
Fulfilment of International Human Rights Obligations: the Experience of New Uzbekistan

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In a world marked by political and economic conflicts, New Uzbekistan prioritizes ensuring human dignity, peace, and prosperity as key state policies. Actively engaged with the United Nations, Uzbekistan addresses global challenges through dialogue, cooperation, and fostering inter-ethnic and interreligious interaction.

Uzbekistan's international contributions include 10 UN General Assembly resolutions and its first-time election to the UN Human Rights Council. Initiatives led to resolutions on "Human Rights Implications of COVID-19 on Young People" (2021), "Youth and Human Rights" (2022), and "Ensuring Quality Education for Peace" (2023). In 2025, Samarkand will host the UNESCO General Conference's 43rd session, reflecting the nation's commitment to global human rights and development.

Milestones in Human Rights Commitments

Uzbekistan actively reports on its implementation of international human rights treaties, submitting key national reports in 2023, including the Universal Periodic Review and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Engagement with the International Labour Organization (ILO) has resulted in over 40 labor normative acts and ratification of 22 conventions, recognized as a global model for social justice.

The new Constitution strengthens human rights guarantees, enshrining principles like the prohibition of the death penalty, the right to a favorable environment, and mechanisms for appealing to international human rights bodies. It includes over 90 human rights, 40 of which are new, underscoring Uzbekistan's commitment to legal reforms that

align with global standards.

Institutional Reforms and Anti-Torture Policies

Uzbekistan has banned torture and adopted the Nelson Mandela Rules, reflecting constitutional commitments to human rights. The amended Constitution recognizes the right to free legal aid for low-income groups, gender equality complainants, and individuals requiring psychiatric care. The Children's Ombudsman Act and a forthcoming Commissioner for Human Rights Act strengthen institutional frameworks, while a National Human Rights Strategy guides gender equality and the fight against violence.

Advancements in Social Justice and Environmental Protection

Uzbekistan's policies emphasize social justice and environmental responsibility. Laws addressing unauthorized land ownership will benefit over 10 million citizens, enhancing housing rights. Environmental initiatives, including the Paris Agreement and strategies for biodiversity and a green economy, signal a strong commitment to sustainability. A Climate Council under the President focuses on combating climate change.

Promoting Tolerance and Inter-Ethnic Harmony

Uzbekistan fosters a culture of tolerance, celebrating July 30 as Peoples' Friendship Day. Home to over 130 ethnic groups and 16 religious denominations, it supports 157 cultural centers and promotes multi-lingual education and media. Initiatives include broadcasting in 12 languages and publishing in over 10, reinforcing inter-ethnic harmony.

Education and Human Rights Awareness

The National Programme for Human Rights Education integrates courses on human, women's, and children's rights into vocational and higher education. Educational resources are widely disseminated, supported by an electronic platform. Parliamentary oversight of human rights compliance further strengthens accountability.

Business and Human Rights

Uzbekistan engages businesses in promoting human rights through a Business Ombudsman, Business Day initiatives, and a forthcoming National Plan of Action on Business and Human Rights. This reflects a commitment to integrating human rights in economic development.

International Engagement and Human Rights Forums

The Fourth Human Rights Forum in Samarkand, themed “Environmental Problems and Human Rights,” underscored Uzbekistan’s proactive role in addressing global challenges. The “Samarkand spirit” has made such forums a tradition for discussing pressing human rights issues.

The Uzbekistan-2030 Strategy

Aligned with UN Sustainable Development Goals, the Uzbekistan-2030 Strategy focuses on strengthening the rule of law, judicial reform, and enhancing legal aid systems. The strategy introduces investigating judges to oversee detention and coercive measures, ensuring due process.

Democratic Developments and Electoral Reforms

In October 2024, Uzbekistan will hold parliamentary elections under a mixed majoritarian-proportional system, ensuring greater representation. Gender quotas mandate women’s participation in both majoritarian and proportional electoral systems.

Conclusion

Uzbekistan’s reforms in human rights, environmental responsibility, and democratic governance reflect a robust commitment to international standards. By fostering tolerance, ensuring social justice, and strengthening constitutional protections, the nation sets a model for sustainable development and human rights advocacy.

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