

STRENGTHENING UZBEKISTAN'S FUTURE THROUGH STRATEGIC REFORMS

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Annotation: *The Uzbekistan – 2030 strategy aims to establish a people-centered and humane state by prioritizing sustainable development, economic growth, and social well-being. It aligns with global development goals, emphasizing education, healthcare, environmental sustainability, and governance reforms. The strategy incorporates public participation, including Uzbek expatriates, ensuring a comprehensive approach to progress. By enhancing human dignity and national security, Uzbekistan is strengthening its global standing, fostering innovation, and advancing towards a stable and prosperous future.*

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Today, New Uzbekistan is advancing toward the establishment of a humane and people-oriented legal state. To this end, Article 1 of the new draft Constitution explicitly states, “Uzbekistan is a sovereign democratic, legal, social and secular state with a republican form of government” [1]. The inclusion of this definition in the Constitution ensures that the state's activities, as well as the way of life of society and its citizens, are governed solely by the Constitution and laws. Ultimately, it establishes that state bodies and officials must work in the interests of the people and serve them based on the rule of law. Furthermore, other provisions of the updated Constitution reinforce mechanisms and guarantees aimed at upholding the principle of a legal state [2].

Today, it is evident to all that the ongoing reforms in Uzbekistan have accelerated, and the country has embarked on a new path of development. Meanwhile, the socio-political, economic, educational, and scientific landscape is becoming increasingly complex and diverse, heightening the need for continuous analysis of ongoing processes, rapid adjustments, and creative approaches to identifying new opportunities for improvement and growth.

Therefore, the adoption of the Strategy for the Development of New Uzbekistan (2022–2026), along with the initiation of constitutional amendments and their submission for public discussion, appears both necessary and justified. Furthermore, the continued evolution of the philosophy of reforms, centered around the principle of “Person – Society – State”, is a natural and logical progression [3].

The main goal of the New Uzbekistan Strategy is to create a people-centered and humane state where the legitimate interests and well-being of every citizen –regardless of

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nationality, language, or religion – are protected, and where a free civil society is developed in the future. This goal is closely linked to the spiritual development of society, based on the concept of “New Uzbekistan – An Enlightened Society”, as well as the principles of the rule of law and fair social policy, which will serve as the foundation for the work of state institutions. The new direction will continue to prioritize economic growth, private entrepreneurship, human capital development, and attracting foreign investment.

Sustainable development refers to enhancing the well-being of the population and building a stable and prosperous society through comprehensive improvements in economic, social, and environmental sectors. The Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan is designed to achieve sustainable progress by enhancing human dignity, reducing poverty, and ensuring a guaranteed source of income for all, in line with the principles of a social state.

Therefore, Article 14 of the new Constitution states: “The state shall carry out its activity based on the principles of legality, social justice and solidarity, to ensure human well-being and sustainable development of society”.

This provision defines sustainable development as the primary responsibility of the state. The introduction of this norm is essential to ensuring the sustainable development of all sectors in the republic and to enabling the state to fulfill its duties to the people effectively. This includes responsibilities related to state budget formation, taxation, and the adoption of laws and regulatory legal acts.

The concept of a social state is reflected in the principle that the state carries out its activities to ensure the sustainable development of society. In Uzbekistan, the national goals and objectives for sustainable development up to 2030 outline key priorities, including improving the well-being of the population, ensuring a healthy lifestyle, providing quality education, promoting gender equality, developing sustainable infrastructure, enhancing security, and achieving environmental sustainability. Additionally, the strategy aims to increase employment, reduce inequality in all its forms, combat climate change and its effects, and ensure equal access to opportunities for all.

The new edition of the General Assembly adopted the Decree “On the Strategy of Uzbekistan – 2030”, signed by President Shavkat Mirziyoyev on September 11, 2023. Based on this legal framework, the Development Strategy “Uzbekistan – 2030” was introduced. This strategy aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and as President Mirziyoyev stated, “we are fully and firmly fulfilling all the obligations we have undertaken” [4].

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

Notably, this people-oriented strategy incorporates several key initiatives, including:

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- Ensuring that Uzbekistan becomes a country with 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 living conditions for citizens;
- Building a just and modern state that serves the interests of the people;
- Guaranteeing the security and sovereignty of the country.

It is also significant that the draft of this state program was developed with the participation of Uzbek compatriots living abroad, particularly in the USA, Germany, Turkey, France, South Korea, Japan, the Netherlands, Ireland, Kazakhstan, and Tajikistan. Around 100 conceptual proposals were incorporated into the program, focusing on biotechnology, nanotechnology, medical insurance, quality healthcare standards, judicial system reforms, traffic congestion solutions, public procurement processes, and policies related to minors.

In conclusion, the “Uzbekistan – 2030” strategy is transforming the ideological landscape of society, instilling in people a sense of confidence in the future and a commitment to the effective implementation of long-term plans. The initial achievements within the framework of the strategy are driving changes that are accelerating the country's development and creating new opportunities for citizens. This strategy is not only significant at the national level but also valuable as it aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In this regard, this forward-looking strategy will further strengthen the global position and image of New Uzbekistan, while promoting human dignity within the country.

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