



NEW UZBEKISTAN AND HUMAN RIGHTS

INFORMATION

ON COMPLIANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS OBLIGATIONS IN THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

Information on compliance with international human rights obligations in the Republic of Uzbekistan.
– Tashkent: National Centre of the Republic of Uzbekistan for Human Rights, 2022.

This report provides information on the main directions of activities on implementing international human rights obligations in Uzbekistan in 2020-2021 and within the context of the coronavirus pandemic. The report also outlines the information on the implementation of the National Human Rights Strategy of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

CONTENT

INTRODUCTION	4
I. HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC	6
II. STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS STRATEGY OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN	11
III. HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION	28
IV. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS	32
V. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	40

INTRODUCTION

2020 has been a complex and challenging year for the world community, still today, the whole of humanity is experiencing the scourge of a coronavirus pandemic. The pandemic is costing the global economy about \$ 400 billion a month. To date, 500 million jobs have been lost worldwide.

The negative consequences of the pandemic crisis did not go unnoticed in Uzbekistan. Last year, natural and man-made disasters in Bukhara and Sardoba also tested the population once again. The coronavirus pandemic has had extremely negative consequences for people, communities, and states worldwide. The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted human rights, especially on the rights of vulnerable groups – children, women, the elderly, people with disabilities, migrants, and prisoners.

As UN Secretary-General António Guterres put it, “Governments today need to be more transparent, flexible, and accountable than ever. The availability of an optimal space for civil society activities and freedom of the press is crucial. Public organizations and the private sector play an important role.” It should be noted that no state alone can withstand a pandemic. Therefore, the special resolution of the UN General Assembly on April 2, 2020, "Global solidarity in the fight against coronavirus (COVID-19) 2019," emphasizes the issue of international cooperation.

The effectiveness of anti-crisis measures taken by states largely depends on the regular exchange of reliable information and the experience of national human rights institutions in participating in the fight against COVID-19.

Several historical events took place in 2020-2021. In particular, at the UN General Assembly, Uzbekistan was elected to a three-year term to the UN Human Rights Council by a majority vote for the first time in history. The US State Department also removed Uzbekistan from the list of "countries under special surveillance" regarding religious freedom and acknowledged the country's achievements in combating human trafficking.

On October 24, 2021, for the first time in our country, elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan were held based on the new Electoral Code. All necessary precautions were taken at the polling stations to protect the population's health due to the ongoing pandemic to ensure the safety of voters and other participants in the election process. District and precinct election commissions received 12.7 million disposable medical masks, 21,500 liters of antiseptics, and other protective gear and disinfectants. More than 142,000 members of election commissions have been fully vaccinated against the coronavirus.

To bring international elections in line with international standards in 2021, amendments to the Electoral Code have allowed voting for citizens of Uzbekistan residing abroad, regardless of whether they have a consular account with their respective diplomatic missions.

Despite the quarantine guidelines, there was high voter turn out in Uzbekistan's Presidential elections; 16,212,343 voters, including overseas Uzbek voters. This was 80.4% of the total number of eligible voters. Sixty-four thousand four hundred fifty (64,450) representatives from the five political parties and citizens' self-government bodies participated as election observers. For the first time, 207 polling stations in districts and cities around the country were broadcasted live online via 414 video cameras installed at these polling stations. More



Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan

than a thousand international and foreign observers, representatives of the world media acknowledged that the election of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan was held in the spirit of democracy and competition, lawful and fair, open, impartiality, and transparency.

The National Human Rights Strategy of the Republic of Uzbekistan was adopted. Its preparation was envisaged in the Address of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the Oliy Majlis. This document aims to address the effective implementation of the international obligations of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the field of human rights, which is an essential step towards ensuring human rights and freedoms.

A system for monitoring the quality and effectiveness of the National Human Rights Strategy has been established. The National Centre of the Republic of Uzbekistan for Human Rights (hereinafter – the Center) conducts regular monitoring and submits reports to the chambers of the Oliy Majlis, the Presidential Administration, and the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

In accordance with the Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated December 10, 2018 No. PP-4056 and the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated June 22, 2020 No. PF-6012 "On approval of the National Human Rights Strategy of the Republic of Uzbekistan", the Centre prepared information on the status of compliance with international obligations on human rights in Uzbekistan.

The Resolution addresses the implementation of international treaties of Uzbekistan in the field of human rights and freedoms and the implementation of the National Human Rights Strategy for 2020-2021. Also, the Resolution of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan (No. 270-IV of May 5, 2020) "On the status of compliance with international obligations of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the field of human rights" and the Resolution of the Senate (May 11, 2020, Resolution No. 82-IV), "On the status of compliance with international obligations on human rights."

I. HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

The coronavirus pandemic has spread worldwide, posing significant and complex challenges to the state, society, and citizens, affecting all areas, and most importantly, creating new legal dynamics. Each state has its complex issues, such as preventing the spread of the pandemic, treating the sick, protecting the health and lives of the population, and mitigating the damage to the economy.

The pandemic's unfortunate social, economic, and financial consequences and its impact on the world community, including the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, underscore the need for a coordinated global response and mobilization of socio-economic, scientific, innovative, technological, and medical potential.

To this end, **the International Code of Voluntary Obligations of States during Pandemics**, developed by Uzbekistan, was adopted as an official document of the 75th session of the UN General Assembly. The Code emphasizes the importance of international cooperation in the fight against pandemics based on solidarity, openness, mutual assistance, and human rights.

The global pandemic is also having a negative impact on human rights. Particularly vulnerable groups, such as children, women, the elderly, and people with disabilities, face various challenges. The "vaccination policy" that requires compulsory vaccination of certain groups of the population in countries worldwide remains controversial. In addition, many countries are introducing "health passports" for their population that contains information on vaccines and test results for COVID-19.

In the context of the pandemic, society faces the challenge of protecting individual rights while safeguarding the health and safety of the population as a whole. On the one hand, we must protect the human rights of those who have not been vaccinated; on the other hand, individual and collective rights to health and safety must be safeguarded.

During the COVID-19 pandemic in Uzbekistan, priority measures were taken to ensure human health, rights and legitimate interests, and adequate social support. **More than 50 laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan, normative legal acts of the President and the Government have been adopted.** A quarantine system has been introduced throughout the country. Legislative changes have been made to increase the accountability of the population, including liability for disseminating false information.

The National Program of Action to Combat Coronavirus Infection was adopted, and two national commissions were set up under the leadership of the Prime Minister, the Republican Crisis Commission and Republican Special Commission, to prepare measures to prevent the entry and spread of coronavirus in the country. This has increased the ability to unite the efforts of the Government and civil society, mobilize resources and, most importantly, save lives.

These coordinated efforts by the government task forces helped avert tragedy in Uzbekistan. The mortality rate for COVID-19 has reached one of the lowest levels in the world.

To mitigate the socio-economic consequences of the pandemic, a wide range of measures have been taken to support the population and business, and several benefits and privileges have been introduced to support the

population. In particular, the deadline for payment of childcare allowances and financial assistance, property, and land taxes has been extended. The repayment period of loans was postponed, and an additional incentive payment was introduced for medical staff to provide socio-economic support.

Measures have been taken to repatriate Uzbek citizens abroad. In particular, more than 600,000 people were returned to the country, and about 100,000 people in difficult living conditions were provided with financial assistance abroad. In addition, deadlines were extended to foreign nationals to extend their stay without penalty.

During the pandemic, comprehensive measures were taken to ensure one of the fundamental human rights – the right to education. According to UNESCO, the closure of schools in more than 110 countries has led to “disruption of the educational process,” which has affected more than half of students worldwide. In contrast, Uzbekistan has managed to prevent such disruptions. Measures have been taken to develop and support distance education throughout the national education system (schools, colleges, lyceums, universities, out-of-school educational institutions, etc.).

At the same time, these changes to the education system and the transition to distance learning have created numerous other problems in attempts to prevent the learning loss of schoolchildren and students to quality education.

In particular, the radical changes have led to the following issues:

- An increase in the length of the working day of the academic community, changes in working conditions;
- The majority of teachers lack resources to deliver distance learning, professional skills to work with technical equipment and information technology for full-time work;
- Lack of hands-on opportunity to organize practical classes, teaching, and laboratory work for students majoring in medicine, engineering, and creative arts (musicians, designers, etc.).

The pandemic has also affected the activities of government agencies and the judiciary system. A state of emergency has been declared in more than 90 countries, and human rights laws and restrictions on the right to judicial protection have been imposed. The UN Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers acknowledged the importance of ensuring the right to justice even during the coronavirus pandemic.

Several decisions of the Plenum and the Presidium of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan were adopted to ensure the uninterrupted functioning of the courts¹. Although the personal appearance of citizens in the court was suspended during the quarantine period, procedural documents were received by the courts by mail and electronically.

At the same time,

There were complaints from the legal community that the limited availability of transportation during the quarantine period created problems in accessing the rights of citizens to legal protection.

¹ Resolution of the Plenum of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated April 28, 2020 No 08 "On some issues of application of the legislation in connection with the introduction by the courts of measures to prevent the spread of coronavirus infection (Covid-19) in the Republic of Uzbekistan".

In Uzbekistan, in the context of a pandemic, digitization of government activities and services has also begun in Parliament and government ministries. Work has also been done to provide an online system for public services. **Today, the population has more than 150 species, about 25 million public services are provided.**

Even though the Agency for Public Services imposes sanctions on government agencies for shortcomings in providing fast and quality services, they do not organize inter-agency e-cooperation, their integration into the system of "e-government."

The study of public services by the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan¹ showed that government agencies limited the excessive demand for information from the population and businesses and the lack of interagency electronic data exchange (integration) in the delivery of public services. Issues of digitizing archival data sets and accessing these services for citizens working abroad remain unresolved.

Considering that the current legislation stipulates the procedures for public services, **it is expedient to develop a law "On public services"** to increase the rights and obligations of citizens in the use of public services, as well as the responsibility and accountability of public authorities. The adoption of the law will serve to consolidate all the basic provisions of public services into a single legal document and improve public oversight of the activities by public authorities through the institution of public services.

2020 was, without exaggeration, a turning point in the field of social protection. In the context of the pandemic, special attention was paid to the social protection of the population to ensure uninterrupted provision of citizens with food, medicine, essential medical products, and other vital goods.

A system of non-discriminatory assistance to people with disabilities, the poor, and the vulnerable has been established. In particular, special attention was paid to the introduction of a new mechanism based on the

principle of "motivation, skills and financial assistance" to lift every citizen out of poverty, which is included in the **"Single Register of Social Protection," "Iron Book," "Women's Book" and "Youth Book."**

In 2020, the number of social pensioners will double to 1.2 million. Although five times more funds were allocated for these purposes than in 2016, an additional 2.6 trillion soms were allocated from the state budget to increase social benefits, financial assistance, and employment.

NGOs and civil society institutions, and the general public took an active part in this process. In particular, more than 1 trillion soms were provided to more than 800,000 low-income families within the national movement called "Generosity and Support" with the active participation of citizens.

The Special Commission on Coronavirus Prevention designated the **National Center for Human Rights to be responsible for human rights cooperation with the United Nations and other international organizations in the event of a pandemic.** The Center drew the attention of government agencies to the issues raised in the recommendations of international human rights



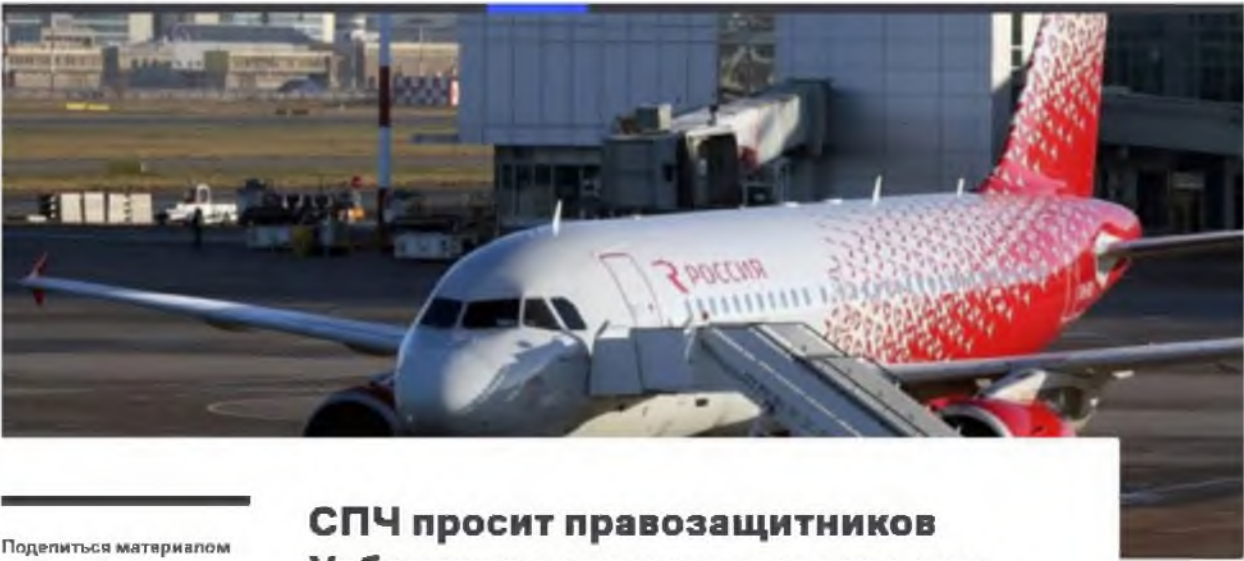
¹ Resolution of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. SR-314-IV of May 29, 2021 "On the results of the parliamentary inquiry sent to the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the status of public services"

СПЧ

О СОВЕТЕ | АКТУАЛЬНЫЕ ТЕМЫ | БЛОГИ | СОБЫТИЯ | ПРЕСС-ЦЕНТР | ДОКУМЕНТЫ | ПРОЕКТЫ

ВЕРСИЯ ДЛЯ СЛАБОВИДЯЩИХ

ПОИСК | ВСЕ САЙТ



Поделиться материалом

f w t g

КОПИРОВАТЬ ССЫЛКУ

СПЧ просит правозащитников Узбекистана помочь согласовать авиарейс по возвращению узбекистанцев и россиян на родину

Председатель Совета по правам человека Валерий Фадеев сегодня обратился к главе Национального центра Республики Узбекистан по правам человека Акмалу Саидову с просьбой оказать содействие в

structures (the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Treaty Committees, WHO, ILO, UNICEF, UNESCO, OSCE) in the context of the pandemic. In particular, they sought joint solutions to issues such as protecting the rights of migrants, prisoners, compliance with labor standards, and ensuring the right to justice. In cooperation with the Representative of the Russian Federation for Human Rights and the Council for Civil Society Development and Human Rights under the President of Russia, more than a thousand citizens returned to Uzbekistan during the pandemic, and Russian citizens returned to their homeland through special chartered flights.

In June 2020, UN and OSCE officials in Uzbekistan visited the **Ortasaray Quarantine Center** in Yukorichirchik district in the Tashkent region. During the visit, the observance of human rights in quarantined areas was studied. The results were discussed in the framework of the national dialogue "Pandemic and human rights: the experience of Uzbekistan." It addressed the experiences of Uzbekistan in implementing national measures to ensure human rights in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic and developed proposals and recommendations.

The event was attended by representatives of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the UN Subcommittee on Torture, the World Health Organization, the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, and other international organizations. Following the talks, a "Road Map" was developed to improve quarantine centers' situation in compliance with international medical and sanitary norms and international obligations to human rights. Several manuals and videos on human rights in the fight against coronavirus have also been developed.

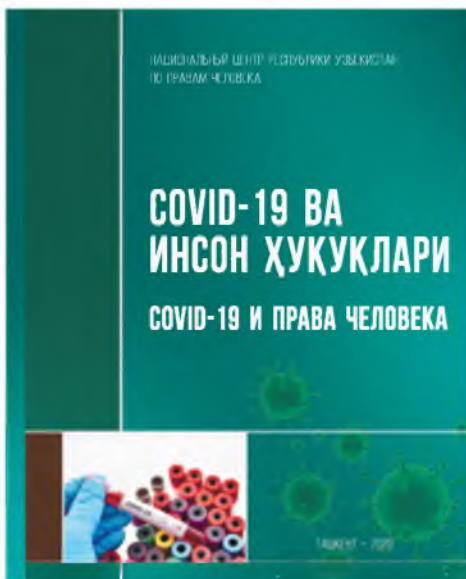
The analysis showed that some laws do not have precise mechanisms in emergency response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The industry is primarily regulated by legislation due to reference norms, and the laws need to be revised and improved.



UN and OSCE officials in Uzbekistan visited the Ortasaray Quarantine Center in Yukorichirchik district in the Tashkent region.

Article 93 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan introduces and adopts a state of emergency in the whole territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan or parts of it to ensure the safety of citizens in case of emergencies (real external threats, riots, catastrophes, natural disasters, epidemics). The resolution will be submitted to the chambers of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan for approval within three days. In this case, the conditions and procedure for introducing a state of emergency shall be established by law.

This, in turn, necessitates the adoption of a constitutional law "On State of Emergency." Therefore, under the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan and based on foreign experience, the circumstances and procedure for introducing a state of emergency, measures, and restrictions, special government agencies for the period of crisis, individual and legal entities guarantees the rights of individuals, and other special rules governing the activities of courts, the Ombudsman, the Children's Ombudsman, the Business Ombudsman and the National Center for Human Rights in emergencies need to be strengthened.



II. STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS STRATEGY OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

The National Human Rights Strategy of the Republic of Uzbekistan was developed as a result of extensive public discussion, international and national consultations. The recommendations of international organizations, including the UN Charter Bodies and Treaty Committees, as well as a comprehensive study of current issues of human rights protection, analysis of current legislation, law enforcement practices, and best international practices, were also taken into account.

National consultation on the project was held on February 28, 2020, and an international discussion was held via videoconferencing on May 13, 2020. The draft National Strategy has been posted for public discussion on regulation.gov.uz and on the official website of the National Center for Human Rights twice, with initial and improved versions with suggestions.

The UN Resident Coordinator in the Republic of Uzbekistan and UN agencies, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights' Regional Office for Central Asia, and the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe presented their proposals on the project. **During the draft national strategy, more than 300 proposals were received from more than 50 government agencies, international organizations, and non-governmental, non-profit organizations. About 200 submissions were used to improve the project.**

The National Human Rights Strategy of the Republic of Uzbekistan, approved by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan (No. PF-6012 of June 22, 2020), defines the main tasks and directions of state policy to ensure human rights and freedoms as an essential condition for sustainable development and democratic renewal.



This Decree achieves the following goals:

First, the mechanisms for monitoring the full implementation of international human rights obligations and the observance of the rights and freedoms of citizens have been improved;

secondly, a system of organizational, legal, and comprehensive measures aimed at ensuring reliable protection of human rights and freedoms has been created;

third, the effectiveness of the introduction of international standards in the field of human rights and freedoms in the legislation and the activities of public authorities has been increased;

fourth, the legal literacy of the population in human rights, including the dissemination of information and education of the public, was increased;

Fifth, cooperation with international and regional human rights structures and national institutions of foreign countries has reached new levels.

The Roadmap for the Implementation of the National Strategy covers **78** areas of action, grouped into five areas that cover all aspects of human rights. To date, tasks have been completed on **40** of them. Work is underway to implement the remaining **38** items.

The National Strategy envisages the adoption of **12** codes and **33** pieces of legislation, of which **5** are new codes, **20** are new legislation, **7** are new codes, and **9** are new laws. According to the draft laws set out in the National Strategy, **14** items have been implemented, and **19** are being implemented. The ratification of **8** international agreements within the framework of the National Strategy is planned, **2** of which have been ratified so far.

Implementation of the «Road map» The National Human Rights Strategy of the Republic of Uzbekistan



THE FIRST SECTION

the adoption of **3** codes, **14** pieces of legislation on priorities in the field of protection of personal and political rights, of which **7** pieces of legislation were adopted;

THE SECOND SECTION

the adoption of **6** codes, **15** pieces of legislation on the protection of economic, social, and cultural rights and priorities in the field of sustainable development, of which **9** pieces of legislation were adopted;

THE THIRD SECTION

2 codes, **3** legislative acts, ratification of **1** international treaty on the implementation of international human rights standards in legislation and law enforcement practice, and the improvement of monitoring mechanisms, **2** of which have been adopted. **1** international treaty has been ratified;

THE FOURTH SECTION

Adoption of **1** code, **1** piece of legislation in the field of human rights literacy, including the dissemination of information in this area, the effective organization of educational activities, including the adoption of **1** piece of legislation;

THE FIFTH SECTION

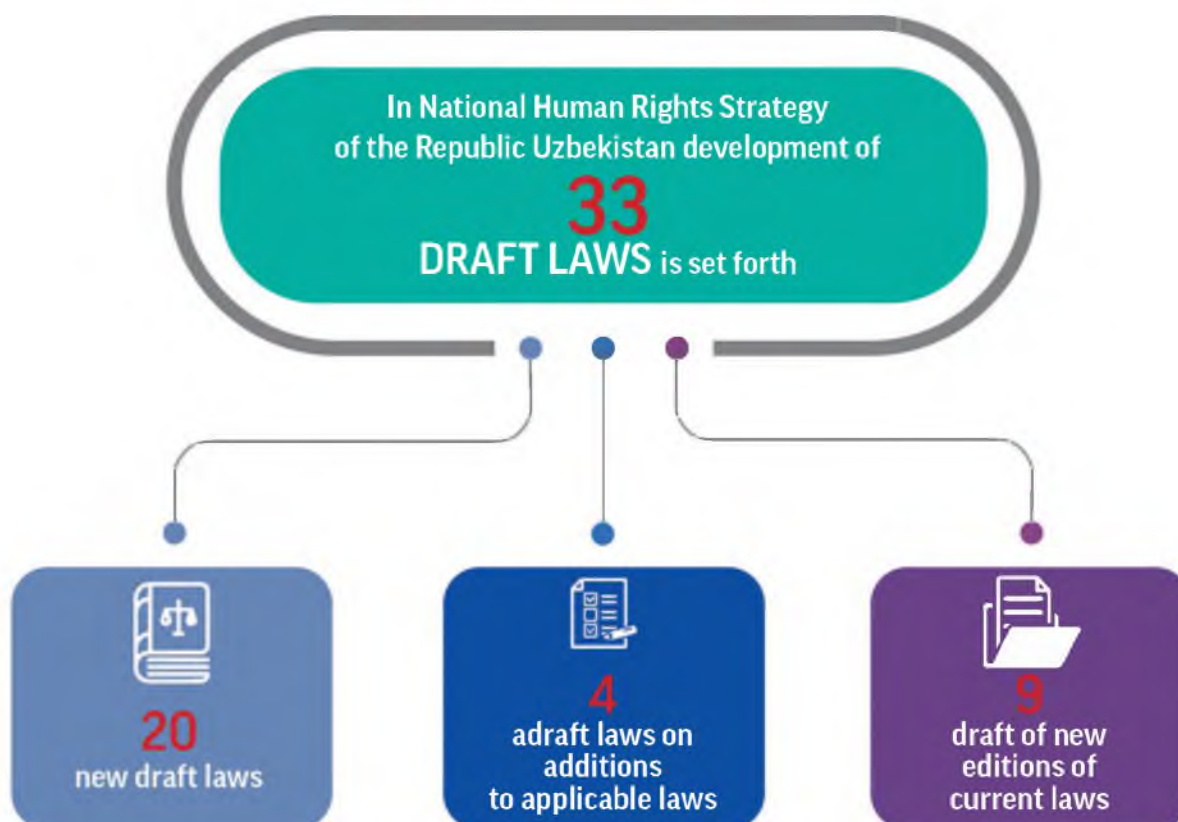
ratification of **7** international agreements on priority areas for developing cooperation with international and regional structures in human rights, national human rights institutions of foreign countries, of which **1** international agreement has been ratified.

Status on the implementation of the National Human Rights Strategy of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Status on the implementation of the "Road Map"

Directions	Designated activities		Accepted	Those in the process of development and adoption
	Total	Including the adoption of legislation		
Priorities in the protection of personal and political rights	28	3 codes, 14 legal acts	7 legal acts	3 codes 7 legal acts
Priorities in the protection of economic, social, cultural rights, and sustainable development	26	6 codes, Adoption of 15 legal acts	9 legal acts	6 codes 6 legal acts
Priorities for improving the implementation and monitoring mechanisms of international human rights standards in legislation and law enforcement practice	9	2 codes, 3 legal acts 1 international treaty to be ratified	2 legal acts, 1 international treaty	2 codes, 1 legal act
Priorities for improving legal literacy in human rights, including the dissemination of information, the effective organization of educational activities	7	1 code, 1 legal act	1 legal acts	1 codes
Priorities for the development of cooperation with international and regional structures in human rights protection, national human rights institutions of foreign countries	8	7 international treaties to be ratified	1 international treaty	6 ones under consideration
Total:	78	12 codes, 33 legal actions, 8 international treaties	19 legal acts, 2 international treaties	12 codes, 14 legal actions, 6 international treaties

Development of draft laws



According to the bills specified in the «National Strategy», 14 activities have been fulfilled, 19 are in progress

To date, the following new versions were adopted: the Constitutional Law "On the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan", "New laws "On Education", "On Combating Trafficking in Human Beings", "On Freedom of Conscience and Religious Organizations", "On Employment", "On the rights of persons with disabilities" and "On the legal status of foreign citizens and stateless persons in the Republic of Uzbekistan".

Within the framework of ensuring the implementation of tasks, set out in the National Human Rights Strategy of the Republic of Uzbekistan



Under the National Human Rights Strategy of the Republic of Uzbekistan
there were adopted following laws:



The Constitutional law
«On the Constitutional Court
of the Republic of Uzbekistan» (new edition)



The law «On education» (new edition)



The law «On counteraction against human trafficking»
(new edition)



The law «On Employment of the Population»



The law on the «Rights of Persons
with disabilities»



The law «On Amendments and Addenda to the Electoral
Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan»



The law «On the legal status of foreign citizens and stateless
persons in the Republic of Uzbekistan»



The law «On Freedom of Conscience and Religious
Organizations» (new edition)

In addition, the following laws have been developed and are being adopted: "On Emergency Situations", "On Judicial Community Bodies", "On Privatization", "On Free Legal Aid", "On Social Entrepreneurship", "On Compulsory Health Insurance", "Equal Treatment and Non-Discrimination" "On Advocacy and its activities", "On Labor Migration" and other draft laws.

Three new codes are being prepared: Health Code, Non-Governmental Organizations Code, Environmental Code. Seven new codes: Civil Code, Labor Code, Criminal Code, Criminal Procedure Code, Code of Criminal Procedure, Code of Administrative Liability, Drafts of the Housing Code are being prepared and their adoption is underway. Two new codes: Information Code and Entrepreneurship Code are being prepared.

The state of the development of draft laws within The National Human Rights Strategy of the Republic of Uzbekistan




In addition, three resolutions of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan, eight decrees and resolutions of the President, six resolutions of the Cabinet of Ministers are being adopted and implemented.


It is also planned to implement measures on 36 items, 12 of which have been completed, and the rest are being implemented.

Over the past period, the following important measures have been taken for the National Strategy:


On April 27, 2021, **the Constitutional Law "On the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan,"** was adopted. According to the law, the subjects entitled to appeal to the Constitutional Court include



GENDER POLICY OF THE NEW UZBEKISTAN




AS OF JANUARY 2021, THE GLOBAL SHARE OF WOMEN IN THE NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS AMOUNTED TO MORE THAN A QUARTER IN THE PARLIAMENT, WOMEN ARE:



25,5%

THE SHARE OF WOMEN DEPUTIES AT THE OLIY MAJLIS IN THE LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER – 32% IN THE SENATE – 25%



ACCORDING TO THIS INDICATOR, UZBEKISTAN IS AMONG THE TOP 50 COUNTRIES


IMPROVING LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR GENDER EQUALITY

To this day, Uzbekistan has adopted all major international treaties protecting legal, social, and economic rights and freedoms of women as well as protecting them from all forms of discrimination and harassment.

ADOPTED GENDER-ORIENTED LAWS:


- On guarantees of equal rights and opportunities for women and men*
- On protection of women from harassment and violence*
- On protection of reproductive health of citizens*
- On Amendments and addenda to art. 15 of the Family Code*
- On Amendments to the Labor Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan*


* On the removal of restrictions related to women's choice of previously prohibited forms of labor activity and other gender-asymmetric provisions of labor legislation.





In this regard, **Natalia Gherman**, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General for Central Asia, the Head of the UN Regional Center for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia noted that "the international community positively assesses Uzbekistan's efforts in the field of gender equality".


Experts from such UN entities as



the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)



the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)


the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)


the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights


the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)


the International Organization for Migration


the International Labour Organization also participated in their development

the Children' Ombudsman, the National Centre of the Republic of Uzbekistan for Human Rights, Representative for protecting the rights and legitimate interests of business entities. Citizens and legal entities have the right to appeal to the Constitutional Court with a complaint to verify the constitutionality of the law if they believe that the law violates their constitutional rights and freedoms and have been applied in a specific case that has been completed in court and all other means of protection have been used.



Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis (Parliament)

According to the Joint Resolution of the Council of the Legislative Chamber and the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of September 25, 2020, a **Parliamentary Commission on the Observance of International Obligations of the Republic of Uzbekistan in Human Rights** was established, and its composition and Regulations approved. In cooperation with the Global Partnership Management Foundation of the United Kingdom, the Parliamentary Commission organized an online training course consisting of five modules on implementing the international obligations of the Republic of Uzbekistan in human rights.

The two sides also held two forums on issues of human rights, which discussed improving the draft Convention on the Rights of Youth, mechanisms for working with young people and addressing their issues and introducing best practices in ensuring the rights of young people.

The “Concept of Civil Society Development in 2021-2025” was approved by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan (No. PD-6181 dated March 4, 2021). The concept covers the issues of strengthening the social partnership between government agencies and non-governmental, non-profit organizations in protecting human rights, legitimate interests, and democratic values.

At the same time, it is necessary to determine the composition and legal framework of the Public Chamber to further improve the organizational and legal framework for the development of civil society, increasing the role and importance of non-governmental organizations, social activism, and efficiency.

The Senate of the Oliy Majlis has set the Strategy for achieving gender equality in the Republic of Uzbekistan by 2030. The Gender Strategy envisages implementing comprehensive measures to implement the principle of equality between women and men in all areas and promote gender equality in economic, political, and social life in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. The strategy covers issues such as ensuring equal and quality education for all, access to higher education for girls in rural areas, gender equality for women, prevention of violence, and prevention of human trafficking.

Following the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated May 19, 2021, "On additional measures for the rehabilitation of women victims of violence", 29 Rehabilitation Centers for Victims of Violence were established. The government has established a procedure for issuing protection orders by the police to women victims of repression and violence.



GENDER POLICY OF THE NEW UZBEKISTAN



THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY POSITIVELY ASSESSES THE EFFORTS OF UZBEKISTAN IN THE SPHERE OF GENDER EQUALITY ADOPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF LAWS PROMOTES INCREASING THE PROPORTION OF WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP



THE ADOPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THESE LAWS CONTRIBUTES TO AN INCREASE IN THE PROPORTION OF WOMEN IN MANAGERIAL POSITIONS



IN THE TOTAL EMPLOYABLE POPULATION REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN



This also shows a noticeable increase in the representation of women politicians and women leaders in all spheres, and the country's consistent progress towards achieving gender equality.

CONSISTENT PROMOTION OF THE COUNTRY ON THE WAY OF ACHIEVING GENDER EQUALITY PROVIDING WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT, PROVISION OF LOANS FOR WOMEN-ENTREPRENEURS.



In recent years, concessional loans worth of **7.4 trillion UZS** have been allocated to more than **327 thousand women** for the development of women entrepreneurship. In 2021, it is planned to allocate about **1.4 trillion UZS** to women entrepreneurs from the Fund for Reconstruction and Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan.



As a result, over the past four years, more than **620,200 women** have been employed, and **106 thousand** have been assisted in establishing private entrepreneurship. For example, in 2020, only within the framework of the "Every Family is an Entrepreneur" program, about **126 thousand** people were granted preferential loans. Almost **215 thousand** families have been allocated loans for the development of family entrepreneurship for a total of more than **6 trillion UZS**.



in 2020, more than **61,500 women** were trained in short-term professional courses. As a result, despite the pandemic, the number of women entrepreneurs reached **172,700**.



In 2021, more than **one trillion UZS** will be allocated to support women's business projects and to solve their problems identified on the ground. To this end, the People's Bank is introducing a new system of teaching women entrepreneurship, developing standard business plans for them and providing practical assistance in obtaining loans.

The State Targeted Fund for Women's Support was also established. Additional measures have been identified for the social support of families, women, and youth in need of financial assistance and support. Sixty-eight thousand two hundred eighty-one women were included in the "Women's Book," and those wishing to start a business received 837 billion soms, 931 millionsoms were allocated for soft loans, and employment was provided.

The resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of January 18, 2021, "On approval of the Concept of development of state youth policy in Uzbekistan by 2025," was adopted. The concept is based on the general principle of "Working with young people in the interests of youth" set out in the UN Strategy

"Youth - 2030". The concept aims to improve the protection of the legal rights and interests of young people, create conditions for quality education, decent work, entrepreneurship, culture, arts, sports, support young people in need of social protection, and increase youth social activism.

In 2021, the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labor, the Representative of the Oliy Majlis for Children's Rights (Children's Ombudsman), and the National Commission for Children's Affairs were established by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, "On measures to further improve the system of guarantees of children's rights. **"The draft law "On the Children's Ombudsman" is currently being discussed by the Chambers of the Oliy Majlis (Parliament).**

Recommendations of the UN Human Rights Council and the UN international treaty bodies - the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination - suggest that Uzbekistan improve measures to promote the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and promote advocacy. **The Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, adopted on 15 October 2020, uses the term "person with disabilities" instead of the word "disabled," following the requirements of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.**

More than 760,000 people with disabilities live in Uzbekistan. They are covered by social protection and support and medical and social rehabilitation programs. In particular, the resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of April 28, 2021, approved the **"Administrative regulations for the provision of public services for the appointment of pensions to certain categories of citizens in need of social protection"**. According to this document, from August 1, 2021, public services and benefits to specific categories of citizens in need of social protection will be provided. On April 29, 2021, the Cabinet of Ministers established the **Interdepartmental Council for Persons with Disabilities.**

Today, the Agency for the Development of Medical and Social Services and about 600 non-governmental, non-profit organizations operate in the field of disability in Uzbekistan. Association of the Disabled of Uzbekistan, Society of the Disabled of Uzbekistan, National Association of Business Women with Disabilities, Center for Youth and Children with Disabilities, Umr Public Center for Assistance to Children and Adolescents with Paralysis in Uzbekistan, Inclusive Life for the Disabled, Society of the Blind, Uzbekistan NGOs such as the Society have actively participated in the ratification of the Convention.

On June 7, Uzbekistan ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (New York, December 13, 2006). Ratification of the Convention will create additional guarantees to ensure the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities in Uzbekistan and strengthen the responsibility of public authorities in terms of social protection and equal opportunities for persons with disabilities. A National Action Plan for implementing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is currently being developed.

Over the past two years, more than 20 laws and ten road maps have been adopted to combat human trafficking and forced labor. In particular, a new version of the Law on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings was adopted, criminalizing child labor and forced labor.

The Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of February 8, 2021, "On the Procedure for Identification and Redirection of Victims of Human



TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT

JUNE 2021



Trafficking or Suspected Victims of Human Trafficking" and "On the Procedure for Social Rehabilitation and Adaptation of Victims of Trafficking and Assistance" was approved. The decision created mechanisms to ensure the rights of victims of trafficking to receive medical, psychological, legal, social, and other assistance. Under this measure, medical and social rehabilitation and psychological support measures were provided to 1,024 victims of human trafficking.

In the U.S. State Department report on the fight against human trafficking in 2020, Uzbekistan was moved to the second category in 2021 (Tier 2). Previously, in 2018-2020, Uzbekistan was part of the second group (Tier 2 Watch List).

According to the report, "Uzbekistan is making significant efforts to eradicate human trafficking. The government has

made decisive progress in the same area during the reporting period, despite the negative impact of COVID-19 pandemic conditions on its ability to combat human trafficking; therefore, Uzbekistan was included in the list of the 2nd category of control."

It also focuses on the protection and socialization of women and children in Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan and the social protection and employment of migrant workers in the event of a pandemic. Another achievement of Uzbekistan was the report, which highlighted the collaborative work of **the National Commission for Combating Trafficking of Human Beings and Forced Labor**.

According to the data, today, 1.7 million Uzbek citizens work abroad, mainly in the CIS countries. More than 55% of the country's population is young, and about 650,000 workers enter the labor market each year. This shows the importance of addressing issues of employment and labor migration.

Currently, systematic work is underway to provide citizens with basic vocational training according to the foreign labor market demands, training in foreign languages, employment abroad, legal advice, recovery of wages, and compensation. The state is taking strict measures to regulate the process of external labor migration, secure international agreements on organized employment abroad, and create favorable conditions for safe travel to work. The mono-centers, "Ishga Marhamat," and vocational training centers introduced assessment for professional skills for "WorldSkills" standards and issued "Skills" passports to successful graduates.

However, in addition to the positive work, there are also problems with the legal, material, and social support of labor migrants. For example, non-compliance with the terms of the contract by the employer, delay or non-payment of wages, non-compliance with labor and migration requirements, and informal use of migrants for tax evasion are all unresolved issues.

Also, there is no legal support to protect the legal status of Uzbek labor migrants, their social protection, medical care, administrative and criminal prosecution as migrants.

These issues were also raised once again during the monitoring of the rights of migrant workers in Russia by national human rights institutions in May this year.

To ensure the rights and legitimate interests of migrant workers, it is desirable to accelerate the adoption of the law "On external labor migration."

To determine the legal status of foreign citizens and stateless persons, to regulate the system and mechanisms of organization of entry and exit from the country, the Law, "**On the legal status of foreign citizens and stateless persons in the Republic of Uzbekistan**" was adopted. Adopting this law will serve to unify the legal framework formed by various (legitimate) documents from 1990-2000 and to adapt relations with foreign citizens or stateless persons to the requirements of the times.

The Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan, dated November 3, 2020, approved the Recognition badge, "For the protection of human rights." The first ceremony of awarding the badge was held on December 10, 2020 - International Human Rights Day, and the winners were awarded by the Special commission of the Center.

Under the National Strategy, the Concept of **the National Strategy for Social Protection for 2021-2030** was approved, which simplifies the process of social benefits to a single responsible body for social protection. The concept simplifies determining the level of need of applicants receiving social benefits and speeds up the process of obtaining social benefits.

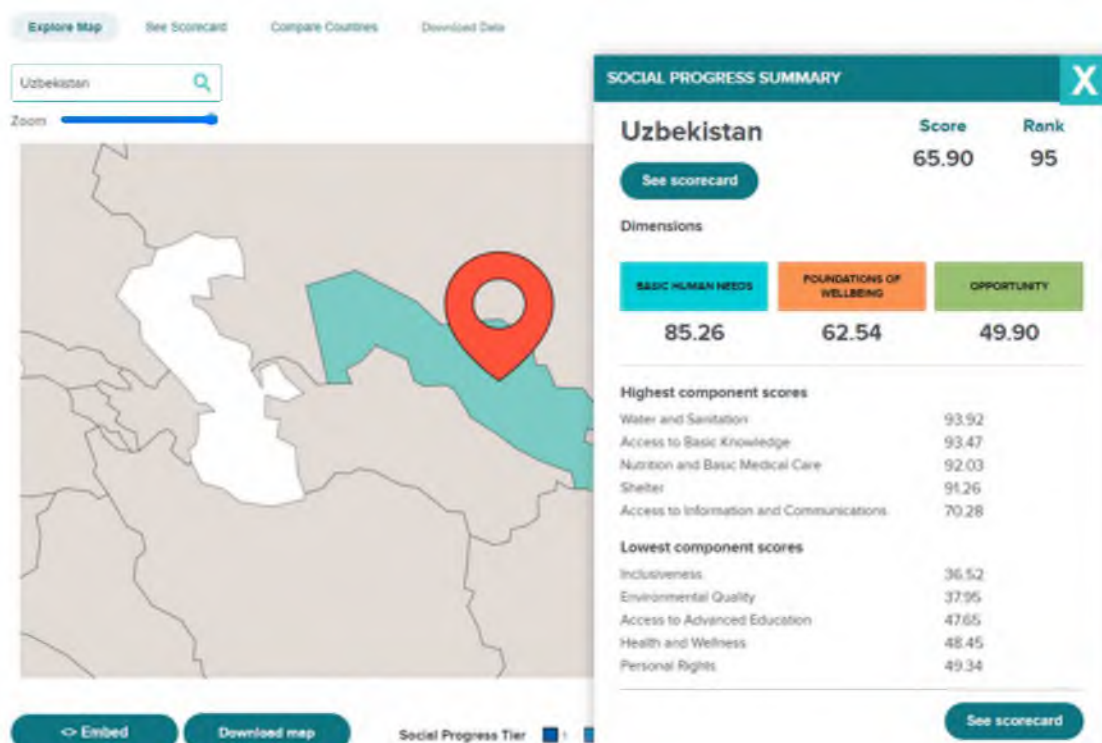
At the same time, shortcomings within the social protection system to the needy require further improvement and adaptation of social protection to international standards and the introduction of new approaches to the implementation of modern mechanisms.

Under international norms, a social insurance fund is advised by the International Labor Organization as a minimum standard of social protection for persons with disabilities, senior citizens, along with additional services such as bereavement benefits, maternity protection, and temporary disability benefits.

In the context of the pandemic, the state's policy in social protection remains a priority, namely to provide financial assistance to the needy and prevent poverty.



Recognition badge «For the protection of human rights».




This year, Uzbekistan ranked 95th out of 174 countries in the Social Progress Index (102nd place in 2020). This Index is the only measurement tool worldwide that focuses on the non-economic aspects of social efficiency, measuring countries' achievements in social development on more than 50 criteria into three groups: basic needs, foundations of well-being, and human development opportunities.

To increase the efficiency of social services provided by the state, reduce poverty within the framework of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and strengthen social protection of women, men, including youth, and people with disabilities, there is a need to unify all social legislation into a single code. The main task of the Social Code will be to regulate who can rely on the state, in what cases, and what kind of assistance can be provided.

It is also necessary to consider the ratification of ILO Convention No. 102 on Minimum Standards of Social Protection.

To ensure the implementation of the Convention against Torture and the recommendations of UN treaty committees on June 26, 2021, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan adopted Resolution No. PP-5163, **"On additional measures to improve the system of detection and prevention of torture"**. With this decision, the establishment of public groups for the detection and prevention of torture, the elimination of torture through regular monitoring visits, the establishment of an electronic system "Single Register of Persons with Disabilities", and the UN Convention against Torture of the Republic of Uzbekistan were implemented. There are plans to develop proposals for inclusion in the optional protocol to provide social, legal, and psychological assistance to victims of torture.


A draft law has also been proposed **to strengthen the procedure for compensating victims of torture.**



RESOLUTION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN


"On the Additional Measures to Improve the System of Identification and Prevention of the Cases of Torture"

June 26, 2021



1 To establish the following as priorities for identifying cases of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (hereinafter - torture) and improving the effectiveness of their prevention system:

In order to improve the national preventive mechanisms for the prevention of torture, taking into account the recommendations of the National Strategy of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Human Rights, as well as the statutory bodies and treaty committees of the UN, to ensure the implementation of the State Program "The Year of the Support to Youth and Strengthening the Health of Population":



- harmonization of the system of detection and prevention of torture with the universally recognized principles and norms of international law in the field of human rights;
- strict safeguarding that complaints to national human rights institutions from persons kept in closed institutions are not considered by the institution's administration and sent to the recipient immediately;
- improving the mechanism of prompt and impartial handling of appeals on the cases of torture and inevitability of the prosecution of perpetrators;
- ensuring provision of social, legal, psychological and medical assistance to the victims of torture and compensating them for the harm caused;
- wide involvement of civil society institutions in the detection and prevention of torture and ensuring their effective co-operation with government agencies;
- informing the wide public about the results of activities carried out to identify and prevent cases of torture;
- establishing close co-operation with international organizations and national institutions of foreign countries in the field of prevention of torture.

In recent years, the country has been taking comprehensive measures to improve the penitentiary system to prevent the recurrence of crimes and increase prisoners' correctional and social adaptation. The probation service carries out preventive measures in cooperation with the Youth Union, employment centers, citizens' self-government bodies, and other public structures.

Sixty-one thousand fifty-three people were detained by probation units, including 20,021 people in correctional facilities, 2,340 people on parole, 6,925 people deprived of certain rights, and 9,767 people in prison. In compulsory public works – 137 people and parolees – 21,863 people.

As a result of preventive measures carried out in cooperation with the general public, 53,393 detainees were deregistered, and 25,431 detainees were released on parole. As a result, 85% of the 61,053 people under the correctional system, or 51,790, have been rehabilitated.

It is proposed to develop a draft law, "**On Probation Service**" to create an innovative system for the Probation Service based on international experience, to strengthen public oversight over the execution of non-custodial sentences.

According to the Penitentiary Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, in 2016-2021, 17 Presidential decrees on pardons were issued for **5,180 people**. In 2020-2021, **1,071 people** were pardoned, and **2,647** were released from prisons. Of these, **49 were** fully released from the main sentence, while

Pardoned persons

(years cut)



513 were released on parole. The unserved sentences of **96 persons** were commuted to correctional labor sentences, and the unserved sentences of **413 persons** were reduced.

One of the important tasks in the future is to ensure that international human rights standards, taking into account the interests of prisoners, strengthen the issues of determining the grounds and procedure for pardoning in a separate law, "**On pardon.**"

There are cases of delays in the implementation of measures under the National Strategy. As of September 31, 2021, the implementation period of 46 items of the National Strategy "Road Map" has expired, but the activities of 17 things have not been completed. Although the draft laws in the strategy have been developed, their adoption is delayed.

The draft laws, "On Judicial Community Bodies", "On Advocacy and its activities", "On Free Legal Aid", "On Amendments and Addenda to the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan" On Public Oversight "have been developed, but have not been adopted yet.

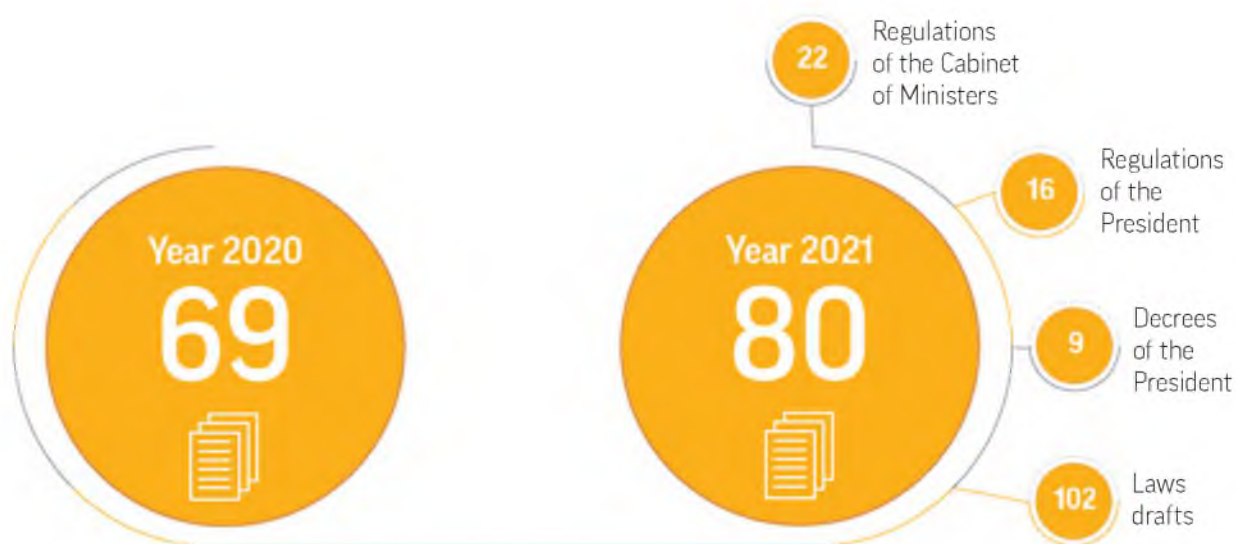
Also, the deadlines for the implementation of some items have been missed. In particular, paragraph three is the draft law's development, "On public events in the Republic of Uzbekistan" (responsible executor - the Ministry of Internal Affairs, deadline - March 20, 2021).

It is necessary to strengthen the effectiveness of implementing measures set out in the national strategy. At the same time, it is essential to increase the responsibility of relevant public authorities and managers, to ensure accountability for timely and adequate implementation of human rights measures, including administrative liability, and to strengthen the coordination capacity of the National Center for Human Rights.

Taking into account Uzbekistan's international human rights obligations, the Center has adopted more than 30 pieces of legislation and more than 40 "road maps".

In 2020, the Center conducted a legal examination of 69 draft regulations; in 2021, this figure was 80. Of these: draft laws - 102; Draft Presidential Decrees - nine; Draft Presidential Resolutions - 16; Draft resolutions of the Cabinet of Ministers - 22. Also, the Legislative Chamber, for the first time, prepared conclusions on four draft laws on compliance with human rights.

During 2020-21, the Center has developed **16** draft regulations: **5** laws, **2** presidential decrees, **9** decisions and orders of the Cabinet of Ministers. Also, based on the appeal of the Center, by the decision of the Senate Council of the Oliy Majlis of March 12, 2021, the decision of the Karshi City Council of People's Deputies (No. 88 / 19-5 of June 27, 2017) was annulled, and citizen G.H.'s appropriate housing was returned, and private property rights were restored.



Today, the Center operates under several regulations. In particular, the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, "On approval of the National Human Rights Strategy of the Republic of Uzbekistan" (No. PD-6012 of June 22, 2020), the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan

"On Establishment of the National Center for Human Rights" (No. PF-1611 of October 31, 1996), the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On improving the activities of the National Centre of the Republic of Uzbekistan for Human Rights" (December 10, 2018, No PD-4056), Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan Resolution "On the organization of training courses for staff development" (August 12, 2019, No 663), Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan (November 21, 2019, No 932) "On the support of the editorial board of the magazine "Democratization and Human Rights".

The Principles relating to the Status of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (Paris Principles), adopted by United Nations Resolution 48/134 of 1993, provide a broader mandate in the Constitution and legislation to determine the composition and scope of national institutions.

Accordingly, laws have been adopted to regulate the activities of the Oliy Majlis Representative on Human Rights (Ombudsman), the Oliy Majlis Representative on Children's Rights (Children's Ombudsman), the Representative under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Protection of the Rights and Legal Interests of Business Entities (Business Ombudsman).

The Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan **"On measures to comprehensively systematize the national legal framework"** dated April 30, 2021, provides for the consolidation of legislation on the activities of government agencies. This Decree provides for the development of a new draft normative legal act by merging the normative legal acts regulating the activities of the Center. **In this regard, it is expedient to develop a draft Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On the National Centre of the Republic of Uzbekistan for Human Rights", which regulates the activities of the Center.**

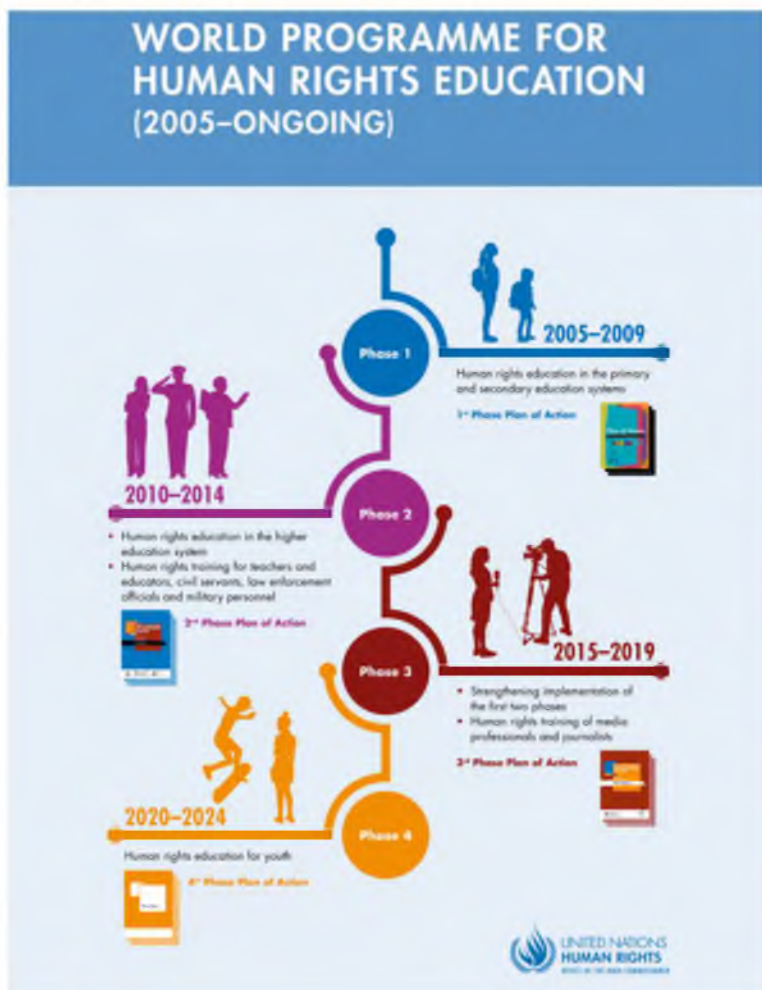
III. HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION

This year, the international community celebrates the 10th anniversary of the UN Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training, adopted on December 19, 2011. Human Rights Education has a fundamental basis for promoting respect for human rights for all, ensuring rights and freedoms based on principles of universality, indivisibility, interdependence.

The fourth goal of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, the World Programme for Human Rights Education, also identifies the teaching of human rights at all levels of education as an essential task for states.

The fourth phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education for 2020-2024 is underway. This phase aims to educate young people in the spirit of equality, respect for human rights and non-discrimination, and to create an inclusive and peaceful society.

To form a culture of human rights, the Council of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan adopted a **National Road Map for the implementation of the UN Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training** on July 15, 2019.



Government agencies, civil society institutions, the media, and educational institutions have been widely involved in promoting the universal values, respect for and observance of human rights, as well as in ensuring citizens' access to legal information. In particular, special training courses have been developed. They are being implemented in all forms and types of training and retraining (higher, secondary special vocational education) to improve human rights education.

The Decree of the President of Uzbekistan dated April 29, 2020, **"On additional measures to radically improve legal education and science in the Republic of Uzbekistan"** ensures the independent functioning of Tashkent State Law University, and the Institute of State and Law, Namangan, Samarkand, and Termez. Measures are being taken to establish law faculties in these

universities. In addition, based on the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur of the UN Human Rights Council on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers D. García-Sayán, the scope of training of lawyers is expanding.

The resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of March 13, 2021, adopted a regulation on improving and assessing the level of legal literacy of employees of government agencies. According to the regulations, training materials on the legal literacy of employees of government agencies are independently mastered through an electronic platform. Once every three years, their level of legal literacy is assessed.

The National Center for Human Rights has organized training courses for government officials and civil society institutions on human rights compliance and protection.

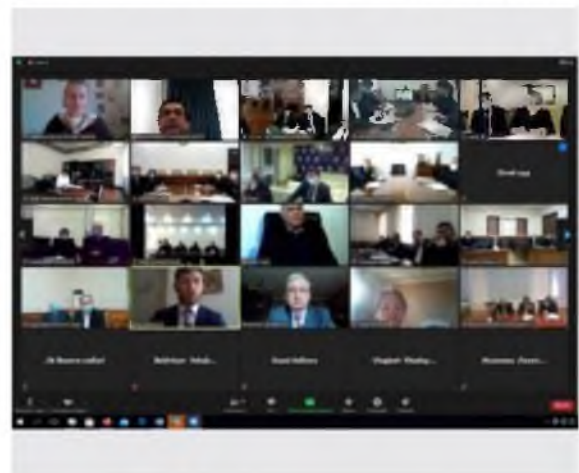
A special training module, "**Human dignity – the highest value**", has been developed to improve the skills of senior officials of the judiciary and law enforcement agencies in the field of human rights. Based on this module, from November 2020 to January 2021, **40 webinars** were organized, and more than **400 executives** were trained. Nine international experts were involved in these webinars.

The Center has also developed curricula on "Human Rights" for educational institutions of different directions and levels. The winners of the competition, "Education and Research in the Digital Economy, Human Rights," which was organized for the first time in 2020, were awarded to 12 nominees out of 80 participants.

The Ministry of Justice has developed a legal, logical, interactive, and entertainment portal, "bolahuqi.uz – Portal of Children's Rights". The Academy of the Prosecutor General's Office has opened a **Master's program in International Human Rights**.

To improve the teaching and training of human rights in the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan, classes on "Human Rights Protection and Enforcement Activities" were introduced for students of the Faculty of Management. Also, the Department of Human Rights was reorganized at the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

Under the National Strategy, the Higher Attestation Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan decided to include in the "List of highly qualified scientific and scientific-pedagogical personnel" specialty 12.00.13 - "Human Rights (legal sciences, sociology)", as well as legal sciences at the National Center for Human Rights and the Academic Council was established to award the degrees of Doctor of Science (DSc) and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Law and Sociology.



To train highly qualified scientific researchers and scientific-pedagogical scholars in human rights and to develop fundamental research in this area, **the Institute of Postgraduate Education in 12.00.13 – "Human Rights" (legal sciences, sociology) was opened**, and admission of doctoral students and independent researchers was established.

In 2020-2021, the Center published more than **30** practical manuals, collections, and methodological literature on compliance with international human rights obligations and distributed them to more than 50 government agencies and organizations, educational institutions, non-governmental organizations.

For the first time in our country, the text of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Law "On the Rights of Persons with Disabilities" was published in Braille.



It should be noted that **the report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in 2020** positively assessed cooperation with Uzbekistan in human rights. Uzbekistan has also provided \$ 100,000 to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Human Rights, including the organization and holding of a global forum on human rights education.

Most importantly, the report notes that despite the pandemic conditions, the country has been consistently working with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to improve the skills and capacity of government officials.

In particular:

- **200 specialists** – access to justice under quarantine measures;
- **25 lawyers** – the right to liberty, justice, freedom from torture, the use of international mechanisms for the protection of human rights, and the application of international human rights law in national courts;
- **400 members of the judiciary and law enforcement agencies** – to study the procedures for working with notices of the UN Human Rights Committee;
- **44 specialists** – experience in reporting and monitoring the activities of civil society organizations involved in the field of human rights;
- **180 people** – participated in seminars on the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

To build respect for human rights and freedoms in society and to fully implement the recommendations of international and regional mechanisms, it is necessary to systematically improve the human rights training of judicial and law enforcement agencies and other government agencies.

In April-May 2021, at the initiative of the Center, **monitoring was conducted** to study the introduction of courses, textbooks, and quality of teaching on "Human Rights," "Women's Rights," and "Children's Rights" in universities, lyceums, and colleges.

The monitoring covered higher education institutions, technical schools, and academic lyceums operating in Namangan, Khorezm, Samarkand regions, and the Republic of Karakalpakstan. A survey was conducted among 248 professors and 456 students of these educational institutions.

The monitoring report of higher education institutions showed that the special course "Human Rights" is taught in the higher education system not by legal specialists but mainly by historians or teachers of philosophy.

In some universities (Namangan State University, Samarkand State University, Samarkand Medical and Veterinary Institute, Samarkand Institute of Economics and Service, Silk Road International Tourism University, Berdakh Karakalpak State University, Urgench branch of the Tashkent Medical Academy), it was not possible to teach the special course due to the lack of financial resources. The monitoring also revealed that the subjects "Women's Rights" and "Children's Rights" are not taught at all. Human rights courses have not yet been organized at teacher training institutes.

Despite the country's ongoing reforms in human rights education, there are several unresolved issues, shortcomings, and untapped opportunities.

Including:

- The special training course on "Human Rights Studies" for all undergraduate students from the first semester of the 2020/2021 academic year was not taught in all universities, despite the instruction given by the Ministry of Higher and Secondary Special Education;
- Although special training courses on "Human Rights Studies" have been set up in some universities, they are taught by non-specialist teachers due to unresolved funding issues;
- Lack of modern textbooks, teaching and didactic, multimedia materials on "Human Rights," "Women's Rights," "Children's Rights."

To further increase the effectiveness of work in the field of human rights education, the Presidential Decree (No. F-5664 of 7 June 2021) "On the establishment of the National Commission for the implementation of the fourth phase of the World Human Rights Education Program in Uzbekistan" was accepted. According to this decree, the National Commission is tasked to develop a national education program in human rights, taking into account the norms and standards of international treaties, the recommendations of UN human rights structures, and the historical, national, and cultural values of Uzbek society.

Considering the country's commitments in the framework of international instruments and the threats and challenges posed by the pandemic and its consequences reflects the new approaches, new methodologies, and practices to effectively implement the tasks set out in the National Human Rights Strategy. The issue of organizing human rights education is also on the agenda.

Currently, the Center has developed a draft **National Human Rights education program to implement the fourth phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education in the Republic of Uzbekistan**, developed jointly with government agencies, civil society institutions, and international partners.

IV. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS

In response to the call of the UN Secretary-General, Uzbekistan hosted two international forums on the 75th anniversary of the United Nations as part of a series of global discussions entitled **"The UN 75: A Look into the future"**.

On June 26, 2020, discussions were held on **"Uzbekistan and the UN: Cooperation for Sustainable Development Goals"** global debate on the UN and its structures (UNDP, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNFPA, International Organization for Migration, International Labor Organization, World Health Organization), the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the OSCE and



O'ZBEKISTON RESPUBLIKASI PREZIDENTI
SH. M. MIRZIYOYEVNING
MUROJAATNOMASI

ADDRESS
OF THE PRESIDENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN
SH. M. MIRZIYOYEV



other influential international organizations participated. The address of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dedicated to the 75th anniversary of the United Nations and the congratulatory message of the UN Secretary-General were read at the event.

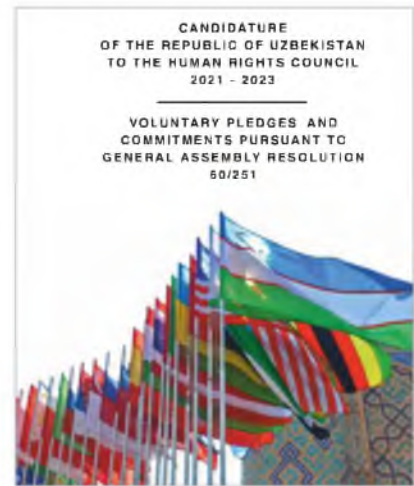
On July 21, 2020, the International Forum,



“Sustainable Development Goals and Sustainable Social Development: Effective Recovery from the Complications of COVID-19”, discussed issues in the areas of culture, health, labor, and social development in the context of the coronavirus pandemic.

Measures have been taken to ensure the election of the Republic of Uzbekistan as a member of the UN Human Rights Council; 169 out of 193 UN member states voted in favor of Uzbekistan.

New Uzbekistan is emerging from the highest tribunes of international organizations with several proposals and initiatives in democratic reforms and human rights.



In particular:

- Adoption of a special resolution of the United Nations General Assembly on achieving the goals of sustainable development and enhancing the role of parliaments in ensuring human rights;
- Organization of the Global Education Forum in the framework of the Regular Human Rights Dialogue in Samarkand;
- Development of the World Environmental Charter, aimed at establishing a new environmental policy of the United Nations;
- Establishment of a permanent Central and South Asian Youth Council to improve cooperation with the youth;
- Hosting the Central Asian Youth Forum in Uzbekistan;
- Establishment of a Regional Council for people with disabilities to realize their full potential;
- Establishment of the UN Special Rapporteur on Youth Rights;
- Development of Universal principles of the Council of Judges;
- Establishment of a regional human rights mechanism in Asia.

An action plan (“Road Map”) for implementing the initiatives and statements of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan at the 46th session of the UN Human Rights Council has been developed. In particular, the resolution of the UN Human Rights Council, **“Human Rights implications of the COVID-19 pandemic on young people”** developed in October at the initiative of Uzbekistan, was unanimously approved.

In the framework of the 47th session of the UN Human Rights Council, on July 5, 2021, representatives of Uzbekistan took part in an online event on the “Rehabilitation and reintegration of women and children from Syria and Iraq”. The UN Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Fight against Terrorism says that some 70,000 people, primarily women and children, from 57 countries, are in critical condition in the Al-Hol and Roj camps in northeastern Syria.



Uzbekistan has conducted five Mehr operations and set up working groups to rehabilitate women and children evacuated from hotspots. The working groups are responsible for the rehabilitation of these citizens, restoration of documents, employment, shelter, placement of children in schools and preschools, the appointment of guardians and trustees for orphans, or placement in state social institutions.

In support of UN Secretary-General António Guterres' proposal to take drastic measures to reduce the



number of stateless persons, 70,000 people will be able to obtain Uzbek citizenship in 2020-2021. Several positive steps have been taken in Uzbekistan to implement the global campaign "I belong" ("#Ibelong") to eliminate statelessness until 2024. In particular, as a result of amendments to the Law on Citizenship of the Republic of Uzbekistan, mechanisms have been created to recognize the citizenship of the Republic of Uzbekistan by persons registered at the place of permanent residence in the Republic of Uzbekistan before January 1, 2005.

In cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Center conducted a series of roundtables, seminars, and training on reducing and eliminating stateless persons and published international agreements and textbooks in the state language.

In 2020, Uzbekistan presented its first National Voluntary Report at the High-Level Political Forum on

Sustainable Development. Of the 169 targets set out in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), 92 percent are related to international human rights instruments. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development focuses on implementing the principle of "striving for the realization of human rights for all." Most of the SDGs reflect the provisions of international human rights instruments. Analyzing this important process in the case of Uzbekistan, 868 recommendations were made to our country within the UN Treaty Committees, Special Rapporteurs, and the Universal Periodic Reporting Mechanism, of which 460 (53%) are directly related to the SDGs.

Uzbekistan is working to integrate SDGs into national development strategies and programs, including comprehensive, sectoral, and regional programs, based on the principle of "leaving no one behind". To date, 105 (or 84 percent) of the 125 national target SDG indicators have been covered in more than 190 Government regulatory, policy, and strategic documents. At the regional and district levels, there is a **Parliamentary Commission for Monitoring the Implementation of National Goals and Objectives**, which hears periodic reports from government agencies responsible at both the national and regional levels.

The relations between Uzbekistan and the International Labor Organization are developing rapidly and consistently. As a result of Uzbekistan's accession to the Organization's conventions and recommendations and their implementation, our country has made significant progress in eliminating child labor and forced labor. At the International Summit of the International Labor Organization on COVID-19 and the field of labor, the President of Uzbekistan initiated the adoption of the International Code of Voluntary Obligations of States during the Pandemic under the auspices of the United Nations. It was proposed that the Code set out the

minimum conditions and obligations of states to their citizens and international partners in the political, social, economic, humanitarian, and human rights spheres and that all restrictive measures should be implemented only temporarily, in strict compliance with human rights and freedoms.

Also, on June 4, 2021, Uzbekistan ratified the **ILO Convention No. 187 on the Fundamentals of Occupational Safety and Health** (Geneva, June 15, 2006). The primary purpose of the Convention is to continuously improve occupational safety and health to prevent occupational injuries, occupational diseases, and deaths.

In today's increasingly globalized world and at a time when threats such as the COVID-19 pandemic are on the rise, improving the mechanism for protecting the rights of migrants remains a priority. According to the "Action Plan to expand cooperation between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the International Organization for Migration for 2021-2023," approved by the Cabinet of Ministers, several joint activities are being carried out to ensure safe, orderly, and legal migration and protection of migrants' rights. In particular, for the period up to 2030, there are plans to develop a concept of state policy in the field of migration of the Republic of Uzbekistan, which provides for the achievement of guaranteed equality in the social protection of migrant workers. The Center also has an Information Resource Center for Migrant Rights, which hosts international and national publications and other information resources to protect migrants' rights.

To implement the initiative to create a permanent platform for the regional human rights mechanism in Asia, the Cabinet of Ministers adopted Resolution No. 641 of October 9, 2020 "On approval of the concept of the Samarkand Forum on Human Rights and regulations of the Samarkand Forum on Human Rights."

The Samarkand Online Forum on Human Rights "**Youth – 2020: Global Solidarity, Sustainable Development and Human Rights**" held August 12-13, 2020. The draft Convention on the Rights of Youth initiated by the

Information Resource Center on Migrant Rights



Republic of Uzbekistan was discussed at the forum. The adopted resolution was presented as an official document of the 74th session of the UN General Assembly. The resolution was distributed as an official document of the Permanent Council of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and sent to all member states



of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. In addition, the text of the resolution was published on the official website of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

On August 12-13, 2021, Tashkent hosted the World Conference on Youth Rights, **"Involving Youth in Global Action"**, which resulted in the adoption of the Tashkent Youth Declaration. Details of the conference were covered by more than 50 national and more than 30 foreign media outlets. Eighty-eight thousand eight hundred thirteen articles on this topic were published in the national media, and 28,963 articles in the foreign press.

Support of the United Nations Human Rights Initiative, Uzbekistan's cooperation with the UN statutory and treaty bodies, and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights has reached new levels.

On March 11, 2021, Uzbekistan was included in the list of 128 countries that have sent permanent invitations to Uzbekistan by special mandate of the UN Human Rights Mission to cooperate fully with all UN human rights structures.

The system of special procedures covers personal, political, social, economic, cultural, environmental, and other rights as an important element of the UN human rights mechanism. Today, the UN system has 44 thematic mandates and for 11 country-specific rapporteurs, authorized to conduct independent monitoring within their mandates.



United Nations

OSCE

FRIEDRICH
EBERT
STIFTUNG



In the framework of the 44th session of the UN Human Rights Council in 2020, the report by D. García-Sayán, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers, on his visit to Uzbekistan was heard.

This year, the UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights while countering terrorism F. Ní Aoláin also visited Uzbekistan in 2021.

The Regional Representative of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights for Central Asia, Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing and Non-Discrimination as an integral part of the UN Human Rights Council's right to a decent standard of living B. Rajagopal and Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities G. Quinn. In a joint statement, raised concern about the violation of property rights of groups of citizens in Tashkent, Samarkand, Surkhandarya and Tashkent regions. The COVID-19 pandemic is a serious threat to the health and lives of victims, property owners are not notified promptly, citizens are forced to leave their homes without notice, and their limited access to the judicial process was highlighted.

Based on the recommendations of the UN Human Rights Council and treaty committees, the Center studied the issue of Uzbekistan's accession to two important international agreements, in particular:

- **Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;**

For reference: UN General Assembly Resolution 57/199 of 18 December 2002 adopted the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, which entered into force on 22 June 2006. As of August 1, 2021, 91 countries participated in the Optional Protocol. Thirteen states have signed the Optional Protocol but have not yet ratified it. The primary purpose of the Optional Protocol is to establish a system of regular monitoring of institutions where persons deprived of their liberty are held by independent international and national bodies aimed at preventing torture.

- **Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child on communications procedure.**

For information: UN General Assembly Resolution 66/138 of 19 December 2011 adopted the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which entered into force on 14 April 2014. To date, 48 states are parties to the Optional Protocol, and 16 states have signed but not yet ratified.

The Committee on the Rights of the Child may also receive complaints about the protection of minors, detailing the procedure for applying in case of violation of the child's rights under the present Optional Protocol. An investigation may also be ordered against that State if the Committee on the Rights of the Child has received credible information that a child's rights have been grossly or routinely violated.

In recent years, Uzbekistan has achieved several significant results in freedom of conscience. In particular, in 2020, the US State Department removed Uzbekistan from the "Special Watch List" on religious freedom. The Uzbek delegation regularly participated in Ministerial Conferences on Religious Freedom and International Symposiums on Law and Religion. At these conferences, Uzbekistan's achievements in religious freedom were positively assessed.

On July 5, 2021, a new law, "**On Freedom of Conscience and Religious Organizations**", was adopted. The law takes into account the recommendations of the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief, the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe, the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, and the Center for International Legal and Religious Studies at Brigham Young University, as well as the general public and religious organizations. The law has also been harmonized with the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and Discrimination based on Religion and Belief, and the Rabat Plan and Action. Several innovations were introduced into the law.

Including:

- The procedure for obtaining the consent of citizens' assemblies of a religious organization, taking into account the proposals of foreign experts and a small number of religious communities, was abolished;
- The ban on citizens walking in public places in prayer clothes was lifted;
- The procedure for state registration of religious organizations has been radically simplified, i.e. the number of initiators has been reduced from the current 100 to 50, the 3-month period for considering documents has been set at one month, and the state duty has been reduced by five times;
- Registration and other public services are fully electronic.

Multilateral cooperation on the criteria of humanity within the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe is essential. In particular, an international roundtable on Graz's recommendations on national minorities was held on 26 July 2021 to create the conditions necessary to ensure equal access to justice for all. Graz's recommendations summarize issues and practical approaches to addressing the judiciary and national human rights institutions.

The Center is also developing a draft **National Action Plan of the Republic of Uzbekistan on UN Security Council Resolution 1325, "Women, Peace, and Security"**, in cooperation with the OSCE.

The **Cairo Declaration on Human Rights of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation** was adopted at the 47th session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation on November 27-28, 2020, in Niamey. Uzbekistan proposed to include in the Declaration norms on human rights education, women's and children's rights, and justice.

On April 10, 2021, the EU Special Preference System for Sustainable Development and Good Governance (GSP +) will come into force for Uzbekistan. Uzbekistan has been recognized as a beneficiary of the system under the General System of Preferences (GSP).

By joining the GSP + system, countries undertake to effectively implement 27 major international conventions on human and labor rights, the environment and climate protection, and quality management. Seven of these documents are international treaties directly related to human rights. During the talks, the Center regularly provided information on reforms in human rights under the GSP + system, the implementation of international obligations.

The 2020 report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights acknowledges that Uzbekistan is one of the few countries that has prepared an interim report on implementing the recommendations of the Universal Periodic Review Mechanism.

According to the report, due to the priority given to gender equality in Uzbekistan, it is important that the State Statistics Committee included the problem of discrimination against women in 2020 in the list of multi-indicator complex studies. Also, within the framework of the National Strategy, the state statistical system for collecting information based on qualitative and quantitative indicators related to the protection of human rights is being improved.



Uzbekistan is creating a National Database to follow the recommendations of the UN human rights structures. The Center created this database in cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, which will further accelerate the work and processes as a national mechanism for reporting on human rights and future activities. The database serves as a valuable resource for government agencies and civil society institutions in the field of human rights.

V. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In 2020-2021, the country took important measures to ensure the implementation of international human rights obligations. The National Human Rights Strategy sets goals and measures to improve the human rights protection system in the near future and is currently being implemented.

At the same time, some problems negatively affect the practical application of international human rights standards, the reliable protection of the rights and freedoms of citizens:

First, the incomplete digitization of the database, even though government agencies limit the excessive demand for specific information from the population and businesses, creates certain difficulties for citizens, especially those working abroad, in accessing public services;

secondly, in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the lack of clear mechanisms for taking emergency measures in the law, regulated by legislation, created certain difficulties in ensuring human rights in the context of the pandemic;

third, taking into account the main shortcomings and weaknesses of the current system of social protection, radical reform of this system, the establishment of a state body responsible for the development and implementation of a unified state policy in the field of social protection, international standards of social protection instruments and leading foreign it is necessary to reconsider based on experience;

fourth, the formation of respect for human rights and freedoms in society, the lack of knowledge and skills on human rights among government officials, especially law enforcement officers, has a negative impact on the practice of law enforcement in the field of human rights;

fifth, the lack of cooperation between government agencies and civil society institutions in the field of human rights, as well as insufficient activity of non-governmental, non-profit organizations in the preparation of "alternative" reports on human rights;

sixth, the failure of the judiciary and law enforcement agencies to apply the norms of international human rights treaties has led to well-founded objections by UN statutory bodies and treaty committees.

The main idea of the new Uzbekistan' Strategy is to strengthen the role of civil society institutions, protect human rights, reduce poverty, provide everyone with a guaranteed source of income and achieve sustainable environmental development.

To achieve the effective implementation of obligations arising from international human rights treaties, as well as the recommendations of international and regional organizations, the following is proposed:

- 1 Development of the draft Social Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan;
- 2 Adoption of the Constitutional law "On State of Emergency";
- 3 Adoption of the law "On external labor migration";
- 4 Development of the draft law "On the basis of the organization of public services";
- 5 Development of the draft law "On probation service";
- 6 Development of a draft law "On amnesty";
- 7 Development of the draft law "On the National Centre of the Republic of Uzbekistan for Human Rights";
- 8 Adoption of a National Human Rights Education program for the implementation of the fourth phase of the World Education Program;
- 9 Ratification of ILO Convention No. 102 on Minimum Standards of Social Protection;
- 10 Ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;
- 11 Ratification of the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure.

«New Uzbekistan and Human Rights» Library

NEW UZBEKISTAN AND HUMAN RIGHTS

INFORMATION

ON COMPLIANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS OBLIGATIONS IN THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

Published

National Centre of the Republic of Uzbekistan for Human Rights.
100029, Tashkent, Islam Karimov street, 15.