Europe, North America, Central and Eastern Europe, East Asia, the Middle East and North Africa). The use of this method made it possible to identify general patterns

and regional features of the formation of civil institutions, the variability of forms of civic engagement and strategies for interaction with government agencies, which contributed to the formation of a typology of civil society models in the modern world.

The constructivist approach is used to analyze the processes of civil identity formation, interpret value orientations and discursive practices of civil society actors. The use of this method has made it possible to trace the influence of cultural traditions, historical memory and dominant narratives on the construction of models of civic participation, as well as to identify mechanisms for legitimizing the activities of civic organizations in various socio-cultural contexts.

The use of these methods has made it possible to carry out a comprehensive analysis of the phenomenon of civil society in its global and local dimensions, to identify a variety of factors determining the trajectories of the development of civil institutions in various socio-political contexts. The integration of interdisciplinary, systemic, comparative, and constructivist approaches provided the methodological basis for conceptualizing civil society as a multilevel dynamic system characterized by structural variability and functional specificity depending on historical, cultural, and political conditions. This methodological strategy contributed to the identification of universal trends and regional patterns of civil society development, which made it possible to form a typology of models of civic engagement and mechanisms of interaction between civil structures and the state. Of heuristic value is the possibility of an analytical reconstruction of the processes of institutionalization of civil society in the context of global transformations and local features, identifying factors that contribute to or hinder the effective implementation of civil potential in various countries and regions of the world.

## **Literature review**

The study of the development of civil society in the modern world is a multifaceted field located at the intersection of political science, sociology and international relations. Edwards (2019) defines civil society as a space of collective action based on common interests, goals, and values, structurally separated from the state, the market, and the private sphere. According to Habermas' concept, updated in the works of Flyvbjerg (2006), civil society functions as a public sphere in which citizens can discuss public issues and influence the formation of public opinion.

Analyzing the regional features of the development of civil society, Linz and Stepan (1996) identify various models of interaction between civil society and the state, depending on the historical, cultural and political context. In Western Europe and North America, a study by Putnam (2000) shows that civil society is characterized by a high level of social capital and a well-developed infrastructure of civic participation. The research of Inglehart and Welzel (2011) demonstrates the connection between the post-materialist values characteristic of post-industrial societies and the activity of civic participation.

In the context of the post-communist countries of Central and Eastern Europe, Howard (2009) identifies specific problems of civil society formation related to the legacy of the authoritarian past and the weakness of democratic traditions. Linetsky's research (2007) shows that in these countries, civil society often faces the problem of «dual transformation» – the need to simultaneously build democratic institutions and a market economy. Analyzing the dynamics of civil society development in Russia, Irkhin (2009) notes the existence of hybrid forms of civic engagement combining elements of formal and informal participation.

In East Asian countries, according to Rachinskaya-Spivakova's research (2021), the formation of civil society is influenced by Confucian traditions and specific models of interaction between the state and society. Wang's study (2024) demonstrates how a strong civil society in South Korea has facilitated the democratic transition and subsequent consolidation of democracy. In the case of China, as Zaitsev (2020) notes, despite the authoritarian political regime, certain elements of civil society are developing, especially in the provision of social services and environmental protection.

Analyzing the countries of the Middle East and North Africa, Vallionatos (2013) emphasizes the influence of religious traditions and tribalism on the formation of civil society. The events of the Arab Spring, as Kadirova's study (2020) shows, demonstrated the potential of civil society in mobilizing mass protests, but also revealed its structural weaknesses in the post-revolutionary period.

The conducted literary review demonstrates the versatility and complexity of the development of civil society in the modern world, due to regional specifics, historical context and socio-cultural determinants. Civil society as a space of collective action and the public sphere exhibits significant variability in institutional forms and functional characteristics depending on the political regime, the level of economic development and national traditions.

The data obtained make it possible to conceptualize civil society as a dynamic system that evolves under the influence of multiple factors and has significant transformational potential, realized to varying degrees depending on the institutional and cultural context.

## Results and discussion

In the modern world, the processes of globalization and regional integration create new conditions for the development of civil society, transforming its structure, functions and mechanisms of interaction with government institutions. The formation of civil society is influenced by a complex set of factors, including historical and cultural traditions, socio-economic conditions, political regimes and the international situation. Recent decades have been characterized by a significant increase in the role of non-state actors in international relations, which has led to the emergence of the concept of a global civil society integrating local civil initiatives into transnational networks. Despite global trends towards the unification of the principles of functioning of civil institutions, regional and national specifics continue to determine the specifics of their development in various parts of the world.

The digitalization of public life has created unprecedented opportunities to mobilize civic engagement, form new communities, and expand the boundaries of the public sphere. However, technological innovations not only contribute to the democratization of public participation, but also generate new risks related to information security, manipulation of public opinion, and digital inequality. These contradictions actualize the need for a comprehensive analysis of global trends and local features of the development of modern civil society, considering its increasing influence on international relations.

The influence of international norms and regimes on national models of civil society is becoming an increasingly important factor in their evolution, creating a framework for the activities of local organizations and movements. The processes of democratization that began in the last quarter of the XXth century contributed to the expansion of the space of civic engagement in many regions of the world, but their results turned out to be ambiguous and depended on many contextual factors. These processes were especially difficult in post-socialist countries, where civil society was formed almost from scratch in the context of systemic socio-economic and political transformations. In countries with established

democratic traditions, there are processes of reconfiguration of civil society associated with the crisis of traditional forms of representation and the emergence of new models of civic participation.

An analysis of the local features of the development of civil society is impossible without considering the specifics of political regimes that define the framework of civic engagement and the possibility of influencing the decision-making process. In authoritarian and hybrid regimes, civil society often functions with limited autonomy and is subject to various forms of Government control. Cultural and religious factors play a significant role in shaping value orientations and patterns of civic behavior, determining the specifics of interaction between different segments of society. The historical legacy of colonialism, imperialism, and other forms of dependent development continues to influence the structure and functions of civil society in developing countries, creating specific patterns of interaction between international donors, local NGOs, and government institutions. The financial dependence of many civil society organizations on international donors raises problems of sustainability of their activities and compliance with local needs and context. In the context of growing geopolitical tensions, civil society is increasingly becoming an arena of «soft power» and ideological rivalry between global and regional powers.

Thus, modern civil society is a complex and multidimensional phenomenon that develops under the influence of the dialectical interaction of global trends and local features. Its further evolution will be determined by its ability to adapt to the changing conditions of the international environment, while maintaining its autonomy and ability to articulate the interests of various social groups.

#### *Structural transformation of civil society in the context of globalization*

In recent decades, civil society has indeed undergone a significant transformation. The 68% increase in the number of international NGOs over 15 years reflects not only quantitative growth, but also a qualitative change in civic engagement, which increasingly transcends national borders. The differences between the American and European models of civil society development have deep historical and cultural roots. In the United States, the model of self-organization with minimal government intervention corresponds to liberal traditions and a culture of individualism, where civic initiatives often arise from below and exist primarily through private donations and volunteer participation. In EU

countries, more structured interaction with government institutions reflects the continental European tradition, where the state has historically played a more active role in public life. The practice of state financing of NGOs and their inclusion in decision-making processes through formalized consultation mechanisms is widespread here. These different approaches form different models of civil society's influence on political processes and social change (Tarrow, 2023).

Research shows the formation of hybrid organizational structures in countries with developed democracies, combining formal and informal elements. An analysis of funding models for civic initiatives in Germany, France, and the United Kingdom demonstrates a trend towards diversifying sources of support, including government grants, private donations, and crowdfunding (Khayretdinova and Zubenko, 2018). Japan and South Korea are developing a special model of corporate volunteerism as a mechanism for strengthening civil society, which differs significantly from Western approaches (Tolstokulakov, 2022). This variability highlights that the development of civic institutions considers the cultural and historical characteristics of each region. The diversification of financial sources ensures greater sustainability and independence of civic initiatives. Corporate volunteerism in East Asian countries demonstrates the possibility of integrating business structures into the development of civil society.

The study of modern transformations of civil society demonstrates significant changes in the scale, forms of organization and mechanisms of functioning of civil institutions. The significant quantitative growth of international non-governmental organizations testifies to the globalization of civic engagement that transcends national borders and forms a transnational space of civic interaction. A comparative analysis of the American and European models of civil society development points to the deep conditioning of institutional forms and practices by historical trajectory, cultural traditions and features of the political system. While the American model is characterized by a predominance of bottom-up initiatives and reliance on private donations, the European model is characterized by more formalized interaction with government agencies and the integration of civil society organizations into political decision-making processes.

The trend towards the formation of hybrid organizational structures combining formal and informal elements reflects the adaptability of civil society to modern challenges and the need for more flexible

and effective mechanisms for influencing socio-political processes. The diversification of sources of financing for civic initiatives is a factor in strengthening their autonomy and sustainability, ensuring relative independence from individual donors. The East Asian experience of developing corporate volunteerism as a mechanism for strengthening civil society demonstrates the variability of ways to integrate various sectors of society into civic engagement processes and confirms the importance of taking regional specifics into account when analyzing global trends. In general, the modern development of civil society is characterized by a multi-vector nature, a combination of universal trends and local features, and the formation of new institutional practices adapted to specific socio-cultural and political contexts.

*Civil society and social solidarity: regional models*

Social solidarity as a fundamental constitutive element of civil society demonstrates a significant variability in the forms of institutionalization in various socio-cultural contexts. A comparative analysis of volunteerism systems (2018) in the USA and France reveals a dichotomy of approaches: the American model is characterized by the prevalence of personal initiative and minimization of government regulation, while the French system is integrated into state mechanisms of social policy. Volunteerism systems in the Nordic countries are characterized by a high degree of institutionalization and integration into social security structures, which corresponds to the general model of the welfare state.

In East Asian societies, mainly in South Korea and Japan, volunteer practices are often formed within the framework of corporate social responsibility, demonstrating a close correlation with labor collectives as primary agents of socialization (Kim, 2018). Empirical studies have documented the differentiation of motivational patterns of volunteers: in Western countries, individualistic axiological attitudes of self-realization are dominant, while in Latin America and Africa, motives of collective solidarity and community identity prevail.

The analysis of statistical data demonstrates a universal tendency to intensify volunteer activity during crisis periods in all geographical areas, however, the modality of this activity is determined by the cultural and institutional characteristics of specific societies. Comparative studies of charity systems in the United States and Great Britain explicate differences in fiscal incentives and legal

regulation that constitute divergent models of philanthropic practices (Toropova and Shcherbachenko, 2020). The mechanisms of social solidarity formation in modern societies show significant variability depending on prevailing cultural patterns, historical development trajectories and the specifics of political and economic institutions.

The analysis of social solidarity as a fundamental constitutive element of civil society demonstrates the variety of forms of its institutionalization in various socio-cultural contexts. Comparative studies of volunteerism and charity systems from a global perspective reveal the divergence of models of civic engagement due to the specifics of historical development, political and economic institutions. The identified dichotomy of approaches between the liberal American model based on personal initiative and the continental European system with a high degree of state participation reflects fundamental differences in the conceptualization of the relationship between the individual, society and the state.

The East Asian model of volunteerism, integrated into corporate structures, illustrates an alternative way of developing social solidarity practices. Empirical evidence indicates a significant differentiation of motivational patterns of volunteer activity in different regions of the world, correlating with the dominant value systems. The observed universal intensification of volunteerism during periods of social crisis confirms the functional importance of mechanisms of social self-organization in the context of the dysfunction of formal institutions. The variability of charity systems, manifested in differences in legal regulation and fiscal incentives, demonstrates the influence of the institutional environment on the formation of philanthropic practices. Thus, the mechanisms of constructing social solidarity are a complex socio-cultural phenomenon determined by a complex of historical, political, economic and axiological factors.

*Civil society and political change: a comparative analysis of effectiveness*

The relationship between the development of civil society and political transformations demonstrates significant regional differences. In Eastern European countries, civil society movements have played a key role in democratic transitions, shaping the political agenda and controlling power. The study shows that in Latin American countries, civil society often develops in conditions of polarization and ideological confrontation, which affects its structure and effectiveness (Diakova, 2024).

A comparative analysis of the political transformations in Tunisia and Egypt demonstrates the varying degree of influence of civil society organizations on the results of the «Arab Spring»: while in Tunisia a strong civil society contributed to democratic transit, in Egypt its structural weakness led to the restoration of authoritarian practices (Farah, 2023). These studies show that the effectiveness of civil society's influence on political processes correlates with the level of its institutionalization and the degree of independence from the state. In the context of democratization, civil society is becoming a key factor in political stability and the effectiveness of reforms. The experience of countries with economies in transition demonstrates that successful democratic transits are characterized by the active participation of civil society structures in the political process.

An analysis of the development of civil society in Central Asian countries demonstrates that external financing of civic initiatives without considering the local context can reduce their legitimacy and effectiveness (Kuznetsova, 2006). Modern research confirms that sustainable democracy requires a balance between a strong civil society and effective State institutions.

#### *Civil society and digital authoritarianism: new challenges*

The spread of digital authoritarianism creates new challenges for the development of civil society in various regions of the world. The study demonstrates that in countries with authoritarian tendencies, surveillance and control technologies significantly limit the space for civic engagement. A comparative analysis of the situation in Russia and China shows different models of technological regulation of the civil space: if preventive control and censorship prevail in China, then in Russia there is a combination of legal restrictions and selective repression (Prilepsky, 2021).

An interesting contrast is the adaptation strategies of civil society activists in Belarus (Rudnik, 2023) and Myanmar (Ryng et al., 2023), where various techniques of digital resistance and circumvention of blockages are being developed. In the context of digital authoritarianism, the role of international solidarity and cross-border support for civil initiatives is increasing. Data analysis shows a correlation between the decline of civil liberties and the expansion of digital surveillance practices in more than 65 countries around the world.

A comparison of legislative restrictions on the activities of NGOs in Egypt, India, and Hungary

demonstrates different strategies for institutional pressure on civil society organizations (Bromley et al., 2019). The changing nature of digital control requires constant adaptation of civil resistance strategies and protection of digital rights. Technological innovations are used both as a tool of suppression and as a means of protecting civil liberties, creating a complex dynamic of digital confrontation. Of particular concern is the global export of surveillance technology from authoritarian countries to developing democracies. Effective counteraction to digital authoritarianism requires coordination of efforts by civil society, the technology sector and international organizations.

### **Conclusion**

The study revealed that modern civil society is undergoing a period of intense transformation under the influence of globalization, digitalization and geopolitical changes. An analysis of global trends shows that non-state actors are becoming increasingly important in international relations, forming alternative channels of diplomacy and channels of influence on global processes. Information and communication technologies have radically changed the possibilities of civil mobilization, creating unprecedented conditions for cross-border cooperation and solidarity.

It is revealed that the development of civil society occurs unevenly in different regions of the world, reflecting the peculiarities of the historical, cultural, and socio-political context. The effectiveness of civic institutions as a factor of democratization and development directly depends on their institutional maturity, autonomy, and rootedness in the national traditions of social self-organization. Financial sustainability remains one of the key challenges for civil society organizations, requiring the diversification of sources of support and the development of a culture of private philanthropy.

Modern global crises, including the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change and rising geopolitical tensions, have become a serious challenge for civil society, but at the same time have demonstrated its adaptability and importance in solving complex problems. Of particular concern is the trend towards stricter government regulation of non-profit organizations in many countries, which poses risks to the space of civic engagement.

The study confirms that the involvement of civil society in global governance processes significantly increases the legitimacy and effectiveness of international institutions. At the same time, the problem

of the lack of representation of global civil society requires targeted efforts to increase the participation of representatives of developing countries and marginalized groups in international forums and processes.

*The results of the study allow us to formulate a system of recommendations:*

- International organizations are encouraged to improve the mechanisms for the inclusion of civil representatives in decision-making processes.

- Educational and research institutions should expand training programs for specialists in the non-profit sector and deepen the study of the effects of civic participation.

- It is important for media and digital platforms to promote a culture of civil dialogue and counteract information manipulation.

- Promising areas for further research are the study of the impact of digitalization on the transformation of forms of civic participation, the analysis of the relationship between the development of civil

society and the quality of democratic institutions, as well as the study of the role of civil actors in building more equitable models of international interaction. Of particular interest is the study of new forms of transnational solidarity in the context of fragmentation of global space.

The conducted research shows that, despite the variety of challenges, civil society remains a key factor in the democratization of international relations and the promotion of universal human values on a global scale. Its further development requires the consolidated efforts of all interested actors, from international organizations and States to local communities and individual citizens.

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**Information about the authors:**

*Sholpan Zhandossova – PhD, Associate Professor, Chief Researcher of the Institute of Philosophy, Political Science and Religious Studies CS MSHE RK (Almaty, Kazakhstan, e-mail: sholpan\_zhandossova@mail.ru).*

*Markhabbat Nurov (corresponding author) – PhD, Turan University (Almaty, Kazakhstan, e-mail: markhabbatnur@gmail.com).*

*Zhazira Kuanyshbayeva – PhD, Abai Kazakh National Pedagogical University (Almaty, Kazakhstan, e-mail: kuanyshbayeva.kz@gmail.com).*

**Авторлар туралы мәлімет:**

*Жандосова Шолпан Мұлькимановна – PhD, қауымдастырылған профессор, ҚР ФЖБМ FK Философия, саясаттану және дінтану институтының Бас гылыми қызметкери (Алматы, Қазақстан, e-mail: sholpan\_zhandossova@mail.ru).*

*Нуров Мархаббат Мешитбекович (корреспондент-автор) – PhD, «Тұран» университеті (Алматы, Қазақстан, e-mail: markhabbatnur@gmail.com).*

*Куанышбаева Жазира Жайлаубековна – PhD, Абай атындағы Қазақ ұлттық педагогикалық университеті (Алматы, Қазақстан, e-mail: kuanyshbayeva.kz@gmail.com).*

**Информация об авторах:**

*Жандосова Шолпан Мулькимановна – PhD, ассоциированный профессор, главный научный сотрудник Института философии, политологии и религиоведения КН МНВО РК (Алматы, Казахстан, e-mail: sholpan\_zhandossova@mail.ru).*

*Нуров Мархаббат Мешитбекович (корреспондент-автор) – PhD, Университет «Туран» (Алматы, Казахстан, e-mail: markhabbatnur@gmail.com).*

*Куанышбаева Жазира Жайлаубековна – PhD, Казахский национальный педагогический университет имени Абая (Алматы, Казахстан, e-mail: kuanyshbayeva.kz@gmail.com).*

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