

**28th Working Group of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention
Geneva, 2-4 July 2024**

**Official Speech on Uzbekistan's Steps Towards Joining the Aarhus
Convention**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Uzbekistan has taken significant steps towards joining the Aarhus Convention. It is clear that creating an effective mechanism for ensuring mandatory public participation in making environmentally significant decisions is an urgent task.

The Aarhus Convention links environmental rights with human rights and recognizes that we have obligations to future generations. The Convention establishes that sustainable development can only be achieved through the involvement of all stakeholders and links the accountability of environmental authorities to the public.

Deeply aware of these processes, the State pays special attention to promoting a "green" agenda, preserving ecosystems and biodiversity, careful use of natural resources, and creating an effective mechanism for ensuring mandatory public participation in making environmentally significant decisions.

To further improve the socio-economic and environmental situation in Uzbekistan, the new edition of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan reflects a number of articles that strengthen requirements for environmental protection. It emphasizes the rights of citizens to a favorable environment and reliable information about its condition, and the obligations of the state to create conditions for public control in urban planning activities to prevent harmful effects on the environment. Urban planning documents are subject to public discussion as prescribed by law.

In accordance with the principle of sustainable development, Uzbekistan implements measures to improve, restore, and protect the environment, and maintain environmental balance. The concept of environmental protection of the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2030 establishes that solving environmental problems is impossible without the broad participation of civil society institutions and the population. In this context, the level of environmental education of the population plays a crucial role.

Currently, the country's accession status has been approved by the State and is awaiting final decision in Parliament.

Dear Participants,

Uzbekistan intends to actively participate in multilateral efforts to promote pressing issues of public participation in environmentally significant decision-

making. We will continue, together with the international community, to implement all necessary measures for the future of our planet.

Thank you for your attention!