

**Twenty fifth anniversary**

**Of the Fourth World Conference on the Status of Women and the Adoption  
of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995)**

**REPORT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BEIJING  
DECLARATION AND PLATFORM FOR ACTION  
UZBEKISTAN**

**Tashkent 2019**

## Section 1: Priorities, Achievements, Challenges and Setbacks

### Preamble

During the several years after the Fourth World Conference on Women, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Parliament, the Government of Uzbekistan and civil society organizations, have maintained the commitment to improve the situation of women and expansion of their rights and opportunities in accordance with the Beijing Platform for Action (BPA). There have been many positive developments in our country in all areas of concern of the BPA and we are able to provide examples from all areas of the country on achievements in improving the role and status of women in political, socio-economic and cultural spheres of life.

The Republic of Uzbekistan reaffirms the importance of the Beijing Platform for Action as a basis for further reforms, policy development and project implementation, especially in the context of setting the goals for achieving gender equality in the framework of the “**Development Strategy of Uzbekistan in 2017-2021**”, which includes the priority tasks of increasing the socio-political activity of women, strengthening their role in the government and society, active participation of women in peace-building processes, increasing economic independence and ensuring the employment of women and young people, especially those living in rural areas.

In recent years, Uzbekistan has achieved a great success in promoting the participation among the population, including women. The empowerment of people, their ability to take an active role in governance, policy and reform processes is key to ensuring the lasting economic and social progress.

The government is continuously taking measures to improve the legal frameworks and mechanisms for supporting women's rights. In order to implement the BPA, a new legislation has been adopted aimed at protecting the rights of women in family and marriage. A number of changes and additions have been made to the current legislation, which aims to strengthen the measures on prevention of violence against women and domestic violence; combating outdated patriarchal stereotypes, as well as customs and practices, including those concerning minors. A number of measures have been taken to further develop the institutions of civil society, as well as to strengthen the self-sufficiency and independence of media.

In February 2018, the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan was adopted “On measures for comprehensive improvement of efforts to support women and to strengthen the institution of family”. This Decree facilitated the comprehensive reforms to the work of the Women's Committee, as well as a number of state bodies and public organizations.

As part of the objectives stipulated in this Decree and three other orders of the head of state, as well as six resolutions and one order of the Cabinet, ministries and other government bodies, over 20 comprehensive plans of activities were approved to facilitate reforms in this area.

There are around 10 legislative acts aiming to strengthen the role of civil society institutions in supporting women's rights. These include the revised Law “**On the bodies of self-government of citizens**”, the Law “**On Social Partnership**” and “**On Public Control**” among others.

***“In recent years, the government of Uzbekistan has initiated the adoption of a remarkable number of laws, strategies and plans affecting human rights.***

***According to the Minister of Justice R.K. Davletova, in 2017 alone, the Government has set a target of adopting 125 regulatory documents, furthermore, a number of other key laws and regulatory measures have already been drafted, discussed and adopted during the last few months of 2016. In summary, these goals appear to be meaningful, constructive and important.*** Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary-General.

## ***The key achievements in implementation of gender equality and the empowerment of women over the past 5 years***

In accordance with the Resolution of the 70<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly of the Organization of the United Nations, adopted at the United Nations Summit on Sustainable Development in September 2015 and with a view to facilitate the systematic and continuous implementation of SDGs until 2030, the Cabinet of Ministers of Uzbekistan approved 16 national sustainable development goals and associated targets for delivery by 2030. A national set of indicators was developed and approved to facilitate the monitoring of the progress in the implementation of the SDGs. From 206 adopted indicators, 32 are gender-related. A dedicated website (<http://nsdg.stat.uz/>) was launched in 2018, reflecting the processes of implementing the National Goals and Objectives for the SDGs in Uzbekistan. The process of nationalizing the SDGs is led by the Government of Uzbekistan, in consultation with the UN. The Resolution of the Council of Ministers as of 15 February 2016, formally defined the institutional order of the nationalization of the SDGs in Uzbekistan.<sup>1</sup>

### **Reforms of the institutional mechanisms to promote the rights of women, girls and gender equality in the country**

The Women's Committee of Uzbekistan is the largest and most influential women's organization in Uzbekistan with offices in all regions of the country. It initiates, coordinates and implements government policies, programs and projects aimed at improving the status of women. The key regulatory documents in the country include the following: Decree No. 5325 of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated 2 February 2018 "***On measures for comprehensive improvement of efforts to support women and to strengthen the institution of family***" and Decree No. UE 5430 dated 4 May 2018 "***On measures for comprehensive improvement of the role of civil society in the democratic revival of the country***", aimed at improving the legal basis for protecting the interests of women and families, while taking into account the best international experience in facilitating conducive environment and ethical norms in relation to them.

In order to conduct an in-depth empirical and innovative research on the theme of family values and traditions, a ***Scientific and Practical Research Center - "Oila"*** has been created under the Cabinet of Ministers and its territorial divisions. The main tasks of the center include promotion and integration of the belief that "Healthy family is a healthy society", as well as the constitutional principle that "the family is under the protection of the state and society".

### **Creation of a Commission on Gender chaired by the Speaker of Parliament.**

The Chairperson of the Women's Committee is the Deputy of the Commission.

The tasks of the Gender Commission include:

- active participation in the implementation of state policy aimed at achieving gender equality and improving the social situation of women in the country;
- consideration of appeals of state bodies and other organizations on issues of violations of gender equality;
- implementation of measures on issues of occupational segregation, wage differences, and increase of the share of women among the economically active segments of the population;

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<sup>1</sup> *Strategy of Action in Uzbekistan 2017-2021 and the objectives of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda of the United Nations*. Organization of the United Nations, Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

- development of proposals for the implementation of international norms integrated into national legislation on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women;

- identifying and ensuring the effective implementation of measures aimed at increasing the legal awareness of women, as well as organizing large - scale general awareness-raising campaigns;

### [Development and submission of the legal bill for the review of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan](#)

The Bill "**On guarantees of equal rights and opportunities for men and women**" defines the concept and classifications of gender equality, the objectives and functions of the authorities, norms on facilitating gender equality in public administration, job applications, access to loans, entrepreneurship, as well as the measures to prevent the violations of gender equality. The law defines the legal liability for committing acts, leading to such violations.

The Bill "**On protection of women from oppression and violence**" addresses the issues of prevention of abuse and harassment in domestic and work settings, as well as educational institutions, and sets the measures to reduce the violence in relation to women and girls.

[Strengthening of the labour rights and support for entrepreneurial activities of women.](#)<sup>2</sup> The Bill expands the economic opportunities for women to become more competitive in national and international markets, to grow their business and facilitate the employment of women and girls. In this regard, a Decree No.4235 of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On measures to further strengthen the guarantees the labour rights and support for entrepreneurial activities of women" was adopted on March 7, 2019."

[Establishment of the Ministry of Preschool Education](#) and the corresponding Ministry of the Republic of Karakalpakstan. The State has adopted the program on development of pre-school education, approved *the Road Map* for further improvement of the pre-school education system, and another program is being developed on universal compulsory preparation for school for children aged 6-7 years.<sup>3</sup> These measures are aimed at increasing the accessibility of pre-school institutions throughout the country and for all segments of the population in order to ensure broad coverage of children of pre-school age. Furthermore, new forms of pre-school educational institutions have been created in form of public-private partnership. These measures ensure the access of all children – boys and girls, without exception, to early learning and education, which is the foundation for full development of their potential.

### [Initiatives related to expanding the access of girls to higher education, including in less conventional sectors](#)

Many higher education institutions have restored part-time programmes across different majors as of 2017.<sup>4</sup> Part time education is designed for students combining education and work or sports, and has lower tuition fees. This form of education will provide young women with opportunity to obtain a higher education, while performing care duties for children and family. As of 2018-2019, a positive gender dynamics has been evolving: the index of gender parity of students enrolled in part-time study programme was 2.03 (67% women and 33% men).

### [Preventing violence against women and girls](#)

During 2018-2019, a great attention has been paid to facilitating legal measures for prevention and response to domestic violence in the family. The Resolution No.PP-3827 of the Head of the State dated 07.02.2018 "**On measures to improve the system of social rehabilitation and adaptation, as well as the prevention of domestic violence**" identified priority areas for improving the system of

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<sup>2</sup> Decree No. 4235 of the President dated 07.03.2019 *On measures to further strengthen the guarantees for labour rights and support to women's entrepreneurship.*

<sup>3</sup> Decree No. 3261 of the President dated 09.09.2017 *On measures for the comprehensive improvement of the system of pre-school education.*

<sup>4</sup> Decree No. 3183 of the President dated 09.08.2017. *On establishment of special departments for part-time teaching programmes in higher educational institutions:* <http://prezident.uz/ru/lists/view?id=876>; Resolution No. 930 of the President dated 11.21.2017 *On approval of the Regulations for establishment of part-time and evening education.*

social rehabilitation and adaptation, prevention of family and domestic violence, and approved the program of practical measures to improve the system of social rehabilitation and adaptation, as well as the prevention of domestic violence.

The following laws and bills have been adopted and considered:

- Law No. LRU-482 of the Republic of Uzbekistan "**On Mediation**" dated 07.03.2018 defines the use of mediation in civil disputes, including family disputes.<sup>5</sup>

- In 2018, the public review of the draft Law "**On prevention of domestic violence in the family**" took place online via website: <https://regulation.gov.uz/ru/document/658>. Over 30 suggestions have been made from 24/09/2018 to 09/10/2018 and considered in drafting of this law, with participation from women's NGOs.

- The state has strengthened its activities on early prevention of family and individual conflicts, and negative situations that could provoke various cases worsening the spiritual and moral environment in the family and society, and has further facilitated an active engagement of the general public in this process. The government documents on this issue also include the priorities of the Women's Committee and the "Oila" Center.

- In line with adopted government documents, the changes have been made to the Family Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan. As of September 1, 2019, the legal marriage age was set at 18 years for both women and men (up from 18 and 17 years, respectively).

- With a view to support the women in challenging life situations, rehabilitation and adaptation centers have been set up in the regions of the country to provide psychological, legal and social support to the victims of domestic violence.

#### **Positive changes in several key global indicators on health, and particularly, reproductive health.**

The maternal and infant mortality rates, as well as the number of children born with birth defects, have significantly decreased in Uzbekistan and the country has reached its respective MDG target. Between 1996 and 2016, the maternal mortality rate decreased from 20.7 to 17.4 per thousand live births, and infant mortality decreased from 24.2 to 14.1 cases per thousand live births. Number of pregnant women with anemia decreased from 45.1% in 2014 to 35.8% in 2017.<sup>6</sup>

A state program "On further strengthening of the reproductive health of the population and protecting the health of mothers, children and adolescents" has been implemented in Uzbekistan during 2014–2018.<sup>7</sup>

In March 2019, the Law "**On Guarantees of Protection of Reproductive Rights**" was adopted, setting the main directions of developing and improving the reproductive health protection system for citizens, education of citizens on responsible attitudes towards childbirth, and the creation of conditions ensuring equality for men and women in exercising their reproductive rights.<sup>8</sup>

There are two initiatives play an important role in lives of families, including women, living in disaster zones, including the UN assisted Special Trust Fund for Aral Sea Region and the UN Program on "Building the resilience of communities affected by the Aral Sea disaster through the Multi-partner Human Security Fund for the Aral Sea" launched on February 10, 2017.

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<sup>5</sup> Law No. 482 of the Republic of Uzbekistan *On Mediation* dated July 3, 2018. Entered into force on January 1, 2019.

<sup>6</sup> State Statistics Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan 2019. The information provided during the preparation of this report. Tashkent. Uzbekistan

<sup>7</sup> Presidential Decree No. 2221 of August 1, 2014. *On the state program for further strengthening of the reproductive health of the population, protecting the health of mothers, children and adolescents in Uzbekistan for the period 2014-2018.* <http://lex.uz/docs/2441021>

<sup>8</sup> Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 528 dated 03/11/2019 *On the protection of the reproductive health of citizens.* [www.lex.uz/](http://www.lex.uz/)

## Areas requiring further attention

The Republic of Uzbekistan recognizes the existence of areas of uneven progress in achieving the BPA which require increased attention and support. Research shows that along with the great breakthrough in terms of achieving gender equality in the past 2 years, there still exist a number of issues which should be prioritized in the next 5 years.

### In the field of decision making

Women are not sufficiently represented in decision-making processes at all levels of state and public administration: there are deeply-rooted stereotypes regarding women's employment in the public section and in decision-making roles.

### In the labour market

The labour market is characterized by a visible *gender segregation by industry*. Women are well represented in the public sector (education, healthcare, social services, culture and art), whereas men dominate the technical fields (construction, finance, transport, communications, manufacturing), which tend to be higher income jobs.

Women both in the urban and rural settings are likely to be employed in the informal sector, which has implications on the family budget. Informal employment is often associated with lower wages, consequently women's contribution into household budget is lower.

Due to the social role ascribed to women by society, women perform the unpaid household work, while men participate in productive and paid labour activities.

### In the field of education

Under-representation of girls / women in the field of higher education: Existence of a higher education degree significantly increases women's employment potential. Lower education level among women, as compared to men, may serve as a serious barrier to women's competitiveness in the labour market.

Gender asymmetry in university programmes of study: Girls dominate traditionally "female" areas, such as healthcare and teaching, while young men are concentrated in technical disciplines, such as finance, transport and communication, construction and engineering.

Formal character of existing sex education at school age: Reproductive health issues, including sex education, are facilitated through specific programmes developed in cooperation with educational authorities and families, taking into account the age, and psychological and physical characteristics of minors. However, at present, sex education has a formal character and does not meet the modern standards.

Lack of gender studies in the educational system. Gender studies are not part of the educational system. There is also a lack of gender-based assessment of available textbooks.

### In the field of health

The social health insurance system has not yet been implemented.

### In the area of eliminating violence against girls and women

There is a need to optimize the legal framework on elimination of violence against women and girls.

There is a need for qualified professional personnel to work on violence issues.

The mechanism for monitoring and controlling the implementation of existing laws, measures and programs on the elimination of violence has not been sufficiently developed.

### [In the media](#)

There is a need for gender assessment of existing policies of mass media outlets, with a view to integrate gender issues and topics needing attention in order to promote the full and equal participation of women in media, including through decision-making.

There is a need for regular monitoring of media, as well as electronic, published and Internet publications to prevent the transmission of gender stereotypes.

There is a need to significantly increase television and radio programs on issues of gender equality, innovative models of modern family, and the understanding of the role of women in society and family, including their participation in politics and decision-making.

### [In the field of peacebuilding](#)

There is a lack of capacity and representation of women in peace-building and regional development.

### [In the field of environmental protection](#)

The lack of qualitative and quantitative research on gender perspectives in natural resource management and integration of statistical data about the impact of environmental changes on vulnerable groups, including rural women, women with disabilities, pregnant women, etc;

### [In the field of gender statistics](#)

There are certain challenges in collecting the missing gender-disaggregated data in relevant ministries and government bodies, as the methodology for data collection has not been fully developed yet.

## **[Main priorities in accelerating the advancement of women and girls in the next five years](#)**

### **[Substantive increase in women's political activities and representation at decision making level](#)**

President S.M. Mirziyoyev has put forward an initiative on increasing women's representation in the Parliament to 50% (*the next elections for the Parliament of Uzbekistan will be held in late 2019*). According to experts, the current stage of structural reforms in Uzbekistan is a perfect time to ensure that the concept of "Women in Public Administration" becomes a new order of the socio-economic and socio-political development in the country.

The Women's Committee of Uzbekistan (WCU) and its administrative divisions across the country have generated a database including over 6000 women-leaders, who could potentially serve as candidates for participation in election campaigns into the Oliy Majlis (Parliament) of the Republic. In order to continuously increase the cadre of highly-qualified women, to improve their leadership skills and to increase their potential in participation in the socio-political and socio-economic life, a programme of extensive measures is being developed in collaboration between government and non-government organizations (i.e. Youth Union, political parties etc). This will create favourable conditions for self-realization of women in various spheres, and it is expected that, in the future, many of these women would also be recommended for appointment into key government posts in ministries and other government bodies. In order to increase the share of women in mid-level positions in the executive branch of the government, and to support the advancement of women from middle management to executive roles from 5-6% to 16-18%, the government will develop effective "Social elevators" mechanisms. The women of Uzbekistan are full members of society and can realize themselves in science, politics, sports and other areas of state and public life.

### **[Issues of equality and non-discrimination in accordance with the law and access to justice](#)**

Development of a long-term **National Development Strategy to Achieve Gender Equality**: Within the framework of this Strategy, the government plans to perform a gender assessment of legislation of Uzbekistan, to introduce regular gender assessments of all laws during drafting stage, as well as to perform a phased implementation of gender budgeting in all sectors, especially in non-traditional

sectors of the economy (such as industry, energy, transport, construction, ICT and finance), to conduct a gender analysis of demand in the labour market in order to support the participation of women in non-traditional sectors, to increase the capacity of key participants in creating sectoral budgets taking into consideration of the interests of women and men, and to integrate the sectorally-disaggregated gender budgets into national statistics.

### **Changing negative social norms and gender stereotypes**

The UN Committee on CEDAW has repeatedly expressed concern about the persisting stereotypes pertaining to the traditional role of women and men in family and society. The delivery of the National Action Plan on implementation of CEDAW, and as part of the development of a long-term ***national development strategy for achieving gender equality***, the work is being carried out to include structured, comprehensive and systematic actions by the Women's Committee of Uzbekistan, and the government and non-government organizations working to overcome patriarchal stereotypes through large-scale awareness campaigns in the media. Building of a modern image of a successful woman in society is aligned with the principles of societal development and needs of the global economy. Spouses are equal partners in the family and professional growth and development of all family members is in the interest of the entire family.

### **There are remarkable improvements and increase in the number of gender-specific indicators**

The *List of minimum gender indicators* and other data are published on the website: <http://gender.stat.uz>.

## SECTION 2: Progress across the 12 critical areas of concern

### Inclusive development, shared prosperity and decent work

Since the announcement of large-scale reforms by President S.M. Mirziyoyev in February 2017, the government has been actively involved in their implementation, with a particular focus on liberalization of the prices and exchange rates, strengthening of the banking system and reforms of the taxation system.

This agenda is at the center of the reform process in Uzbekistan. It aims to transform the economy of Uzbekistan, which, in turn, is a driving factor for Uzbekistan's growth into a high income country. The implementation of this vision has received a strong support from development partners of Uzbekistan and international financial institutions.

Current economic reforms particularly emphasize the improvement of the business and investment climate in order to increase the economic growth and attraction of investments, as well as for creation of work places for the growing number of young people, including women and girls in Uzbekistan.

The legislation of the Republic places no restrictions on employment or entrepreneurial activity of women. Women make up 49.6% of the population of Uzbekistan; the share of women in formal employment is slightly lower than that of men: 45.7% versus 54.3%, respectively.<sup>9</sup>

Employment and creation of new workplaces with consideration of gender, has always been at the center of government's attention. The Strategy of Action 2017-2021 specifically addresses the issue of employment of women and graduates of vocational training institutions.

The President annually issues Decrees on increase of wages, stipends and pensions, which significantly improve the income of citizens. In the past 5 years, an average level of economic activity has been 48% for women and 76% for men. Owing to the positive structural changes, high growth rates of the economy and welfare programs, the rate of real aggregate income from employment rose by 113.5% per capita in 2018.<sup>10</sup>

### Women and the economy. Employment and labour market.

#### Supporting the transition from informal to formal work, including legal and political measures that support women in informal employment

In 2018, the Ministry of Labour was renamed to the Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations, thereby emphasizing the development of territorial and sectoral employment programmes, introduction of a quota on employment of vulnerable social groups, and reduction of income tax contributions for graduates of vocational and higher education during the first year of employment, followed by 25% reduction in the second and third year of employment, excluding employees of budget organizations.

Licensed non-profit organizations are granted the right to provide paid services to assist in employment of citizens within the country and overseas and a Public Works Foundation has been set up under the Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations.

Women are widely represented in the public sector of the labour market (education, healthcare, social services, culture and arts), while men dominate the technical fields (construction, finance, transport, communications, industry). Women's representation in the hotel business and catering has increased.

Men represent over 94.2% of the formally employed workers in the construction industry and 92.8% in transportation, information and communications. Women constitute 76.6% of the total workforce in

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<sup>9</sup> The State Statistics Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan. 2016. Women and men in Uzbekistan. Tashkent. Uzbekistan

<sup>10</sup> "Sustainable employment in Uzbekistan: state, problems and solutions". UNDP, Center for Economic Research under the Cabinet of Ministers of Uzbekistan, IFMR / Tashkent.2018.

healthcare, social security and sports, and 75.6% of workers in education, culture, arts and science. In agriculture, forestry and fisheries, women account for 44.3% of labour force.<sup>11</sup>

### Employment by economic activity (total)

[GRAPH]

Sectors (left to right): Agriculture and forestry, Manufacturing, Construction, Trade, Transportation, ??? [illegible], ICT, Finance, Education, Healthcare, Arts, Other

In 2017, the number of unemployed persons as defined by the number of unemployed citizens in need of employment (as approved by Decree No.106 of the Cabinet of Ministers on 24 on May 2007), amounted to 765.3 thousand people, and, accordingly, the unemployment rate was 5.4% of the economically active population.<sup>12</sup>

According to data from the Ministry of Labour and Employment, in 2018, 327.3 thousand women have filed an application with the "Center of employment and social protection" at the Ministry of Labour and Employment. Among them, 127.2 thousand women (39%) were provided with employment<sup>13</sup>.

25.1 thousand women from socially vulnerable groups were provided with employment based on quota system (especially graduates of vocational training institutions, young mothers with children aged under 14, single mothers and mothers of children with disabilities). Over 190 thousand unemployed women were recruited into temporary paid employment in public institutions. During 2018, over 1,550 job fairs were organized with participation of 113.3 thousand women. Of these, 36.7 thousand were provided with employment and 64.1 thousand received advice on social protection and employment rights. About 15,000 women have acquired or improved existing skills in areas of high demand, and became seamstress, knitters, computer operators and pastry cooks. A new process has been developed to provide employment support for women in difficult life situations. In 2018 alone, about 10 thousand women in need of employment received support through this program. In the first quarter of 2019, the Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations, in collaboration with the Women's Committee of Uzbekistan developed a new program that has provided employment to 13,044 women in difficult life situations, and especially, the young women.<sup>14</sup>

### Small and medium-sized business and entrepreneurship

Article 35 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan provides social guarantees for entrepreneurs. In the legislation of the Republic, there are no barriers or restrictions to women's entrepreneurship.

Priority No. 3 on "Development and Liberalization of the Economy" of Strategy of Action 2017-2021, defines further protection of rights and prioritizes entrepreneurship, support for small business and private asset ownership. Government adopted documents on further measures to support an accelerated development of entrepreneurial activity, protection of private ownership and improvement of the business environment, which signals a beginning of a new stage of reforms in business sector

<sup>11</sup> Gender statistics of Uzbekistan. <https://gender.stat.uz/ru/>

<sup>12</sup> State Statistics Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan. 2017. *Statistical Review of the Republic of Uzbekistan. January - September.*

<sup>13</sup> Ministry of Labour and Employment of Uzbekistan. 2019. *Information on employment of women and their involvement in entrepreneurship.* Tashkent. Uzbekistan

<sup>14</sup> Ibid

and provided the government institutions with an agenda to continue the advancement of existing legislations on business activity.

The share of small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs) in the gross domestic production of Uzbekistan is high, and has been steadily increasing from 56.1% in 2014 to 56.9% in 2016. SME sector is one of the leading formal sector employers in the economy, accounting for around 78% of all employment in 2017.

#### Women's entrepreneurship and businesses

The proportion of women as a share of all employees in the SME sector, including farming, was growing slowly between 2014 and 2016 (21.7% and 22.5% respectively).<sup>15</sup> However, as of 2017, the share of women in employment and entrepreneurship in SME sector started growing more rapidly: as of beginning of 2018, there are over 182,000 women entrepreneurs, representing 29% of all registered business entities in the country.<sup>16</sup>

#### **Women-headed SMEs by Sector of Economy [error - no footnote]**

[Graph]

**Legend:** Red: Women; Pink: Men

**Categories (top to bottom):** Other sectors, Production of ??? [incomplete word]; Production of non-???...[incomplete word], Agro-businesses, Trade, Services Sector

The government is creating Women's entrepreneurship centers supported by the Public Fund for Support to Women and Families, as well as the Women's Committee of Uzbekistan, in order to promote women's entrepreneurial and artisan activities, including family entrepreneurship.

*The centers implement the following main functions:*

- cooperation with the Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations on training and retraining of women in highly-demanded skills, including women on long-term maternity leave and women in difficult life situations;
- assisting interested women in engaging into entrepreneurial activity with support from the centre;
- developing women's business skills, consulting women in producing business ideas and business plans, taxation, accounting, use of modern technology and other areas;
- assigning available empty building spaces in villages to women's start-ups, where need be;
- technical assistance, including in searching for reliable business partners, purchasing of small technical equipment and selling of manufactured products;
- providing women engaged in informal handicrafts with technical support in registering a business, accessing concessional loans, use of concessional taxation and other benefits available for members of the Association of craftsmen, "Hunarmand".
- provision of concessional loans for a period of over three years with a 6-month grace period and 8 percent annual interest rate.
- concessional loans with a total budget of 100 bln soums per year are available through commercial banks with the funding from the Public Fund for Support to Women and Families. Minimum 50% of these resources are directed at business development of women in rural areas.

<sup>15</sup> State Statistics Committee. 2019. Data provided during preparation of this report.

<sup>16</sup> Association of Business Women of Uzbekistan. 2019. Data provided during the preparation of this report.

## Improving the financial inclusion and access to credit, including for self-employed women in agriculture

The continuous efforts are underway to ensure the effective utilization of land, the protection of rights and interests of farmers, as well as “dekhkan” farms and owners of homestead land, in order to enhance the employment and welfare of citizens living in rural areas. Agriculture is a foundation of social and economic life in rural parts of Uzbekistan, which is home to almost half of the population. Agriculture generates 17% of GDP, although the share of workers in rural areas, forestry and water sector is gradually declining, accounting for 26.7% of workers in 2018.<sup>17</sup>

Articles 169, 175 and 178 of the Strategy of Action of Uzbekistan 2017-2021 include provision for modernization of agriculture through access to foreign credits, among other means. The key organizations in the sector have been reformed, including the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Management (now the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Water Management), and JSC Suvokava.<sup>18</sup> Over the past 2 years, numerous legal and strategic documents have been adopted concerning rural economy, thus either directly or indirectly addressing women’s issues: for example, creation of employment schemes on cultivation of silkworm cocoons at home, which has traditionally been an occupation of rural women.<sup>19</sup>

Women make up 5.4% of (8,105) of the heads of farms in Uzbekistan. They specialize in growing: horticulture/viticulture - 36.3%; cotton - 35.5%; oilseeds/melons - 10%; vegetables - 7.7%; livestock - 6.2%; vegetable/melon - 4.4%.<sup>20</sup>

Women in rural areas are much less competitive in the labour market, given the limited number of formal workplaces available locally, their lack of sufficient education, professional qualification and skills. They are more likely to be engaged in small family business, such as traditional crafts. These activities have a significant potential for development and are supported by the government.

Home-based work, which primarily employs women, is strongly supported by the government, especially in rural areas: a number of measures have been adopted to advance the system of protecting the labour rights in enterprises and organizations, furthermore, a consortium on supporting the home-based work has been created, and a Unified registry of individual insurance payments of citizens has been established on January 1, 2018, in order to maintain electronic data on the years of employment.

The government has established Training Centers for state-funded business skills training, with specific provisions for enrolment of unemployed and underemployed population.

In accordance with the state programs “Obod Kishlok” and “Obod mahalla”, the situation of 112,900 households has been studied and a further 13,994 families living in poor conditions have been identified. In order to improve the economic standing of women in these households, 1629 of them received training in tailoring and were provided with sewing machines. 780 of women registered as home workers.

Following a successful training via “Master-Pupil” model, 5,604 women became engaged in handicraft production and 13,754 women were provided with home-based work. More than 800 mini-

<sup>17</sup> State Statistics Committee. 2019. Data provided during the preparation of this report.

<sup>18</sup> Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers dated October 30, 2015 *On measures to implement the main objectives of development of water supply and sanitation organizations*; The Decree No. 2878 of the President dated April 10, 2017 *On changes to the structure of the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan*; Presidential Decree No.4857 dated 17 November 2016 *On the establishment of JSC "Uzagrosanoatholding"*

<sup>19</sup> Decree No. 5054 of the President dated 24 May 2017 *On amendment to the Decree No. 3706 of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated January 5, 2006, "On Measures to Promote Broader Cooperation between Large Industrial Enterprises and Production Services based on development of Home-Based Labour"*; Decree No. 2996 of the President dated May 24, 2017 *On measures to create further enabling conditions for the development of home-based labour*; Decree No.2960 of the President dated May 6, 2017 *On measures to increase the individual responsibility of executive and territorial authorities for the economic performance and effective employment of the population*; Decree No. 2687 of the President dated December 21, 2016 *On measures for further development of the textile, garment and knitwear industry in 2017-2019*; Decree of the President No.2856 dated 29 on March 2017 *On planning of activities of the Association of Uzbekpaksanoat (silk-weaving)*; Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers No.199 from 10 April 2017 *on Measures for establishment of centers for vocational training of unemployed citizens on the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan.*

<sup>20</sup> Information of the Ministry of Agriculture at the 2nd Forum of Women Farmers of Uzbekistan. Tashkent. February 21, 2019.

sewing shops were created in mahallas, which made it possible to earn and improve the economic situation of women without separating them from the family and children. For example, 200 workplaces each were created in the villages of Manas and the Mahalla “Galaba” of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, and a further 100 jobs were created in the Beruni district. According to a joint program of the Women’s Committee, the Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations and the Audit Chamber of Uzbekistan, measures were taken to provide employment to around 10,000 young women living in difficult conditions. Currently, 90% of them are employed.<sup>21</sup>

The Women's Committee of Uzbekistan, in collaboration with the Public Fund for Support to Women and Families, has put in place programme measures to involve women into home-based entrepreneurship, without separating them from family affairs and children.

Since 2017, the work has been underway to enable women with entrepreneurship skills training and access to microcredit in the amount of 100 billion soums per year. In order to broadly disseminate the best practices in skills development, a number of business-forums have been held on the topic “The role of women's entrepreneurship in the development of society”. The competitions on “The best female entrepreneur of makhallya” and “The best project of female entrepreneurs” are being held among graduates of professional colleges.<sup>22</sup> In 2018, the Women's Committee of Uzbekistan created 39,682 jobs and provided employment to 29,341 women. In January-February 2019, the number of women entrepreneurs was 5,145, and collectively, they created 9,540 jobs. In addition, at the initiative of the territorial women's committees, 499 small enterprises in sewing, confectionery baking and other production lines were created, employing 3,712 women. As part of a joint program with the Association "Uzpaksanoat", 280,000 and 70,000 women will be engaged in silk-worm growing in spring and summer of 2019, respectively. In 2019-2022, 295 sewing and knitting shops will be commissioned in the country, which will provide employment for 44,000 rural women.<sup>23</sup>

Other government and non-profit organizations are also making considerable contributions to the development of women’s entrepreneurship and creation of new jobs.

For example, as a result of the cooperation between the Association of Business Women “Tadbirkor Ayol” and the Central Bank, concessional credit lines have been introduced for women entrepreneurs. The Association, in cooperation with regional branches of the National Bank and Microcreditbank, are running the project entitled “The prosperous life is in our hands” and “Woman entrepreneur: the prosperity of the family business” in every region of the country. The project has already yielded positive results in Samarkand, Namangan, Djizak, Fergana, Andijan, Syrdarya and Surkhandarya regions. In accordance with the partnership agreement of the Association and Microcreditbank in 2017, soft loans in the total amount of 1 billion soums have been allocated. The amount of concessional loans provided to women in 2015 amounted to 1.56 bln soums and last year this figure increased by 131.2% to about 1.68 million soums. More than 1,000 new jobs have been created.

In order to ensure the implementation of the state program on "2017 - as the year of dialogue on interests of people" in the current year, 1 trillion soums were allocated for the development of women's entrepreneurship, and 1.2 trillion soums for the development of the services sector. In the first half In 2018, with assistance of the Association of Business Women, commercial banks allocated preferential loans in the amount of 1,350,400,000 soums to the Republic of Karakalpakstan, and 712,500,000 soums to the Khorezm region. 2,621,419,684 soums have been allocated to Tashkent

<sup>21</sup> Women's Committee of Uzbekistan. *Information notes on the work performed in Q1 2019*. Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

<sup>22</sup> Women's Committee of Uzbekistan. 2018. *Report on the implementation of the National Plan of Action Plan for the implementation of the recommendations of the HRC and the international treaties of the United Nations on results of the review of the National Reports of Uzbekistan on human rights and freedoms (2015-2018)*. Tashkent. Uzbekistan

<sup>23</sup> Women's Committee of Uzbekistan. 2019. *Information notes on performed work as provided to the National Information Agency UZA*. Tashkent. Uzbekistan

region (this amounts to 37.4% of the total amount of loans to entrepreneurs issued over this period of time).<sup>24</sup>

As part of the delivery of the National Plan of Action for implementation of the recommendations of UN CEDAW following review of the Fifth Periodic National Report of the Republic of Uzbekistan (paragraph 2.7.), the Women's Council of Uzbekistan conducted the training on "Protection of women's labour rights" on 13 March 2013. In 2017 alone, within the framework of the training programs of the Federation of Trade Unions, 32 groups were trained with a total number of 780 participants, more than half of whom were women. In order to equip women with business skills, 167 training seminars including 22,190 women were held, in partnership with the Central Bank, Chamber of Commerce, the Association of Banks and the Association "Tadbirkor Ayol".<sup>25</sup> Currently, a programme on "Social protection of migrant children" is being developed in collaboration with the International Labour Organization.<sup>26</sup>

### [Improved access to modern technologies \(including climate-efficient technologies\), infrastructure and services \(including development of agriculture\)](#)

*"A country striving for progress and wishing to become competitive, must dedicate due attention to science. This is why, scientist-researchers must work hard for the welfare of the Motherland, and integrate the scientific discoveries and technologies into all sectors, especially in the rural settings."* Shavkat Mirziyoyev, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

As evident from experiences abroad and in Uzbekistan on developing entrepreneurship among youth, entrepreneurship is an important mechanism that can facilitate better opportunities for employment of young people, especially girls. Development of entrepreneurship among youth is an effective way of helping them uncover their entrepreneurial capacities, achieve economic independence and increase the income of girls and their families.

As of 2017, Women's Committee of Uzbekistan is collaborating with commercial banks to conduct an annual training to support women's innovative projects, where winners receive concessional loans.

A number of successful innovative projects are underway in collaboration with the international development agencies. For example, "*The development of family farms and cooperatives through introduction of innovative production*" project Zertis, (GIZ), AgroMart, "*Opportunities in the refrigeration chain for women in Uzbekistan*" (USAID), Projects FAO, the Global Fund for Ecology (GEF), "*On development of supply chain in the field of horticulture*" (ADB), OSCE, and others.

### [Strengthening land tenure and security of tenure](#)

The rights to own and build a property are reflected in six codes and eight laws, including the "Law on Pledge" and "Law on Mortgage", as well as 29 Presidential decrees and 44 Resolutions of the Cabinet of Ministers.<sup>27</sup> One of the priorities included into the Strategy of Action for 2017-2021 includes the delivery of targeted programmes for construction of affordable housing. A number of key documents were adopted in 2016-2017 relating to the construction of housing, improving the trade and transportation services, providing access to electricity networks, natural gas and water supply, as well as the construction of children's gardens, schools, cultural and sports facilities and modern roads.<sup>28</sup> New residential areas are part of a single complex and include the key necessary

<sup>24</sup> Association of Business Women of Uzbekistan "Tadbirkor Ayol", 2019. Data provided during the preparation of this report. Tashkent. Uzbekistan

<sup>25</sup> Women's Committee of Uzbekistan. *Report on the implementation of the National Plan of Action on implementation of recommendations of UN CEDAW, following the review of the Fifth Periodic National Report of the Republic of Uzbekistan*. 2018. Tashkent. Uzbekistan

<sup>26</sup> Women's Committee of Uzbekistan. *Information about the work performed in Q1 of 2019*. Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

<sup>27</sup> Land Code, Civil Code, Housing Code, Family Code, Administrative Code and Tax Code.

<sup>28</sup> Presidential Order No. 2649 of October 21, 2016 *On the extension of the terms of the Affordable Rural Housing Program*. Presidential Decree No.2728 of 13 January 2017 *On financing of construction, reconstruction and sale of apartments in multi-family houses to young families, residents of old houses and other categories of citizens in need of better living conditions*; Presidential Decree No. 2812 of 2 March 2017 *On the program for building of affordable residential housing in*

infrastructure, in particular, 415 kilometres of water pipelines, 300 km of gas pipelines, nearly 300 km of power lines and thousands of km of newly built or repaired primary and secondary roads.<sup>29</sup> SME development measures are also planned in these rural areas, which are expected to be particularly attractive to women entrepreneurs.

Since 2018, the Women's Committee has established the Public Fund to Support Women and Families, with a registered capital of 300 billion soums. A large share of this Fund's budget is spent on allocating accommodation to the most vulnerable women.

For example, as a result of a targeted approach to delivering housing credits to rural residents under the project on "Construction of affordable housing in rural areas" in 2012-2015, 4,300 women (26.5% of all owners) became registered owners of residential houses in rural areas.<sup>30</sup> In 2018, this figure doubled to 52% of concessional housing loans.<sup>31</sup>

Based on the Resolution No. 285 of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated April 12, 2018, the Women's Committee of Uzbekistan, through the Public Fund of Support to Women and Families, provided initial housing deposits to 1600 women with disabilities in need of accommodation, with total project expenses of 54.58 billion soums.<sup>32</sup>

In 2019, 1,576 women with disabilities in vulnerable situations and in need of housing, are expected to receive initial deposit payments from the Public Fund of Support to Women and Families.<sup>33</sup>

The scientific and empirical research center "Oila" (Family) under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan is also performing work aimed at providing women's rights, specifically, in supporting their rights to own accommodation.

For example, based on research conducted by Oila Center in 2019, it was proposed to amend Article 32 of the Housing Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan to facilitate the registration of a wife as a resident in the house she resides after getting married, which ensures her rights to housing, in case of divorce or loss of a breadwinner.

### [Investments into infrastructure, connected with time labour savings, such as public transportation, electricity, water and sewage systems, which can reduce the volume of unpaid care and housework of women](#)

At present, the government has increased its focus on *the energy sector*: in the first half of 2017, four Presidential Decrees were issued on reforms and further development of hydro-energy power in 2017-2021, as well as on establishment of a joint-stock company "Uzbekgidroenergo", acting as its responsible executive body. Planned activities include the construction of 42 new hydroelectric power

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*rural areas based on a new model in 2017-2021. Presidential Decree No. 2858 of March 30, 2017 On the construction of official residences for heads of executive bodies and territorial divisions of state bodies in 2017-2018. Presidential Decree No. 2906 of April 20, 2017 on the work-site housing construction program for inspectors of internal affairs bodies in 2017-2018. Decree No. 2660 of November 22, 2017 On measures for effective implementation of the State program on construction and reconstruction of affordable apartment buildings in cities in 2017-2022. Presidential Decree No.2859 of 30 March 2017 On additional measures for the effective implementation of the state program on construction and reconstruction of affordable apartment buildings in cities in 2017-2022.*

<sup>29</sup> National Information Agency of Uzbekistan. 2017. *Speech by President Shavkat Mirziyoyev*, March 8.

<http://uza.uz/ru/politics/vystuplenie-prezidenta-Respubliki-uzbekistan-shavkata-mirziye-06.03.2017>

<sup>30</sup> Asian Development Bank. 2018. Uzbekistan. Updated gender assessment by country. Manila Philippines

<sup>31</sup> Annual Report of the Ministry of Economy and Industry on the project "Construction of affordable housing in rural areas". Tashkent. 2018

<sup>32</sup> Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated April 12, 2018 "On approval of the Regulations on the procedure for providing affordable housing for women in difficult life situations.

<sup>33</sup> Women's Committee of Uzbekistan. 2019. Q&A of UZA, Information Agency of Uzbekistan

plants and upgrading of further 32 plants, that are expected to cumulatively increase the national potential to generate environmentally clean hydro-power by 1.7 times by 2025.

A steady supply of electricity eases women's ability to manage her time between bathing children, washing, cooking and other household responsibilities, as well as income generation activities.

Commissioning of a new power line at the Talimarjan Thermal Power Plant (TaITES) in the Nishan district of the Kashkadarya region in 2016, facilitated a steady and high-quality power supply, leading to a dramatic improvement in the quality of the life of population.

At the same time, the reliability of water supply has increased. A medical center and a hospital were built to serve the station and the population of Nuristan (the village where majority of TaITES employees live, with a population of 30,000, half of which are women). Sanitary facilities for TaITES employees have been improved, including a sufficient number of modern toilet and shower rooms and separate facilities for female employees. At present, there are three pre-school educational institutions and three secondary schools offering extended hours for primary school students in the village. The association of employees of TaITES, established in close cooperation with the union of the station, is involved in monitoring of women and children with health issues and provides them with financial assistance from the TaITES budget. The percentage of female employees of TaITES has increased from 19.5% (2015) to 27.7% (2017).<sup>34</sup>

Improving access to clean drinking water is one of the priorities of the government, as reflected in the Strategy of Action 2017-2021, which includes restructuring of the sector across the country, reforms to the financing and cost reimbursements, introduction of new water-pipe systems and economically and technically effective technologies.

Uzbekistan is located in one of the most arid regions of Central Asia. About 85% of the country's territory consists of deserts and semi-deserts in dry and arid climate.<sup>35</sup>

The level of access to safe drinking water sources in urban and rural areas significantly varies. The population with access to safe drinking water was 93.2% in cities and 75.3% in rural areas in 2016. The population with access to sewage system in 2016 was 78.7% in the cities and 42.1% in rural areas. Disadvantages of the water supply system affect both men and women, however the responsibility for fetching water from external sources primarily lies on women, who are responsible for family hygiene.

A number of key legal documents were approved facilitating the transformation of the water supply sector in 2015-2017.<sup>36</sup> In 2017, 'The state audit unit on use of drinking water' was created under the Cabinet of Ministers of Uzbekistan. Large-scale reconstruction and water supply improvement works are ongoing in all regions on the country, including through involvement of foreign investment.

For example, as a result of a project on improvement of water supply and sanitation, in Surkhandarya region alone<sup>37</sup>, more than 340,000 people have benefitted, almost half of which are women in both rural and urban areas. After obtaining access to improved water services, recipients reported

<sup>34</sup> Asian Development Bank. 2010. *Uzbekistan: Talimarjan TPP modernization project*. UZB: L2629 / 2630

<sup>35</sup> *Central Asia Desert initiative. Conservation and sustainable use of cold winter deserts. Project document. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations*. 2017; Asian Development Bank. 2015. *Balancing the burden? Analysis of women's time constraints and infrastructure in the Asia-Pacific region*. Manila. P.7

<sup>36</sup> Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of October 30, 2015 "On measures to implement the key tasks of reorganization of water supply organizations and sewage services. Tashkent. Uzbekistan; Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 2910 dated April 20, 2017 "On approval of the program of integrated development and modernization of drinking water supply and sewage systems in 2017-2021"; Decree No.2731 dated 18 January 2017 of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On approval of the State program of development of the Aral Sea region in 2017-2021".

<sup>37</sup> Asian Development Bank. 2015. UZB: L2492 / 2493. *A project to improve the water supply and sanitation in the Surkhandarya region*. Completed in June 2015.

reduction in the incidence of diseases among children and family members. They also started using washing machines and kitchen tap water.

Sanitary conditions in local pre-school institutions have improved significantly due to construction of washrooms and toilets inside the premises. The upgrade of pumping stations has led to an improvement of the environmental situation and reduction in the number of allergic diseases among women and children.

## Social Protection and Social Services

Social protection has traditionally been an area of priority in Uzbekistan. The National Strategy of Action 2017-2021 includes a clear commitment to social protection: "*Improvement of the social protection and health system*" is one of the five priority areas, including provision of compulsory social security, strengthening of social protection of vulnerable groups of population and reforms of healthcare.

The social policy of Uzbekistan covers a comprehensive range of issues, including the management of population income, employment and workplace creation, social protection and support for specific population groups, including women farmer-entrepreneurs.

Social policy, which covers social protection, health and education, as well as policies and programs on labour market, play a critical role in promoting sustainable development.

Uzbekistan provides *three main types of social benefits to vulnerable families*: childcare allowance (previously, allowance for pregnancy and childbirth) for households with children aged 0-2 years; allowance for families with children aged 2-14 years; and financial assistance in form of benefits for low-income families. Benefits are provided on request and distributed through mahallas (*communities*). Eligibility for benefits is determined through direct and indirect assessment of needs, and is reinstated upon re-submission of an application every six months.

Social assistance benefits are funded from the national budget and are distributed through local authorities. The system of social insurance is strong and targeted at citizens in formal employment.

Government documents regulate the provision of pension commensurate with work experience for persons working on landplots in a contract with farms. Based on insurance contributing experience, entrepreneurs are entitled to receive a labour pension upon reaching the retirement age (men: 60 years, women: 55 years).

Women working from home on a contractual basis are entitled to a work book, which guarantees a pension and disability-related leave. The pension is assigned based on residency, while benefits are assigned based on social insurance registration area, which is the area of enterprise registration.

### Introduction or increase of maternity leave / paternity / child care leave or other types of family leave

- Article 224 of the Labour Code prohibits the denial of women's employment or reduction of wages due to her pregnancy or maternity. The Code requires women's return to workforce without any tests;

- Article 228-1 of the Labour Code states that "Women with children aged under 3, who work in budget organizations, are entitled to a shorter work schedule, established at no more than 35 hours a week. Wages of women on this work arrangement should be equal to employees working full time.

In particular, pregnant women and women taking a childcare leave following completion of maternity leave are entitled to a one-time financial payment equalling 1.2 times of the minimal wage. Women or persons taking childcare leave are entitled to the following benefits: a) maternity leave for 70 calendar days before childbirth and 56 days (70 days for difficult births) after childbirth; b) shortened work day; c) possibility to take the annual leave entitlement before or after maternity leave or childcare leave; d) upon agreement with employer, women taking childcare leave can work from home for up to half of the regular working hours e) woman's position is reserved for her throughout the period of childcare leave. These leaves are counted towards the years of working experience.

- if a father uses more than three months of child care leave, one of the parents becomes entitled to extra childcare leave for of up to one month, including benefit payment as stipulated in Article 234 of the Labour Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan;
- one of the parents raising a child under the age of two is entitled to selecting their break time during the day, considering the need for rest, food and feeding of the child;

The legislation provides additional guarantees for women in need of social protection. Article 69 of the Labour Code has provisions for individuals struggling to find employment or to compete on the labour market. These include single mothers, large families with children aged under 14 and children with disabilities.

Since 2016, legal frameworks have been undergoing reforms with the aim of further strengthening the social support to persons with disabilities and older persons living in care facilities, as well as improvement of support system for vulnerable groups, orphanages, boarding schools and social rehabilitation institutions (nursing homes “Muruvvat” and “Sahovat”, previously under the department of the Ministry of Social Protection, are now transferred to the department of the Ministry of Health).<sup>38</sup>

According to the Resolution No. PP-4296 dated 04.22.2019 of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan ***“On additional measures on strengthening the guarantees for children’s rights”***, starting from the new academic year (2019-2020), an additional *quota of up to one percent* of the total number of entrants into Universities on a state-grant, is allocated to the graduates of orphan houses “Mehribonlik” and Children’s towns.<sup>39</sup>

### Improving health outcomes for women and girls

As of 2014, significant positive developments have been accomplished across key indicators on healthcare. Indicators on maternal and child mortality, as well as children born with defects have dramatically decreased and Uzbekistan has accomplished its MDG goals in this area.<sup>40</sup>

Since 2017, comprehensive improvements have been made in the healthcare and covering various segments of the sector. For example, reforms in pharmaceuticals industry have led to dynamic and sustainable development of national pharmaceutical industry and have started to supply the local market with quality and safe medicines, using local ingredients.<sup>41 42</sup> At the same time, this has led to increased access to quality medication by broader groups of population, especially the vulnerable groups.

The public administration in the healthcare sector is being improved, furthermore, international medical and sanitary standards developed by WHO have been introduced to help curb the spread of diseases around the world.

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<sup>38</sup> Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Order No.4782 of 22 February 2016 *On measures for further improvement of social system of support and medical and social assistance to vulnerable segments of population.*

<sup>39</sup> Decree No. PP-4296 of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated 04.22.2019 “On additional measures on strengthening of guarantees on children’s rights. <http://lex.uz/ru/pdfs/4302031>

<sup>40</sup> State Statics Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan. 2019. The information is provided during the preparation of this report. Tashkent. Uzbekistan

<sup>41</sup> Law No.399 of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated 4 January 2016 *On medicines and pharmaceutical activity (new edition)*; Presidential Decree No. 2647 of 31 October 2017 *On measures for further improvement of provision of population with medicine and health products*; Presidential Decree No.4985 dated 16 March 2017 *On measures for further improvement of the system of emergency medical aid.*

<sup>42</sup> Presidential Decree No. 2596 of September 13, 2017 *On measures for further development of the pharmaceuticals industry in the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2016-2020*

### Expansion of targeted healthcare services for women and girls, including services in reproductive health, maternal healthcare and HIV

Legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan on HIV/AIDS includes normative and legal acts on healthcare, social protection, use of drugs and fight against illegal trade of drugs. The key regulatory document on this issue is the Law of 09.23.2013 **"On Countering the spread of disease caused by human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)"**.<sup>43</sup>

The state national network consisting of the Republican Center for Fight against AIDS and 14 regional Centers for fight against AIDS at the oblast and city (Tashkent) level, are delivering a comprehensive strategy to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS infection, including through medical support availed to the concerned population (diagnosis, treatment, care and support). The country has more than 80 diagnostic laboratories equipped with modern HIV testing equipment. Validation analysis is performed in three laboratories. All AIDS centers have access to laboratory tests to determine the clinical condition, status of the immune system and level of viral infection of people living with HIV over time.

At present, there are more than 130 "trust cabinets", which provide groups vulnerable to HIV with information support, educational services, counselling, exchange of syringes and needles, means of protection, and as necessary, refer the applicants to different types of medical and psychological assistance services.

Since 2014, antiretroviral therapy is being funded from the state budget with a gradual increase in its budget allocation. In 2017, 1.8 million USD have been spent on the treatment of HIV- infected people. The objective is to gradually expand the coverage to all HIV patients.

A Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan **"On measures to further improve the system of combating the spread of disease caused by the human immunodeficiency virus in the Republic of Uzbekistan"** was adopted in January 25, 2018.<sup>44</sup>

In recent years, a decrease in the incidence of HIV infection among children has been observed in Uzbekistan. In 2017, the number of children infected with HIV was 538 (2016 – 580; 2015 - 659). The proportion of children under the age of 18 among newly registered HIV cases was 13.4%.<sup>45</sup>

The state pays a particular attention to prevention of HIV transmission from mother to child and to supporting the birth of a healthy child. All pregnant women are tested for HIV in the first trimester of pregnancy. In 2017, the survey testing was performed on 724,460 pregnant women and in 2018 - on 708,049 women. In 2016, there was 219 cases of detected HIV infection in pregnant women and 170 cases in 2017.

In 2017, the share of infected women who received antiretroviral therapy was 94.5%, and among children born to HIV-infected mothers - 98.94%. In 2018, the share of vertical HIV transmission was 1.4%.<sup>46</sup>

The gender parity index among HIV cases (with a first-time diagnosis) gradually decreased between 2014 and 2018, i.e. from 0.91 to 0.82 respectively (in absolute terms, 1959 women and 2381 men in 2018).<sup>47</sup>

<sup>43</sup> Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 353 of 09/23/2013 *On countering the spread of the disease caused by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV infection)*. [www.lex.uz](http://www.lex.uz)

<sup>44</sup> Presidential Decree No. 3439 of 01.25.2018 *On measures to further improve the system of combating the spread of the disease caused by the human immunodeficiency virus in the Republic of Uzbekistan* . [www.lex.uz](http://www.lex.uz)

<sup>45</sup> National Center for Human Rights. 2019. The data provided during preparation of this report. Uzbekistan.

<sup>46</sup> National Center for Human Rights. 2019. The data provided during preparation of this report. Tashkent Uzbekistan.

<sup>47</sup> State Committee on Statistics of the Republic of Uzbekistan. 2019. Data provided during the preparation of this report.

The Republican Youth Union, in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Education, held a competition on topic "Fighting against AIDS and drug addiction" with 2,000 participants from the Barkamol Avlod Children's Center joining at the district, city and regional levels. In the framework of the project of the Global Fund on HIV/AIDS, the Republican Center "Istiqbolli Avlod" (NGO) carries out preventive works among the vulnerable group – the girls and women providing intimate services for a fee. During 2014-2018, 28,082 women from the target group were covered. Activities included inviting women to "friendly rooms" for HIV testing (7,485), mini-sessions on HIV prevention (175,807), distribution of protective devices (1,283,014) and dissemination of information materials (34,100).<sup>48</sup> As a result of ongoing activities and awareness-raising campaigns, according to the Ministry of Health, as of 01.01.2019, 51% of fertile-age women use one or another method of contraception.<sup>49</sup> The number of juvenile women (15–16 years) giving birth was 65 people in 2018 (0, 001%)<sup>50</sup>.

Non-governmental organizations also make a significant contribution in this area.

Systematic work is underway on strengthening the reproductive health of the population. The State Program to further strengthen the Reproductive health, protection of health of mothers, children and adolescents in Uzbekistan has been implemented during 2014-2018.<sup>51</sup>

- Under the "**State Program for early detection of congenital hereditary diseases during 2018-2022**"<sup>52</sup>, large-scale prenatal ultrasound examinations of pregnant women were performed with the aim of reducing the birth of children with congenital defects. In 2018, 100% (740,274) of pregnant women underwent free compulsory prenatal examination.<sup>53</sup>

- "**Women's consultation units**" have been created in family clinics and rural medical centers, which provide necessary support for adolescent girls and women of fertile age.

- Since 2017, all secondary schools are equipped with rooms for "**Girls' Consultation**" to facilitate the regular monitoring of their health.

- In March 2019, the Law "**On guarantees of protection of reproductive rights**" was adopted, with provisions for development and advancement of the system of protection of people's health, conscious and responsible attitudes to having children, and creating conditions for equal opportunities for men and women to exercise their reproductive rights.<sup>54</sup>

## Improving the results of education and skills for women and girls

The right to education is guaranteed to all citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan under the Constitution of Uzbekistan. "Every person has a right to education. The state provides a guarantee for free secondary education. The state oversees the education."<sup>55</sup> The data presented in the Human

<sup>48</sup> Report of the activities of "Istiqbolli Avlod" on implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action. 2019. Tashkent. Uzbekistan

<sup>49</sup> Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan. *Statistics on the use of contraceptive means*. 2019. Tashkent. Uzbekistan

<sup>50</sup> Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan. 2019. The data provided in the course of preparation of this report. Tashkent. Uzbekistan.

<sup>51</sup> Presidential Decree No. 2221 of August 1, 2014 *On the state program to further strengthen the reproductive health of the population, protect the health of mothers, children and adolescents in Uzbekistan for the period 2014-2018*. <http://lex.uz/docs/2441021>

<sup>52</sup> Presidential Decree No. 3440 on the *State Program for the Early Detection of Congenital Hereditary Diseases for the period of 2018–2022*. [www.lex.uz/](http://www.lex.uz/)

<sup>53</sup> Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan. *Statistics on prenatal ultrasound examinations of pregnant women*. 2019. Tashkent. Uzbekistan

<sup>54</sup> Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 528 of 11.03.2019. *On the protection of the reproductive health of citizens*. [www.lex.uz/](http://www.lex.uz/)

<sup>55</sup> *Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan*: Article 41. [www.lex.uz](http://www.lex.uz/)

Development Report 2016, indicates that almost 100% of Uzbekistan's population has at least secondary education, with equal ratio of men (99.9%) and women (99.9%).<sup>56</sup>

Since 2017, reforms have been underway in sub-sectors of the education system, increasing the quality of education and enhancing the governance over educational system.

The lacking of *pre-school* education institutions has been highlighted by the state authorities.<sup>57</sup> The differences in coverage between urban and rural areas is connected not only with the fact that the kindergarten network is not wide enough, but also with the fact that parents are very likely to leave children at home with grandparents, which is more the case for girls, leading to less educational preparedness and outcomes for them during schooling.

These problems are reflected in a number of presidential decrees.<sup>58</sup> **The Ministry of Preschool Education and the corresponding Ministry of the Republic of Karakalpakstan have been created a state "road map" on further improvement of pre-school education in the country.**<sup>59</sup> A program is being developed on universal compulsory school preparation for children aged 6-7 years.

These measures are aimed at increasing the availability of pre-school institutions for the entire country and for all segments of the population by introducing new forms of institutions on public-private basis and contracting of businesses for procurement of children's food products.

The structure of the Ministry of *Public Education* and its regional administrations and subordinate structures has been reorganized.<sup>60</sup> Between 2001 and 2013, as a result of transition to compulsory 12- year education, the coverage of children of the school age participating in education was stable and high at 98-99.8%.<sup>61</sup> The Commission on Children's Affairs of the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Public Education strictly supervise the education of children in schools, especially children in the age group of 7-9 years.<sup>62</sup>

After graduating from the 9<sup>th</sup> grade, boys and girls must choose the type of free compulsory educational institution to attend: continuing education in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade of a general public school, or joining a vocational college or academic lyceum, which act as a foundation for work or education in a higher educational institution, respectively. Academic lyceums provide a more in-depth, professionally-oriented education, and better contribute to the continuation of education in higher education.

The system of *higher education* is improving on the basis of the Program of extensive development during the period of 2017-2021, providing measures for strengthening the financial and technical support for higher educational institutions, designing of the new forms of retraining and qualification advancement of university staff; a State Audit system is created to perform monitoring and

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<sup>56</sup> United Nations Development Program. 2016. *Human Development Report 2016*.

[http://hdr.undp.org/sites/all/themes/hdr\\_theme/country-notes/UZB.pdf](http://hdr.undp.org/sites/all/themes/hdr_theme/country-notes/UZB.pdf).

<sup>57</sup> In 2016, the percentage of children aged 3-6 years who attend pre-school educational institutions was 23.8%, however, the coverage of pre-school education in rural areas was significantly lower than that in the city. State Statistics Committee of Uzbekistan. *Gender statistics for Uzbekistan. Coverage of preschool education*. [www.gender.stat.uz](http://www.gender.stat.uz) (as of January 16, 2018)

<sup>58</sup> Presidential Decree No.2707 of 29 February 2016 *On measures to further improve the STEM pre-school education in 2017-2021*; Presidential Decree No. 929 of 11.21.2017, *On approval of the Regulations of the Ministry of Early Childhood Education in the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Statute of the Institute of retraining and advanced training of managers and specialists of preschool educational institutions*; Presidential Decree No. 3651 of 04.05.2018 *On measures to further stimulate and develop the system of pre-school education*; Presidential Decree No. 3822 of 02.07.2018, *On targeted program of construction, reconstruction and repair of preschool educational institutions in 2018*; Decree of the President No.3904 of 08.08.2018, *On introducing the changes and additions to decisions of the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan aimed at improving the system of pre-school education*. Presidential Decree No. 3909 of 08.16.2018 *On the measures to organize the specialised pre-school educational institutions with a rehabilitation center for children in the region the Aral Sea region*.

<sup>59</sup> Presidential Decree No. 3261 of 09.09.2017 *On measures for extensive improvement of the system of pre-school education*.

<sup>60</sup> Decree No.3180 the President of 08.08.2017 *On improvement of activities of the Ministry of National Education of the Republic of Uzbekistan*

<sup>61</sup> Program of the United Nations and the Center for Economic Research under the Cabinet of Uzbekistan. 2015. *National Report on the MDGs*. Uzbekistan. [http://www.cer.uz/upload/iblock/ad0/mdg\\_ru\\_13\\_04.pdf](http://www.cer.uz/upload/iblock/ad0/mdg_ru_13_04.pdf)

<sup>62</sup> United Nations Children's Fund. Uzbekistan 2015. *Review of the situation of children*. Tashkent. Uzbekistan

quality control over education, and objectives of non-state educational institutions have been defined, along with the principles of their delivery.<sup>63</sup>

*Gender balance* among students varies by the sector of education.

The gender balance among pre-school age children is close to parity: 47.3% girls and 52.7% boys.<sup>64</sup> The system of primary and secondary education is characterized by almost full gender parity. Enrolment in primary education (grades 1-4) is close to gender parity: in 2016-2017 school year, 48% of students were girls (1,152,285) and 51.6% were boys (1,230,174). There is almost full gender parity in the total number of children enrolled in grades 1-9. At the beginning of 2018-2019 school year, the ratio of girls to boys was 0.95 in general secondary education (0.98 in urban and 0.92 in rural areas).

In academic lyseums, at the beginning of 2018-2019 school year, the ratio of girls to boys was 0.70.<sup>65</sup> A higher percentage of boys in academic lyceums can be explained by a greater interest and opportunities for boys to continue their education at university, as well as other factors, such as the location of academic lyceums (usually located at universities in the 3 largest cities of the country), available academic disciplines, etc.

In accordance with new legislative acts, it is planned to collect gender-disaggregated data across different areas of educational sector.<sup>66</sup> Starting from 2017-2018 school year, the State Statistics Committee started collecting gender-segregated data on participation in vocational and higher educational institutions, which allows to analyse the gender dynamics in these sub-sectors.

Gender asymmetry is visible in the choice of study programme in vocational training institutions. In 2017-2018 academic year, girls accounted for 84.2% of humanities programme students (teaching, humanities and natural sciences, art, journalism).

The share of girls in healthcare and social security was 81.1%. In production (production technology, engineering, architecture, construction, communications, information and telecommunication technologies) girls accounted for 42.9%; agriculture and water management: 19.2%; services sector (services, transport, environmental protection): 26.1%. Approximately the same dynamics in choice of programme is observed at the beginning of 2018-2019 academic year. This asymmetry then contributes to the composition at the next level of education, i.e. the higher education.

Women's education is also affected by their reproductive role: the birth rate in Uzbekistan is highest among women aged 20 and over.<sup>67</sup>

The number of university students between 2014 and 2019 was very similar. The gender parity of female undergraduate students averaged 0.62 (about 38%). At master's level, this ratio is 0.59 (about

<sup>63</sup> Resolution of the President No. 2909 of 020.04.2017 *On measures for further development of the system of higher education in 2017-2021*.

<sup>64</sup> State Statistics Committee of Uzbekistan. *Gender statistics for Uzbekistan. Coverage of preschool education*. [www.gender.stat.uz](http://www.gender.stat.uz) (as of 16 January 2018).

<sup>65</sup> State Statistics Committee of Uzbekistan. 2019. Data provided during the preparation of this report. Tashkent. Uzbekistan

<sup>66</sup> Presidential Decree No.3165 of 31.07.2017 *On measures to improve the activities of the State Statistics Committee of Uzbekistan*. <http://lex.uz/docs/3297197>. Presidential Decree No. 4235 of 07.03.2019 *On measures to further strengthen the guarantees of labour rights and support to women's entrepreneurship. Appendix 1. List of minimum gender-related indicators and other information to be published on website "Gender.stat.uz"*.

<sup>67</sup> Demographic Institute of the Higher School of Economics. Russian Federation. 2014. Demoscope Weekly. L. A. Tskhai *On fertility in Uzbekistan*. <http://www.demoscope.ru/weekly/2014/0617/analit02.php>.

37%).<sup>68</sup> Among students in higher education in 2017-2018 school year, 38.9% were women and 61.1% were men.<sup>69</sup>

Gender asymmetry is also observed in choice of study programme in higher educational institutions. In 2017-2018 academic year, girls accounted for 62.9% of humanities students (teaching, humanities and natural sciences, art, journalism); In healthcare and social security - 41%; in production (production technology, engineering, architecture and construction, communications, information and telecommunication technologies): 17%; agriculture and water management - 26.6%; services sector (services, transport, environmental protection) – 31.3%.

Humanities-related professions correspond with lower wage levels. On the contrary, high wage jobs are offered in sectors such as, banking, insurance, leasing, credit and intermediary activities, industry, construction, transportation and storage, information and communications. Meanwhile, sectors primarily employing women, such as health care services, accommodation, food and beverage services are known to offer lower wages.<sup>70</sup>

In terms of promoting gender equality in education, it must be noted that starting from 2017, many higher educational institutions have reopened the part-time education programmes across many subject areas.<sup>71</sup> Young women benefit from this format of education because it allows them to obtain higher education, while continuing the childcare and household duties.

In order to increase the number of girls attaining higher education, information and awareness sessions are being held in rural areas about established female professionals and their contributions to development of the rural infrastructure. Furthermore, “Kizlarjon” clubs have been established in all higher educational institutions, with a view to increase young women’s social and political activity in society, to promote their professional development and engagement in innovative projects, and their participation in prestigious awards competitions.

During 2017-2018 school year, the Ministry of Public Education aired over 2000 television programs, 3,000 radio programs, and about 300 newspaper articles and magazines about the education process, about educating and spreading a healthy lifestyle choices among women, as well as the remarkable role of women and talented girls in society.

In order to identify talented girls, interest groups have been created in schools, non-school educational institutions and mahallas (communities).

8940 Kizlarjon girls' clubs and over 12,000 clubs are currently operating in schools.

Qualification rounds for Zulfiya State Prize competition were held between April and September 2018, with participation of 94,390 girls of grades 7-11, of which 23,540 (25%) became winners.<sup>72</sup>

According to the Ministry of Public Education of Uzbekistan, out of 408,135 teachers in 9,628 secondary educational institutions, 70% (287,799) were women in 2017-2018.<sup>73</sup> Overall, during 2017-2018, over

<sup>68</sup> Ibid.

<sup>69</sup> Gender Statistics of Uzbekistan. <https://gender.stat.uz/en/osnovnye-pokazateli/obrazovanie/vysshee/184-vysshikh-obrazovate-lynykh-uchrezhdenij-v-2007-2008-2012-2013-uchebynykh-godakh-ru>

<sup>70</sup> State Statistics Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan. 2019. Data provided during the preparation of this report. Tashkent. Uzbekistan

<sup>71</sup> Decree No. 3183 of the President dated 09.08.2017 *On establishment of special departments for part-time teaching in higher educational institutions*: <http://prezident.uz/ru/lists/view?id=876>; Presidential Decree No. 930 dated 21.11.2017, *On approval of the Regulations on establishment of part-time and evening study programmes in higher educational institutions*.

<sup>72</sup> Women's Committee of Uzbekistan. Annual report of performed work. 2018. Tashkent. Uzbekistan

<sup>73</sup> Ministry of Public Education. *Statistics department*. 2018. Tashkent. Uzbekistan

117,600 teachers were employed in vocational educational institutions, of which 57,601 (48.8%) were women, including 933 professors and 'kandidat nauk's.

Among contestants for "The best subject teacher of the year" in 2018, 9 out of 14 winners were women, which suggests that women are highly successful in this field. During the Teacher's day of the current year, over 130 teachers or mentors received state awards, 45 of which (66%) were granted to women.

Women account for a large share of employees in higher educational institutions – 48.6% of all staff.<sup>74</sup> Among them, 8 women are academics, 310 are doctors of science (16%) and 3,025 are 'kandidat nauk's (33%). Women occupy a significant number of leadership positions in scientific and educational institutions: 20 women are vice-principals of higher educational institutions, 34 are deans of departments and 390 are heads of departments.<sup>75</sup>

**Providing access to safe water and sanitation services in schools and other educational and preparatory institutions.**

Improving access to clean drinking water is one of the priority objectives of the government, enshrined in the country's Strategy of Action for 2017-2021. Facilities and institutions in this sector have undergone a reorganization and upgrade throughout the country, including through introduction of modern, economically and technically effective solutions.

Provision of reliable and high-quality water supply in public institutions, and particularly, in schools, pre-schools and vocational trainings, as well as medical institutions of the first and second tiers of the healthcare system, are priority directions of the planned reforms in this sector.

**Number of secondary schools with access to safe water supply and sewage system at the beginning of the 2018/2019 school year.**<sup>76</sup>

	number of schools under review	provided with water supply	%	Provided with access to sewage system	%
Total	9685	5716	59.0	2817	29.09
Village	6036	2954	48.9	1251	20.73
city	3649	2762	75.7	1566	42.92

<sup>74</sup> Asian Development Bank. 2018. *Uzbekistan. Updated gender assessment by country*. Manila Philippines.

<sup>75</sup> CEDAW, 2014. *The fifth periodic report on Uzbekistan*. p.101

<sup>76</sup> State Statistics Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan. 2019. Data provided during the preparation of this report. Tashkent. Uzbekistan

### Improvement of measures for prevention of adolescent pregnancy and provision of opportunities for girls to continue education in case of pregnancy and / or motherhood

The proportion of early marriages fell sharply due to ongoing policy of the state and activities implemented jointly with non-state actors. In 2016, the average marriage age 22.6 among women and 26 among men.<sup>77</sup> In order to prevent early marriages, the Women's Committee of Uzbekistan, in collaboration with relevant state and non-state stakeholders, conduct large-scale educational events raising awareness about the negative consequences of early marriages and early childbirth.

As of January 1, 2019, 65 (0.001%) under-age women gave birth in Uzbekistan.<sup>78</sup> They were provided with timely modern medical support in perinatal and neonatal phases of pregnancy.

### **Freedom from violence, prejudice and stereotypes**

Any violence, regardless of place and time is an administrative or criminal offense. National criminal legislation contains norms on responsibilities for violence against women, infringement on their freedom, honour or dignity of women, as well as crimes against moral values and family.

The criminal law has a provision for criminal responsibility based on husband's rape of his wife. Thus, in accordance with Article 118 of the Criminal Code, rape, that is, sexual intercourse with the use of violence, threats or by taking advantage of victim's helpless state, is criminally punishable. According to paragraph "b" of the third paragraph of Article 118, rape of a close relative is treated in the same manner as the rape by a husband.<sup>79</sup>

It should also be noted that the Criminal Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan contains a number of articles relating to women's situation as potential victims. These include article 114 (criminal abortion), 115 (Forcing a woman to conduct abortion), 126 (polygamy), 136 (forcing women to enter into marriage or obstruction of marriage).

Amendments to Article 121 of the Criminal Code on "Forcing a woman to enter sexual intercourse" is punishable by restriction of freedom from 3 to 5 years. The Criminal Code includes Article 130-1 on "Production, import, distribution, advertising, demonstration or propaganda of a cult of violence or cruelty", Article 133 on "Removal of organs or tissues of a human," Article 138 on "Enforced unlawful deprivation of freedom", Article 234 on "Unlawful detention or placement under guard".

Over the past 2 years (2017-2019), there has been a progress in elimination of violence against women, thanks to political will of the government and extensive measures on tackling of this serious problem area.

#### Four major directions have been identified:

- Strengthening of legislative and regulatory frameworks on tackling all forms of violence against women;
- Optimization of efforts towards prevention of violence against women;
- Strengthening of the work of multi-sectoral support services;
- Improving the quality of statistical data and information on violence against women.

The legal acts adopted in recent years have fundamentally revamped the work structure of the Women's Committee, the state organizations and NGO's, in terms of enhancing their contributions

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<sup>77</sup> State Statistics Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan. 2017. *Demographic Yearbook of Uzbekistan 2017*. Tashkent. Uzbekistan

<sup>78</sup> Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan. 2019. Data provided during the preparation of this report. Tashkent. Uzbekistan

<sup>79</sup> CCPR / C / UZB / 5. Fifth periodic report submitted by Uzbekistan in accordance with article 40 of the Pact in 2018.

towards supporting women, strengthening the institution of family, and improvement of social and economic situation of women.

In order to conduct in-depth, innovative empirical research on family values and traditions, the government has created "Oila" research center under the *Cabinet of Ministers*. The main objectives of this center include promoting the concept of "Healthy family – healthy society" and the constitutional principle that "The family is protected by the government and society".

In addition, the Presidential Decree PP-3827 of 02.07.2018, "***On measures to improve the system of social rehabilitation and adaptation, as well as prevention of domestic violence***" includes the following provisions:

- priority areas include improving the social system of rehabilitation, adaptation and preventative measures against domestic violence;
- a program of practical measures to improve the system of social rehabilitation, adaptation and prevention of domestic violence has been approved;
- a Center for Rehabilitation and Adaptation for victims of violence, as well as the prevention of suicides in territorial divisions of the Women's Committee of Uzbekistan has been established;
- public "hot line" on number "1146", designed to provide emergency psychological, psycho-therapeutic and legal support and information about organizations that may provide additional assistance created.

According to data from the Women's Committee of Uzbekistan, at the beginning of 2019, more than 160 centers started operating in the regions of the country. Each center offers support of a psychologist, lawyer, and specialists from the social and medical field working on a voluntary basis. At the beginning of March 2019, more than 4,120 women and girls referred to the Centers. The hotline "1146" of the Women's Committee has been launched, offering women and girls in need of help the appropriate psychological, legal, medical assistance (anonymously, if need be), and providing shelters to victims of violence.

The Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "***On measures to further improve the system of registration of acts on civil status***" dated June 12, 2018, delegates the deputy hokims of districts, and chairmen of women's committees with individual responsibility for taking joint and effective measures on strengthening families, preventing conflict situations and unwanted divorces, timely registration of birth and marriage, promotion and awareness-raising about family values and traditions.

"*Parenthood universities*" have been set up *in mahallas*, where regular sessions are held on family spirituality and the moral education of children, etc.

Each region of the country is covered by "Innovative schools for young people entering marriage" organized by Oila" center, which conduct studies using latest technology.

The Civil Registry Office has created the "*family universities*", where young people making an application for registration would receive short-term courses on preparation for family life and reproductive health.

An important innovation area is appointment of specialists who work with women to promote spiritual and moral values in the family. Staff appointed for this role are required to have positive personal qualities and necessary level of knowledge. Training sessions are organized for specialists entering this profession.

The legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan underwent a number of changes facilitating increased measures to prevent violence against women, including domestic violence, and tackling of outdated customs and practices (<https://regulation.gov.uz/ru/document/658>).

Presently, greater efforts are directed towards early detection and prevention of family and inter-personal conflicts, negative situations which can have impact on the spiritual and moral environment in

the family and society. In order to strengthen and preserve families and prevent divorces, the Women's Committee has initiated the changes into the Family Code. Consequently, the legal marriage age in Uzbekistan has been equalized to 18 years both for men and women.<sup>80</sup>

During the reporting period, *studies and surveys were conducted* in Uzbekistan to understand the issues of *violence against women*, in terms of the types and forms of violence.

According to the results of a survey on violence against women, the predominant share of violence was psychological in nature – verbal humiliation (28% of respondents), threats and intimidation (6.5%), prevention from study or work (7%), isolation from family members and friends (4.5%), denial of money (6.5%), etc.<sup>81</sup>

About 0.5% of respondents (or 10 people out of 2020 surveyed households) reported sexual abuse.

According to results of this survey, 5.8% of women were subjected to physical violence. This is a low number, compared to global average of 30 to 60%. The main causes of physical violence, according to respondents, were: adultery (more than 85% of respondents), excessive jealousy (28%), disrespectful treatment towards parents and family members of the husband (53%) and towards husband himself (53%), husband's dissatisfaction about revealing outfits worn in public spaces (39%), frequent absences from home for personal matters (37%) and poor child care (43%), etc.

Other studies in Uzbekistan also prove that women are more likely to be exposed to violence within the household by close relatives. This opinion was wide-spread among respondent housewives and divorced women. Working women often suggested that there is a high risk of violence not only in households, but also in public places – streets and transport, which involves strangers.<sup>82</sup>

In order to prevent and eliminate the violence against women, the Women's Committee of Uzbekistan and the Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development of France (ACTED), with financial support from the European Commission have been implementing a project on "Strengthening the role of women by protecting the rights and increasing their labour activity in Uzbekistan" since January 2018. The project is implemented in partnership with 3 women's NGO's: "Mehr Kuzda" (Tashkent), the Center for Social Protection of the Family "Oydin Nur" (Bukhara region), the NGO "Rakhimdillik" (Samarkand region).

The project conducted research in 100 target mahallas (communities) in Samarkand and Bukhara regions and Tashkent on topics including family conflicts, domestic violence and women's rights. The research identified the following gaps: limited support on social rehabilitation and adaptation, limited effectiveness of the system of prevention of domestic violence, lack of cooperation and awareness among women about their rights, especially, on rights violation in the context of domestic violence, and persistence of discrimination against women, both in society and family.

Negative relations between daughters-in-law and mothers-in-law, lack of mutual respect between husband and wife, declining moral values, existence of stereotypes, compliance with Eastern mentality to protect the honour of the family, are some of the factors leading to discrimination against

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<sup>80</sup> Decree No. PP-4296 of April 22, 2019 of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Additional Measures on Strengthening of the Guarantees of Children's Rights"

<sup>81</sup> Sociological research on "Factors contributing to foundation of a strong family and reproductive health in the Republic of Uzbekistan". ICI. UNFPA. 2015

<sup>82</sup> The sociological research on "Women in Uzbekistan: social well-being and social mood" Center "Ijtimoiy Fikr" 2016

women. Based on these findings, the Women’s Committee of Uzbekistan has led the following measures:

Three round table meetings have been organized including government departments and bodies, and NGOs, in order to discuss the recommendations on the prevention of cases of domestic violence, and strengthening of close collaboration among all government units and structure and NGOs on addressing women’s issues. The recommendations were then transmitted to a range of institutions for implementation, including the departments of the Women’s Committee of Uzbekistan at the regional and district levels, specialists in mahalla committees responsible for women's issues, the Scientific and Practical Research Center “Oila” under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan and its divisions, women's NGOs providing assistance to women and children, representatives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, authorities of “mahallas” and the Union of Youth of Uzbekistan, among others.

The Scientific and Practical Research Center under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan conducted a series of studies exploring elimination of patriarchal stereotypes and the role, position and responsibilities of women and men in family and society. According to results of these studies, a new model of Uzbek families is emerging: an innovative family. The innovative family model is aligned with requirements of the world economy and development in society. On one hand this implies the intergenerational transmission of cultural values and directions, on the other hand, formation of a globally responsible and well developed personalities, and the growing number of young people, who are able to create and implement innovative ideas.

According to results of the research, the “Oila” Center developed a new model of a modern Uzbek family, where spouses act as partners and all family members interested in professional growth and development.

<p>The Scientific and Practical Research Center “Oila” conducted a social study on forms of conflicts and violence in a young family.<sup>83</sup></p> <p>The spiritual values act as a preventing factor in emergence of family conflicts and domestic violence in young families. The main reasons for conflict are personality differences, jealousy of the partner, and bad habits, such as alcoholism. Various interpersonal conflicts and violence tend to lead to a divorce in young families.</p> <p>When asked “What do you think is the reason for divorce among young families?”, respondents pointed to early marriage of girls (40%), young men’s unpreparedness for family life (30%), financial problems, dependence on parents (23%), conflict between daughter-in-law and mother-in-law (30%). It was also highlighted that the changes in common culture and globalization, have also had a certain influence on divorce rates (14%).</p>	<p><b>Violence in family:</b>  <b>[Graph]</b></p> <p><b>Blue:</b> respondents indicating lack of violence</p> <p><b>Yellow:</b> exposed to occasional psychological violence</p> <p><b>Brown:</b> exposed to economic violence</p> <p><b>Green:</b> exposed to physical violence</p> <p><b>Beige:</b> exposed to sexual violence</p> <p><b>Orange:</b> hard to say</p>
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<sup>83</sup> Information provided by Oila Research Center to the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan, reporting on the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, 2019, Tashkent

### Development of services for women survivors of violence.

In accordance with the decision of the Government, the Committee of Women of Uzbekistan in the regions of the country has established *centers of rehabilitation and adaptation*, where victims of family and domestic violence can receive psychological, legal and social assistance.

According to Women's Committee of Uzbekistan, over 160 centers started operating in the regions starting from March 2019, of which 8 are at the regional level, 23 at city level and 134 in districts.

In the first 3 months of 2019, 4,120 women were attended to by the center. They received the following forms of assistance: medical-589, psychological-1107, legal-924, employment assistance-552, assistance in obtaining loans-347, and 1990 families were able to retain their marriage.<sup>84</sup>

Representatives of the Women's Committee hold regular meetings and talks with women, to learn about their problems and those in need, receive practical support as defined by the law.

In 2018, the "hot line" number 1146 was launched and has since received more than 15,000 complaints from women.<sup>85</sup> The largest number of calls are related to conflicts in families, dissatisfaction with the court decision, collection of alimony, and receiving financial assistance in the mahalla. Many women complain about government officials. Calls mainly originate from the city of Tashkent, Kashkadarya, Bukhara, Andijan, and Khorezm regions.

Women who have become victims of violence and crisis receive spiritual, moral, legal and medical assistance through the "phone of trust". Most importantly, on request, the call can be treated anonymously. Operational or emergency assistance is also provided in conflict situations, and when women could be prone to suicide.

NGOs are also making a remarkable contribution to supporting women, through measures for prevention and elimination of violence against women, and increasing legal awareness of vulnerable groups of women, particularly, those living in rural areas.

Since November 1996, SABR, the Republican Center for Socio-Economic Development has been assisting victims of violence by providing access to advice by psychologists, lawyers, and doctors, in collaboration with Komus - the law firm providing victims with free legal protection in the courts.<sup>86</sup> During 2014-2019, SABR Center delivered more than 3,373 consultations via hotline, including 977 face-to-face and 1,023 legal consultations, thereby assisting in resolution of conflict situations and prevention of offenses against women and children. Analysis of applications indicates that a big share of requests for assistance are related to family conflicts (40), personal problems (76), depression (61), parenting (42) and others.

The Center for Social Protection of the Family "Oydin Nur" (Bukhara region) reports that its main target group is women and their children who have been subjected to domestic violence.<sup>87</sup> In order to assist and support women and their children in crisis, the Center provides psychological, and necessary medical, legal, and social assistance. The Center interacts with government agencies, and where necessary, women and their children are placed in temporary shelters, and supported in accessing employment or skills training. Between 2014 and 2018, the assistance has been provided as follows: Calls to the hotline – 2,462; Legal assistance - 464; Psychological assistance - 601; Social help - 669; Protection of women in courts - 29; Shelter - 441 residents, of whom 239 are women and 172 are children.

In 2018-2019, the Center for Development and Support of Initiatives "NIHOL" (Tashkent region), with support of the Canadian Foundation for Local Initiatives, implemented the project on "Ensuring equal

<sup>84</sup> Data from the Women's Committee of Uzbekistan. 2018 Tashkent, Uzbekistan

<sup>85</sup> <http://uza.uz/ru/society/schaste-zhenshchiny-rezultat-mirnoy-i-blagoustroennoy-zhizni-13-04-2019>

<sup>86</sup> Information provided by RTSSER "SABR" 2019

<sup>87</sup> Information provided by the Oydin Nur Center (Bukhara region), 2019

access to legal information and support for women in Uzbekistan through the development of Android applications and launching a hotline”.<sup>88</sup>

The goal of the project was to develop an Android application for women in Tashkent region to help them access legal information.

The Android application was developed based on results of a needs assessment among women in the Tashkent region to identify prevalent legal issues and problems (with a special focus on women in remote rural regions and unemployed women). The Android application includes legal information and legal acts on issues such as labour relations, domestic violence, harassment, access to resources, etc. [https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.nihol.o\\_cure.android](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.nihol.o_cure.android)

*The General Prosecutor’s Office*, in collaboration with the concerned ministries and departments, non-governmental and non-profit organizations, has developed a set of measures, including:

- Providing access to information on provision of specialized care to persons in difficult social situations, including regular SMS notifications providing psychological advice and contact phone numbers of institutions providing social rehabilitation and adaptation support, as well as psychological and psychotherapeutic assistance;
- Monitoring of information posted on social networks, with the aim of stopping activities of websites containing information that can encourage suicide or educating about the ways of committing them;
- Equipping students of educational institutions with information about the signs of domestic violence and appeal mechanisms in the event of such cases, among other matters.

According to the *Supreme Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan*, crimes against family, youth and morals have become less frequent in the country.

For example, polygamy cases have decreased from 22 cases in 2014 to 14 cases in 2018.

According to Supreme Court and the Women’s Committee, there is a positive trend in fight against sexually-motivated crimes. In particular, the number of rape cases against women have sharply decreased from 374 cases in 2014 to 135 cases in 2018.

**The number of murders in the 2014- 2018 (including female victims)<sup>89</sup>**

Period	Number of murders	Number of victims	Female victims
2014	644	749	254
2015	669	726	216
2016	668	757	258
2017	507	591	205

<sup>88</sup> Information provided by the NIHOL Center, 2019, Tashkent

<sup>89</sup> Data from the General Prosecutor’s Office. Information provided in the framework of national consultations on “Results of implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Beijing Platform for Action in the Republic of Uzbekistan: achievements and challenges”, April 12, 2019, organized by the Women’s Committee of Uzbekistan and UNFPA

2018	429	480	179
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According to Supreme Court, the analysis of statistics on crimes committed by women demonstrates that their number is also declining. In 2017, the courts examined 7,335 cases concerning 9,134 women suspects, of whom 6,830 were convicted. In 2018, 4,948 cases were reviewed concerning 5,805 women, of which 4,374 were convicted.<sup>90</sup>

Supreme Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan has adopted measures allowing participation of the Women's Committee in investigative and judicial processes, whereby the role of both public defenders and public prosecutors are assigned to women.

In order to create an effective system of coordination of activities on crime prevention and elimination, the General Prosecutor's Office is appointed as the focal coordinating authority of the republic's interdepartmental commission on prevention of crime, juvenile delinquency, trafficking in persons and anti-corruption.<sup>91</sup>

In order to prevent early marriage cases, the prosecutors, in collaboration with Municipalities, the Women's Committee, mahalla committees, educational institutions and non-governmental organizations, collectively carry out awareness-raising activities among population. In 2018, over 3,000 events have been conducted on this topic (2017 - 4161, 2016 - 4564, 2015 - 3574, 2014 - 2509).

*As a result of joint activities of these organizations for the period from 2014 to 2019, more than 3,000 early marriage cases were prevented.*

The Women's Committee of Uzbekistan and the Ministry of Internal Affairs, jointly adopted the "*Program of measures to raise awareness about liabilities in case of violation of compliance with marriage age requirement*", as part of measures to promote specialized and vocational education, especially among girls.

Based on its priority objectives, the Women's Committee of Uzbekistan partners closely with public authorities and civil society on early prevention of crimes through individual work with potential female offenders, as well as through rehabilitation and adaptation of women, released from correctional facilities. Memorandums have been signed by the Supreme Court, the Ministry of Justice the General Prosecutor's Office, and the Ministry of Interior, which form the basis for measures implemented to ensure the rights of women.

*During 2018, 113 women who committed crimes and 780 women who committed offences have been exempted from punishment, on bail from the Committee.*

The Women's Committee of Uzbekistan, together with the Commissioner for Human Rights at the Oliy Majlis (parliament) of Uzbekistan, have conducted a large-scale work on expansion of the powers of the Ombudsman to monitor the conditions of detention of prisoners. A targeted provision has been made under a Presidential Decree to facilitate the Parliament's oversight over the conditions of imprisonment.<sup>92</sup>

In the first half of 2018, the Ombudsman reviewed 36 applications from women serving sentences, which are being reviewed jointly by the General Prosecutor's Office and the Supreme Court. The Ombudsman monitored the conditions of detention of women and minors and the procedures for

<sup>90</sup> Data of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan

<sup>91</sup> Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan of March 14, 2017 No. PP-2833 "On measures to further improve the system of crime prevention and crime control"

<sup>92</sup> Presidential Decree No. 5268 of 11.30.2017 *On additional measures to strengthen the guarantees of the rights and freedoms of citizens in judicial-investigative processes.* <http://www.lex.uz/docs/3432428>

treating minors in educational colonies. The results of the monitoring confirmed that the structure of delivering the imprisonment and provision of social services in specialized institutions is carried out in compliance with international standards and national legislation.

It must be noted that the *violence against women and girls through information technologies is an important topic*.

Being a rapidly developing state, the Republic of Uzbekistan is gaining a greater access to information, including highly-promising projects that will introduce modern information and communication technologies and innovative approaches into all spheres of life.

The reverse side of progress is the growing room for threats and incidents stemming from access to ICTs. Therefore, one of the priorities of the state ICT security policy is on countering the threats to information security and on protection of national cyber space.

The state has adopted documents and decisions towards control of use of ICT.<sup>93</sup> The Law “On protection of children from information harmful to their health” (2017 ), defines the concept of “children” (as persons under the age of 18), identifies the main directions in preventing the unlawful informational and psychological influence and manipulation over one’s consciousness, dissemination of informational products provoking children to antisocial behaviour, and outlines the preventive measures in this field.<sup>94</sup>

The Information and Public Security Center under the Ministry of Development of Information Technologies and Communications of the Republic of Uzbekistan has developed a Handbook on Protection of Youth in the Online Environment available in Uzbek and Russian languages. This handbook is designed specifically for minors, including girls and their parents, to protect children, including girls, from Internet threats and to promote adherence to information security standards. Furthermore, the manual is divided into three categories (for ages 7-10, 10-13 and 13-16), while parents are provided with additional suggestions and recommendations.

### Combating the trafficking in women and girls

Uzbekistan has joined the main international treaties aimed at combating trafficking in persons, including trafficking in women and girls.<sup>95</sup> Additionally, the state has a Law “**On countering human trafficking**” (2008), aimed at regulating relevant mechanisms in this field. Based on commitments made in the framework of the Palermo Protocol, *the Criminal Code of Uzbekistan* stipulates the punishment of activities related to trafficking in humans, as per following articles: Article 131- Facilitation or maintenance of dens and pandering; Article 135v-v - Trafficking in Persons; Article 137 - Abduction of a person; and Article 138 - Unlawful deprivation of freedom. The data pertaining to Article 135 for the period of 2014-2015 is as follows:

#### **Information on the number of crimes under Article 135 (Human trafficking)**

Period	Reported crimes during the subject year	Number of affected women <sup>96</sup>
2014	530	433

<sup>93</sup> Presidential Decree No.PP-4024 of 11.21.2018 “On Measures for Improving the System of Control over the penetration of information technologies and communications, and planning of protection measures”. <http://lex.uz/ru/docs/4071399>

<sup>94</sup> The Law No. ZRU-444 of 08.09.2017 “On Protection of Children from Information Harmful to Their Health”. <http://lex.uz/ru/docs/3333805>

<sup>95</sup> ILO Convention on the Abolition of Forced Labour (1957), ratified in 1997; CEDAW (1979), joined 1995; Convention on Children’s Rights (1989), ratified in 1994; The Convention of the United Nations against Transnational Organized Crime (2000), ratified in 2008; Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish the Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (hereinafter Palermo Protocol), ratified in 2008; UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (2003); Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, ratified in 2008

<sup>96</sup> According to the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan, 2019, Tashkent

2015	412	328
2016	390	356
2017	305	303
2018	123	147

A new composition of the State Interdepartmental Commission on Combating the Trafficking in Persons and its guideline document have been approved.<sup>97</sup>

In order to prevent overseas migration for illegal employment, the Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations is undertaking activities to facilitate employment of citizens abroad. The Center for Pre-departure adaptation and education, as well as the Agency for foreign labour migration are conducted consultations on employment and migration legislation, and customs of the destination countries.

Among its functions, the State Rehabilitation Center under the Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations refers the victims of trafficking in persons to medical institutions, including specialized medical institutions to arrange for provision of diagnostics, medical counselling and inpatient services, as well as healthcare services (drug and alcohol abuse, *psychiatry tuberculosis, infections, and others.*)

The government also conducts *research on human trafficking*.

The study conducted by the Center of Study of Public Opinion "Izhtimoiy Fikr" on "Countering human trafficking through the eyes of public" identified a general socio-economic profile of a potential victim of human trafficking.

This is a young male or female aged 21–30, with a low level of education and high interest in earning quick money. They have a naïve and trusting character, are easily amenable to influence, have a low self-esteem, legal awareness and limited life experience. According to survey respondents, the victims of human trafficking often do not have a skill or profession, and are therefore open to any work.

The survey was performed country-wide and questioned persons aged 18 and over, of whom 49.3% were men and 50.7% women. The survey was proportionally distributed among regions based on their population. The number of surveyed respondents was proportionally distributed between urban and rural settings. The survey was distributed among the regions in proportion to the population living in them – 50.7% urban and 49.3% rural residents.

As demonstrated by survey results, residents of Uzbekistan consider trafficking in persons to be a serious threat to national security.

According to survey respondents, the key measures to prevent trafficking include awareness-raising work with population, increasing their level of legal knowledge and informing prospective labour migrants about potential threats.

The government pays a lot of attention to preventative awareness raising measures. Among these, is a film "Isnod", produced with support of the General Prosecutor's office and describing the fate of young women victims of sexual exploitation.

<sup>97</sup> Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan from 14.03 2017 "On measures for further improvement of the system of prevention of offenses and combating crimes"

**Development of strategies to prevent violence against women and girls in educational sector and mass media**

Women's rights issues, including issues of combating violence against women and children, are topics included into the study programmes offered at the Department of International Law and Human Rights and other departments of the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs; it is taught to lawyers and judges in criminal and civil cases at the Center for the Advancement of Lawyers of the Ministry of Justice, as well as to prosecutors in the Academy of the General Prosecutor's Office.

The system of professional training for employees of preventative services and the internal affairs organizations, includes the study of international documents on prevention of all forms of discrimination against women and on prevention of violence against them.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs issues a regular newspaper entitled "Postda", which publishes the contact numbers of relevant departments of the MIA, which can be contacted on issues of domestic violence and protection of victims' rights.

During the reporting period, concerned government agencies and NGOs conducted awareness-raising activities on the issues of prevention of violence against women. During 2014-2018 and 3 months of 2019, the bodies of the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Uzbekistan held 1,180 awareness-raising sessions on gender equality, women's rights and the inadmissibility of violence against them; 166 of these events were widely reported in the media.

<b>Information about the educational and awareness-raising activities on gender equality, the rights of women and the inadmissibility of violence against them carried out by departments of the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Uzbekistan</b>													
	Total	Discussion events	Including:				Including:			Lecture hall			
			Round table	In a court	In the media	Television	Radio	Publications	In residential	At work sites	At educational institutions	Among businessmen	
													3
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
<b>2014</b>	<b>170</b>	136	5	60	3	<b>34</b>	18	13	3	83	33	18	1
<b>2015</b>	<b>203</b>	183	11	65	4	<b>20</b>	3	13	4	121	50	10	2
<b>2016</b>	<b>241</b>	208	8	74	4	<b>33</b>	16	12	5	128	63	17	0

<b>2017</b>	<b>228</b>	197	12	85	2	<b>31</b>	17	7	7	136	50	9	2
<b>2018</b>	<b>254</b>	215	14	78	3	<b>39</b>	14	18	7	143	56	13	2
<b>3 m. 2019</b>	<b>84</b>	75	3	33	1	<b>9</b>	4	4	1	46	20	9	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,180</b>	<b>1,014</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>395</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>657</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>7</b>

Between November 25 to December 10 of each year, Uzbekistan holds the United Nations International campaign on "16 days without violence", which has as its main objectives, the attraction of the public attention to promotion and protection of the rights of women and the elimination of violence against them.

As part of the UN International Campaign, Uzbekistan annually holds a campaign "From peace at home to peace in the world", in collaboration with UN agencies, OSCE and ADB, Women's Committee of Uzbekistan, NGO Civic Initiatives Support Center (CISC), the National Association "Kurash", international NGOs, ACTED and others. The events are held countrywide and area aimed at raising the awareness of population on preventing different forms of violence in the family and society. National campaigns are held in all regions of the country. This annual event was attended by 40,575 participants.<sup>98</sup>

In 2018, more than 60 representatives of ministries and departments of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the NGOs, as well as international organizations and embassies in Tashkent gathered to participate in a round table held at the Hyatt Regency Tashkent hotel to discuss the current status of efforts on prevention of violence against women.<sup>99</sup>

Among participants were the deputies of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Parliamentary Ombudsman, representatives of the Ministries of the Interior, Justice, Health, Public Education, Pre-school Education, Physical Education and Sports, NGOs, as well as the international partners, including the United Nations Development Program, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, UNICEF and others.

The roundtable participants also had an opportunity to get familiar with the results of the photo competition, organized under the subject campaign by the Women's Committee with support from UNFPA and the UN country team in Uzbekistan. The aim of the competition was to attract the attention of the public, in particular of young people, to the subject of gender equality and the promotion of pro-active steps against violence against women; representation of various images of women in society, as well as promotion of women working in non-traditional sectors. Photos of the contest participants have been demonstrated during the round table and will be widely distributed in social networks. The winners of the competition received memorable gifts.

The roundtable also played a video entitled "Children see, children repeat", filmed as part of the joint project of the Women's Committee of Uzbekistan and the Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development of France (ACTED) on "Strengthening the role of women by protecting their rights and increasing labour activities in Uzbekistan."

<sup>98</sup> National Campaign in 2015, NGO "Center for Support of Civil Initiatives", Tashkent, Uzbekistan

<sup>99</sup> [http://www.kultura.uz/view\\_8\\_r\\_12559.html](http://www.kultura.uz/view_8_r_12559.html)

These 16 days mark an important period dedicated to enhancing the role of women in society. Every year, the 25<sup>th</sup> of November is celebrated as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, as established by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1999. The 1<sup>st</sup> of December is the World AIDS Day. Worldwide spread of the immunodeficiency virus and acquired immune deficiency syndrome is particularly dangerous for women, as they are more susceptible to infection. The 3<sup>rd</sup> of December is declared by the General Assembly of the United Nations as the International day of Persons with Disabilities, which aims to integrate the persons with disabilities into all areas of society. The 8<sup>th</sup> of December is the Constitution Day of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The 10<sup>th</sup> of December is the International Day of Human Rights, which asserts the rights of people "to life, freedom and the inviolability of all without exception."

Another event conducted as part of the campaign, was a two-day seminar attended by government ministries and bodies referenced in the draft law on preventing domestic violence, with the goal of educating the participants about the concept of an inter-agency response to domestic violence and to increase the effectiveness of measures on prevention and response to violence against women and girls. The workshop was held by the Women's Committee of Uzbekistan with support of UNFPA's regional experts on December 11-12, 2018.

### Monitoring and data collection

From the beginning of 2017, for the first time in the history of independent Uzbekistan, each administrative unit of the country has been equipped with reception offices of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, in order to simplify the interaction of citizens with government services. In 2018, a virtual portal has been launched, that can be used by citizens to register their questions and problems. Women's Committee of Uzbekistan performs a regular monitoring over women's online applications in order to ensure their resolution. Presently, the key matters raised by women, include requests for assistance on legal, social, housing, and financial support, as well as questions and recommendations with regards to behaviours, dress code, weddings and customary events.

As of June 1, 2019, the Presidential Decree facilitated dedicated Reception offices of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the issue of protecting the rights of entrepreneurs, increasing the quality and responsiveness of support to entrepreneurs, including foreign investors.<sup>100</sup>

The Women's Committee of Uzbekistan, in collaboration with government agencies, is collecting data and performing the oversight of all issues as defined in the Decree of the President of the state.<sup>101</sup> Public control groups in mahallas are regularly reviewing the social and spiritual environment in families and are providing support in employment of citizens, and provision of financial, moral and medical assistance. Furthermore, measures are taken for early identification of factors having a negative impact on social and spiritual environment in families, and on their eradication.

### **Changing the image of women and girls in the media**

Over the past five years, and in particular the past two years, as part of the political, economic and social reforms underway in Uzbekistan, the government has taken steps to expand the access of

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<sup>100</sup>Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 5690 of 05.14.2019 "On measures for the comprehensive improvement of the system of support and protection of entrepreneurial activity". <http://invest-in-uzbekistan.org/novosti-uzbekistana/budut-sozdany-priemnye-premer-ministra-dlya-zashhity-predprinimatelej-i-investorov/>

<sup>101</sup>CCPR / C / UZB / 5. The fifth periodic report submitted by Uzbekistan in accordance with article 40 of the Pact and to be submitted in 2018. Date Received: August 2, 2018

<sup>101</sup>Decree No. 5325 of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan of 02.02.2018 "On Measures for the Comprehensive Improvement of Activities in support of women and strengthening of family "

women to express their opinions and participate in decision-making in media, including through the use of information and communication technologies.

It is well known that media play an important role in increasing the legal awareness of people, including women, to support their increased participation in life of the country and society.

To date, the number of media outlets in Uzbekistan have reached 1593, 64% of which are non-state. There are 400 websites, over 30 of which are news sites. The digital broadcasting is being developed, which has led to 100% accessibility countrywide. In the past two years, 5 new television stations have opened with countrywide availability, 4 of which are non-state.<sup>102</sup>

### **Almost all topics have become open to public discussion.**

In recent years, the number of radio and TV programs have been portraying the image of modern women who are socially and politically active, in particular, through the series of programmes about female-leaders who received the National award named after an Uzbek author Zulfiya. The state channel “Uzbekistan” regularly airs the talk-show - “This is important for us”, which discusses the topics of gender equality and increasing the share of women at decision-making level. Presently, “Tashkent” channel airs the programme – “A day in a woman’s life”, which demonstrates the lifestyle of women leading an active life and who has achieved remarkable results in their profession and career.

A range of women’s publications exist, covering not only the traditionally “female” topics (home, family relations, fashion etc), but also social and economic issues, and women’s perspectives on them. For example, since 2018, in addition to the journal “Saodat” (Happiness), a new journal named “Dugonalar” (Girlfriends) is being published.

The TV channels also air programmes “Oila” (Family) and “Oila dovrasida” (In the family circle). Furthermore, women are the key audience and discussants in famous talk-shows covering issues of social life - “Munosabat” (Relationship) and “Hulk Bilan Mulokot” (Dialogue with the People). It is also a positive development that the host of the programme about automobiles is a female and a lot of information presented in the programme also targets the audience of female-drivers.

Raising awareness of the population about gender equality and equal opportunities among women and men increasingly involves engagement of population into communication systems, including the Internet.

Active work is currently underway to promote and recognize women’s media networks, including e-networks and other new communication technologies, as means of disseminating information and exchanging views.

The increase in the number of women working in the media indicates openness of the media and the internet. On the other hand, enhancing the professional training of female journalists in the field of media and ICT, both in state and non-state media, is characterized by greater openness of the media and the Internet system. On the other hand, the professional competencies of women journalists in the field of ICT and the media (both government and non-government mass media) has contributed to women’s active participation in political and public life.

‘The Creative Union of Journalists’ and the ‘International Center for Journalist retraining’ has been created to support the media-network and organizations, including women journalists. A number of grants have been provided to women’s media networks, as well as on broadcasting of women’s issues, with support from the Parliamentary Fund of Support for NGOs, as well as the Public Fund for the Democratization of Media. Seminars and trainings are being conducted to train the journalists on covering this topic.

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<sup>102</sup> 101CCPR / C / UZB / 5. The fifth periodic report submitted by Uzbekistan in accordance with article 40 of the Pact in 2018. Date Received: August 2, 2018

However, the issues of gender equality have not yet been sufficiently reflected in discussions in media. Despite the fact that 92% of women in the country own a mobile phone, most of them do not have effective access to electronic information channels.<sup>103</sup>

The Women's Committee of Uzbekistan, together with the National Television and Radio Company, has approved a *Media Plan* for organizing a series of programs about enhancing the role of women in society. As part of its implementation, around 2000 TV shows and over 3,000 radio programs have been aired, and 300 articles have been published in newspapers and magazines on the status of women in the country.

### **Actions to ensure equal pay, retention and advancement of women in media and ICT**

The Labour Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan and relevant regulations on labour define the rules to ensure the equal payment of labour, as well as retention and advancement of women's status in the field of media and ICT. Their implementation is under regular monitoring of auditing units under the Ministry of Trade and the trade unions.

The field of advertising is governed by the *Law on Advertising*.<sup>104</sup> The Article 6, in particular, prohibits discrimination on the basis of *gender*, race, nationality, language, religion, social origin, belief, personal and social status, and other reasons.

In 2018, the University of Journalism and Mass Media of Uzbekistan was established in Tashkent. The need for opening a university of journalism is driven by a high demand for qualified cadre in the field of media.

The new university has been included into the system of the Ministry of Higher and Secondary Specialized Education and has already accepted the first batch of students. It must be noted that the university will have part-time slots as well, which will make it attractive for female students. The quota for part time undergraduate students is assigned at 'no less than 30% of all quota for undergraduates'.

Remarkably, the parity index of female students compared to young men majoring in "Journalism" is *1.78 (or 64% female students)*.<sup>105</sup>

Some departments offer classes on 'Gender and Media', which address the key concepts of gender equality, gender stereotypes and the principles of portraying women and men from the perspective of gender theory and practice.

### **Participation, responsibility and gender-responsive institutions**

Uzbekistan has a system of 30% quota in parliamentary nominations, which provides a significant stimulus for women to join the political life. The number of women in the parliament has grown from 9.4% to 16% in 2017. At present, women constitute 22% of the members of the Legislative Chamber and 14% of the members of the Senate of Oliy Majlis.

As of 2017, the posts of hokims in 14 regions and Tashkent are all held by men. Out of 84 deputy hokims of viloyats (provinces), 14 (16.67%) are women, working primarily as deputy hokim for women's

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<sup>103</sup> State Committee on Statistics of the Republic of Uzbekistan. 2019. Data provided during the preparation of this report. Tashkent. Uzbekistan

<sup>104</sup> Law No. 721-1 of 25.12.1998

<sup>105</sup> State Statistics Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan. 2019. Data presented in course of preparation of this report. Tashkent. Uzbekistan

affairs.<sup>106</sup> At the district level, women’s representation is higher: out of 1,772 deputy district hokims 193 positions (25%) are held by women.<sup>107</sup>

### Share of women in legislative bodies and women scientists %

Position	Number	
	2014	2018
Women nominated for membership to the Legislative Chamber (from the total number of candidates)	32%	30%
Women elected to the Legislative Chamber of Oliy Majlis	16%	22%
Women in Senate	17%	14%
Women in regional Kengashash, including the Republic of Karakalpakstan	23.5%	16%
Women in urban and regional Kengash	22%	23%
Women in leadership positions in state and public organizations		1388
Women PhDs		540
Women Kandidati Nauk (Candidates of Science)		2708
Women academics		5
Women's NGOs		300

According to data provided by the Women’s Committee of Uzbekistan, in 2018, the share of women in the Cabinet of Ministers was 6.5%, among the leadership of the executive power - 15.3%. The representation of women in leadership positions in the ministries, state committees and agencies is 10% and at the mid-level - 24%.

Dozens of women have been awarded honorary titles, including the “Honoured Scientist of Uzbekistan”, “People’s Poet of Uzbekistan”, “People’s Teacher of Uzbekistan” and “People’s Artist of Uzbekistan”. 311 talented girls are winners of the State Prize “Zulfiya”.

In order to ensure the active participation of women, including young women, in public life, eight associations have been established under the Women’s Committee – “Honorary Women”, “Creative Women”, “Woman and Health”, “Women Lawyers”, “Science and Woman”, “Women-Inventors”, “Girls’ Club” and “Partner NGOs Club”. The “Mutabar yol” badge has been created, which recognizes the remarkable contributions of women active in social and public life.

At the beginning of 2019, the system of government and public organizations employs 1,388 women in senior leadership positions, including 45 women in ministries and other government bodies, 39 women in the President’s Office, the Cabinet of Ministers, the Senate and the Legislative chamber of the Oliy Majlis, 22 in public organizations, 207 in local hokimiats and 1075 in traditional local councils. 72% of workers in the field of science, education, health, culture and art are women. 1,208 women work in

<sup>106</sup> Each of the 14 regions / viloyats has 6 deputy hokims - on economic issues and entrepreneurship, agriculture, women's affairs, youth affairs, construction, communications and investments, and on issues of religious and social organizations.

<sup>107</sup> There are 193 districts and cities in the country, each of which has 4 deputy hokims: on economic issues, entrepreneurship, women’s affairs, youth affairs. In total, there are 772 deputy hokims at the district level, including 193 women (25%).

the court system. Over 9 thousand women operate in mahallas as experts working with women on strengthening the spiritual and moral values in families.

### Share of women in membership of political parties in Uzbekistan<sup>108</sup>

Party name	2003	2005	2010	2014
People's Democratic Party of Uzbekistan	32.2	34.2	39	33.6
Liberal Democratic Party	28.3	33.1	35	32.6
Democratic Party of National Revival "Milly Tiklanish"	40	45.6	46.3	30.6
Social Democratic Party of Uzbekistan "Adolat"	30	38	48.6	30.3

Despite recognition of women's participation in political life, their representation in the government is low. Achieving a progress in this matter will require increasing the professional preparedness among women for management positions. It is necessary to provide support to women in leadership positions, so they can serve as role models for other women.

The government is intending to adopt a targeted programme on preparation of qualified cadre of women, in cooperation with the state and non-state organizations (Women's Committee, the Youth Union, political parties and the club of partner NGOs), in order to continuously grow women's leadership skills and their participation in public, political and socio-economic life of the country. The work is underway on engaging women into the work of political parties and trainings and roundtables are held on increasing their political knowledge, activism and ethics of communicating with population.

In order to expand women's representation, special measures are put in place in collaboration of 5 political parties to support women's progression into senior positions, including through allocation of quotas for women to increase the level of women's participation in the electoral process, and special measures have been developed to increase the number of women in political parties, expand their opportunities to hold senior positions, and allocate quotas for women in the executive bodies of political parties.

In partnership with the Academy of Public Administration, trainings are being conducted to develop women's managerial and leadership skills.

Presently, 120 of the trained women are recommended for senior positions, and further 328 them are being prepared for nomination to the parliamentary elections that will take place this year.

A Memorandum has been signed with the Central Election Commission on increasing the electoral literacy and activism among future female members of parliament, as well on the importance of elections.

Each year, necessary changes are made to the state system of statistical reporting to expand the data on women. The State Statistics Committee publishes an annual statistical report on "Women and Men

<sup>108</sup> The next elections to the Parliament of the Republic will be held at the end of 2019.

of Uzbekistan". In 2014, the State Statistics Committee's official website <https://gender.stat.uz> has been launched and is operational, with regularly updated information.

A new database has been created to collate data about the winners of the State Zulfiya award, who are recommended by the Women's Committee of Uzbekistan for roles in government and public organizations.

#### *Measures to increase the accessibility, affordability and use of ICT among women and girls (for example, free Wi-Fi centers, technically-equipped public centers)*

The government and the head of state are performing a large number of measures to expand access, affordability and use of ICT among women and girls, through initiatives such as provision of free Wi-Fi and technically-equipped public centers open for use by girls and boys. The government has established a Ministry of Development of Information Technologies and Communications.

The Government is developing and implementing state and non-state programmes on e-governance, and programmes on advancement of ICT, telecommunications and postal connectivity, including through step-by-step introduction of modern broadband access, digital systems of data transmission, satellite and mobile communications, broadcasting, improving the procedure for the provision of electronic public services, development of competitive local software products, development of information systems and resources, as well as establishment of information society and digital economy. Internet access systems have been created in many shopping and public spaces and free Wi-Fi is available in public transport and bus stops, as well as libraries, number of educational institutions and even in some public toilets.

The government is forming and implementing the strategic priorities in developing the e-government system, information society, digital economy, telecommunication and postal connectivity, radio-communications, television broadcasting, distribution of printed material, use of electronic digital signatures and radio frequency spectrum.

The telecommunications infrastructure is growing as a result of the expansion of the broadband access through the "last mile" technology, multi-network communications and other advanced telecommunication services.

### **National Human Rights Institutions**

In the past 2 years, the country has adopted additional measures towards expanding and strengthening the activity of the national institutions on human rights.

In 2017, the government made changes and additions to the Law "***On Authorized Person of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan for Human Rights***", aimed at strengthening the legal status of the Ombudsman, assigning this role with additional accountabilities and rights, which would increase the effectiveness of their activities to restore the violation of rights of citizens.<sup>109</sup>

According to the amendments and additions made in 2017, the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Oliy Majlis has been assigned with the right to appeal to the Constitutional Court to verify the constitutional laws and other legal acts on human rights, in order to prepare special reports on the status of rights provision to certain categories of citizens, active participation in legislative activities and interaction with civil society institutions, and strengthening of the system of the regional representatives of the Ombudsman.<sup>110</sup>

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<sup>109</sup> CCPR / C / UZB / 5, Fifth periodic report submitted by Uzbekistan in accordance with Article 40 of the Pact. 2018

<sup>110</sup> A / HRC / WG.6 / 30 / UZB / 1 National report submitted in accordance with paragraph 5 of the Annex of Resolution 16/21 of the Council on Human Rights, Uzbekistan, 2018

The following measures have been put in place for implementation of human rights legislation by the Ombudsman:<sup>111</sup>

- a virtual reception desk [www.ombudsman.uz](http://www.ombudsman.uz) and a direct phone line have been set up for verbal appeals and legal consultation of citizens, as well as individual and off-site reception is also carried out on an ongoing basis.

- regular monitoring measures are performed to ensure the provision of rights and freedoms of persons in custody in relevant institutions of law enforcement authorities; in cooperation with Oliy Majlis committees, scheduled control and assessment activities are taken to prevent torture and other cruel, inhuman or demeaning types of treatment and punishment.

In 2017, measures have been adopted to improve the efficiency of the National Center of Human Rights (NCHR) of the Republic of Uzbekistan, to expand the partnerships with UNHCR and other international structures and institutions of civil society.<sup>112</sup> The center also has an operational website. In 2018, NCHR was assigned with the task of reporting to international human rights bodies, in accordance with the Decree of the President of 10.12.2018 "On improvement of activities of the National Center for Human Rights of the Republic of Uzbekistan."<sup>113</sup>

In 2017, a new institute on human rights was created: **the Commissioner for the Protection of Rights and legitimate interests of business entities under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan**, which facilitates the introduction of new mechanisms for effective dialogue between business entities and government bodies, and adoption of additional guarantees of state protection on rights and legal interests of business entities.<sup>114</sup>

In 2019, the position of Deputy Human Rights Commissioner of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan (Ombudsman) for the Children's Rights was introduced.<sup>115</sup>

## Peaceful and inclusive communities

Uzbekistan has become a catalyst of important processes, in particular, concerning peace and security in the Central Asian region.<sup>116</sup>

On 10-11 November 2018, Samarkand hosted the International Conference on Security and Sustainable Development in Central Asia, "*Central Asia: One Past and Common Future, Cooperation for Sustainable Development and Mutual Prosperity*" organized by the UN Regional Center for Preventive Diplomacy in Central Asia (UNRCCA) and the Regional arm of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

The forum was held with support of 10 leading international organizations, and particularly, the UN agencies, and gathered more than 500 participants from 20 countries around the world. The key discussion topics included regional security problems, collaboration on water and environmental issues, support to prevention of threats and the potential for future collaboration. Results of the discussion led

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<sup>111</sup> CCPR / C / UZB / 5, Fifth periodic report submitted by Uzbekistan in accordance with Article 40 of the Pact. 2018

<sup>112</sup> The center was established in accordance with the Decree of the President "On the establishment of the National Center for Human Rights of the Republic of Uzbekistan" dated 31 October 1996. The *National Center for Human Rights is a state analytical and advisory interagency coordination body*. One of the main functions assigned to the Center is ensuring the interaction among government agencies and other organizations to fulfill the country's international obligations, prepare national reports in the field of human rights, and expand cooperation with international organizations in this direction: [https://www.norma.uz/novoe\\_v\\_zakonodatelstve/mejdunarodnye\\_obyazatelstva\\_strany\\_v\\_sfere\\_prav\\_cheloveka\\_ispolnyayutsya\\_kompleksno](https://www.norma.uz/novoe_v_zakonodatelstve/mejdunarodnye_obyazatelstva_strany_v_sfere_prav_cheloveka_ispolnyayutsya_kompleksno)

<sup>113</sup> [https://www.norma.uz/novoe\\_v\\_zakonodatelstve/mejdunarodnye\\_obyazatelstva\\_strany\\_v\\_sfere\\_prav\\_cheloveka\\_ispolnyayutsya\\_kompleksno](https://www.norma.uz/novoe_v_zakonodatelstve/mejdunarodnye_obyazatelstva_strany_v_sfere_prav_cheloveka_ispolnyayutsya_kompleksno)

<sup>114</sup> CCPR / C / UZB / 5, Fifth periodic report submitted by Uzbekistan in accordance with Article 40 of the Pact in 2018.

<sup>115</sup> Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On additional measures on strengthening the guarantees of children's rights", <http://lex.uz/ru/pdfs/4302031>

<sup>116</sup> <https://uz.sputniknews.ru/columnists/20171119/6860318/centralnaja-azija-sotruzhdnichestvo-radi-procvetaniya.html>

to adoption of *a communiqué of the International Conference on security and sustainable development in Central Asia under the auspices of the United Nations.*

In the framework of celebration of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of adoption of the Vienna Declaration and the Programme of Action on Human Rights, *The Asian Forum on Human Rights* was held in Samarkand on 22-23 November. The event was marked with signing of the Samarkand Declaration on *"The outcome of the Seventieth Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: Present Challenges and Realities"*, which was approved as an official document of the 73rd session of the UN General Assembly. The Oliy Majlis has approved the "roadmap" of the implementation of the outcomes of the Asian Forum.

### **Promoting and supporting the meaningful participation of women in peace-building processes and the implementation of peaceful agreements**

The issues of Women, Peace and Security in Uzbekistan have been raised since 2011, within the framework of the regional programs of UN-Women in Central Asia. The country annually conducts events celebrating the International Day of Peace (21 September) declared by the United Nations General Assembly in 1981 as a day for disseminating and strengthening the values of peace both within and among all nations and people.

Consolidation of peace, security and stability in the region would be impossible without participation of the general public, activities of both state, diplomatic and public structures, as well as non-profit organizations.

Termez State University has opened study programmes on humanitarian and technical professions available for afghan girls and boys at undergraduate level.
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Security and peace processes in the country and the region as a whole require an active involvement of women, effective mechanisms of preventive diplomacy that can strengthen the peace at international and local levels, as well as dialogues promoting the issues of tolerance and compliance with commitments to security and stability.

In order to ensure greater representation of women in Uzbekistan at the decision-making level locally and internationally, to further enhance women's participation in social and political processes, leaders of women's NGOs joined the Central Asian Regional Network on Women's Participation in Peacebuilding Processes. The women leaders of Central Asia have meet with the head of the UN Regional Center for Preventive Diplomacy in Central Asia (UNRCCA) to discuss the issues of security in the region and women's participation in peacebuilding.

Discussion points were in line with SDG goals for the achievement of gender equality and the key Resolutions of the UN Security Council on women's issues (No. 1325, No. 1889, No. 1820 and No. 1888). In the past two years (2017-2018), a Friendship and Cultural Relations Society of Uzbekistan and Afghanistan has been established.

### **Elimination of discrimination and violations of girls' rights**

The Women's Committee of Uzbekistan is working to support "unorganized" young people, especially to create enabling conditions for them to find themselves in life, to provide them with full support in identifying their professional interests and occupation and to help stimulate their initiatives.

Since 2017, *"Forum of young families and girls"* is being held, including meetings between "unorganized" youth and the country's female leaders and entrepreneurs who have made a feasible contribution to development of society in different areas.

The events aim to bring together remarkable women with the youth, in order to learn about young people's problems and concerns, dreams and motivations. During open discussions and master classes, new proposals were developed on increasing the effectiveness of working with "unorganized" young people.

Since 2017, for the third year in a row, the “Technovation Challenge” is being held in Uzbekistan. As the largest international technology competition, it takes place in 160 countries and targets girls aged 10-18. The aim of the competition is to raise the interest of girls in IT and entrepreneurship in IT sector.

Every year Technovation facilitates an educational competition for girls’ teams from around the world. Girls learn to solve socially important problems in their communities with help of technology (by building mobile applications, writing business plans for a project, shooting videos about their project and present their resulting work in the finals of the competition).

The organizers and partners of the Competition in Uzbekistan are the Association for the Support of Children and Families of Uzbekistan, the Women’s Committee of Uzbekistan, the UNDP in Uzbekistan, the Ministry of Innovative Development, the Youth Union of Uzbekistan, the Center for Advanced Technologies and Inha University in Tashkent.

The event resulted in 22 girls’ projects in 2017. In 2018-2019 season, 6 teams from Uzbekistan reached the world semi-finals (out of 1,500 teams from all over the world). One of the semi-finalists from Uzbekistan, the team “Generation Z”, reached the finals and represented Uzbekistan in Silicon Valley.<sup>117</sup>

### [Eradication of child Labour and extreme level of unpaid care and domestic work, carried out by women and girls](#)

The UN’s Special Rapporteur on Human Rights on Education noted that Uzbekistan has fulfilled one of the recommendations of CEDAW, proposing “to ensure that during the cotton harvest season, the rights to education of girls and boys is not compromised”.<sup>118</sup> As a result of public monitoring since 2012, there have been no recorded instances of child labour use (boys and girls) in cotton fields.

As noted in the ILO report, “Uzbekistan demonstrates significant progress in eradicating child labour and forced labour during 2018 cotton harvest season. Forced labour during harvesting season is reduced by 48% compared to 2017. As in previous years, there have only been isolated cases of children below working age participating in collection of cotton. Systematic or forced labour is no longer considered to be an issue in Uzbekistan. Schoolchildren and students were not mobilized into cotton gathering works in 2018. Observers from the ILO note that the wages have been increased by 85% compared with the previous harvest. Cotton gatherers were paid on time and in full”.<sup>119</sup>

### [Raising awareness of girls and their participation in social, economic and political life](#)

The Women’s Committee of Uzbekistan has signed memorandums with political parties and adopted action plans for 2018-2019, aimed at delivering the practical measures for implementation of a nationwide policy on social and legal support to women, their professional, spiritual and intellectual growth, development of their social and political activity, and ensuring the participation of women in state and public realms.

The girls’ club “Kizlarzhon” has been created in every enterprise, organization, mahalla and educational facility, in order to increase the awareness of girls about events in the country and globally, including on gender questions, preparation of girls for active public and political life of the country. The club has 2.5 million members.

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<sup>117</sup> <http://technovation.uz>

<sup>118</sup> UN Commission on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women. 2015. 16th session. February 16 – March 6. [http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/\\_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CEDAW/C/UZB/CO/4&Lang=en](http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CEDAW/C/UZB/CO/4&Lang=en); The International Labour Organization. 2015. *Third party monitoring of the use of child and forced labour during cotton harvesting period in 2015*. Geneva

<sup>119</sup> The International Labour Organization. *Third party monitoring on the use of child and forced labour during cotton harvesting period in 2018*. 2019. Geneva

Uzbekistan has a web site for young people including girls named U-REPORT120, where they can participate in polls and express opinions. All youth of Uzbekistan (over 14 years) can participate in the U-Report for free, voluntarily and openly.<sup>120</sup>

The program is designed to engage young people in discussion of topics that are relevant and interesting to them. The website has conducted the surveys on the following topics: "The Impact of Labour Migration on Society," "How do you manage your family budget?," "Issues of the marriage age: do you need changes to the Family Code?" as well as domestic violence topics and others.

In order to increase the level of women's participation in electoral processes, special measures have been developed in partnership of 5 political parties to increase the number of women and girls in their parties, expand their opportunities to hold senior positions, and to allocate quotas for women in executive bodies.

All political parties registered in Uzbekistan have "women's wings", which also contribute to further participation of women and girls in public life and decision-making. The government holds an annual Festival of Girls on October 11.

For example, the Liberal Democratic Party of Uzbekistan (UzLiDeP), based on the Strategy of Action, has set forward a target of ensuring gradual entry of Uzbekistan into 50 developed, competitive and democratic countries in the world with sustainably developing economy, economy of knowledge, innovative and digital economy and dynamic progression of the country towards innovative development and establishment of information society. "Women's wing" is one of the important units of UzLiDeP.

UzLiDeP has 375 thousand women and girls as its members. In 2018 alone, 104,122 women and girls joined the party.

In order to enhance the role of women and girls in the public and political life, enhance their involvement in entrepreneurial activity, create conducive conditions for enhancing their intellectual potential and self-realization, programmes have been launched, namely, "From family entrepreneurship to strong family", "A happy family", "Woman entrepreneur", "Woman farmer" and others.<sup>121</sup>

## Protection and restoration of the environment

The problem of climate change has become an unprecedented challenge to sustainable development of mankind and our planet. Global climate change of the climate led to increase in emergency situations, destruction of unique ecosystems, water resources deficiency, which undermine the energy and food systems and environmental security. Uzbekistan is taking measures to reduce the negative impact of climate change and improve adaptation, which have been included into the *Strategy for improving the living standards, the National Program of Action on fight against desertification and drought, the National Strategy and Action Plan for biodiversity conservation for the period of 2016-2025*, and sectoral programs in the field of energy efficiency and energy conservation.

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<sup>120</sup> <https://uzbekistan.ureport.in>

<sup>121</sup> Liberal Democratic Party of Uzbekistan. *The report of the "women's wing" for 2014-2019*. 2019. Tashkent. Uzbekistan

The country is a party to three Conventions: the Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention on Fight against Desertification. In addition, Uzbekistan has signed and ratified the relevant treaties, including the Paris agreement (10.02.2018).<sup>122 123</sup>

Legal structures in the field of nature conservation and its management in the country provide citizens with the rights and obligations specified in the Constitution of the country. Below are the main articles in the framework of the Constitution, devoted to the issues of environmental protection:

- Article 50. Citizens are obliged to treat environment with care.
- Article 51. Citizens are obliged to pay the established taxes and local fees.
- Article 54. The use of property should not cause damage to environment.
- Article 55. The land, its mineral wealth, water, flora, fauna and other natural resources are the national riches, and should be rationally used and protected by the state.

The Republic of Uzbekistan is a party to a number of international environmental treaties and regional agreements, which also contain a number of requirements that must be taken into account in conducting the environmental and social assessments.

### [Support for women's participation and leadership in environmental and natural resource management](#)

National goals and objectives for sustainable development until 2030 were adopted by the government of Uzbekistan on 20 October 2018. In particular, National Goal 5 is aimed at ensuring gender equality and expansion of opportunities and rights of all women and girls. Target 5.1 is to:

"Eliminate everywhere all forms of discrimination against all women and girls, including through legislative changes and effective implementation of law enforcement to ensure elimination of indirect discrimination."

Recognizing the connection between gender equality, sustainable development and protection of environment, the government is providing professional training on rational use of natural resources and environmental conservation. Many higher educational and vocational training institutions, deliver classes on "environment" and "environmental protection". Every year, the State Committee of Environment organizes and runs applied industry training.

Eco-forum of Uzbekistan includes about 30 environmental NGOs, half of which have female leadership. The Eco-forum has created a programme on "Gender and Environment", attended by women from different regions of the country. A member of the Eco-forum is represented in the Public Council of the Central Interstate Commission on Sustainable Development.

It must be noted that the large-scale land degradation process has led to a sharp decrease in the productivity of agricultural land and resulted in income drop for farmers and dekhans. This poses a direct threat to the standards of living and welfare of the rural residents. In this regard, with support from NGOs, a set of recommendations have been produced outlining the ways of optimal utilization of land resources, while focusing on programmes promoting diversification of farming activities.

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<sup>122</sup> Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Placement (22.12.1995); Convention on Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (22.12.1995); Convention on international trade in species of wild fauna and flora under the threat of extinction (01.07.1997); Bonn Convention on conservation of migratory species of wild animals (01.05.1998); Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (May 22, 2001).

<sup>123</sup> Paris Agreement is a document adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which regulates the reduction of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere since 2020. It was adopted as part of development of the Kyoto Protocol in course of the Conference on Climate Change in Paris on 12 December 2015. The purpose of the agreement is the activation of implementation of the Framework Convention on Climate Change, in particular, retention of the global average temperature increase to well below 2°C and efforts to limiting the temperature increase to 1.5 °C.

Uzbekistan's commitment to achieving gender equality can be reviewed in *the Environmental Gender Index (EGI) Category 3: "Gender Rights and Participation"* it must be noted that:<sup>124</sup>

- women have equal rights at all levels of legislation;
- CEDAW was ratified in 1995 and regular reports are being issued on its implementation;
- women participate in delegations of the Conference of the Parties in various international programs;
- as a temporary measure to increase the proportion of women at decision-making levels, a 30% quota has been introduced for women's election into political parties and movements;
- at all levels of local governments, the post of deputy hokim is reserved for a woman - chairperson of the respective subdivision of the Women's Committee of Uzbekistan;
- similar quotas are currently being introduced into other sectors, such as energy, road construction, water management, especially through measures on training and capacity development.

*In relation to Category 5 - "Gender Education and Accesses" of the Environmental Gender Index (EGI) of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), it must be noted that there are no gender-specific limitations in decision-making and government policies and other necessary measures are put in place to avoid gender disparities in access to agricultural land, property, loans and other financial resources.*

**Support to participation and leadership of women, including women affected by natural disasters; in the area of reducing the threat of disasters, and policies, programmes and projects for climate recovery and climate change mitigation**

In the spirit of the Dublin Principles (1992), recognizing that "women play a central role in the provision, management and economy of water", Scientific and Information Center of the Interstate Commission for Water Coordination has established a network of "Gwanet" – Gender and Water in Central Asia, incorporating over 60 organizations on the website: [www.gender.cawater-info.net](http://www.gender.cawater-info.net).

Annual national competition on environmental journalism has established a special nomination of "Women of the Mountains" providing incentives for coverage of programmes and projects on improving the situation of women and their adaptation to climate change.

Climate change affects all aspects of life. At a country and local level, the response to this challenge requires two key considerations: the preservation of natural ecosystems as the regulators of climate and the creation of gender-balanced decision-making mechanisms and goals at all levels, from state to families.

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<sup>124</sup> Sixth National Report of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the conservation of biological diversity / edited by B.T,Kuchakarova. Tashkent, 2018. - 235 p.

## Section 3: Government Institutions and Processes

### Institutional mechanism for the advancement of women in Uzbekistan

According to the national legislation, *The Women's Committee of Uzbekistan (KZHU)* is the national public organization, created to provide a comprehensive support to women, protection of their rights and legitimate interests, facilitation of their full participation in public, political, social, economic and cultural life of the country, as well as spiritual and intellectual growth of women and youth.

In 2013, during the reporting and election conference of the Committee, the new Charter of the Committee was adopted, which strengthened the objectives of the Committee on full-fledged support to women and ensuring their participation in all realms of life; the organizational structure of the Committee has been formed: to ensure control and monitoring of the National Strategy of Action concerning the observations and recommendations of CEDAW, mobile monitoring groups have been created in different regions of the country.

Since 2014, with a view to support the functions of the Committee, the policy documents were issued providing guidance on improvement of women's role in government and public life of the country.<sup>125</sup>

The Chairperson of the Women's Committee of Uzbekistan is elected at the National Conference and subsequently, is appointed as the *Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan*. A similar procedure applies at the regional level, where elected chairpersons of the committees of women are appointed as Deputy Heads of the regional authorities.

In 2019, in accordance with the Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers on 27 February 2019 "**On approval of the operational responsibilities of the Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan - the Chairperson of the Women's Committee of Uzbekistan and the Secretariat on issues of supporting women and families, and bodies of the registry office**" and in execution of the Decree No. UP-5644 of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on 28 January 2019 "**On urgent measures to increase the responsibility of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan for effective implementation of strategic objectives on socio-economic development of Uzbekistan**", and the Decree No. PP-4136 of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan from January 28, 2019 "**On introduction of effective new system of organization of work of the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan**" approved the "**Regulations on the functional responsibilities of the Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan - Chairperson of the Women's Committee of Uzbekistan**" and "**The Regulations of the Secretariat on the issues of support to women and families**".<sup>126</sup>

The activities of the *Deputy Prime Minister* are aimed at ensuring the effective implementation of the state policy in matters of support to women, protection of their rights and legitimate interests, on enhancing their role and activities in the socio-political life of the country, as well as timely identification of problems of women in difficult social situations, provision of assistance, employment and social and labour rights of women, early prevention of offenses among women through individual work with women inclined to committing offenses, as well as awareness-raising and strengthening of the family, divorce prevention, and timely registration of birth and marriage.

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<sup>125</sup> Decree No. UP – 5325 of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated February 2, 2018 "On measures for comprehensive improvement of activities in the field of supporting women and strengthening the institution of family"

<sup>126</sup> Resolution No.174 of the Cabinet of Ministers from 27 February 2019 "On Approval of the functional responsibilities of the Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan - Chairman of the Women's Committee of Uzbekistan and the Secretariat for support of women and families, and bodies of the registry office", <http://lex.uz/ru/docs/4182449>; Decree No. UP-5644 of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan of 28 January 2019 "On urgent measures to increase the responsibility of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan for effective implementation of strategic objectives of the country's socio-economic development". <http://lex.uz/ru/docs/4182359>; Decree No. PP-4136 of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan of 28 January 2019 "On the introduction of effective new system of organization of work of the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan", <http://lex.uz/ru/docs/4182449>

The Women's Committee has its structural units in all regions, districts, cities, labour unions, educational institutions and citizens' self-governing bodies. The inclusion of the Women's Committee into the state power system is not a new form of governance. It allows the Committee to act as a coordinating structure with executive power, while having a vertical authority over deputy heads of territorial administrations in relation to women's issues. This structure allows the Women's Committee to participate in the development, negotiation and implementation of socially-oriented state programmes and projects annually adopted in the country.

The Women's Committee of Uzbekistan is financed by the state budget due to particular significance of the tasks assigned to it, including active engagement of women into decision-making on socio-economic and cultural development issues, ad expansion of their engagement in state and public realms, as well as strengthening of the family's social security, motherhood and children.

The Institutional basis of the Women's Committee allows it to perform relevant responsibilities within the government, and ensure provision of necessary labour and financial resources from the state budget into the regional women's committees, activities of which are directed towards improving the situation of women according to the priority directions of BPA and the provisions of CEDAW.

### *The main activities of the Women's Committee of Uzbekistan:*

Planning and implementation of measures aimed at increasing the public, political and social activities of women, assistance to active participation of women's non-profits in public and political life of the country and in international women's movement;

- Partnership-building, in order to provide the government with considerate and representative advisory services in relation to identification, development and implementation of gender policy that reflects the diversity of opinions and conditions of women;

- Reflecting the diversity of opinions of women, based on consultations with women's NGOs and non-profits, as well as with other groups and organizations working on women's issues; active work on increasing the gender-responsiveness of state and public organizations, promotion of gender equality of opportunity issues in the government and society;

- Act as a mediator in exchange of information between the government and women's NGO's;

- Analysis of the policies in areas related to organizations working on promoting women's rights;

- Creation and support to effective governance mechanisms, ensuring implementation of functions and accountabilities of the territorial units of the Women's Committee of Uzbekistan;

- Development and adoption of measures for women's employment, improvement of labour and educational conditions (especially in rural areas), engagement into entrepreneurship and extensive support to running of the business;

- Organization of effective awareness-raising in families, mahallas, labour collectives and educational institutions to ensure alignment with national and religious traditions, and implementation and protection of women's constitutional rights;

- Assistance to women's NGOs on improving the situation of women based on the principles of social partnership;

- Participation in regional initiatives for the advancement of women, contributing to women's increased role in society and elimination of all forms of discrimination against women;

- Advancement of medical awareness, protection of reproductive health and building of healthy families and healthy lifestyle;

- Development and implementation of practical measures for the implementation of a national policy on social and legal support to women, as well as physical, spiritual and intellectual advancement of women;

- Systematic learning and assessment of the situation around protection of women's rights, increasing their role in family and society, and ensuring the implementation of normative and legal acts on protection of women's rights and interests;

- The exchange of experiences and ideas among female scientists, strengthening of partnerships with international women's organizations in the field of politics, culture, science and economy.

In order to facilitate the delivery of the abovementioned tasks, in 2018, the Public Fund for Support to Women and Families was established under the Women's Committee of Uzbekistan.

**Formal mechanisms for participation in the implementation and monitoring of implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

Based on the Resolution No. 841 of the Cabinet of Ministers, the government has established the Coordination Council for implementation of the National Sustainable Development Goals, including representatives of all key ministries and government bodies.<sup>127</sup>

**Concerned stakeholders who officially participate in government coordination mechanisms created to support the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

**Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action**

**2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

**Civil society organizations**

**Civil society organizations**

**Women's Rights Organizations**

**Women's Rights Organizations**

Scientific community and expert-analytical centers

Scientific community and expert-analytical centers

Religious organizations

Religious organizations

**Parliaments / parliamentary committees**

Parliaments / parliamentary committees

Private sector

Private sector

United Nations System

UN System

**Officially registered political parties**

**Line ministries**

**Line ministries**

**UN agencies ( in advisory role)**

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<sup>127</sup> Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers No. 841 of 10/20/2018 *On measures to implement the National Goals and Objectives of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.* <http://lex.uz/ru/docs/4013358>

### Stakeholder input into the preparation of this national report

In preparation for this report on the comprehensive review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the Women's Committee conducted a number of consultations with numerous government and non-government organizations, as well as a joint discussion on issues stated in the "Guidelines on the integrated review of the results of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Beijing Platform for Action at the national level".

As part of its mandate as a national mechanism on protecting women's rights, and based on memorandums of cooperation, the Women's Committee of Uzbekistan closely collaborates with government and non-government organizations, political parties and the media on implementing the Beijing Platform for Action, CEDAW and the Sustainable Development Goals.

For example, with the support of the UNFPA in Uzbekistan, a consultative workshop was held in the conference hall of the Women's Committee on April 12, 2019, where the Vice Prime Minister, Chairperson of the Women's Committee Ms.Narbayeva and the UN Resident Coordinator Helena Freizer delivered their speeches.<sup>128</sup>

During preparation for the event, all participants were provided with agenda of the upcoming discussion. Furthermore, a more detailed questionnaire was prepared to obtain statistical or any other information related to priority areas of the Platform for Action.

There were small focus group discussions on main directions of the BPA as identified in the Guidelines for the Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action +25; the most important achievements, challenges and setbacks in implementation of gender equality and women's empowerment over the past 5 years were discussed, so were the key priorities for accelerating the progress on advancement of women and girls over the next five years.

The consultative workshop was attended by representatives of: a) government organizations: the Ministry of Economy and Industry; Ministry of Labour and Employment; Ministry of Finance; Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ministry of Pre-school Education; Ministry of Higher and Vocational Education; Scientific and Practical Center Oila, Ministry of Health; Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Justice; Ministry of the Interior; Ministry of Investment; State Statistics Committee; General Prosecutor's Office; Supreme Court; Institute for Strategic and Interregional Studies; State Environmental Committee; Ombudsman;

b) non-governmental organizations: Women's Committee of Uzbekistan; Youth Union; Federation of Trade Unions; Association of Business Women of Uzbekistan; Center for Development Strategy; National Center for Human Rights; Institute for Democracy and Human Rights; Eco-Forum; Center for professional retraining of lawyers; Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Manufacturers and Entrepreneurs; Center for Supporting Civil Initiatives, International Center for Journalist Retraining;

c) political parties: Milly Tiklanish Party, Liberal Democratic Party, National Democratic Party, National Movement "Uksalish", Environmental party.

The workshop also involved the staff and experts of UN agencies operating in Uzbekistan as observers and consultants.

The main conclusions of focus groups discussions were presented and discussed at the plenary session of the workshop are reflected in this Comprehensive Review.

Throughout the preparation process for the comprehensive review of the Beijing Platform for Action, consultations have also been held with concerned non-governmental public and private stakeholders, who in accordance with received questions, provided information and statistics pertaining to their organizations for the period of 2014-2019. As a result of these consultations, over 40 reference and

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<sup>128</sup> See appendix No.4: Programme of the consultation/workshop on "The results of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Beijing Platform for Action in the Republic of Uzbekistan: achievements and challenges"

information materials were received related to various areas of the implementation of the BPA, which are included into relevant sections of this review.

## Section 4: Information and Statistical Data

Reliable information about the population of the Republic of Uzbekistan and its well-being is the most important basis for development of long-term forecasts and targeted state programs on social and economic development programs, programmes on employment creation, design of indicators for the national sustainable development goals, review of the processes of labour resource allocation and utilization, as well as delivery of scientific research.

The availability of online gender-specific data and printed statistical reports of the State Committee on Statistics is a source for accessing baseline data on indicators and are used for development of policies and strategies, as well as for monitoring of achievements across key indicators, such as, poverty reduction, employment rates etc.

The State Statistical Committee publishes the annual reports on “Women and Men of Uzbekistan”, “Demographic Yearbook”, “Statistical Review of the Republic of Uzbekistan” and “Statistical Almanac”, which include gender-oriented data on selected socio-economic indicators.

In 2014, with support from the ADB, the official website on gender statistics <https://gender.stat.uz/ru> was launched and is updated annually. Uzbekistan is one of a few countries in the world that maintains a dedicated website on gender statistics, which also acts as a centralized database. Presently, it includes *more than 100 indicators*, as well as regularly published analytical materials.

The website contains basic information on demographics, employment systems, tourism, social protection, as well as crime statistics. The site also provides information on social sectors.

- Health, education, physical education and sports.

In accordance with the Presidential Decree No. 4235 the website will be thoroughly upgraded and the number of gender-oriented indicators will double in 2019.<sup>129</sup> The list of minimum gender indicators (total of 54 indicators) and other relevant information for publishing on the website <http://gender.stat.uz> has been determined (See Appendix 2 of this review document).

From listed indicators, currently, the website has data on 28 indicators. The State Statistical Committee and responsible ministries and departments (listed in the List of Indicators) will collect gender-specific information on remaining 28 indicators. For example: the average number of hours spent in unpaid domestic work; share of self-employed workers; the percentage distribution of employment by sector, in sectors such as, agriculture, industry, services, etc.; the proportion of the population with access to credit; wage gap of men and women; the proportion of women (in the age of 15 - 49 years) exposed to sexual abuse by non-partners, etc.

Employees of the State Statistical Committee, including the Department of Gender Statistics, regularly improve their professional competencies in accordance with the program of professional skills development applicable to this state institution.

### [Reprocessing of existing data \(for example, censuses and surveys\) to obtain a more segregated data, including on existing /or new gender statistics](#)

During the years of independence, no census has been conducted in the Republic of Uzbekistan. The changes which have dramatically affected large shares of population, including gender and age structure, and especially the territorial residency, as well as the lack of classification on other socio-demographic characteristics, significantly limit the use of the available population data.

With support of the UNFPA, the government is planning to perform a national population census in 2022 in order to obtain accurate population estimates, including sex, age, marital status, level

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<sup>129</sup> Decree No.4235 of the President from 03.07.19 *On measures to further strengthen the guarantees of labour rights and support to women's entrepreneurship.*  
[https://www.norma.uz/novoe\\_v\\_zakonodatelstve/zaprety\\_i\\_ogranicheniya\\_na\\_jenskiy\\_trud\\_otmenyayutsya](https://www.norma.uz/novoe_v_zakonodatelstve/zaprety_i_ogranicheniya_na_jenskiy_trud_otmenyayutsya)

of education, living standards, employment, nationality, citizenship, and other demographic and socio-economic characteristics.<sup>130</sup> The data will be segregated by gender.

### **Conducting new research to prepare national baseline data on individual themes**

Large studies normally employ the statistics on geographic location, gender, age, education, marital status, and other demographic data.

In 2020, together with the UN Children's Fund, the government is planning to conduct a household survey (using MICS method: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey), in order to assess the situation of children and women in the country, including through sex-disaggregated data. The survey will deploy 5 questionnaires: (1) for households, (2) for women at the age of 15 - 49 years, (3) for men at the age of 15 - 49 years, (4) for children at the age of 5-17 years and (5) for children younger than 5 years.

In addition to regular professional training activities, as part of the preparations for the planned census in 2022, UNFPA-supported trainings are being delivered for employees of the State Statistics Committee, as the lead implementing agency.

### **The main priorities in development of national gender statistics for the following five years**

- In 2019, a methodology for gender data collection will be developed, comprising 8 sectors and about 25 indicators per sector.

- An interdepartmental coordination mechanism (interdepartmental commission) on gender statistics will be formed, and will operate under the coordination of the Women's Committee of Uzbekistan.

- 2022 census is planned for delivery in order to obtain accurate data on population, including detailed categorization by sex, age, marital status, level of education, living standards, employment, nationality, citizenship and other demographic and socio-economic characteristics, all disaggregated by sex.

- Design and administration of a household survey using MICS method (Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey) with a view to assess the situation of children and women in the country, including through gender perspective.

- Maintenance and improvement of the official website on gender statistics: <http://gender/stat.uz>

### **National set of indicators to monitor the progress in implementing the SDGs**

In accordance with the Resolution of the 70<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly of the Organization of the United Nations, adopted at the United Nations Summit on Sustainable Development in September 2015 and with a view to facilitate the systematic and continuous implementation of SDGs until 2030, the Cabinet of Ministers of Uzbekistan approved 16 national sustainable development goals and associated targets for delivery by 2030. The government institutions responsible for delivery of the gender-related targets are Women's Committee, as well as relevant ministries and government bodies, which are part of the Coordination Council for Implementation of the SDGs.

A dedicated website (<http://nsdg.stat.uz/>) was launched in 2018, reflecting the processes of implementing the National Goals and Objectives for the SDGs in Uzbekistan.

The list of indicators and implementation targets of the National Goals for sustainable development until 2030 are presented in Appendix 3 of this report.

From 206 adopted indicators, 32 are gender-related.<sup>131</sup>

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<sup>130</sup> Presidential Decree No. 5655 of February 06, 2019 *Approving the concept of conducting a census in 2022 in the Republic of Uzbekistan* [www.lex.uz](http://www.lex.uz)

<sup>131</sup> Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 841 dated 10/20/2018 *On measures to implement the National Sustainable Development Goals and Objectives*. [www.lex.uz](http://www.lex.uz)

Of all gender-related indicators, 2 are additional indicators (i.e. they are not part of the global monitoring system and SDG indicators).<sup>132</sup>

The indicators for the National SDGs were approved on March 20, 2019 and the work on development of the methodology (metadata) will be completed by September 2019.<sup>133</sup>

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<sup>132</sup> In particular, “The incidence of anemia” and “The proportion of certain categories of citizens in public institutions”.

<sup>133</sup> Coordination Council on the implementation of the National goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Resolution of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 02/1-1314 of 20.03.2019. *The list of indicators and objectives for implementation of the National Goals for Sustainable Development until 2030.*

## ANNEX

1. National goals and objectives for sustainable development of the Republic of Uzbekistan.
2. List of minimum gender indicators and other information that will be published on the website:  
<http://gender.stat.uz>.
3. The list of indicators and objectives for the implementation of the National Goals for Sustainable Development until 2030.
4. The composition of the Coordination Council on implementation of the national goals and objectives on sustainable development until 2030.
5. Program of consultation / seminar on "The results of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Beijing Platform for Action in the Republic of Uzbekistan: achievements and challenges"