

REFORMS TO SUPPORT LABOR MIGRANTS IN UZBEKISTAN: PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

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This article focuses on the legal, social, economic and spiritual aspects of labor migration and its solutions. Also, the effectiveness of reforms in support of labor migrants was analyzed from a scientific and theoretical point of view.

Key words

Labor, visa, poverty, migration, development strategy.

In recent years, as a result of the implementation of important reforms aimed at improving labor migration processes in our country, favorable opportunities are being created for labor migrants. In particular, with the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. PF-59 "On the improvement of labor migration processes and additional measures to support persons engaged in temporary work abroad" Mechanisms were introduced to cover the costs of a ticket, "working visa", foreign language or professional exams, and legal assistance provided to citizens in difficult situations abroad.

Also, efforts are being made to expand the opportunities to use state services for citizens abroad, including equalizing the amount of consular fees for requesting documents online to the amount of the state duty, and canceling the fee paid for consular accounts abroad.

In this Decree, it is stipulated that the Ministry of Poverty Alleviation and Employment annually submits information to the Senate of the Oliy Majlis about the work carried out in the field of foreign labor migration, and that the work carried out in the field of foreign labor migration is discussed by the deputies of the local councils within the framework of hearing the reports of the governors, the Oliy Majlis It is recommended that the Senate of the Majlis assist local Councils in the implementation of activities in this direction.

At the same time, due to the rapid development of migration today, the regulation of these processes is gaining importance.

In particular, the lack of complete information about citizens participating in internal and external migration processes, the increasing number of cases of illegal migration, the qualifications required of citizens who need work for jobs offered by foreign employers and the lack of specialization is one of them.

Based on these circumstances and in order to ensure reliable protection of the rights and legal interests of migrants, to further improve the direction of the country's migration policy, as well as the "Roadmap" approved by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. PF-59 Pursuant to paragraph 29, it is required to develop the strategy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the direction of migration policy until 2030.

In Uzbekistan, measures have been developed to support migrants who have returned to their homeland to further simplify access to the foreign labor market. The post of attache on labor migration issues was introduced. In this regard, 24-hour call-centers have been opened in our country, which are in constant communication with citizens.

Issues of simplifying the entry of citizens of Uzbekistan to the foreign labor market and measures to ensure the employment of those returning from labor migration were discussed at the meeting held on April 2, 2024 in the presence of Shavkat Mirziyoev. In this regard, the Ministry of

Employment and Labor Relations presented proposals developed based on the instructions of the head of state. According to the published data, in the last two years, 70,000 citizens were sent to work in developed countries by the Agency for Foreign Labor Migration under the Ministry of Employment. At the same time, it was noted that a large number of citizens are sent abroad independently to perform activities that do not require special qualifications.

At the meeting held in the presence of the President, special attention was paid to the following issues as proposals for regulating migration and supporting labor migrants.

1. The Foreign Labor Migration Agency under the Ministry of Employment will become a management body in the form of a state institution. The director of the agency will be the deputy minister of employment at the same time. He also manages the support fund for labor migrants.

2. In the embassies and consulates of Great Britain, Germany, Poland, Hungary, and Japan, the position of labor migration attaché and agency representative in Saudi Arabia will be introduced. 24-hour call centers are established in embassies and relevant ministries to quickly resolve the issues of citizens abroad.

3. The principle of "work abroad - from the neighborhood" will be introduced. In this case, the mayor's assistant, the youth leader identifies a citizen who wants to work abroad and enters it into the "Online Mahalla" platform. Candidates are attracted to overseas employers' competitions.

4. Vocational education and targeted training of citizens who do not have professional qualifications and do not know the language in professional educational institutions will be launched. For this, a center for training citizens in foreign languages and training for work will be opened at the Foreign Labor Migration Agency.

5. The costs of migrants' work visa, road ticket, foreign language and professional qualification assessment are partially covered. A citizen who has received an international or equivalent certificate in a foreign language will be reimbursed 50% of the expenses spent on language learning.

6. Based on the experience of Saykhunabad, citizens who have returned from labor migration will be given financial assistance and other types of employment services to grow crops on their farms and earn income.

7. Preferential loans are allocated in accordance with the complex program "Continuous support of small business".

8. Medical institutions provide free medical examinations to persons returning from migration and their family members.

9. "Inson" centers provide social assistance to children whose parents work abroad.

10. Enterprises that employ returnees from labor migration will receive a subsidy of 500,000 soums per month from the Employment Assistance Fund for each employee for one year. 100 billion soums will be allocated for these activities for this year from all sources.

After gaining political independence, Uzbekistan faced the need to overcome the serious negative problems of the difficult and poor economy left over from the former Soviet Union in terms of socio-economic development. Uzbekistan could not stay out of the process of labor migration, a phenomenon of the 20th century. On the contrary, labor migration served as the main means of avoiding the dangers of economic stress and social instability that arose in the country in the early stages of independence. Because it is labor migration that has created an opportunity to alleviate the problems of economic stress and social conflicts for Uzbekistan, which is rich in labor resources. Not taking advantage of this real opportunity was tantamount to jeopardizing the fate of a young independent state. By sending labor migrants abroad, Uzbekistan was interested in the reduction of unemployment in the country and the reduction of the deficit in the balance of payments due to the inflow of remittances to the country.

In formulating the policy of labor migration, the state takes into account the situation in the country and the world economy, taking into account the sharp changes taking place in this important field. Large-scale reforms carried out in Uzbekistan within the framework of the Action Strategy created a basis for the emergence of a new situation for foreign labor migration. In particular, a sharp increase in GDP per capita, measures aimed at reducing poverty in the country created a real opportunity and a necessary need for a drastic change in the state's labor migration policy. All this created the need to improve the state policy in relation to labor migration on a new basis, or rather to fundamentally change it. In our opinion, the new policy of the state regarding foreign labor migration should reflect three important things. This is, first of all, the new socio-economic situation and new opportunities created in the country as a result of the implemented reforms; secondly, the strategic tasks for the rapid development of the national economy set in the Development Strategy, and thirdly, the complex processes taking place in the world economy at the global level in terms of foreign labor migration.

In short, under the influence of large-scale reforms that are consistently implemented in the country, the socio-economic situation in New Uzbekistan has changed dramatically, there is an important need and a real opportunity to make fundamental changes in the country's foreign labor migration policy. Further development of Uzbekistan put forward by our honorable President, achieving its place among the 50 developed countries, improving the well-being of the population, developing entrepreneurship, increasing the level of employment, improving the quality of education, ending poverty, forming an innovative economy the implementation of initiatives is inextricably linked with issues of labor migration. The development strategy requires that the problems of labor migration be solved rationally, with a view to the far future, and that the potential of our citizens who are in international migration be directed to the needs of the national economy. On the other hand, the implementation of these initiatives will allow us to create conditions for our citizens who are working in difficult conditions in emigration to return to their motherland with comfortable conditions and decent wages. For this, first of all, the problem of labor migrants should be considered as one of the most important and central issues of Uzbekistan's socio-economic development, which is waiting for its solution from the point of view of today and the future. This issue must be the constant focus of state bodies, public organizations, scientists, general public and self-government bodies.

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