



## THE PLACE OF UZBEKISTAN IN THE WORLD COMMUNITY

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<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10128926>

**Annotation:** In recent years, Uzbekistan has undergone significant transformation, a fact acknowledged both domestically and internationally. The International Partnership Initiatives Week, themed "New Uzbekistan: Development, Innovation, and Enlightenment," centrally focuses on these evolving elements. This event has drawn over 450 participants, including statesmen, policymakers, researchers, business leaders, experts, high-ranking embassy officials, and representatives from international organizations across 60 nations. This educational project has garnered substantial attention from the global community.

**Key words:** *Development, Innovation, Enlightenment, New Uzbekistan, substantial, global community, international community ;*

The current state of Uzbekistan differs significantly from that of six or seven years ago. This transformation has been acknowledged not only within the country but also by the international community. The International Partnership Initiatives Week, themed "New Uzbekistan: Development, Innovation, and Enlightenment," held in the capital, has brought attention to these changes. Over 450 participants, including statesmen, politicians, scientists, business representatives, experts, high-ranking embassy officials, and members of international organizations from more than 60 countries, are engaged in this educational initiative, which has captured the world's interest.

Sodiq Safoyev, the First Deputy Chairman of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan, highlighted that the ongoing transformations in Uzbekistan are impacting various facets such as domestic and foreign policy, the economy, industry, the social sphere, culture, art, science, and innovation. These positive changes aim to uphold human dignity and prioritize individuals' rights and interests.

The primary objective of the International Partnership Initiatives Week is to facilitate dialogue between domestic and international experts, analysts, scientists, and politicians focused on democratic reforms in the new era of Uzbekistan. This includes discussions on the nature of these reforms, their achievements, immediate objectives, and the emergence of an entirely new socio-economic, political, legal, spiritual, and educational landscape, as well as the priority areas of the country's domestic and foreign policy.

The International Conference "Renewed Constitution: Legal Basis for Reforms" addressed topics related to deepening democratic reforms, building a welfare state, fostering a civil society, and other pertinent issues.

Uzbekistan is dedicated to upholding key foreign policy principles, including carrying out an open, practical, and balanced foreign policy based on national interests. The country is committed to developing equal and mutually beneficial relations with other nations, adhering to universally recognized international norms and principles such as respect for sovereignty

and territorial integrity, non-interference in internal affairs, peaceful dispute resolution, and the non-use or threat of force.

In accordance with its Foreign Policy Concept, Uzbekistan reserves the right to form alliances and join intergovernmental organizations, and also has the prerogative to withdraw from them when it serves the supreme interests of the state and its people, prioritizing their well-being and security, and in accordance with existing national legislation and international obligations.

Uzbekistan pursues a peaceful policy and refrains from participating in military-political blocs, reserving the right to leave any intergovernmental organization if it transforms into a military-political bloc. The country takes measures to prevent its involvement in military conflicts and tensions in neighboring states, and prohibits the deployment of foreign military bases and facilities on its territory.

In alignment with the Constitution, the Law "On Defense," and the Military Doctrine, the Armed Forces of Uzbekistan are solely created for the protection of the country's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and the peaceful life and security of its population, and do not participate in peacekeeping operations abroad.

In contemporary times, Uzbekistan's primary foreign policy objectives include advancing international cooperation in various domains such as politics, trade, culture, science, and technology. Additionally, the country aims to create conducive foreign policy conditions to support democratic reforms and modernize its society and economy. Uzbekistan also seeks to foster peace and stability in Central Asia, contributing to the region's security and development, particularly in Afghanistan. Moreover, the nation aims to establish a balanced and diverse strategic partnership with leading countries and international organizations, maintain geopolitical equilibrium in the region, and diversify its trade, economic, and technological relations. Furthermore, Uzbekistan aims to utilize political, diplomatic, and international legal mechanisms for timely conflict resolution in the region, while enhancing its international image and attractiveness for investment, tourism, culture, and historical appeal. The country also endeavors to attract foreign investments and high technologies to vital sectors of its economy, promote the development of international transport and communication corridors for global market access, and safeguard the rights and interests of its citizens and legal entities abroad.

Uzbekistan actively supports the work of the United Nations Human Rights Council and engages in regular and constructive cooperation with UN human rights bodies. In particular, the country has been involved in the Universal Periodic Review mechanism, which provides an equal and non-discriminatory assessment of the human rights situations of all states. Uzbekistan underwent its second cycle of the UPR in April 2013, resulting in the adoption of 115 recommendations by the country. Subsequently, in November 2014, the government formulated a comprehensive National Plan of Action for implementing the recommendations of the second UPR and UN treaty bodies.

Within the framework of dialogue with UN special procedures, Uzbekistan has been furnishing detailed information on various human rights aspects in response to relevant requests from special procedures mandate holders. Over the past five years, the country has responded to over 40 such requests. Additionally, Uzbekistan has consistently sent high-level delegations to the High-Level Segment of the Human Rights Council held annually in Geneva.

Notably, in March 2014, a delegation led by H.E. Akmal Saidov, Director of the National Human Rights Center of Uzbekistan, participated in the HLS of the Council.

Through its implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Program of Actions, Uzbekistan notably became the first Central Asian state to establish a system of national human rights institutions. The country's ongoing efforts have been directed at enhancing the functioning of these institutions in accordance with the Paris principles. Uzbekistan has actively fostered constructive cooperation and regular dialogue with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

In May 2013, a delegation led by Mr. Ivan Simonovic, the UN Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, visited Uzbekistan and engaged with representatives of law enforcement bodies, national human rights institutions, and civil society to discuss collaboration in implementing recommendations from the Universal Periodic Review and UN treaty bodies. Subsequently, in October 2013, Mr. Gianni Magazzeni, Chief of the Americas, Europe, and Central Asia Branch of the OHCHR, visited Tashkent, meeting with government officials and representatives of national human rights institutions. He also took part in the International Conference "On the role and place of the national human rights protection system in the modernization of a country: international practice and experience of Uzbekistan," held in Tashkent on 24-25 October 2013.

The Office of the *High Commissioner* has provided valuable assistance by offering expertise in the preparation of clusters and indicators related to Uzbekistan's National Plan of Action for implementing recommendations from the second UPR and UN treaty bodies, which was adopted in November 2014. Uzbekistan is a State Party to the following key international human rights instruments:

*International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* (28 September 1995);

*Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* concerning individual complaints procedures (28 September 1995);

Second *Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* aiming to the abolition of the death penalty (23 December 2008);

*International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights* (28 September 1995);

*Convention against Torture and Other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment* (28 September 1995);

*International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination* (28 September 1995);

*Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women* (19 July 1995);

*Convention on the Rights of the Child* (29 June 1994);

*Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict* (23 December 2008)

*Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children child prostitution and child pornography* (23 December 2008).

*In 2009 Uzbekistan signed the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities the ratification process of which is underway.*

In accordance with its international commitments, Uzbekistan regularly presents national periodic reports detailing the implementation of the aforementioned important human rights agreements. Over the past two years, Uzbekistan's pertinent reports have been

reviewed by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Committee Against Torture, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, and the Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights.

Uzbekistan is slated to present its fourth periodic report on the adherence to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and its fifth periodic report pertaining to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women to the relevant UN treaty bodies in 2015.

Uzbekistan actively endorses the intergovernmental process aimed at fortifying the human rights treaty body framework and enhancing the ability of states to compile reports and adhere to the conclusions and recommendations of treaty bodies.

In November 2014, the Government of Uzbekistan launched an extensive National Plan of Action specifically designed to implement the concluding observations and recommendations provided by UN treaty bodies.

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