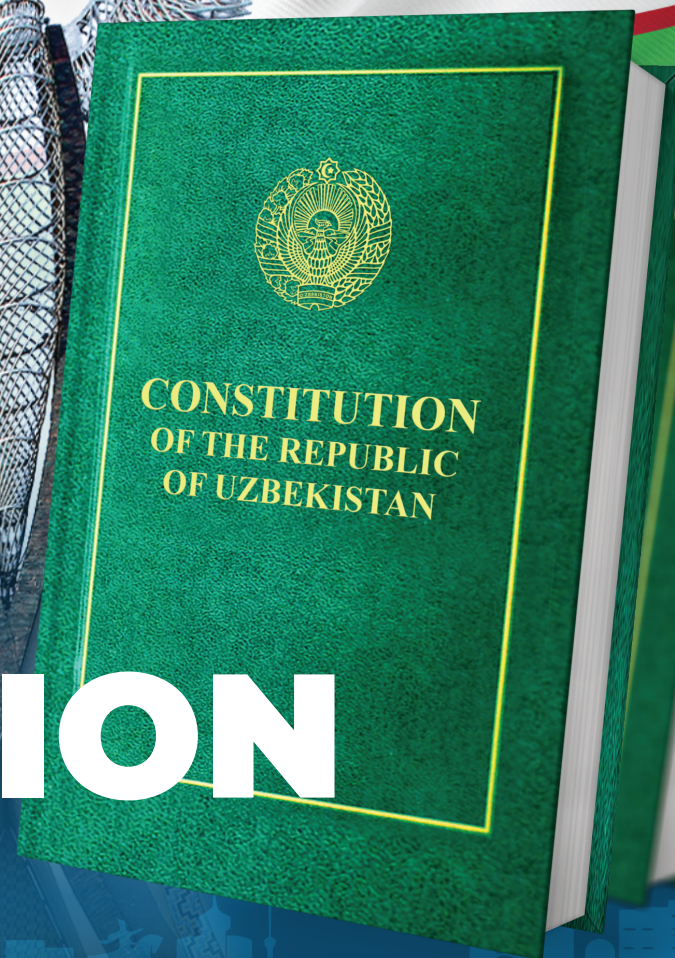




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THE RENEWED CONSTITUTION



REFORMS

2

PURPOSE

CHRONOLOGY

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

PERSONAL RIGHTS

EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS

ECONOMY

ACCESS TO EDUCATION

FAMILY

ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

INCREASING THE ROLE OF THE PARLIAMENT

HUMAN RIGHTS

EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS

COMPACT AND ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNMENT

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM LOCAL GOVERNMENT

THE DEVELOPMENT OF CIVIL SOCIETY INSTITUTIONS

THE RULE OF LAW

PEACEFUL FOREIGN POLICY



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THE NEED FOR UPDATING THE CONSTITUTION



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#PURPOSE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

POPULATION
WILL REACH
50 MILLION
BY **2040**

Uzbekistan is becoming a large country, with more than half of its population consisting of young people. To provide the population with decent conditions, there should be:



**Stable
economy**



**Safe
country**



**Effective
management**



**Social
guarantees**

The fact that a **solid legal foundation** is necessary for all of this shows that **New Uzbekistan needs an updated Constitution.**

THE NEED FOR UPDATING THE CONSTITUTION



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#PURPOSE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM



The top priority of the entire constitutional reform process involves strengthening the guarantees that protect the rights and freedoms of all citizens from birth.



The reforms will become the most important additions and updates to Uzbekistan's Constitution since its initial ratification in 1992.



Almost all previous constitutional amendments are related to governmental and parliamentary matters.



These reforms will establish Uzbekistan as **a sovereign, democratic, legal, social and secular state with a republican form of state.**



CHRONOLOGY OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM PROCESS



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A **CONSTITUTIONAL
COMMISSION** CONSISTING
OF 47 MEMBERS
WAS ESTABLISHED

MAY 20, 2022

More than **60,000** proposals were received
from citizens **to develop a draft constitution:**



«**Meningkonstitutsiyam.uz**» **@meningkonstitutsiyam_bot**
platform telegram bot



«**1341**» short number
call centre



**Notifying Mahallas
(Neighbourhoods) and local
People's Deputies Councils
orally or in writing**

- **One out of every four** of these proposals was incorporated into the draft.

CHRONOLOGY OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM PROCESS



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#CHRONOLOGY

UNDER THE DIRECTION OF UZBEKISTAN'S CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM COMMISSION, AN INITIAL **DRAFT CONSTITUTION** WAS PUBLISHED **FOR PUBLIC DISCUSSION BY THE LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER**

JUNE 25, 2022



Public discussion of the draft constitutional law lasted:

First until
July 5, 2022

Based on many suggestions
and opinions expressed by
citizens, **until July 15**

and then until
August 1

More than 150,000 proposals
were received from the
population.

Another 10,000 additional
proposals were received in
discussions with labour unions,
universities, mahalla
(neighbourhood) activists and
intellectuals.

- International legal documents and experience from **more than 190** countries were studied;

- **6 types of expertise** were conducted.

6



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CHRONOLOGY OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM PROCESS



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#CHRONOLOGY



On **March 9-10, 2023**, the revised draft constitution was considered in **the Legislative Chamber** and approved for submission to a referendum on April 30, 2023



On **March 13, 2023**, the **Constitutional Court of Uzbekistan** ruled that the decision by the Legislative Chamber to hold a referendum was in constitutional compliance.



On **March 14, 2023**, the **Senate** confirmed the decision of the **Legislative Chamber** regarding the **referendum on April 30, 2023**.



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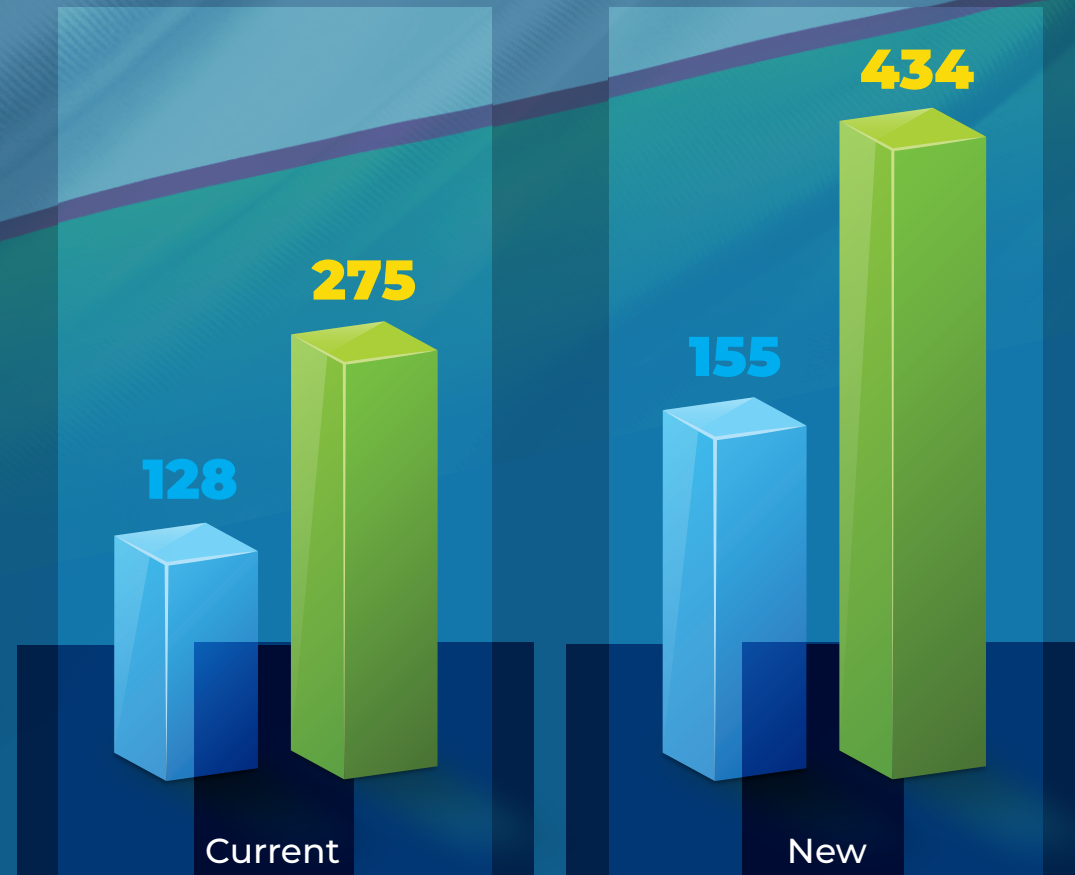
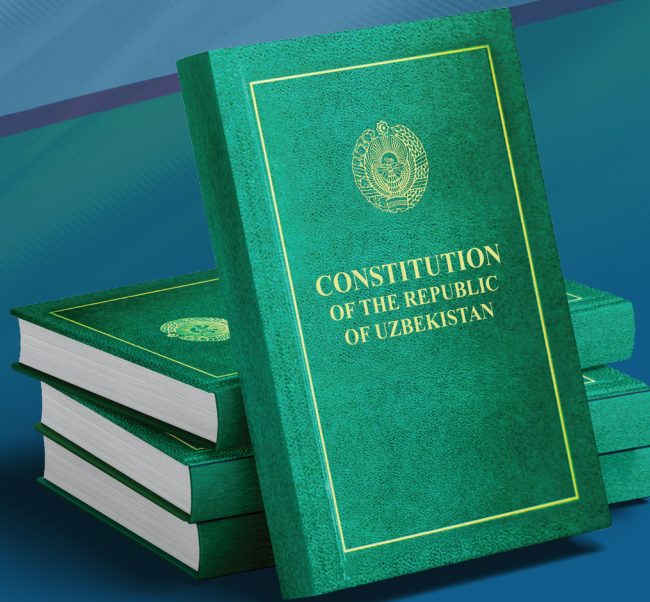
CONSTITUTION



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#AN OVERVIEW OF THE SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

- Number of articles
- Number of provisions



- The number of provisions on human rights and freedoms increased **3.5 times**

- **65%** of the Constitution has been changed

AN OVERVIEW OF THE SIGNIFICANT CHANGES



DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY
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Strengthening human rights protection



Constitutional guarantees of human and civil rights and freedoms are strengthened.



Guarantees for ensuring human rights and freedoms have been significantly strengthened, including by fixing at the constitutional level the universally recognised institutions of "**habeas corpus**" and "**Miranda rules**".

Key human rights reforms cover the following areas:

#Personal rights

The constitutional amendments will:

- guarantee the presumption of innocence for all suspects and legal defendants;
- enable them to exercise the right to remain silent ("**Miranda rule**");
- protect the right of citizens not to testify against themselves or family members;
- prevent a person from being found guilty or punished if their confession is the only evidence brought against them;
- ensure a person cannot be detained for longer than 48 hours without a court ruling.



Citizens and legal entities would have a new right to appeal directly to the **Constitutional Court**.



The Constitution will prohibit the death penalty.

#HUMAN RIGHTS



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AN OVERVIEW OF THE SIGNIFICANT CHANGES



DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY
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Strengthening human rights protection

Protecting religious freedom and freedom of expression

The state will guarantee:

- ✓ freedom of all **religious organisations'** activity operating by Uzbekistan's laws;
- ✓ freedom of media activity, covering their rights to seek, receive, use and disseminate information.



Impeding or interfering with the activities of **mass media** is being determined to be a cause for legal liability.



A constitutional norm is introduced on the creation by the state of conditions for providing access to **the Internet**

#HUMAN RIGHTS

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AN OVERVIEW OF THE SIGNIFICANT CHANGES



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Strengthening human rights protection

Protection of the rights of disadvantaged groups

The state will:

- ✓ Protect the rights of disabled and lonely elderly, persons with disabilities, and other socially vulnerable categories of the population;
- ✓ Take measures to improve the quality of life of socially vulnerable groups, create conditions for their full participation in public and state life;
- ✓ Ensure that people with disabilities can access employment, educational opportunities, and social, economic and cultural services.

Personal data safeguards

Everyone will have the right to:

- ✓ protect their data, correct false information about them, and destroy illegally obtained data;
- ✓ the privacy of correspondence, telephone conversations, postal, electronic and other communications;
- ✓ protect their rights and freedoms in all ways not prohibited by law;
- ✓ apply to international bodies for the protection of human rights and freedoms, if all available domestic remedies have been exhausted;
- ✓ be compensated by the state for **damages caused by illegal decisions, actions or inaction of state bodies or their officials.**

#HUMAN RIGHTS

AN OVERVIEW OF THE SIGNIFICANT CHANGES



DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY
CENTER

● Strengthening human rights protection

Housing rights

All citizens will have the right to housing.



The effect of this norm **ensures that every citizen, including young families, has shelter** and increases people's level of satisfaction with life.



No one would be deprived of their home except by the imposition of a court order. In such instances, the owner would be compensated for the value of their property and related losses incurred by them.

Employment rights



All citizens will be fairly remunerated for their work without any discrimination and not below the established minimum wage.

The state will:



protect people from the effects of unemployment;



organise vocational training programmes for citizens.



Any form of labour that threatens children's health, safety or educational development will be prohibited.



Everyone's right to unemployment benefits is being enshrined.



It is being determined that the amount of pension, benefit and other social assistance cannot be less than the minimum consumption expenses.

#HUMAN RIGHTS



AN OVERVIEW OF THE SIGNIFICANT CHANGES



DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY
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● Strengthening human rights protection

Access to healthcare



All citizens will have the right to a guaranteed level of medical care paid for by the state.

The number of norms related to the population's healthcare is increased 4 times.

- ✓ This is of great importance for the reliable healthcare of the population, elimination of maternal and child mortality and the threat of infectious diseases.

Access to education

The state will

- ✓ guarantee the development of a continuous education system, its various types and forms;
- ✓ protect the honour and dignity of teachers;
- ✓ take care of the social and material well-being and professional growth of teachers.



All secondary education would be compulsory.



Citizens can receive higher education in state educational organisations on a competitive basis at the state's expense.



Higher education institutions will have the right to academic freedom, self-governance, and freedom of research and teaching by the law.



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AN OVERVIEW OF THE SIGNIFICANT CHANGES



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Strengthening human rights protection

Protecting the environment



All citizens will have greater control over urban planning to protect their environmental rights.



Sustainable development principles will be prioritised.



The state will implement measures to improve, restore and protect the environment and maintain ecological balance.

#HUMAN RIGHTS

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AN OVERVIEW OF THE SIGNIFICANT CHANGES



DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY
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Strengthening human rights protection

#Supporting family traditions and youth



Creation by the state of social, economic, legal and other conditions for the full development of a family is constitutionally guaranteed.



Upbringing children, educating them, and raising them to adulthood is being determined as **a parent's responsibility.**



Enforcement and **protection of the child's rights, freedoms and legal interests**, creating the best conditions for his full physical, mental and cultural development, is being determined as the state's duty.



#HUMAN RIGHTS



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DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY
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● Strengthening human rights protection

#Supporting family traditions and youth

Protection of youth rights and promotion of their active participation in society and state life is guaranteed



It is being determined that the state:



guarantees the protection of youth rights and promotion of their active participation in society and state life



should take care of the formation of young people's loyalty to national and universal values, sense of patriotism, and pride in the rich cultural heritage of the people.

The state's constitutional duty includes creating conditions for education, social and medical protection, housing, and employment of young people.



The state is thereby taking on significant obligations. These norms are essential not only for the benefit of young people, but also for the future fate of our society and country.

AN OVERVIEW OF THE SIGNIFICANT CHANGES



DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY
CENTER



Strengthening human rights protection

Guaranteeing the rule of law

Ambiguities in laws **must** and should be resolved **in favour of a person**.



*Uncertainties and misunderstandings in the legislation regulating the relationship between a person and the state will be eliminated, and **unnecessary hassles of citizens will be prevented**.*



An obligation not specified in the legislation cannot be imposed on anyone without their consent.



A citizen of the Republic of Uzbekistan **cannot be forcibly expelled** from Uzbekistan or **extradited** to another country.

The state takes care of maintaining and developing relations with **compatriots** living abroad.



This norm serves to keep compatriots living, working, and studying abroad in constant contact with their homeland, to preserve and develop their language and culture, and to contribute to further raising the reputation of their motherland - Uzbekistan.



AN OVERVIEW OF THE SIGNIFICANT CHANGES



DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY
CENTER

● Supporting Uzbekistan's growing economy



Guarantees of a competitive national economy, private entrepreneurship and property rights are being strengthened.



Entrepreneurs have the right to carry out any activity following the law and to choose the directions of their activity independently.



For the first time, the Constitution envisages that land can be private property.

Under the renewed Constitution, the state will be required to:



- *Provide a favourable investment and business climate*
- *Enable entrepreneurs to undertake independently any business activities by national laws*
- *Guarantee the free movement of goods, services, labour and financial resources across the whole of Uzbekistan*

The Cabinet of Ministers will



- *introduce new measures to ensure openness and transparency;*
- *promote greater efficiency and reduce corruption in executive authorities;*
- *improve the quality and accessibility of public services.*

#ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND FREEDOM



AN OVERVIEW OF THE SIGNIFICANT CHANGES



DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY
CENTER

#ADDITIONAL POWERS TO THE PARLIAMENT

Reforms in the legislature, government and judiciary

Effective, compact and people-friendly state administration will be introduced



Constitutional amendments are becoming essential in consistently implementing the principle of separation of powers - the basis for democratising the entire system of state power.

The powers of the parliamentary chambers are being revised.



Accordingly, the powers of the Legislative Chamber and the Senate are being significantly expanded. There will be **eliminated duplications** in the work of the two chambers and a clearly defined **area of responsibility** for each.



The exclusive powers of the Legislative Chamber and the Senate are increasing



AN OVERVIEW OF THE SIGNIFICANT CHANGES



DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY
CENTER

#ADDITIONAL POWERS TO THE PARLIAMENT

Reforms in the legislature, government and judiciary

To further improve the system of **checks and balances** in the mechanism of state power, the **Chambers of Oliy Majlis** are endowed with the ability to self-dissolve, the decision on which is taken, respectively, by a majority of at least 2/3 of the total number of deputies of the **Legislative Chamber** or members of the **Senate**

The Legislative Chamber will:

- ✓ *Be involved in forming the government and controlling its activities;*
- ✓ *Have control over the execution of the State budget;*
- ✓ *adoption of resolutions on specific issues in the field of political and socio-economic life, as well as issues of the domestic and foreign policy of the state;*
- ✓ *Hear the report of the Prime Minister on the socio-economic development of the country*



According to another norm being introduced, the Laws submitted by the **Legislative Chamber** must be considered in the **Senate** within **60 days**. If the period expires, the law is regarded as approved and sent to the President for signature.

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#ADDITIONAL POWERS TO THE PARLIAMENT

Reforms in the legislature, government and judiciary

The Senate will:

- ✓ *focus on issues of regional importance;*
- ✓ *be involved in reforming representative bodies;*
- ✓ *be involved in forming highest bodies of state power, including the **Constitutional Court**, the **Supreme Court** and the **Supreme Judicial Council**.*

The number of senators will be reduced from 100 to 65:

- ✓ *4 senators will be elected from each of Uzbekistan's **14 regions**, with a further **9 appointed** by the **President**.*



AN OVERVIEW OF THE SIGNIFICANT CHANGES



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#ADDITIONAL POWERS TO THE PARLIAMENT

Reforms in the legislature, government and judiciary



The **Senate's control over law enforcement and special services agencies** is strengthening.



The control powers of the chambers of the Oliy Majlis are to be expanded, including consolidation of the ability to conduct a **parliamentary investigation**.



Previously, the candidacy of the Prime Minister was submitted to the President by the party with the most seats in the parliament. That is now abolished, and the appointment of the Prime Minister becomes dependent upon the approval of the Legislative Chamber. Here the candidacy of the Prime Minister is submitted by the President **after consultations with all fractions of political parties represented in the lower house**.



After hearing a report by a member of the Cabinet of Ministers, the Legislative Chamber has **the right to propose their dismissal** by the President.



AN OVERVIEW OF THE SIGNIFICANT CHANGES



DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY
CENTER

Reforms in the legislature, government and judiciary



The Cabinet of Ministers is significantly strengthened by intensifying its responsibility to the President and the Oliy Majlis; the status of the government is changing

In particular, **there are expanded responsibilities for the solution of problems related to**

- ensuring sustainable economic growth
- creating a favourable investment environment
- poverty reduction
- creating decent living conditions for the population
- ensuring the effective functioning of the system of social protection of the population, including persons with disabilities
- environment protection
- conservation of natural resources and biological diversity and other areas

The government is entrusted with the tasks of:

- ✓ ensuring **openness and transparency**
- ✓ legality and efficiency in the work of executive authorities
- ✓ improving the quality and accessibility of public services
- ✓ providing the effective functioning of the social protection system
- ✓ supporting civil society institutions.

AN OVERVIEW OF THE SIGNIFICANT CHANGES



DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY
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Reforms in the legislature, government and judiciary



The institution of the leadership of khokims at the Councils of People's Deputies will be gradually abolished



The separation of **local executive and representative power** will be the basis for a profound reform of the entire public administration system in the country.



On this basis, the position of the Chairman of the local Council and the khokim **will be separated.**



Powers of local government (khokims) would include implementing measures to ensure the economic, social, cultural and environmental development of particular areas, as well as the formation and execution of local budgets.



All issues are brought down to the neighbourhood level, where the solution is truly the voice of the people



Citizens' self-government bodies do not belong to the state system of state authorities.

Defining this warranty provides essential opportunities for:

- **neighbourhoods to independently manage their territory**
- resolving problems **from the perspective of population interests** based on partnership with the state
- socio-economic development of the area
- implementation of effective **public control**
- **ensuring the well-being of the population**

AN OVERVIEW OF THE SIGNIFICANT CHANGES



DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY
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STRENGTHENING THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE JUDICIARY

Reforms in the legislature, government and judiciary



The new procedure for electing judges to the Constitutional Court will be introduced.



All judges would serve a single 10-year term without the right to re-election.



Judges are inviolable and cannot be sued or penalised for their decisions in any particular case.



The range of issues within the competence of the **Constitutional Court** is being expanded and specified, and the guarantees for the activities of its judges are being strengthened.



A new legislative initiative would be introduced, enabling proposals which have the support of **100,000 citizens** to be presented to parliament.

A separate chapter is introduced into **the Constitution devoted to the institution of the Bar** and establishing guarantees for the **activities of defence lawyers and advocates**



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AN OVERVIEW OF THE SIGNIFICANT CHANGES



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Reforms in the legislature, government and judiciary



Strengthening the constitutional foundations for forming and developing civil society institutions and their active participation in managing the affairs of society and the state.



Strengthening the constitutional foundations for forming and developing civil society institutions and their active participation in managing the affairs of society and the state.



The title of Chapter XIII, "**Public Associations**" is changed to "**Institutions of Civil Society**", which indicates the expansion of the circle of subjects reflected in this chapter of the Constitution;



Implementation of measures to support civil society institutions, ensuring their participation in the development and implementation of programs for socio-economic development and social partnership are defined as the most important tasks of the government



For the first time, the definition of civil society institutions is given

AN OVERVIEW OF THE SIGNIFICANT CHANGES



DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY
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MAINTAINING PEACEFUL FOREIGN POLICY

Reforms in the legislature, government and judiciary



New Constitution enshrined principles of state foreign policy are supplemented by a provision on **"territorial integrity of states"**, with the definition of **"peaceful foreign policy"** as its primary vector.

Uzbekistan strives to strengthen and develop friendly relations with the world community, primarily with neighbouring states, based on cooperation, mutual support, peace and harmony.



The foreign policy of Uzbekistan is based on the principles of sovereign equality of states, non-use of force or threat of force, inviolability of frontiers, territorial integrity of states, peaceful settlement of disputes, non-interference in the internal affairs of other states and other generally recognised principles and norms of international law;



The Republic of Uzbekistan pursues a peaceful foreign policy aimed at the comprehensive development of bilateral and multilateral relations with states and international organisations.



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