

INDEPENDENCE OF UZBEKISTAN: THE PATH TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND NEW OPPORTUNITIES

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From the date of August 31, 1991, when the Republic of Uzbekistan declared its state independence, it entered a completely new stage of its historical development. Independence-the century-old dream of our people was the logical result of many years of struggle for national identity and freedom. This historical date has made a fundamental turn in the life of Uzbekistan and has become a key factor in the development of society and the revival of national values.

Once the state gained its independence, our people set themselves ambitious goals, such as building a modern, legal-democratic and socially just society, building a state based on a market economy, open to innovative development. During the years of independence, radical political and economic reforms began in the country, and in the international arena Uzbekistan began to be increasingly recognized as an independent, open and stable state.

Today, the Republic of Uzbekistan has become one of the largest and fastest growing countries of Central Asia, a leading power in the region economically, politically and culturally. According to official statistics, by 2024 the population of Uzbekistan has increased by more than 36.7 million, and the volume of GDP has increased several times compared to the stage of independence. In recent years, our country has also achieved a significant increase in international indices. According to the UN Human Development Index, the World Bank and the European bank for reconstruction and Development (EBRD), Uzbekistan has been recognized as one of the leaders in Central Asia in the pace of economic reform and achievements in the social sphere.

At the present stage of the development of Uzbekistan, a positive atmosphere was formed in our people, based on social unity, peace and blessing, openness and striving for renewal, harmony of national values and modernity. Independence brought a solid confidence, freedom and hope for the future into the life of each of our compatriots. On the basis of the concept of "New Uzbekistan", our country is rising to a higher level of development, fundamental updates continue in such areas as improving the well-being of the population, the introduction of modern

infrastructure and innovative technologies, the Advanced Education and health system, gender equality and strengthening social protection.

Today, Uzbekistan is a stable and open country that strives boldly towards these new milestones, has its own reputation in the international community. The basis of these achievements lies in the hard work of our people, national unity and harmony, their responsibly approach to their fate, as well as their openness to modern reforms. Each year of independence is a new stage of development, each result is the result of our people's dedication and faith in the future.

The main goal of the Republic of Uzbekistan is to boldly advance towards progress, blessing and prosperity, creating a modern, worthy life for every citizen, and a strong and positive image in the international community, while remaining true to the principles of “New Uzbekistan” and “Third Renaissance”.

During the years of independence, the Republic of Uzbekistan implemented deep and gradual reforms in the economic sphere. Initially, on the basis of the “Uzbek model”, a strategy was chosen to move to a market economy, while maintaining stability and social protection. This approach served to preserve the well-being of the population, preventing economic crises at a short opportunity. Since 1996, the country's gross domestic product (GDP) has grown steadily and has maintained its high rates over the past years.

Over the past decade, a phase of radical economic reforms has begun in Uzbekistan. Since 2016, under the leadership of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, large-scale measures have been implemented to liberalize the economy, create an open and competitive environment, gradually privatize state enterprises, and actively attract foreign and domestic investment. The liberalization of the foreign exchange market, the transfer of the sum to the market rate and the abolition of barriers were highly appreciated by international financial institutions. The tax system was simplified, the tax burden on enterprises was reduced, the procedure for doing business was simplified. Uzbekistan has come to the forefront of Central Asia in creating the most favorable environment for small and medium-sized businesses.

As a result, the country's economy is showing high growth rates from year to year. For example, in 2017-2023, the average GDP growth rate exceeded 6% and approached 6.5% as of the end of 2024. The inflation rate fell from 14% in 2020 to 8.8% in 2024. As a result, the country's economy is showing high growth rates from year to year. For example, in 2017-2023, the average GDP growth rate exceeded 6% and approached 6.5% as of the end of 2024. The inflation rate fell from 14% in 2020 to 8.8% in 2024.

As a result of the introduction of advanced technologies and innovative solutions in agriculture, the country has achieved full self-sufficiency in food and export. Modern technoparks, cluster system and digital production projects have been established in the industry. During 2017-2024, thousands of new manufacturing enterprises were launched, creating hundreds of thousands of new jobs.

International financial institutions the UN, the World Bank, the EEC and the Asian Development Bank have named Uzbekistan's economy among the "fastest growing and most open investment environment". The credit rating of Uzbekistan is being recognized as stable by the international rating agencies Fitch, Moody's and S&P.

Today Uzbekistan has its place in the world community as a country of modern infrastructure, a large-scale industry and services, a constantly updated economic environment and a wide range of opportunities. In the future, the country is striving for a high-income, inclusive and sustainable economy within the framework of the new Uzbekistan development strategy.

In the years of independence, the Republic of Uzbekistan has launched an unprecedented stage of development in the fields of Education, Science and culture. Today, these sectors are one of the main factors that ensure the future and global competitiveness of the country.

From the first years of independence, the state has established the field of education as a priority. Over the past period, more than 2,000 new schools, hundreds of preschool institutions, dozens of higher educational institutions and Lyceum-colleges have been built in our country. In particular, by 2024, the number of general education schools across Uzbekistan exceeded 10,000, the number of higher education institutions reached 154. From the first years of independence, the state has established the field of education as a priority.

For the younger generation, radical changes have been made to modern and innovative educational programs, the widespread introduction of information and communication technologies into teaching, the emphasis on deep study of foreign languages, the creation of STEAM-directions, IT-academies and modern laboratories. Students and students of Uzbekistan record high results from year to year in competitions in International Science Olympiads, robotics and informatics.

A new stage of development has also begun in science. The network of research institutes and technoparks is expanding, grants and startup programs have been introduced to support young scientists and innovators. In the framework of such programs as "Youth - Our Future", "Science-development factor",

thousands of talented young people study in foreign universities and start innovative projects in our country.

Today Uzbekistan is a country of modern youth with a rich historical and Cultural Heritage, Modern Art and creativity, active participation in the world cultural arena. "Eastern taronas", "Art Week Style.uz", through international and national events such as the Academy of Fine Arts, National Arts and culture are widely promoted worldwide.

In conclusion, the period of independence was a period of innovative rise and openness in the fields of Education, Science and culture in Uzbekistan. The opportunities created in these areas and the reforms implemented serve as an important support in making the future of our country bright and competitive.

For modern Uzbekistan, whose population today exceeds 36.7 million, social protection, health care, modern infrastructures and the living well-being of citizens have become a priority value. During the years of independence, investment in human capital in the country, ensuring the quality and safety of life of each family, has been at the center of state policy. Due to large-scale social programs, poverty rates have been shrinking significantly from year to year in recent years. Innovative mechanisms such as the "Iron notebook", the "women's notebook" and the "youth notebook" provide targeted assistance to every needy family and improve the effectiveness of social protection. In order to improve social infrastructure and housing conditions, more than 200,000 modern houses, new water supply, electricity and Gas Networks, and modern automobile and railway infrastructures have been built in the last five years. The gap between villages and cities is getting shorter and shorter.

New opportunities are opening up for women and young people. In 2023, more than Rs 2 trillion in preferential loans were allocated to support youth and women's entrepreneurship. The proportion of women in public administration and parliament exceeds 33%, approaching international standards for gender equality. Innovative startups, vocational training centers and grants serve to increase the knowledge and skills of young people. In terms of improving social protection and welfare of the population, the UN, the World Bank and other international organizations recognize the experience of Uzbekistan as an "inclusive and modern social policy model".

Today Uzbekistan is recognized in the international community as a stable, progressive and open state. In the world community, Uzbekistan's efforts on socio-economic reform, open foreign policy, youth and women empowerment, human rights and gender equality are highly valued. In the future, huge milestones are ahead. Within the framework of the development strategy "new Uzbekistan", the

education of the modern economy and social life, advanced innovations, digital technologies and educated generation was set as the main priority. Our people are a people who harmonize secular and national values, constantly strive for renewal and boldly move towards the future.

New modern schools, hospitals, technoparks, innovative projects, large international events, openness to reforms and international cooperation, all of which have become an integral part of today's life in Uzbekistan. A wide range of opportunities for a new life is being created for every citizen, for every younger generation. New tasks and promising plans ahead are opening new horizons to our country. With determination and will towards progress, national solidarity, dedication and confidence in the future, Uzbekistan will certainly achieve many more achievements. Uzbekistan is a symbol of peace, development and confidence in the future. The achievements of independence and the great dreams of our people are being brought to life. The results achieved and modern reforms open the horizons of new progress to our country and serve as a solid ground for us to take a more bold, reliable and successful step towards the future!