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PRESS RELEASE

USAID AND ICNL HOST TAJIK DELEGATION TO EXAMINE KAZAKH GOVERNMENT COOPERATION WITH CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

ALMATY, KAZAKHSTAN — On May 20-25, a delegation of Tajik Government officials will meet with their Kazakh counterparts in Almaty and Astana to examine laws, trends and practices in both countries on providing government support to civil society organizations that deliver social services. The week-long series of meetings is being organized by the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL) with support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

The Tajik delegation will meet with Kazakh officials from the Almaty Akimat, the Ministry of Culture and Information, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Education and Science, and Ministry of Labor and Social Protection, as well as deputies of Parliament and leading civil society organizations in Almaty and Astana.

Discussions will focus on how Governments and civil society organizations cooperate to identify and resolve the most pressing social problems. Participants will explore different mechanisms for government financing of civil society organizations, such as procurement contracts, grants and subsidies, in order to provide essential services to the population. Participants will also explore development of cooperative bodies, such as public councils, to facilitate dialogue between the government and civil society.

“One of the best ways to deliver social services is for governments to partner with civil society organizations in order to generate innovative new approaches, protect vulnerable populations and give everyone a stake in promoting a healthy, stable society,” commented Elizabeth Warner, ICNL’s Program Director for Central Asia. “ICNL’s work in Central Asia focuses on assisting civil society organizations, governments, and other stakeholders develop the legal framework that enables civil society to contribute toward addressing the most pressing social needs.”

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