



Turning the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic into opportunities for parliaments to achieve the SDGs

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Uzbek Parliament's experience with SDGs

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

Uzbekistan has been following a successful approach to implementing SDGs into long-term development of the country. From the beginning, when SDG were announced in 2014, Uzbek government commissioned a full study of the goals and review of the country's development process. Using the results from them, National Strategy and Roadmap for implementing 16 goals and 127 targets were established by integrating them into the National Development Strategy of Uzbekistan.

However, COVID-19 pandemic that the year 2020 started with entered its corrections to all of the development charts. This pandemic became a global disaster with economic, health and social consequences. During these difficult times the parliament of Uzbekistan tried to ensure that all layers of population are protected first from the virus without their rights being infringed. For example, due to the pandemic providing basic education to the standards strived for during before pandemic times became impossible. However, solution was found in the implementation of XXI-century technologies and bringing education to every home via TV-channels.

Acknowledging that global shift due to COVID-19 was negatively affecting the development path by which Uzbekistan was supposed to achieve SDG goals by 2030, the Uzbek Parliament recognized the need to increase the efforts directed at achieving them. In 2020, a Parliamentary Commission was established to monitor the implementation of the National Sustainable Development Goals and Targets until 2030. To enter necessary corrections that were the consequences of the

pandemic, Uzbekistan decided to use its opportunity to submit Voluntary National Review to UN ECOSOC High-Level Political Forum on the progress of implementation by the country of 17 Sustainable Development Goals in achieving the 2030 Agenda on July 15, 2020.

The Parliament together with the UN agencies in Uzbekistan launched a decade of actions and commitments to achieve the SDGs in Uzbekistan. In May 2020, the Parliamentary Commission for monitoring the implementation of National goals and objectives on sustainable development of the Republic of Uzbekistan for the period up to 2030 was held. This initiative allowed Uzbekistan to see all the shortfalls in achieving the targets, people affected by the shortcomings and root reasons for the same.

On June 23-24, 2021, the International Forum “Inter-Parliamentary Global Cooperation in Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals” was held in Bukhara, Uzbekistan. The main goal of the Forum was the exchange of international cases of other countries and parliamentarians in the implementation and achievement of the SDGs. In this context, parliaments play an active role in shaping legislation, monitoring and promoting the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Participants discussed the role of parliament in achieving sustainable development in the transition to a green economy. Proposals were given for the effective implementation of the sustainable development goals, as well as for enhancing the role of parliament in achieving these goals, and expressed their commitment to further mutually beneficial partnership. In addition, a Bukhara Declaration was adopted at the end of the Forum.

I would like to highlight the importance of adopting a resolution of the United Nations General Assembly on enhancing the role of parliaments in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and ensuring human rights. It is our firm belief that this resolution that was initiated by President Shavkat Mirziyoyev at the 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly will align parliamentary action with Sustainable Development Goals.

Currently, Uzbek Parliament and other branches of government are working together with international partners to bring the standards of life in Uzbekistan to a higher position than the pre-pandemic levels.

Thank you.