

A STRATEGIC APPROACH TO GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT IN UZBEKISTAN

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Annotation: *The Action Strategy of Uzbekistan (2017–2021) played a crucial role in the country's development by driving economic, legal, and social reforms. It emphasized governance improvements, national unity, and modernization in various sectors. Building on this progress, the Development Strategy (2022–2026) aims to strengthen democratic principles, protect human rights, and ensure sustainable growth. The long-term “Uzbekistan – 2030” strategy focuses on economic expansion, social advancements, environmental initiatives, and national security, fostering a stable and prosperous future.*

Keywords: *strategy, development, reforms, governance, economy, security, interethnic harmony, and religious tolerance, modernization*

Strategy (Greek: strategía, stratus – army + ago – I lead) was originally used in the military sphere and was associated with the development of military processes to achieve victory over the enemy. Later, this concept was applied in the context of planning social life.

The Canadian scholar G. Mintzberg describes the strategic temporality of the “5-P” system as follows:

1. Plan;
2. Ploy;
3. Pattern of behavior;
4. Position in relation to others;
5. Perspective [1].

Thus, strategy is considered a model for the purposeful direction of future activities and reflects the long-term goals of a country. Based on this, the task of further developing Uzbekistan is to achieve its strategic objectives.

The Strategy of Actions on Five Priority Areas of Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2017–2021 envisaged large-scale reforms, including the liberalization and modernization of all sectors of the country, elevating the development of the state and society to a new level, and improving the well-being of the population. This document, which outlined conceptual issues related to the socio-political, economic, cultural, and

humanitarian development of the country, was adopted on February 7, 2017, after extensive discussions.

The Action Strategy identifies five priority areas for the country's development, which are as follows:

1. Improving state and social governance;
2. Ensuring the rule of law and further reforming the judicial system;
3. Further developing and liberalizing the economy;
4. Advancing the social sector;
5. Ensuring security, interethnic harmony, and religious tolerance, as well as pursuing a well-balanced, mutually beneficial, and practical foreign policy [2].

The goal of the Strategy for 2017–2021 was to further enhance the effectiveness of ongoing reforms, elevate the development of the state and society to a new level, liberalize all spheres of life, and implement key priority areas for the modernization of the country.

In accordance with the Decree of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev “On the Strategy of Actions for the Further Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan”, signed on February 7, 2017, the legal principles and mechanisms for its implementation were approved. The commentary on this decree emphasized the importance of the Strategy of Actions, noting that during the preparation of the drafts, extensive discussions were held among broad segments of the population. The drafts were placed on various information platforms, resulting in numerous suggestions and comments.

The Action Strategy was implemented in five stages over five years, with the adoption of state programs for each year, based on the officially designated themes for the years 2017–2021. Another significant aspect of the Action Strategy was that, in accordance with it, a number of legislative acts of the Republic of Uzbekistan were revised to align with contemporary requirements.

The legislative framework in all priority areas of the Action Strategy has been further improved. In short, the Action Strategy, developed and adopted at the direct initiative of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, has strengthened Uzbekistan's economic potential, improved the well-being of its people, ensured interethnic harmony, and further enhanced the country's prestige on the international stage. At the same time, it contributed to the liberalization and modernization of all sectors, increased the effectiveness of reforms, and elevated the development of the state and society to a new level. The priority tasks outlined in the strategy were aimed at ensuring human rights and legitimate interests, creating decent living conditions for citizens, and, through their consistent implementation, leading Uzbekistan toward a brighter future.

In our opinion, the importance of the Action Strategy can be attributed to the following:

Firstly, the Action Strategy, developed on the initiative of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, marked the beginning of a completely new stage in the development of the state and society.

Secondly, the Action Strategy was a logical and legitimate continuation of the processes of democratic renewal and modernization, carried out gradually within the framework of implementing the fundamental democratic norms of the Constitution.

Thirdly, by its very nature, the Action Strategy was a five-year national strategy aimed at implementing the five most important priority areas of political, legal, economic, and social reforms during a time of fundamental global change.

Fourth, the dynamic and extensive public discussion of the Action Strategy, which we all witnessed and actively participated in, was conducted in accordance with contemporary requirements, with the widespread use of the latest information technologies. This served as the foundation for a comprehensive discussion. Numerous practical suggestions and comments were received from experts. Most importantly, it is worth noting that several of the most well-founded suggestions were taken into account.

In the consistent and systematic implementation of the Action Strategy, attention was paid to three important principles:

The first principle: The Action Strategy was a logical continuation of the “Uzbek model” of development, which was chosen by the nation, founded by the First President, and recognized worldwide. In this sense, the Action Strategy maintained its gradualism, consistency, and step-by-step approach.

The second principle: It was essential to clearly understand that the five priority areas of the Action Strategy - namely:

- improving the state and public administration system;
- ensuring the rule of law and further reforming the judicial system;
- developing and liberalizing the economy;
- advancing the social sector;
- ensuring security, religious tolerance, and interethnic harmony, alongside a well-thought-out, mutually beneficial, and practical foreign policy were inextricably linked and interdependent.

The third principle: The Action Strategy became a straightforward, understandable, and practical program of action for every citizen [3].

The implementation of the Action Strategy has contributed to further strengthening the bonds of friendship and establishing the principles of religious tolerance in Uzbekistan - not only in the socio-economic and political spheres but also among the various nationalities and ethnic groups living in the country.

The main goal of the Development Strategy for 2022–2026 of New Uzbekistan is to fully implement the priority principle “For the dignity of man” to firmly continue the

path of democratic reforms initiated with the people, and to unconditionally uphold the requirements of the Constitution and laws, which serve as the guarantors of rights and freedoms. The Development Strategy for 2022–2026 was implemented based on the principle of “Person – Society – State” and focused on the development of key areas.

The new edition of the General Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan was signed by President Shavkat Mirziyoyev on September 11, 2023, with the adoption of the Decree “On the Strategy of Uzbekistan – 2030”. On this legal basis, the Development Strategy “Uzbekistan – 2030” was adopted.

The “Uzbekistan – 2030” strategy, which includes five directions and 100 goals, is noteworthy as the product of experience, achievements, and broad public discussions gained during the implementation of the country’s Development Strategy. In this sense, this strategy for building a New Uzbekistan is a people-centered and development-oriented programmatic document.

Notably, this people-oriented strategy includes several key objectives, such as:

- Ensuring that Uzbekistan becomes one of the countries with an above-average income through sustainable economic development over the next seven years;
- Improving the quality of education, healthcare, and social protection systems to meet global standards and the needs of the population;
- Creating environmentally friendly conditions for citizens;
- Building a just and modern state that serves the interests of the people;
- Guaranteeing the security and sovereignty of the country.

In short, the greatest wealth of Uzbekistan is its people. The priority in implementing this vision is to raise the standard of living, ensure a prosperous life for every citizen, and create all necessary conditions for their well-being within the framework of the large-scale strategic reforms being carried out by the state.

In this regard, all processes of spiritual renewal taking place in Uzbekistan under the Action Strategy serve the interests of humanity. Moreover, the successful implementation of several key strategic measures will ensure that Uzbekistan reaches its desired level in the Human Development Index. The intensity of ongoing strategic reforms will mobilize efforts to make this goal a tangible reality.

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