



中国传媒大学  
COMMUNICATION UNIVERSITY OF CHINA



Institute for a Community  
with Shared Future  
人类命运共同体研究院



## **Uzbekistan's New Constitution:** **Prospects for the Sustainable Development**

By Ms. Fatima Jamal, PRCCSF Fellow, Rawalpindi, Pakistan Research Center for a Community with Shared Future (PRCCSF), Islamabad



*Published on 24<sup>th</sup> August 2022*



## Table of Content

<b>Abstract</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Uzbekistan’s New Constitution: Objectives and Prospects for the State</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>1. Broadening the Spectrum of Rights:</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2. Robust Economy:</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>3. Strengthening Uzbekistan’s National and International Place:</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Conclusion</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Bibliography</b>	<b>10</b>

## **Abstract**

This article presents an analysis on the constitutional reforms that are focused towards creating a ‘New Uzbekistan’ by protecting rights of its citizens and involving them in the constitution based on the principle of “Person - Society – State.” The article further explains that through human protection, the constitution will have a positive impact on the economy as well as the national and international image of Uzbekistan. As a result, constitutional change is essential, as it will help pave the way for more democratization and bringing peace. Uzbekistan’s foremost concern is the prosperity and wellbeing of its people that will bring a great impact on both national and international levels.

## **Introduction**

H.E. Shavkat Mirziyoyev, the president of Uzbekistan, insinuated to constitutional reform in his inauguration speech, recognizing the significance of creating a solid legal foundation for dependable long-term development initiatives in order for Uzbekistan to attain security and prosperity that is centered on its people through constitutional reforms. Uzbekistan is devoted to the "Person - Society - State" approach as the basic principle of contemporary reforms and the notion of human dignity. There will likely be a constitutional referendum in Uzbekistan. According to Uzbekistan's present legal system, the Parliament has the power to unilaterally propose constitutional revisions. However, the president



advocated for a nationwide debate and referendum to approve the new constitution. Under President Mirziyoyev, Uzbekistan has become a significant regional actor. The nation is making progress toward becoming a welfare state as a result of his wise methods and solid growth plans. It is obvious that the strong reforms would increase citizens' participation in the democratic process and create the ideal balance between the various governmental sectors.

## **Uzbekistan's New Constitution: Objectives and Prospects for the State**

### **1. Broadening the Spectrum of Rights:**

Uzbekistan is expanding the spectrum of human rights. The great principle of revering human dignity and humanity lies at the heart of all constitutional reforms being implemented. Therefore, the



protection of human rights and dignity stands the foremost objective of the new constitution. A comprehensive national human rights strategy based on the Vienna Declaration and Program of Action had been developed. More than 30 legislations have been passed to promote political and civil rights, including the new Citizenship Law, which would award citizenship to 50,000 individuals who have been in the state since 1995.<sup>1</sup> One

---

<sup>1</sup> "Uzbekistan is building a culture of Human Rights, but concerns about political prisoners, torture, forced labour and corruption remain experts of the Human Rights Committee say," *United Nations*, 3 March, 2020, accessed 11



of the most important aspects of any constitutional change is ensuring that human rights and basic freedoms are encouraged, recognized, and preserved. Constitutional protections of human rights throughout the range of civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights; moreover, empowering courts and national human rights agencies to safeguard such rights, are critical steps in creating a human rights culture in Uzbekistan.<sup>2</sup> Stronger anti-corruption initiatives and greater protections for human rights, particularly the rights of enterprises and owners, are advocated by the government.

Moreover, Uzbekistan is bringing constitutional reforms through inclusiveness and participation of the general public. The people of Uzbekistan have every right to be involved and content with the state's service. The preparation of proposals, the operation of the Constitutional Commission, and the widespread discussion of the proposed Constitutional Law all demonstrate the significance of broad public engagement and civil society organizations in this procedure.<sup>3</sup> The President Shavkat Mirziyoyev alluded to the necessity to include youth into the constitution building, as well as strengthen laws against child labor and secure the rights of the disabled and old. Uzbekistan's constitutional revision is aimed at achieving the priority concept "In the sake of man's honors and dignity." Furthermore, human dignity is the preservation of a calm and safe existence for all citizens, and the progressive establishment of good living circumstances, contemporary

---

August, 2022, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/statements/2020/03/uzbekistan-building-culture-human-rights-concerns-about-political-prisoners>.

<sup>2</sup> "Uzbekistan Constitutional Reform Priorities for Human Rights," *EU Political Report*, July, 2022, accessed 18

August, 2022, <https://www.eupoliticalreport.eu/uzbekistan-constitutional-reform-priorities-for-human-rights/>.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

infrastructure, qualified medical treatment, excellent education, social protection, and a healthy ecological environment. Most significantly, these changes will have a positive effect on Uzbekistan's favorable reputation in terms of human rights, which has improved in recent years.

## **2. Robust Economy:**

On 8 April 2022, president Mirziyoyev issued Decree No. UP-101 (the Decree) to strengthen the market economic situation and raise the volume of private investment.<sup>4</sup>

This is the next stage in building the prerequisites in Uzbekistan for sustained economic growth. According to the president, the fundamental criterion in the



process of economic reforms should be to protect human interests. The constitutional reforms also focus on economic vector for improving the business environment, liberalization, investment, and entrepreneurial promotion. Despite external upheavals, Uzbekistan's GDP grew by 24% during the transition era. The economy's sectoral structure has substantially improved, with industry accounting for around 10% of GDP, or almost

---

<sup>4</sup> “Uzbekistan continues reforms to create conditions for stable economic growth,” *DENTONS*, 27 April, 2022, accessed 14 August, 2022, <https://www.dentons.com/en/insights/alerts/2022/april/27/uzbekistan-continues-reforms-to-create-conditions-for-stable-economic-growth>.



one-third of total production.<sup>5</sup> Foreign investment has tripled as the investment climate has improved. Uzbekistan got \$1.6 billion in foreign direct investment in 2016 and \$4.2 billion in 2019.

As a result, constitutional change is important, because it will help pave the way for more democratization and the acceleration of economic reforms by enhancing governmental support for innovation to boost up economic and entrepreneurial activity. The government has developed a very high degree of direct involvement in the economy. "It is estimated that GDP per capita will expand by 1.6 times over the next five years, and per capita income will reach \$4,000 by 2030," indicating that such developments will allow Uzbekistan to get to the upper-middle income level.<sup>6</sup> The overwhelming majority of large-scale businesses and financial institutions are owned by the government. The economy of Uzbekistan requires fundamental, systematic, and continuous changes, as well as the replacement of the whole structure of public institutions. The primary objective is to establish an atmosphere conducive to the proper functioning of effective market processes. From an economic standpoint, the new constitution's objective is to guarantee for the

---

<sup>5</sup> Sodiq Safoev, "Constitutional reform in Uzbekistan is historic event for the people," *The Korea Times*, 20 July, 2022, accessed 14 August, 2022, [https://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/nation/2022/07/120\\_333008.html](https://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/nation/2022/07/120_333008.html).

<sup>6</sup> Sanjay Kumar, "Constitutional reforms to open up 'New Uzbekistan': Senate first deputy chair," *The Korea Herald*, 2 August, 2022, accessed 17 August, 2022, <https://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20220726000219>.



protection of private property rights, as well as to create legal conditions for agricultural reform.<sup>7</sup>

The openness to the world has been a significant factor in the formation of a new Uzbekistan, and today the country is opening itself in economic aspect through enhancing trade and signing trade agreements with states in different parts of the world. In recent years, the Uzbek government has done much to enhance the business climate and reduce transaction costs. This is primarily evident in tax, customs, administrative burden reduction, simplification of processes for export-import transactions and acquiring authorizations, development of the money circulation system and financial system. Significant effort has been done in recent years of changes to establish and implement a new economic policy for the country; moreover, the new or constitution will be fruitful for the economic boom.

### **3. Strengthening Uzbekistan's National and International Place:**

The constitutional reforms are much likely to bring national peace and prosperity along with strengthening and improving Uzbekistan's international image. Through these reforms Uzbekistan has the potential to become a zone of resilience, sustainable growth, and promote good neighborliness, resulting in mutually beneficial collaboration.<sup>8</sup> There is

---

<sup>7</sup> Yuliy Yusupov, "Economic reforms in Uzbekistan: Achievements, problems, perspectives," *The Foreign Policy Center*, 14 July, 2020, accessed 13 August, 2022, <https://fpc.org.uk/economic-reforms-in-uzbekistan-achievements-problems-perspectives/>.

<sup>8</sup> Sanjay Kumar, "Constitutional reforms to open up 'New Uzbekistan': Senate first deputy chair," *The Korea Herald*, 2 August, 2022, accessed 17 August, 2022, <https://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20220726000219>.





a necessity to disperse government duties and strengthen regional independence in order to stimulate domestic and international investment as it requires improving administrative management. The notion of "Openness to the world" is highlighted as one of the significant determinants in the formation of a new Uzbekistan, with praise for recent reforms that have developed and carried out the country's renewed foreign policy. However, Uzbekistan's foreign policy should be further evolved in light of the fast changing events in Uzbekistan and throughout the world.

Uzbekistan's constitutional reforms prioritize the execution of an open, practical, and constructive foreign policy, the establishment of strong friendly ties and collaboration with all progressive nations throughout the world, particularly with neighboring countries.<sup>9</sup> Uzbekistan has been and continues to be devoted to this strategic path, fulfilling its duties to its partners and international organizations. Uzbekistan's political significance and stature in the Central Asian area and internationally have grown dramatically. The world has grown its faith in Uzbekistan and willingness for partnership. Uzbekistan, united by friendship and brotherhood, has begun to work closely together on regional and global challenges, as well as socioeconomic progress. The essential point is that such unity in national and international policy is achieved in the name of people's interests. Uzbekistan's foremost concern is the prosperity and wellbeing of its citizens which will ensure a great impact on both national and international arenas. The state has been through a rough patch

---

<sup>9</sup> "The New Uzbekistan is Becoming a Country of Democratic Transformations, Big Opportunities and Practical Deeds," ANKASAM, 18 August, 2022, accessed 19 August, 2022, <https://www.ankasam.org/the-new-uzbekistan-is-becoming-a-country-of-democratic-transformations-big-opportunities-and-practical-deeds/?lang=en>.



and now is the time where Uzbekistan plays actively in the global structure and promotes peace through strengthening its image of a peace builder and a developed state.

## **Conclusion**

The concept of "**New Uzbekistan**", which has taken root in the hearts of its people and has evolved into a national movement, is founded on great ambitions and aspirations. The new constitution of Uzbekistan firmly puts forward ideas in all spheres of a peaceful human life. Uzbekistan is becoming a state of democratic reforms, large potential and practical actions. In order to provide its citizens with a free, secure, and successful living, the "New Uzbekistan" is a state that is advancing strictly in accordance with the standards set forth by the international community in the areas of democracy, human rights, and freedom. The administration has said that it is determined to bringing Uzbekistan into the top half of the world's league table for average per capita income. A constitutional framework and a stronger legislative base are priorities for Uzbekistan in order to accomplish the objectives indicated in the development plan, which are crucial in constructing a prosperous state.

## **Bibliography**

Kumar, S. (2022, August 2). *Constitutional reforms to open up 'New Uzbekistan': Senate first deputy chair*. Retrieved August 17, 2022, from The Korea Herald:

<https://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20220726000219>

Safoev, S. (2022, July 20). *Constitutional reform in Uzbekistan is historic event for the people*. Retrieved August 14, 2022, from The Korea Times:

[https://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/nation/2022/07/120\\_333008.html](https://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/nation/2022/07/120_333008.html)



*The New Uzbekistan is Becoming a Country of Democratic Transformations, Big Opportunities and Practical Deeds.* (2022, August 18). Retrieved August 19, 2022, from ANKASAM: <https://www.ankasam.org/the-new-uzbekistan-is-becoming-a-country-of-democratic-transformations-big-opportunities-and-practical-deeds/?lang=en>

*Uzbekistan Constitutional Reform Priorities for Human Rights.* (2022, July 18). Retrieved August 2022, from EU Political Report:

<https://www.eupoliticalreport.eu/uzbekistan-constitutional-reform-priorities-for-human-rights/>

*Uzbekistan continues reforms to create conditions for stable economic growth.* (2022, April 27). Retrieved August 14, 2022, from DENTONS:

<https://www.dentons.com/en/insights/alerts/2022/april/27/uzbekistan-continues-reforms-to-create-conditions-for-stable-economic-growth>

*Uzbekistan is building a culture of Human Rights, but concerns about political prisoners, torture, forced labour and corruption remain experts of the Human Rights Committee say.* (2020, March 3). Retrieved August 11, 2022, from United Nations: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/statements/2020/03/uzbekistan-building-culture-human-rights-concerns-about-political-prisoners>

Yusupov, Y. (2020, July 14). *Economic reforms in Uzbekistan: Achievements, problems, perspectives.* Retrieved August 13, 2022, from The Foreign Policy Center: <https://fpc.org.uk/economic-reforms-in-uzbekistan-achievements-problems-perspectives/>