



THE BIGGEST CHANGES IN THE NEW CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

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Annotation. In 2023, the Republic of Uzbekistan instituted serious constitutional reform, targeted at renovating its legal framework and strengthening principles of democracy and human rights. The amendment in the Constitution demonstrated how attached the government had become to fulfilling not only domestic but also international criteria. The paper analyzes the most outstanding changes which took place and underlines the importance for citizens and the overall management of the state.

Key words. Uzbekistan, Constitutional reform, Human rights protection, Individual freedom, Separation of powers, Checks and balances, Democratic governance, Local self-government, Environmental protection, Electoral process, Gender equality, Political participation, Transparency, Fair elections, Sustainable development, Equal rights, social progress, Rule of law, international treaties, Governance accountability



The most far-reaching novelty in the new Constitution is the improvement of human rights protection. It expands the list of rights secured for citizens and develops the concept of individual freedom, such as the freedom of expression, assembly, and the right to a fair trial. This corresponds to Uzbekistan's adherence to various international treaties on human rights. These rights come with the right to be realized in an open society where citizens would, therefore, be civically engaged and fully part of democratic life in this country.

Under separation of power in the Constitution of 2023, checks and balances among branches are consolidated. This is where the role of Amendment 2023 gave more clarity toward the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government. The changes aim to ensure that no single entity enjoys disproportionate authority so as to avoid the possibility of abuses and ensure accountability in governance. It is important in laying a strong democratic framework which is resilient to challenges as well as guaranteeing the rule of law.

Aside from the entrenchment of civil liberties and separation of powers, the new Constitution has also emphasized the need for local self-government. It also allows regional and municipal governments to be more autonomous and proactive at the local level in solving problems. All this is meant to increase the level of participation by citizens in governance and to make the local government bodies sensitive to the needs of their constituencies. The latter reflects the increasing awareness of the importance of active local involvement for sustainable development.

The Constitution includes, as one of the significant new additions, the principle of environmental protection. The new provisions recognize the right of citizens to a healthy environment and impose obligations on the state for the preservation of natural resources. This change reflects an increasing global prioritization of environmental sustainability and acknowledges Uzbekistan's commitment to addressing challenges such as climate change and resource management. By placing environmental rights into



the Constitution, Uzbekistan is moving in step with international best practice and ensuring a greener future for its citizens.

The revised Constitution also develops the electoral process to be more transparent and fair. It establishes more stringent criteria for political parties and candidates, with provisions for free and fair elections. These reforms are most urgent in laying the bedrock of public trust in the electoral process and inculcating a sense of accountability among political leadership. By ensuring the integrity of the electoral process, Uzbekistan seeks to tighten democracy's foundations and ultimately create room for more political competitiveness.

The constitutional amendments of 2023 do also provide for gender equality through recognition of equal rights between men and women. A commitment to combating discrimination and promoting equal opportunities in spheres such as politics and employment is a sign of progress toward a change in social mores. This attention to gender equality is essential to make governance inclusive for all citizens to contribute to the development process.

Conclusion

In a nutshell, the changes brought about by the 2023 Constitution of Uzbekistan are far-reaching, modernizing the country's governance to bring it closer to democratic ideals. Strengthening human rights, reinforcing the separation of powers, reinforcing local self-governance, protection of the environment, improvement of electoral integrity, and promotion of gender equality-the new Constitution aspires to empower citizens and make government more accountable. As Uzbekistan has been facing modernization and globalization, this constitutional revision should serve as a sign of the important cornerstone to create a just, fair, and democratic society for all its citizens.



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