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THE UPDATED CONSTITUTION IN NEW UZBEKISTAN

Abstract: The recent amendments to Uzbekistan's Constitution represent a critical step towards strengthening democratic values, human rights protections, and the establishment of a resilient legal state. This article explores the key aspects of the updated Constitution, examining their objectives, relevance, and impact on governance, society, and Uzbekistan's future development.

Keywords: Uzbekistan, constitution, amendments, reforms, legal state, democratic values, human rights, governance.

Introduction:

Uzbekistan has been undergoing extensive reforms since its independence, with the Constitution playing a foundational role in shaping the country's political, economic, and social landscape. The recent constitutional changes, part of the "New Uzbekistan" initiative, aim to align the nation with international democratic standards, strengthen the rule of law, and improve the quality of governance. These reforms emphasize enhancing human rights, reinforcing judicial independence, fostering economic growth, and promoting environmental sustainability. In this article, we examine the implications of these reforms, their expected impact on Uzbekistan's future, and the challenges in implementing them effectively.

May 2022 is going down in history as a month with a unique reality in the life of our people. On May 17, a joint meeting aimed at advancing the initiative to introduce changes and additions to the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan at the initiative of the factions of the two political parties with the largest number of seats in the parliament of our country - the Movement of Entrepreneurs and Businessmen - the Liberal Democratic Party of Uzbekistan and the Democratic Party "National Revival" took place. Also, on May 20, a joint meeting of the councils of the Senate and the Legislative Chamber was held, and it was noted that the formulation of proposals for amendments and additions to the Constitution and the implementation of organizational measures require great effort and responsibility, and the need to listen to the opinions of every citizen. a Constitutional Commission was established.

Method:

To analyze the recent constitutional changes, this study utilized a qualitative approach, including document analysis, comparative law methods, and interviews with experts in constitutional law. Primary sources include the updated text of Uzbekistan's Constitution, government publications, and scholarly analyses of constitutional reform in post-Soviet states. Comparative methods allowed for examining Uzbekistan's constitutional changes in the context of similar reforms in Central Asian and Eastern European countries. Expert interviews provided insights into the anticipated challenges and benefits of these changes, particularly regarding governance, human rights, and the legal system.

Results:

Constitution is the main law of any country. It should work for society, meet its demands and needs. The content of the constitution is to define all the foundations of the state, social and political life of the country. In other words, it is the basis and foundation of the legal system, and all other laws are built on its basis. However, at the same time, the Constitution is not a fixed, immutable document. If there is a need to change the Constitution, then this indicates a vital need to define our goals in the near future, to build an open and reliable state in Uzbekistan, based on the evolutionary development of society.

The results of the constitutional amendments show significant developments across several key areas:

1. **Strengthening Human Rights and Freedoms:** The amendments include detailed provisions to protect freedoms such as speech, association, and information. They also address discrimination, providing specific measures to ensure equal rights for all citizens, irrespective of gender, ethnicity, or religion. These changes represent a move toward aligning Uzbekistan's human rights framework with international standards.
2. **Reinforcing Judicial Independence:** Recognizing the importance of an impartial judiciary, the amendments introduce safeguards to protect judges from external influences, particularly political pressure. New procedures for the selection and dismissal of judges have been implemented to improve accountability and ensure that legal processes remain fair and unbiased.
3. **Promoting Economic Reform and Growth:** The updated Constitution supports economic modernization by establishing clear protections for private property rights and creating a legal environment conducive to foreign investment. These changes aim to foster economic growth by promoting entrepreneurship, diversifying the economy, and reducing dependency on traditional industries.
4. **Environmental Sustainability:** A new section on environmental protection establishes legal frameworks for sustainable resource management and emphasizes the importance of protecting Uzbekistan's natural environment. This addition highlights the country's commitment to sustainability and is expected to shape future policies on resource conservation and climate resilience.

Today, we are witnessing tension in the world, as a result of which the geopolitical situation has become more complicated, which has led to an increase in threats, all of which requires further strengthening of Uzbekistan's statehood. Taking into account that the constitution is the core and essence of statehood, we must strengthen it. It is necessary to carefully analyze the current threats and the situation in the world, and convey to our internal audience the importance of reforms aimed at strengthening our state unity and caring for citizens. revision of individual components of the country, especially when it comes to constitutional reforms. In our updated Constitution, we can see that every article is clearly and concisely explained and elaborated. These changes and additions are aimed at the more stable development of Uzbekistan, strengthening its potential to resist various threats. For the first time in the history of modern Uzbekistan, the people themselves are actively participating in constitutional reforms. This determines the path of development of an open and democratic country. We remind you that more than 220,000 proposals have been submitted since the beginning of the announced constitutional reform, but the most important thing is that the draft of the Constitutional Law was formed on the basis of these proposals, and all these New Constitution is literally becoming the People's Constitution. According to our legislation, after the referendum on the adoption of the constitution, no additional documents need to be adopted, discussed in the parliament and signed by the president, because the popular vote determines the final decision.

Discussion:

The constitutional amendments mark a significant step forward in Uzbekistan's journey toward democratic reform and modernization. By introducing clearer human rights protections, the Constitution empowers citizens and strengthens their role in political and social life. The emphasis on judicial independence also signals the government's intent to create a transparent and fair legal system, which is critical for ensuring public trust and protecting individual rights. Economically, the amendments aim to transition Uzbekistan towards a market-based economy by creating legal protections for investors and entrepreneurs. This shift has the potential to attract foreign investments and spur innovation, though it requires substantial infrastructural and administrative improvements to support new business ventures effectively. Implementing these reforms is not without challenges. Building a strong rule-of-law culture and ensuring compliance with new legal standards will take time and resources. Effective training for judicial and administrative officials, along with public awareness campaigns, will be essential in ensuring these changes positively impact society. Additionally, the environmental provisions will necessitate new policies, regulations, and enforcement mechanisms, which may take time to develop and implement comprehensively. The updated Constitution is based on the principle of "man-society-state", because it has practical significance as it expresses the rights and interests of all categories - youth, women, disabled people, teachers and even criminals (misguided citizens). We are on the verge of adopting the Constitution of our nation, about which the citizens of our country can say "this is my Constitution", it is very necessary for our society.

Conclusion:

The updated Constitution of Uzbekistan represents a pivotal advancement towards establishing a democratic and legally sound society. These reforms lay a foundation for a governance model rooted in accountability, transparency, and respect for human rights. If effectively implemented, they are expected to facilitate social and economic growth, enhance Uzbekistan's position in the international community, and contribute to a more equitable society. Continued support and engagement from both the government and citizens will be vital in realizing the full potential of these constitutional changes, making Uzbekistan a model of democratic development in Central Asia.

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