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## Green Transformation and Sustainable Development in Uzbekistan: An Appraisal



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In the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, Non-traditional security challenges/environmental threats have been increased. Global climate change, high Carbon emissions, floods, droughts, cyber-attacks, and pandemics have been



impacting the national security of countries. Presently, there is a demand to have more inclusive and sustainable policies on environmental crisis. Thus, countries are making robust plans to shift towards renewable energy under green transformation for sustainable development.

In this regard, the Republic of Uzbekistan is implementing comprehensive measures aimed at deepening structural transformations, modernizing and diversifying the basic sectors of the economy, and balancing socio-economic development of the territories. The Government has also outlined a "green" economy strategy for the period 2019-2030. By 2030, Uzbekistan aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions per unit of the gross domestic product by 10% from the level of 2010 and a twofold increase in energy efficiency. The green transformation has become a significant goal to curtail increasing Non-traditional Security Challenges. Green strategies are based on high-tech innovations in the use of renewable resource, forest resources, renewable energy, and green construction. Under Uzbekistan's green shift, a broader strategy aims to work on the following potential areas:

- Improve energy efficiency, rational consumption, and conservation of natural resources
- Reducing Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions
- Ensuring access to green energy
- Creating green jobs and ensuring climate resilience
- Creating a legal and regulatory framework for the green economy
- Capacity building and adapt with the transition to a green economy
- Supporting green investment and developing financial and non-financial mechanisms to support the green economy.

### Uzbekistan's Transition to Green Economy:

Under the visionary leadership of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, Uzbekistan has emerged as a strong regional player. The robust policies adopted by the government have provided many opportunities to the



people under great green reforms. The green economy for the period 2019-2030, aimed at integrating climate change issues into the sustainable development of the national economy is of particular importance. In the quest for clean, green, and resilient Uzbekistan, the leadership is committed to achieving Sustainable Development Goals



(SDGs) by 2030. Here, it is pertinent to understand the three primary concepts associated with sustainable development. These three sides include:

- a. ***Economic Sustainability***: It is the development of natural, human, and social capital to improve economic performance
- b. ***Environmental Sustainability***: This means the conservation of ecosystems and the rational use of non-renewable natural resources for sustainable production at the current moment and for future generations.
- c. ***Social Sustainability***: It means that the basic needs of all population groups should be met, which are directly linked with environmental and economic sustainability.

Concerning these three aspects, Uzbekistan's long-term objective is to become a high middle-income, therein doubling per capita income, as well as eradicating inequality and poverty. To achieve this, the Government is implementing structural reforms to strengthen the market economy, alongside currency and tax reforms, and systemic agricultural reforms. Furthermore, many effective measures have been taken to improve the business climate, stimulate entrepreneurship and formal employment, including among youth and women as well as attract investment and promote innovation. Uzbekistan pursues a foreign policy of openness, peace, and cooperation. For more than a decade, the country has deepened cooperation with Central Asian countries in the areas of rational use of transboundary resources and trade. In the environment area, Uzbekistan prioritizes mitigation and adaptation to climate change



(including under the Paris Agreement) with a special focus on the Aral Sea region, conservation and the efficient use of water, land and energy resources, as well as biodiversity conservation. In the Covid-19 period, the Uzbek Government has taken decisive measures to curb the spread and adopted mitigation policies to handle socioeconomic imparities due to the pandemic. In addition to that, an Anti-Crisis Program has also been adopted along with a US\$1bln Fund to support businesses & employment and to expand social assistance to the vulnerable.

### **Uzbekistan towards Prosperity under H.E. President Shavkat Mirziyoyev:**

Uzbekistan seeks to promote the transformation by ensuring socio-economic development, energy, transport & communication projects, green shift, and IT revolution. In this evolving time, the potential rise of Uzbekistan within and outside Central Asia has been witnessed due to the startling policies of His Excellency, Shavkat Mirziyoyev. “ Renaissance” is a French word that means to be reborn. The Uzbek concept "*Uigonish Davri*" (Evolutionary period or Renaissance) is a synonym for this term. In this regard, the new Uzbekistan reforms are worth mentioning and praising. The third Renaissance wave is amid the new paradigm shift that Uzbekistan has taken to play a full-fledged and pro-active role in the uplifting of the economy, adopting climate-resilient policies, and promoting regional peace & stability. Thereby, new reforms or strategies will stimulate the nation towards a strategic path of clean, green, and resilient Uzbekistan.