

Dear colleagues!

On behalf of the delegation of Uzbekistan, I welcome the participants of the conference.

The topic of today's debate is of topical importance in the light of the growth of serious challenges of various nature, as well as increasing uncertainty around the world.

In these conditions, the development and utilization of science, technology and innovation play an important role in ensuring sustainable development and global stability.

Dear friends,

For Uzbekistan, this issue is also of priority importance and is seen as an important condition for the country's dynamic development.

In particular, in the conceptual document "Strategy Uzbekistan - 2030", which defines the directions of the country's development, accelerated introduction of modern technologies and digitalization of various sectors are among the main priorities.

In accordance with this, large-scale measures are being implemented to ensure and stimulate scientific, innovative and technological progress in economic and social sectors.

First of all, the legislative base in the sphere of education, science and innovation has been ensured. More than 180 normative and legal acts have been adopted in a short period of time.

Today, the population of Uzbekistan exceeds 37 million people, which makes the country the largest in Central Asia, representing more than 40% of the region's population.

Under these conditions, accelerated expansion of higher education, modernization of the educational system, development of STEM education, is a necessity for effective use of the huge human capital.

Proceeding from In the last seven years, 135 new higher education institutions have been established, which led to an almost 3-fold increase in the total number of educational institutions, the coverage of higher education has increased 5-fold, and the scientific potential of higher education institutions has reached 70%.

To ensure the growth of scientific potential, the system of financing was diversified.

Over the last 5 years, funding for science from the private sector and industrial enterprises has tripled.

In order to ensure sustainable scientific and technological development of the country, measures have been taken to create a modern innovation infrastructure, which creates conditions for commercialization of innovative ideas and strengthening of the country's ecosystem.

In particular, 28 districts of the country have been designated as innovation districts and 47 innovation infrastructure facilities have been formed, which opens up new opportunities for entrepreneurs.

The state actively supports science and innovation by allocating significant funds for research and startups. Over the past four years, more than 1,700 projects worth \$172 million have been funded.

The introduction of new mechanisms for commercialization of scientific and technological developments has resulted in a significant increase in their commercial value.

As a result of the reforms carried out, Uzbekistan in 2023 ranked 82nd in the world in the Global Innovation Index, up 40 positions compared to 2015.

Dear friends!

Today we are discussing important issues that determine our future.

Given the important role of the IPU in shaping policy in this area, it is advisable to use its potential and authority in bringing parliaments together.

In particular, the IPU should play a coordinating role in establishing an exchange of experience in legislation governing education, science and innovative development.

Particular attention should be paid to increasing investment in science and innovative development in the budgeting process. Parliaments should promote the growth of budget expenditures in this direction.

We believe it is also necessary to organize within the framework of the IPU an exchange of experience in the sphere of increasing and developing the human resources potential of parliaments.

In these matters, Uzbekistan is ready to share its own experience, as well as to study and adopt the positive practices of foreign partners.

At the same time, we call for strengthening global dialog in the field of science and technology. Parliaments should promote international cooperation, encourage innovation and strengthen public attention to science and technology issues.

Distinguished conference participants,

Only through coordinated efforts and active implementation of advanced scientific solutions can we cope with the urgent challenges of our time.

We hope that close international cooperation within the framework of IPU will ensure the effectiveness of our efforts in this direction.

Thank you for your attention!