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Key Aspects of Legal Reforms in the New Uzbekistan

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Abstract. The article analyzes the key aspects of legal reforms carried out under the leadership of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev. It examines the main directions of transformation in the country's legal system, including the renewal of the Constitution, improvement of the judicial and legal sphere, introduction of digital technologies into court activities, and strengthening of mechanisms for the protection of human rights and freedoms.

Particular attention is paid to the content of the constitutional reform of 2023, issues of ensuring judicial independence, and increasing the effectiveness of justice. Based on the analysis of current legislation, regulatory legal acts, and the practice of their implementation, the article reveals the results of ongoing reforms and their significance for the further development of the rule of law. It is concluded that the reforms being carried out are comprehensive and consistent in nature, contribute to strengthening the rule of law, improving the level of legal protection of citizens, and forming a modern system of public administration in the conditions of New Uzbekistan.

Keywords: Uzbekistan, legal reforms, Constitution, judicial system, rule of law, human rights, digitalization.

Introduction

In modern conditions of dynamic development of legal institutions, the study of legal reforms carried out in Uzbekistan is of particular importance. The transformations carried out in recent years cover almost all spheres of public and state life, affecting issues of constitutional development, improving judicial power, strengthening human rights guarantees and introducing modern digital technologies into the public administration system.

The relevance of the research is due to the fact that the legal reforms being implemented in the New Uzbekistan form a qualitatively new model of interaction between the state and society based on the principles of the rule of law, justice and respect for human rights.

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The object of the study is the social relations that develop in the process of implementing legal reforms in Uzbekistan.

The subject of the study is the main directions of improving the country's legal system in the context of the formation of a New Uzbekistan.

The purpose of the study is to analyze the key aspects of legal reforms and determine their role in the development of the rule of law.

Research methodology

The methodological basis of the research was made up of general scientific and special methods of scientific cognition. In the process of studying the legal reforms carried out in Uzbekistan, systematic, formal-legal, comparative-legal and analytical research methods were used. The systematic method allowed us to consider the ongoing reforms as an interconnected set of transformations covering the constitutional, judicial, legal and human rights spheres. The formal legal method was used in the analysis of the provisions of the updated Constitution of Uzbekistan, legislative acts and other normative legal documents regulating the reform processes. The comparative legal method has contributed to the study of certain areas of development of national legislation in the context of generally recognized international legal standards. The analytical method was used to evaluate the content, main directions and results of the ongoing transformations.

The research materials included the Constitution of Uzbekistan, normative legal acts regulating the activities of state authorities and the judicial system, international legal documents in the field of human rights, as well as scientific publications on the development of the rule of law and the improvement of the legal system.

The study is based on the hypothesis that the legal reforms being implemented in the New Uzbekistan are comprehensive and aimed at strengthening the principles of the rule of law, improving the effectiveness of public administration, ensuring the independence of the judiciary and expanding guarantees of human rights and freedoms.

The study was conducted in several stages. At the first stage, the regulatory and legal bases of the ongoing reforms were studied. At the second stage, the main directions of constitutional, judicial, legal and digital transformations are analyzed. At the final stage, the results of the reforms and their significance for the further development of the rule of law in Uzbekistan are assessed.

Results and Discussion

In recent years, under the leadership of the President of Uzbekistan, Sh. Mirziyoyev, large-scale systemic reforms have been carried out in the country, covering all spheres of public, political and economic life. The ongoing democratic reforms have become irreversible. Equal opportunities, respect for human rights, improving the welfare of the people and ensuring decent living conditions for the population are the priorities of the reform strategy of the New Uzbekistan.

One of the most important events in the modern history of Uzbekistan was the adoption of amendments to the Constitution of the Republic in 2023. As President of Uzbekistan Sh. Mirziyoyev emphasized that the updated Constitution became the legal foundation of the Third Renaissance in Uzbekistan. He sets the strategic direction for the comprehensive revival of

the country, including spiritual, cultural, scientific and legal. Constitutional reform approved by referendum on April 30, 2023, with a turnout of 84.5% and the support of 90.1% of those who voted, significantly expanded the section on the rights and freedoms of citizens and strengthened the social obligations of the state. The number of articles of the Basic Law has increased from 128 to 155, and about 65% of the text has been updated.

The main purpose of the updated Constitution is to regulate the basic statuses of the individual, society, and the State. The Basic Law reflects the change of the previously existing paradigm of "state- society - man" to "man- society - state". This means that Uzbekistan has entered a new historical stage of democratic development. The updated Constitution adds the principle of a rule-of-law state to the status of Uzbekistan, where ensuring human rights and freedoms are key features. The Constitution has also increased the number of norms on guarantees of human rights by 3 times. This means that, first of all, the rule of law will be ensured in all areas. The Constitution proclaims the status of Uzbekistan as a sovereign, democratic, legal and secular state, focused on building a just society and declaring itself a "social state" with high obligations to ensure the well-being of citizens. The constitutional changes have become a significant step towards the formation of a genuine rule-of-law state in the country, where the protection of citizens' rights and their well-being are declared a priority.

Of course, constitutional reform represents a profound transformation of constitutional and legal institutions and norms, which goes far beyond the usual amendments or changes in legislation. The adoption of the constitutional law itself or other normative acts regulating the reform process is one of the stages of a larger process of updating socio-political relations, affecting the foundations of the state structure, the system of separation of powers and mechanisms for the realization of citizens' rights and freedoms. In general, the constitutional reform has become the foundation for further legal transformations, creating a value basis for the consistent strengthening of democratic institutions, improving governance, ensuring justice and equality before the law.

An important area of legal transformation has become the strengthening of the judicial system as a key guarantor of the rule of law. One of the central priorities of the reforms was to ensure the true independence of the judiciary, which implies not only the normative consolidation of the autonomy of the courts, but also the creation of effective guarantees for their practical implementation. To this end, new legislative acts have been adopted that strengthen the legal basis for the independence and inviolability of judges, as well as expand their powers in the administration of justice. Significant changes have been made to the mechanism of selection and appointment of judicial personnel. The selection procedure is now based on the principles of openness, professional competence and fairness, which minimizes administrative influence and increases public confidence in the judicial system. Special attention is paid to strengthening judicial control as the most important institution for the protection of citizens' rights and freedoms. The Codes of Criminal Procedure and Civil Procedure have been amended to expand the powers of courts to verify the legality of decisions, actions and omissions of government agencies and officials. This has significantly increased the role of the court as an independent arbitrator, ensuring respect for the principle of legality and equality of all before the law.

Over the past 6 years, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan has adopted over fifty decrees and resolutions aimed at comprehensively improving the judicial and legal system. This large-scale package of regulations has laid a solid foundation for the formation of a truly independent, fair and open judiciary.

It should be emphasized that the judicial and legal reforms carried out in the country are primarily aimed at strengthening guarantees for the protection of the rights, freedoms and legitimate interests of citizens and entrepreneurs, creating mechanisms for effective access to justice, as well as ensuring transparency and accountability of the courts. As a result of the measures taken, public confidence in the judicial system is increasing, citizens' opportunities to defend their rights in court are expanding, and the principle of legality in all spheres of state and public life is being strengthened. The judiciary is gradually becoming not a formal, but a real guarantor of justice and the rule of law, which indicates the consistency and depth of the reforms being implemented.

In August 2025, the President of Uzbekistan signed a decree that marked the beginning of a large-scale digital transformation of the country's judicial system. This document marked the transition to a new stage of modernization of justice, based on the introduction of artificial intelligence technologies and big data analysis to increase transparency, efficiency and fairness of judicial processes.

An analysis of the changes carried out shows that the legal reforms are complex and cover the constitutional, judicial, human rights, and digital spheres. The main directions of the reforms and their significance are presented in the table.

The main directions of legal reforms in the New Uzbekistan

The direction of reforms	Main content	Practical significance
Constitutional reform	Adoption of the updated Constitution in 2023, consolidation of the principles of a legal and social state	Strengthening guarantees of human rights and freedoms, strengthening the constitutional foundations of state development
Judicial and legal reform	Increasing the independence of courts, improving the procedure for selecting judges, and expanding judicial control	Strengthening the rule of law and citizens' trust in the judicial system
Digitalization of justice	Implementation of the concept of "Digital court", electronic legal proceedings and artificial intelligence technologies	Improving the accessibility, transparency and effectiveness of justice
Protection of human rights	Improvement of national legislation and implementation of international human rights standards	Strengthening legal guarantees and ensuring effective protection of citizens' rights
Improving public administration	Modernizing the activities of government agencies and improving the quality of public services	Improving the effectiveness of public administration and interaction between the State and society

The main goals identified in this document are strategic guidelines for the introduction of artificial intelligence technologies and accelerating the digital transformation of the judicial system in the coming years. These tasks are aimed at creating a modern, technologically equipped and open justice system that provides maximum convenience for citizens and business entities.

Firstly, a phased transition of legal proceedings to an electronic form is envisaged in accordance with the concept of a "Digital court". The implementation of this direction will make

it possible to completely abandon paper media, ensuring the efficiency, transparency and safety of procedural materials.

Secondly, the task is to expand the range of interactive electronic services provided to citizens and businesses. It is planned to introduce services that allow making copies of judicial acts, reviewing case materials in electronic form, determining the jurisdiction of applications, calculating court costs using artificial intelligence algorithms, and maintaining an electronic register of sources and content prohibited by court decisions. These measures are aimed at increasing the accessibility of justice and simplifying procedures for interaction between courts and citizens.

Thirdly, special attention is paid to the creation of modern technical infrastructure necessary for the integration of artificial intelligence technologies into the activities of ships. At the same time, the regulatory framework governing the use of digital tools in judicial practice will be improved, which will ensure legal certainty and security of digital processes.

Fourthly, based on the information systems of the Supreme Court, it is planned to develop and implement a single archive module of judicial acts, which ensures the systematization and preservation of judicial practice, as well as access of participants in the process to archived data online.

Fifth, great importance is attached to research activities in the field of digitalization of justice, in particular the development of the field of "Cyber Law", as well as the continuous improvement of digital literacy and qualifications of judges and court staff. This will strengthen the professional competencies of judicial officers in the context of digital transformation.

In addition, it is planned to increase the efficiency of economic courts by optimizing their structure and forming a unified judicial practice, which contributes to the unification of decisions and strengthening legal predictability. It also provides for the creation of new type of courtrooms equipped with modern digital tools that meet the concept of a "Digital Court". Along with this, it is planned to improve the working conditions of judges and court staff, as well as strengthen their social protection.

Another important area of legal reform in Uzbekistan has been the strengthening of the human rights and freedoms protection system. To date, Uzbekistan has built a holistic legal architecture that covers the entire range of human rights – from personal and political to economic, social and cultural. This system reflects the State's commitment to the ideals of humanism, the rule of law and justice. Realizing the importance of international obligations, Uzbekistan is actively implementing universal human rights norms and standards in the national legal system. In particular, the country is a party to such fundamental international treaties as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

It is important to note that in the New Uzbekistan, the protection of human rights and freedoms has become the main criterion for the implementation of the rule of law and a key indicator of the effectiveness of ongoing reforms. State policy in this area is based on the recognition of a person as the highest value, and his rights as the basis of the entire system of legal regulation and the activities of state institutions.

Conclusion

In general, the legal reforms carried out in Uzbekistan have acquired a systematic and progressive character, covering all key areas of state and public life. Constitutional changes,

judicial and legal transformations, the introduction of digital technologies and the development of institutions for the protection of human rights have become integral elements of the strategy of the New Uzbekistan, where man and his rights are proclaimed the highest value. These processes contribute to strengthening citizens' trust in the State, increasing the effectiveness of legal institutions and the formation of a modern justice system that meets international standards.

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The author declares that there is no conflict of interest.

The author independently developed the research concept, analyzed regulatory sources and scientific literature, prepared the text of the article and formulated the main conclusions of the study.

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Ключевые аспекты правовых реформ в Новом Узбекистане

Аннотация. В статье анализируются ключевые аспекты правовых реформ, осуществляемых под руководством Президента Республики Узбекистан Ш.М.Мирзиёева. Рассматриваются основные направления преобразований в правовой системе страны, связанные с обновлением Конституции, совершенствованием судебно-правовой сферы, внедрением цифровых технологий в деятельность судов и укреплением механизмов защиты прав и свобод человека.

Особое внимание уделяется содержанию конституционной реформы 2023 года, вопросам обеспечения независимости судебной власти и повышения эффективности правосудия. На основе анализа действующего законодательства, нормативно-правовых актов и практики их реализации раскрываются результаты проводимых преобразований и их значение для

дальнейшего развития правового государства. Делается вывод о том, что осуществляемые реформы носят комплексный и последовательный характер, способствуют укреплению верховенства закона, повышению уровня правовой защиты граждан и формированию современной системы государственного управления в условиях Нового Узбекистана.

Ключевые слова. Узбекистан, правовые реформы, Конституция, судебная система, верховенство закона, права человека, цифровизация, справедливость.

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Жаңа Өзбекстандағы құқықтық реформалардың басты бағыттары мен ерекшеліктері

Аңдатпа. Мақалада Өзбекстан Республикасы Президенті Шавкат Мирзиёевтің басшылығымен жүзеге асырылып жатқан құқықтық реформалардың негізгі аспектілері талданады. Елдің құқықтық жүйесіндегі өзгерістердің басты бағыттары, атап айтқанда Конституцияны жаңарту, сот-құқықтық саланы жетілдіру, сот қызметіне цифрлық технологияларды енгізу және адам құқықтары мен бостандықтарын қорғау тетіктерін нығайту мәселелері қарастырылады. Конституциялық реформаның 2023 жылғы мазмұнына, сот билігінің тәуелсіздігін қамтамасыз ету және сот төрелігінің тиімділігін арттыру мәселелеріне ерекше назар аударылады.

Қолданыстағы заңнамаға, нормативтік-құқықтық актілерге және олардың іске асырылу тәжірибесіне жүргізілген талдау негізінде реформалардың нәтижелері мен олардың құқықтық мемлекетті одан әрі дамытудағы маңызы көрсетіледі. Мақалада жүргізіліп жатқан реформалардың кешенді және дәйекті сипатқа ие екендігі, олардың заң үстемдігін нығайтуға, азаматтардың құқықтық қорғалу деңгейін арттыруға және Жаңа Өзбекстан жағдайында заманауи мемлекеттік басқару жүйесін қалыптастыруға ықпал ететіні туралы қорытынды жасалады.

Түйін сөздер: Өзбекстан, құқықтық реформалар, Конституция, сот жүйесі, заң үстемдігі, адам құқықтары, цифрландыру.

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