

**THE CONSTITUTION IS THE GUARANTEE OF A FREE AND PROSPEROUS LIFE**

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**Abstract:** This article is a new version of the Republic of Uzbekistan examines the importance of the state constitution, explains that its articles are compatible with international law norms, and its compatibility with modern legal principles. Also, in this article, it is reflected that the dignity and freedom of a person is clearly expressed in the world community and the state Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

**Key words:** Republic of Uzbekistan, constitution, prosperous life, people, freedom of citizens, Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

## **INTRODUCTION**

The new version of the Constitution serves as a solid guarantee of human dignity, honor, and rights. The people are the sole source of state power.

The Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, adopted on December 8, 1992, is a vital document reflecting the uniqueness, cultural values, and commitment to democracy of our country. Its adoption marked a turning point in establishing a sovereign legal system that balances national traditions with universal legal principles.

Following the national referendum held on April 30, 2023, several amendments and additions were introduced to the Constitution, reinforcing it as the cornerstone of the country's legal and political system.

Unlike the previous version, which was adopted by the authorized representatives of the people – the deputies of the Supreme Council of Uzbekistan – the new version of the Constitution was adopted directly through a national referendum. In this sense, the true authors of the updated Constitution are the people themselves. The will of the citizens is the source and driving force of the reforms.

## **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

Article 7, paragraph 1, of the updated Constitution states: “The people are the sole source of state power.” This affirms the globally recognized principle of popular sovereignty, enshrining the idea that the people are the carriers of sovereignty and the only source of state power in Uzbekistan.

Based on this, systematic measures are being implemented in recent years to realize the principles and ideas of a New Uzbekistan – a state where human dignity, honor, rights, and freedoms are the highest values; where the state serves the people, not the other way around; where the people’s lawful demands are central in evaluating the work of state bodies; and where important decisions are made with public participation and in consultation with civil society institutions.

It is worth noting that the new Constitution of Uzbekistan fully reflects human rights and freedoms. In particular, Chapter II is titled “Fundamental rights, freedoms, and duties of individuals and citizens.” It consists of 7 chapters outlining general provisions; citizenship; personal rights and freedoms; political rights; economic and social rights; guarantees of human rights and freedoms; and the duties of citizens.

**The Universal Declaration of Human Rights**

The United Nations General Assembly adopted the “Universal Declaration of Human Rights” on December 10, 1948.

It is recognized that many developed countries have modeled their constitutional guarantees of human rights and freedoms in alignment with this Declaration. The preamble of the Declaration emphasizes the inherent dignity and equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family as the foundation of freedom, justice, and peace.

Currently, there are nearly 70 UN conventions, over 160 declarations by the Council of Europe, more than 70 by UNESCO, and over 30 by the OSCE relating to human rights.

Uzbekistan’s Constitution clearly aligns with the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. For instance, Article 3 of the Declaration states: “Everyone has the right to life, liberty, and security of person.”

Similarly, Article 25 of the updated Constitution of Uzbekistan reads: “The right to life is an inalienable right of every person and is protected by law. Attempting on a person’s life is considered the gravest crime. The death penalty is prohibited in the Republic of Uzbekistan.”

Article 5 of the Declaration states that no one shall be subjected to torture or cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment. Article 9 affirms that no one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention, or exile.

In Article 27 of the Uzbek Constitution, this is reflected as follows:

“Everyone has the right to liberty and personal inviolability. No one shall be arrested, detained, or imprisoned arbitrarily or unlawfully, nor be subjected to torture or cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment.”

Clearly, the Constitution of Uzbekistan fully incorporates the core ideas and principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

## **DISCUSSION AND RESULTS**

Our Constitution is distinguished by its humanism. According to it, parents or guardians are obligated to provide care for their children until they reach adulthood – ensuring their upbringing, education, and full, healthy development. The state and society also take responsibility for supporting orphans and children deprived of parental care, promoting charity for this purpose.

As noted by our esteemed President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, youth are now given great opportunities. This is also enshrined in the Constitution, which mandates the state to ensure employment, protect against unemployment, and reduce poverty. The state also promotes vocational training and retraining.

Today, Uzbekistan is confidently moving along the path of development and progress. All reforms are aimed at the well-being of the people and improving their quality of life. The Constitution affirms the supreme value of life, freedom, honor, dignity, and the inviolable rights of individuals. Citizens trust in justice and the rule of law.

Crucially, people are increasingly participating in solving life and social issues. For laws to function effectively and regulate the relationships between individuals, society, and the state, citizens must possess legal awareness and culture. Only when there is a sense of respect for the Constitution and laws, and the necessity to follow them, will social life and living standards change.

Therefore, it is essential to organize events informing citizens about the role and place of the Constitution in the national legal system. Additionally, it is vital to increase students’ knowledge and legal literacy about the Constitution. With permission from relevant authorities, the media should emphasize the Constitution as a foundation of national development and a symbol of state independence. Videos and short films highlighting its significance should be made available to the public.

The Constitution laid the groundwork for broad political, economic, and social reforms, ensuring human rights, social peace, and harmony. It serves as a strong legal basis for the consistent development of social relations and determines the direction of relations between citizens, society, and the state. The core of constitutional law is the Constitution itself, which holds a central and crucial place in any national legal system.

Each country has its own constitution, and there is no universal constitutional model applicable to all. Every nation follows its own path of constitutional development. The Constitution of independent Uzbekistan is no exception.

The preamble to the new Constitution declares: "We, the united people of Uzbekistan, solemnly declare our loyalty to human rights and freedoms, national and universal values, and the principles of state sovereignty; we reaffirm our commitment to democracy, freedom, equality, social justice, and solidarity; we recognize that the human being – his life, freedom, honor, and dignity – is the highest value; we aim to build a humane democratic state and a fair society; we draw upon more than three thousand years of statehood experience, the scientific, cultural, and spiritual legacy of our great ancestors who contributed uniquely to world civilization..."

This underlines that having a Constitution is not only the foundation but also a necessary condition for developing a democratic legal state.

Since its adoption, the norms and rules of the Uzbek Constitution have been steadily implemented. Significant achievements have been made in all spheres of public life, and development continues. Thanks to our Constitution, harmony among citizens and ethnic groups is maintained, living standards are improving, and great progress is being made in education, science, and sports. Young people are learning the theoretical and practical aspects of the Constitution's creation, principles of constitutional order, and its symbols of sovereignty and democracy.

Young people are now confidently answering questions about the Constitution and expressing their views on electoral laws. This right belongs not only to the youth but to the entire Uzbek nation.

## **CONCLUSION**

The principles and rules established in the Constitution, the long-term goals and objectives, and the deeply considered development strategy have determined fundamental reforms in all spheres. This has become a reliable and decisive factor that has motivated Uzbekistan to reach great heights. The citizens of the country can rightfully be proud of this. If we evaluate the work done over the past years, there is a solid basis to say that great achievements have been made today in reforming and renewing the republic, as well as in achieving macroeconomic balance. The Constitution is the legal and legislative foundation for building an independent, sovereign, democratic state, ensuring the supremacy and protection of private property in a multi-sector market economy, and shaping a civil society in our country. Thanks to this foundation and the Constitution, human interests, rights, and freedoms have become the highest value.

Practice has shown that the process of reforming and democratizing all aspects of national life is not a one-time event, but a continuous process aimed at fully implementing all the principles and rules of the Constitution. This contributes to the further prosperity of our homeland and the strengthening of its freedom and independence.

The Basic Law clearly states that Uzbekistan's main goal is not only to build a democratic, legal state but also a just society. Indeed, its essence is to create decent living conditions for people and to implement the principles of social justice as the foundation of all areas of national legislation. In line with these goals, today we are on the threshold of introducing amendments and additions to the Constitution. All these efforts are necessary for the well-being of the people, for citizens to live in perfect conditions—in short, to lead a prosperous life, including expanding the scope of rights and freedoms for women, improving living standards, and creating opportunities for young

people to receive a promising education. These measures will serve to ensure their rapid and full implementation.

Article 13, Chapter II of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan states: “Democracy in the Republic of Uzbekistan is based on universal principles, according to which a person, his life, freedom, honor, dignity, and other inviolable rights are the highest value, and the rights and freedoms of citizens are protected by the Constitution and laws.” When we say that Uzbekistan is a democratic state, we truly envision a society where human rights and freedoms are fully guaranteed.

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