



Key directions of national parliamentarism in new Uzbekistan

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Abstract: The article provides a comprehensive analysis of the evolving landscape of parliamentary democracy in Uzbekistan amid rapid economic, political, and social reforms. The study underscores the transformative vision of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, whose initiatives have redefined the nation's legislative framework by ensuring fundamental rights, human dignity, and the inviolability of private property. It examines the adoption of a new constitutional framework alongside strategic documents such as the "Uzbekistan-2030" Strategy, which collectively outline short-, medium-, and long-term national development goals. Emphasis is placed on modernizing the lawmaking process through the introduction of innovative democratic procedures, enhanced parliamentary oversight, and the effective use of information and communication technologies to foster public debate and citizen engagement. Furthermore, the article highlights the strengthening of inter-parliamentary cooperation and the deepening ties between deputies and their constituencies, which have resulted in increased transparency and responsiveness of the legislative body. Overall, the analysis demonstrates how the integrated reform efforts are consolidating a modern, accountable, and inclusive parliamentary institution that not only mirrors the aspirations of Uzbekistan's diverse society but also paves the way for sustainable national development.

Keywords: Parliamentary democracy, legislative reform, democratic transformation, public participation, constitutional modernization, international cooperation.

Introduction: In recent years, Uzbekistan has been rapidly getting onto a new stage of development. The democratic image of the country is changing. Economic, political, social reforms and transformations are taking place.

The main thing is that in our country the basic fundamental rights and freedoms of each person have become truly ensured. In particular, respect for human rights, ensuring the inviolability of private property, and guaranteeing freedom of speech are universal values that shape the content of the activities of state bodies.

The most important thing is that such principles and concepts as "human dignity", "man - society - state", "state - for man", "enhancement of human dignity", put forward by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, deeply penetrate our real life. We are all witnesses of the fact that in Uzbekistan, regardless of the sphere or industry, the goal of the large-scale reforms being implemented is to glorify human dignity, to find solutions to the problems that concern our people.

Analyzing the achievements and milestones achieved over the past period, we can confidently say that the approach that the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev uses in his work, and this is a manifestation of sensitivity and attention to any issue of state and public life, the solution of these issues based on the primary assessment of the opinions, demands and wishes of our people, fully justifies itself today.

The Action Strategy, the Development Strategy and the Strategy "Uzbekistan-2030", initiated by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, reliably defined short-term, medium-term and long-term goals and guidelines for the comprehensive development of all spheres of our country. In particular, the practice of annual adoption of state programs aimed at the effective and consistent implementation of the tasks defined in the framework of the Action Strategy for the Five Priority Development Areas of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2017-2021 became the cornerstone that laid the foundation for breakthrough reforms. The Development Strategy of the New Uzbekistan for 2022-2026 defines what the development trends, priority areas and goals for the further development of Uzbekistan should be. The Uzbekistan-2030 Strategy has become a single comprehensive conceptual document incorporating 100 main goals. The goals defined in this strategy have shaped the need to create a new constitutional and legal climate that meets the high requirements of the reforms and transformations carried out in our country. April 30, 2023, undoubtedly, a huge historical event took place in the life of our country. For the first time in the history of our statehood, a new version of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan was adopted on the basis of a national referendum. Strategic program documents

and constitutional reforms prepared and implemented taking into account the initiatives, demands, proposals and recommendations of our people have created the basis for achieving extremely important positive results in the activities of the chambers of the Oliy Majlis. Over the past short period, the role and significance of the representative body elected by the people – the parliament – in the socio-political life of our country have changed radically.

Laws are of vital importance, their author is our great and noble people.

It is impossible to imagine a state based on the rule of law without lawmaking. The principle of "Uzbekistan is a state based on the rule of law" was enshrined in the new version of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan. This demonstrates the importance and significance of ensuring the acceptability, improvement, nationality and effectiveness of legislation.

It should be noted that lawmaking consists of a complex set of methods and tools (means). It covers the entire process from identifying the need for it in society to the adoption of a legislative act and its implementation.

In order to fully legally support the intensive reforms being implemented today, the process of implementing lawmaking activities is also being improved. Because the successful implementation of reforms largely depends on the quality of the lawmaking process.

Considering that at the new stage of Uzbekistan's development there are very urgent tasks in the field of rulemaking, much attention is paid to further improving the quality of the work of the lower house in the field of lawmaking.

A number of new democratic procedures were introduced based on the priority principle that "the only source and author of the law should be the people." The procedure for public discussion of draft laws in the lower house of parliament has been established. Particular attention is paid to the adoption of laws of direct action, that is, those that do not require the development of additional acts for their implementation.

Today, in order to create a legal basis for consistent reforms implemented in our country, cases of amendments and additions to the current legislation have become more frequent. An important issue is to convey to the population the real essence of such laws in a simple and understandable form, the organization of the correct application and interpretation of norms by representatives of law enforcement practice.

Therefore, the practice of including in the introductory parts of laws introducing amendments and additions to the current legislation, a preamble containing an

explanation of the need, motives and purposes of its adoption, as well as revealing their essence and meaning, has been introduced.

At the same time, a revision of the entire legal framework of the legislative process of a separate sphere is carried out and a number of comprehensive laws are adopted. This serves to ensure the systematization and comprehensiveness of the legislative framework.

The Legislative Chamber is turning into a real "school of democracy", a platform for impartial debates and discussions on each bill. Along with representatives of project initiators, ministries and departments, industry experts, specialists and scientists actively participate in the discussion of draft laws; all opportunities are created for them to express their opinions.

Draft laws are submitted for public discussion before being submitted to the lower house of parliament; proposals received from society are comprehensively studied. Particular attention is paid to the introduction of modern methods of involving the population, including information and communication technologies. The Portal for the discussion of draft regulatory legal acts (regulation.gov.uz) is in operation.

At the same time, special attention is paid to ensuring broad public participation in the process of considering draft laws in the Legislative Chamber, taking into account the wishes of citizens, and holding open discussions among the population. In particular, a special procedure for public discussion of draft laws has been adopted, within the framework of which local deputies organize discussions of draft laws among voters on an ongoing basis.

Today, both the scale of legislative activity and the volume of work of the Legislative Chamber are synchronized with the reforms carried out in our country. For example, in 2016, 19 laws were adopted and sent to the Senate, and in 2023 this number became 99, which confirms our words.

A practice is developing of discussing bills mainly in factions of political parties and committees of the Legislative Chamber. This practice is of great importance when finalizing bills with the participation of representatives of subjects of legislative initiative, industry specialists, experts and scientists, in particular, this allows for an even more complete expression of the interests of voters in the adopted legal acts, and also serves to ensure the effective implementation of these laws.

At the same time, within the framework of reforms carried out on the basis of the "Uzbekistan – 2030" strategy, legislation regulating certain sectors is being

revised, and based on the results of the revision, a number of comprehensive laws are being adopted.

In particular, these include such laws as "On the Commissioner of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan for Children's Rights (Children's Ombudsman)", "On the Privatization of State Property", "On the Status of a Teacher". Considering that the creativity of norms is the main factor in the implementation of today's reforms, its further improvement is of great importance. After all, the comprehensive improvement of the adopted laws serves to improve the well-being of our people, and to ensure their rights and freedoms even more fully.

The effectiveness of parliamentary control is ensured

In organizing the control and analytical activities of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis, first of all, special attention is paid to effective parliamentary monitoring of the implementation of the goals defined in the State Program for the Implementation of the Development Strategy of the New Uzbekistan for 2022-2026 in the "Year of Caring for People and Quality Education", as well as in the State Program for the Implementation of the Strategy "Uzbekistan - 2030" in the "Year of Support for Youth and Business".

Based on the direct initiatives and ideas of the Head of our state, special attention is paid to the radical improvement of the control and analytical activities of the parliament. Its legal framework is being strengthened. New forms of parliamentary control are being introduced.

In particular, the "Government Hour" institute has been introduced in the Legislative Chamber work, within the framework of which the answers of government members to questions from deputies are heard. Since 2019, the practice of considering candidates for membership in the Cabinet of Ministers at a meeting of the lower house has been introduced. The State Budget Department, created in the lower house, serves to establish effective control over the formation and execution of the budget.

At the same time, it would not be an exaggeration to say that based on the new version of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the control activities of the parliament have moved to a completely new qualitative level.

Analysis shows that most of the innovations introduced into the updated Constitution and related to parliamentary activities are aimed at strengthening the control activities of the lower house of parliament.

For example, in order to eliminate parallelism and duplication, the joint powers of the Legislative Chamber

and the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan, including those related to the performance of oversight functions, were revised.

It should be recognized that parallelism in the implementation of control activities of the chambers of the Oliy Majlis negatively affected the efficiency of state bodies and reduced the effectiveness of parliamentary control measures. For example, it has been established that requests are repeatedly sent to the same department and hearings of their heads are repeatedly held on them (in 2020, 4 requests were sent to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and 6 hearings of the leadership of the Ministry of Internal Affairs were held). There are cases of repeated studies on the same issues in the same regions (in the Andijan region in 2021, the chambers conducted 8 studies, during this period, 1-2 studies were conducted in other regions).

Another important point, enshrining in the Constitution as a joint power of the chambers of the Oliy Majlis is the determination of the maximum amount of the public debt of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Previously, these powers were not defined at the Constitutional level; they were regulated by legislative norms. For example, the powers of the Oliy Majlis to determine the maximum amount of public debt are enshrined in the Budget Code (Article 152), in the Law "On External Borrowing" (Article 4). Based on this, the determination of the maximum amount of public debt was included in the scope of general powers of the chambers of the Oliy Majlis. In addition, in order to strengthen the role of Parliament in the fight against corruption, it was decided to consider the National Report on the Fight against Corruption in the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Also, in order to increase the effectiveness of parliamentary investigation, ensure the involvement and participation of both chambers of parliament in this investigation, it was envisaged that parliamentary investigations will be carried out only with the consent of both chambers.

Such reforms of parliamentary activity, especially the introduction of such forms of accountability, fundamentally increase the openness and responsibility of the government. Issues raised by the local population are brought to the attention of the government.

During the implementation of parliamentary control, special attention was paid to the development of the relevant sphere, the development of specific proposals to eliminate existing shortcomings, and a critical assessment of the work of officials. This serves to further improve the effectiveness of the work of

members and officials of the government, ultimately ensuring citizen satisfaction with the activities of state bodies, and improving the well-being of our people.

Interest of the electorate and voters

Political parties are a significant force leading society to development and presenting bold ideas and initiatives aimed at the well-being of people. In turn, the body promoting the interests of political parties are their factions in the Legislative Chamber.

In the legislative activities of factions, an important place is occupied by the institution of "consultations with the electorate", created in order to ensure the popular norms of bills and increase their effectiveness in further improving the life of society.

Opinions and proposals received from the regions on bills are summarized by political parties and considered at meetings of factions. As a result, the interests of voters and the electorate of the party are reflected in each bill discussed in the Legislative Chamber. In addition, factions have the opportunity to demonstrate their principled positions when discussing bills.

After all, as the Head of State noted, deputies will be able to justify the trust of voters only if they show their firm position on each bill submitted for discussion.

From this point of view, the practice carried out in this direction has significantly increased the level of inter-factional competition that takes place during the discussion of bills under consideration in the Legislative Chamber.

Representatives of the people have become true exponents of the people's will.

One of the most important areas of activity of the deputy corps is expanding ties with voters, identifying the problems of the population and solving them through the effective use of forms of parliamentary control.

The initiatives of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh. Mirziyoyev to improve the mechanisms for establishing strong ties between deputies and voters give the parliament the opportunity to deeply study the problems of concern to the population, to be a bridge between the people and state institutions and fully express the interests of voters.

In the time since the start of breakthrough reforms, the priority in the activities of people's representatives has become the principle according to which it is not voters who should go to their elected representatives, but deputies who should go to their voters, and continuous dialogue with the population has risen to a new qualitative level.

Previously, deputies traveled to meet with voters three

or four times a year, but now the last week of each month is allocated for deputies to work in their constituencies. Being an important area of comprehensive and complete satisfaction (expression) of voters' interests, this mechanism has formed a stable order that ensures that deputies receive information "first-hand" about the needs, problems and real state of affairs at the local level directly from their voters.

Deputies, during their activities in their constituencies, inform voters about the progress of large-scale reforms implemented within the framework of the implementation of the Strategy "Uzbekistan-2030", the legislative and control and analytical activities of the Legislative Chamber. They convey the essence and significance of newly adopted laws.

People's deputies not only study the problems and shortcomings reported by citizens, but also pay special attention to studying the interests of the population and public opinion on important issues of public life that require their solution.

Deputies in their constituencies have established permanent communication with the territorial People's Reception Offices of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan. During the visiting activities of deputies in their constituencies, joint receptions of citizens are organized in cooperation with the People's Reception Offices. Thus, during 2023, more than 12.5 thousand citizens were received. In addition, public discussions of some bills under consideration in the Legislative Chamber were organized at the local level, following the discussion, opinions and proposals received from the population were received and considered. These opinions and proposals were used to improve the bills. In total, in 2023, deputies visited 5,336 households and held 4,191 meetings in constituencies. Direct meetings and dialogues were organized with more than 104.8 thousand citizens, including more than 9.5 thousand entrepreneurs, deputies got acquainted with the activities of 2,527 social facilities.

Such activities of deputies at the local level allow timely identification and elimination of problems and shortcomings arising in society that concern voters and the population. In addition, during their activities in the districts, the deputies of the Legislative Chamber provide ongoing practical support for the effective functioning of local Kengashes of People's Deputies, the work of their standing committees, party groups and secretariats created under the Kengashes. This, in turn, is of great importance for the further development of mutual cooperation between the chambers of the Oliy Majlis and local Kengashes, and

their full performance of the functions of representative bodies.

Openness and transparency have become the main criteria

In our country, systematic work is being carried out to liberalize all spheres of society, to establish the principles of openness and transparency. Openness and transparency have become the main criteria for the activities of the parliament; they are harmoniously combined with the reforms and updates that are being implemented in our country at a new stage of its development.

Today, official pages of the chambers of parliament under the name "Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis" have been opened in social networks and the video hosting site "YouTube", through which meetings of the Legislative Chamber are broadcast live.

The activity of elected representatives in social networks plays an important role in closer communication with voters, studying the problems of the population, and most importantly, in promptly introducing changes to draft laws and current legislation.

Live broadcasts of meetings of the Legislative Chamber undoubtedly increase the interest of our people and the general public in the process of discussing and adopting bills in the lower house.

As a result of live broadcasts of the meetings, the public expressed many opinions and proposals concerning the issues discussed in the Legislative Chamber.

It should be noted that today a completely new system for taking into account the opinions of citizens expressed by them during the discussion of bills is being formed in the Legislative Chamber.

Undoubtedly, the proposals put forward by the public play an important role in the further improvement of the legislative activity of the Legislative Chamber. At the moment, it serves to ensure the openness and transparency of the activities of the deputy corps.

International cooperation is strengthening

Strengthening international relations and developing inter-parliamentary cooperation is one of the important areas of activity of the Legislative Chamber.

In this regard, multifaceted and effective relations in the sphere of mutually beneficial cooperation of the Legislative Chamber with the parliaments of foreign countries and international organizations are consistently continued. Particular attention is paid to the implementation of priority and important goals defined in this area in the Development Strategy of the New Uzbekistan and in the Strategy "Uzbekistan-2030".

As a result, during the period of large-scale reforms carried out in our country, the deputy corps became an active participant in the foreign policy direction based on the protection and promotion of the national interests of our Motherland, developed on the initiative of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan and aimed at open, mutually beneficial and practical foreign cooperation.

Uzbekistan effectively cooperates with the most influential international parliamentary organizations of the world - the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Currently, there are 58 inter-parliamentary cooperation groups in the Oliy Majlis that interact with foreign parliaments. These inter-parliamentary cooperation groups serve as a permanent dialogue platform for the further development of relations with the legislative bodies of foreign countries and, in turn, become a convenient mechanism for conducting an open, constructive and lively dialogue with representatives of foreign parliaments.

It should be noted that today a new institution has emerged in the activities of the parliament. Namely, this is the practice of developing and adopting "road maps" by the Kengashes of the chambers of the Oliy Majlis, aimed at solving important problems related to the domestic and foreign policy of the country, and carrying out work on their implementation. Such an institution serves to increase the responsibility of the people's representatives, while guaranteeing that the parliament will not remain on the sidelines of large-scale reforms.

CONCLUSION

In a word, the development of the main directions of national parliamentarism in New Uzbekistan is in harmony with the hopes and dreams of the noble multinational people of our country.

The Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan, relying on the initiatives and ideas of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh. Mirziyoyev, occupies an important place in ensuring the stable development of the country and the formation of genuine democracy in the constitutional system of a democratic state. These initiatives, aimed at democratizing the national political system and the foundations of public administration, strengthen the role and significance of parliament in the life of our society.

The activities of the Oliy Majlis as an important and independent institution play an important role in

ensuring the stable development of our country, the formation of a truly legal state, and the creation of a constructive and creative environment in our state.