



The role of civil society in achieving the MDGs in the context of the Russian Federation

9.1. CIVIL SOCIETY: WIDENING ITS ROLE IN DESIGN OF ANTI-POVERTY POLICY

The Millennium Development Goals serve as a reference point in Russia and worldwide for a great variety of civil society organizations – social initiative groups and professional associations, women’s groups and alliances of non-governmental organizations (NGO) – which are working hard to achieve all of the eight goals and, most of all, the overriding goal of reducing poverty.¹

Significant growth of participation by civil society organizations at the international, national and local levels in adoption and implementation of global decisions makes the importance of such

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organizations in achieving the development goals self-evident. The Millennium Declaration formulated basic conditions for achieving the development goals and emphasized the overwhelmingly important role, which the UN assigns to civil society as a key partner of governments that assumed responsibility for MDG implementation. The Declaration stresses control, based on wide participation and popular will, as the basic condition for achieving the Development Goals.²

Civil society organizations have a decisive role to play in promoting the fight against poverty. Civil society is not only an indispensable partner in

rendering services to the poor at the level required by the Development Goals set out in the Millennium Declaration, but can also promote activities inside countries, raising urgent issues in field development, carrying out mass mobilization and pressing from below to force responsible fulfillment of promises by political leaders.³

A global strategy on the scale of the MDG can only be implemented at a national level if favorable conditions and mechanisms are in place to ensure:

- a better awareness of people about the MDG;
- dialogue and partnership between civil society institutions and governments;
- mobilization of public resources to cope with local problems in the MDG context.

Success in achieving the Goals directly depends on the degree of people’s involvement in the process. Assuming responsibility for fulfillment of the MDG obligations, the government has to make attainment of the goals a truly nationwide affair. At the same time, citizens, as responsible members of their society, should take their civil duties seriously and do their best to help achieve the goals.

The UN places main responsibility for implementing measures to achieve obligations under the first seven goals (primarily eradication of poverty) on countries with medium levels of development, i.e. such countries as Russia. This confirms the essential importance of civil society organizations, because such countries will have to finance MDG activities from their own resources,

which civil society organizations can help to generate. The international partnership mechanism (Goal 8) is only implemented on the assumption of funding by countries from their own resources

Acknowledging civil society as a key partner of governments at all levels of activity, the UN recommends several basic functions of civil society organizations. Successful fulfillment of these functions will help achievement of the development goal, primarily as regards the fight against poverty. The functions include:

- participation of NGOs in developing national strategies for achievement of the development goals;
- participation of NGOs and public organizations in rendering services to people; and
- monitoring fulfillment of commitments by governments.⁴

In Russia, as the Human Development Report 2003 points out, these roles, which are characteristic of civil society, “are taking root only gradually, with governments continuing to dominate decision-making and implementation”. In a general sense, the state, undoubtedly, bears responsibility for ensuring implementation of its obligations. However, non-governmental non-commercial organizations (NGOs), representing a wide cross-section of society, have powerful resource potential and can render significant assistance in achieving the Millennium Development Goals and in implementation of social and economic processes and of democratic reforms.

Development of any modern society, including Russia, will be increasingly determined by the action of people. Man is becoming the main subject and object of social development. In developed countries civil-society organizations (voluntary organizations) have been a potent factor for improving people’s quality of life and coping with acute problems. Greater involvement of ordinary people in implementation of social policy makes society stronger and better consolidated.

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Extract from “Human Development Report 2003”.

The coordinated action system, proposed by the UN, aims to cope simultaneously with a wide range of closely interrelated problems.⁵ What this means in practice is that achievement of targets within the framework of one MDG will also be instrumental in achieving targets of other MDGs and obtaining greater results. For example, measures to achieve the main development goal, i.e. reduction of poverty, help to cope with the AIDS problem (Goal 6), reduce child mortality (Goal 4), and improve maternal health (Goal 5), etc.

The unique nature of civil society organizations, most of which are based, by definition, on voluntary efforts of people, allows them to use the coordinated action system for increment of social capital via synergy effects, which arise from use of information networks and communication channels.

However, social capital is often hard to measure, so the system of indicators reflecting real participation and contribution of NGOs in achieving the MDGs should include indicators that make

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it possible to ascertain social capital increment. Trends in NGO involvement and the degree of social participation in NGO activity (both paid and voluntary) are obvious examples of such indicators. It is reasonable to suggest that the level of development of civil society depends directly on the degree of people's involvement in socially-useful activity on a voluntary basis, so the indicators will serve to reflect trends in development of civil society.

Use of the Goals as a unifying idea should serve as a catalyst to build strong partner relationships between civil society, state authorities and business, and to promote fullest possible realization of NGO potential, ultimately enhancing human development and the results of social and economic reforms, as well as strengthening trust between government and society. This creates a new mechanism where state social policy is implemented with participation of society itself, creating a framework for contractual relations between public authorities and civil society organizations with definite obligations for both sides.

9.2. RUSSIA AT A NEW STAGE OF REFORMS AND BUILDING CIVIL SOCIETY

Russia's "Medium-term Socio-economic Development Programme up to 2004", which preceded the latest programme up to 2008, refers to "**unlocking of society's potential; social consol-**

idation and public support for the Government's goals and actions." In order to achieve these objectives and support civil society development in the framework of targets set out by the President of Russia, the Government plans to implement a package of target-oriented legislative and organizational initiatives in the period from 2005 to 2008⁶ to enhance NGO efficiency.

A new model for management of state social policy depends on promoting self-organization of society, and on diversification of social services with assistance from a developing non-state sector. For the first time, it has been officially acknowledged that the outcome of structural socio-economic changes depends directly on the level of society's participation and support for actions by Government. Raising welfare and creating decent living standards in Russia depend directly on consolidation of society for achievement of national goals. Internal resource mobilization and enhancement of society's potential acquire special social and political importance.

MDG+ strategy in the Russian context. A comparison of the Development Goals and the national objectives of the Russian Federation, which have been promulgated in policy statements and addresses by the President of Russia (poverty reduction, doubling of GDP)⁷ and in Russian Government action plans, show that the Goals and Russia's own objectives are alike in many ways,⁸ as confirmed by the authors' analysis in previous Chapters of this Report. According to UN recommendations for countries with medium development levels, a preferable development policy for Russia is implementation of the MDG+ strategy, by which MDG implementation targets should be integrated into implementation of nationwide targets, with due linkage to budget planning for medium- and long-term socio-economic development strategies.

Involvement of citizens in achieving socio-economic goals in the MDG context is crucial for Russia as one of the 189 countries, which declared

its commitment to the Development Goals and declared social consolidation as the imperative for sustainable social and economic development. But mobilization of vast resources and of society may require non-standard solutions and innovative approaches in Russia, with its limited democratic traditions. Such solutions should take account of both domestic and international experience.

Assessment of civil participation. Participation of citizens in management of state affairs and the decision-making process at different levels of authority is fundamental to the constitution of the Russian Federation. The sector consisting of non-governmental non-commercial organizations⁹ (NGOs), which is the essence and core of civil society, has crystallized in Russia over the last 15 years as a manifestation of increasing activity by its citizens and their adherence to democratic values. Non-governmental non-commercial organizations are now active in practically all areas of Russian society, helping the Russian state to solve acute social problems (assistance to the poor, refugees, forced migrants, employment, alcoholism and drug addiction, crime, HIV, homelessness, disability, ecology, etc.), and working to uphold interests and defend rights of socially vulnerable groups. Citizens are uniting in professional organizations, creative unions, social initiative groups, associations, craft unions, clubs and other types of NGO in order to implement their common interests. NGO activities, which are determined “from below”, usually based on voluntary civil initiatives, are an important indicator of society’s increasing potential.

Major Russian NGOs have been keen to cooperate with international organizations, foundations and structures in various UN programmes. They are equal partners in large-scale international projects, actions and debates, helping to use and develop new methods in Russia. In the framework of the eight Millennium Goals, Russian NGOs:

- influence adoption of political decisions;
- implement innovative technologies to help achieve nationwide targets;

- promote awareness among individuals and the general public;
- raise professional skill levels and widen capabilities for efficient rendering of services;
- improve transparency and accountability in the state sector.

The Constitution of the Russian Federation, Civil Code of the Russian Federation and a number of legislative acts (including Federal Laws “On Non-commercial Organizations”, “On Public Associations”, “On Political Parties”, “On Charitable Activity and Charitable Organizations” and others) provide a legal basis for NGO activity in the Russian Federation. Creation of Russian legislation concerning NGOs encouraged growth in numbers of registered non-commercial organizations (state and non-state), and by early 2005 their total number exceeded 320,000. About 22% of them were engaged in socially-oriented activity.¹⁰ Figure 9.1 and Table 9.1 show data on number, structure and dynamics of NGOs not including state non-commercial organizations and consumer co-operatives, which are not strictly the same as NGOs.¹¹

Some of the most important indicators (for example, share of NGOs in GDP and in employment) are only accounted by individual segments, which leads to gross underestimation of NGO input in Russia. According to state statistics data¹² and investigations based on such data carried out by the Institute of Urban Economy,¹³ employment in the non-commercial sector in 2002 was about 500,000 (0.8% of the total number of Russian employed). The estimate included only public and religious organizations (associations), which were about 65% of the total number of NGOs in 2002, so a significant number of NGOs, and volunteers who work for them, were not

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counted. A similar situation is observed in assessment of NGO contribution to GDP. According to data of the Institute of Urban Economy, calculated as part of the research, which was just mentioned, non-commercial organizations servicing the household sector contributed about 1% to GDP. However, other estimates put contribution of the Russian third sector at no less than 4% of GDP.¹⁴

Involvement in the life of society. Despite positive trends in evolution of the third sector, levels of people's involvement in non-governmental organizations in Russia remain quite low. The number of people involved in activities of third-sector organizations, both on a voluntary and paid basis, is about 1.6% of the population.¹⁷ NGO experts themselves estimate that involvement remains low (about 1.5-2% of the entire population). Investigations by the All-Russia Center for Public Opinion Study (VTsIOM) show that participation by individuals in social institutions (political parties, trade unions, social and religious organizations, local self-government agencies) is no higher than 2-4% of the Russian population. VTsIOM public opinion polls (in 1999 and 2004)¹⁸ show that over 40%¹⁹ of Russians would like to

take part in socially useful activity on a voluntary basis, but that more than 90% cannot find forms of participation, which are acceptable to them.

Apparently, further active development and resilience of the third sector will depend to a great extent on solution of problems associated with involvement of people and other resources in non-commercial organizations, and creating efficient mechanisms for partnership between third sector organizations, state authorities and local governments. In practical terms, this means that more people involved on a voluntary basis in activities of civil society organizations increase Russia's overall sustainable development, and assist reform success and MDG achievement.

Other obstacles to more efficient activity by non-governmental non-commercial organizations include:

- lack of institutional forms and mechanisms for consulting state and public structures in preparation and adoption of bills;
- inconsistency and contradictoriness between norms in some legislative acts relating to status of non-commercial organizations and

Table 9.1. Structure of the non-governmental sector in the Russian Federation (data as of January 1 of the year indicated in the Table)¹⁵

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Non-commercial, non-governmental organizations	57389	98818	123166	147136	163952	199839	236167	260393	279876	306034	323995
Public and religious organizations (associations)	46149	85824	102643	118064	124985	144019	155229	165717	172371	179488	181554
Social initiative groups							111	137	148	172	175
Social movements							812	1808	2079	2283	2333
Territorial public self-administration organizations							756	957	1099	1210	1305
Funds	3549	4103	7058	10693	13880	17010	20223	22993	25832	28095	29986
Corporations of legal persons (associations and unions)							8079	8422	8873	9391	9841
Non-commercial partnerships							6447	8904	11732	15342	18706
Independent non-commercial organization							6025	8069	10018	11997	14138
Condominiums							5594	7215	9398	12121	14906
Non-commercial horticultural, market gardening or country dwelling partnerships							16660	22186	26090	33136	38439
Associations of peasant households (farms)							3234	3010	2846	2752	2626
Other non-commercial organizations ¹⁶	7691	8891	13465	18379	25087	38810	12997	10975	9390	10047	9986

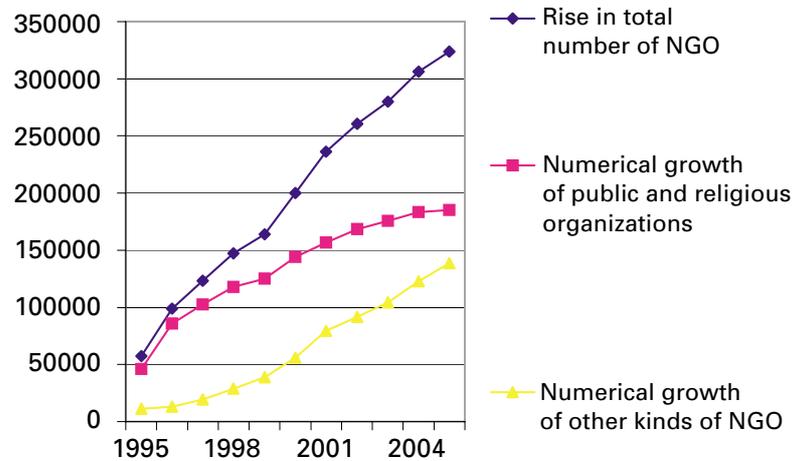
inconsistency between Russian norms and international standards and legal norms;

- underdevelopment of mechanisms for interaction between NGOs and self-regulation within the sector, NGO problems in promoting common interests within one region or in Russia; and
- non-integration of efforts by the general public and non-commercial organizations in the country's social development.

9.3. PROMOTING INTER-SECTORAL INTERACTION AND PARTNERSHIP

A specific feature of the current stage of Russia's development is increasing momentum in construction of relationships between state authorities, local self-government organs and civil society institutions. Russian law contains many provisions that regulate forms of governmental support, cooperation and social partnership with local government. Laws explicitly permit "signing of any types of contracts, including those for execution and provision of socially ordered services... on competitive grounds", and offer a basis for participation by civil society in formulating national policy and in local self-governance. A wealth of practice and experience in interaction between state authorities and noncommercial organizations has been accumulated. Operating mechanisms and institutions for inter-sectoral interaction and partnership have been set up. Forms of cooperation are divided into economic and non-economic, in accordance with international standards.²⁰ Non-economic forms of cooperation include: consulting; joint discussions; public hearings; joint activities; social councils, coordinating councils, and consulting councils; standing round tables; conferences; negotiating forums; and working and expert teams at interdepartmental and intersectoral levels. Economic forms of cooperation are generally implemented through competitions, grants, social orders, establishment of relevant taxation conditions, etc. However, for a number of years this important positive process did not develop systematically. Since neither orga-

Figure 9.1. Numerical growth of NGOs in 1994-2004



nizational nor legislative mechanisms of intersectoral partnership had been created to facilitate cooperation between state authorities and non-commercial organizations (NCOs), NCO activities could not develop successfully and the public administration system remained unchanged.

The Civil Forum which was held in November 2001 showed readiness for cooperation between top levels of Government and civil society organization and formally launched a wider dialogue and promotion of partnership on an institutional basis. The Federal Law "On the Social Chamber of the Russian Federation"²¹ was a new step in building partnership relations between state authorities and citizens/civil society institutions. The main purpose of the Social Chamber is to reconcile interests of citizens, public associations and state agencies in order to address economic and social development issues of vital importance for Russia. Formally, adoption of the Law makes it possible to carry out comprehensive public expert appraisal of draft laws of national importance concerning development and to carry out public control over Government activity, using expert resources.

It is still too early to assess the new legislation, since there is no experience of its application, but the new Law does give new impetus to the creation of conditions and mechanisms for citizens to implement their rights to active participa-

tion in social life and promotes a partner relationship between state authorities and civil society.

9.4. SCENARIOS

The degree of people's involvement in furthering achievement of the Millennium Development Goals adapted to Russia and scope for enhancing civil society potential in the field will depend on steps taken by Government as regards interaction with the civil-society sector. Three alternative development scenarios are worth considering.

The first scenario assumes implementation by the Russian Government of a package of measures associated with civil society development within the framework of the Medium-term Socio-economic Development Programme for 2005-2008. The draft programme calls for:

- updating of legislation regulating NGO activities and charity;
- equal conditions of access for non-governmental and governmental non-commercial organizations to the social services market;
- ensuring transparency of central and local government for society;
- promoting mechanisms for independent public expert appraisal and consultations between the Government and society at early stages in preparation and adoption of important decisions; developing social monitoring mechanisms;
- creating mechanisms conducive to sustainable interaction between civil society and business, widening social responsibility of business, etc.

Development according to this scenario should lead to significant growth of civil society potential and capacities for achieving the Millennium Goals. However, probability of the scenario must be rated as low, based on analysis of the degree to which goals, declared in previous Government programmes, were actually achieved. For example, the goal of fighting poverty in Russia was already placed among top priorities in the Medium-term Socio-economic Development Programme for

2002-2004 (the predecessor of the current programme). The earlier document also referred to social consolidation, support of society for Government action, diversification of social services through involvement and development of the non-governmental non-commercial sector as key conditions for programme fulfillment. However, lack of specific measures, mechanisms and resources, including design of a nationwide strategy for involving the general public in implementation of the programme, and absence of mechanisms for monitoring programme fulfillment have undermined civil-society involvement. The draft programme for 2005-2008 fails to specify target results, which recommended measures are aiming at, and assumes a rigidly centralized sphere of responsibility for programme fulfillment.²² The document also offers no guarantees that necessary budgetary assignments will be made for its implementation.

The second development scenario is also based on implementation of the package of measures stipulated by the Medium-term Socio-economic Development Programme, but it includes several specific conceptual approaches and mechanisms for programme implementation.

The scenario is based on joint implementation by the Russian Federal Government, civil society institutions and interested international and business organizations of a package of organizational, financial and legislative measures, which would help efficient pooling of Government and social resources for achieving nationwide social goals in Russia. Creation of institutional relations between the general public and the state will be conducive to participation by citizens and NGOs in preparation, approval and implementation of decisions at all levels (local, regional and federal) and will support sustainable socio-economic development in Russia and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Implementation of the scenario requires mechanisms for wider participation by citizens of all ages and united efforts by civil society and state

institutions for joint solution of social and economic problems. Such mechanisms include:

- raising people’s awareness of the Millennium Development Goals, promoting public participation through MDG exposure and information about how people can be useful to their country (in cooperation with mass media);
- promoting a system of support for voluntary civil initiatives in the Russian Federation; and
- building stable partnership relations between Government and civil society organizations by developing and signing an agreement (which should include mutual responsibility of the sides for joint planning, implementation and monitoring of results).

An important element of this scenario would be adoption of a nationwide strategy for combating poverty and development within the strategy framework of a nationwide programme, which could be entitled “Strategic Partnership between the State and Voluntary Sectors for Poverty Elimination in the Russian Federation”. The programme would design a platform for strategic partnership and a plan of common actions for achieving the Millennium Goals and other socio-economic reform targets. The basic conceptual idea is to reduce poverty scopes, and improve living standards and quality – a national idea, which could only be implemented by joint efforts of society and the state. This could rally citizens and create a basis for promotion of a positive social dialogue and open social agreement, in which all interested organizations can take part.

It is also very important that Medium-term Programmes of Socio-economic Development up to 2008, 2012 and 2015 should treat the national strategy and programme as components. Development according to this scenario, including new mechanisms of social self-organization, will create additional conditions for sustainable growth in scope and efficiency of social activity, allowing greater job creation, growth in the volume and quality of social services and, hence, increased contribution to Russia’s social and econom-

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ic development. In the long run, the poverty problem will be dealt with more efficiently, living standards and human development will improve.

9.5. SETTING UP A SUPPORT SYSTEM FOR VOLUNTARY CIVIL INITIATIVES IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

The issue of the volunteer movement has been discussed by the United Nations General Assembly on several occasions over the past decade. It is acknowledged all over the world that “the volunteer movement is one of the basic means, by which people can be active subjects of the social development process”. Based on general recognition of the vital role of volunteers in improving the quality of life, the UN strongly recommends all countries to consider volunteers as a component in national plans and goal-targeted strategies for poverty reduction, sustainable development, health, disaster prevention and relief, social integration and, in particular, overcoming social exclusion and discrimination within the MDG framework.²³

Voluntary action has a special role in youth policy and promotion of education (in the context of Goal 2). Youth volunteers represent an efficient method for involving youth in socially useful activity. Free access for children and young people to voluntary social activity helps to instill and propagate knowledge and skills, and to raise and train young people to be intelligent, honest, highly-educated and socially-responsible individuals.

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Integration of youth volunteers in the education process (“learning by doing”) can be achieved by combining classroom education with practical participation in socially important activities and projects that address local community problems.²⁴

Russia took an extremely important step towards promoting and establishing voluntary action as an institution in Russia when it officially supported the UN General Assembly Resolution A/57/L8 (2002), which acknowledges that work on a voluntary basis is an important component of any strategy aimed at solving problems in such fields as poverty reduction, sustainable development, health protection, etc. It is important that the national programme, considered above as the second development scenario, should draw on experience gained by Russia in promoting its voluntary movements within the framework of UN resolutions.

Some estimates of volunteers’ contribution to social and economic development in Russia.

Calculations made in 1997²⁵ showed that, if 10% of Russia’s population took part in voluntary activity for average five hours a week, they would create investments in the social sphere worth about USD 3 billion annually. As mentioned above, according to VTsIOM, over 40%²⁶ of Russians say that they would take part in socially useful activity on a voluntary basis. Clearly, therefore, the level of development and support for volunteering in Russia is lagging social demand, preventing volunteer potential from being realized. Enormous reserves

of voluntary civil initiative remain untapped. A significant gap between the desire of people to take part in socially useful activities (over 40%) and their actual involvement (2-4%), points to absence of a systematic approach to stimulating and supporting voluntary civil initiatives, not to social apathy of a considerable part of Russians. In other words, Russia lacks infrastructure for encouraging and supporting volunteer activity. Most of all it lacks volunteer centers. Experience gained in Russia over the last decade in setting up volunteer centers has unfortunately not yet been developed and supported at the federal level and has remained as a social experiment. Volunteering is not viewed as a strategic resource for state policy and is almost disregarded in national development strategies. Another problem is inadequate study of the volunteer phenomenon and resulting underestimation in Government and in social consciousness of the role and place of volunteering in social development, and in building democracy and civil society.

A targeted state policy of supporting and encouraging voluntary initiative will enable people to realize their socially-responsible civil functions, and be active participants in preparing, adopting and implementing efficient state decisions. Creation of proper volunteer centers will help to obtain a true picture of people’s participation in the decision-making process and trigger a “snowball” effect to give a critical mass of positive results. Numerical growth and increasing efficiency of Russian volunteer activity through promotion of the national voluntary movement and active position by volunteer organizations when they have confidence that their voice will be heard in political decision-making should overcome specific obstacles relating to the Russian “third sector”: negative public perception of NGOs; low capability of local donorship; inadequate legislative foundations; low levels of managerial personnel training; and absence of mechanisms for self-organization and mutual training. By and large, promoting volunteerism will do much for creation of a dynamic and diversified NGO community in Russia.

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It should be noted that creation of legislative conditions is important for furthering civil society institutions, volunteering included. A new law “On Socially Useful Organizations” would need to be drafted in addition to or instead of the existing Federal Law “On Charity Activity and Charity Organizations”. New laws “On Government Guarantees and Support of Voluntary Activity in the Russian Federation,” and “On Interaction and Partnership between State and Civil Society Institutions” are also needed

9.6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Social initiative and activity by civil society institutions would help to achieve the MDG+ goals for eradication of poverty in Russia, and they are particularly important since Russia is expected to achieve these goals using its own resources. Moreover, promotion of civil society is the most important factor for democratic development and efficient structural reform in the Russian Federation. The process of social, economic and democratic reform needs to be seen as a common course of positive change with equal relevance for the state and its citizens. This can be achieved by putting the MDG and, primarily, the goal of fighting poverty in the focus of joint efforts by the state and society.

Building efficient mechanisms to mobilize society’s potential should become a basic element of state social policy. In that case the policy will meet the aspirations of millions of Russians who are ready and willing to help solve social problems and be active subjects of social development. Large-scale involvement of the general public should be seen as an essential condition for MDG achievement.

Previous Chapters in this Report have described a system of indicators derived from the MDG indicators, but adapted to Russia. It is also important to design and apply statistical indi-

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cators reflecting the degree of social involvement in achievement of the Goals. They would monitor the number of civil society organizations, the number of citizens taking part in their activity, the contribution of these organizations to the national economy, etc. In order to assess the actual NGO contribution to achieving the MDG, the system of statistical indicators system should also track numbers of NGOs rendering social services to people and other NGO activities directed to achieving the MDGs.

Creation of legal, organizational and economic conditions for citizens and social institutions to participate actively in social development processes and be fully-fledged partners of the state should be a central link in the national strategy to achieve the MDGs. It is no less important to promote self-regulation in the non-commercial sector, which will lead to NGO consolidation, enhance transparency and professionalism and consolidated efforts for upholding common interests of civil society.

The best way to promote civil society in Russia is to overcome the situation where recipients of state aid (the poor and vulnerable groups) are the only part of the general public with experience of social action. This can be done by helping the many citizens who are ready to take part in socially important initiatives (at the national, regional and local community levels) to fulfill their aspira-

tions. Such an approach will create conditions, in which each person can be both a subject of social development and retain his or her personal freedom and freedom of action and choice. Part of the new mission of state social policy is to ensure voluntary participation of citizens in policy molding and implementation.

This task of much wider social involvement in addressing national problems calls for creation of suitable legal and organizational mechanisms. Practical realization of partnership and joint solution of the problems facing society and the state will help to restore society's confidence in the state's commitment to social guarantees, enhance mutual obligations and shape civil responsibility.

A circumspect and well-designed state policy of partnership and state support for civil initiatives (including voluntary initiatives) will be an efficient tool for implementing state social policy in employment, social security, youth and other key aspects of social life. Tapping third-sector resources for social and economic development and for achieving development goals will encourage drastic expansion of the scope and quality of services, which NGOs provide. New employment markets will arise, based on the third sector, and self-organizing processes of civil participation at a local level will appear. Sustainable development and growth of third-sector potential will make an important contribution to social and economic reforms in the context of the development goals.

¹ "Human Development Report 2003". Published for the United Nation Development Programme (UNDP), New York Oxford University Press, 2003.

² Millennium Declaration. UN Public relations Department. UN Information Centre in Moscow, October 2001.

³ United Nations General Assembly 59th Session. Items 45 and 55 of the agenda. "Comprehensive and coordinated implementation of decision of major conferences and summits" of the United Nations Organizations in economic, social and related fields and subsequent activity in connection with them. Subsequent measures on the Millennium Summit results. Report of the Secretary-General "In larger freedom towards development, security and human rights for all" Source: www.un.org.

⁴ "Human Development Report 2003". Published for the United Nation Development Programme (UNDP), New York Oxford University Press, 2003.

⁵ Source: United Nations Organization, Fifty Sixth Session, Item 40 of its tentative agenda* 6 September 2001, Follow-up on the Millennium Summit. Plan for the Millennium Declaration Implementation, Report of the Secretary-General.

⁶ Draft of the Medium-term Programme of Socio-economic Development of the Russian Federation for 2005-2008. UNDP Materials.

⁷ Address of the President of the Russian Federation, 2003. An action programme stipulating doubling of GDP and fighting against poverty was presented.

⁸ Report of the Working Group of the UN Mission in Russia. Source: The Millennium Development Goals in the Russia context: "From economic growth to sustainable development based on human rights". United Nations Mission in the Russian Federation. 2005.

⁹ Nowadays the term "non-governmental non-commercial organizations" is legally defined in only one Russian legislative act, i.e. the Federal Law "On Charitable Activity and Charitable Organizations".

¹⁰ The researches were conducted within the framework of the project "Sodeistviye v sovershenstvovanii i razvitiu zakonodatel'stva, reguliruyushego deyatel'nost' nepravitel'stvennykh nekommercheskikh organizatsiy" conducted in 2003 by the State Duma Committee on Social Associations and Religious Organizations and by the UNDP Office in the Russian Federation.

¹¹ Consumer cooperatives are excluded from the NGOs analyzed in this research because they differ from NGOs, which are regulated by the Federal Law "O nekommercheskikh organizatsiyakh". Consumer cooperatives are mainly oriented to meeting material needs of citizens, whereas the key feature of an NGO is meeting non-material needs (spiritual needs, self-fulfillment, etc.). Therefore consumer cooperatives are not covered by the Federal Law.

¹² Federal Service for the State Statistics. "Russia in Figures – 2003".

¹³ Project "Obyedineniye grazhdanskogo obschestva dlya reformirovaniya sistemy nalogooblozheniya nekommercheskogo sektora".

¹⁴ Materials of the workshop-conference to present results of the research project "Sodeistviye v sovershenstvovanii i razvitiu zakonodatel'stva, reguliruyushego deyatel'nost' nepravitel'stvennykh nekommercheskikh organizatsiy", which was held in the State Duma on December 4, 2003.

¹⁵ The Table was compiled using data of the Federal State Statistic Service and does not include non-commercial state organizations (enterprises) and consumer cooperatives.

¹⁶ Until 2000 the section "Other non-commercial organizations" included associations, unions, non-commercial partnerships and independent non-commercial organizations. From 2000 the section includes entities whose organizational and legal form is not stipulated by the All-Russian Classifier of Organizational and Legal Norms.

¹⁷ S.V. Shishkin. *Ekonomika sotsial'noy sfery: Textbook. 2001 NHDR for the RF / Ed. Prof. S.N. Bobylev. M.: Interdiakt+ Publisher, 2002, series "UN Development Programme". – Moscow: GU-VShE, 2003.*

¹⁸ VTsIOM Press-release No. 120 Moscow, September 29, 2004. «Kak razbudit' grazhdanskoye obschestvo?».

¹⁹ Newspaper «Izvestiya», 22.05 1999.

²⁰ Source: "Public Administration Reform", 2002, UNDP Regional Bureau for Europe and CIS, New York, USA.

²¹ The Federal Law "Ob obschestvennoy palate Rossiyskoy Federatsii" came into force on July 1, 2005.

²² Draft summary report "Tseli, zadachi i pokazateli deyatel'nosti subyektov budzhethnogo planirovaniya (federal'nykh ministerstv, federal'nykh sluzhb i federal'nykh agenstv, rukovodstvo kotorymi osuschestvlyayet Pravitel'stvo Rossiyskoi Federatsii)", source: extracts from UNDP materials.

²³ UN General Assembly Resolutions, A/RES/56/38, January 10, 2002.

²⁴ Global Youth Service Day. "Service learning" Planning Toolkit. Global Youth Action network, Youth Service America, 2001. 1101 15th Street, NW, Suite 200 Washington, DC 20005.

²⁵ Sotsial'noye partnyorstvo gosudarstvennykh organov vlasti i nepravitel'stvennykh organizatsiy kak fundamental'nyi printsip grazhdanskogo obschestva. - TACIS, 2000, p.150.

²⁶ Newspaper «Izvestiya», May 22, 1999.