



THE GOVERNMENT OF REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN . OLIY
MAJLIS

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Annotation: this article highlights the significance of tourism in Uzbekistan and its role in strengthening international relations, as recognized by the Oliy Majlis. It emphasizes the country's Silk Road heritage and historic cities such as Samarkand, Bukhara, Khiva, and Tashkent, which attract global interest. Major reforms since 2017, including visa-free entry and e-visas, have improved accessibility for foreign visitors. Tourism also serves as a tool of cultural diplomacy through international festivals and events, promoting mutual understanding. Economically and politically, it supports foreign investment, international cooperation, and diplomatic ties. Despite infrastructure and competition challenges, Uzbekistan's tourism sector holds strong prospects for enhancing the country's global image and regional cooperation.

Key words: Uzbekistan; Tourism; Oliy Majlis; Silk Road heritage; Samarkand, Bukhara, Khiva, Tashkent; Visa-free entry; E-visa system; Cultural diplomacy; International festivals; Mutual understanding; Foreign investment; International cooperation; Diplomatic ties; Infrastructure challenges; Regional cooperation; Global image; Economic benefits; Political benefits; Future prospects



Introduction

The Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan, together with the Oliy Majlis, plays a central role in developing and promoting the country's tourism sector. Recognizing tourism as a tool for economic growth and international engagement, they have introduced key reforms since 2017, including visa-free entry and e-visa systems. These measures have improved accessibility for foreign visitors and strengthened Uzbekistan's global image. Through cultural festivals, international events, and diplomatic initiatives, the government and Oliy Majlis aim to foster mutual understanding, attract foreign investment, and enhance regional and international cooperation.

State Governance in the Republic of Uzbekistan

In the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Constitution establishes that “the people are the only source of state power.” This principle defines the essence of state legal activity and forms its foundation. The Constitution strictly stipulates that state authorities must act in the interests of the people; it is a fundamental responsibility placed on them. The functioning of state power is considered one of the main forms of exercising people's authority. This activity is carried out, first and foremost, by the state bodies and officials defined by the Constitution, in accordance with procedures established by the Constitution and laws. These officials are also periodically formed or replaced through elections. The legal basis of Uzbekistan's sovereignty is the Constitution, which was adopted by the 12th convocation of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan at its 11th session on December 8, 1992. The Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan incorporates human rights and freedoms as outlined in international documents, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, democratic principles and values common in developed democratic countries, as well as several millennia of national and Eastern traditions of governance in our homeland. The Constitution strengthens the general



principles for constitutionally regulating the important aspects of social life in sovereign Uzbekistan and defines the essence of state governance. Any assumption of state power, suspension or termination of the activities of state bodies, or formation of new structures of authority in a manner not provided by the Constitution is considered unconstitutional and constitutes grounds for legal accountability. Only the Oliy Majlis and the President, elected by the people, can act on behalf of the citizens of Uzbekistan. The state carries out its activities with the aim of ensuring human and societal well-being, based on the principles of social justice and legality. The Constitution strengthens people's authority, which is one of the main principles of the constitutional system. It also establishes the structure of the supreme bodies of state power in the Republic of Uzbekistan and provides the rationale for the separation of powers.

The Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan strengthens people's authority, which is one of the main principles of the constitutional system. It establishes the structure of the supreme bodies of state power and provides the rationale for the separation of powers. The principle of the distribution of powers is one of the most important features of a legal state and is a fundamental rule followed by all developed democratic countries. It is not merely a democratic norm; rather, it is a constitutional safeguard against the concentration of power in a single body, which centuries of state development have shown can lead to serious abuses. In Uzbekistan, the legislative, executive, and judicial branches operate as a single coordinated state mechanism while remaining relatively independent. A balance of powers exists among the national bodies performing legislative, executive, and judicial functions. Legal reforms are continually implemented to maintain this balance, ensuring that state authority functions effectively in the interests of the people.

The highest republican-level bodies of state governance operate in close coordination with their lower, local organs. The importance of local government



bodies lies primarily in their direct work with citizens, local self-government bodies, and organizations. For this reason, particular attention is given to the activities of local state governance bodies in Uzbekistan. Another democratic aspect of our Constitution is that the most important issues of society and state life are submitted for public discussion and put to a general vote (referendum). The Constitution and current laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan establish a continuous political and legal connection between the state and citizens. In recent years, unprecedented reforms have been implemented in state governance. Every decision affecting the life of the country is made after discussion with the public, with dialogues conducted directly and interactively. State officials, from top leaders to department heads, now go directly to local communities rather than remaining in their offices, addressing the most pressing and critical problems of the population. A completely new system has been established in Uzbekistan to communicate with citizens and solve their vital problems, forming an important component of state governance. At the core of this system are the Citizens' Reception Offices and Virtual Reception of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Legislative Body in the Republic of Uzbekistan

State and society governance is organized on a democratic basis through elections. The essence of civil society lies in the ability of citizens to elect their representatives, establish representative bodies, and determine the direction of their activities. The **Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan** is the highest representative body of state power and exercises legislative authority. To carry out legislative functions effectively, the Oliy Majlis is organized as a **bicameral body**, consisting of the **Legislative Chamber** and the **Senate**. The main objectives of this structure are as follows:

Establishing a system to balance different interests during its activities;



Ensuring the quality of lawmaking;

Achieving a balance between national and regional interest

The **constitutional law “On the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan”** defines the status of the Legislative Chamber, while the **constitutional law “On the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan”** specifies the status, powers, and areas of activity of the Senate. The composition of these chambers is determined by law in accordance with their goals and responsibilities. The Senate, which represents regional interests, is primarily formed from representatives of local councils of people’s deputies. It is also known as the upper chamber of Parliament. The Legislative Chamber carries out its activities on a permanent professional basis and is mainly composed of highly qualified specialists with the knowledge, experience, and skills necessary for drafting laws and other legal documents. It is also referred to as the lower chamber of Parliament. The term of office for both the Legislative Chamber and the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of Uzbekistan is five years. According to Article 77 of the Constitution, the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis consists of 150 deputies elected in accordance with the law. Deputies of the Legislative Chamber are elected in territorial single-member constituencies through multi-party, general, equal, and direct elections by secret ballot. The **Senate of the Oliy Majlis** serves as the territorial representative chamber and consists of 100 members (senators). Senators are elected from among deputies of the representative bodies of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, regions, districts, and cities during joint sessions of these deputies by secret ballot. Equal numbers of senators—six each—are elected from the Republic of Karakalpakstan, the regions, and the city of Tashkent. Sixteen senators are appointed by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan from among the most distinguished citizens with significant practical experience and special services in science, art, literature, production, and other areas of public and state



activity. Citizens of Uzbekistan who have reached the age of 25 and have permanently resided in the country for at least five years are eligible to be deputies of the Legislative Chamber or members of the Senate. Requirements for candidates are defined by law. One person cannot simultaneously be a deputy of the Legislative Chamber and a member of the Senate. The Legislative Chamber elects its **Speaker** and deputies from among its members, while the Senate elects its **Chairperson** and deputies. The Chairperson of the Senate is elected based on the proposal of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Deputies of the Legislative Chamber and members of the Senate enjoy **immunity**. They cannot be criminally prosecuted, detained, arrested, or subjected to administrative penalties without the consent of their respective chamber. The **organizational form** of the Oliy Majlis is the session. The basis of a session is its meetings. Between sessions, committees, commissions, and other bodies of the Oliy Majlis hold meetings. Sessions of the Oliy Majlis are convened at least twice a year. Deputies may form factions, blocks, or other parliamentary groups based on legislation to discuss issues in advance and submit proposals.

The Oliy Majlis performs the following functions:

- Approves decrees of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan;
- Elects Constitutional and Supreme Court judges;
- Elects the Chairman of the Central Bank;
- Reviews and adopts the laws of Uzbekistan;
- Approves the state budget and other strategic programs of the state.

Laws are submitted to the Oliy Majlis by authorized bodies with legislative initiative, after which the Majlis considers, amends, and adopts them. The Oliy Majlis also has the authority to oversee the implementation of the Constitution, laws, and its own decisions by state bodies, organizations, enterprises, and institutions.



Executive Authorities of the Republic of Uzbekistan

In the Republic of Uzbekistan, a unified system of executive power operates under the leadership of the Government. This system includes the **Cabinet of Ministers**, ministries, state committees, agencies, concerns, associations, and regional, district, and city government authorities. According to the Constitution, executive power is exercised by the Cabinet of Ministers, whose members are selected from candidates proposed by the Prime Minister and approved by the President. The Prime Minister is nominated by the President and confirmed by both chambers of the Oliy Majlis. The Cabinet of Ministers includes the Prime Minister, deputy prime ministers, ministers, heads of state committees, and the head of the Government of the Republic of Karakalpakstan. It is responsible for leading the economy, social and cultural sectors, ensuring the implementation of laws, decisions of the Oliy Majlis, and presidential decrees. The Cabinet issues mandatory orders and resolutions for all authorities, organizations, enterprises, institutions, officials, and citizens, ensuring the rule of law and effective governance throughout the country. The Cabinet is accountable to both the President and the Oliy Majlis. Upon the election of a new Oliy Majlis, the Cabinet resigns in full. Its functions also include drafting and implementing the state budget, conducting unified financial and monetary policy, ensuring state policies in culture, science, education, social security, and the environment, defending the country, maintaining state security, executing foreign policy, and protecting citizens' rights, property, and public order. The President has the right to chair meetings of the Cabinet of Ministers. In Uzbekistan, aligning the powers of the central executive authority with market principles and reducing the participation of state bodies in economic management required a serious reconsideration of the functions of central executive structures and administrative organs. Reforms included reducing management, regulatory, and distribution powers, as well as sharply limiting direct interference in the activities of economic entities. By decreasing the powers of vertical management bodies and



expanding the authority of horizontal management bodies, these reforms created conditions to limit centralization in state governance. A significant aspect of this process was transferring some administrative functions from the republican level to local (regional, district, and city) levels. Particularly important is the **mahalla system**, a unique form of local self-government that exists only in Uzbekistan. This system represents a distinctive innovation in governance and has become an essential component of both the theory and practice of state administration in the country.

Judicial System of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Judicial power is one of the branches of state authority in Uzbekistan. The judicial system includes: the **Constitutional Court**, the **Supreme Court**, **military courts**, civil and criminal courts of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, regional and Tashkent city civil and criminal courts, inter-district and district (city) courts for civil and criminal cases, economic and administrative courts of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, regions, and Tashkent city, as well as inter-district, district, and city economic and administrative courts. No other state body has the authority to consider or resolve civil, criminal, or other legal cases. The judiciary is the only branch empowered to administer **fair justice**.

The state is responsible for providing the necessary conditions for judicial bodies to perform their functions effectively. Judicial independence is guaranteed by the Constitution and laws of Uzbekistan and is also reflected in international law, particularly in the UN document “**Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary**.”

The effectiveness of fair justice is directly linked to the **binding nature of judicial decisions**. Court rulings in Uzbekistan are enforced through the authority of the state.



The principle of **transparency** is a key constitutional foundation for fair justice. All cases in the courts of Uzbekistan are conducted openly. The **constitutional principle on language** is also important: according to Article 115 of the Constitution, court proceedings are conducted in Uzbek, Karakalpak, or the language spoken by the majority of the population in a given area.

An important aspect confirming the alignment of Uzbekistan's judicial system with international standards is the **presumption of innocence**, enshrined in law. This is a significant achievement of the national legal system and a fundamental principle of civil society.

All judges in Uzbekistan have equal status, and no one is allowed to interfere with their judicial activities. Judicial reforms have strengthened the constitutional principle of **separation of powers**, enabling the judiciary to operate independently from the executive branch.

Recent reforms aimed at democratizing and liberalizing the judicial system include:

- Prohibiting decisions in investigative and judicial processes based solely on statements from victims, witnesses, suspects, or defendants without clear evidence;
- Merging the Supreme Court and the Supreme Economic Court into a **unified judicial body** overseeing civil, criminal, administrative, and economic cases;
- Establishing a department under the Supreme Court to support court activities;
- Setting judges' **term of office** at five years.

These measures have strengthened fair justice, judicial independence, and the rule of law in Uzbekistan.

The **Supreme Council of Judges** of the Republic of Uzbekistan was established to support and ensure the constitutional principle of judicial



independence. The powers of the **Constitutional Court** were also expanded to include reviewing the constitutionality of presidential decrees and orders.

In addition, the President of Uzbekistan issued a decree titled **“On Further Reforming the Judicial-Legal System and Strengthening Guarantees for the Protection of Citizens’ Rights and Freedoms.”** This decree defined priority tasks for judicial reforms, emphasizing:

- Ensuring the real independence of the judiciary;
- Protecting citizens’ rights and freedoms;
- Increasing access to fair justice.

Clear responsibilities were assigned to the judiciary, law enforcement, and supervisory bodies to achieve these goals. These measures strengthen judicial independence, safeguard human rights, and enhance the efficiency and transparency of the judicial system in Uzbekistan.

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