



International Center on Conflict and Negotiation

Annual Report 2005-2006

FOREWORD

ICCN was established with the aim of building peace and accord in the divided post-totalitarian society, putting main effort on conflict prevention and resolution in the Caucasus region, with special focus on Georgia.

In the following years it became clear that reaching these objectives was not possible apart from empowering civil society, advocating human rights, tightly cooperating with other important actors. All these have since become the ICCN programmatic goals. In the recent years ICCN has diversified its activities and partnership to achieve a desirable impact though the selected target groups.

In the recent years ICCN has also transformed from project activity oriented programme to synergy oriented institution. All current and planned projects and extra-project activities have been conceptually reconsidered and planned to support each other's goals and create added value to the overall programmatic goals of the institution. Target groups have been selected to fit the programmatic goals; all the activities are planned for prioritized target groups and beneficiaries. The monitoring and evaluation practices have been updated to fit the more complex and diversified needs of the institution.

Today, ICCN comprises 5 major divisions, as well as a number of sub-divisions, although the level of collaboration and synergy between all the ICCN segments is high, with a number of initiatives and projects being carried out with the participation of 2 or more divisions at one time. One of such examples is project titled "Building Tolerance in Georgia". Having a broad sphere of activities, this project involves all divisions of ICCN, each contributing to the project with its own component.

In this report, we are presenting a brief overview of the divisions and the projects implemented in 2005-2006, with special emphasis on the new initiatives that derived from the ongoing programmes.

In conclusion, I would like to thank our partners though the regions and international organizations for their continued support and co-operation. And my warmest thanks to the dedicated staff of ICCN.

George Khutsishvili,

Founder of the International Center on Conflict and Negotiation

INRODUCTION

ICCN is an independent, not-for-profit and non-partisan peace-making, research and training institution.

In 1994, thanks to financial support from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, and the organizational support from the Center for International Security and Arms Control of Stanford University, ICCN has formed into an NGO registered in Georgia.

ICCN has professional experience in research and analysis, including regional security studies, sociological surveys and public opinion polling, human rights focusing on gender equity, minority rights IDP/refugee/migration studies, peace education including training in a number of fields, public diplomacy (track-two) efforts across conflict zones, cross-border activities and peace campaigning, media and publishing activities, international expertise and networking.

ICCN plays and active role in peace-building and civil society-building in Georgia and the Caucasus region.

The institution is supervised by the Board and the Chairperson and managed by Executive Director.

Defined by relevant spheres of activities, there are currently five divisions at ICCN:

- Research (includes subdivisions of Social Studies and Political Analysis);
- Human Rights (includes liaisons with the Civil Council for the Protection of Basic Rights and Freedoms);
- Gender (includes liaisons with the Caucasus Women's Network);
- Training and Civic Education;
- Program Management.

The ICCN activities cover almost the whole of Georgia. The focus has been made on conflict zones of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, tension/risk zones such as Javakheti, Pankisi, Kvemo Kartli, as well as larger cities of Kutaisi and Zugdidi, home for large clusters of IDPs.

Outside Georgia, ICCN has been active in Armenia, Azerbaijan, as well as Russian North Caucasus, and is part of several regional and European-wide networks.

Sociological research has been done simultaneously with local partners in different sub regions of the Caucasus, giving basis for comparative studies and adjustment of the regional picture.

ICCN and the new initiative to strengthen Civil Society in post Rose Revolution Georgia.

In 2005, ICCN, one of the leading NGO-s of Georgia, became one of the key catalysts in the process of initiating the NGO Coalition 'Civil Society for Democratic Georgia'.

After the Rose Revolution, The NGO sector of Georgia witnessed the fall in its overall activity. First of all, one of the difficulties facing the NGO sector was the fact that the force which was a close ally of the third sector before the Rose Revolution became the leading power in the country. Meanwhile, the situation in relation to human rights, free media and other pillars of democracy started to deteriorate. Problems relating to the establishment of democratic institutions, supremacy of law, cases of political pressure exerted by members of the judicial system and human rights abuses by police became major concerns for the non-governmental sector in post-revolution Georgia. The non-governmental sector, however, demonstrated confusion as it lost the niche it once occupied. Many NGOs found themselves somewhat marginalized from the new administration that was systematically sacrificing the rule of law and respect for human rights as it cracked down on corruption, simultaneously trying to gain control over the media and the judiciary. The behavior of the police and other law-enforcement bodies after the Rose Revolution became a particular source of discord between Saakashvili's government and the NGO community. Civic groups questioned the legality of arrests, mistreatment of imprisoned officials, and large-scale criminal roundups. However, given the overall destruction of the NGO sector, the voice of the civil society was not strong enough. Thus, a number of NGO-s decided to create a Coalition that will comprise the resources of various NGO-s, making their work more effective and result-oriented. The event that played a decisive role in the formation of the Coalition was the unlawful disciplinary persecution against the judges of the Supreme Court in winter 2005.

This very fact contributed to the consolidation of the 12 Civil Society organizations aiming at defending the rule of law and the independence of the judiciary in Georgia. Today, the Coalition continues to expand, attracting more and more member organizations. Here, it is important to point out that the Coalition is highly transparent while its member organizations represent an increasingly diverse picture, starting with mature and leading NGO organizations and ending with youth organizations established in 2005. Each organization contributes to the work with its experience and resources. ICCN has been playing one of the key roles in the process of formation and successful work of the Coalition though taking an active part in the decision-making process and networking. Mr. George Khutsishvili has been regularly speaking out in public using various media resources, thus introducing the public to the new Coalition, its aims and priorities, as well as giving an in-depth analysis of the ongoing processes.

A i m s o f t h e C o a l i t i o n :

- Assisting Civil Society development, empowerment and consolidation;
- Promoting human rights protection in Georgia;
- Building the State based on the rule of law;
- Systematically providing the society with objective information on current public and political developments;
- Developing civil monitoring and control on state institutions;
- Establishing civil culture, strengthening transparency, openness and accountability, and delivering rapid and adequate response to the important processes taking place in the country.

THE BOARD of ICCN

The renewed Board of ICCN is represented by Ms. Ana Dolidze, Chair, Georgian Young Lawyer's Association, Ms. Nino Gvenetadze, Chair, judge, the Supreme Court, Ms. Tamar Chikovani, journalist, Ms. Leila Suleimanova, Chair, Azerbaijani Women's Union of Georgia, Mr. Arnold Stepanian, Head, Public Movement Multinational Georgia.

The Board meets once every two months and defines the strategy and long-term goals of the organization.

The Board elects a Chair and Deputy Chair.

The elected Chair and Deputy Chair of the ICCN Board for the period covering 2006-2007 are Ms. Nino Gvenetadze (Chair) and Ms. Tamar Chikovani (Deputy Chair).

DIVISIONS OF ICCN

RESEARCH

Since the establishment of the Center in 1994, research work has been one of its priority directions.

The first research was carried out in 1995. The Center's management assigned it to psychologists Zurab Mkheidze (Tbilisi State University) and George Nizharadze (D. Uznadze Institute of Psychology). Later, G. Nizharadze became the Center's staff and is currently the head of the research division at ICCN.

The methods of research vary according to the goals. Among the many researches carried out by the Center are Verbal determinants of interpersonal conflict (1995), Multy-parameter research (1997), Behavior strategies in conflict situations (2000), and many more. Conducted in 2000, the 'Behavior Strategies in Conflict Situations' research was devoted to the behaviors strategies used in conflict situations (avoidance, accommodation, compromise, competition and cooperation).

A special emphasis was made on conflicts and integration in the Caucasus. Two surveys (expert interview with 40 respondents and the field interview with 800 respondents) and the content analysis of the press were carried out. Later, the research division carried out a research titled "The prospects of conflict resolution in the South Caucasus" (2001). This was implemented in collaboration with the Azeri and Armenian partners as part of the program funded by TACIS. Two sociological surveys were conducted in the framework of the program, namely the survey on the conflicts in the Caucasus and the content analysis of the press. Among the more recent and major researches are 'Human Rights in the South Caucasus States' that was carried out in 2002 in the framework of TACIS project. The research addressed the human rights situation in the three Caucasian States. In 2001, ICCN ordered a research on The Abkhazian problem (2001).

In 2002, the division carried out the research on "The Church and the Attitudes towards Religious Minorities". As part of the project "Building Integrity in Georgia" and funded by Cordaid, the survey aimed at evaluating the existing attitudes and tendencies of the Georgian mainstream society towards minorities, the government, the church and other key social establishments. The research was repeated in 2003,

thus giving an outstanding opportunity to make a comparative analysis on the changing tendencies within the Georgian society.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Formed in 2003, human rights division is the youngest among the five major divisions operating within ICCN. The key goal of the team working on human rights issues is to respect, protect and fulfill diversity and tolerance of religious and ethnic minorities and to develop a dialogue between the majority and minority groups. One of the achievements of the human rights division is the establishment of the Civil Council for the Protection of Basic Rights and Freedoms. Although an independent structure, the council was established and is currently operating under the umbrella of the human rights division of ICCN, staff of the division representing the organizational team of the council.

Civil Council for the Protection of Basic Rights and Freedoms

Mission and Goals

The main goal of the council is to promote and strengthen the rule of law and democracy in the society. The council is divided into three committees: the judicial, educational and the committee for public relations and the media, with members selected according to their spheres of interest.

The Council derives from the Movement Against Religious Intolerance in Georgia (MARIG) that was established as a response to the extremist acts of Vasili Mkalavishvili and his followers who destroyed the ecumenical gathering in January 26, 2003. The movement was joined by a number of representatives of the Georgian society such as religious leaders, NGO representatives, political figures and artists.

After the revolution of the roses, it became obvious that there is an opportunity to improve ways of communicating with both the government and the society at large. Thus, there was a need to reorganize the movement in a way that is becomes more effective in its day-to-day work. This is how the idea to establish the Civil Council for the Protection of Basic Rights and Freedoms came into being.

Major areas of work of the Council are:

Regional activities

Civil Council has been active in social sphere, reacting to important events and development taking place in the country. In 2004-2005, the council was especially important in terms of civil activism. After the rose revolution, Civil Council has been actively involved in regional issues, recognizing trips and evaluating the state of tolerance in various regions of Georgia.

Educational Activities

Under the umbrella of human rights division of ICCN, the council has been organizing guest lectures of invited experts, addressing sensitive issues such as ethnic and religious conflicts, democratization, etc.

Inter-religious training

In 2005, in collaboration with the Evangelical-Baptist Church of Georgia, Civil Council and the human rights division of ICCN organized training on tolerance carried out by Rev. Daniel Buttry. Key topics of training were communication and

conflict transformation, with trainees coming from different religious backgrounds such as the Protestants, Catholics, Muslims, Eastern Orthodox, Pentecostals, Kurds (Iezids), etc.

Civil Council as one of the links connecting religious minorities and the decision-making bodies:

One of the major tasks of the council is promoting a dialogue between religious minorities and the decision-making bodies on key issues such as the changes to the civil code on the new registration procedures of religious establishments. In 2005, the Council has been regularly organizing round-table discussions involving members of the Georgian parliament and religious minority representatives, so that the latter's could once again voice their opinions openly.

Touching and Learning about the diverse cultures present in Georgia

Among the recent initiatives of the Council and the human rights division of ICCN is organizing presentations of 'Religions of Georgia' in order to inform the society on the existing religious groups, people, cultures and traditions. Importantly, presentations will mainly target larger audiences comprising young individuals. The major goal of the spreading knowledge on various religions of Georgia in the society is to reduce the level of hostility and negative attitude towards religious minorities.

Supporting newly formed groups:

Among the major tasks of the human rights division is supporting and assisting new initiatives. One of such initiatives implemented in 2005 is the newly established "**Christian Women Inter-Religious Center**" comprising women from various Christian denomination of Georgia. ICCN human rights division and the Civil Council have been regularly assisting the group by providing office space, technical support and consulting.

GENDER

Gender division was formed in October 2003 on the basis of the Caucasian Women's Network (CWN). CWN, in turn, was established in 1997 under the umbrella of ICCN and is currently operating with the organizational support of the latter.

The goal of the gender division is to integrate the gender approach in the program activities of ICCN.

The aims of the gender division are:

- Preparing training module on gender in order to be used by ICCN for different target groups (such as the journalists, police, political parties, teachers, etc);
- Consulting ICCN divisions on gender issues;
- Carrying out independent research in the field of gender and conducting gender analysis of the researches carried out by the ICCN research division;
- Preparing gender dictionary and glossary;
- Gender analysis of the goals and activities of ICCN in terms of gender;
- Publications;
- Working out a tool kit on gender approach for ICCN programs.

Activities already completed by the gender division:

- Training: the hand-out is created, with the pilot training for the journalists being completed successfully;

- The gender terminology dictionary has been completed;
 - The article titled “Georgian experience of gender education” has been published;
 - Gender analysis of the researches is completed;
- Research in the pipeline: “Gender aspects of the Religiousness and religious tolerance”.

Caucasus Women’s Network (CWN) since 1997

Caucasus Women’s Network has the following functions:

- Research in gender and women’s issues;
- Consulting;
- Women’s rights and gender equality lobbying;
- Creating new structures, leadership;
- Conducting training in gender, women’s rights, violence against women, women’s participation in the decision-making process.

Over the years of its work, CWN has collected sufficient amount of literature (over 200 international and local publications) that today represent the library of the ICCN gender division. The library topics are the following:

1. Gender aspects of war, conflict and peace-building;
2. Violence against woman, trafficking;
3. Women’s rights;
4. Feminist theories, feminist intellectuals;
5. Gender, race, ethnicity, religion;
6. Family and sexuality;
7. International and national documents on gender mainstreaming and women’s rights.

In 2005, the working group comprising 9 women’s organizations including CWN and the gender division of ICCN worked out a research paper titled “Gender Equality Policy and National Action Plan” dedicated to gender equality, defining major strategies for gender policy.

TRAINING

One of the oldest of the ICCN’s divisions – the training division – was formed in 1994, when the political, social and economic situation in the country was increasingly hard. One of the important outcomes and causes of the hardship had been the escalated conflicts on the territory of Georgia and thousands of individuals who had to leave their native areas. Today, these individuals continue to have the status of Internally Displaced People.

The idea behind “Conflict management” was to provide humanitarian assistance to individuals who were directly involved in conflict situations. These categories of individuals are IDPs, journalists, governmental and non-governmental representatives, etc. The goal of the program was to provide the target groups with basic knowledge and skills in the sphere of conflict management.

Due to psychological traumas deriving from the war, as well as the difficult socio-economical situation, forming a team of trainees and conducting training represented

quite a challenge. Generally, trainees demonstrated lack of interest and skepticism towards the issue. What the team of ICCN trainers attempted to do was to make the trainees realize the different sides of conflict and try to work out the ways of conflict transformation.

Since 2001 till present, training division has been carrying out training with ethnic minorities, school teachers, students and young political leaders.

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

This division comprising technical staff is providing ICCN with the logistics, technical assistance and information technology.

Projects implemented (and ongoing) in the years 2005-2006

‘Creating South Caucasus Regional Coalition for the Support of International Criminal Court’

About the Program

Launched in 2005 and funded by the World Federalists Movement, the program aims at facilitating the establishment of an efficient coalition in the South Caucasus for ratification and implementation of Rome Statute, as well as building good understanding on the role of ICC in the protection of human rights. The target groups of the project are: human rights groups, conflict prevention and management NGO-s, relevant government structures (Ministry of Justice, Constitutional Court, Supreme Court, the judiciary committee of the parliament, etc). The expected results of the program are the following:

- Formation of national and regional coalitions for the support of ICC
- Creation of working groups defining strategy of the coalition on the regional level
- Civil education aimed at ICC awareness through common regional strategy towards International Criminal Court.

Objectives

The creation of a Regional Coalition is important for developing regional approach to ICC and for building up the platform for ensuring the development of strong implementing legislation in the South Caucasus States. Generating regional public support for the court is also crucial. **A very important element of the initiative is assisting/supporting the process of ratification of the Statute in Armenia and Azerbaijan through involving civil society actors, maintaining the cooperation among state and non-state actors on both country and regional levels.**

(2005 photos with explanations)

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR THE PREVENTION OF ARMED CONFLICT (GPPAC)

About the Programme

For three years now, the Global Partnership has been working towards the Global Conference, From Reaction to Prevention: Civil Society Forging Partnerships to Prevent Violent Conflict and Build Peace.

The main goal of the partnership is promoting a global and regional policy change agenda aimed at achieving a shift from reaction to prevention of violent conflict and obtain initial commitments from civil society organizations (CSOs), the UN, regional bodies, and government to that effect.

Objectives

The process towards the Regional Conference in the Caucasus was organized through two parallel and interconnected processes: one in the South Caucasus (Azerbaijan, Armenian and Georgia, including the unrecognized entities in the region such as South Ossetia, Abkhazia and Nagorno-Karabakh) and the North Caucasus (Russian Federation). The overall coordination of both is in the hands of the International Center on Conflict and Negotiation (ICCN) and Nonviolence International – Newly Independent States (NIS).

In the South Caucasus, several networks and organizations have been involved in the process leading to the Regional Action Agenda, including the Caucasus NGO Forum, CRINGO (established by the Danish Refugee Council), Helsinki Citizen's Assembly – Georgian, Armenian and Azerbaijani National Committees, the Caucasus Network of the CIS NGO Working Group on Conflict Management and Prevention, many experts, practitioners, and research institutions.

'Building Integrity in Georgia' (BIG) (Assisted by the Dutch Charity Organization CORDAID)

About the Programme

The program that started back in 2003 and will last until 2006 aims at promoting tolerant attitude towards religious minorities, integrating the latter's in the public life of the Georgian mainstream society. This goal is achieved through the synergy of the existing divisions at ICCN. The programme involves all the components present at the organization.

Objectives

The Human Rights Division works towards promoting a dialogue between minority and majority groups by organizing seminars and workshops. The topics covered during the workshops address sensitive issues such as the registration law of religious establishments, status of religious establishments and religious education in the secondary schools of Georgia. Guests coming to ICCN in order to meet religious minority representatives often represent high governmental officials who are directly involved in the decision-making process. The idea to establish the Movement for the Protection of Basic Rights and Freedoms is the result of the work carried out in the framework of the project. A movement against religious intolerance that started back in 2002 as a spontaneous response to the ongoing process gradually reshaped itself into a structured body, the civil council for the protection of basic rights and freedoms (the activities of the council were discussed in the previous section).

Training Division regularly carries out training in the framework of the projects. The target groups are journalists, young wing of political parties, school teachers and staff of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. All these target groups were selected according to the needs of the society. The level of tolerance in all the above listed groups is relatively poor in Georgia, although all these categories – teachers, journalists, young politicians and government officials – are constantly influencing the society in their day-by day work. Thus, it was decided to specifically target the listed groups, focusing on issues such as conflict transformation, peace journalism, tolerance, religious and ethnic tolerance, etc.

The research division is carrying out surveys in the sphere of general tolerance, evaluating and then analyzing the attitudes of the population towards ethnic, religious minorities, the decision-making bodies, the mainstream church, etc. Interestingly, the research implies evaluating the situation over a certain period of time, thus it is possible to see the tendencies and changing attitudes.

The Publishing sub-division has been carrying out extensive work in the framework of the BIG programme. In year 2005, it published books titled “Georgia and the World Religions”, “The Politics of the Russian Orthodox Church in Abkhazia in the 19th century” and issued quarterly publications of the journal “Peace Times”.
(2005 photos of the Cordaid activities, with explanations)

‘From Tolerance to Civil Integration. Collaborative Action Towards Conciliation and Democratic Development in Georgia’. (Assisted by the Ewangelishes Entwicklungsdienst (EED))

About the Programme:

Launched in 2005, the programme aims at fostering democratic reforms and to overcome the problems that prevent Georgia from successfully completing the transition from the post-Soviet stage to a democratic and law-based state respecting liberal values, protecting human rights and fulfilling state obligations and commitments toward local and international communities.

The Objective and Strategy:

The Goal of the Project is to strengthen the civil society in Georgia and overcome the post-totalitarian mentality in population preventing the liberal democratic values to spread in the Georgian society. Problems targeted over the period of the programme include:

- Ethnic nationalism and xenophobia including prejudices against neighboring nations, minorities inside the country and the wide-spread ethnic-discriminatory attitudes, gender discrimination including domestic violence, etc

Thus, the programme implies starting a multi-functional network of synergizing strong teams of civil society actors that will systematically and professionally operate in selected urban centers – especially in the high-risk zones – to inform and educate local population.

One of the major components is the already available outputs of the “Building Integrity in Georgia” (BIG) project and the adjacent structure - the Civil Council for the Protection of Basic Rights and Freedoms. Using the already existing structure and

expanding its work will facilitate the process of creating new mechanisms and tools for monitoring the situation locally, making evaluations and establishing the rapid response system

The Outputs

There are two major outputs expected from the programme: **Nation-wide network**, well-connected, trained and skillful, operating through an interconnected system of local hubs in regions of Georgia through resource centers, focal points, etc. The second output is **the National Action Plan (NAP) for Conciliation, Conflict Resolution and Civil Integration** to be submitted to the Government of Georgia with broader ownership of CS/NGOs, ethnic, religious minority groups, IDP/refugees, communities of conflict zones.

The preliminary phase lasting for 18 months implies preparing the National Action Plan and starting first hubs in the regions, as well as prepare a number of working papers on the problem of religious and ethnic minority integration in Georgia.

‘Civic Investment Program-West’

About the Programme

ICCN carries out a program together with **CARE**. The scope of the program is rather broad as it implies bringing socio-economic transformation to the Tsaklka and Akhaltsikhe areas.

Role of ICCN in the Programme

The ICCN component is strengthening civil and social spheres through conducting training and researches in sociology.

As for the training component, in 2005, ICCN initiated a rather interesting program in Akhaltsikhe and Tsakla areas. Activities started in July 2005, with target groups being women from village Tsnisi. Women empowerment training was very successful and skills attained by trainees help them to initiate their own projects in the village.

During Autumn 2005 ICCN trainers selected groups in Akhaltsike and Tsalka for advanced mediation training, which took place in Tbilisi and was assessed by participants as very fruitful and useful skill in above mentioned regions characterized by multiethnic and multi-religious profile.

The participants of the trainings identified the importance of awareness rising campaign about mediation in the population of each region. For this reason ICCN plans to publish brochure on mediation, explaining the following issues: what is mediation, why we need it, how we can apply for mediation, who is mediator, the success of mediation and etc. The participants of the trainings think that to do this kind of education work is very important for the outreach of the program and for this concrete direction as mediation training follow-up. The brochure will be in Georgian and Russian languages.

The aim of surveys conducted by ICCN was to demonstrate the concerns of local population in Tsalka and Akhaltsike, identify their needs and problems.