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THE SIGNIFICANCE AND PROSPECTS OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL REFORMS IMPLEMENTED IN UZBEKISTAN

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Abstract

This article analyzes the constitutional reforms implemented in Uzbekistan since 1992, their role in the development of public administration, civil society, and the rule of law. It also highlights the main directions of the reforms and their future prospects. The author reveals the contribution of constitutional changes to ensuring the rights and freedoms of citizens.

Keywords: Constitutional reforms, rule of law, civil society, human rights, democracy, Constitution of Uzbekistan.

Introduction

The Constitution is the main legal document of any state, serving as the main law regulating its political, economic and social life. The Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan was adopted on December 8, 1992 and defined the legal foundations of the construction of an independent state. Over the past period, a number of amendments and additions have been made to the Constitution. These reforms served as an important stage in the country's democratic development, ensuring human rights and freedoms.

One of the main directions of constitutional reforms is the improvement of the system of state administration. Within the framework of constitutional reforms, the powers between the branches of state power have been more clearly defined, the authority of the parliament and the judiciary has been increased. In particular, the powers of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan have been expanded, and the law-making activity has been strengthened. Secondly, the protection of human rights and freedoms is being ensured. As a result of the reforms, national



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human rights institutions have been created - the Human Rights Commissioner (Ombudsman), the Children's Ombudsman and other mechanisms. In recent constitutional changes, guarantees for the personal, political, socio-economic rights of citizens have been strengthened.

The new Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan establishes a number of norms aimed at strengthening the powers and financial independence of local authorities. This will serve to develop the activities of self-government bodies in these areas.

Constitutional reforms have served to develop the rule of law and civil society in the country. As a result of the reforms:

- -a balance of powers between the branches of state power has been ensured;
- -legal mechanisms for guaranteeing the constitutional rights and freedoms of citizens have been strengthened;
- -a solid legal framework has been created for the implementation of economic reforms;
- -the independence and functioning of the judicial system have been improved.

The process of constitutional reforms in Uzbekistan continues. In the future, further strengthening the legal framework of civil society, developing legal mechanisms in line with international standards for the protection of human rights, establishing the principles of the digital state at the constitutional level, and strengthening constitutional guarantees for the protection of environmental rights and the environment are important steps.

When reflecting on the latest important institutional reforms implemented in Uzbekistan, first of all, we can mention the work carried out in preparation for the important political event held on April 30, 2023 - the nationwide referendum on amendments and additions to the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and the Constitution adopted in a new edition.

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In the new version of the Constitution, the absolute powers of the Legislative Chamber were increased from 5 to 12, and the number of absolute powers of the Senate was increased from 14 to 18. After an important political event, political groups around the world, including members of the European Parliament, touched upon the essence of the Constitutional reform and specifically recognized that the number of norms on human rights and freedoms in the Basic Law increased by 3.5 times.

The new version of the Constitution is a vital necessity arising from the evolutionary development of Uzbek society, and this is an extremely important issue for us to determine our next steps as a country, nation and people, a huge step towards building a just society.

It is necessary to ensure constitutional protection of the achievements we have made over the past six years, in particular, the lifting of hundreds of restrictions in the fields of economy, human rights, justice, freedom of speech and belief, social protection, the resolution of problems with cash, currency, credit issues, the thawing of the 25-year "ice" between us and our neighbors, and other positive actions, so that they cannot be reversed. In order for these achievements, rights and freedoms to be freely enjoyed not only by our current but also future generations, they must be enshrined in the Constitution. We are all witnessing the fact that unexpected dangers and threats are emerging in the world every day. It is impossible to predict when and how today's conflicting processes and economic confrontations will end. It is no secret that even the question of whether some countries will remain on the world map is still open. Global problems such as the fact that nearly 100 million people around the world are seeking refuge in other countries to save their lives, food shortages, energy shortages, and pandemics are seriously worrying the population of developed countries, and it is impossible not to think that all of this will affect us as well.



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Moreover, the situation in our region also causes us serious concern: almost 50 years of unrest continue near us.

It is worth noting that this text of the Constitution was not created by scientists and specialists only in cabinets. Perhaps, first, the opinions and proposals of our people were studied in two stages, and only then the draft Constitution was prepared. Previously, when adopting the Constitution, a draft was first developed and then put up for public discussion.

- in the first stage, our citizens submitted more than 60 thousand proposals for the formation of the draft Constitution. Approximately one in four of them was included in the draft;
- in the second stage, the draft Constitution was put up for public discussion. 5 million people got acquainted with the draft through the media and the Internet, and more than 150 thousand proposals and comments were made.

At the same time, during discussions with labor unions, universities, community activists and intellectuals, about 10 thousand additional proposals were received. At the same time, international legal documents and the experience of more than 190 countries were studied, the draft underwent 6 types of expertise.

All this indicates that the interests of all segments of society are taken into account in the new edition of the Constitution, that the entire society has united around the idea of building a New Uzbekistan, and that our Basic Law is literally becoming a people's Constitution.

The Constitution firmly establishes that Uzbekistan is a sovereign, democratic, legal and social state.

Strong social protection and care for the needy will remain an important direction of state policy. For the first time in our history, Uzbekistan is being defined as a social state. That is, attention and care for a person are being strengthened as the most important duty of the state and society.

Constitutional reforms play an important role in the legal, social and economic development of Uzbekistan. They serve as a solid foundation for the formation of a democratic state and civil society, ensuring human rights and freedoms. In the future, reforms will continue consistently, creating the basis for the country's sustainable development.



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