

**STATEMENT**

**BY THE HEAD OF THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN A.KH. SAIDOV**

**First Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis of Uzbekistan, Director of The National Centre for Human Rights at the Meeting of the 44th session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review of the UN Human Rights Council**

***8 November 2023***

***Geneva***

**Honorable Chairperson,**

**Respected Troika members and head of delegations!**

It is with great pleasure that I extend a warm welcome to you on behalf of Uzbekistan's delegation at the 44th session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review of the UN Human Rights Council. Uzbekistan welcomes the holding of the fourth cycle of the UPR as an important mechanism for strengthening the protection of human rights in the world.

Allow me to present to you the representatives from the Uzbekistan delegation:

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|  | Akmal Saidov | - | First Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Director of the National Center of the Republic of Uzbekistan for Human Rights (head of delegation) |
|  | Gulnora Marufova | - | Member of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan |
|  | Ikrom Muslimov | - | Vice-chairperson of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan |
|  | Yakhyojon Abdulkhakov | - | Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan |
|  | Elmira Basitkhanova | - | Deputy Minister of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan |
|  | Ildar Shigabutdinov | - | Head of Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan |

**The report was compiled based on:**

**firstly,** it aligns with the UN Human Rights Council's guidelines (A/HRC/DEC/17/119), the Guidance Note for developing national reports for the Fourth Cycle of the UPR, focusing on the fulfillment of recommendations from the Third Cycle of the UPR, as well as the Voluntary Commitments upheld as a member of the UN Human Rights Council.

**secondly,** it reflects measures for the implementation of the National Human Rights Strategy, national action plans for the implementation of the recommendations of the UN treaty bodies, “roadmaps” for the implementation of the recommendations of the special procedures of the HRC;

**thirdly,** the collaborative effort is evident as more than **40** governmental bodies and over **30** NGOs engaged actively in the report's development. Inclusive consultative sessions involved a wide range of stakeholders, including representatives from the government, judiciary, law enforcement, national human rights institutions, and civil society institutions. We appreciate for their open and effective dialogue.

**fourthly,** the parliament's essential role in implementing international human rights mechanism recommendations, such as those from the UPR is highlighted. The National Report was reviewed by the Parliamentary Commission on Human Rights, adhering to the Inter-Parliamentary Union's guidelines.

**fifthly,** innovative aspect of this report's formulation was a simulation session held for the Uzbekistan delegation, supported by OHCHR and in collaboration with UPR-Info.

We have provided the following additional materials for your consideration:

1. “Uzbekistan-2030” Strategy;

2. Presidential Decree of the Republic of Uzbekistan commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

3. National Programme for Human Rights Education in the Republic of Uzbekistan;

4. Annual information on the state of Uzbekistan’s compliance with international human rights obligations;

5. Information materials highlighting the status of human rights in Uzbekistan as distributed in the UN system.

We also organized an exhibition of publications and information materials on the promotion, respect and protection of human rights.

**Dear heads of delegations,**

**In 2023, the world community celebrates the 75th anniversary of the adoption of a unique document of humanity - the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.** A special Program has been adopted to comprehensively promote the essence and significance of this first universal international document, as well as improve human rights legislation and law enforcement practice. Uzbekistan also voluntarily contributed 100 thousand US dollars to the budget of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

In support of this reform process, Uzbekistan has developed the five-year **Development Strategy for the new Uzbekistan** and the **Uzbekistan 2030 Strategy**. These documents primarily aim to protect human rights, strengthen the role of civil society, combat poverty, fight corruption, and promote sustainable environmental development.

The country has undergone a **constitutional reform** process with active involvement from civil society. The primary objective of this reform is to implement the concept of modernizing the country as **"man-society-state."** We want to express our gratitude to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and UNICEF for their valuable suggestions to enhance the project.

The main cornerstone of the updated Constitution is to ensure human rights and interests and protect human dignity. Consequently, the number of provisions related to human rights has increased significantly, more than **tripling in number**. The Constitution now incorporates internationally recognized legal principles such as the **Miranda Rules and Habeas Corpus.** Additionally, the prohibition of the death penalty has been established as a constitutional norm. The institution of pro bono legal assistance has also attained constitutional status.

For the first time, the Constitution guarantees the right to appeal to both **international and national human rights institutions**.

Furthermore, the **constitutional complaint institution** has been introduced. There is a particular emphasis on strengthening constitutional guarantees for labor, social, and environmental rights, especially for vulnerable groups such as children, women, and persons with disabilities.

Uzbekistan actively engages in the **UN World Programme for Human Rights Education**. In 2023, as part of the fourth phase of the World Programme, the **National Programme for Human Rights Education** was adopted. Introduced training and specialized courses on human rights in both professional and higher education, as well as in the advanced training for civil servants. Additionally, training courses and seminars addressing the rights of individuals with disabilities, women, children, and migrants are now being opened. An **online learning platform** dedicated to human rights education is being introduced. Additionally, information and library centers across various regions have established dedicated sections for human rights materials.

Supporting the call of the UN Secretary-General for the Global Campaign to End Statelessness “#IBelong”, the Government of Uzbekistan has taken concrete steps towards the practical implementation of this important initiative. Since 2016, more than 80 thousand stateless persons have received Uzbek citizenship.

In accordance with the UNHCR Global Action Plan to End Statelessness, a national campaign has been launched to identify and register all cases of unregistered births.

Following a collective request from the UN's specialized mechanisms, under leadership of President Sh. Mirziyoyev, Uzbekistan carried out **five "Mehr" (Benevolence) humanitarian operations** to bring back its nationals from zones of armed conflict. Uzbekistan successfully brought home 531 individuals, predominantly women **(121)** and children **(379)** from countries like Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan. A holistic approach was adopted to aid these repatriates in their reintegration into society, avoiding any social stigmatization. This included providing them access to education, social programs, job opportunities, and enhancing their living standards.

In March 2023, Human Rights High Commissioner Volker Türk made a visit to Uzbekistan. Subsequently, the Uzbek Parliament endorsed the Roadmap to put into action the recommendations proposed. Uzbekistan remains committed to continue to implement these recommendations and take follow-up.

In collaboration with the OHCHR and various international partners, the Uzbekistan government has organized several significant international events such as the Asian Forum on Human Rights, the Global Forum on Human Rights Education, and the International Forum on Youth Rights. To implement the human rights protection and promotion strategy, a human rights advisor role has been established at the UN office in Tashkent.

**Honorable Council Members,**

Uzbekistan has achieved a historic milestone by being elected to the UNHRC for the 2021-2023 term, marking its first-ever representation in our national statehood's history. This election has provided a fresh momentum to the human rights initiatives underway in our country. We strongly support the Human Rights Council and the mechanisms at its disposal to strengthen the protection of human rights around the world.

As part of our obligations as a member of the Human Rights Council and implementing the recommendations of the Third Cycle, the following activities have been carried out:

- To implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, national SDGs have been defined based on the principle of **“leaving no one behind”.** Uzbekistan presented two Voluntary National Reviews on the implementation of the SDGs (2020, 2023);

- measures are being taken to further improve the legal status of the **national preventive mechanism** for the prevention of torture;

- within the framework of the **National Human Rights Strategy,** mechanisms for protecting and restoring the **rights of victims of torture**, ensuring payment of **compensation** for material, moral and other damage have been improved at the legislative level;

- an important law was adopted that provides **additional measures to protect women and children from violence**, criminalized domestic violence, and increased liability for sexual crimes against children;

- the situation in the field of **eradication of forced and child labor** has changed dramatically. Particular attention is paid to the issue of allocating funds for the organization of shelters for victims of human trafficking. These results are widely accepted by the international community;

- according to the recommendations of the HRC and UN treaty bodies, the position of the **Children's Ombudsman** was established;

- in order to implement the provisions of the **Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**, legal and administrative measures have been taken to improve the system of state support for persons with disabilities;

- the country’s parliament approved the Strategy for Achieving Gender Equality until 2030, with the participation of civil society institutions, the National Action Plan for the implementation of **UN Security Council Resolution No. 1325 “Women, Peace and Security”** is being implemented;

- Uzbekistan, reaffirming its commitment to the promotion of human rights, has pledged to protect human rights from the adverse consequences of business activities. For these purposes, we are adopting the **National Action Plan “Business and Human Rights”**;

- in 2022, the UN treaty committees heard **3 national reports** of Uzbekistan on the implementation of international treaties. Parliament adopted **national action plans** to implement the recommendations of the UN treaty committees;

- supporting the **UN resolution on the right to a healthy environment**, Uzbekistan acceded to the “**Declaration on Children, Youth and Climate Action”;**

- Uzbekistan has enhanced its capacity to oversee and fulfill its international human rights commitments. In order to enact the suggestions made during the Universal Periodic Review, along with assessments from human rights treaty bodies and special procedures, Uzbekistan has established a national mechanism for execution, reporting, and follow-up. An active effort is underway to implement the National Recommendation Tracking Database within Uzbekistan.

- Specialized parliamentary commissions have been established to ensure compliance with international human rights obligations and to monitor the achievement of national sustainable development goals through 2030.

- Furthermore, starting in 2019, Uzbekistan has begun the practice of annually providing information on its adherence to international human rights obligations to the Parliament, the President, and the Government, as per the recommendations of the UN Human Rights Council

**Dear heads of delegations,**

Uzbekistan is deeply committed to the UPR mechanism as an important tool for universal and constructive peer review, which allows for the exchange of best practices and contributes to the continuous improvement of the human rights situation.

Out of the **198 recommendations** endorsed by Uzbekistan, we have fully executed **171 recommendations (86%), partially implemented 21 recommendations (11%), and are currently deliberating the remaining 6 recommendations (3%).** The recommendations from the Third Cycle of the UPR have been incorporated into our National Human Rights Strategy. It is worth noting that the implementation of these accepted recommendations has led to noticeable advancements in upholding and protecting human rights.

The Uzbekistan delegation extends its heartfelt appreciation to the Troika and all state delegations for their questions and comments.

As our National Report provides comprehensive details on the implementation of UPR recommendations, we would like to allocate sufficient time for any inquiries and responses.

**Thank you for your kind attention.**

**Начало формы**