United Nations Office in the Republic of Uzbekistan

UNCT submission for the 2018 Universal Periodic Review of Uzbekistan (3rd cycle)

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I. Background and Framework

This UNCT joint submission was based on the data and information made available by UNDP, UNICEF, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNODC, ILO[i], and IOM. In this regard, it does not represent a comprehensive overview of the human rights situation in Uzbekistan.

A. Scope of international obligation

#	International Human Rights Instruments	Ratification/Accession status
1	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination: 1969	1995
2	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights: 1976	1995
3	Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights: 1976	1995
4	Second Option Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty: 1991	2008
5	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: 1976	1995
6	Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: 2013	Not ratified/acceded
7	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women: 1981	1995
8	Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women: 2000	Not ratified/acceded
9	Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment: 1987	1995
10	Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment: 2006	Not ratified/acceded
11	Convention on the Rights of the Child: 1990	1994
12	Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict: 2002	2008[ii]
13	Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography: 2002	2008
14	Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure: 2014	Not ratified/acceded
15	International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families: 2003	Not ratified/acceded
16	International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance: 2010	Not ratified/acceded
17	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: 2008	Signed in 2009. Not ratified/acceded yet.
18	Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: 2008	Not ratified/acceded

B. Constitutional and Legislative Framework

1. The Constitution of Uzbekistan, adopted in 1992, stipulates all fundamental rights and freedoms enshrined in the core human rights treaties. It is the highest legislative act in the country and establishes the principles of non-discrimination, equality, rule of law, secular state, and separation of powers between Legislature, Executive and Judiciary. The pluralism of political institutions, ideologies and opinions as well as social justice for the benefit of citizens and society are also guaranteed.
2. Uzbekistan is a presidential republic, where the President is Head of State and coordinates the effective functioning and interaction of all three branches of power. The Oliy Majlis, a bicameral professional Parliament, consists of the Legislative Chamber (Lower Chamber with 150 MPs) and Senate (Upper Chamber with 100 senators). The Cabinet of Ministers is the executive authority led by the Prime Minister. The judicial system of Uzbekistan consists of the Constitutional Court and the Supreme Court.
3. Provisions on the merging of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Supreme Economic Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and establishing administrative and economic courts entered into force as of 1 June 2017.

C. Institutional and human rights structure

4. The main national institutions entrusted with the promotion and protection of human rights in Uzbekistan include:
   - President of Uzbekistan, who serves as a guarantee of respecting rights and freedoms of citizens, Constitution and laws of Republic of Uzbekistan
   - Service for Protection of Citizens' Rights, control and coordination of appeals of natural persons and legal entities of the Presidential Administration
   - Parliamentary Ombudsman
   - Business Ombudsman
   - National Human Rights Center
   - Relevant human rights departments of General Prosecutor's office, Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Internal Affairs.
5. Recent amendments to the law on the Parliamentary Ombudsman widened access to grievance mechanisms, allowing citizens to submit appeals in different forms, including electronic. In addition, the Ombudsman strengthened the legal and financial status of his 14 Regional representatives and clarified the terms of access to places of detention and prisons. These amendments followed the four accepted UPR recommendations (2013) related to NHRI's independent status and national preventive mechanisms. [iii]
6. The Government has initiated preparations for a concept note on the establishment of a Children's Ombudsman. This human rights institution should be independent in terms of its legal mandate and budget in the promotion and monitoring of child rights, and dealing with child rights complaints.

II. Promotion and protection of human rights on the ground

A. Cooperation with international human rights mechanisms

7. Uzbekistan has submitted national reports on all 6 core treaties as well as 2 cycles of UPR. In May 2017, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights visited Uzbekistan. A follow-up action plan with more than 90 activities was adopted jointly by both Chambers of Parliament and the Government was tasked with implementation. In early October 2017, the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief visited Uzbekistan at the invitation of the Government of Uzbekistan.

B. Implementation of international human rights obligations

8. On 7 February 2017, the President approved the Strategy of Actions on five priority development directions for Uzbekistan in 2017 – 2021:

   1) Improving state and public governance;
   2) Rule of law and further judicial reform;
   3) Liberalization of economy;
   4) Social development;
   5) National security, inter-ethnic harmony and religious tolerance, and implementation of a balanced, mutually beneficial and constructive foreign policy.

   In particular, the first direction should result in an increased role for Parliament and political parties in furthering democratic reforms, public administration reform, improved quality, transparency and efficiency of state-provided services, enhanced public oversight mechanisms, and strengthened civil society and media. The second direction aims to strengthen judicial independence and human rights safeguards; improve administrative, criminal, civil and economic legislation; increase effectiveness in preventing and combating crime; fully implement the adversarial principle of in court proceedings; and improve the system of provision of legal aid and legal services.

9. On 5 May 2017, the President signed a decree creating a Service for the Protection of Citizens' Rights, which will coordinate and review complaints filed by individuals and legal entities. The new Service is tasked to develop an effective and efficient system of handling complaints through the People's Reception Office and online portal, analyzing the human rights situation in the nation, and developing proposals for legislative improvements to promote better compliance with human rights.

10. Access to official data is generally limited in Uzbekistan across all sectors, seriously impeding assessment of overall progress and necessary policy adjustments towards the realization of human rights. Identifying human rights indicators and strengthening the data collection system to provide regular, disaggregated and internationally comparable data is crucial. The government has shown increased interest in enhancing transparency and quality data collection and reporting systems.[iv] An international conference on human rights indicators will be convened by the National Human Rights Centre in November 2017.

11. Equality and non-discrimination

11.1. The Constitution and legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan ensure equal rights, freedoms, and equality before the law without discrimination by sex, race, nationality, language, religion, social origin, convictions, and individual and social liberties. However, women's role in the political and social spheres is limited. There is no law on Equal Rights and Opportunities for Men and Women.

12. Right to life, liberty and security of the person

Torture and ill-treatment

12.1. The Government has not yet aligned the Criminal Code's definition of torture with the definition stipulated in the Convention against Torture. As international organizations do not have regular access to detention facilities, treatment of residents cannot be independently assessed. Solitary confinement cells still exist, and are used as punishment in juvenile prisons.

12.2. Frequent forced labor has been noted as a form of punishment for children in government institutions such as schools and orphanages.

Violence against women and girls, including domestic violence

12.3. There are no recent statistics on the levels of gender-based violence, including domestic violence, which raises concerns on the prevalence of violence against women and girls in Uzbekistan. Cases of domestic violence against women and girls are likely to be underreported, because it is considered a private matter. There is limited use of protection orders and cases are taken mainly to the mahalla for reconciliation. Victim assistance and protection services are insufficient. No legislation is currently available on the prevention of gender-based violence and domestic violence.

Contemporary forms of slavery and trafficking

12.4. Uzbekistan possesses a significant potential for international, regional and bilateral cooperation to counter trafficking in persons, as well as to contribute to safe, orderly and regular migration. Systemic and regular counter-trafficking research and monitoring, national victim identification procedures/mechanisms and institutionalization of the national referral system would ensure more accurate and efficient protection and provision of assistance to victims of trafficking.

12.5. Not all provisions of the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography are incorporated into national legislation. Specifically, the definition of "sale of children" in contrast to "child trafficking" should be included, defined and expanded upon.

Child labour/Forced Labour

12.6. Systematic child labour has been eradicated in Uzbekistan, although close monitoring is required to ensure children are systematically kept out of the cotton fields.

12.7. Forced labour remains a challenge, which is increasingly recognized and addressed by the Uzbek government. The Government issued a Cabinet of Ministers decision (8 August 2017) to prohibit the mobilization of students and civil servants (including medical workers and teachers) for cotton

picking. This decree has since been enforced and it is widely recognized that thousands of students and civil servants were recalled from the cotton fields during September 2017. In 2017, the national Coordination Council on Child Labour was re-named as the Coordination Council on Child and Forced Labour.

12.8. ILO's Third-Party Monitoring (TPM) Project has undertaken a comprehensive 2017 pre-harvest training of 6,300 people covering all provinces and districts across the country. The harvest monitoring continues to be conducted by international independent ILO experts. A comprehensive public awareness campaign reached even remote villages and key messages on child and forced labour are delivered along with phone numbers for the feedback mechanism.

13. Administration of justice, including impunity, and the rule of law

Independence of judges and lawyers

13.1. In April 2017, Uzbekistan introduced Constitutional amendments establishing the Supreme Judicial Council in Uzbekistan. The Council is a governing body of the judicial community, which renders assistance in ensuring compliance with the constitutional principle of judicial independence. The constitutional provisions concerning the term of tenure of judges have been repealed.

13.2. The Government initiated development of new Criminal and Criminal Procedure Codes, which will provide a platform to discuss criminal justice reforms, human rights, and the harmonization of national legislation with international standards.

Structure and organization of justice system

13.3. Presidential Decree No. 4850 (October 2016) stipulates that enhanced access to justice; strengthening protection of rights and freedoms; liberalization of criminal punishments; and alternatives to deprivation of liberty are at the core of the main international agendas of human rights and rule of law.

13.4. The judicial system reforms have also influenced the structure of the courts. The Supreme Court consists of its Court President, his/her First Deputy, who at the same time chairs the Judicial Panel on Criminal Matters, and other Deputies who chair the Judicial Panels on Civil, Administrative and Economic Matters, as well as justices.

Access to justice

13.5. Children's rights are guaranteed in law and justiciable through the courts, the Commission on Minors, and the Parliamentary Ombudsperson on the guardianship authorities. However, the procedures each body should follow and what actions they have authority to take to remedy and resolve rights violations have not been stipulated in detail, and no provision has been made for accessible, child-friendly complaints mechanisms.

Right to a fair trial

13.6. On 29 March 2017, the President signed into law a package of amendments to the Criminal, Penitentiary, Criminal Procedure and Civil Codes, as well as to the Laws on Judges and On Prosecution Bodies. The power to authorize interception of post and wire communications, as well as to authorize autopsy, is handed over from the prosecution bodies to the courts, which is in line with international standards. However, the prosecution bodies will continue to dominate

criminal proceedings both at pre-trial and trial stages. The procedure for supplementary investigation is abolished, streamlining criminal proceedings and effectively banning repeated prosecution for the same offence, which ran contrary to the prohibition of double jeopardy. The judges will no longer be able to rely on supplementary investigation if prosecutors fail to present incriminating evidence. The filing of a supervisory complaint in civil cases is shortened from three years to one year. The amendments repeal the Criminal Code provisions concerning arrest as a criminal punishment, and substitute it with mandatory community service.

13.7. The amendments shorten the holding times for criminal suspects from 72 to 48 hours. The maximum term of pre-trial detention and home arrest is shortened from one year to seven months.

Juvenile justice

13.8. Although some legislative safeguards concerning child participation and treatment in the justice system exist, Uzbekistan does not have a separate juvenile justice system. The high workload of judges in criminal and civil courts of general jurisdiction, understaffing of judicial cadres and lack of specialized training for judges on child rights and international child-specific standards, may lead to poor-quality judicial decisions contravening the best interests of the child.

13.9. Prevention services for children at risk are not developed with linkages to social sector systems. Children victims and witnesses of crime need more protection and support at the pre-trial and post-trial stages. Diversionary measures and alternatives to deprivation of liberty still need to be introduced in national legislation.

14. Right to marriage and family life

Age of marriage, marriage registration

14.1. Uzbekistan is the only country in the Central Asian region with a marital age for girls from the age of 17. In exceptional circumstances, a girl can marry at 16. In 2015, 5,312 girls under 18 years of age were registered as married. It is expected however that most child marriages are not officially registered or are only registered after the couple reaches the legal age for marriage. The number of children born to girls and women aged 15-19 rose sharply in recent years, from 14,032 in 2005 to a peak of 38,572 in 2011. It has subsequently fallen to 33,035 (4.5%) in 2015.

14.2. The Family Code (1998) prohibits forced marriage. In 2013, the government introduced new provisions in Administrative and Criminal Codes which increase punishment for official, parents and religious leaders who carried out early marriages with a big fine and imprisonment for repetitive breaching of the law.

Children's rights (family life and alternative care services)

14.3. There is no single national mechanism for the protection of vulnerable children. The system lacks a coherent national strategy that clearly identifies accountability structures and functions of Government agencies, standards, statutory guidance and protocols and stipulates procedures for service delivery through well-structured inter-agency and inter-ministerial linkages. The emphasis is placed on response services, particularly on institutionalization. Prevention and family support

services are almost non-existent. Institutional care is a predominant means rather than a measure of last resort.

14.4. There is no data publicly available on either prevalence or incidence of abuse and neglect, and no systematic means of identifying and supporting children either at risk of suffering or who have suffered such violations.

14.5. The Law on the Guarantees of the Rights of the Child (2008) supports a child's right to protection from violence. The Family Code, the Law on Guardianship and the Law on Prevention of Child Neglect and Juvenile Delinquency (2010) create a durable structure underlying the child protection system responsive to violence against children, while mechanisms for their implementation are not in place.

15. **Freedom of media, speech and expression**

15.1. The Law on Mass Media secures the freedom of expression and independence of media. Freedom of expression has been practiced more widely compared to previous years. Journalists have a more conducive work environment, undertake journalistic investigations, and write more critically about issues. Self-censorship exists in Uzbekistan at editorial level. A self-regulating mechanism is necessary to promote independent, free and pluralistic media.

15.2. The Government designated 2017 as the year of dialogue with people and human interests; this provided journalists and media platforms with a role in facilitating this dialogue via mass media.

15.3. Although non-government media channels have yet to reach nationwide coverage, non-state media has shown some instances of free reporting. The government has urged media houses to create a safe environment.

15.4. Content on state media is controlled by the Government. During the process of adopting the Action Strategy in early 2017, the media was encouraged to provide a platform for open discussions. However, state-owned media and private media houses are rarely critical. Online media has been more open, but there have been few incidents of critical reporting, and these were largely based on specific events.

16. **Right to social security and to an adequate standard of living**

16.1. Weaknesses in the design, targeting, and administration of the current social protection system undermines the system's potential to effectively tackle poverty and vulnerability at the household level.

16.2. In contrast to global trends in middle income countries, Uzbekistan has gradually reduced its social benefits and shrunk their coverage in recent years. For example, the social allowance for low income families with children is now limited to families with children up to 14 years old (versus 16 to 18 years old previously). In view of the demographic situation of Uzbekistan, this restriction poses risks and a perverse incentive for youth beyond 14 to quit school and enter the labour market. This could have a profound effect on human capital development and intergenerational transmission of poverty.

16.3. Acknowledging some of these challenges, the Government recently signaled its intention to double the coverage of social allowances for low-income families, and increase the social allowance for families with children by 1.5 times. Similarly, the Government plans to introduce public works as income generation schemes for low income population.

17. **Right to health**

17.1. Generally, the high incidence of neonatal causes among child deaths suggests issues with the quality of healthcare services. Infant mortality is primarily caused by issues in perinatal care (60%) and respiratory diseases (21%). Significant external and internal resources have been mobilized to upgrade and restructure primary, secondary and tertiary care, and emergency services. The quality of maternal, perinatal and early neonatal care services has received less attention.

17.2. Presidential Decree No. 2857 (March 2017) on improving primary health care, includes a plan for decreasing the number primary health care facilities. There is concern over the universal coverage of health care, particularly related to the most vulnerable population.

17.3. Uzbekistan has a national policy of free routine vaccinations, for children aged 0-16 years. Recent cuts in number of rural healthcare points may decrease number of vaccination points in rural areas.

17.4. Adolescents show insufficient knowledge and healthy behaviours, particularly related to sexual and reproductive health.

17.5. The Government allocated sufficient budget for contraceptive procurement to cover national needs for 2016-2020, and plans to develop National clinical standards on Family Planning to ensure a Human Rights Based approach.

17.6. The problem of illicit drugs has a significant human dimension in the form of drug abuse disorders, misuse and harm to society. The country has a significant proportion of injecting drug users, often sharing syringes, which presents a serious public health risk with respect to the transmission of blood-borne infectious diseases, particularly HIV and Hepatitis C.

18. **Right to education**

18.1. According to 2015 official statistics, preschool education has an enrolment rate of 25.4 per cent in Uzbekistan. Unlike primary and secondary education, Early Childhood Education (ECE) is not compulsory and access is limited for various reasons. The Government established different policies facilitating ECE enrolment.

18.2. Government data from 2014 indicated that 50.4 per cent of all kindergartens required capital repair, especially in rural areas. A preschool education development programme for reconstruction, improvement conditions and construction of new preschools for 2017-2021 has been developed.

18.3. Primary education and general secondary education are free and compulsory. In primary education, official figures show rural-urban disparities in the distribution of teachers. In Grades 1 to 4, only 36 per cent of pupils in rural areas have an adequately qualified teacher compared to 61 per cent of their peers in cities. Deficiencies in physical infrastructure, including water and sanitation, are understood to be widespread, particularly in rural areas.[v]

18.4. Adolescent girls (15 years and older) from rural areas are more likely to face barriers to access secondary education, especially academic lyceums. Nationwide, in 2014, there were 76 girls enrolled at academic lyceums for every 100 boys.

18.5. Around 70 per cent of schools in Uzbekistan are located in rural areas. There are around 500 small and remote schools located in the mountainous and far reaching areas of Uzbekistan, where education is conducted in multi-grade classes.

18.6. There are 86 special schools and boarding schools for children with disabilities and two for children with “deviant behaviour”. While almost every region has one school for blind and deaf

children and one for children with "mental retardation", there are only three schools nationwide for children with locomotor disabilities, one school for children with visual impairments and one school for children with speech impairments

18.7. In rural schools, electricity shortages during the winter periods are still common, hampering use of ICTs in teaching and learning, and disrupting heating systems. This may have a negative impact on the learning processes in schools, including the health of the children and teachers.

18.8. Annually more than 600,000 youths apply to higher education (HE). However, a 'ceiling' imposed by the government allows seats for only around 10 per cent of applicants. In addition, the annual HE enrolment examination grants 50 per cent extra marks to those (males) graduating from compulsory military service, thereby widen the gender gap in girls' participation to HE.

19. Cultural rights

19.1. The 2005 Convention on Cultural Diversity has not yet been ratified. A number of discussions and roundtables were organized to promote the Convention and encourage ratification.

19.2. The 1972 and 2003 Conventions are ratified, however national laws and regulations need to be aligned to international standards.

20. Persons with disabilities

20.1. Government data confirms 81,530 children under 16 registered with disabilities in 2015. More than 8,500 school-aged children with disabilities are out of primary and secondary education system. Less than 5 per cent of persons with disabilities (PwD) of working age are employed today.

20.2. The majority of children living in institutions are children with disabilities. According to TransMonEE, 83 per cent of the 19,896 children in residential care in 2014 had disabilities, a significant rise from 2013, and largely reflecting the closure of boarding schools for children deprived of parental care.

20.3. Other challenges include: 1. Data on disability is produced by various state sources and is often difficult to reconcile and interpret impeding the development of adequate policies and programmes to promote equal participation; 2. The National disability assessment system is based solely on a medical approach and does not adequately address the rights of children, including to education; 3. Absence of case management and social work to support PwD, including rehabilitation services; 4. Lack of a single state body or coordinating mechanisms for all issues of disability leading to lack of integrated policy and strategic planning for disability issues.

20.4. On 1 August 2017 the President issued the Order "On measures for further improving the system of state support for persons with disabilities". A multi-sectoral Commission headed by the General Prosecutor's Office has been established aimed at radically improving the system of state support for the persons with disabilities.

21. Persons living with HIV

21.1. There were 30,315 persons officially registered as living with HIV in Uzbekistan on 1 January 2015. Newly registered infections in 2016 equate to 13.5 new cases of HIV per 100,000 total population. However, this is in the context of a steadily rising population, and a significant increase in testing coverage. The epidemic is hitting the country unevenly, with higher incidence in Syrdarya region (37.1 and 31.3 per 100,000 population respectively) and Tashkent city (29.8 and 27.0).

21.2. According to statistics from 2014, ARV treatment is provided for 79.8 per cent of persons eligible for ARV treatment with Global Fund support. 23.5 per cent of medical facilities providing ARV services experienced shortages of at least one ARV drug in previous 12 months in 2011. More recent information is not publicly available. Since 2014, the Government has been sharing the cost of ARV procurement, gradually increasing its contribution.

21.3. Education on HIV starts at secondary school. However, knowledge on sexual and reproductive health and the prevention of STDs is low, particularly poor among boys and rural residents.

21.4. The sustainability of HIV services in the country is at risk as a substantial proportion of funds (especially for prevention and psychosocial support) come from international donors, primarily the Global Fund. The number of HIV infected children entering in adolescence among women is rising, increasing the risk of mother to child transmission, as well as the likelihood of children becoming orphans and victims of stigma and discrimination.

21.5. More than 45,000 estimated people who use drugs (PWUD) in Uzbekistan have inadequate access to harm reduction services. Repressive drug policies and lack of funding for harm reduction lead to health inequalities and human rights violations among PWUD, further spreading infectious disease, heightened mortality, and increased rates of incarceration of PWUD.

22. Migrants

22.1. In January 2016, 1.9 million nationals of Uzbekistan were registered in Russia. Parental migration may suggest that children are left in the care of grandparents or other relatives who may not be in a position to properly care for them. Older children – especially boys – may follow their parents in the country of destination and have to live in a non-family environment. In Uzbekistan, data is very limited, and little research has been done into the effects of labour migration on children and families.

22.2. Observations indicate a rising number of crimes against female migrants, committed by their own compatriots in destination countries. Comprehensive research would enable design and implementation of an evidence-based policy in this sphere.

23. Refugees, stateless persons and asylum seekers

23.1. Uzbekistan is the only country in Central Asia that has not acceded to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol. 27 refugees were recognized under UNHCR's mandate in Uzbekistan prior to the organization's departure from the country in 2006. The absence of national legislation concerning refugees continues to have a negative impact on persons in need of international protection. In particular, refugees and asylum-seekers in Uzbekistan face such challenges as the threat of refoulement as well as lack of local integration prospects.

23.2. Statelessness in Uzbekistan is mainly caused by the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991. An additional number of persons became stateless in the recent years, due to existing gaps in the citizenship legislation of the country. According to the government of Uzbekistan (as reported by the Government of Uzbekistan to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in 2010), approximately 87,000 stateless persons are hosted in the country as of 2010, the largest stateless population in Central Asia (officially registered and documented by the authorities). Updated figures on statelessness have not been shared since 2010.

23.3. Uzbekistan is not a party to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. Legislative gaps allow loss of Uzbek

citizenship on the grounds of residence abroad (and non-registration at the consulate within the first 3 years). Additionally, absence of safeguards during renunciation of citizenship, birth abroad and birth on the territory if otherwise stateless, may result in statelessness.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS:

24. Consider the ratification and implementation of the relevant international treaties and optional protocols:
    - Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
    - 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees its 1967 Protocol
    - 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons
    - 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness
    - Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005)
    - Optional Protocol the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure
    - Optional protocol to Convention against Torture
    - Optional protocol to CEDAW

25. Consider the development and adoption of law(s) on prevention of and protection against gender-based violence and domestic violence, in compliance with international human rights standards.
26. Introduce a national system of gender analysis in planning and policy development, implementation and monitoring.
27. Strengthen gender-sensitive and effective reporting, disaggregated data collection, protection and redress mechanisms for victims of gender based violence and domestic violence in line with international standards.
28. Develop a national action plan on comprehensive Multi-sectoral (health, law enforcement, social protection and others relevant systems) response to gender-based violence and domestic violence.
29. Further strengthen the campaign on prevention of gender-based violence and domestic violence in collaboration with CSOs, mass media and development partners including UN.
30. Expand existing provisions of the Criminal Code and Criminal Procedure Code to introduce diversionary measures and alternatives in accordance with international standards and best practices, provide for a child-friendly courtroom environment and ensure specialization among justice professionals dealing with children in conflict with the law.
31. Ensure that any limitations on freedom of information, speech and media are based on objective criteria that are in accordance with international standards on freedom of expression.
32. Encourage creation of a self-regulating mechanism for journalists and adopt a national code of ethics for journalists.
33. Establish the Children's Ombudsman and develop a separate law on the Children's Ombudsman.
34. Consider the extension of the age limit of admission to pre-school from 2 years old.
35. Strengthen the national data system to develop evidence-based social protection, counter-trafficking, migration, disability policies and plans.
36. Promote the implementation of the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners in the Penal Code and practice of penitentiary institutions.

37. Consider launching specialized regional rehabilitation and reintegration services for victims of trafficking.
38. Consider institutionalizing the national referral mechanism to protect and provide services to victims of trafficking.
39. Enhance the targeting system to cover all families in need and integrate a system of social allowances with relevant social services to help lift families out of poverty and effectively protect them from various shocks.
40. Develop human rights- and science-based national drug strategies, which will contribute to the creation and strengthening of drug treatment systems responsive to the needs of the population at risk and/or suffering from the negative health and social consequences of illicit drug use.
41. Improve adolescent reproductive and sexual health education on HIV prevention, particularly focusing on risk groups, such as labour migrants, rural population, drug users, sex workers, etc.
42. Intensify efforts to provide human rights education and to share information on human rights education programmes and activities.
43. Ensure gradual preparation for and participation of Uzbekistan in the Programme for International Students Assessment (PISA).
44. Update the assessment of the magnitude and situation of stateless persons in the country and share this information with UNHCR.
45. Promote the implementation of preventive measures related to FTFs (Foreign Terrorist Fighters), especially legal provisions in accordance with international requirements based on UNSC resolution 2178 (2014), international human rights standards and best practices.

REFERENCES:

[i] Uzbekistan has been a member of the ILO since 1992. It has ratified 14 Conventions, including all 8 Fundamental Human Rights Conventions of the ILO.

[ii] Declaration to Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict (OP-CRC-AC). Declaration by Government of Uzbekistan: "To paragraph 2 of Article 3 of the Optional Protocol: the Republic of Uzbekistan declares that, according to the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On general military duty and military service" adopted on 12 December 2002 enrollment of citizens to the Armed Forces of the Republic of Uzbekistan shall be allowed only after attainment by them of eighteen years of age."

[iii] There are 4 UPR recommendations related to NHRIs' status and national preventive mechanisms:

133.9. Consider further strengthening of the national human rights institution (Kenya);

133.10. Upgrade its existing national human rights monitoring mechanisms into a national human rights institution that meets the Paris Principles (Egypt);

133.33. Expedite establishment of an independent monitoring mechanism of all places of detention (Sweden);

133.34. Continue measures aimed at strengthening national mechanism for monitoring places of detention (Pakistan).

[iv] This commitment can be seen in Presidential Decree (PP-3165) on 31 July 2017 on 'Measures to improve the activities of the State Statistics Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan'; as well as in implementing major surveys, such as the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) that will allow the country to generate valid and reliable child rights data, ensure better monitoring its progress and facilitate planning and implementation of longer term plans.

[v] In line with OECD standards, "all OECD countries require a tertiary qualification for entry to the teaching profession at the primary level". Source: OECD, Education at a Glance, 2011. In this document, adequately qualified teachers are those with Higher education, non-adequately qualified teachers are those with Secondary education or No pedagogical qualification. Figures are calculated by UNICEF Uzbekistan based on 2010 data from UNESCO Uzbekistan and State Statistics Committee

World Bank, World Bank – Uzbekistan Partnership: Country Program Snapshot, October 2012, at http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTUZBEKISTAN/Resources/294087-1285304341425/Uzbekistan_Snapshot.pdf