Russia’s Public Chamber: Civil Society Representation and Public Policy Decision-Making

with

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Russia established Public Chambers at the federal and regional levels to function as permanent consultative bodies composed of appointed representatives from civil society organizations. They are designed to practically implement the civil society notions of “participation” and “representation.” In general, public chambers are expected to facilitate communication between federal and regional governments and civil society; provide representation for interest groups and professional communities; and serve as a facilitator for soliciting advice from policy-area experts.

Although Public Chambers have official status under federal and regional laws as well as regular public funding, they are not affiliated with any governmental body, leading some to question their accountability. In practice, Public Chambers are unable to fulfill properly any of the functions assigned to them. They do not serve as representative institutions, but rather as meeting points or lobbying devices for certain individuals. This state of affairs reflects the unstructured and fluid character of Russian society as a whole.

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Monday, November 21, 2011
9:00-10:00am
Voesar Conference Room
1957 E Street NW, Suite 412

Please RSVP at http://tinyurl.com/OrachevaGWU

This event is on the record