



**UNITED NATIONS
UZBEKISTAN**



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UNITED NATIONS COMMON COUNTRY ANALYSIS: UZBEKISTAN

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**UN COUNTRY TEAM
UZBEKISTAN**

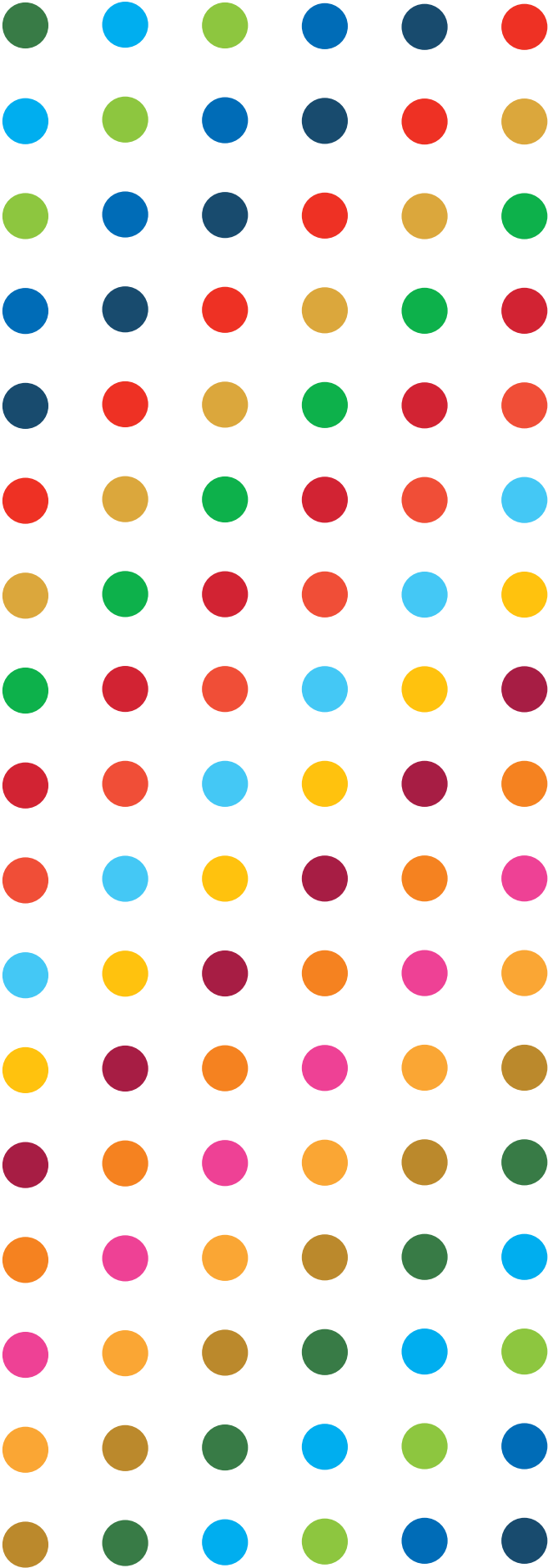


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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



The Republic of Uzbekistan has experienced remarkable growth since its independence in 1991 and transitioned from a Low-Income Country (LIC) to a Lower Middle-Income Country (LMIC) in 2011. With the election of Shavkat Mirziyoyev in 2016 this transformation has accelerated due to widespread structural reforms which have impacted every aspect of social, political, and economic life. Uzbekistan now aims to become a high middle-income country (HMIC) by 2030.

To achieve this ambition, Uzbekistan has confirmed its commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In October 2018, the Government passed a resolution adopting 16 national SDGs, 125 related targets, and 206 indicators to facilitate monitoring the implementation of the SDGs. A Coordination Council was established to oversee SDG implementation across 21 government agencies and the National Action Strategy 2017-2021 was confirmed as a pathway towards SDG implementation.

Reforms have also created a positive set of conditions and opportunities for sustainable development. Incremental steps have been taken to enhance freedom of speech and civic space. Human rights are more prominent on the political agenda and Uzbekistan engages more actively with international treaty bodies and procedures. Improved relations with neighbouring countries and multilateral institutions are providing new and invigorated economic opportunities and mechanisms to address regional and global challenges. Structural reforms and trade liberalization are encouraging new and increasing financial flows, including from International Financial Institutions (IFIs). Finally, the country is passing through a large “demographic window” with a high proportion of potential young workers creating an opportunity to “make the country rich before it gets old”.

Nevertheless, significant challenges remain. Lack of strong policy integration and coherence, and sound data analytics on development progress may impede or delay gains. Limited administrative capacity will make it difficult to deliver equitable gains across the population, especially in rural areas. Reforms are also entering a high-risk phase where internal resistance and bottlenecks

may increase the possibility that the most vulnerable will be disproportionately impacted. High environmental vulnerability to climatic shocks will need deliberate policies to ensure resilience and disaster risk reduction. Finally, prevailing cultural norms on women and girls and other minority groups threaten to leave large portions of the population behind.

Leaving no one behind is at the core of the sustainable development agenda and recognises the primacy of people in development efforts. Therefore, every policy, reform, and decision must be designed with an overarching theme of reaching those furthest left behind first, and ensuring that the most vulnerable groups are not disproportionately and negatively impacted by the changes. This includes re-thinking how the structure of the economy, governance institutions, and social infrastructure impact these groups, and ensuring that international human rights standards are mainstreamed.

While significant gains on human rights have been made in the last few years, more needs to be done if the Government wants to ensure inclusive rights-based development for all. This includes, ensuring meaningful consultation with civil society, adequate space for freedom of expression in all its forms, accession and ratification of priority international human rights treaties, robust public oversight of implementation, and establishing credible recourse mechanisms to address grievances (including possible human rights violations).

To support the Government in reinforcing these positive reforms and addressing gaps to achieving the 2030 Agenda, the UN has drawn three broad conclusions: exclusions and inequalities are key development challenges; stronger integration of SDGs in national development planning and coordination are needed; and policy coherence and administrative capacity should be reinforced. As confirmed through extensive consultations, the UN system has a strong comparative advantage to support Uzbekistan’s development priorities in the following areas: transparent, accountable, and responsive governance; resilience to climate change, disasters, and sustainable resource use; and human capital and sustainable livelihoods.

1. INTRODUCTION

Since Shavkat Mirziyoyev became president, initially on appointment by the parliament in September 2016 and subsequently through election in December 2016, Uzbekistan has been undergoing a widespread transformation. Major structural reforms, touching all aspects of political, economic and social life have been introduced after 27 years of tightly centralised governance.

Legislative changes and policy interventions in governance have also been taking place at a fast pace. Parliamentary elections in December 2019 were a step towards increasing democratic freedoms, and this greater openness and reduction of fear of reprisal for criticising government actions has been welcomed by citizens¹. Uzbekistan has also stepped up its investments into increasing access to, and quality of, pre-school and higher education, and introduced reforms to improve the quality of other services such as the introduction of mandatory health insurance. The public as well as the international community have welcomed the reforms, and *The Economist* rated Uzbekistan as the country that improved the most in 2019². Shortly thereafter, the World Bank's Doing Business 2020 report placed the country among the world's top 20 improved business climates³.

Diplomatic relations between Uzbekistan and its neighbours have also improved since the appointment of Shavkat Mirziyoyev. This includes cooperation in making borders more open and safer for legal trade and transit of people and goods⁴. These improvements have the potential to increase regional cooperation to both tackle common challenges and create positive sum relationships with border countries⁵.

However, these changes have spurred even greater demand from civil society and the private sector for further reforms. Moreover, while these reforms are positive, there is a risk that inequitable distribution of the gains may increase vulnerabilities, and trigger grievances and social tensions. Ensuring that no one gets left behind will thus be critical for Uzbekistan to achieve the SDGs.

Uzbekistan is also facing significant environmental challenges manifested in the inefficient use of natural resources (i.e., water, land and fossil fuels), land degradation and desertification, waste management, loss of biodiversity, and climate change. Sound environmental policies will need to be in place to both maximize natural resources as well to mitigate against climactic shocks.

These opportunities and challenges have been highlighted during the joint UNCT and non-resident UN agency compilation of this Common Country Assessment (CCA). In addition to an extensive desk review, the UN undertook extensive consultations with over 1,600 people consisting of members of civil society, youth, government, and parliament⁶. Through this process the UN has gained valuable insight into the progress made so far towards the SDGs, the key challenges and opportunities (including on human rights), the multidimensional risks, those groups most likely to get left behind, regional perspectives and major transboundary risks.

This CCA is organized as follows: Chapter 2 analyses Uzbekistan's progress, means of implementation, and challenges and opportunities towards the 2030 Agenda. Chapter 3 briefly outlines the current human rights situation in the country, including both progress and challenges. Chapter 4 provides a deep analysis of those groups which might be left behind if deliberate

1 <https://www.osce.org/odihr/elections/uzbekistan/442888?download=true>

2 <https://www.economist.com/leaders/2019/12/21/which-nation-improved-the-most-in-2019>

3 <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2019/10/24/doing-business-2020-reforms-propel-uzbekistan-to-place-among-worlds-top-20-business-climate-improvers>

4 For example, see: URL: [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2018/630344/EPRS_BRI\(2018\)630344_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2018/630344/EPRS_BRI(2018)630344_EN.pdf) (p. 10-12)

5 <http://www.rusaviainsider.com/uzbekistan-airways-resumes-flights-to-tajikistan/>

6 These 1600 people also include 679 young people and adolescents, 265 representatives of civil society organizations, 86 disabled people, 55 mass media and bloggers, 496 representatives of self-governance (community) bodies and local government officials, 70 representatives of line ministries and Government agencies.

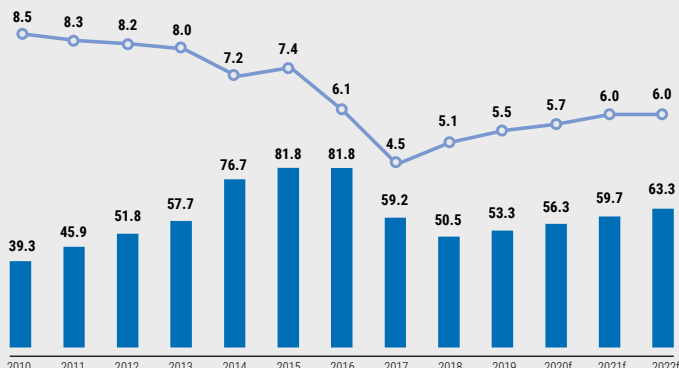
and structural barriers prevention development for all. Chapter 5 provides a multidimensional analysis of risks that could potentially hinder achievement of the SDGs. Chapter 6 briefly outlines the SDGs financing landscape and proposes several key areas for generating additional revenues and savings. Chapter 7 summarizes the key capacity challenges, including in the civil service, policy coherence and organizational, and civil society and

civic engagement. Chapter 8 analyses the challenges and opportunities of cross-border and transboundary relations and perspectives. Chapter 9 outlines the consultations which allowed the UN to help refine its comparative advantage in Uzbekistan. Finally, Chapter 10 provides conclusions and recommendations for the next steps to support the Government in achieving the SDGs.

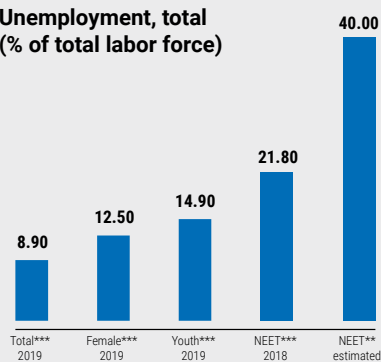
Uzbekistan: Key facts and Figures



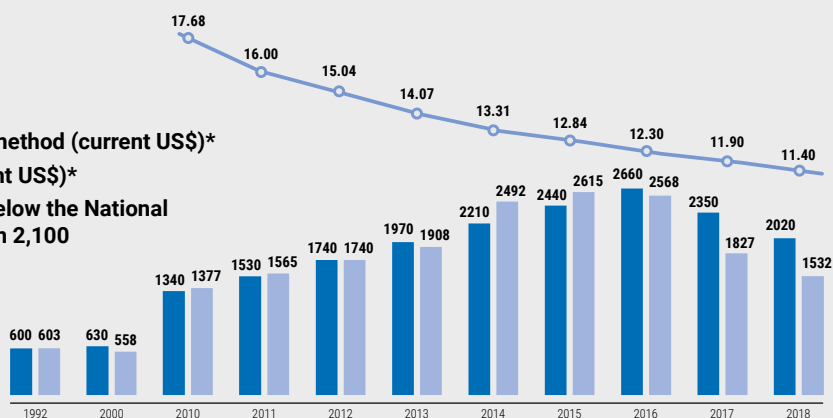
■ GDP (current billion US\$)*
○ GDP growth (annual %)*



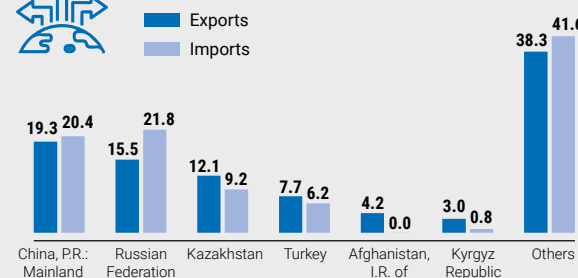
Unemployment, total
(% of total labor force)



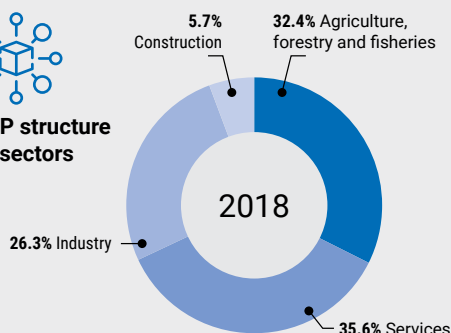
■ GNI per capita, Atlas method (current US\$)*
■ GDP per capita (current US\$)*
○ Share of Population below the National Poverty Line (based on 2,100 kilocalories per day)



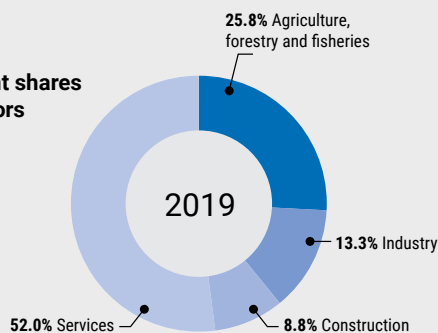
Main trading partners, % (2018)



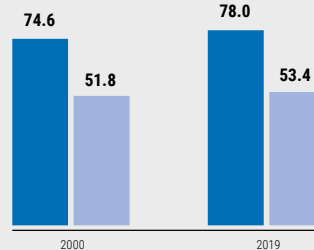
GDP structure by sectors



Employment shares by the sectors



Labour force participation rate (% of population ages 15+)*

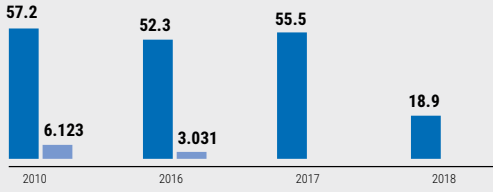


[Sources: Official government statistics, * - World Bank]



■ FDI per capita (net inflows, BoP, current US\$,)

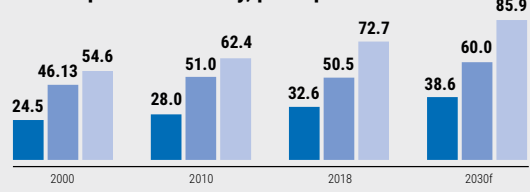
■ Personal remittances, received (% of GDP)



■ Population, million

■ Urban population (% of total population)

■ Population density, per sq. km

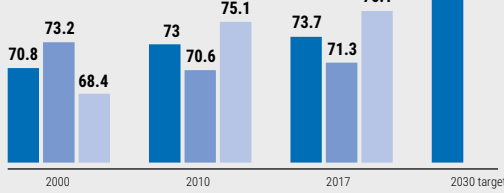


Life expectancy at birth, years

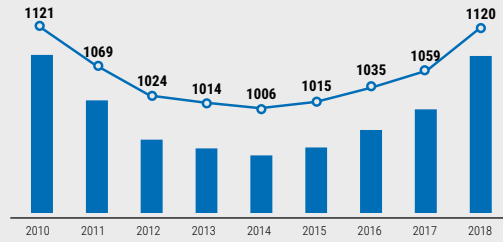
■ Total

■ Male

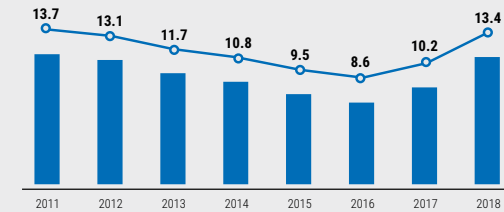
■ Female



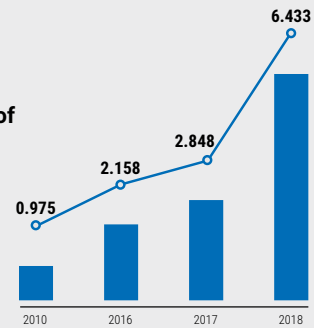
Number of persons receiving pensions and social benefits per 10000 people



Tertiary enrollment rate



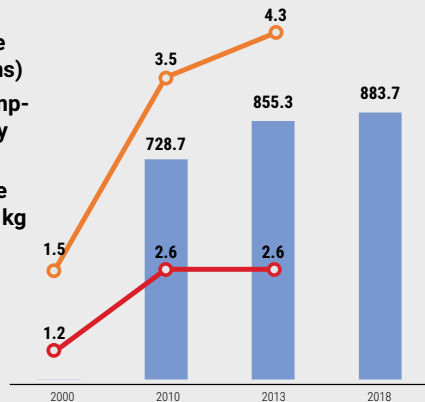
International tourism, number of arrivals, mln*



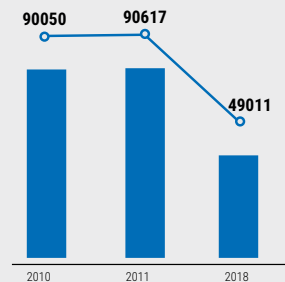
■ Pollutants emitted into the atmosphere (thousand tons)

● Renewable energy consumption (% of total final energy consumption)*

● GDP per unit of energy use (constant 2011 PPP \$ per kg of oil equivalent)*



Total number of recorded crimes



[Sources: Official government statistics, * - World Bank]

2. THE 2030 AGENDA

2.1 PROGRESS TOWARDS SDGs

In October 2018, the Government passed a resolution on Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development which reinforced a commitment to integrate and implement SDGs into national strategies and programmes⁷. The Government adopted 16 national SDGs, 125 related targets, and 206 indicators to facilitate monitoring the implementation of SDGs. It also established a Coordination Council, headed by the Deputy Prime Minister / Minister of Finance, to oversee the implementation of the national SDGs across 21 government agencies, with the Ministry of Economy serving as the Secretariat. The resolution also laid down a roadmap of immediate activities aimed at implementing the national SDGs, including:

1. Establishment of six expert groups on Economic Welfare, Social Protection, Healthcare, Education, Environment, and Governance (which are to ensure cross-sectoral coordination and integration of SDGs).
2. Creation of an agency group headed by the national statistical office to establish national SDG indicators.
3. Commitment to present the national report on SDG implementation at ECOSOC's High-Level Political Forum (i.e. Voluntary National Report), as well as to the Uzbek parliament.
4. An analysis on SDG financing from public funds started to be incorporated into state budget planning.
5. A national SDG website with data and statistics on SDGs (<http://nsdg.stat.uz>) was established to ensure transparency of SDG implementation.
6. A public outreach and awareness raising campaign to ensure support of the SDG approach was launched.

According to the Sustainable Development Report 2019, Uzbekistan ranked 52nd of 162 countries⁸. The country was recorded as being on track for achieving poverty reduction (SDG 1), providing education (SDG 4), providing affordable and clean energy (SDG 7) and climate action (SDG 13). However, it was not on track for achieving other SDGs such as gender equality (SDG 5) and life on land (SDG 15). The report further noted non-availability of data on three other SDGs, namely, clean water and sanitation (SDG 6), industry innovation and infrastructure (SDG 9), and peace, justice and strong institutions (SDG 16).

While concerted efforts have been made towards Agenda 2030, it is clear that linking government strategies and programmes with the SDGs needs to be strengthened. As shown in the graphic below, only a few key policies and programmes have an explicit link to the goals, while the majority have only an implicit link. Given the importance of these policies and programmes to the Government's development agenda, these weak linkages may result in parallel or incoherent strategic national development objectives in contributing to the SDGs.

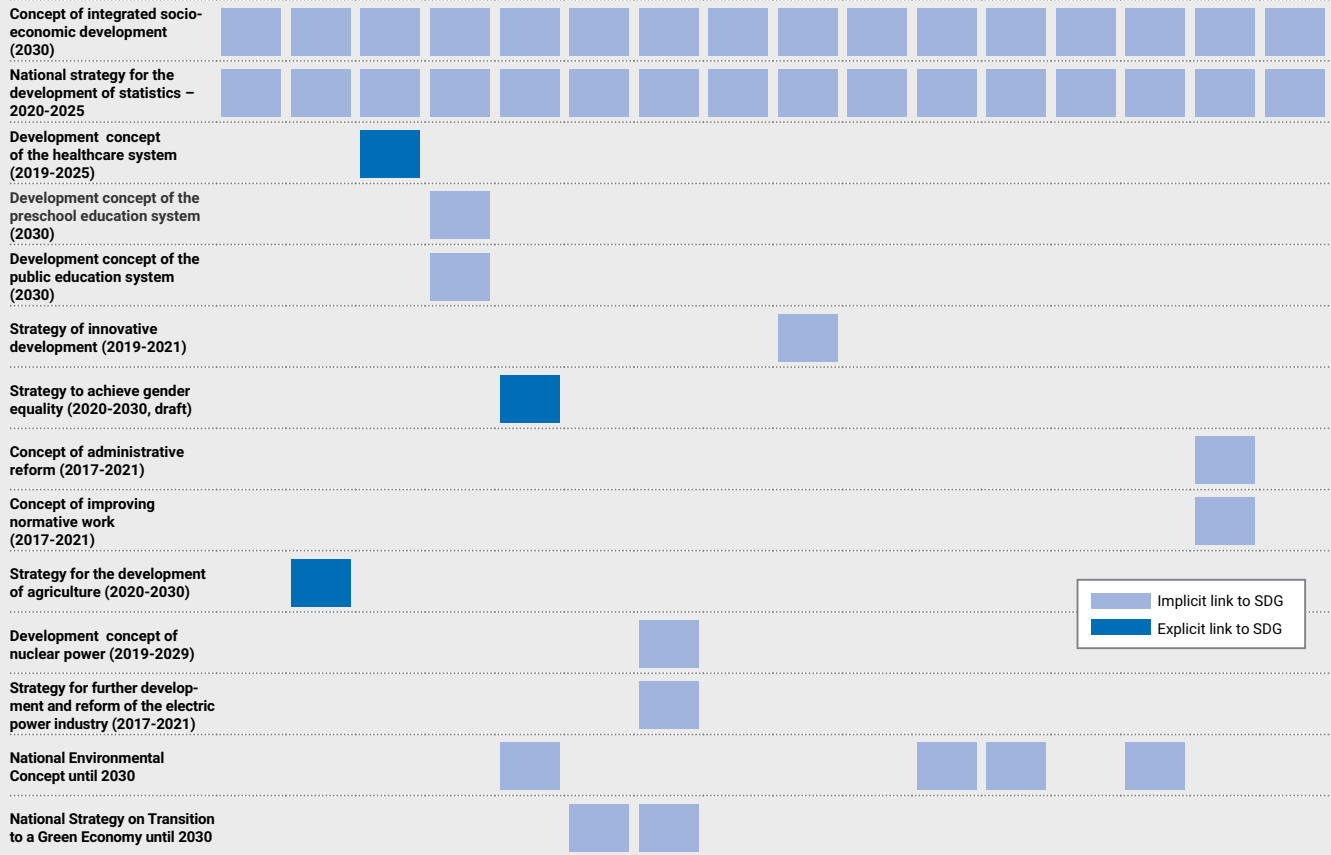
To assist the Government in mainstreaming the SDGs and to identify accelerators and drivers of change, a joint UN-World Bank MAPS mission visited the country in April 2018. The MAPS Report on Uzbekistan (October 2018)⁹ praised the ownership and comprehensive approach shown by the Government to align SDGs with national development policy, and made four main

7 See the Government Resolution # 841 "On measures for implementing National Sustainable Development Goals and Targets for the period up to 2030" dated 20 October 2018. <https://lex.uz/ru/docs/4013358>

8 [Sustainable Development Report 2019](#), Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) & Bertelsmann Stiftung (in particular see Uzbekistan profile on pages 452-453). However, UN disagrees with the SDSN methodology and it appears that data gaps may have made the country's SDG performance look better than it actually is. The SDSN observation on quality education, for example, has few takers in Uzbekistan although the number of enrolled students is indeed good. Similarly, the observation on affordable and clean energy is in contrast with the finding in the MAPS report.

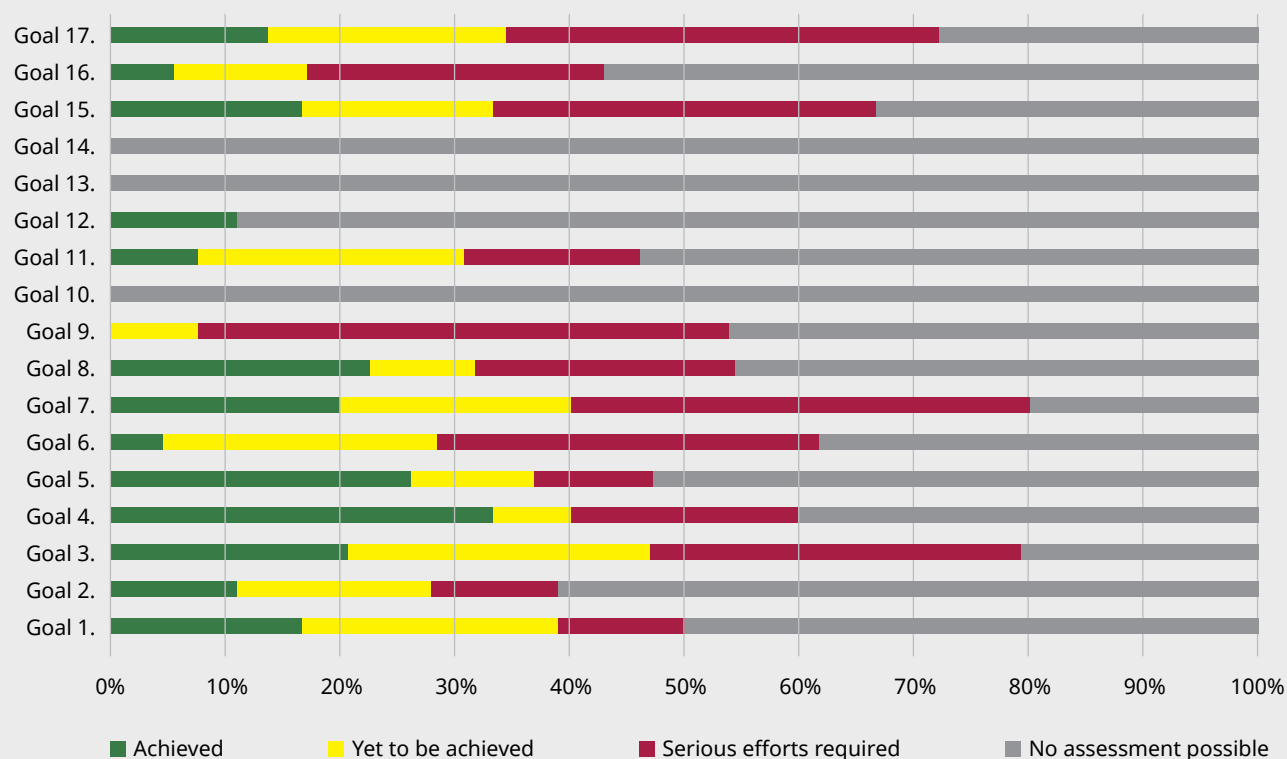
9 http://www.un.uz/files/UN%20in%20Uzbekistan/MAPS%20Report%202018/UZB-MAPS%20Report%20-%20Final_Eng.pdf

Development concepts and strategies



Implicit link to SDG
 Explicit link to SDG

SDG dashboard for Uzbekistan (MAPS Report, 2018)¹⁰



NOTES:

- Green bars show the share of indicators for a given SDG for which the notional 2030 value (based on regional averages) were initially assessed as achieved. Yellow bars show the share of indicators for a given SDG for which a notional intermediate value (based on regional averages) were initially assessed as achieved. Red bars show the share of indicators for a given SDG for which this notional intermediate value (based on regional averages) were initially assessed as not achieved. Therefore, red bars suggest achieving this SDG will demand serious effort.

recommendations: (1) adapting the SDGs to the country's national development processes, (2) identifying SDG acceleration opportunities, (3) identifying the SDG financing options, and (4) establishing a national SDG M&E framework. The mission also identified three areas for acceleration: (1) More efficient and accountable governance systems, (2) Social policy for inclusive development, and (3) Sustainable and resilient natural resource management¹¹.

The report further included extensive recommendations for strengthening statistical capacity in the country. The prototype SDG dashboard (2018) suggested serious data gaps, especially for goals 1, 2, 10, 12, 13, and 16, while also pointing to the goals and targets that require greater efforts and resources. The State Statistics Committee (SSC) has accepted those recommendations and is strengthening SDG-linked statistics.

In addition, an overview of the implementation of international statistical standards and good practices in Uzbekistan was completed in 2019 and resulted in the

development and adoption of a consultative National^{10,11} Strategy on Data and Statistics¹². Additionally, the Population and Housing census in 2022 will produce, for the first time in 30 years, population data used in more than 40 per cent of SDG indicators. This large and complex exercise will identify those who are the furthest behind in having access to jobs, incomes, housing conditions, and other indicators (e.g. SDGs 17.18 and 17.19). Population projections by regions will also help to set proper baselines and targets, taking into account expected population size and its regional, rural/urban distribution, and age structure by 2030.

¹⁰ http://www.un.uz/files/UN%20in%20Uzbekistan/MAPS%20Report%202018/UZB-MAPS%20Report%20-%20Final_Eng.pdf

¹¹ Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support (MAPS) for Achieving the SDGs in Uzbekistan, United Nations-World Bank, October 2018.

¹² The joint overview was conducted by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), Eurostat (the Statistical Office of the European Union) and the Statistical Office of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/stats/documents/technical_coop/GA_Uzbekistan_Final_Report_EN.pdf

2.2. MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The National Action Strategy 2017-2021, which generally aligns with Agenda 2030, is a key instrument guiding the implementation of the development agenda and prioritizes five key areas¹³:

- (1) Improving the system of state and public administration;
- (2) Ensuring the rule of law and reforming the judicial system;
- (3) Economic development and liberalisation;
- (4) Social development;
- (5) Security, inter-ethnic harmony and religious tolerance, and implementation of balanced, mutually beneficial and constructive foreign policy.

The MAPS report recognises the primacy of domestic budget for financing the SDGs and further recommends strengthening institutional capacity and means of SDG implementation including national and subnational capacity for development planning, implementation and monitoring, and evaluation. It also calls for capacity for implementation of laws and enforcement of human rights commitments. The institutional arrangements proposed in the Government's resolution on implementation of national SDGs (#841 from 20 October 2018) are in line with the recommendations of the joint MAPS report recommendations on advancing the practical implementation of SDGs at national, sector, and local levels.

It is worth noting that the Deputy Prime Minister, Chair of the SDG Council, also co-chairs the Economic Council in charge of structural reforms in the country¹⁴. The inclusion of the General Prosecutor's Office into the SDG Council has further helped engage a critical national partner and to advance human rights and governance related SDGs. The Ministry of Economy, serving as the Secretariat of the SDG Council, and despite limited capacity and resources, has also shown commitment to advance the SDG agenda by facilitating necessary coordination among government agencies.

However, despite these efforts to establish robust institutional and normative frameworks, the integration of SDGs into national policy making, programmes and strategies still needs to be strengthened.

2.3 FOLLOW UP AND REVIEW

The country is preparing its first Voluntary National Review (VNR) in July 2020 to assess and report on progress toward achieving the SDGs. This will be the first official statement on SDG progress and the national SDG Council has already approved a roadmap for its preparation. It envisages, among other things, close

participation and engagement of all major stakeholder groups, including civil society organisations, private sector, and the parliament. UN ESCAP, jointly with the RCO, have facilitated exchange of knowledge with Georgia, which has experience in presenting its VNR in 2016 and is planning to present its second VNR in 2020 along with Uzbekistan.

2.4 AGENDA 2030: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

2.4.1 OPPORTUNITIES

One of the most significant opportunities is that civil society, including women and youth, is enjoying greater freedom of speech and expansion in civic space¹⁵. This includes the Government showing greater willingness to address systemic issues through legal and institutional reform, including the drafting and enacting of 165 new laws¹⁶. Recent reforms aimed at more open and consultative drafting of laws also provide a stronger basis for supporting efforts to ensure these laws are compliant with international norms and standards.

Such efforts have been complemented by the visits of two UN Special Rapporteurs after 15-years, establishment of a presence of the Office for the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), and increasingly constructive engagement on human rights issues with UNCT members and UN human rights mechanisms. This improved cooperation between government, human rights bodies, and civil society creates enabling conditions for the 2030 Agenda (SDG 16.a)¹⁷. There is also the possibility that market-linked reforms may trigger improvements in other areas of governance, for example improved contract enforcement may bring about a change in overall access to justice and rule of law (SDG 16).

One of the most significant outcomes of recent political developments has been improved relations with neighbouring countries¹⁸. This is leading to cooperation

13 strategy.gov.uz

14 <https://lex.uz/docs/4147303#4149751>

15 <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2019/country-chapters/uzbekistan#69f291>

16 At least 165 laws have been passed or amended since the new government took over in September 2016. Many of them aim at reforming the judicial system, criminal, civil and economic procedures, the health system, public procurement, dissemination of legal information, combating corruption, protection of women from harassment and violence, and law on guaranteeing rights and opportunities for women and men among others. Many are at a draft stage awaiting enactment, such as the law on public assembly, compulsory health insurance and the law on human trafficking, among others.

17 R on Freedom of religion or belief in 2017, and SR on Independence of Judges and Lawyers in 2019.

18 For example, see: URL: [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2018/630344/EPRS_BRI\(2018\)630344_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2018/630344/EPRS_BRI(2018)630344_EN.pdf) (p. 10-12)

in making borders more open and safer for legal trade and transit, and creating opportunities for cooperation in areas such as water and energy sharing arrangements, environmental assessments, and disaster risk reduction (SDG 17.1, 17.3, and 17.6). Improved relations also provide an opportunity for reducing inter-ethnic tensions and creating enhanced social cohesion.

Uzbekistan is passing through a large 'demographic window' with a high proportion of potential young workers and a lower dependency ratio. This trend is predicted to last until 2044 and presents an important opportunity to "make the country rich before it gets old"¹⁹. So far, many young people, especially from rural areas, have been migrating out of the country in search of better economic opportunities²⁰, but while remittances have been an important contribution to GDP, out-migration brings other socio-economic problems and risks (SDG 10.7)²¹.

With domestic economic growth and ongoing reforms, Uzbekistan has the opportunity to create jobs in new and expanded industries. For example, to reduce the country's dependence on revenues from exports of commodities such as natural gas, gold, copper, uranium and raw cotton, the Government is developing plans to transition to a green economy and is boosting sustainable tourism (SDG 7, 9, and 13)²². Similar attention is being paid to strengthening the manufacturing and processing sectors, innovation, technology transfer and economic transformation (SDG 9)²³.

There is also robust support from international financial institutions (IFIs) to the ongoing reforms, including increasing borrowing opportunities. For example, in 2019, the World Bank approved USD 500 million in financial assistance to Uzbekistan to support reforms, boost job creation and the private sector²⁴. EBRD has recently signed loan agreements worth USD 246 million for the energy, utilities and housing sectors, bringing their total lending to \$1.3 billion²⁵. Furthermore, Uzbekistan successfully issued its first Eurobonds worth USD 1 billion in February 2019²⁶, which the Government intends to use as a benchmark to measure the success of the reforms. These, combined with a robust revenue position, remittances, return of frozen assets and strong potential to borrow overseas, provide multiple funding sources to finance the SDGs as part of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda²⁷.

Finally, many reform measures such as the unification of exchange rates, trade liberalisation, tax cuts, improving the Doing Business Index ranking (from 103rd place in 2014 to 69th in 2019) have focused on the supply-side²⁸. Recently, increased attention has been paid to the demand-side of reform, which requires job creation and income support to ease the costs of transition for workers affected by restructuring of the economy and SOEs. This

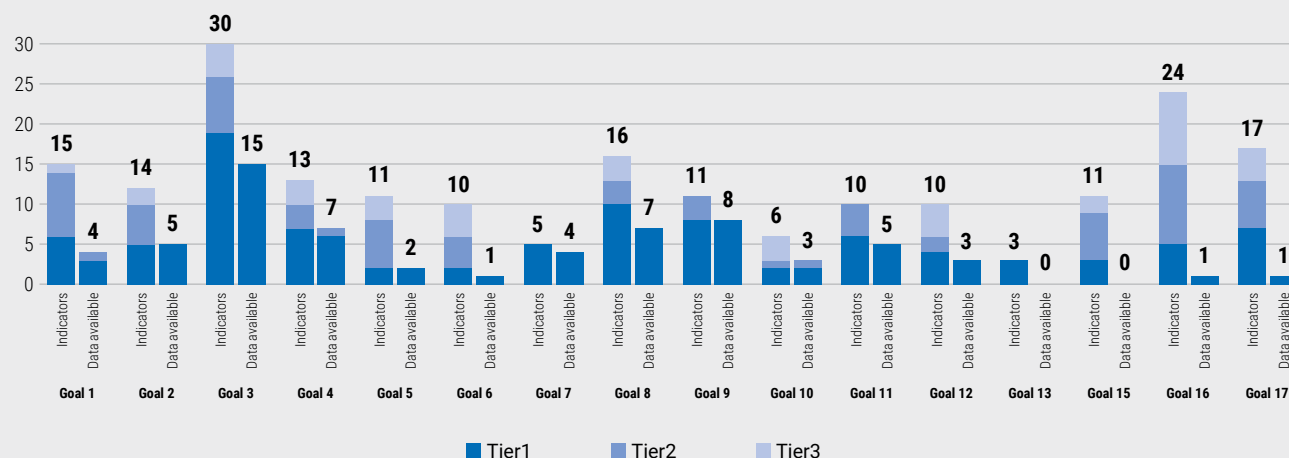
is being addressed by providing employment through government public works programmes, professional retraining, unemployment benefits, and subsidies to the unemployed and employers from the State Employment Promotion Fund created for this purpose (SDG 8)²⁹. These steps have shown positive results as reflected in slightly improved labour market statistics but must be strengthened to prevent an increase in inequalities (SDG 10)³⁰.

2.4.2 CHALLENGES

While there are numerous opportunities, several challenges and risks persist. Weak policy coherence and insufficient integration of both the 2030 agenda and international human rights obligations with national development strategies and programmes, are a significant barrier to achieving the SDGs (SDG 17.14). These challenges are further amplified by a lack of good data and evidence with which to find interlinkages between different sectors and develop and implement an integrated national development vision (SDG 17.18).

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- 19 *Growth and Job Creation in Uzbekistan : A In-depth Diagnostic (English)*. Washington, D.C.: World Bank Group, 2018. <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/130581560953053964/Growth-and-Job-Creation-in-Uzbekistan-A-In-depth-Diagnostic> (p. V)
 - 20 Seitz, William Hutchins. *International Migration and Household Well-Being : Evidence from Uzbekistan (English)*. Policy Research working paper; no. WPS 8910. Washington, D.C. : World Bank Group, 2019. <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/615721561125387061/International-Migration-and-Household-Well-Being-Evidence-from-Uzbekistan> (p. 9-10)
 - 21 Towards an employment-friendly macroeconomic policy framework: the case of Uzbekistan Executive Summary. Moscow: ILO, 2019. (p. 13).
 - 22 <https://lex.uz/ru/docs/4539506>, Government Resolution on Adoption of the Strategy on Transitioning to Green Economy for 2019-2030
 - 23 Government's Strategy 2030 (draft, developed by the Ministry of Economy, 2019)
 - 24 <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2019/06/14/uzbekistans-economic-transformation-gets-further-boost>
 - 25 <https://kun.uz/en/news/2019/11/21/ebrd-to-provide-nearly-250-million-loan-to-uzbekistan>
 - 26 <https://www.mf.uz/en/home/o-ministerstve/press-sluzhba/min-fin-news/3388.html>
 - 27 <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=400&nr=2051&menu=35>
 - 28 <https://www.doingbusiness.org/en/data/exploreeconomies/uzbekistan>
 - 29 Including programmes like Obod Qishloq (prosperous village) that aims at building / strengthening local infrastructure.
 - 30 For the first 9 months of 2019, the Government estimated the unemployment rate at 8,9% (down by 1 percentage point). Youth unemployment (16-29 years) was 14,9%, and female unemployment was 12,5% during the same period. For the first time in a long time, the Government reported increased labour force participation rates, as well as increased the number of formal jobs. <https://mehnat.uz/ru/news/informacionnoe-soobschenie-ministerstva-zanyatosti-i-trudovyh-otnosheniy>

Data gaps in SDGs



[Source: State Statistics Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan]

The fast-paced and complex reforms could be derailed if some reforms lack citizen engagement and popular support. This could have a ripple effect on the entire economy and risk progress towards SDGs. Much of the support for reforms is assessed through *ex post facto* citizen surveys and, given the still restricted freedom of expression³¹, open and critical feedback from citizens needs to be broadened and strengthened.

Limited administrative capacity, frequent reorganisations of ministries and departments, high staff turnover, weak internal coordination, and limited cross-government approaches will also be significant impediments to achieving the SDGs. The MAPS Report points to the need for much stronger inter- and intra-agency coordination to effectively anchor complex and interrelated development priorities (including SDG targets) in national policies and programmes at the design, implementation, and M&E stages³².

Reforms are also entering a high-risk phase where internal resistance and bottlenecks may increase, including in the areas of land and labour markets, financial and capital markets, water and energy, health and education sectors, and privatisation of state-owned enterprises (SOEs). Moreover, governance reforms which focus on creating a conducive business environment may be insufficient to overcome the deep structural impediments inhibiting job creation (SDG 8) and poverty reduction (SDG 1)³³. If business-friendly reforms do not bring about wide-ranging employment and social dividends, they can lead to unfulfilled expectations, growing inequalities and public dissatisfaction. Failure

to achieve the stated goal of reforms – prosperity and opportunity – will disproportionately impact marginalised groups and will increase the demand for social protection (SDG 1.3 and 1.a). To manage these risks, the Government is putting systems in place to monitor reforms on a regular basis and has become increasingly proactive in communicating with the people about the reform agenda. The UN can assist the Government and help in communicating the reform vision and its linkages with SDGs. Moreover, the UN’s “leave no one behind” framework and strong experience in social protection can promote a more humane face to the structural reforms.

Reforms are still taking place in a relatively opaque environment with insufficient - albeit incrementally improving – public accountability. People’s rights continue to be violated to make space for big private investments³⁴. This also creates a risk that reforms may be perceived as actually worsening well-being for many, as the benefits accrue only to only a few. Moreover, and

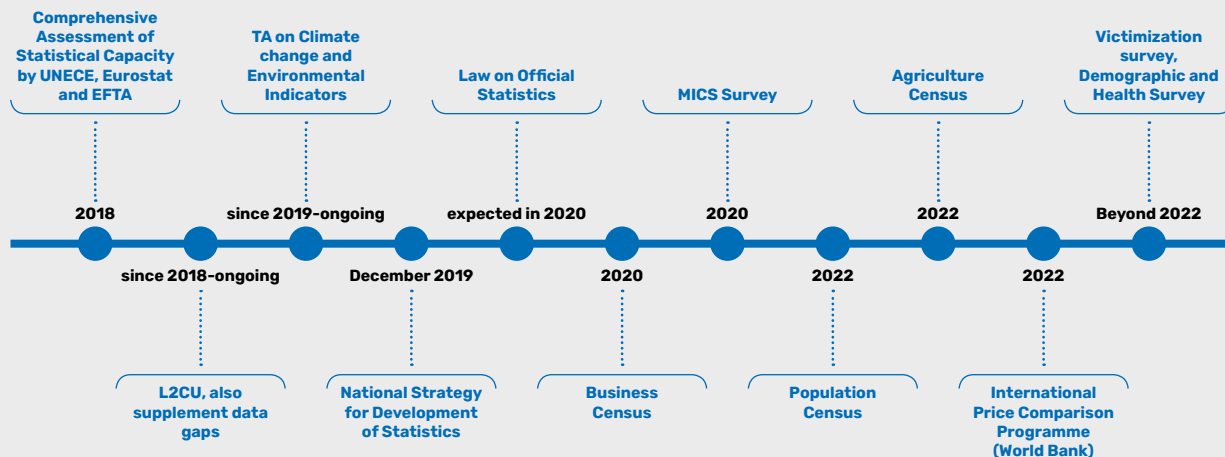
31 See for example Uzbekistan’s ranking in Global Press Freedom Index at <https://rsf.org/en/uzbekistan>

32 http://www.un.uz/files/UN%20in%20Uzbekistan/MAPS%20Report%202018/UZB-MAPS%20Report%20-%20Final_Eng.pdf

33 https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100_ILO_CODE:R204

34 For example, houses continue to be demolished to accommodate new construction projects without warning or adequate compensation or without even affording aggrieved house-owners any legal recourse [<https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/T/https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadPublicCommunicationFile?gId=24767> MResultsBase/DownloadPublicCommunicationFile?gId=24767]

2030 Agenda – steps to fill data gaps



while procurement procedures are being streamlined, the process of awarding large-scale contracts is not yet sufficiently transparent³⁵. If this continues, the credibility of the reforms, and public support for them may suffer³⁶. Climate change with its accompanying pressure on natural resources, impact on jobs, migration, health, education, infrastructure and agriculture is a crosscutting challenge affecting the entire 2030 Agenda. The country is highly vulnerable to climate change and is facing a projected rise in temperatures, variable precipitation and water shortages (SDG 13, 2, and 6)³⁷. The impact will be particularly severe on the rural poor because of their dependence on agriculture, low ability to adapt, and high share of food in their consumption basket. Similarly, climate change is expected to increase the burden of waterborne diseases as well as health issues caused by dust storms and desertification (SDG 3)³⁸. Loss of life and economic damage caused by hydro-meteorological events like floods, heatwaves, mudflows, avalanches and air temperatures are also likely to increase. For example, evidence suggests significant migration from the Aral Sea region in response to unemployment is caused by the inability of the agriculture sector to adapt to climate and water stress³⁹. These climate change events are placing a significant adaptation burden on the country, and management of environmental resources and climate change are identified as key drivers of exclusion and detailed in Section 4.4.

The overall financial landscape for the country appears weak, with low trust in the banking sector, stock market, and the national currency by businesses and the population (SDG 9.3)⁴⁰. If the available fiscal space is not used effectively, it may worsen the situation of the furthest behind, including those affected by structural

reform. At the same time, easier access to foreign debt may create an additional burden if the Government is at any point unable to service its debt obligations (SDG 17.1). Prudent macroeconomic management is therefore necessary to mitigate these risks.

Finally, prevailing cultural norms, patriarchy, stereotypes and prejudices have a direct bearing on the achievement of SDGs. These norms negatively affect women and girls reaching their full potential and realising their rights. They also negatively impact the rights of other vulnerable groups, including ethnic, cultural, linguistic and sexual minorities. If not addressed these will significantly inhibit achieving inclusive and sustainable growth (SDG 5, 8, 10, and 16).

2.4.3 DATA GAPS

Inadequate statistical capacity will prevent tracking and reporting on the SDGs, and data is currently only available for 64 out of 206 indicators. This impedes both an accurate and disaggregated analysis of the progress

35 <https://www.ganintegrity.com/portal/country-profiles/uzbekistan/>

36 Breaking with the Past – Conflict of Interest and Transparency in Mirziyoyev’s Uzbekistan, Kristian Lasslett, Power Briefs Central Asia, Ulster University, May 2019

37 <https://mfa.uz/ru/press/news/2017/08/12255/> (in Russian)

38 UNECE, 2020 (forthcoming), Third Environmental Performance Review of Uzbekistan.

39 Socio-economic survey of the needs of the population in the Aral Sea region. Tashkent – Nukus: UNDP, Institute for Social Research under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan, 2017.

40 IMF Article IV Consultations Report (May 2019)

the country has made and evidence-based decision-making. Data availability is particularly challenging for Tier 2 and Tier 3 indicators⁴¹. For Goals 5, 6, 13, 16 and 17 data are notably lacking, as the chart below highlights.

In 2017, Uzbekistan ranked 121st in the World Bank's Statistical Capacity Index (2017) and the country is now taking steps, in collaboration with UN and other partners, to fill data gaps by launching many large data collection exercises (SDG 17.18). The most notable is the Government's commitment to undertake a population census in 2022 (the country's first since 1989). At the Nairobi Summit on Population and Development in November 2019 it publicly committed to publishing the results in line with its commitment to open data⁴². Results from the ongoing Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey will also be important in filling the data gaps, including baseline data for about 20 SDG indicators. The agricultural census planned in 2022 can be used to provide a sampling frame for sample surveys that can provide data for SDG indicators 2.3.1, 2.3.2, 2.4.1, 5.a.1.

Provisional discussions to implement a National Disaster Loss Data system will also support data availability for SDG 1, 9, 11, and 13. The following infographic shows other important steps the Government is taking to address data gaps along with corresponding timelines.

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- 41 Tier 1: Indicator is conceptually clear, has an internationally established methodology and standards are available, and data are regularly produced by countries for at least 50 per cent of countries and of the population in every region where the indicator is relevant. Tier 2: Indicator is conceptually clear, has an internationally established methodology and standards are available, but data are not regularly produced by countries. Tier 3: No internationally established methodology or standards are yet available for the indicator, but methodology/standards are being (or will be) developed or tested. [Tier Classification for Global SDG Indicators 13 February 2019]
 - 42 Besides conducting and publishing the results of the 2022 census, the Government of Uzbekistan also reconfirmed its commitment to achieve zero violence against women, reduce maternal mortality by one-third, and reduce unmet need for family planning.



3. HUMAN RIGHTS AND SDGs

Approximately 90 per cent of SDGs and targets correspond to human rights and labour rights obligations⁴³. Progress on SDGs and human rights and labour rights implementation, therefore, are inextricably linked. (Annex 2 provides an overview of each SDG and their link to corresponding rights)⁴⁴.

Over the last three years, limits on freedom of expression and media have been eased, although the legal framework is still not fully aligned with international human rights standards and incidents of harassment of bloggers have been reported (SDG 16.10). In an important step, exit visas for Uzbek nationals have been abolished, and *propiska* (i.e., residence registration) regulations have been somewhat eased. Measures to criminalize forced labour have been enacted (SDG 8.7), and laws on gender equality and gender-based violence (SDG 5) have been adopted. Moreover, the Government is increasing its focus on the accountability of state institutions and their transparency, by accelerating the fight against corruption (SDG 16.5), and by setting up public councils within state and municipal authorities. (SDG 16.6).

Notably, the budget and independence of the Parliamentary Ombudsman have been strengthened, and its offices have been trying to directly address issues of discrimination, exclusion and inequalities. Following amendments to the Ombudsman Act in 2017 and 2019, the institution can receive complaints from persons deprived of liberty and has been mandated to serve as the national preventive mechanism⁴⁵. The Ombudsman is a vital bridge between civil society and the state, and the country is taking steps to have a strong and independent Ombudsman that complies with international standards, the Paris Principles, and national SDG target 16.a.1. Implementation of recommendations contained in the Capacity Assessment report of 2019 will bring the Ombudsman's office closer in line with international standards.

Uzbekistan also continues to take steps to align laws on fundamental freedoms of expression, peaceful assembly, association, and religion or belief with international human rights standards.

In 2020, Uzbekistan adopted two national strategies, policies and action plans aimed at addressing the Human Rights Mechanisms' recommendations: the National Human Rights Strategy (2020) and the National action plan on UPR (2020). A draft National Gender Equality strategy is being developed.

The country is a party to around 70 international and regional human rights treaties and agreements (see Annex 1) and has ratified or acceded to ten of the 18 core UN human rights treaties and optional protocols (while accepting individual complaints procedures in only one instance, under the ICCPR's First Optional Protocol)⁴⁶. The Government maintains regular dialogue with the UN Charter and treaty-based bodies, including the Universal Periodic Review and special procedures of the UN Human Rights Council (allowing country visits as of 2017). It files periodic progress reports on ratified UN core human rights treaties and agreements.

The reasons for non-accession or non-ratification of remaining treaties differ⁴⁷. After initially signing several core treaties following independence, the Government has followed a more cautious approach as the reporting burden is high and the capacity of the NHRC (National Human Rights Center), mandated with overseeing international human rights treaties, is limited⁴⁸. Pointing

43 <https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/blog/2019/human-rights-and-the-sdgs---two-sides-of-the-same-coin.html>

44 There is also an interactive site for the Danish Institute for Human Rights. <https://www.humanrights.dk/our-work/sustainable-development/human-rights-sdgs>

45 https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CCPR%2fC%2fUZB%2fCO%2f5&Lang=en

46 https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/TreatyBodyExternal/Treaty.aspx?CountryID=189&Lang=EN

47 International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (CMW), Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance CED, and Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture (OPCAT).

48 Established by a presidential decree in December 2018, National Human Rights Center of Uzbekistan (NHRC) is the state entity responsible for the preparation of national periodic reports and monitoring implementation of concluding observations and recommendations of the UN Treaty Bodies.

to another concern, in December 2018, a new law on “On International Treaties of Uzbekistan” was adopted, requiring a prior financial impact assessment before the signing of any new treaty⁴⁹. Meanwhile, delays in the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT) may be linked to the historical reluctance of the Government to open places of detention to international scrutiny⁵⁰.

While progress has been significant, human rights challenges remain. Particular challenges that have been raised in recent recommendations by the Human Rights Mechanisms include⁵¹:

- The need to revise the legislation regulating the state of emergency in accordance with international human rights standards;
- The need to further revise recently adopted anti-corruption legislation to ensure compliance with international standards;
- The need for comprehensive legislation prohibiting discrimination, in all spheres, in both the public and private sectors;
- The need to strengthen the legal framework for the protection of women against violence, including by explicitly criminalizing marital rape and domestic violence;
- The need to address existing restrictions on the right to freedom of association, especially easing the registration of NGOs, regulation of their activities and receipt of foreign grants;
- The need to ensure freedom of religion and belief, lifting broad restrictions on such freedoms;
- The need to adopt legislation on the rights of persons belonging to ethnic minority groups, in consultation with all ethnic groups, including a comprehensive policy to address the structural

discrimination faced by Luli/Roma;

- The need to revise national counter-extremism legislation and bring it into full compliance with international human rights standards;
- The need for adoption of additional measures to ensure fundamental legal safeguards for all persons deprived of liberty;
- The need to revise national legislation on prohibition of torture and ill-treatment and bring it into full compliance with international human rights standards;
- The importance of strengthening the independence of the judiciary and the independence of the Chamber of Lawyers;
- The importance of establishing a fully-fledged national preventative mechanism;
- The need to revise the current regulations on Mass Communication, Information Technologies and the Use of the Internet which unduly restrict freedom of expression;

49 <https://lex.uz/docs/4193763>

50 The visit of the SR for Freedom of Religion or Belief to Jaslyk prison in 2017 and the subsequent closure of the prison were positive steps in this connection, c.f. UN statement on this issue: <http://www.un.uz/eng/news/display/337>

51 The list below highlights priority recommendations from the Human Rights Committee's Concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of Uzbekistan on the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights: https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CCPR%2fCO%2fUZ-B%2fCO%2f5&Lang=en; from the Committee against Torture's Concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of Uzbekistan on the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment: https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CAT%2fCO%2fUZB%2fCO%2f5&Lang=en; and from the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination's Concluding observations on the combined tenth to twelfth reports of Uzbekistan: https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CERD%2fCO%2fUZB%2fCO%2f10-12&Lang=en

- The need to address undue restrictions imposed by the national legislation on the right to stand for election;
- The importance of repealing article 120 of the Criminal Code, and taking measures to prevent violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity;
- The importance of a comprehensive national asylum system that conforms with international standards.
- The need to provide effective remedies (SDG 16.10) for persons convicted on politically motivated charges who have been released from prison.

Finally, while the country has accepted most of the recommendations of the UN Treaty Bodies and Special Procedures, implementation remains weak due to the absence of clear timelines, SMART indicators, delineation of responsibilities and adequate budgetary allocations in the associated national action plans. The UN will continue to support the Government in strengthening its implementation capacity and to encourage accession or ratification of the remaining treaties and protocols under this newly open, and reform-orientated administration.

4. LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The approach to leaving no one behind is at the core of the sustainable development agenda and recognises the primacy of people in development efforts. Reducing or removing inequalities is important for its own sake (intrinsic value) and for its contribution to sustainable development (instrumental value). For example, higher representation of women in the parliament is desirable in itself but also for the contribution of women members in making development policies, programmes and outcomes more gender-sensitive and thereby more effective. However, identifying those left behind or at risk of being left behind is a challenging task in Uzbekistan due to a lack of reliable and disaggregated data, and the fact that some such groups live outside of national legal protection or are stigmatized and thus remain uncounted.

A good starting point to identifying groups that are left behind or are at risk of being left behind is the analysis of major human rights issues raised by Human Rights Mechanisms and information provided by civil society actors. Based on extensive UN analysis and consultations with key stakeholders, including marginalized and vulnerable groups across the country, this CCA identifies exclusion and inequalities as underlying themes and a key challenge facing the country. Moreover, the CCA identifies four interlinked drivers of exclusion: (1) structure of economy, (2) governance institutions, (3) social infrastructure, and (4) climate change and natural resource management.

4.1 THE STRUCTURE OF THE ECONOMY

Uzbekistan's economy presents a dichotomous picture. A dominant, state-controlled, highly regulated, capital-intensive formal industrial and agriculture sector, based on extraction of mineral fuels, gold and other precious metals, as well as state order for cotton and wheat, coexists with a large informal sector of small, low-paid, family-based enterprises absorbing surplus labour.

Achievement of the SDGs requires robust economic growth, which can be propelled through efficiency in resource allocation through market forces. While this will be a challenge under the current state-controlled economy, ongoing structural and market reforms are loosening the controls over the economy and paving the way for a greater role for privatisation and market forces. Importantly, this also includes the agricultural sector which is on its way to greater liberalization, clearer land ownership rights, and greater freedom to farmers to make decisions about production and trade⁵².

However, the current reforms would benefit from increasing transparency, accountability and fairness. This includes more public information and transparency about the awarding of large construction contracts and the sale of large economic assets, such as manufacturing and utilities plants and buildings, often awarded to private companies without a transparent competitive process⁵³.

Global evidence shows that land reforms and privatization of non-agricultural land, while making private investment attractive, also increases the risk of land grabbing⁵⁴. To mitigate against this, and to realize the goal of economically vibrant and sustainable cities while also preserving cultural heritage (SDG 11.4), decisions on land reform and major urban projects need to be participatory, transparent, and accountable. There is an opportunity for the UN to mainstream these principles in the draft National Urbanization Strategy 2030 and link the same to the 2030 Agenda.

Rent-seeking behaviour and demand for informal payments from state actors and extraction of resources from businesses and the general population are

52 <https://uzdaily.uz/en/post/51827>

53 See for example: <https://centralasia.media/news/1469998>, <http://uza.uz/ru/society/kak-sdelat-protsess-privatizatsii-zemli-bolee-effektivnym-26-02-2019>

54 C.f.: <https://www.globalagriculture.org/report-topics/land-grabbing.html>

reportedly widespread⁵⁵. In parallel, import restrictions, high tariffs, and extensive subsidies are often used to support certain industries (e.g., manufacturing, electronics, automobile industry, heavy industry etc.), directly hurting marginalized people the most through increased prices, constrained supply and low quality of products and services. The highest levels of Government have made important and public commitments to tackle these challenges, but implementation of anti-corruption measures remain slow, and for this reason the country ranks 158th among 180 countries in the 2019 Corruption Perception Index (SDG 16.5)⁵⁶. There is also a risk that reforms become 'uncomfortable' for those who benefit from the current system, and in turn pressure decision-makers to slow down or reverse some reforms.

Furthermore, from 1995-2016, government policies favoured capital-intensive heavy industries, mostly deploying imported technologies, providing them with better access to subsidised credit, energy and foreign exchange. This led to a policy regime that favoured capital over labour. Labour intensity across all labour-intensive subsectors has been declining over time⁵⁷. Thus, the informal sector grew rapidly and now accounts for over 50 per cent of the economy (60 per cent if migration is included)⁵⁸. Combined with limited places in higher education and low-quality vocational education and skills (SDG 4), the economy struggles to provide gainful employment to over 600,000 young people entering the labour market every year (SDG 8)⁵⁹. Against the overall unemployment rate in 2019 of 9.1 per cent, youth unemployment was 14.9 per cent (SDG 8.5)⁶⁰. This is also leading to large numbers of young people becoming NEET (not in education, employment or training). According to a UNICEF study (2018), NEET youth accounted for about 42 per cent of youth in the 18-30-year age group, while women NEET accounted for 66 per cent (SDG 8.6)⁶¹.

As a coping mechanism for the lack of jobs in the domestic market, according to IOM, nearly 3.5 million citizens of Uzbekistan migrated to other countries, mainly Russia and Kazakhstan⁶². While these migrants send remittances home (between 5-12 per cent of GDP), migration comes with related problems of vulnerability to conditions in host countries including economic slowdown, lack of legal protection against labour exploitation and discrimination (SDG 10.7).

Moreover, economic development policies, along with the registration system (*propiska*)⁶³ restricting the free movement of people from the regions to Tashkent for work and living, created disparities between Tashkent and other regions. Despite the external labour out-migration and large remittances flowing to the regions and rural areas, rural poverty was nearly 6 per cent higher than urban poverty in 2017⁶⁴. Even regions with industries, such as Karakalpakstan, have seen little beneficial impact on local economies⁶⁵.

Income distribution has become more equitable over the years and the official Gini coefficient fell from 0.39 in 2001 to 0.29 in 2013. Nevertheless, inequality is projected to worsen to 0.33 in 2021 (SDG 10.1 and 10.2)⁶⁶. Thus, in the short- to medium-term, economic reforms may increase inequalities even while resulting in overall declining poverty rates. Policy analysis in this area requires a more nuanced picture of population groups. Specifically, those that are still below or near the poverty line, considering multi-dimensional poverty, and people whose incomes and well-being grow more slowly than those in higher quintiles of the country's income distribution. This said, the measurement of poverty itself is still based on a restrictive calorie-based method, while the introduction of a more reasonable cost of living measurement is being delayed on the grounds that the Government cannot afford it (SDG 1.2)⁶⁷.

Recent structural reforms, aiming to open the economy and governance, and to tackle poverty reduction, are promising. Many observers are cautiously optimistic about the outcome of these reforms for tangible improvements in the daily lives of the country's most vulnerable groups.

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- 55 https://www.oecd.org/corruption/acn/OECD-ACN-Uzbekistan-4th-Round_Monitoring-Report-2019-ENG.pdf, including summary on page 36 Also : <https://www.ganintegrity.com/portal/country-profiles/uzbekistan/>
 - 56 <https://www.transparency.org/country/UZB>
 - 57 Growth and Job Creation in Uzbekistan – An In-depth Diagnostic, World Bank, 28 December 2018 (para 2.14).
 - 58 Towards an employment-friendly macro-economic policy framework: the case of Uzbekistan, ILO (Moscow), June 2019
 - 59 Uzbekistan creates 280,000 jobs every year on average as against 600,000 jobs needed for demographic reasons alone. The country thus needs to at least double the jobs it creates to absorb new entrants to the labour market [Growth and Job Creation in Uzbekistan – An In-depth Diagnostic, World Bank, 28 December 2018.
 - 60 Growth and Job Creation in Uzbekistan – An In-depth Diagnostic, World Bank, 28 December 2018 (para 2.14). As per latest estimates released by the Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations, the overall unemployment during January-September 2019 was 8.9%, youth unemployment was 14.9% and female unemployment 12.5%.
 - 61 These estimates are based on a UNICEF study "Building a Social Protection System fit for Uzbekistan's children and young people (2018). However, the Government estimates of NEET youth are much lower at 22.6% (<http://nsdg.stat.uz/goal/11>). [The government also uses the term "unorganised youth" for NEET.](#)
 - 62 Official government statistics estimate the number of migrants at around 2.5 million (2018)
 - 63 The propiska system was amended in April 2020.
 - 64 This is down from 8 per cent points in 2001 [<http://nsdg.stat.uz>]
 - 65 Needs of the Population in the Aral Sea Region, UNDP, 2017
 - 66 Toward a new Economy – Country Economic Update (Uzbekistan) World Bank, Summer 2019,
 - 67 <https://www.gazeta.uz/ru/2020/01/28/living-wage/>

4.2 GOVERNANCE INSTITUTIONS

The new administration inherited an interlinked set of challenges in the area of governance. The former economy could only be sustained under strong state control with little room for strengthening democratic governance institutions. Politically, there was a lack of clear separation of powers with weak checks and balances, absence of plurality, a weak parliament in terms of opposition and oversight, flawed elections, and a subservient judiciary. Socially, there was an absence of genuine social dialogue between capital and labour, unequal sharing of wealth, power and opportunities, suppression of dissent by law enforcement agencies, and the use of torture to extract confessions. This created an environment where citizens lacked a voice, there was a lack of trust between the state and its citizens, suppression of the media and civil society, and restrictions on labour movements.

The Government has committed to dismantle these economic, political, and social structures. This has already resulted in civil society, including independent media, enjoying greater freedom to discuss and influence the decisions of central and local governments (SDG 16.10). Several governance reforms were initiated in the areas of separation of powers, including strengthening parliamentary oversight over executive, judicial reform, accountability of authorities to the people, and a high-level commitment to improve human rights (noted above). Moreover, and while parliament may still lack a genuine opposition party, the parliamentary elections held in December 2019 were the most democratic so far.

Local government on the other hand lacks autonomy and greatly depends on central government⁶⁸. The regional governors are de-facto appointed by the President, while also chairing the regional councils (Kengash), which results in a conflict of interest and undermines accountability *vis-à-vis* local population. Local government, thus, sees itself as an administrator of territory rather than a service provider to citizens⁶⁹. Budgeting is also heavily centralized, with regional governments having limited authority over local budget spending and revenues⁷⁰. The current laws in discussion 'On Local Government' and on 'Regional Development' would strengthen the role of local government, including giving them more autonomy over determining priorities, budgeting, and equipping them with funding. These laws would also contribute to mitigating regional imbalances in development.

The judicial system also requires strengthening and further reforms. For example, the existing licensing procedures for practicing law deters people from the legal profession⁷¹. Prosecutors, on the other hand, have broad powers in criminal proceedings, which puts

the judge and defence in a disadvantageous position and compromises the adversarial system. At the same time, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers identified some positive steps, including an increase in the number of acquittals in recent years, the creation of the Supreme Judicial Council and the Supreme School for Judges, and the gradual introduction of electronic procedures meant to increase transparency and facilitate access to justice (i.e., E-sud system introduced with the support from the UN)⁷². For example, in 2016, only six acquittals were recorded, whereas the number rose to 263 in 2017, to 867 in 2018, and to 859 in 2019⁷³.

Furthermore, the Government has initiated reform of the Bar Association in line with Presidential Decrees of 2018 and 2019 and a new Law on the Bar Association is currently being developed. The new system should provide for independence of the Chamber of Lawyers, which is currently not fully independent from the Ministry of Justice. Moreover, guaranteed access to a lawyer of one's choosing and broader powers of lawyers in criminal proceedings should be reflected in the new Criminal Procedure Code under development. In addition, a new draft Law on Free Legal Aid has recently been posted on the Government's portal for public discussion (SDG 16.3).

Despite corruption being a key challenge (as noted above), Uzbekistan has acceded to the UN Convention against Corruption in 2008, participates in the implementation review mechanism, and completed the first cycle focusing on criminalization and international cooperation. The second cycle review, focusing on prevention and asset recovery, is currently ongoing and will be completed in 2020. Moreover, state anti-corruption programmes for 2019-2020 adopted by the Decree

68 There are 12 regions in addition to the Republic of Karakalpakstan and Tashkent city. Each is led by 'Khokim' (except in the Republic of Karakalpakstan), appointed by the President. The regions are sub-divided into 200 lower level administrative units (169 districts and 31 cities), and each of these is overseen by its own Khokim (mayor/district chair) appointed by the regional Khokim. The local legislative bodies are known as 'Kengash', composed of elected representatives and chaired by the Khokim. As the Khokim has both executive and representative responsibility, the Kengash has limited scope to exercise an oversight function over the executive branch. The three main actors that constitute the core of local authority are: executive head (appointed khokim), a representative body (elected deputies in Kengashes) and managerial/administrative/technical staff (civil servants) (reporting to khokim and central ministries). [Final Project Evaluation: Local Governance Support Programme (LGSP), Phase-2, UNDP, October 2017].

69 Ibid

70 <https://www.pefa.org/node/196> (See pages 29, and 47-48)

71 The UN Special Rapporteur on Independence of Judges and Lawyers noted the low number of lawyers during his visit to Uzbekistan in September 2019

72 <https://www.undp.org/content/uzbekistan/en/home/media/infographics/infographic---e-sud-national-case-management-system.html>

73 <http://www.un.uz/eng/news/display/346>

of the President in May 2019 include strengthening judicial independence, adoption of law on the civil service, introduction of an income declaration system in public service, promotion of zero tolerance towards corruption, introduction of corruption risk assessment in organization and “compliance control” systems, and increasing the role of civil society (SDG 16.5).

Restrictions on the independence of the media have eased over the past three years, and the President has publicly stated that there must be no going back on reforms in freedom of speech (SDG 16.10)⁷⁴. Many previously blocked websites have been unblocked⁷⁵, however, although some websites critical of the Government are still being closed, and bloggers are closely monitored for critical content⁷⁶. Moreover, despite public promises to provide registration, foreign media presence is limited and the World Press Freedom Index ranks Uzbekistan at 160 out of 180 countries globally⁷⁷.

4.3 SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Uzbekistan has ensured a reasonable allocation of resources for health, education and social protection, and providing social sector development remains a key priority⁷⁸. In the case of health, overall performance appears good in terms of life expectancy and decline in infant mortality (SDG 3.2), however maternal mortality (SDG 3.2) has not seen progress since 2010. At the same time, the dramatic rise in non-communicable diseases (SDG 3.4), which account for 79 per cent of all deaths in the country, poses serious health and development challenges⁷⁹. These have a negative impact on the development of the country with high economic costs and disproportionate resources going towards tackling lifestyle diseases, while primary health care remains underfunded. The health delivery model also focuses on speciality hospitals over primary health centres, equipment over skills, and curative over preventive health care⁸⁰. This is neither efficient nor equitable and may increase the cost of healthcare, including high out of pocket expenses, resulting in greater exclusion (SDG 3.8).

While the country has achieved universal literacy for both men and women (SDG 4.2), the quality of education remains a concern as it does not prepare young people for the knowledge economy (SDG 4.1, 4.3, 4.4, and 4.7). Preschool enrolment, although improved since the reforms, remains low with rural-urban and socioeconomic class differences affecting learning outcomes in later years of life⁸¹. There are also about 100,000 children estimated by the UN to be out-of-school⁸² (SDG 4.5). Moreover, more men than women are likely to participate in higher education, which impacts adversely on women’s employability and further perpetuates gender inequality in the country. Contemporary Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) remains at a developing

stage, and skills training is not aligned with market and industry needs. Finally, children with disabilities are more likely to be out of school⁸³.

The country’s social protection system faces inefficiencies in execution and problems of design⁸⁴. The absence of clearly defined and communicated cost of living estimates limit understanding of the adequacy of social assistance payments. Until recently the social protection system focused mainly on social insurance, pensions, and to some extent allowances to low-income families. Thus, attention was not paid to labour market interventions including unemployment benefits, skills and temporary employment. Ongoing structural reforms, notably the restructuring of State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs), require additional resources to ensure skills and training for these newly unemployed. There are also major gaps in coverage and people with disabilities, including children⁸⁵, are not adequately covered. Exclusion of most children from the national social protection system means their development is being held back, negatively affecting the quality of the future workforce⁸⁶. Rationing social protection resources at local levels also results in exclusions. It is evident that the main reasons for social exclusions are lack of resources, poor design and implementing inefficiencies, when the most deserving groups, who have overlapping vulnerabilities, face serious challenges in accessing social services.

In Uzbekistan, the debate on social protection revolves around whether it should be targeted or universal. While the desirability of a targeted approach is still dominant in Uzbekistan, there is room to protect the legacy of a universal social protection system, especially where poverty and vulnerability is significant. A universal

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- 74 E.g. <https://www.gazeta.uz/ru/2019/08/27/blogers/>
 - 75 <https://iwpr.net/global-voices/uzbekistan-small-dose-media-freedom>
 - 76 <https://eurasianet.org/uzbekistan-unblocks-websites-taking-muzzle-off-critical-reporting>
 - 77 <https://rsf.org/en/uzbekistan>
 - 78 The country spent 6.3% of GDP on health (2016), 6.3% on education (2107) and 5.9% on social protection (2018). <https://data.worldbank.org/country/uzbekistan>
 - 79 WHO estimates the economic burden of NCDs to be 4.7% of GDP [Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases in Uzbekistan- The case for Investment, WHO-UNDP, 2018]
 - 80 The Government has closed down nearly one-third of primary health centres and turned them into polyclinics [WHO – personal communication]
 - 81 Coverage by pre-school education reached 40.5% in June 2019. It was 27% in 2017 <https://www.gazeta.uz/ru/2019/08/05/preschool/>
 - 82 <http://uis.unesco.org/en/country/uz>
 - 83 http://www.un.uz/files/UN%20Brief%20Report%20Disabilities/Snapshot_UN_en_UNColor.pdf
 - 84 <https://www.jointsdgfund.org/where-we-work/uzbekistan>
 - 85 https://www.unicef.org/uzbekistan/media/1406/file/Building%20a%20better%20future_02.pdf
 - 86 Project proposal on Social Protection for Joint SDG Fund, UN, Uzbekistan, 2019, see <https://www.jointsdgfund.org/where-we-work/uzbekistan>

approach looks at social protection as an investment in human development and as a safeguard tempering the effects of business cycles and deep reforms (SDG 1.a).

Moreover, the social protection system is concurrently facing several external and internal pressures. When the need for social protection is rising because of structural reforms and associated new risks, the fear of its contraction is real. Inefficiencies in the system worsen long-term problems, creating new challenges for a system currently delivering weak results⁸⁷. Such inefficiencies include information gaps, poor coordination, lack of integration of some small programmes, and lack of flexibility to respond to external pressures. Moreover, social protection schemes are scattered across various departments, resulting in inefficiencies. To improve this, the Government is considering creating a single registry and single body responsible for all such schemes (SDG 1.3).

While working-age people will be the largest demographic group, thus maintaining a relatively low dependency ratio, people of retirement age will be the fastest growing group, putting pressure on healthcare and social protection systems. Moreover, the projections show that the demographic and ageing trends will be uneven across regions and will impact the poorest most (SDG 10). Because of these pressures, the internal mobility of population is expected to accelerate from current low levels.

4.4 CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Uzbekistan ranks at 136 out of 180 countries according to the 2018 Environmental Performance Index (EPI), which measures performance against 24 indicators across ten categories covering environmental health and ecosystem vitality⁸⁸. However, across categories the results are mixed. For example, the country scores better on 'water and sanitation' (SDG 6) and 'forests' and tree cover loss (SDG 15.1, 15.2, 15.3), but performs poorly in air quality (SDG 11.6), water resources and wastewater treatment (SDG 6), and environmental health and biodiversity (SDG 15).

Natural resources, if used sustainably have the potential to contribute to growth and reduce poverty, as Uzbekistan is endowed with a rich natural resource base including natural gas, oil, gold, copper, lead, zinc, tungsten, and uranium. However, unsustainable exploitation of these resources has left the country with serious environmental problems. For example, the Aral Sea, which used to be the fourth largest lake in the world, has been reduced to 10 per cent of its size after the rivers that fed it were diverted for irrigation⁸⁹. The irrigation was

mainly used for cotton production (previously termed white gold); a crop that yielded enormous profits shared by the powerful and well-connected. The irrigation system continues to be wasteful resulting in massive depletion of water and salinity of once fertile soils (SDG 15). Moreover, reliance on cotton and wheat required increased use of fertilisers and pesticides, and run-off from these fields washed chemicals into the shrinking sea, creating serious pollution and public health problems. People living around Aral Sea are losing control over natural resources that provided livelihoods, and these marginalized populations face devastating health outcomes - especially for women and children including higher than average anaemia, cancers and TB. The impact of climate change, degradation of natural resources, and toxic waste from mining and agriculture also seriously limits the country's future growth prospects as well as human capabilities.

Uzbekistan is dependent on upstream countries for 80 per cent of its water needs and faces significant challenges, in part due to climate change, in water management. In the period 2009–2017, water use in agriculture remained around 89–92 per cent of total water use, and around one-third of the total water use in this sector is lost⁹⁰. Water inefficiencies are estimated to cost about of 8 per cent of GDP, and by reducing or eliminating losses the country would be able to solve water shortage and be able to save enough water to mitigate the changes in annual available water caused by variable precipitation (SDG 6.4)⁹¹. However, despite ongoing institutional reforms in this area, water-saving techniques are not expanding at a satisfactory pace⁹². In 2019, the total area under water-saving techniques reached only 9.6 per cent of irrigated lands, and under the recently adopted Agriculture Development Strategy for 2020–2030 this indicator must reach 32 per cent by 2030⁹³. The Government is now promoting crop diversification away from cotton and it is hoped that this will decrease water consumption because cotton demands more water than other crops (SDG 2).

Forests are especially valuable in Uzbekistan because of their contribution to protecting fragile ecosystems, including around the Aral Sea. To address deforestation, Uzbekistan joined the Bonn Challenge, a global effort to

87 Building A Better Future: A child-sensitive social protection system for Uzbekistan (UNICEF, 2019) https://www.unicef.org/uzbekistan/media/1406/file/Building%20a%20better%20future_02.pdf

88 <https://epi.envirocenter.yale.edu/epi-country-report/UZB>

89 https://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/landsat/news/40th-top10-aral-sea.html

90 UNECE, 2020 (forthcoming), Third Environmental Performance Review of Uzbekistan.

91 ADB Country Partnership Strategy- Uzbekistan 2019-2023 – Supporting Economic Transformation, May 2019 (FN13, page4)

92 http://www.cawater-info.net/yearbook/pdf/yearbook2017_en.pdf

93 UNECE, 2020 (forthcoming), Third Environmental Performance Review of Uzbekistan.

restore 350 million hectares by 2030. At the Ministerial Roundtable on Forest Landscape Restoration and the Bonn Challenge in the Caucasus and Central Asia in 2018, the countries of the region committed to restoring 2.5 million hectares of forests and to strengthening partnerships and regional cooperation⁹⁴. However, many challenges remain, including protecting existing forests from degradation, pressures from grazing, and excessive harvesting of wood for fuel. As such, improving the livelihoods of forest dependent people and developing a national consensus on the role of forests are urgently needed (SDG 15.1 and 15.2)⁹⁵.

Although the country is a net exporter of energy (mostly natural gas), energy use inefficiencies are high and the share of renewable energy is low (SDG 7). Uzbekistan records 0.45 kg of CO₂ emissions per US\$ of GDP compared to the world average of 0.27 kg (SDG 7.3)⁹⁶. More than 40 per cent of energy capacity is in power generation plants that are 40-50 years old and need urgent replacement. Transmission losses are as high as 20 per cent (compared to global average of around 8 per cent)⁹⁷. Increases in energy tariffs in 2018-2019 have created some incentives for investors, but not yet resulted in matching improvements on delivery and service (SDG 7.2 and 7.b). Energy shortages and failures, especially during winter, are frequent in remote regions and result in casualties and human security threats. The country's outdated irrigation infrastructure consumes 20 per cent of the country's electricity, and mining, chemicals, oil and gas, electricity and producing construction materials are among the country's most energy-intensive industries⁹⁸.

Furthermore, the existing housing stock is energy inefficient⁹⁹. This represents a wasted development opportunity, especially for possible gains from energy efficiency to finance SDGs. Systems and structures to coordinate and effectively deliver on environmental action are inadequate.

While urbanization has the potential to be a key driver of economic development (SDG 11), urban centres are vulnerable to climate change and disaster risks (SDG 11.6). The urban population, currently at 50 per cent, is expected to go up to 60 per cent by 2030, and an Urban Agency within the Ministry of Economy and Industry has been created to regulate urban development¹⁰⁰. The key urbanization challenge is to create cities that are clean, efficient, inclusive, resilient and economically vibrant. To do this, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, evidence-based land-use planning, local risk assessments and risk-informed investments are crucial for enhancing urban resilience. Cities also need to be sensitive to the different needs of women, children and people with disabilities while designing and providing sustainable municipal infrastructure.

Uzbekistan ratified the Paris Agreement on Climate Change in September 2018, and has committed to reduce CO₂ emissions by 10 per cent as well as strengthen resilience to climate change by 2030 (SDG 13)¹⁰¹. To this end, the Government has developed a national Strategy on Transition to a Green Economy. It sets several targets and initiatives aimed at reducing emissions by increasing energy efficiency, including the use of renewable energy sources, improving resource efficiency and crop yields while ensuring a neutral balance of land degradation¹⁰². According to the UN, and given the trajectory of the reforms, the target of reducing CO₂ emission by at least 10 per cent by 2030 can be easily achieved.

The Air Convention and its key substantive protocols are effective tools to reduce air pollution, its negative effects on health and environment and related economic losses. Thus, Uzbekistan is encouraged to ratify and implement the Convention and its protocols, which will bring several advantages to the country (see Annex 1). This will also be an important step to reducing air pollution, therefore contributing to achieving several SDGs, including SDG 3 on good health and well-being, SDG 11 on sustainable cities and communities, and SDG 12 on sustainable consumption and production.

The economy of Uzbekistan relies largely on the gas sector, mining, and agriculture, and hazardous chemical substances are widely used in these activities (SDG 12). Due to climatic and geographical conditions Uzbekistan is prone to natural hazards which can in turn trigger technological accidents, so-called "NaTech" events. This situation increases accident risks for numerous hazardous industrial facilities in Uzbekistan, such as tailing management facilities (I.e. uranium mining) which hold waste resulting from mining operations. Under the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents and the Assistance and Cooperation Programme the UN has supported Uzbekistan by

94 <https://www.bonnchallenge.org/about-the-goal#commitments>

95 <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=51705>

96 <http://hdr.undp.org/en/data>

97 ADB *op cit*

98 ADB *op cit*

99 Industrial air emissions, which are relatively high for such components as SO₂, hydrocarbons and dust, combined with the air-polluting emissions by the growing number of vehicles and the emissions (mainly in rural areas) from domestic heating with firewood and other solid fuels, create severe air pollution in industrial and urban areas, which causes serious health problems. [UNECE, 2020 (forthcoming), Third Environmental Performance Review of Uzbekistan].

100 Draft Urbanization strategy, Institute of Forecasting and Macroeconomic Research, and Agency on Urbanization of the Republic of Uzbekistan (unpublished, 2019)

101 https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/Uzbekistan%20First/INDC%20Uzbekistan%2018-04-2017_Eng.pdf

102 <https://lex.uz/ru/docs/4539506>

improving industrial safety¹⁰³. Uzbekistan benefits from regional activities including projects to strengthen the safety of mine tailings in Central Asia and further support is being planned in 2020-2021¹⁰⁴.

Uzbekistan, and most of Central Asia, is also prone to natural hazards like earthquakes, mudslides, glacial lake outburst floods, flash floods, heat waves, droughts and dust storms. Moreover, they are becoming more frequent and intense, resulting in excess morbidity and mortality. Climate change in Uzbekistan is bringing excessive cardiovascular and respiratory morbidity and mortality and acute intestinal infections. The most vulnerable parts of Uzbekistan are in the east of the country (including Tashkent, Fergana valley). The exposure to risk is particularly high in view of the high population density in these areas. Women, children and the elderly bear a disproportionate burden of these disasters.

Therefore, investing in disaster risk reduction and preventive measures is a key towards a sustainable future, as it not only helps to reduce vulnerabilities and increase the resilience of communities but also to protect economic growth and development gains. In a coordinated manner with Committee of Emergency Situations and of Uzbekistan, as an entry point for disaster risk management and relevant entities at the local level, the UN should support the improvement of risk knowledge and strengthening of disaster risk reduction governance through better disaster loss data collection and implementation of national and local strategies for disaster risk reduction.

Governance, the rule of law, and transparency in environmental matters will also play a vital role in environmental protection and building the resilience of communities against increased environmental risks. The Government of Uzbekistan is considering joining the Aarhus Convention (as per the government roadmap on implementation of the Concept of Environmental Protection in the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2030). Joining the convention will mean that the country will be committed to promoting effective access to environmental information online, including an open data and pollutant release and transfer register. Capacities of authorities will need to be strengthened to carry out effective and inclusive public participation procedures for projects, plans, programmes, policies and legislation related to the environment. This requires raising awareness among the judiciary, review bodies and law enforcement about the Aarhus Convention's obligations and promoting support to members of the public seeking justice¹⁰⁵.

4.5 LNOB: THE FIVE FACTOR FRAMEWORK

“Leave no one behind” is a key UN programming principle and this CCA identifies vulnerable groups in the country

based on secondary data sets, human rights reports and personal interviews. Without a clear identification of the specific groups, some groups may be left behind from development efforts, including groups that:

1. Are **discriminated against** based on who they are, their identity or status, age, sex, ethnicity, religious beliefs, health status, or disability. International human rights mechanisms provide evidence on groups that are discriminated against.
2. Are **geographically isolated** and lack of transport, communication (incl. internet), and where administrative machinery has difficulty reaching the most reach far-flung areas and often results in exclusion of people living in remote areas.
3. Are **vulnerable to shocks**. Some areas or people may face setbacks due to these shocks more than others. These shocks could be natural disasters, social conflict, cross-border tensions, violence or economic shocks.
4. Are **adversely impacted by governance** structures, laws, policies, institutions, budgets, taxes and traditional practises limiting their ability to engage in decision-making. They may also face shrunken democratic space.
6. Are **belonging to a given socio-economic status** facing multidimensional poverty, extreme poverty or inequality.

Based on the above description, Annex 3 identifies vulnerable groups at risk of being left behind, along with immediate causes, underlying causes, and root causes. It also provides possible solutions about what could be done to assist them, linking each group to a cluster of SDGs and associated targets. The national statistical system does not have more granular data to identify who they are, what is their level of well-being, and why they are left behind. As such, only people who ask for help, prove that they need it, and are persistent in trying to get it, might be visible to the Government. During the CCA, three specifically excluded groups have been identified that merit further analysis since they constitute numerically large groups. The infographic below provides

103 See “Project on strengthening industrial safety in Central Asia through the implementation of and accession to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents” on <http://www.unece.org/env/teia>

104 See “UNECE pilot project to strengthen the safety of mining operations, in particular tailings management facilities (TMFs), in Kazakhstan and beyond in Central Asia”

105 See the study on access to justice in environmental matters: http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/pp/a.to.j/AnalyticalStudies/EECCA_study_AJ/EECCA_study_EN_Final.pdf

Vulnerable groups

DISCRIMINATION



NEET,**
18-30 years
40%



People with disabilities,
per 10 000
215



Victims of domestic
violence
35,205



Children with disabilities,
per 10 000 of children
46



Children of
migrants
N/A



HIV incident per
1000 population
(all ages)****
0.16



Prevalence of HIV,
female
(% ages 15-24)*
0.1



HIV prevalence
among sex
workers (%)****
3.2



HIV prevalence
among injection drug
users (%)****
5.1

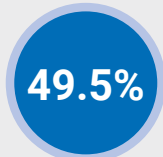


HIV prevalence
among
MSM (%)****
3.7



HIV prevalence
among
prisoners (%)****
0.5

GEOGRAPHY



People in rural areas,
% of total

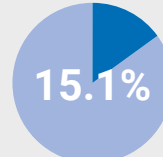


People in
Aral sea region

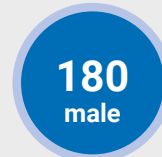


Affected by
propiska

SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS



Unemployed
youth



Forced labor (Number of victims of
trafficking in persons detected, 2017)



0
female

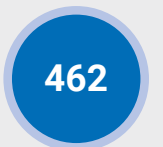
GOVERNANCE



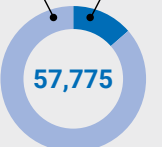
Women



Estimated
IDU's****
(2011)



Registered
IDU's (2018)



Men-women in
detention
(Persons
detected as
having
committed
crimes 2018)



Persons
prosecuted
for committing
of crime



Returnees****
(2019)



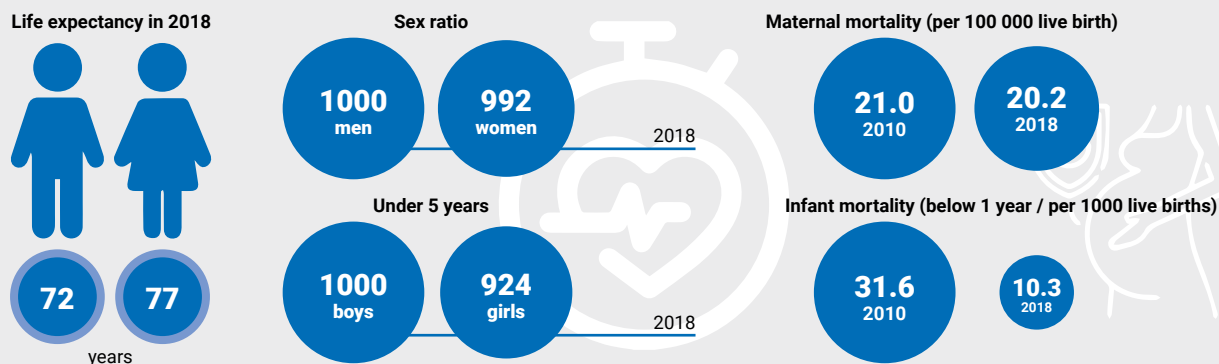
Prison
population****
(2019)



Children out
of school

[Sources: Official government statistics, * - World Bank, ** - UNICEF, *** - Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations, **** - UNAIDS, *****- UNODC]

Demographic



[Source: Official government statistics]

the latest available statistics on the size of vulnerable groups as per the Five Factor Framework:

4.6 WOMEN

Focusing on gender equality and women's empowerment has both intrinsic value and instrumental value, and improved gender equalities can accelerate achieving the SDGs, by ending discrimination against women and improving labour force participation. For example, according to the ILO, GDP could grow by an extra 5 per cent if the gender gap in labour force participation is reduced by just 25 per cent¹⁰⁶. This is also a crosscutting issue and one of the three triggers for sustainable development identified by the UN Secretary-General¹⁰⁷.

Sexual and reproductive health and rights of women are also fundamental human rights (SDG 5.6), which are still being challenged by existing social norms and limited capacities of the healthcare system. Family planning, the use of contraception to avoid unintended pregnancies, is viewed as the sole responsibility of women. The Government has taken measures to stop forced marriages, including through equalizing the minimum allowed marriage age for women and men (SDG 5.3)¹⁰⁸. Further investments are needed in the healthcare system to ensure safe motherhood. Effective screening and treatment programmes for cervical and breast cancers should be put in place to prevent long-term health consequences and deaths, and ensure that women are in good health and empowered to realize their full potential in the society (SDG 5.6). Moreover, being a woman with disabilities, being a single woman, being HIV positive, unemployed, of old age, an ex-convict, a victim of trafficking, a returnee from a conflict zone, and a resident

of rural, disaster prone areas makes women many times more vulnerable.

4.6.1 DEMOGRAPHIC INDICATORS FOR WOMEN

In 2019, life expectancy for women was 77 years compared to 72.3 for men. The maternal mortality ratio declined from 21.6 per 100,000 live births (2010) to 19.3 (2018) according to official statistics (SDG 3.1), and infant mortality (below 1-year/ per 1000 live births) declined from 31.6 to 10.3 over the same period (SDG 3.2)¹⁰⁹.

4.6.2 EDUCATION AND EMPLOYABILITY: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The country has achieved 99.6 per cent literacy with no significant gender gaps (SDG 4.2)¹¹⁰. However, at the stage of academic lyceums, higher educational institutions and research positions, the share of women declines sharply (SDG 4.3). There is also gender asymmetry in the choice of study programmes because of deeply ingrained stereotypes about gender-roles in society¹¹¹. Introduction of part-time programmes at higher education level has significantly improved women's enrolment and this will increase women's employability¹¹². Increases in affordable and subsidized

106 https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/multimedia/maps-and-charts/enhanced/WCMS_556526/lang--en/index.htm

107 <https://news.un.org/en/story/2019/09/1046712>

108 <https://uz.sputniknews.ru/society/20190422/11321429/Brachnoe-ravenstvo-v-Uzbekistane-podnyali-minimalnyy-vozrast-dlya-nevest.html>

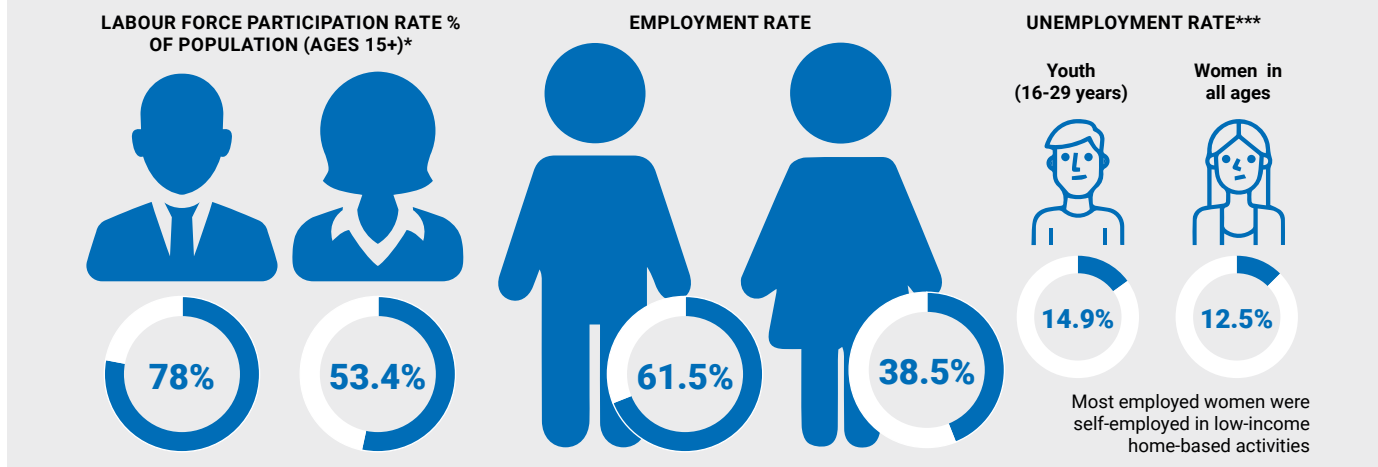
109 Although UNFPA estimates MMR at 20,2 in 2018.

110 Education Sector Plan 2019-2023.

111 With girls accounting for over 62% of humanities studies.

112 In part-time programmes, women account for 67% and men 33%.

Employability



[Sources: <https://gender.stat.uz/en/>; * - World Bank, *** - Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations]

childcare (SDG 4.2) may also create incentives for women's education and employment (SDG 8.5).

Limited access to affordable private and state-funded childcare support, gender discriminatory family obligations, patriarchal norms and stereotypes about the role of women in society, an absence of jobs in the formal sector, and lack of technical skills often prevent women from participating fully in the labour market. As a result, women's labour force participation rate in 2018 was 53.4 per cent compared to 78 per cent for men. Also, only 44 per cent women in the labour force were employed compared to 69 per cent of men¹¹³. Labour markets are gender biased and follow gender stereotyped divisions of labour. Moreover, women often work in social sectors that offer wages that are 50-60 per cent of what men earn in the formal sector (SDG 5.4), and rural women have limited opportunities to work apart from in agriculture¹¹⁴. Women, who make up large part of labour force in agriculture (44.3 per cent) also tend to be low-skilled manual labourers, and while they contribute significantly to *dehkan* (private small plot) farms only 5.4 per cent are headed by women (SDG 5.a)¹¹⁵.

The World Bank's Women, Business and the Law Index, 2019 gives Uzbekistan a score of 70.63 which is the lowest among Central Asian countries¹¹⁶. A Presidential Decree on strengthening support to women entrepreneurs envisages the reinforcement of labour legislation in the areas of contracts and women's rights¹¹⁷. Furthermore, it calls for establishing a Commission for the Protection of the Equality of Women and the creation of strong and coherent state gender machinery (instead of leaving these functions with the Women's Committee of Uzbekistan) (SDG 5.a).

4.6.3 WOMEN IN POLITICS AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (SDG 5.5)

Following elections in December 2019, women's representation in the national parliament (Oliy Majlis) doubled from 16 per cent to 32 per cent - the highest in Central Asian region and above the global average of 24 per cent. However, only 2.9 per cent ministerial positions are held by women and all posts of *hokims* (governors) in 14 regions and Tashkent are held by men¹¹⁸. Furthermore, only 12 per cent of judges are women, and women in public administration are more likely to work in non-decision-making positions.

113 <https://stat.uz/ru/164-ofytsyalnaia-statystyka-ru/6580-rynok-truda2>

114 Men represent 94.2% of formally employed workers in construction sector and 92.8% in transport, information and communications. Women constitute 76.6% of total workforce in healthcare, social security and sports; 75.6% in education; and 44.3% in agriculture, forestry and fisheries. [Gender statistics of Uzbekistan. <https://gender.stat.uz/ru/>]

115 FAO: Gender, Agriculture and Rural Development in Uzbekistan, Country Gender Assessment Series, 2019.

116 The reason for lower score for Uzbekistan was cited as establishment of mandatory retirement ages that are unequal for men (60 years) and women (55 years). This has recently been abolished and both men and women now have same mandatory retirement age. Scores of other Central Asian countries were Tajikistan (81.88), Kyrgyzstan (76.88), Kazakhstan (75.63). No data available on Turkmenistan. Women, Business and the Law, 2019 – A Decade of Reform, World Bank, 2019.

117 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*.

118 The figure of 2.9% is from a presentation made by UNFPA to CCA team (16 October 2019). Number of ministerial positions was initially 5.3% [source: Women's Participation in Public Administration, UNDP] which declined due to resignations of some women ministers. Although the Chairperson of the Senate is a woman but she was directly appointed by the President.

4.6.4 GENDER BASED VIOLENCE (SDG 5.2)

According to a 2015 survey, only 5.8 per cent of women-respondents reported being subjected to physical violence; this is assumed to be a gross underestimation when compared with regional averages¹¹⁹. For example, WHO estimates 23 per cent of women in Central Asia have experienced either physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner or sexual violence by a non-partner¹²⁰. Similarly, according to an UNFPA study in EECA region over 30 per cent of women in Central Asia (excluding Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan) reported physical violence¹²¹. It is believed that underreporting of violence is either the result of pressure, fear of repercussion, or social conditioning. Moreover, until the law on violence and harassment against women and girls was passed in September 2019, the issue had rarely been discussed in public, and there was no legal framework that recognised it as an offence. The cultural acceptance of violence against women remains so high that about 65 per cent of women and 60 per cent of men believe that it was justified for a husband to beat his wife¹²². There is now greater openness to talk about this issue and to address it, including under the national SDG framework. To address the issue of violence against women, in September 2019, Uzbekistan adopted the law on Protecting Women from Harassment and Violence. In addition, the Government established rehabilitation centres with 197 branches covering all districts, as well as a national hotline to help women to get psychosocial support, legal advice and to find shelter and protection from perpetrators. These are in need of adequate funding, capacity building, and multi-sector coordination involving police, health and mahallas (local community governing bodies).

4.6.5 WOMEN'S RIGHTS

The constitution of Uzbekistan guarantees equal rights for women and men. This is further reinforced by the adoption in 2019 of the Law on Equal Rights and Opportunities and The Law on Protection of Women from Harassment and Violence (SDG 5.1, 5.2, 5.5, 5.c). The institutional mechanisms for enforcement of the legal rights are:

- The Women's Committee of Uzbekistan
- Commission on Gender Equality of the Republic of Uzbekistan (established in 2019)
- Committee of Senate on Women and Gender Issues
- Commission on Women and Family Issues under the Legislative Chamber

While the overall legal environment for women's rights has improved, thanks to the passage or amendment of several laws, the practice on the ground may not have changed much. For example, while the legal age of marriage for girls increased to 18 years (equal to that of boys), marriages of minor girls still take place through unregistered religious ceremony (*nikah*). Also, divorce petitions by women have to go through *Mahalla* Reconciliation Committees where women are invariably shown in a bad light and often blamed for destroying the institution of family. This often results in women being forced to go back to their families at the expense of their mental and physical health, or even lives. Finally, while the laws in the country aim to prevent violence against women, they at the same time attempt to preserve the sanctity and unity of family—a dual objective that is sometimes contradictory and works against the rights of women.

Globally, Uzbekistan also ranks poorly on women's rights. For example, National Geographic's Women, Peace and Security Index ranks Uzbekistan at 89th position out of 167 countries¹²³. The Gender Development Index (2017) stood at 0.945 and the Gender Inequality Index at 0.274, with a rank of 59 out of 160 countries¹²⁴. It is further evident that the root causes for women's exclusion, including those with multiple vulnerabilities (e.g. age, disability, HIV status), are societal attitudes towards them, gender stereotyping about women's role in society, discriminatory-family obligations and patriarchal norms. Among the underlying causes are lack of laws, policies and institutions that would empower women.

4.7 SEXUAL MINORITIES

Another population group that faces discrimination on the grounds of sex, sexual orientation / identity, is the LGBTI community. They are among the most vulnerable and discriminated groups in the country. They face persecution by law enforcement authorities and society

119 The study done by the Institute of Social Research under the Cabinet of Ministers, and UNFPA in 2015.

120 WHO (2013), Global and regional estimates on violence against women: prevalence and health effect of intimate partner violence and non-partner sexual violence, World Health Organization, Appendix 2, page 47. Available at: <http://who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/violence/9789241564625/en>

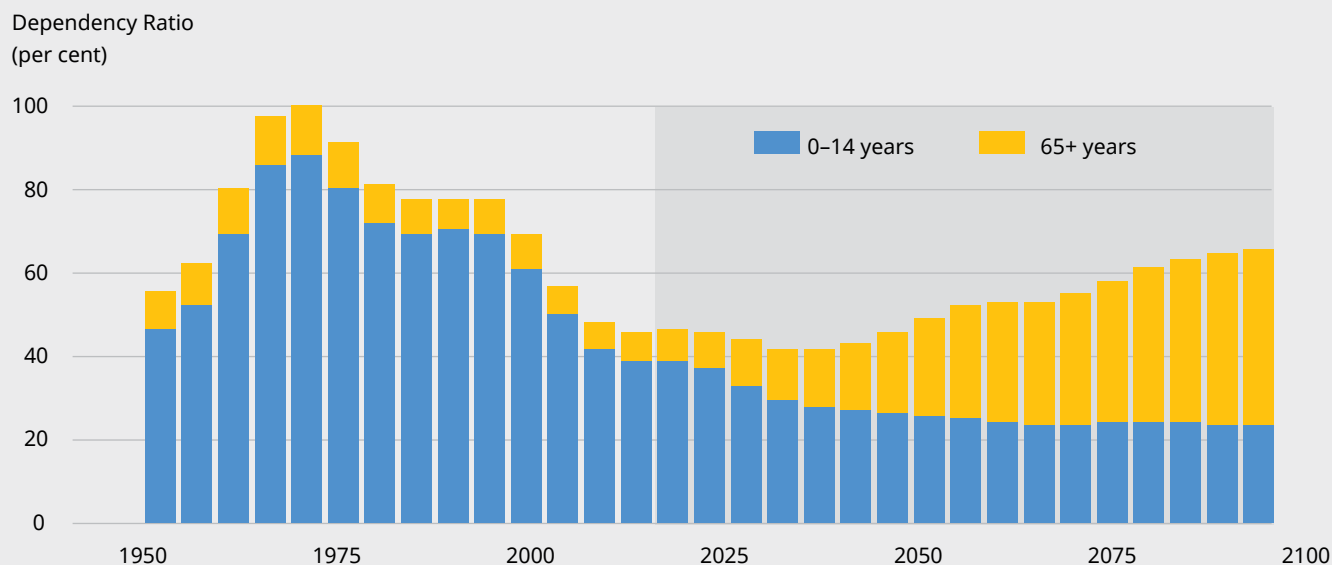
121 UNFPA (2014), Prevalence studies on intimate partner violence and domestic violence in the EECA region. In: Strengthening Health System Responses to Gender-based Violence in Eastern Europe and Central Asia; pages 24-28. Available at: <http://eeca.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/WAVE-UNFPA-Report-EN.pdf>

122 UNICEF (2012), Statistics and Monitoring. Available at: http://www.unicef.org/statistics/index_step1.php.

123 <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/culture/2019/10/peril-progress-prosperity-womens-well-being-around-the-world-feature/>

124 Human Development Indices and Indicators – 2018 Statistical Update, UNDP, 2018

Figure: Composition of total dependency ratio (children aged 0-14 and people 65 years old and over as a percentage of the total population) in Uzbekistan, 1950-2100



[Source: Generation 2030 Uzbekistan – UNICEF, July 2018]

alike, and are subjected to physical assaults, insults, and discrimination at the workplace. They also face denial of services, including adequate medical care, damage to their property, and rape attempts based on their sexual orientation. According to CAGSAN, law enforcement authorities do not provide enough protection to victims of violence based on sexual orientation and gender identity (SDG 10.3)¹²⁵. On 9 May 2018, Uzbekistan underwent the third cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), accepting 198 out of 212 recommendations received and taking note of 14, 12 of which were LGBTI-related. During the last state reporting before the HRC, Uzbekistan repeated the governmental position on rejection of these recommendations¹²⁶.

4.8 YOUTH

The country is passing through a youth bulge, which offers an opportunity to tap this demographic potential. However, large sections of youth are not in education, training or employment (NEET). Being NEET is a form of exclusion and if this status continues for a long time, it has serious health and well-being implications. Young women are more likely to be in this category, thus overlapping with and perpetuating gender inequality. Youth with disabilities are also more likely to be excluded. With the right and timely investment to health, education and decent employment for youth, they can

be a driving force to improve the lives of people and health of the planet, while also improving themselves in the process.

4.8.1 DEMOGRAPHIC INDICATORS FOR YOUTH

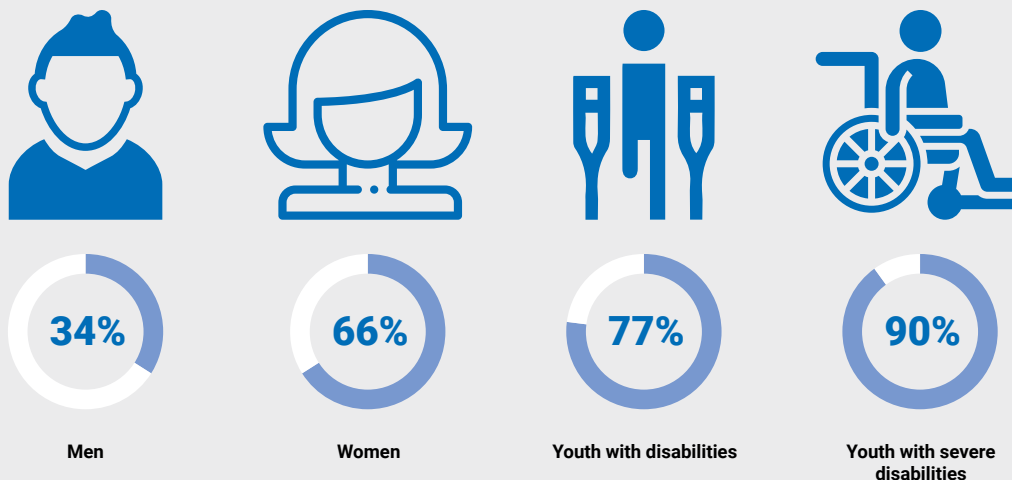
Uzbekistan has a young population with over 33 per cent people below 18 years old and 24 per cent between 18-30 years (i.e. 57 per cent below 30 years old)¹²⁷. The graph below shows that though the current dependency ratios are favourable, this window of demographic opportunity will not remain open for long. The young population will begin to age and the ratio will become unfavourable around 2040. It is therefore urgent that investment in children and young people is made now as society will begin to age in around 15-20 years.

125 Central Asian Gender and Sexuality Advocacy Network (CAGSAN) submission to the Human Rights Council, Working Group on UPR, May 2018

126 <https://ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=23602&LangID=E>

127 Generation 2030 Uzbekistan. Investing in children and young people to reap the demographic dividend. Tashkent – New York: UNICEF, 2018.

Youth (18-30 age cohort) not in employment, education or training (NEET)**



[Source: ** - UNICEF]

4.8.2 ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

Youth (ages 18-30) not in employment, education or training (NEET) (SDG 8.6) account for 42 per cent of the population, for women in this age bracket this increases to 66 per cent, for youth with disabilities to 77 per cent, and for youth with severe disabilities to over 90 per cent¹²⁸. Youth unemployment is also much higher at 17 per cent (2018) compared with the national average of 9.1 per cent (SDG 8.5)¹²⁹. Prolonged periods of unemployment can be a major exclusion and a trigger for social unrest, or worse, violent extremism. With the total labour force projected to grow by 3.5 million between 2020-2030, reaching 23.5 million people, market reform and labour markets will be challenged to match demographic trends¹³⁰.

Moreover, without employment opportunities at home, many young people migrate to other countries in search of employment. According to the Ministry of Labour survey (2019) 87.4 per cent migrants are men and 52 per cent of migrants are in the 16-30 years age. Nearly 40 per cent are engaged in construction work in host countries (an industry that is often linked to informality, lack of social protection, poor living and working conditions etc.)¹³¹.

Consultations with youth in Tashkent city and the regions conducted as part of the current assessment revealed that young people faced many obstacles in transition from education to the labour market. These challenges include lack of work experience, mentorship, career guidance in schools, lack of diversity in tertiary education, relevant skills including IT and foreign languages.

Youth Focus Groups Discussions:

During youth focus group discussions, the following were voiced as among the most vulnerable: unemployed youth, young women, youth with disabilities and youth-at-risk. Youth-at-risk includes youth infected and affected by HIV, drug- and alcohol-using youth, sex workers, trafficked youth, youth in orphanages or correctional homes, out-of-school youth, school drop outs, youth in conflict with the law, youth exploited for labour, victims of violence or abuse, migrants, LGBTI youth, and youth stigmatised for their ethnic identities such as Lulis.

Corruption in the education system was also cited as a barrier in transitioning from education to employment. Over 60 per cent of young people were willing to start their own business rather than work as employees.

128 However, as noted in FN # 22, government estimates of NEET youth are much lower at 22.6% (<http://nsdg.stat.uz/goal/11>).

129 However, as noted in FN # 22, government estimates of NEET youth are much lower at 22.6% (<http://nsdg.stat.uz/goal/11>).

130 According to the Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations cited in the PBF Project on Youth in Fergana Valley, 2019

131 <https://mehnat.uz/ru/news/informacionnoe-soobschenie-ministerstva-zanyatosti-i-trudovoyh-otnosheniy>

The root causes for youth being excluded is the attitude towards them, especially those with overlapping vulnerabilities (e.g. youth NEET, youth at-risk, in conflict with law and disabilities). The underlying causes include insufficient and ineffective policy, legal and institutional framework for youth and insufficient economic growth to absorb labour. The education system, although being reformed, is still in need of greater flexibility and modernization to prepare youth for the emerging requirements of skills in the market. Youth voices are not heard in decision making and youth NEET are often referred to as “unorganised youth”. As a result, unemployment is the worst form of exclusion for youth.

4.8.3 YOUTH WELL-BEING AND SECURITY

While it is important to promote the economic empowerment of youth through education, skills and employment, youth face challenges beyond their participation in the labour market. Youth health is an important issue and awareness of healthy lifestyles, reproductive health, HIV and other sexually transmitted infections is low. Eastern Europe and Central Asia region have the second highest growth rate of new HIV cases, and as significant numbers of young people engage in seasonal labour migration, there is concern that this number could grow. The results of testing of 2.5 million migrants by the Russian authorities in 2017, showed that migrants from Uzbekistan are among the top three countries with the highest number of new cases registered¹³². At the same time, promoting healthy lifestyles among youth is equally important and addressing youth health issues early on significantly reduce the incidence of NCDs (SDG 3.4 and 3.5).

Radicalisation of youth is also a serious concern, especially so for those with prolonged unemployment¹³³. Youth in Uzbekistan, especially in the Fergana Valley with its densely populated multi-ethnic communities and high migration, has been exposed to radical ideology and messages¹³⁴. Working to prevent violent extremism, by providing psychological and social support to migrants has been a key feature of many UN interventions.

Above all, there is a need to provide space to youth for their voices to be heard and participate in decision-making. This was the recurring theme in focus group discussions with youth conducted during consultations¹³⁵. The high number of youths not engaged in education, training or employment makes it all the more pressing that their hopes, creativity and energy are positively channelled.

4.9 PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

According to quantitative research by the UN and World Bank, there are 4.5 million people with disabilities, of whom 1.15 million people are severely disabled. Yet, only 670,800 people are registered as disabled, which points not only to a weak system of disability assessment, but significant under coverage of people with disabilities by the national social security system (SDG 1.3)¹³⁶. According to another estimate, 2.7 per cent of children have some form of disability and 1.3 per cent of children have a severe disability¹³⁷. About one-third of young people with disabilities are unable to complete any diploma (SDG 4.5), and about 77 per cent of young people with severe disabilities and 91 per cent of young people with profound disabilities are likely to be unemployed (SDG 8.5)¹³⁸. This underreporting remains a major challenge and impedes developing appropriate policies and programmes for equal participation.

Children and people with disabilities are more likely to be excluded from mainstream education, adequate health care, employment, and social life than their non-disabled peers. People with mental disabilities are worse off and face social stigma¹³⁹. For example, children with disabilities are less likely to leave their homes to socialize, only half as likely to visit a theatre or cinema, and one-third as likely to eat out or go to a café as children who do not have disabilities¹⁴⁰. Moreover, the education system segregates children with disabilities which re-enforces stigmatization. There is also a biased attitude by employers who are reluctant to employ people with disabilities which further limits employment and skills development opportunities¹⁴¹.

132 <http://afew.org/interesting-to-know/hiv-and-migration-in-central-asia-and-the-russian-federation/>

133 Youth for Social Harmony in Fergana Valley, PBF Project Concept Note, 2019

134 See for example: <https://www.csis.org/analysis/ferghana-valley-syria-and-beyond-brief-history-central-asian-foreign-fighters>

135 See footnote 6

136 Project on Social Protection for Joint SDG Trust Fund, UN, Uzbekistan, 2019

137 Building a Better Future, - A child-sensitive social protection system for Uzbekistan, UNICEF, January 2019

138 Ibid

139 In a survey, the respondents were less willing to accept people with intellectual disabilities than with physical disabilities [Situation analysis on children and adults with disabilities in Uzbekistan, UN in Uzbekistan, May 2019

140 Situation analysis on children and adults with disabilities in Uzbekistan (SITAN), UN in Uzbekistan, May 2019

141 The Law on Social Protection of People with Disabilities regulates the employment of people with disabilities. The positive actions under the law, like introducing quotas, entitlement to full salary while working part-time, extended annual leave etc have discouraged employers from engaging workers with disabilities to avoid additional financial burden. [Situation analysis on children and adults with disabilities in Uzbekistan, UN in Uzbekistan, May 2019

The coverage of children and people with disabilities, under social protection schemes is also inadequate and shrinking, and the higher related costs incurred by people with disabilities are not recognised in any social protection scheme¹⁴². The Child Disability Benefit, for example, reaches a little over half of children with severe disabilities (SDG 1.3)¹⁴³.

Medical approaches to disability assessments fail to distinguish between disease and impairment, and heavy reliance on institutionalisation are key reasons contributing to exclusion. Official data shows that in 2016 there were 26,500 children (of which 63 per cent had disabilities) living in various types of residential institutions. Most of these children belong to poor households and Uzbek law does not recognise the right of people with disabilities to independent living.

Effective response to disability requires early intervention and a holistic and interdisciplinary approach to assessment and provision of social services. Doctors are not trained to create individual rehabilitation plans and a recent UN survey reveals many devices needed by disabled people are not available. From the total number of people with disabilities needing personal devices and products only a tiny fraction received them from government organizations. Moreover, children with disabilities have significantly greater unmet needs for movement and self-care assistive devices, aids for better hearing and communicating as well as hygiene and sanitation products¹⁴⁴.

Women with disabilities, who make up a little over 42 per cent of all people with disability, are doubly disadvantaged¹⁴⁵. Gender-based violence faced by women with disabilities, at the hands of friends and even close relatives, is much higher than for women without disabilities. They also face multiple discrimination on access to education, employment, healthcare and justice (SDG 1.4, 5.1).

Large numbers of people with disabilities also remain disenfranchised because of lack of physical access and lack of information in a format that is suitable for people with disabilities. Some progress has been made in improving access to vote, and during the 2016 presidential elections polling stations were made step-free, ballot paper available in braille, and voting from home authorised for persons with limited mobility¹⁴⁶. Moreover, they are also unrepresented in elections, political appointments, and in policymaking.

A key challenge in providing timely and effective rehabilitation and independent living support to people with disabilities is the lack of social services, including professional social workers available for care and counselling to children with disabilities. These personalised services would deliver a set of medical,

legal, social, psychological, educational and other measures to improve the quality of their lives, create opportunities to be an active part of society, and live more independently. The coverage of such services is lacking because of a lack of both experts and awareness about the services, and because social work and rehabilitation still takes a medical approach rather than a community-based approach¹⁴⁷.

Furthermore, while the Government has acceded to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) it has not ratified it. The possible reason for non-ratification appears to be the high budget allocations required to comply with the terms of the Convention, especially for improved access, mobility aids, retrofitting infrastructure, and so on. Despite the national legal framework for the people with disabilities, in practice it does not reflect current laws and so does not adequately protect disabled people from discrimination and exclusion.

142 Project proposal on Social Protection for Joint SDG Fund, UN Uzbekistan, 2019

143 Ibid

144 Situation analysis on children and adults with disabilities in Uzbekistan, UN in Uzbekistan, May 2019

145 Ibid

146 Ibid

147 Ibid

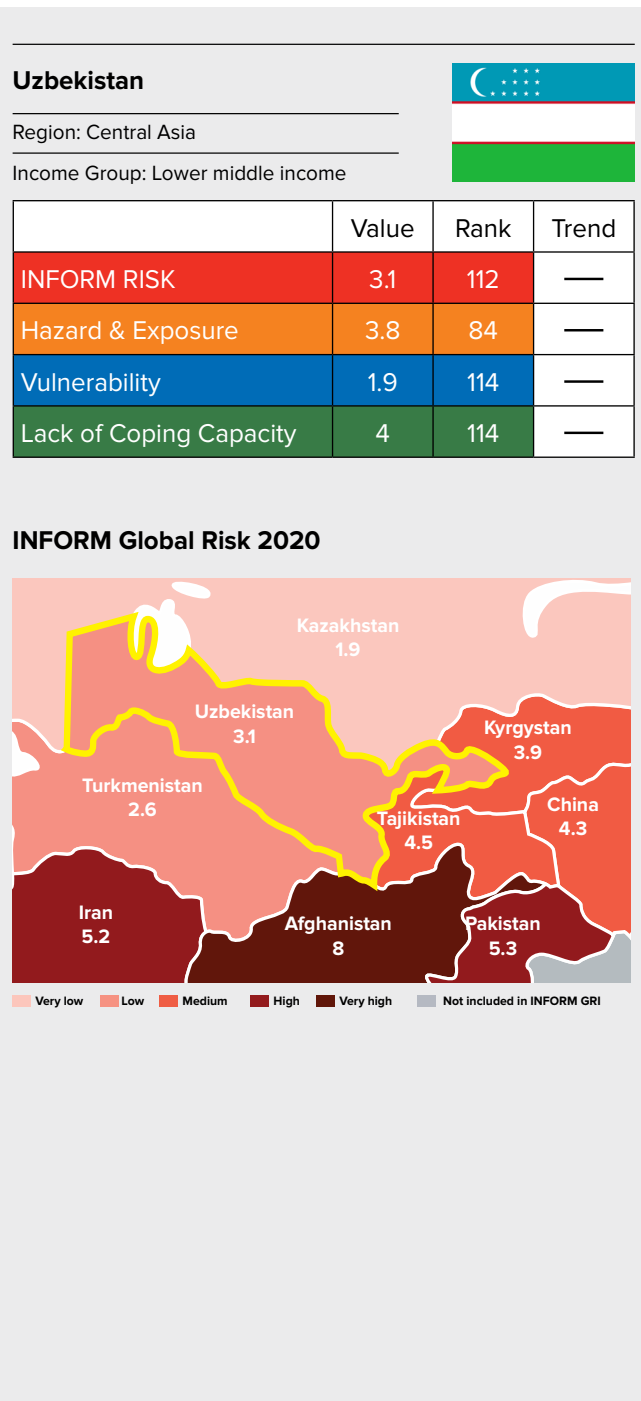
5. MULTIDIMENSIONAL RISK ANALYSIS

This section analyses multidimensional risks that could impact on the country's development, potentially hindering national efforts to achieve SDGs, exacerbate inequalities and exclusion, and impede the country in reaching its obligations under international human rights laws. The CCA follows the suggested 12-factor multidimensional risk analysis established by the UN (Annex 4).

The interlinkages and speed of reforms in economic, environmental and governance with large-scale legislative amendments and new policy interventions entail a risk of derailment, especially if attention is not paid to the national capacity to manage these reforms, if internal resistance from vested interests is not managed or if ordinary people's aspirations are not met. It is important, therefore, that the reforms are implemented in an inclusive and transparent manner. There are positive signs in this respect, including, the parliamentary elections held in December 2019, greater freedoms for media and civil society, empowerment of institutions of governance, parliament, judiciary, and human rights, and greater openness to regional and international cooperation.

The Government has also tried to manage internal security threats, and there have not been any recent notable terrorist attacks inside the country. However, Uzbek citizens have joined terrorist organisations to fight in Syria and Iraq, and Uzbek nationals have been involved in several high-profile suicide bombings in foreign countries. Uzbekistan has shown global leadership by facilitating the repatriation and rehabilitation of women and children associated with foreign fighters, and thus far, 220 citizens (mostly women and children) have been returned from Iraq and Syria, and have been provided with medical, psychological and material assistance, in partnership with the UN¹⁴⁸.

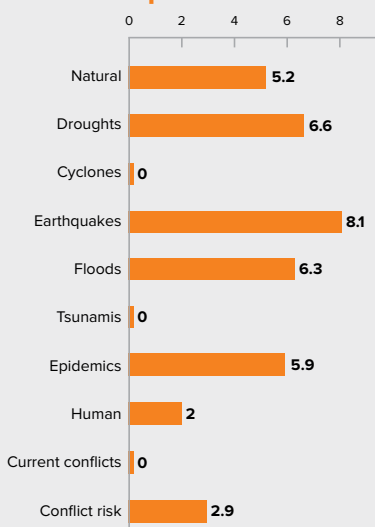
The risk of natural disasters, compounded by climate change, could also be devastating to economic growth



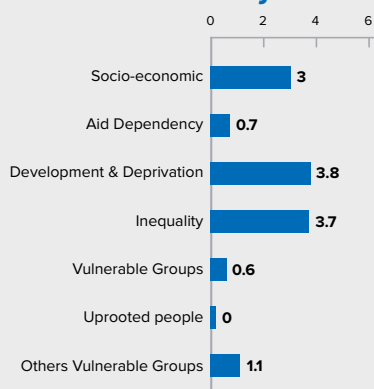
148 https://central.asia-news.com/en_GB/articles/cnmi_ca/features/2019/10/15/feature-02

RISK DIMENSIONS AND COMPONENTS

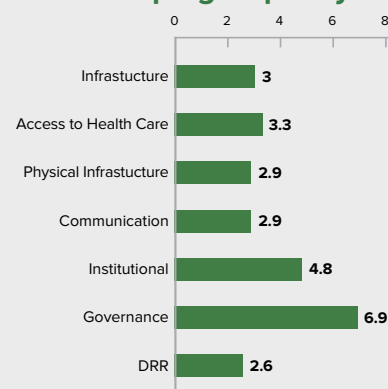
Hazard & Exposure



Vulnerability



Lack of Coping Capacity



and human lives. This is a risk which current national development policies have yet to address sufficiently. Since 1951, there has been an observed trend of warming within Uzbekistan, and the annual average temperature has increased by 0.29 0C for each of the last 10 years, with minimum temperatures increasing more than maximum temperatures¹⁴⁹. Moreover, a gradual increase in the intensity and frequency of events such as droughts, mudflows, sandstorms, and others is becoming statistically significant¹⁵⁰. Many of these represent significant risks to key drivers of the economy and threaten to reverse recent gains in human welfare. In turn, this may lead to possible deprivation of people to housing (SDG11), water (SDG 6) and food supplies (SDG 2), exposure to greater levels of pollution, health problems (SDG 3), or loss of jobs (SDG 8).

To increase national resilience to climate change, the existing coordination mechanism for multi-sectoral adaptation planning and implementation at different levels needs strengthening through building technical capacity in climate change information, tools for integration, project development, gender mainstreaming, and monitoring and evaluation across multiple ministries and local authorities. The private sector, NGOs, local communities, the UN, donors and IFIs also have an important role to play.

Integration of climate change adaptation into developmental planning and processes in Uzbekistan could be supported by the UN through the development and implementation of a National Adaptation Plan with

focus on priority climate-sensitive sectors (agriculture, water, health, emergency situation and buildings) and regions (Aral Sea region). This will result in strengthening existing frameworks and systems, enhancement of capacities of key stakeholders, and expanding the evidence base to effectively contribute to the adaptation planning process, to make the country more resilient to climate change impacts and climate risks.

Reducing exposure and building resilience through the efficient use of water, land, and energy resources, reduction of seismic risks (particularly for priority buildings in Tashkent) should also be a government priority¹⁵¹. Urban areas are particularly vulnerable to disasters and cities should be designed to mitigate against these shocks, and local strategies devised that reduce disaster risk and enhance resilience in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (towards which the Government has committed to implementing the framework). Joining the Making Cities Resilient Campaign can be another important step towards systematic resilience building at the local level.

149 Government of Uzbekistan (2008). *The Second National Communication of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the UNFCCC*: p. 205.

150 https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/TNC%20of%20Uzbekistan%20under%20UNFCCC_english_n.pdf

151 <https://www.gfdrr.org/en/uzbekistan>

152 Inform Index for Risk Management available at: <https://drmkc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/inform-index/Countries/Country-Profile-Map>

6. FINANCING SDGs IN UZBEKISTAN (SDG 17.1 and 17.3)

This section is not a comprehensive assessment of development finance for the country. A separate exercise to prepare a Development Finance Assessment (DFA) is underway, and the CCA will be updated once this is completed. Moreover, a better estimate of required financing will depend on the costing of SDGs which is not possible until full nationalisation of SDGs takes place¹⁵³. The following table shows the multiple sources of finance that are available to finance the SDGs.

The programmes and policies to achieve the national SDGs must be mainly funded by domestic resources, both public and private, and the scope for mobilising public domestic revenues is comparatively higher than in other countries in the region. The ratio of budget revenues to GDP is around 25 per cent, comparable with the average for high-income countries and significantly higher than the average for middle-income countries (approx. 20 per cent)¹⁵⁴.

However, misalignments and overlaps in policy making are common and strategies are usually not backed by financing plans, without proper KPIs and M&E frameworks, and low alignment to the SDGs. Cost estimates beyond a one-year term are rare and budget processes are centralized, fragmented and not directly linked to planning documents. This leads to challenges in assessing the impact of policies as well as identifying budget planning priorities. While the recent public finance reform aims at a more transparent budgeting process linked to planning priorities, there is still a need to improve public finance/budgeting systems for more effective and efficient public spending.

Moreover, at about 35 per cent of GDP, government spending in Uzbekistan should be made more efficient, transparent, and accountable – this includes, large extra-budgetary and opaque expenditures, weak results orientation (i.e. rudimentary mid-term budgeting and programme-based budgeting practices), weak internal and external control mechanisms, and insufficient public oversight. Corruption and misuse of public resources are also very common and have been featuring more

Table: Sources of financial flows for SDGs

	Public	Private
Domestic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tax revenues ○ Non-tax revenues ○ Government borrowing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Domestic savings/investments ○ Domestic credit ○ National NGOs
External	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Official development assistance grants and loans ○ Other official flows 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ International financial markets ○ International NGOs ○ Foreign direct investment ○ Remittances

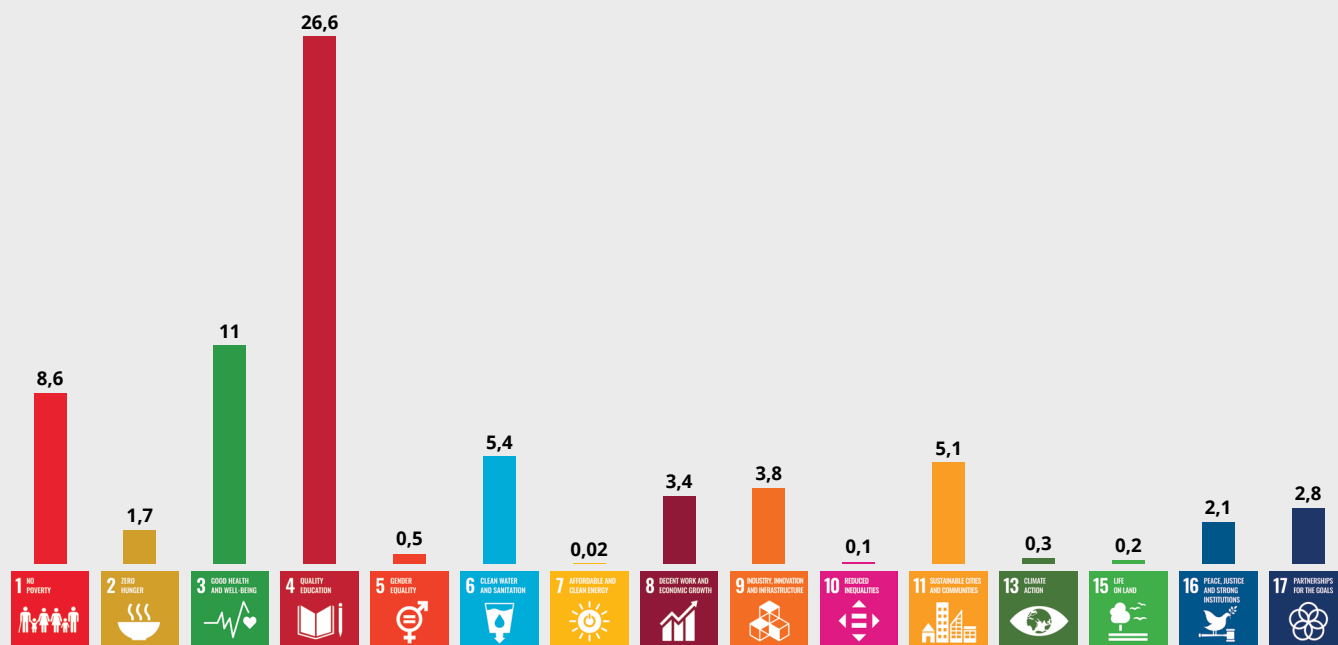
frequently in the news recently¹⁵⁵. Improvements in these areas in addition to the creation of a favourable legal and institutional framework for portfolio investment, following development of an effective and efficient capital market, will create opportunities for mobilization of resources.

153 IMF made an assessment of spending required to close the gap with peers in health, education, and infrastructure and found that the country needs *additional* spending of roughly 8.7% of GDP in 2030 to reach SDGs in social and infrastructure sectors. This was observed to be an overestimate by UNCT in Uzbekistan as it does not take into account savings that could come about as a result of improved governance.

154 <https://openbudget.uz/#/>

155 <https://www.mf.uz/home/o-ministerstve/press-sluzhba/min-fin-news/4546.html> ; <https://www.gazeta.uz/ru/2019/05/06/credits/>; <https://kun.uz/ru/news/2018/07/15/v-minfine-rasskazali-o-masstabah-rastrat-i-privoenij-sredstv-v-gosuzrezdeniah>

State budget expenditures for the implementation of the SDGs, % of total expenditures, 2019



[Source: UNDP, 2019]

To increase transparency, the Government has started reporting on its SDG spending in its annual Citizens' Budget publication with support from the UN¹⁵⁶. A preliminary assessment of the spending, conducted for the Citizens Budget 2019, shows 72 per cent of state budget spending related to financing SDGs. The figure below shows 26.6 per cent of the annual budget went to finance Goal 4 (education), 11 per cent for Goal 3 (health), and 8.6 per cent for Goal 1 (poverty reduction).

With current structural reforms, the country is poised to increase foreign direct investment. For many years Uzbekistan was a net capital exporter but in 2018 and 2019 the country began posting large current account deficits as the economy has liberalised (7.1 per cent of GDP in 2018 and a projected 6.5 per cent in 2019 according to the IMF)¹⁵⁷. The latest "Doing Business Index" (2020) has shown a seven-notch improvement from 76 in 2019, to 69 in 2020, which will further boost investment in infrastructure and businesses. Making FDI more export-orientated and further improving transparency will be important in coming years.

Remittances also play an important role in financing consumption (hence poverty reduction) and capital formation (e.g. house repairs). In 2017, remittances reached US\$ 3.9 billion, then in 2018 declined to US\$ 2.8

billion. They again rose to US\$ 2.93 billion by October 2019 and are estimated to be US\$ 4.15 billion (6.9 per cent of GDP) in 2019¹⁵⁸.

International financial markets are another potentially important source of SDG finance. Even with the current non-investment grade credit rating, the country recently floated its first dollar-denominated bonds worth USD 1 billion, which were eight times oversubscribed. Though the country's capacity to borrow in global financial markets appears high, there is a risk that there is a lack of capacity to service debt and judiciously manage borrowed funds.

According to one estimate Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) is not a significant proportion of total spending for Uzbekistan and in 2017 (the last year for which this statistic is available due to restructuring of the Ministry of Finance and abolishment of the ODA Department) the country received USD 638 million in ODA

156 <https://openbudget.uz/#/>

157 <https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2019/05/09/pr19155-republic-of-uzbekistan-imf-executive-board-concludes-2019-article-iv-consultation>

158 <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/migrationremittancesdiasporaissues/brief/migration-remittances-data>

or approximately 1 per cent of GDP¹⁵⁹. However, looking forward, ODA will continue to decline as a proportion of total SDG spending. According to a UNDP estimate (2019), the share of ODA in potential post-reform SDG financing in Uzbekistan was estimated at 3 per cent, whereas that of the state budget was 64 per cent; for remittances - 18 per cent; for bank loans, including IFIs 10 per cent; for FDI - 6 per cent; and for stocks and bonds - 0 per cent¹⁶⁰. Nevertheless, concessional loans from IFIs continue to increase and are an important source of SDG financing.

This CCA further determines that SDG financing can be significantly increased if the following factors are considered:

1. The further raising of domestic revenue if **tax reforms** are fully implemented, including restructuring of state-owned enterprises.
2. A phasing out of **fossil fuel consumption subsidies** which in 2018 were estimated to account for 16 per cent of GDP in 2018¹⁶¹.
3. Measures to modernize the irrigation infrastructure which can result in significant efficiency gains and savings in this sector and counteract water wastage caused by **inefficient and outdated irrigation infrastructure** which cost the country an estimated 8 per cent of GDP¹⁶².
4. A set of low-cost interventions (e.g., aimed at reduction of salt, sugar and tobacco consumption) which could have significant return on investment, as well as health and human capital outcomes and reduce economic losses from **non-communicable diseases**, including direct and indirect costs, which are estimated to be 4.7 per cent of GDP¹⁶³.
5. The **return of frozen assets in line with the GFAR principles**.¹⁶⁴
6. Mobilisation of significant resources through **increased issuance overseas bonds**.

6.1 BUSINESS AND SDGs

Increasingly, businesses and employers' organisations are recognising the importance of aligning strategies with the SDG agenda. They see many benefits including an opportunity to focus on sustainability and opportunities to innovate in contributing to solutions to societal issues, which also has the potential to provide reputational gains to businesses, higher customer satisfaction, and a competitive edge over others through differentiation.

Despite the important reforms aimed at improving the investment climate, such as the unification of exchange rates, tax reform, and some liberalization of foreign trade, Uzbekistan reported a decline in net FDI in 2017 and 2018. This happened because of import-substitution based industrialisation and associated state controls and regulations, including a poor record of ensuring adequate protection of property and investors' rights. This resulted in low private sector development, especially in sectors dominated by the SOEs and state monopolies. Nonetheless, with ongoing reforms and policy measures to create enabling conditions for the private sector, there is opportunity to increase the role the private sector can have in achieving the SDGs. For example, the reforms to allow private businesses and PPPs to operate in education, healthcare, energy generation (including renewables), air transportation and some other public services previously dominated by the SOEs, promise to accelerate investments and results in corresponding SDGs in healthcare (SDG3), education (SDG4), energy (SDG7), and infrastructure (SDG9, 11).

The UN's work with private sector to support the SDG agenda is new in the country and engaging private sector organizations active in corporate social responsibility is a good start to initiating discussions on how to create mutually beneficial visions for contributing to the SDGs. The UN can help demystify long-term development goals and targets linked to specific SDGs, such as energy efficiency, judicious use of water, low emission production, and skills and employment for people with disabilities. The UN can also support NGOs demanding transparency and accountability from business and an understanding of how businesses contribute to or block achieving SDGs.

159 <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/DI.ODA.ODAT.CD>

160 Ben Slay: SDG Financing in Uzbekistan and Central Asia, presentation made at UNCT Retreat, Tashkent, 21-22 October 2019

161 <https://www.iea.org/energy/subsidies/>

162 ADB Country Partnership Strategy- Uzbekistan 2019-2023 – Supporting Economic Transformation, May 2019 (FN13, page4)

163 <http://www.euro.who.int/en/countries/uzbekistan/publications/prevention-and-control-of-noncommunicable-disease-in-uzbekistan.-the-case-for-investment-2018>

164 <https://star.worldbank.org/sites/star/files/the-gfar-principles.pdf>

7. KEY CAPACITY CHALLENGES

For ongoing structural reforms to succeed, significant institutional and capacity development are required. The public administration that ran the former system of top-down, state-controlled, largely public-sector driven development is outmoded, and not fit for purpose. Moreover, the state's role is shifting to more of a policy making and regulatory role which requires new sets of skills and competencies. Not only individual capacities must change, but organisational structure, culture and behaviour must align with new requirements¹⁶⁵.

When compared with other countries, Uzbekistan ranks low against key governance indicators. Interestingly, the country does better in business indicators or e-governance index, but when it comes to the rule of law, democracy and freedom indices it again ranks poorly. The table below provides the country's rankings against 23 indices, tracking change over previous years. These rankings are regularly monitored by government, civil society and private sector. They represent the wide-ranging capacity challenges Uzbekistan faces.

7.1 CIVIL SERVICE CAPACITY – KEY CHALLENGES

A competent civil service is key to service delivery and achievement of SDGs and an analysis of the civil service in Uzbekistan reveals that lack of accountability is a key factor that contributes to the low capacity of the national public administration system. Moreover, the recruitment process of civil servants, which favours nepotism and cronyism, shifts the loyalty of civil servants away from the fulfilment of their constitutional commitments.

Similarly, corruption in the civil service remains endemic and culturally tolerated and is made worse by the weak systems in place to both find and punish those responsible. Strengthening internal accountability systems, including introduction of digitization and e-governance with fair, streamlined public procurement, public access to information and decision-making are important steps to address this.

There is also disproportionate favoring of support staff over professional staff which starves the civil service of much-needed technical skills and impedes the improvement of public service delivery. Moreover, a punitive culture is still present in the system which leads staff to be risk adverse, precisely at a time when innovation is most needed. Performance evaluations of civil servants are only done by their direct supervisors with no oversight assessment mechanism, including from citizens who are the clients of the service delivery¹⁶⁶. These factors are compounded by the fact that there is no central personnel or human resources related agency that would be able to independently manage recruitment, performance assessments, career progression, removal from service, discipline, civil service ethics, or undertake major restructuring of civil service systems¹⁶⁷.

Central ministries and policymaking functions normally attract the best professional staff, depriving local administrative levels of the technical and administrative skills needed for local service delivery. As a result, local planning, budgeting and execution capacities suffer. Finally, even though Uzbekistan is a party of the ILO Conventions on Freedom of Association and Collective Bargaining, labour law enforcement remains weak, affecting the ability of civil servants to exercise their labour rights¹⁶⁸. This results in sub-optimal working conditions for civil-servants, such as long-working hours and weeks, harassment and abuse of authority, which in turn result in poor performance, low work satisfaction and reduced efficiency of public services.

165 Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support (MAPS) for Achieving the SDGs in Uzbekistan, United Nations-World Bank, October 2018.

166 UNDP Report on Civil Service Reform in Uzbekistan (2019, unpublished), UNDP project on Support to Civil Service Reform and Digital Transformation

167 The proposed Civil Service Commission might address this gap.

168 ILO C87 on Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize Convention; C98 – Right to Organize and Collective Bargaining Convention.

International rankings

Index	Organization	Rank	Year	Rank	Year	2030 Target
Doing Business	World Bank	141/189	2015	76/190	2019	Top 20
Logistics Performance Index	World Bank	129/160	2014	99/160	2019	Top 50
Index of Economic Freedom	The Heritage Foundation	160/178	2015	140/180	2019	Top 70
Sovereign Credit Rating	Fitch, S&P, Moody's	N/A	N/A	BB-Stable	2019	A
Country Risk Classification	OECD	Group 6	2015	Group 5 [1 best-7 worst]	2019	N/A
Open Budget Index	International Budget Partnership	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Top 50
Rule of Law Index	World Justice Project	81/102	2015	94/126	2019	Top 50
The Corruption Perception Index	Transparency International	153/167	2015	158/180	2018	Top 50
Democracy Index	The Economist Intelligence Unit	158/167	2015	156/167	2018	Top 70
Worldwide Press Freedom	Reporter Without Borders	166/180	2015	160/180	2019	Top 80
Global Innovation Index	WIPO	122/141	2015	N/A	2019	Top 50
E Government Development Index	UN	100/193	2014	81/193	2018	Top 40
Global Competitiveness Index	World Economic Forum	N/A	2015	N/A	2019	Top 50
Competitive Industrial Performance index	UNIDO	N/A	N/A	N/A	2018	Top 70
Statistical Capacity Indicators	World Bank	51.1/100	2015	54.4/100	2018	Top 50
Human Development Index	UNDP	114/188	2014	105/189	2018	Top 40
Sustainable Development Goals	SDSN/UNDP	45/157	2017	52/162	2019	N/A
Political Stability and Absence of Violence / Terrorism	World Bank Worldwide Governance Indicators	141/211	2015	138/211	2017	N/A
Government Effectiveness	World Bank Worldwide Governance Indicators	153/209	2015	141/209	2017	N/A
Voice and Accountability Index	World Bank Worldwide Governance Indicators	199/204	2015	184/204	2017	N/A
Rule of Law Index	World Bank Worldwide Governance Indicators	185/209	2015	94/126	2019	Top 50
Regulatory Quality Index	World Bank Worldwide Governance Indicators	201/209	2015	191/209	2017	N/A
Control of Corruption Index	World Bank Worldwide Governance Indicators	191/209	2015	197/209	2017	N/A

7.2 LACK OF POLICY COHERENCE AND ORGANISATIONAL CHALLENGES

Uzbekistan has some institutional mechanisms for horizontal coordination on sustainable development issues at the national level, such as the Inter-ministerial Council on SDGs. The Coordination Council has not met since its establishment in October 2018, although the chairman has approved a few documents supporting the implementation of the SDGs, such as for example the list of national SDG indicators, and the roadmap on VNR preparation. Moreover, ownership of the SDG agenda is not consistent across all government ministries and agencies, which is also evidenced by the different level of integration of SDGs in sector policies and strategies (as noted above in 2.1).

Monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the SDGs also remains to be strengthened. For example, Uzbekistan does not apply the strategic environmental assessment (SEA) tool to increase policy coherence and integration of its existing environmental commitments and green economy priorities into sectoral policies¹⁶⁹. Another aspect of the lack of policy coherence in sustainable development is the uneven attention given to the triad of social, economic and environmental priorities, and not making policy choices that reinforce one another¹⁷⁰.

Insufficient data for evidence-based policymaking is another challenge the country faces. Evidence-based policy making requires strong, disaggregated data bases and strengthened analytical capabilities, among others, to examine the impact of policies on certain population groups^{171, 172}.

Capacities for coordination among international development agencies working in Uzbekistan require strengthening, to reduce duplication in donor projects, strengthen platforms for multi-stakeholder dialogue, and ensure an open online aid information management system (AIMS) for donors¹⁷³. Attention to these issues will enhance coherent development results. The Aral Sea Advisory Council, to be launched in 2020, may provide an important step forward in this regard.

Procurement and financial reporting systems in the country do not meet international standards¹⁷⁴. As such, donors have to create project implementation units with parallel procedures and reporting systems. These increase transaction costs requiring more administration and coordination.

Frequent administrative reorganisations in ministries and staff transfers result in a loss of institutional memory undermining the capacity of civil service. Without documentation and knowledge management, individuals,

rather than organizations, learn which policies worked and which did not. Decision-making processes are also opaque and business rules are not made public. Therefore, multi-layered decision-making often involves multiple departments within the same ministry dealing with multiple partners over similar issues.

Policy costing is not yet inherent in policymaking process. Multiple sector policies have or are being generated with little information on associated operating costs. This results in lost opportunities to gain cost-efficiencies by seeing mutually reinforcing policies in more cohesive and integrated ways.

There is a lack of performance-based budgeting and inadequate links between budgetary outlays and achieving programme objectives. Public financial management capacities lack the capacity to examine planning and budgeting in an integrated and holistic manner. Thus, budget execution capacity is challenged, which risks donor and IFI confidence in local systems and fails to meet people's expectations¹⁷⁵.

7.3 CIVIL SOCIETY & CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT CAPACITY

For the reform agenda to succeed and SDG localisation to work, broad-based citizen consultation and engagement is required in order to build popular support. Without this feedback loop, market-oriented reforms can impact population groups unevenly (SDG 16.7). Old laws severely limiting civil society activities are slowly being replaced, creating more positive and collaborative relations between the state and civil society. Moreover, the National Action Strategy specifically recognises the "need of further development of civil society institutions and improvement of their social and political activism", and the Presidential Decree on civil society has paved the way for government to open dialogue with citizens on reforms¹⁷⁶.

169 Ibid

170 Joint UN-WB MAPS Mission Report (2018), http://www.un.uz/files/UN%20in%20Uzbekistan/MAPS%20Report%202018/UZB-MAPS%20Report%20-%20Final_Eng.pdf

171 Ibid

172 <https://www.efta.int/sites/default/files/publications/statistics-eso/reports/2019-02-uzbekistan.pdf>

173 https://www.uz.undp.org/content/dam/uzbekistan/docs/project-documents/egu/Uzb_UN_pdf_Aid%20Effectiveness%20Project%20Document_Eng.pdf

174 <https://www.pefa.org/node/196>

175 Ibid

176 Decree on Measures to Fundamentally Enhance the Role of Civil Society Institutions in the Process of Democratic Renewal of the Country of May 4, 2018,

Nevertheless, for a robust and lively civil society to flourish in Uzbekistan, and act as a partner in sustainable development, further steps are necessary to liberalise the legislation on non-government non-profit organisations. Current laws governing NGO registration, financing, travel and events are excessively restrictive and are not in compliance with international standards. This means that civil society capacity to monitor government reform, or to act as a countervailing force against arbitrary state action, remains limited. Although the country reportedly has 9,200 registered NGOs, it is estimated that most of these are quasi-state entities (GONGOs), defunct and/or entities focused on very limited issue areas¹⁷⁷. Furthermore, independent NGOs dealing with critical or sensitive issues (e.g. sexual minorities, former prisoners, human rights violations) are not able to register and groups trying to cover these issues have reportedly faced harassment and intimidation¹⁷⁸.

Increasing outreach from the President's office has led to the gradual increase in communication with citizens, including more open dialogue on the policies that are being implemented. To broaden citizen engagement, the President launched Virtual Receptions, at various public places as part of the Year of the Dialogue with People¹⁷⁹. The receptions have been received well by the public and receive about 100,000 petitions every month¹⁸⁰. However, capacity of staff to respond adequately to grievances is reportedly limited.

There has also been progress in liberalising the space for media including independent journalists and bloggers, and the highest level of Government and Parliament have emphasised the importance of freedom of the press. However, on some sensitive issues self-censorship continues, and there continues to be some reports of intimidation of journalists¹⁸¹.

One factor that can strengthen civil society capacity is effective enforcement of the right to information law. This would enable citizens to directly hold the state accountable for its actions by demanding information on how decisions are made, how public money is spent, contracts awarded, among other things. In turn, this would ensure greater transparency acting as a deterrent against the arbitrary exercise of official power, corruption and inefficiency. However, despite related laws being enacted in 1997 and 2002, the enforcement of these has been weak due to the challenges cited above¹⁸².

A new draft law on rallies, meetings and demonstrations may further limit space for civil society. The law violates international norms and contradicts the constitutional guarantee of right to assembly¹⁸³.

177 <https://silkroadstudies.org/resources/pdf/SilkRoadPapers/1803-Bowyer-Uzbekistan.pdf> (p. 54)

178 <https://cabar.asia/en/why-is-it-difficult-to-open-an-ngo-in-uzbekistan/>

179 A new version of the virtual reception system of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan has been launched. (2018, February 2). URL: http://ombudsman.uz/en/press_center/news/uzbekistan/a-new-version-of-the-virtual-reception-system-of-the-president-of-the-republic-of-uzbekistan-has-bee/

180 Virtual Reception of the President of Uzbekistan. URL: <https://pm.gov.uz/>

181 Uzbekistan: Journalists Prosecuted, Harassed. (2018, March 28). URL: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2018/03/27/uzbekistan-journalists-prosecuted-harassed>

182 See <https://thediplomat.com/2019/07/a-new-era-for-press-freedom-in-a-changing-uzbekistan/>, and <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=25056&LangID=E>

183 For a critique of this law see: Overview of the Draft Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Rallies, Meetings and Demonstrations, International Center for Not-for-profit Law (ICNL) June 2019

8. CROSS-BORDER AND TRANSBOUNDARY PERSPECTIVES

Uzbekistan is unique in the region as it shares borders with all other Central Asian countries and Afghanistan and is one of only two double landlocked countries in the world. Under President Mirziyoyev, the country prioritized improved relations with neighbouring countries, which provides the context for keeping borders safe and open. This created new opportunities to improve trade relations with neighbours and promote legal transit of goods and people. Improved relations can also be a trigger for greater export facilitation, establishing transport corridors and initiating local economic development around these corridors at border areas.

Sharing of water and energy, a source of past conflict, may now be more easily resolved through mutual benefit. Similarly, constructive approaches and responses to disasters are more likely now. For example, the Aral Sea disaster, which has had a dreadful impact on agriculture, health, fishing industry and the environment, requires transboundary cooperation, which is now more possible than ever before, thanks to improved relations between Uzbekistan and its neighbours in Central Asia¹⁸⁴.

Cross-border human trafficking in persons (TIP) is another issue where regional cooperation is required. The Government reports making significant progress in prevention of TIP and pursuant to the Presidential Decree of 30 July 2019 on Additional Measures to Further Advance the System of Countering Trafficking in Persons and Forced Labor, Uzbekistan has implemented a range of measures to tackle these problems. The Decree reorganized Interagency Anti-TIP Commission into a National Commission on Combating Trafficking in Persons and Forced Labor and introduced the role of a National Rapporteur. The Commission consists of sub-commissions TIP (chaired by the Minister of Interior) and forced labour (chaired by the Minister of Labor). Territorial commissions are headed by regional governors, and for the first time, the Commission also includes NGOs. The Commission adopted a Roadmap for implementation of the anti-TIP policy taking into account the recommendations of “Cotton Campaign” and “Human Rights Watch” (SDG 10.7 and 16.2). Moreover,

the anti-TIP law of 2008 is being amended which should introduce a national referral mechanism. The new draft Criminal Code also increases the penalties for child and forced labour and introduces a new crime of trafficking new-borns. According to the Chair of the Senate, Senator Tanzila Narbaeva, the National Rapporteur on Countering TIP and Forced Labor, the number of crimes related to trafficking in persons over the past two years has decreased by almost 3.2 times¹⁸⁵. However, despite this progress, and according to the 2019 U.S. State Department annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report, Uzbekistan remained on the Tier 2 Watch List for the second consecutive year¹⁸⁶. A Tier 2 country is defined as one that does not fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking but is making significant efforts to do so.

The number of reported new psychoactive substances (NPS) and synthetic drugs has been increasing in Uzbekistan in recent years¹⁸⁷. The scope of the NPS market is so far unclear for Uzbekistan, though a future risk of increased trafficking of NPS exists. Uzbek media and social networks recently reported on alarming abuse of synthetic cannabinoids and non-medical use of pharmaceuticals by youth.

Uzbekistan’s border with Afghanistan carries both opportunities and risks of drug trafficking, crime, and radical extremism. Uzbekistan also has played a

184 In October 2019, Uzbekistan took over the chairmanship of the Interstate Commission on Sustainable Development (ICSD) of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS) from Turkmenistan. As a Chair, Uzbekistan will coordinate implementation of the Regional Environmental Programme for Sustainable Development of Central Asia (REP4SD CA) until 2030, which was approved by ICSD representatives at the regional meeting on 24 October 2019 in Nukus, organized on the margins of the international conference Aral Sea Region.

185 <http://senat.uz/ru/lists/view/685>

186 U.S. Department of State. 2019 *Trafficking in Persons Report* (p. 48). URL: <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/2019-Trafficking-in-Persons-Report.pdf>

187 UNODC, *Central Asia Synthetic Drug Situation Assessment* (Vienna, 2017), https://www.unodc.org/documents/scientific/Central_Asia_November_2017_FINAL.pdf.

leading role in championing collective, Central Asia-wide cooperation with Afghanistan. This includes cooperation to control the illegal movement of illicit drugs, transnational crime and terrorism, as well as positive cooperation to help Afghanistan's stability and development (SDG 16.4). For example, opium production in Afghanistan was 6,400 metric tons in 2018, though 29 per cent less than 9,000 tons in 2017¹⁸⁸. So far, the country has managed these risks well but with greater border openness, the risks increase¹⁸⁹.

There are a number of other positive trends in regional cooperation. For example, during a recent visit to Uzbekistan the president of Kazakhstan promised to boost bilateral trade to \$5 billion by 2020. The two countries also introduced the Silk Visa to allow visitors with a visa issued by either country to visit the other one. The Uzbekistan President also signed 27 agreements with Tajikistan during his visit to Dushanbe, including restarting flights between the two countries, mutual visa free travel, resumption of electricity export from Tajikistan to Uzbekistan, and Uzbek gas exports to Tajikistan. According to the World Bank's 2019 Country Economic Update bilateral trade between the two countries increased from \$238 million in 2017 to \$389 million in 2018. Uzbekistan is also a member of several regional organisations including the SCO and is considering joining the Eurasian Economic Union (SDG 17.6).

Cooperation in the energy sector has also improved, and with the support of the Central Asian Regional Environmental Centre (CAREC). Energy ministers from nine countries signed an agreement in Tashkent in September 2019. This is a step towards establishing a Regional Energy Market to ensure clean, reliable and

affordable supply of electricity to all the CAREC member states. Tourism development is another important area for cooperation under CAREC.

After several years of consideration, Uzbekistan is now a constructive participant in the UN's Special Programme for Central Asia Regional Cooperation (SPECA). SPECA is now entering a new stage of development and Uzbekistan is expected to contribute¹⁹⁰. The country has also joined other Central Asian countries and Afghanistan in adopting the SPECA Strategy on Innovation for Sustainable Development. It calls for knowledge-sharing and cooperation in importing and creating innovative solutions to national and regional sustainable development challenges (SDG17.6)

Finally, possible accession to WTO also offers further opportunities for regional integration through trade. Possible membership of the Eurasian Economic Union is currently being seriously considered and debated for its own political and socio-economic risks and opportunities¹⁹¹, but could potentially benefit the country in managing outmigration through information sharing and the provision of legal and other support.

188 Ibid. The decline in production was on account of drought conditions and lower market prices.

189 Drug seizures in Uzbekistan have declined which the Government attributes to enhanced interdiction efforts and changing pattern of drug trafficking from Afghanistan. All kinds of crime, including drug-related crimes, have also declined, and so have number of cases of human trafficking [UNODC Brief on Uzbekistan prepared for CCA, November 2019].

190 <https://www.unece.org/speca/welcome.html>

191 <http://ced.uz/kommentarii/o-plyusah-i-minusah-vstupleniya-uzbeki-stana-v-eaes/>; <https://www.gazeta.uz/ru/2020/02/14/eeu-wto/>

9. UN COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE

A partnership survey was organized in October 2019 to ascertain the UN comparative advantage in the country. The survey, which was based on a questionnaire distributed to 28 international organizations (embassies, IFIs, INGOs, others), found that partners perceive that the UN in Uzbekistan has the mandate, the capacity and the positioning to act in the following sectors (in descending order of ranking): Health, Human Rights and Rule of Law, Governance and Public Administration, Gender Equality, Environment and Climate Change, Education and Social Protection.

Areas where the partners did not believe UN had the comparative advantage include: Agriculture and Water, Data and Statistics, Economic Reforms, Livelihoods, and Energy. It is interesting to note that the UNCT's self-assessment and partners ranking were different in several areas. Partners ranked UN higher than their own assessment in Health, Environment and Climate Change and ranked them lower on Social Protection, Data and Statistics and Livelihoods. This may be linked to lack of visibility of the UN's engagement on the latter workstreams.

Partners believe that the UN has the mandate but not enough capacity and position to act in Human Rights and Rule of law, Governance, Gender, Environment and Education. The areas where partners consider that the UN needs to strengthened capacity are Data and Statistics, Environment and Climate Change, and Energy.

Partners consider that the UN is most effective in supporting Uzbekistan to report and achieve national SDGs, convening national and international partners to address critical development challenges, enabling strategic dialogue on mutual priorities and opportunities in support of Uzbekistan's reform agenda, supporting monitoring and implementation of international norms and standards and providing impartial policy advice based on international experience, technical expertise and good practices. The partners thus see the UN's role as a convener and facilitator of a coordinated approach among partners and an honest broker. The key components of UN's comparative advantage include its people-centered approach to development, ability to convene dialogue around sensitive human rights issues, access to global/regional knowledge and best practices, and its normative mandate and custody of values.

In January 2020, consultations with IFIs and with development partners were held to explore synergies and ensure complementarity across emerging strategic priorities. The results of the October 2019 partnership survey were discussed, and further refinements were made to the UN's assessment of its mandate, positioning and capacity across all key priority areas. This will in turn inform the Cooperation Framework.

10. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Extensive consultations were held during the development of the CCA, including with government officials, key ministries, IFIs, UN interagency results groups, ILO constituencies (i.e., association of labour unions and Chamber of Commerce), and civil society. Direct consultations were also held with excluded groups, notably youth, women, and people with disabilities, as well as other marginalised groups. These consultations continued regionally and nationally to hear key challenges and solutions to guide the forthcoming UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) (see Annex 5).

Three broad conclusions are drawn from this CCA:

1. Exclusion and inequalities, defined more broadly to include multiple discriminations, deprivations, injustices and indignities, are key development challenges facing the country in its journey to achieving its national development priorities and realisation of the 2030 Agenda.
2. Achievement of the 2030 Agenda requires stronger integration of the national SDGs with the ongoing reforms, national development strategies, and sectoral programmes, calling for stronger national coordination capacities.
3. Policy coherence, fixing statistical gaps, and addressing administrative and civil society capacities will be vital enabling factors for further progress towards SDGs.

10.1 EMERGING THEMATIC AREAS OF INTERVENTIONS FOR UNCT

10.1.1 TRANSPARENT, ACCOUNTABLE AND RESPONSIVE GOVERNANCE

These broad areas require the following efforts:

1. **Strengthening the rule of law, human and labour rights, judicial reform and access to**

justice to comply with international norms and standards, implementation of international commitments, and capacity building of human and labour rights institutions.

2. **Reforming public administration** by reviewing the functions of government ministries and departments; promoting merit-based, professional, transparent and accountable civil service, while empowering women's participation and role in public services and administration; taking strong anti-corruption measures including e-governance, public-private partnerships, procurement reforms, and removal of unnecessary regulations; strengthening evidence-based and gender-sensitive decision-making; supporting statistical and analytical capacity building; and ensuring effective financing for national development priorities.
3. **Building capacity of civil society and media** to promote freedom of expression and participation, freedom of association for workers and businesses, the right to collective bargaining, and meaningful social dialogue for fair distribution of income and wealth.
4. **Creating enabling conditions for national local bodies** to function effectively and build their capacities to plan and implement national and local development programmes to achieve SDGs.

10.1.2 RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE, DISASTERS, AND SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE USE

The challenging areas requiring efforts under this theme are:

1. **Climate change action** that entails protecting the environment and better managing natural resources; reversing environmental degradation

and reviving livelihoods in the Aral Sea region; aligning environmental impact assessment procedures with international standards; introducing strategic environmental assessment in sector policies, plans and programmes; mainstreaming environmental protection and climate change in sector policies and programmes; as well as forging partnerships with business on climate change.

- 2. Disaster risk reduction and preparedness** through operation of early warning systems, for flash floods, mudflows and heatwaves; developing disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and building resilient communities; promoting regional cooperation to reduce disaster risk and better sharing information.
- 3. Sustainable resource use** by significantly and measurably improving water use efficiency; promoting climate-resilient water use; enhancing the promotion of water-saving irrigation techniques; reforming the system of pollution charges to create incentives for behavioural change; continuing with liberalisation of fuel prices and promoting rationalisation of fossil fuel subsidies; improving energy use efficiency and promoting renewable energy generation and consumption; applying sound available techniques to reduce air pollution; and improving environmental governance.

10.1.3 HUMAN CAPITAL AND SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

The human capital dimensions below require strengthening and call for public participation in decision-making:

For human capital:

- 1. In healthcare**, promote quality and affordable healthcare for all; focus on communicable and non-communicable diseases, HIV, TB; promote healthy lifestyle and health behaviour; innovative health financing addressing high out-of-pocket expenses; and better healthcare infrastructure.
- 2. In education**, improve the quality of education and learning outcomes; focus on preschool and tertiary education; and prioritise women's enrolment in higher and technical education.
- 3. In social protection**, improve coverage and efficiency in the social protection system.
- 4. In decent work**, promote decent working conditions particularly for young people and women, and modernise existing dysfunctional labour inspection systems.

For livelihoods:

- 1. Build a business-friendly and predictable legal and policy environment** by ensuring fair protection of property rights, reducing excessive regulation and transaction costs; promoting public-private partnerships and introducing private financing to areas such as public utility services and public infrastructure, as well as removing barriers to entering markets.
- 2. Focus on youth NEET, women and people with disabilities** through teaching market-driven skills, supporting the participation of women in the labour force and encouraging innovative youth start-ups.
- 3. Address rural livelihoods to bridge rural-urban gaps** including through fostering regular migration and greater internal mobility as a livelihood opportunity and provide pre-migration skills and orientation.

10.1.4 PARTNERSHIPS AND CROSS-CUTTING AREAS

The principle 'leave no one behind' (LNOB) should be applied more rigorously to all UN efforts, focusing on reducing exclusions and inequalities in the country, including persistent gender inequalities. The LNOB principle should be used as both an approach and a goal. This entails a wider, multidimensional definition of poverty, focusing on multiple discriminations, deprivations, injustices and indignities. Every intervention should mainstream LNOBs, with a special focus on youth, women and people with disabilities

The SDG agenda needs better integration into government reforms by mainstreaming SDGs into national and local development policies and programmes as well as sector policies. Development partners could also become active champions in recommending greater integration of the national SDGs.

Within government, statistical and evidence-based policymaking capacity needs to be strengthened. This includes capacity in collecting disaggregated data, sharing findings of various surveys, and building capacities to analyse the differential impact of policies across population groups. It will be important to promote work aimed at interoperability between statistical, environmental, health, geospatial, hydrometeorological and other systems through e-governance and the Open Data framework which leverage modern digital technologies.

Participation in international agreements, to which the country is not yet a party, should be encouraged so that Uzbekistan can benefit from international experience and good practices, enhancing capacity for implementation of sustainable development.

The Government should be encouraged and supported to improve implementation of human rights, gender equality and labour rights commitments. This approach has greater moral and legal appeal and a sense of urgency. Inclusive approaches to development through the convening power and non-partisanship to organise discourse around seemingly sensitive development issues need to be implemented and promoted.

Partnership with business to accelerate achievement of SDGs needs to be strengthened, and the UN is well placed to present a strong business case for aligning private sector activities with the 2030 Agenda.

Sub-regional and transboundary cooperation, including Afghanistan, needs to be reinforced using existing initiatives and programmes, promoting information sharing, avoiding fragmentation. These areas include local economic development around transport corridors, youth, climate change and disaster risk management, border peace and security.

There is a strong need to support and promote the nascent genuine civil society in the country at the national and local levels by building capacities, including for a democratic and independent labour movement. A strengthened civil society is needed for evidence-based dialogue and advocacy; fostering participation and social accountability; monitoring government actions, expenditures and programmes, and suggesting alternative service delivery models.

Greater coordination is required to capitalize on synergies from multiple development partners working with the same government ministry, to avoid duplication and present a united front amongst development partners, and in developing clear and coherent messaging from the international community. The Economic Council and the SDG Coordination Councils could be used as platforms for donor coordination. Finally, area-based joint programmes, for example in the Aral Sea and Fergana Valley, can be used to showcase integrated approaches to social, economic and environmental development.

ANNEX 1: STATUS OF UZBEKISTAN'S ACCESSION/ RATIFICATION OF THE UN CONVENTIONS AND TREATIES¹⁹²

Name of the UN Convention, Treaty, etc.	Brief Info	Status	UN Agencies in charge / mandated
1. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)	<p>Purpose and scope: The Convention is intended as a human rights instrument with an explicit, social development dimension. It adopts a broad categorization of persons with disabilities and reaffirms that all persons with all types of disabilities must enjoy all human rights and fundamental freedoms. It clarifies and qualifies how all categories of rights apply to persons with disabilities and identifies areas where adaptations have to be made for persons with disabilities to effectively exercise their rights and areas where their rights have been violated, and where protection of rights must be reinforced.</p> <p>Benefits:</p> <p>There are 4 approaches to disability: a charitable, medical, social and human rights approach. In the first three approaches, a disabled person is considered an object in need of help and dependent on others. In the fourth approach, a disabled person is already seen as a subject, a bearer of rights and obligations. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities provides such an approach based on human rights. Therefore, ratification of the Convention is of great practical importance.</p> <p>The Convention provides for the creation of an inclusive society where people with disabilities are actively involved in the spheres of life and remove all barriers that impede their active life by creating the necessary infrastructure (equipment, devices, vehicles, auxiliary devices, etc.).</p>	<p>The Convention has been signed and is pending ratification.</p> <p>According to the President's Resolution of 1 December 2017 the government is making practical steps towards ratification of the convention</p>	<p>UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, WHO, UNESCO, OHCHR, UNHCR</p>
2. Optional protocol to ICESCR ¹⁹³	<p>Purpose and scope: It is an international treaty establishing complaint and inquiry mechanisms for the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.</p> <p>The Optional Protocol establishes an individual complaints mechanism for the Covenant. Complainants must have exhausted all domestic remedies, and anonymous complaints and complaints referring to events which occurred before the country concerned joined the Optional Protocol are not permitted.</p> <p>The Committee can request information from and make recommendations to a party.https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Optional_Protocol_to_the_International_Covenant_on_Economic,_Social_and_Cultural_Rights_-_cite_note-9</p>	<p>Not ratified.</p> <p>Recommended to be ratified by the CESCR Committee.</p>	<p>UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, WHO, UNESCO</p>

192 The table contains only pending and recently ratified/signed conventions, treaties, and protocols. Ratified documents are highlighted

193 Also recommended by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Concluding observations on the second periodic report of Uzbekistan, n.28// https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=E%2fC.12%2fUZB%2fCO%2f2&Lang=en

Name of the UN Convention, Treaty, etc.	Brief Info	Status	UN Agencies in charge / mandated
	<p>Parties may also opt to permit the Committee to hear complaints from other parties, rather than just individuals.</p> <p>The Protocol also includes an inquiry mechanism. Parties may permit the Committee to investigate, report on and make recommendations on “grave or systematic violations” of the Covenant. Parties may opt out of this obligation on signature or ratification.https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Optional_Protocol_to_the_International_Covenant_on_Economic,_Social_and_Cultural_Rights - cite_note-11</p> <p>The Optional Protocol required ten ratifications to come into force.</p> <p>As of January 2018, the Protocol has 45 signatories and 23 state parties. It entered into force on 5 May 2013.</p> <p>Benefits:</p> <p>Parties agree to recognise the competence of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to consider complaints from individuals or groups who claim their rights under the Covenant have been violated.https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Optional_Protocol_to_the_International_Covenant_on_Economic,_Social_and_Cultural_Rights - cite_note-7</p>		
3. International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families ¹⁹⁴	<p>Purpose and scope: The United Nations Convention constitutes a comprehensive international treaty regarding the protection of migrant workers' rights. It emphasizes the connection between migration and human rights, which is increasingly becoming a crucial policy topic worldwide.</p> <p>The Convention aims at protecting migrant workers and members of their families. The primary objective of the Convention is to foster respect for migrants' human rights. Migrants are not only workers, they are also human beings.</p> <p>The Convention innovates because it relies on the fundamental notion that all migrants should have access to a minimum degree of protection.</p> <p>It is applicable to all migrant workers and members of their families without distinction of any kind such as sex, race, colour, language, religion or conviction, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, nationality, age, economic position, property, marital status, birth or other status. The present Convention shall apply during the entire migration process of migrant workers and members of their families, which comprises preparation for migration, departure, transit and the entire period of stay and remunerated activity in the State of employment as well as return to the State of origin or the State of habitual residence.</p> <p>Benefits:</p> <p>The Convention does not create new rights for migrants but aims at guaranteeing equality of treatment, and the same working conditions, including in case of temporary work, for migrants and nationals.</p>	<p>Not ratified.</p> <p>Recommended to be ratified by the CESCR Committee.</p>	<p>ILO, IOM, UNDP, OHCHR</p>

194 Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Concluding observations on the second periodic report of Uzbekistan, para.29// https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=E%2fC.12%2fUZB%2fCO%2f2&Lang=en; Committee on the Rights of the Child. Concluding observations on the combined third and fourth periodic reports of Uzbekistan, adopted by the Committee at its sixty-third session (27 May-14 June 2013). Para. 72 https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRC%2fC%2fUZB%2fCO%2f3-4&Lang=en;

	Name of the UN Convention, Treaty, etc.	Brief Info	Status	UN Agencies in charge / mandated
4.	International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance ¹⁹⁵	<p>Purpose and scope: The objective is to prevent enforced disappearances and to combat impunity for the crime of enforced disappearance, to protect the right of any person not to be subjected to enforced disappearance, the right of victims to justice and to reparation, to affirm the right of any victim to know the truth about the circumstances of an enforced disappearance and the fate of the disappeared person, and the right to freedom to seek, receive and impart information to this end.</p> <p>The convention is modelled heavily on the United Nations Convention Against Torture. The widespread or systematic use of enforced disappearance is further defined as a crime against humanity in Article 6.</p> <p>The Convention will be governed by a Committee on Enforced Disappearances elected by its parties. Parties are obliged to report to this committee on the steps they have taken to implement it within two years of becoming subject to it.</p> <p>The Convention includes an optional complaints system whereby citizens of parties may appeal to the Committee for assistance in locating a disappeared person. Parties may join this system at any time, but may only opt out of it upon signature.</p> <p>Benefits:</p> <p>Convention will increase the accountability of individual perpetrators of acts of enforced disappearance by extending international criminal jurisdiction to these acts. Convention expands and cements the international prohibition on enforced disappearance by including provisions which effectively criminalise acts of enforced disappearance in international law</p>	Not ratified. Recommended to be ratified by the CESCR and CRC Committees.	UNDP, UNODC, OHCHR
5.	Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women CEDAW ¹⁹⁶	<p>Purpose and scope: By ratifying the Optional Protocol, a State recognizes the competence of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women -- the body that monitors States parties' compliance with the Convention -- to receive and consider complaints from individuals or groups within its jurisdiction.</p> <p>The Protocol contains two procedures:</p> <p>(1) A communications procedure allows individual women, or groups of women, to submit claims of violations of rights protected under the Convention to the Committee. The Protocol establishes that in order for individual communications to be admitted for consideration by the Committee, a number of criteria must be met, including those domestic remedies must have been exhausted.</p> <p>(2) The Protocol also creates an inquiry procedure enabling the Committee to initiate inquiries into situations of grave or systematic violations of women's rights. In either case, States must be party to the Convention and the Protocol.</p> <p>The Protocol includes an "opt-out clause", allowing States upon ratification or accession to declare that they do not accept the inquiry procedure.</p> <p>Benefits:</p> <p>CEDAW Committee at the 5th periodic report of Uzbekistan recommended that Uzbekistan ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention.</p>	Not ratified. Recommended to be ratified by the CEDAW Committee.	UNFPA (advocating Uzbekistan's ratification of the Optional Protocol), UNDP

195 Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Concluding observations on the second periodic report of Uzbekistan, para.29// https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=E%2fC.12%2fUZB%2fCO%2f2&Lang=en; Committee on the Rights of the Child.

Concluding observations on the combined third and fourth periodic reports of Uzbekistan, adopted by the Committee at its sixty-third session (27 May-14 June 2013). Para. 72 https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRC%2fC%2fUZB%2fCO%2f3-4&Lang=en;

196 Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. Concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of Uzbekistan. para.37//

Name of the UN Convention, Treaty, etc.	Brief Info	Status	UN Agencies in charge / mandated
6. ILO Convention No. 189 (2011) concerning Decent Work for Domestic Workers ¹⁹⁷	<p>Purpose and scope:</p> <p>Convention No. 189 offers specific protection to domestic workers. It lays down basic rights and principles, and requires States to take a series of measures with a view to making decent work a reality for domestic workers.</p> <p>The main rights given to domestic workers as decent work are daily and weekly (at least 24 h) rest hours, entitlement to minimum wage and to choose the place where they live and spend their leave. Ratifying states parties should also take protective measures against violence and should enforce a minimum age which is consistent with the minimum age at other types of employment. Workers furthermore have a right to a clear (preferably written) communication of employment conditions which should in case of international recruitment be communicated prior to immigration. They are furthermore not required to reside at the house where they work, or to stay at the house during their leave</p> <p>Benefits:</p> <p>Convention No. 189 guarantees minimum labour protections to domestic workers on par with other categories of workers, while allowing for considerable flexibility in implementation. It is of special importance for densely populated countries.</p>	Not ratified Recommended to be ratified by the CRC Committee.	ILO
7. ILO Convention 144 Tripartite Consultations to promote the implementation of International Labour Standards	<p>Purpose and scope:</p> <p>The ILO is based on the principle of tripartism - dialogue and cooperation between governments, employers, and workers - in the formulation of standards and policies dealing with labour matters. International labour standards are created and supervised through a tripartite structure that makes the ILO unique in the United Nations system. The tripartite approach to adopting standards ensures that they have broad support from all ILO constituents.</p> <p>Tripartism with regard to ILO standards is also important at the national level. Through regular tripartite consultations, governments can ensure that ILO standards are formulated, applied and supervised with the participation of employers and workers. ILO standards on tripartite consultation set forth the framework for effective national tripartite consultations. Such consultations can ensure greater cooperation among the social partners and stronger awareness and participation in matters relating to international labour standards, and can lead to better governance and a greater culture of social dialogue on wider social and economic issues.</p> <p>Because of the importance of tripartism, the ILO has made the ratification and implementation of the Tripartite Consultation (International Labour Standards) Convention, 1976 (No. 144) a priority.</p>	Ratified on 13 August 2019	ILO

197 Committee on the Rights of the Child. Concluding observations on the combined third and fourth periodic reports of Uzbekistan, adopted by the Committee at its sixty-third session (27 May-14 June 2013). Para. 66// https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolNo=CRC%2fC%2fUZB%2fCO%2f3-4&Lang=en

Name of the UN Convention, Treaty, etc.	Brief Info	Status	UN Agencies in charge / mandated
	<p>Benefits:</p> <p>The ratification and implementation of Convention No. 144 offer governments and employers' and workers organizations a platform for consultation about international labour standards and ILO matters in general. As such, the Convention promotes a culture of dialogue between the tripartite actors and builds trust amongst them. Social and labour policies that are based on effective tripartite consultation with representatives of government, employers' and workers' organizations help ensure informed decisions and result in increased commitment and ownership by all stakeholders involved.</p> <p>ILO research has shown that countries with well-established and effective national social dialogue institutions fare better in times of economic, social and political crises. Such institutions also facilitate tripartite discussions that shape the future of work.</p>		
8.	<p>ILO Conventions on Labour Inspection 081 (in Industry) and 129 (in Agriculture)</p> <p>Purpose and scope:</p> <p>In promoting a prevention culture and securing compliance, labour inspectors use a wide variety of interventions and tools including prevention initiatives as well as enforcement. An appropriate mix of preventive measures such as risk assessment, promoting a culture of leadership and best practice, implementing occupational safety and health measures, information guidance and awareness campaigns combined with sanctions should be adopted.</p> <p>In this regard, labour inspection should be organized as a system applying to all workplaces in respect of which legal provisions relating to conditions of work and the protection of workers are enforceable; In order to be most effective, labour inspection should be placed under the supervision and control of a central authority so far as is compatible with the administrative practice of the country;</p> <p>The labour inspection system should ensure both educational and enforcement functions in relation to conditions of work (such as hours of work, wages, safety, health and welfare, the employment of children and young persons and other connected matters) and alert the competent authorities of any defects or abuses not covered by existing relevant legal provisions. In this sense, the mandate of the Labour inspection should comprise Occupational safety and health and possibly "welfare", general conditions of work and possibly wage issues, industrial relations employment related matters like illegal employment, employment promotion including vocational training. It should also refer to social security issues, usually limited to controlling remittances and other workers' compensation matters.</p> <p>Operative performance of the labour inspection system can be achieved through effective cooperation with other government services and private institutions engaged in labour protection as well as with employers and workers and their organizations.</p> <p>Benefits:</p> <p>Ratification of both Conventions 81 and 129 offers government and social partners the necessary framework for developing and implementing an effective mechanism for better compliance with labour laws and regulations. This is essential for improving working conditions and creating healthy and safe workplaces. It has a positive impact on economic development, including business and productivity.</p>	Ratified on 19 November 2019	ILO

Name of the UN Convention, Treaty, etc.	Brief Info	Status	UN Agencies in charge / mandated
9. P029 - Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention 029	<p>Purpose and scope: Protocol to the Forced Labour Convention (P029) complements and brings to a new era the ILO standards on forced labour, and namely the Conventions Nos. 29 and 105 adopted back in 1930 and 1957. The Protocol is shaped by different realities, where millions of men, women and children are in forced labour around the world – trafficked, held in debt bondage or working in slavery-like conditions, exploited in the private economy, either in their own countries or across borders.</p> <p>The P029 proposes to countries new strategies, including a focus on prevention, protection and access to remedies for victims and punishment for perpetrators. It also emphasizes the link between forced labour and trafficking in persons.</p> <p>Benefits: Ratification of the P029 is a reconfirmation of Uzbekistan political commitment to fully eradicate forced labour. It is a strong sign that the reforms that are being undertaken are irreversible. This political commitment also translates into economic benefits, since by ratifying and implementing the standard, Uzbekistan can enjoy being party to international trade agreements (EU, US), which oblige countries signatories to follow P029 provisions.</p>	Ratified on 16 September 2019	ILO
10. Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure ¹⁹⁸	<p>Purpose and scope: The Third Optional Protocol to the CRC on a Communications Procedure (OP3 CRC) is the treaty which establishes an international complaints procedure for violations of child rights contained in:</p> <p>The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)</p> <p>The Optional Protocol to the CRC on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict (OPAC)</p> <p>The Optional Protocol to the CRC on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography (OPSC).</p> <p>OP3 CRC provides two new ways for children to challenge violations of their rights committed by States:</p> <p>A communication procedure, which enables children to bring complaints about violations of their rights to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, if they have not been fully resolved in national courts</p> <p>An inquiry procedure for grave and systematic violations of child rights.</p> <p>Benefits: Parties agree to recognise the competence of the CRC Committee to consider complaints from individuals or groups who claim their rights under the Covenant have been violated</p>	Not ratified Recommended to be ratified by the CRC Committee.	UNICEF

198 Committee on the Rights of the Child. Concluding observations on the combined third and fourth periodic reports of Uzbekistan, adopted by the Committee at its sixty-third session (27 May-14 June 2013). Para. 72 // https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolNo=CRC%2fC%2fUZB%2fCO%2f3-4&Lang=en

Name of the UN Convention, Treaty, etc.	Brief Info	Status	UN Agencies in charge / mandated
11. Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment	<p>Purpose and scope: The objective of the Protocol is to establish a system of regular visits undertaken by independent international and national bodies to places where people are deprived of their liberty, in order to prevent torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. It establishes an international inspection system for places of detention modelled on the system that has existed in Europe since 1987 (the Committee for the Prevention of Torture).</p> <p>As per this Protocol, Uzbekistan is to set up, designate or maintain at the domestic level one or several visiting bodies for the prevention of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (hereinafter referred to as the national preventive mechanism).</p> <p>Benefits:</p> <p>Under OPCAT, State Parties agree to establish an independent National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) to conduct inspections of all places of detention and closed environments.</p> <p>In addition to the NPM, State Parties also agree to international inspections of places of detention by the United Nations Subcommittee on the Prevention of Torture (SPT). The SPT engages with states on a confidential basis and cannot publish reports and recommendations unless under agreement with the state party. Furthermore, people who provide information to the SPT may not be subject to sanctions or reprisals for having done so.</p>	<p>Not ratified.</p> <p>Under consideration, draft regulations on NPM are being developed by Uzbek Ombudsman Office.</p> <p>On May 31 - June 1, 2018 in Tashkent international "round table" on the topic: "Organizational and legal development of the National Preventive Mechanism: peculiarities of international acts, foreign practice and experience of Uzbekistan" was held, with the participation of international experts on NPM.</p> <p>Recommended to be ratified by CAT committee.</p>	UNDP, UNODC, OHCHR
12. 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol ¹⁹⁹	<p>Purpose and scope: The 1951 Convention establishes the definition of a refugee and minimum standards of treatment for refugees in respect to a number of rights. The Convention also recognizes the international scope of the refugee phenomenon and the importance of responsibility-sharing in trying to resolve it, and helps promote international solidarity and cooperation.</p> <p>The cornerstone of the 1951 Convention is the principle of non-refoulement contained in Article 33, which is now part of the international customary law. According to this principle, a refugee should not be returned to a country where he or she faces serious threats to his or her life or freedom. The 1951 Convention has been acceded by 145 countries, including all Uzbekistan's neighbouring states.</p> <p>The 1967 Protocol broadens the applicability of the 1951 Convention. The 1967 Protocol removes the geographical and time limits that were part of the 1951 Convention. These limits initially restricted the Convention to persons who became refugees due to events occurring in Europe before 1 January 1951. The Protocol has been ratified by 146 State parties, including all the neighbouring countries of Uzbekistan.</p>	<p>Not ratified</p> <p>Recommended to be ratified by the CERD Committee.</p>	UNHCR

199 Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination Concluding observations on the combined eighth and ninth periodic reports of Uzbekistan, n. 21// https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolNo=CERD%2fC%2fUZB%2fCO%2f8-9&Lang=en

Name of the UN Convention, Treaty, etc.	Brief Info	Status	UN Agencies in charge / mandated
	<p>Benefits</p> <p>When a State accedes to the 1951 Convention:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • it demonstrates its commitment to treating refugees in accordance with internationally recognized legal and humanitarian standards; • it gives refugees a possibility to find safety; • it helps to avoid friction between States over refugee questions. • Granting asylum is a peaceful, humanitarian and legal act rather than a hostile gesture, and should be understood by the refugee's country of origin as such; • it demonstrates its willingness to share the responsibility for protecting refugees; • it helps UNHCR to mobilize international support for the protection of refugees. <p>UNHCR welcomes Uzbekistan's acceptance of the recommendation of ratifying the 1951 Convention at the third cycle of the UPR/HRC. UNHCR stands ready to provide Uzbekistan with technical assistance to develop relevant national legislation.</p>		
13. Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons ²⁰⁰	<p>Purpose and scope: The 1954 Convention establishes the definition of a "stateless person" as someone "who is not considered as a national by any State under operation of its law."</p> <p>It also prescribes minimum standards of treatment for stateless people in respect to a number of rights, including the right to education and employment. Importantly, the 1954 Convention also guarantees stateless people a right to identity, travel documents and administrative assistance, which has direct relevance to SDGs Goal 16.9 ("By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration"). The 1954 Convention has been ratified by 90 State parties, including by Turkmenistan from the Central Asian region and several other former USSR countries (Azerbaijan, Georgia, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova).</p> <p>Benefits:</p> <p>The 1954 Convention ensures that stateless persons enjoy human rights without discrimination. It provides the stateless with an internationally recognized legal status, offers them access to travel documents, identity papers and other basic forms of documentation, and sets out a common framework with minimum standards of treatment for stateless persons. Access to the 1954 Convention therefore allows States to demonstrate their commitment to human rights, gives individuals access to protection and mobilizes international support for the State to adequately deal with the protection of stateless persons.</p> <p>UNHCR welcomes Uzbekistan's acceptance of the recommendation of ratifying the 1954 Convention, made at the third cycle of the Universal Peer Review/Human Rights Council. UNHCR stands ready to provide Uzbekistan with technical assistance to develop relevant national legislation.</p>	Not ratified Recommended to be ratified by the CERD	UNHCR, UNICEF

200 Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination Concluding observations on the combined eighth and ninth periodic reports of Uzbekistan, n.20// https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CERD%2fC%2fUZB%2fCO%2f8-9&Lang=en

	Name of the UN Convention, Treaty, etc.	Brief Info	Status	UN Agencies in charge / mandated
14.	Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness ²⁰¹	<p>Purpose and scope: The 1961 Convention aims to prevent statelessness and reduce it over time. It establishes an international framework to ensure the right of every person to a nationality. It requires that states establish safeguards in their nationality laws to prevent statelessness at birth and later in life. The most important provision of the Convention establishes that children are to acquire the nationality of the country in which they are born if they do not acquire any other nationality (also relevant to SDGs Goal 16.9). It also sets out important safeguards to prevent statelessness due to loss or renunciation of nationality and state succession.</p> <p>The 1961 Convention has been ratified by 71 State parties, including by Turkmenistan from the Central Asian region and several other former USSR countries (Azerbaijan, Georgia, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova).</p> <p>Benefits:</p> <p>Protection of stateless person under the 1954 Convention should be seen as temporary response while avenues for the acquisition of a nationality are explored. The reduction of statelessness through acquisition of nationality remains the ultimate goal. The 1961 Convention provides States with tools for avoiding and resolving cases of statelessness.</p> <p>UNHCR welcomes Uzbekistan's acceptance of the recommendation of ratifying the 1961 Convention, made at the third cycle of the Universal Peer Review/Human Rights Council. Noting that Uzbekistan hosts a sizable stateless population (at least 80,000 people), UNHCR stands ready to provide Uzbekistan with technical assistance to develop relevant national legislation and statelessness determination procedures. Uzbekistan could make a significant contribution to the global efforts to end statelessness by 2024 (#IBelong, Global Action Plan to End Statelessness: 2014–2024, http://www.unhcr.org/ibelong/), through resolving the existing situations of statelessness; preventing new cases of statelessness from emerging; and better identification and protection of stateless persons. UNHCR in partnership with UNICEF (on birth registration for all children) and ESCAP (on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics) stands ready to guide and assist the Central Asian Governments.</p>	Not ratified Recommended to be ratified by the CERD Committee.	UNHCR, UNICEF
15.	Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions	<p>Purpose and scope: The adoption of the 2005 Convention for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions was a milestone in international cultural policy.</p> <p>Through this historic agreement, the global community formally recognised the dual nature, both cultural and economic, of contemporary cultural expressions produced by artists and cultural professionals.</p> <p>Shaping the design and implementation of policies and measures that support the creation, production, distribution of and access to cultural goods and services, the 2005 Convention is at the heart of the creative economy.</p> <p>Recognizing the sovereign right of States to maintain, adopt and implement policies to protect and promote the diversity of cultural expression, both nationally and internationally, the 2005 Convention supports governments and civil society in finding policy solutions for emerging challenges.</p>	The Convention was ratified on 15 November 2019.	UNESCO

201 Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination Concluding observations on the combined eighth and ninth periodic reports of Uzbekistan, n.20// https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolNo=CERD%2fC%2fUZB%2fCO%2f8-9&Lang=en

Name of the UN Convention, Treaty, etc.	Brief Info	Status	UN Agencies in charge / mandated
	<p>The objectives of this Convention are: (a) to protect and promote the diversity of cultural expressions; (b) to create the conditions for cultures to flourish and to freely interact in a mutually beneficial manner; (c) to encourage dialogue among cultures with a view to ensuring wider and balanced cultural exchanges in the world in favour of intercultural respect and a culture of peace; (d) to foster interculturality in order to develop cultural interaction in the spirit of building bridges among peoples; (e) to promote respect for the diversity of cultural expressions and raise awareness of its value at the local, national and international levels; (f) to reaffirm the importance of the link between culture and development for all countries, particularly for developing countries, and to support actions undertaken nationally and internationally to secure recognition of the true value of this link; (g) to give recognition to the distinctive nature of cultural activities, goods and services as vehicles of identity, values and meaning; (h) to reaffirm the sovereign rights of States to maintain, adopt and implement policies and measures that they deem appropriate for the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions on their territory; (i) to strengthen international cooperation and solidarity in a spirit of partnership with a view, in particular, to enhancing the capacities of developing countries in order to protect and promote the diversity of cultural expressions.</p> <p>Benefits:</p> <p>The ratification of the Convention contributes the cooperation of governments and non-governmental actors in four key areas: supporting sustainable systems of governance for culture; improving the conditions for the mobility of artists, including achieving a balanced flow of cultural goods and services and increasing the mobility of artists and cultural professionals; integrating culture in sustainable development strategies and frameworks; and promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms. These four goals are closely linked to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.</p> <p>Moreover, the Convention is the sole legally-binding instrument that affirms the sovereign right of States to formulate and implement policies to support the creation, production, distribution and access to domestic cultural activities, goods and services, while at the same time promoting international cooperation to create the conditions for the emergence of dynamic cultural sectors in developing countries.</p>		
16. Rome Statute, ICC and Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the International Criminal Court ²⁰²	<p>Purpose and scope: The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (often referred to as the International Criminal Court Statute or the Rome Statute) is the treaty that established the International Criminal Court (ICC).</p> <p>Among other things, the statute establishes the court's functions, jurisdiction and structure.</p> <p>The Rome Statute established four core international crimes: genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and the crime of aggression. Those crimes "shall not be subject to any statute of limitations". https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rome_Statute_of_the_International_Criminal_Court_-_cite_note-8 Under the Rome Statute, the ICC can only investigate and prosecute the four core international crimes in situations where states are "unable" or "unwilling" to do so themselves; the jurisdiction of the court is complimentary to jurisdictions of domestic courts. The court has jurisdiction over crimes only if they are committed in the territory of a state party or if they are committed by a national of a state party; an exception to this rule is that the ICC may also have jurisdiction over crimes if its jurisdiction is authorized by the United Nations Security Council.</p>	Signed in 2008, not ratified.	UNDP, UNODC

202 101.29 Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the International Criminal Court (Estonia). Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review. Thirty-ninth session 10–28 September 2018.//Available at: [A/HRC/39/7](#)

Name of the UN Convention, Treaty, etc.	Brief Info	Status	UN Agencies in charge / mandated
	<p>Benefits:</p> <p>Around the globe, victims of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes are demanding justice and redress. By making the ICC and Rome Statute system of international justice truly global, individuals suspected of committing these universally abhorred crimes can be held to account in courts of law around the world.</p>		
17. Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity ²⁰³	<p>Purpose and scope: The Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity was adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession by United Nations General Assembly resolution 2391 (XXIII) of 26 November 1968. Pursuant to the provisions of its Article VIII, it came into force on 11 November 1970.</p> <p>The Convention provides that no signatory state may apply statutory limitations to:</p> <p>War crimes as they are defined in the Charter of the Nürnberg International Military Tribunal of 8 August 1945.</p> <p>Crimes against humanity, whether committed in time of war or in time of peace, as defined in the Charter of the Nürnberg International Military Tribunal, eviction by armed attack or occupation, inhuman acts resulting from the policy of apartheid, and the crime of genocide as defined in the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.</p>	Not ratified	UNODC
18. Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) 1982	<p>Purpose and scope: The Convention fully registers the rights and obligations of the inland countries set forth in 25 articles, and Part X "The law of the landlocked countries on access to and from the sea and on freedom of transit" is entirely devoted to these countries. It consists of nine articles that detail and comprehensively regulate the rights and duties of the inland countries.</p> <p>In resolution 55/7 of 30 October 2000, the General Assembly of the United Nations stressed the importance of increasing the number of States parties to ILC-82. Although the rate of deposit of instruments of ratification or accession has slowed significantly, after the publication of the 2000 report (A / 55/61) by June 2011, the total number of States that had ratified ILC-82 was 162.</p> <p>Benefits:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Expanding participation in international legal cooperation 2. Expansion of the international treaty base 3. Consolidate efforts in other VCGs to provide access to the sea 4. Promoting trade capacity-building 5. Establishment of a basis for concluding bilateral / regional agreements. 6. An important prerequisite for accession to the WTO. Freedom of transit is one of the important legal norms of the WTO, contained in Article V of the GATT 1994. Article V of the GATT (1994, "Freedom of transit") establishes the freedom of transit of goods, vessels and other means of transport through the territory of WTO member states along the routes most convenient for international transit. It provides for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the same treatment, regardless of the flag of vessels, place of origin, departure, call, exit or destination or ownership of goods or vessels; • prohibition of unjustified delays or restrictions of transit flows; 	Not ratified	IOM

203 101.27 Ratify the Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity (Armenia). Thirty-ninth session 10–28 September 2018.//Available at: [A/HRC/39/7](#)

Name of the UN Convention, Treaty, etc.	Brief Info	Status	UN Agencies in charge / mandated
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a ban on the collection of customs duties and all transit or other charges established for transit (with the exception of freight charges or charges commensurate with administrative costs generated by transit or with the cost of services provided); • All fees should be reasonable and account for the conditions of transport; • Most-favoured-nation treatment in respect of all fees, rules and formalities. <p>7. SDG 14 is formulated as follows: “Conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development”. Particularly noteworthy is target 14.7, whose objective is “to increase the economic benefits of sustainable use of marine resources for small island developing States (MOSTRAG) and least developed countries (LDCs) by 2030, including through the rational management of fish stocks, aquaculture and tourism “. This formulation underscores the long overdue need to promote the creation of more favourable conditions for MOSTRAG and LDCs, where they could achieve the greatest economic benefit. This strategy will lead to radical changes in the management of marine resources and will contribute to securing the oceans a key role in economic and social development.</p> <p>8. An additional tool to protect their rights to access to the sea</p>		
19. International Convention on Plant Protection	<p>The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) is an international plant health treaty “with the purpose of securing common and effective action to prevent the spread and introduction of pests of plants and plant products, and to promote appropriate measures for their control” (IPPC, Art. I).</p> <p>The IPPC mission “to secure cooperation among nations in protecting global plant resources from the spread and introduction of pests of plants, in order to preserve food security, biodiversity and to facilitate trade” (IPPC Strategic Framework , 2012- 2019) is the shared responsibility of a membership of 183 contracting parties.</p> <p>The forum established by the IPPC for cooperation among contracting parties, standards development, harmonization of phytosanitary measures, implementation and capacity development, legal and policy guidelines, information exchange has resulted in a very stable and reliable platform for addressing domestic pest problems and for international trade in plants, plant products and other regulated articles as well as.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benefits of adhering to the IPPC • Global protection of plant resources <p>A world without protection of global plant resources (no measures) would be a very risky or restrictive place (prohibition or too many measures). The IPPC provides the framework to develop and apply harmonized phytosanitary measures that in turn give contracting parties ability to protect plant resources through the use of justified phytosanitary measures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International harmonization <p>The aim of international standards is to harmonize phytosanitary measures for the purpose of facilitating safe international trade. The ability to participate in the standards setting process and availability of ISPMs allow contracting parties to set and use globally harmonized international standards for phytosanitary measures and implement those measures without further need for technical justification. At the same time, ISPMs outline how to set and operate major phytosanitary systems such as plant pest surveillance, pest risk analysis, pest free areas and areas of low pest prevalence, pest diagnosis, phytosanitary export certification and import regulation systems among others.</p>	<p>Not ratified.</p> <p>Adherence</p> <p>When adhering to the IPPC contracting parties accept responsibilities, obligations and rights as specified in the IPPC revised text completely aligned with the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures. However, the Convention does not exercise compliance mechanism.</p> <p>There are no additional financial obligations when adhering to the IPPC.</p> <p>Becoming a contracting party is a simple process of depositing an instrument of adherence with of adherence with the Director-General of F AO.</p>	UN FAO

Name of the UN Convention, Treaty, etc.	Brief Info	Status	UN Agencies in charge / mandated
	<p>□ International cooperation and capacity development</p> <p>One of the main objectives of the IPPC is “to secure common and effective action”, which includes efforts to harmonize approaches, build capacity and share information. To facilitate international cooperation the Convention sets out five main points, which are specified in Article VIII and XX of the Convention: (i) exchange information on plant pests, (ii) participation in special campaigns for combatting pests that seriously threaten crop production and that require international action to meet emergency needs, (iii) cooperate in providing technical and biological information for pest risk analyses, (iv) designate a contact point for the exchange of information relevant to the implementation of the Convention and (v) promote the provision of technical assistance to contracting parties, especially those that are from developing countries, with the objective of facilitating the implementation of the Convention.</p> <p>As mentioned, the Convention, in particular, encourages support for developing countries for capacity building and strengthening plant protection infrastructures through projects, assistance with dispute settlement, providing technical expertise, reviewing and updating legislation, possibilities for emergency programmes through FAO or other organizations.</p> <p>□ Trade facilitation and economic development</p> <p>Trade is an important driver of the economic prosperity of countries. Through the implementation of international standards contracting parties establish, manage and strengthen their phytosanitary systems and position themselves to take advantage of new trade opportunities when they arise. The economics of trade facilitation is often considered as an investment-return or cost/benefit scenario, where investing in a phytosanitary systems provides returns in the form of prevention of pest incursions, safe domestic trade and ability to maintain and gain new market access.</p> <p>Obligations under the IPPC are consistent with and complementary to the WTO-SPS Agreement. Most major trading partners and WTO Members are contracting parties to the IPPC. Adherence to the IPPC increases the credibility of national phytosanitary systems for trading partners. Opportunities are provided to interact with the WTO-SPS Committee through the phytosanitary community.</p> <p>□ Environmental protection</p> <p>The framework of the IPPC, Convention, the IPPC Strategic Framework, ISPMs and Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) recommendations serve to a strategic objective of the IPPC to protect the environment, forests and biodiversity from plant pests (IPPC Strategic Framework, 2012 - 2019). The protection of plant resources is closely linked to the protection of the environment and the prevention of the loss of biodiversity as different biomes, endangered areas and forests (both indigenous and commercial) often are the home to natural flora.</p> <p>□ Food security</p> <p>“World Food Security exists when all people, at all times, have physical, [social] and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life”. Strengthened national regulatory systems of export certification, import regulation and pest surveillance are at the core of food security. The associated ISPMs provide critical guidance to importing and exporting countries alike, to prevent the introduction and spread of pests that threaten plant resources and food security.</p>	<p>So far, the State Inspection on Plant Quarantine provided necessary information to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for getting through internal process of approval for joining the IPPC. Necessary justification/explanatory note of necessity to join and benefits to Uzbekistan from joining have been provided.</p> <p>No further progress has been made so far.</p>	

	Name of the UN Convention, Treaty, etc.	Brief Info	Status	UN Agencies in charge / mandated
20.	Unidroit Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects (1995, Rome)	<p>UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects (Rome, 1995) is the international treaty on the subject of cultural property protection. It attempts to strengthen the main weaknesses of the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property. The UNIDROIT Convention seeks to fight the illicit trafficking of cultural property by modifying the buyer's behaviour, obliging him/her to check the legitimacy of their purchase.</p> <p>This Convention applies to claims of an international character for:</p> <p>(a) the restitution of stolen cultural objects;</p> <p>(b) the return of cultural objects removed from the territory of a Contracting State contrary to its law regulating the export of cultural objects for the purpose of protecting its cultural heritage.</p> <p>Also, the purpose of the Convention is not only to enable or trigger a certain number of restitutions or returns (of which perforce there will be relatively few) through the courts or by private agreement, but to reduce illicit trafficking by gradually, but profoundly, changing the conduct of the actors in the art market and of all buyers.</p> <p>Ratification: The UNIDROIT Convention underpins the provisions of the 1970 UNESCO Convention (ratified by Uzbekistan), supplementing them by formulating minimal legal rules on the restitution and return of cultural objects. It guarantees the rules of private international law and international procedure which make it possible to apply the principles set down in the UNESCO Convention. The two Conventions are at once compatible and complementary.</p>	<p>Not ratified</p> <p>The ratification of the Convention is considered by the Ministry of Culture, however the documents not submitted towards the ratification yet.</p> <p>UNESCO works towards the promotion of the ratification of this Convention.</p>	UNIDROIT / UNESCO
21.	The Paris Agreement	<p>The Paris Agreement builds upon the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and aims to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change by keeping a global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius. Additionally, the Agreement aims to strengthen the ability of countries to deal with the impacts of climate change.</p>	Ratified on 9 November 2018 ²⁰⁴	UNEP, UNDP
22.	Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances Depleting the Ozone Layer	<p>The Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol intended to phase down of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) under the Montreal Protocol, helping to avoid up to 0.5 degree Celsius of global warming by 2100, while continuing to protect the ozone layer. HFCs are man-made chemicals that are primarily used in air conditioning, refrigeration and foam insulation, and are powerful greenhouse gases that can be thousands of times more potent than carbon dioxide in contributing to climate change.</p> <p>The country will meet its obligations under the Montreal Protocol. Moreover, by contributing to reducing adverse effect to the climate change, the relevant negative consequences to health of people and crop production will be avoided.</p>	Kigali Amendment is at its initial stage of discussions with no clear dates of adoption.	UNDP, UNEP

204 https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=XXVII-7-d&chapter=27&clang=_en

	Name of the UN Convention, Treaty, etc.	Brief Info	Status	UN Agencies in charge / mandated
23.	Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products to FCTC (Framework Convention on Tobacco Control)	Both FCTC and Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes were ratified by UZB. Uzbekistan is also Party to the Convention on the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses (New York Convention). In addition, the International Health Regulations have been ratified. All other human rights instruments ratified by the UZB have major influence on health, as well as many other international instruments in other health related areas (trade, social affairs, environment, transport, etc).	Not ratified	WHO
24.	Protocol on Water and Health to the 1992 Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes	<p>Three issues of extreme importance to attain positive impact on health from the ratified instruments relate to the process and quality of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transposition of the international law into the national policies and legislation, • Implementation of those through national policies, strategies, plans, programmes, including the legislation as a policy tool, and • Intersectoral collaboration at national level in implementation of those, including the UN partners and donors. <p>In the discussions with the Ministry of Health, WHO constantly raises the issue of good practices in policy and legislation development & implementation (more specifically related to the FCTC and IHR, but also very much of importance for all the ratified instruments that impact health) emphasizing the issue of due process and inclusive dialogue in both development and implementation of national policies and legislation that the international instruments are transposed in. In addition, WHO extends technical support to the MoH in raising capacity on developing indicators (M&E frameworks, including the responsibility frameworks) against which the progress/impact should be measured.</p>	Not ratified	UNECE, WHO
25.	The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	<p>Purpose and scope: The Cartagena Protocol to the CBD is an international agreement, which aims to ensure the safe handling, transport and use of living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology.</p> <p>Benefits:</p> <p>Eligibility for financial support from the Global Environment Facility (the financial mechanism for the Protocol) for capacity-building;</p> <p>Enhanced visibility and credibility of national systems for regulating biosafety within the global community;</p> <p>Contribution to harmonized rules, procedures and practices in managing the transboundary movement of LMOs;</p> <p>Facilitation of mechanisms and opportunities for governments to collaborate with other governments, the private sector and civil society on strengthening biosafety;</p> <p>Improved access to relevant technologies and data, and benefiting from a regular exchange of information and expertise; and</p> <p>Demonstration of commitment to conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity through the implementation of biosafety measures.</p>	Accession on 14 October 2019 with coming into force on 23 January 2020	UNDP

	Name of the UN Convention, Treaty, etc.	Brief Info	Status	UN Agencies in charge / mandated
26.	Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants	<p>Purpose and scope: aims to protect human health and the environment by banning the production and use of some of the most toxic chemicals known to humankind.</p> <p>Benefits:</p> <p>The Convention creates a flexible system of technical and financial aid to help developing countries and countries with economies in transition to meet their obligations. Although the Convention does not create a new fund or establish specific assessments, developed countries are to collectively provide new and additional financial resources.</p> <p>The Convention also specifies that developed countries provide technical assistance and capacity building to help developing countries and countries with economies in transition meet their obligations.</p>	<p>Accession on 28 June 2019, Entry into force on 26 September 2019²⁰⁵</p>	WHO, UNDP, UNEP
27.	The Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention)	<p>Purpose and scope: This convention aims at preventing, reducing and controlling significant adverse transboundary environmental impact from proposed activities by institutionalizing a standardized process of transboundary environmental impact assessment (EIA). This provides for a concrete framework of procedural regulation, which could offset some of the limits of substantial regulation, concerning environmentally harmful activities.</p> <p>Benefits:</p> <p>Transboundary EIA offers the benefits of EIA and more, with many benefits being enhanced through the inclusion of stakeholders from affected countries, by providing information and leading to changes in design:</p> <p>Identification of the key environmental issues of a project, and awareness of the environmental consequences of project implementation; Improvement of project design, and higher standards of mitigation;</p> <p>Protection of the environment, including the avoidance of environmentally sensitive areas through project re-siting or re-design; Identification of project alternatives (alternative locations or technology, for example) and mitigation and compensatory measures that reduce the environmental impact of the project. Suggestions may come from the public, EIA experts, the developer and other stakeholders;</p> <p>Opportunities to consider climate change adaptation:</p> <p>by improving decision-making: better informed and more objective decision-making; a better framework for preparing conditions and legal agreements to govern future operation of the project; public participation in government decision making.</p> <p>and more generally: promotion of sustainable development in general; promotion of good governance in the longer term, with public hearings providing “important indirect benefits that can contribute to the capacity for democratic governance and an active civil society” (Almer & Koontz); promotion of understanding between the community and developer; promotion of standards; enhancement of international cooperation, including awareness of the importance of the environment in such cooperation, and avoidance of conflict; encouragement of new approaches; enhancement of the developer’s environmental credibility.</p>	Not ratified. The convention is being considered by the State Committee on Ecology and Environment Protection	UNECE

205 <http://www.pops.int/Countries/StatusofRatifications/PartiesandSignatoires/tabid/4500/Default.aspx>




	Name of the UN Convention, Treaty, etc.	Brief Info	Status	UN Agencies in charge / mandated
28.	The Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention)	<p>The Aarhus Convention ensures the right of every person of present and future generations to live in an environment adequate to his or her health and well-being. The Convention establishes that sustainable development can be achieved only through the involvement of all stakeholders.</p> <p>The subject of the Convention goes to the heart of the relationship between people and governments. The Convention is not only an environmental agreement, it is also a Convention about government accountability, transparency and responsiveness. It grants the public rights and imposes on Parties and public authorities' obligations regarding access to information and public participation and access to justice. Moreover, the Aarhus Convention is also forging a new process for public participation in the negotiation and implementation of international agreements.</p> <p>Benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Aarhus Convention is the only international legal instrument putting Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development into effect. It also provides a solid and comprehensive framework for Governments to engage the public effectively in setting and implementing green economy programmes and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. • Being a Party to the Convention will significantly contribute to the country's efforts to promote citizen-centred and environmentally sound policies. • Accession to the Convention would greatly support the Government's policies to tackle poverty and inequality by ensuring that all persons, including the poorest segments of society and rural communities, are able to participate in decisions that impact their lives and as a result to benefit from the income generated by different sectors of the economy. • The endorsement of transparent, consensual, participatory decision-making also demonstrates a commitment to build a stable and secure society, which in the long term can become economically prosperous and environmentally and socially sustainable. • By becoming a Party to the Aarhus Convention Uzbekistan will send a strong signal to other States, including its trade and aid partners, as well as foreign investors and international institutions of the government's commitment to effective governance and environmental democracy. <p>In addition, Uzbekistan will benefit from access to successful experiences, participate in regional and sub-regional activities and will enjoy increased opportunities for capacity building and cooperation.</p>	Not ratified	UNECE

	Name of the UN Convention, Treaty, etc.	Brief Info	Status	UN Agencies in charge / mandated
29.	The Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (Air Convention)	<p>Purpose and scope: UNECE Air Convention is the first international treaty to deal with air pollution on a broad regional basis. It is an instrument through which UNECE member states have been working successfully to gradually reduce and prevent air pollution in the region including long-range transboundary air pollution. The Air Convention serves as a basis for the development of international cooperation to combat air pollution and promotes measures aimed at curbing and reducing the impact of air pollution on health and the environment.</p> <p>The Convention provides a platform for integrating science and policy to address air pollution via a whole range of approaches and sector specific measures that Parties are implementing to cut their emissions and meet the targets set within the Convention's protocols. The Air Convention provides access to emission, measurement and modelling data, as well as information on the effects of air pollution on ecosystems, health, crops and materials. The Convention provides support to Governments on how best to mitigate air pollutants such as: sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds, ammonia, persistent organic pollutants, heavy metals, and particulate matter, including black carbon.</p> <p>Benefits:</p> <p>There are certain benefits of being a Party to the Convention and its protocols, such as access to best practice and experience, best available technologies and information, participation in regional initiatives, increased opportunities for capacity building as direct benefits.</p> <p>Implementation of the requirements of the Convention and its protocols will bring a number of advantages. Key benefits of the reduction of air pollution are an improvement of public health and improved quality of various environmental elements such as water (including drinking water), natural habitats, and soil. The state of the environment and public health conditions are substantial factors that affect the population's satisfaction with public governance. Better environment and increased quality of life may promote the development of tourism. Ratification and the associated acquisition of new, modern and low-polluting technologies are factors that will make the industry more competitive in international markets and the country more attractive to investors.</p>	Not ratified	UNECE
30.	The Convention on Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents	<p>Purpose and scope: The Convention aims at protecting human beings and the environment against industrial accidents by preventing such accidents to the extent possible, by reducing their frequency and severity and by mitigating their effects. It promotes active international cooperation between the contracting Parties, before, during and after an industrial accident.</p> <p>Benefits:</p> <p>The Convention provides guidance on developing a legal and institutional framework to address prevention, preparedness and response measures for industrial accidents - particularly those with transboundary effects. The Convention provides a platform for establishing and strengthening cooperation within and between countries - at the local, national and regional levels - on matters relating to industrial safety and disaster risk reduction.</p>	Not ratified	UNECE

	Name of the UN Convention, Treaty, etc.	Brief Info	Status	UN Agencies in charge / mandated
31.	Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, New York, 15 November 2000	The Protocol deals with the growing problem of organized criminal groups who smuggle migrants, often at high risk to the migrants and at great profit for the offenders. A major achievement of the Protocol was that, for the first time in a global international instrument, a definition of smuggling of migrants was developed and agreed upon. The Protocol aims at preventing and combating the smuggling of migrants, as well as promoting cooperation among States parties, while protecting the rights of smuggled migrants and preventing the worst forms of their exploitation which often characterize the smuggling process.	Signature: 28 June 2001 Not ratified.	UNODC
32.	Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, New York, 31 May 2001	The objective of the Protocol, which is the first legally binding instrument on small arms that has been adopted at the global level, is to promote, facilitate and strengthen cooperation among States Parties in order to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition. By ratifying the Protocol, States make a commitment to adopt a series of crime-control measures and implement in their domestic legal order three sets of normative provisions: the first one relates to the establishment of criminal offenses related to illegal manufacturing of, and trafficking in, firearms on the basis of the Protocol requirements and definitions; the second to a system of government authorizations or licensing intending to ensure legitimate manufacturing of, and trafficking in, firearms; and the third one to the marking and tracing of firearms.	Not ratified	UNODC
33.	2010 Convention on the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Relating to International Civil Aviation	Criminalizes the act of using civil aircraft as a weapon to cause death, injury or damage; Criminalizes the act of using civil aircraft to discharge biological, chemical and nuclear (BCN) weapons or similar substances to cause death, injury or damage, or the act of using such substances to attack civil aircraft; Criminalizes the act of unlawful transport of BCN weapons or certain related material; A cyber-attack on air navigation facilities constitutes an offence; A threat to commit an offence may be an offence by itself, if the threat is credible. Conspiracy to commit an offence, or its equivalence, is punishable.	Not ratified	ICAO
34.	2010 Protocol Supplementary to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft	Supplements the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft by expanding its scope to cover different forms of aircraft hijackings, including through modern technological means; Incorporates the provisions of Beijing Convention relating to a threat or conspiracy to commit an offence.	Not ratified	ICAO

Name of the UN Convention, Treaty, etc.	Brief Info	Status	UN Agencies in charge / mandated
35. 2014 Protocol to Amend the Convention on Offences and Certain Acts Committed on Board Aircraft	The Protocol expands the jurisdiction over offences and acts committed on board aircraft from the State of Registration of the aircraft to the State of the Operator (where the offence is committed on an aircraft leased without crew to a lessee whose principal place of business is, or who permanently resides, in that State), and the State of Landing (where the aircraft has its last point of take-off or next point of intended landing within its territory and the aircraft subsequently lands in its territory with the alleged offender still on board). Where the State of Registration, the State of the Operator, or the State of Landing has become aware that one or more of the other states are conducting an investigation, prosecution or judicial proceeding in respect of the same offence or act, that state will consult the other states with a view to coordinating their actions.	Not ratified	ICAO
36. 2005 Protocol to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation	Criminalizes the use of a ship as a device to further an act of terrorism; Criminalizes the transport on board a ship various materials knowing that they are intended to be used to cause, or in a threat to cause, death or serious injury or damage to further an act of terrorism; Criminalizes the transporting on board a ship of persons who have committed an act of terrorism; and Introduces procedures for governing the boarding of a ship believed to have committed an offence under the Convention.	Not ratified	ICAO
37. 1988 Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf	Establishes a legal regime applicable to acts against fixed platforms on the continental shelf that is similar to the regimes established against international aviation.	Not ratified	UNODC
38. 2005 Protocol to the Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Fixed Platforms located on the Continental Shelf	Adapts the changes to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation to the context of fixed platforms located on the continental shelf.	Not ratified	UNODC

ANNEX 2: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Sustainable Development Goals	Related human rights *
 <p>1 NO POVERTY</p> <p>End poverty in all its forms everywhere Targets include eradicating extreme poverty; implementing social protection measures; and ensuring equal access of men and women to economic resources.</p>	<p>Right to an adequate standard of living [UDHR art. 25; ICESCR art. 11; CRC art. 27] Right to social security [UDHR art. 22; ICESCR art. 9; CRPD art. 28; CRC art. 26; ILO Convention No. 102 – not ratified] Equal rights of women in economic life [CEDAW arts. 11, 13, 14(2)(g), 15(2), 16(1), ILO Conventions No. 100 and 111]</p>
 <p>2 ZERO HUNGER</p> <p>End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture Targets include ending hunger and malnutrition; improving agricultural production, sustainable and resilient food production; correcting trade distortions, and ensuring functioning food commodity markets.</p>	<p>Right to adequate food [UDHR art. 25; ICESCR art. 11; CRC art. 24(2)(c)] International cooperation, including ensuring equitable distribution of world food supplies [UDHR art. 28; ICESCR arts. 2(1), 11(2)]</p>
 <p>3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</p> <p>Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages Targets include reducing maternal mortality; ending preventable child deaths; ending or reducing AIDS other diseases; universal health coverage, affordable essential medicines, sexual and reproductive health care; vaccine research, and access to medicines.</p>	<p>Right to life [UDHR art. 3; ICCPR art. 6], particularly of women [CEDAW art. 12] and children [CRC art. 6] Right to health [UDHR art. 25; ICESCR art. 12], particularly of women [CEDAW art. 12]; and children [CRC art.24] Special protection for mothers and children [ICESCR art.10, ILO Convention No. 183 – not ratified] Right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its application [UDHR art. 27; ICESCR art. 15(1)(b)] International cooperation [UDHR art. 28, DRtD arts. 3-4], particularly in relation to the right to health and children's rights [ICESCR art. 2(1); CRC art. 4]</p>

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all

Targets include universal access to free, quality pre- primary, primary and secondary education; improving vocational skills; equal access to education; expanding education facilities, scholarships, and training of teachers.

Right to education

[UDHR art. 26; ICESCR art. 13], particularly in relation to children [CRC arts. 28, 29]; persons with disabilities [CRC art. 23(3), CRPD art. 24]; and indigenous peoples [UNDRIP art. 14]

Equal rights of women and girls in the field of education [CEDAW art. 10, ILO Convention No. 111]

Right to work, including technical and vocational training [ICESCR art. 6, ILO Convention No. 111]

International cooperation

[UDHR art. 28; DRtD arts. 3-4], particularly in relation to children [CRC arts. 23(4), 28(3)], persons with disabilities [CRPD art. 32], and indigenous peoples [UNDRIP art. 39]

5 GENDER EQUALITY



Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Targets include eliminating discrimination and violence against women and girls; valuing unpaid care and domestic work; ensuring the full participation of women; access to reproductive health care; and equal access of women to economic resources.

Elimination of all forms of discrimination against women

[CEDAW arts. 1-5] and girls [CRC art. 2], particularly in legislation, political and public life (art. 7), economic and social life (arts. 11, 13), and family relations (art. 16), ILO Conventions No. 100 and 111]

Right to decide the number and spacing of children

[CEDAW arts. 12, 16(1)(e); CRC art. 24(2)(f)]

Special protection for mothers and children [ICESCR art. 10, ILO Convention No. 183 – not ratified]

Elimination of violence against women and girls

[CEDAW arts. 1- 6; DEVAW arts. 1-4; CRC arts. 24(3), 35]

Right to just and favourable conditions of work [ICESCR art. 7; CEDAW art. 11, relevant ILO Conventions]

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Targets include ensuring universal and equitable access to safe, affordable drinking water, sanitation and hygiene for all; reducing pollution; increasing water-use efficiency; and promoting participatory management of water and sanitation services.

Right to safe drinking water and sanitation [ICESCR art. 11]

Right to health [UDHR art. 25; ICESCR art. 12]

Equal access to water and sanitation for rural women [CEDAW art. 14(2)(h)]

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

Targets include ensuring universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services.

Right to an adequate standard of living

[UDHR art. 25; ICESCR art. 11]

Right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its application

[UDHR art. 27; ICESCR art. 15(1)(b)]

Sustainable Development Goals

Related human rights *



Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Targets include promoting sustained economic growth; improving resource efficiency in production and consumption; full and productive employment and decent work for all; eradicating forced and child labour and trafficking; protecting labour rights including those of migrant workers; and increasing access to financial services.

Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work

[UDHR art. 23; ICESCR arts. 6, 7, 10; CRPD art. 27; ILO Fundamental Human Rights Conventions and all other relevant Conventions]

Prohibition of slavery, forced labour, and trafficking of persons

[UDHR art. 4; ICCPR art. 8; CEDAW art. 6; CRC arts. 34-36; ILO Convention No. 29 and its 2014 Protocol and Convention No. 105]

Equal rights of women in relation to employment

[CEDAW art. 11; ILO Conventions No. 100 and No. 111]

Prohibition of child labour

[CRC art. 32; ILO Convention No. 182]

Equal labour rights of migrant workers [CMW art. 25, ILO Conventions No. 97 and 143 – not ratified]



Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation

Targets include affordable and equitable access to quality infrastructure; employment generating industrialisation; access to financial services and markets; innovation and technology transfer, and increasing access to ICT.

Right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its application

[UDHR art. 27; ICESCR art. 15(1)(b)]

Right to access to information

[UDHR art. 19; ICCPR art. 19(2)]

Right to adequate housing, including land and resources [UDHR art. 25; ICESCR art. 11]

Equal rights of women to financial credit and rural infrastructure

[CEDAW art. 13(b), art. 14(2)]



Reduce inequality within and among countries

Targets include promoting higher growth rates for the bottom 40 per cent; promoting social, economic and political inclusion; reducing inequalities in opportunities and outcomes; ensuring social protection for all; securing participation in economic decision making; facilitating migration, and reducing transaction costs for migrant remittances.

Right to equality and non-discrimination

[UDHR art. 2; ICESCR art. 2(2); ICCPR arts. 2(1), 26; CERD art. 2(2); CEDAW art. 2; CRC art. 2; CRPD art. 5; CMW art. 7; DRtD art. 8(1); ILO Conventions No. 100 and 111]

Right to participate in public affairs

[UDHR art. 21; ICCPR art. 25; CEDAW art. 7; ICERD art. 5; CRPD art. 29; DRtD art. 8(2)]

Right to social security [UDHR art. 22; ICESCR arts. 9-10; CRPD art. 28, ILO Convention No. 102 – not ratified]

Promotion of conditions for international migration [CMW art. 64, ILO Conventions No. 97 and 143 – not ratified]

Right of migrants to transfer their earnings and savings [CMW art. 47(1), ILO Conventions No. 97 and 143 – not ratified]



Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Targets include ensuring access to housing, basic services and public transport for all; participatory planning of human settlements; safeguarding cultural and natural heritage; and strengthening resilience to disasters.

Right to adequate housing, including land and resources [UDHR art. 25; ICESCR art. 11]

Right to participate in cultural life

[UDHR art. 25; ICESCR art. 15; ICERD arts. 5, 7; CRPD art. 30; CRC art. 31]

Accessibility of transportation, facilities and services particularly of persons with disabilities [CRPD art. 9(1)], children [CRC art. 23], and rural women [CEDAW art. 14(2)]

Protection from natural disasters [CRPD art. 11]



Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Targets include achieving sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources; improving waste management; promoting sustainable public procurement; ensuring access to information; and building capacity for sustainable development.

Right to health including the right to safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment [UDHR art. 25(1); ICESCR art. 12]

Right to adequate food and **the right to safe drinking water** [UDHR art. 25(1); ICESCR art. 11]

Right of all peoples to freely dispose of their natural resources [ICCPR, ICESCR art. 1(2)]



Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Targets include strengthening resilience and adaptation to climate change and natural disasters, including in marginalised communities; implementation of the Green Climate fund.

Right to health including the right to safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment [UDHR art. 25(1); ICESCR art. 12; CRC art. 24; CEDAW art. 12; CMW art. 28]

Right to adequate food & right to safe drinking water [UDHR art. 25(1); ICESCR art. 11]

Right of all peoples to freely dispose of their natural wealth and resources [ICCPR, ICESCR art. 1(2)]



Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Targets include reducing marine pollution; conserving coastal ecosystems, coastal marine areas and fish stock; securing market access for small scale fishers; protection of marine biodiversity.

Right to health including the right to safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment [UDHR art. 25(1); ICESCR art. 12; CRC art. 24; CEDAW art. 12; CMW art. 28]

Right to adequate food & right to safe drinking water [UDHR art. 25(1); ICESCR art. 11]

Right of all peoples to freely dispose of their natural wealth and resources [ICCPR, ICESCR art. 1(2)]



Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Targets include the sustainable management of freshwater, mountain ecosystems and forests; combatting desertification; halting biodiversity loss; combatting poaching and trafficking of protected species.

Right to health including the right to safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment [UDHR art. 25(1); ICESCR art. 12; CRC art. 24; CEDAW art. 12; CMW art. 28]

Right to adequate food & right to safe drinking water [UDHR art. 25(1); ICESCR art. 11]

Right of all peoples to freely dispose of their natural wealth and resources [ICCPR, ICESCR art. 1(2)]



Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Targets include reducing all forms of violence; ending violence against and trafficking of children; promoting rule of law and justice for all; reducing illicit financial and arms flows, corruption and bribery; developing effective institutions; participation in decision making at all levels; legal identity for all.

Right to life, liberty and security of the person

[UDHR art. 3; ICCPR arts. 6(1), 9(1); ICPEP art. 1] including freedom from torture [UDHR art. 5; ICCPR art. 7; CAT art. 2; CRC art. 37(a)]

Protection of children from all forms of violence, abuse or exploitation [CRC arts. 19, 37(a)], including trafficking (CRC arts. 34-36; CRC-OP1), ILO Conventions No. 138 and 182]

Right to access to justice and due process

[UDHR arts. 8, 10; ICCPR arts. 2(3), 14-15; CEDAW art. 2(c)]

Right to legal personality [UDHR art. 6; ICCPR art. 16; CRPD art. 12]

Right to participate in public affairs [UDHR art. 21; ICCPR art. 25]

Right to access to information [UDHR art. 19; ICCPR art. 19(1)]



Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

Targets include strengthening domestic and international resources; debt sustainability; technology transfer and capacity building; promoting trade; enhancing policy and institutional coherence; respecting countries' policy space; promoting multi-stakeholder partnerships; measurements for progress, disaggregated data.

Right of all peoples to self-determination

[ICCPR, ICESCR art. 1(1); DRtD art. 1(1)]

Right of all peoples to development, & international cooperation

[UDHR art. 28; ICESCR art. 2(1); CRC art. 4; CRPD art. 32(1); DRtD arts. 3-5]

Right of everyone to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its application, including international cooperation in the scientific field [UDHR art. 27(1); ICESCR art. 15(1)]

Right to privacy

[UDHR art. 12; ICCPR art. 17], including respect for human rights and ethical principles in the collection and use of statistics [CRPD art. 31(1)]

(*) This table is intended for illustrative purposes only. The listing of relevant rights is not exhaustive. Under international human rights law, and under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, data for all targets needs to be collected and disaggregated by the prohibited grounds of discrimination under international human rights law, including the respect, protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction of any kind as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, disability or other status. Obligations regarding international assistance and cooperation also apply to all Goals.

List of international human rights instruments:

- 1948 Universal Declaration on Human Rights ([UDHR](#))
- 1965 International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination ([CERD](#))
- 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights ([ICCPR](#))
- 1966 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights ([ICESCR](#))
- 1979 International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women ([CEDAW](#))
- 1984 Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment ([CAT](#))
- 1986 Declaration on the Right to Development ([UNDRD](#))
- 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child ([CRC](#))
- 1990 International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families ([CMW](#))
- 1993 Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women ([DEVAW](#))
- 2000 Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict ([OP-1](#))

- 2006 Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities ([CRPD](#))
- 2006 International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances ([ICPEP](#))
- 2007 Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples ([UNDRIP](#))

Fundamental Human Rights Conventions of the ILO

- 1930 Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29)
- 1948 Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to organize Convention, 1948 (No. 87)
- 1949 Right to organize and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No. 98)
- 1951 Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No. 100)
- 1957 Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105)
- 1958 Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111)
- 1973 Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 183)
- 1999 Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182)
- 2014 Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930

ANNEX 3: LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND – IDENTIFICATION OF VULNERABLE GROUPS

Basis of Vulnerability	Population Group	Manifestations	Causes	What SDGs / Human Rights affected	What needs to be done	Principal Duty bearers
DISCRIMINATION BASED ON:						
Sex	Women, LGBTI, women living with HIV, MSM	<p>Violence, discrimination, detention, stigma based on sex or sexual identity / orientation</p> <p>Exclusion from social protection (women living with HIV, LGBTI)</p> <p>Female partners of drug users including PWID</p> <p>Gender vulnerability to disasters</p>	<p><u>Immediate Causes</u></p> <p>Lack of access to facilities, care and support especially for women with HIV, MSM, and LGBTI</p> <p><u>Underlying causes:</u></p> <p>Discriminatory laws and policies not aligned to international norms and standards</p> <p>Refusal to decriminalise consensual sex between men, vulnerable to violence based on sexual identity / orientation), arbitrary arrest / detention</p> <p>Legal barriers for MSM to seek help</p> <p>Weak implementation and monitoring of laws</p> <p>No accountability of law enforcement agencies who act with impunity</p> <p><u>Root Causes:</u></p> <p>Patriarchal attitudes, stereotypes about women's role in society, linking women rights with family values and attitudes about sexual identity and orientation</p>	<p>1.3</p> <p>5.1</p> <p>5.2</p> <p>5.3</p> <p>5.c</p> <p>8</p> <p>16</p> <p>10.2</p> <p>10.3</p>	<p>Repeal discriminatory laws, Accept UPR recommendations, Promote advocacy by discriminated groups, Repeal article 120 of the Criminal Code, Provide safe spaces, Introduce quotas and affirmative action, Combat discriminatory social norms and practices, Create awareness, Strengthen and sensitise institutions, Ensure better enforcement of laws</p> <p>Prevent gender-based violence, promote gender equality strategies and approaches</p> <p>Create a system of social support and decent living</p> <p>Promote equal economic rights and opportunities for women and men, including through use of enabling technology such as IT.</p>	<p>The Women's Committee of Uzbekistan</p> <p>Commission on Gender Equality of the Republic of Uzbekistan</p> <p>Committee of Senate on Women and Gender Issues</p> <p>Commission on Women and Family Issues under the Legislative Chamber</p>

Basis of Vulnerability	Population Group	Manifestations	Causes	What SDGs / Human Rights affected	What needs to be done	Principal Duty bearers
Age	Old men and women especially those living alone	Social isolation, poverty, lack of access to emotional support, stigma and discrimination	<p><u>Immediate Causes</u> Lack of economic security, social protection, social work, old age homes, community living</p> <p><u>Underlying Causes:</u> Inadequate policy, legal and institutional framework</p> <p><u>Root Causes:</u> Out migration of young, change in values</p>	1.1 1.2 3.0	Strengthen social protection for the elderly, Promote professional social work	Ministry of Health Ministry of Finance
	Children in care centres, Children without parental care, children in institutions, orphans, out of school, Children with special needs (mental stress), Children in conflict with law, Child labourers, Children living with HIV, Victims of domestic violence, Child victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation	<p>Corporal punishment and other forms of abuse and exploitation, Neglect (including parental), Exclusion, High suicides among children</p> <p>No effective mechanisms for public oversight</p> <p>75 per cent children in homes are disabled and poor</p>	<p><u>Immediate Causes</u> Lack of access to care and socio-psychological support facilities for children at risk.</p> <p><u>Underlying Causes:</u> Outmoded model of sending children at risk to care centres No professional help available to children at risk and under stress Guardianship and Custody Act 2014 does not explicitly prohibit corporal punishment, still goes on in day care centres, alternative care centres</p> <p><u>Root Causes:</u> Poverty, Social attitudes</p>	1.1 1.2 4.2 4.5 4.a	Strengthen psycho-social support, Sending children to care homes should be last option, Amend Domestic Violence Bill to make provisions against corporal punishment in all settings	Ministry of Education Ministry of Interior Ministry of Justice General Prosecutor Republican Centre to fight AIDS Ministry of Health
	Youth NEET, Youth at-risk, youth infected and affected by HIV, drug-abusing youth, sex workers, trafficked youth, youth in orphanages or correctional homes, youth in conflict with law, youth exploited for labour, youth victims of violence or abuse, migrant youth, and youth stigmatised due to who they are, Roma youth (Lulis)	Radicalisation, psychological and mental health issues, depression, violence, exclusion	<p><u>Immediate Causes</u> Lack of access to education, economic opportunities or vocational training Little social protection or psycho-social support</p> <p><u>Underlying Causes:</u> Insufficient and ineffective policy, legal and institutional framework for youth. lack of civic space, Lack of awareness. Lack of rehabilitation and re-integration system (for those in conflict with law)</p> <p><u>Root Causes:</u> Social attitudes, perception about youth, lack of participation in decision making, discrimination, lack of parental care</p>	4.4 4.5 5, 8 8.6	Promote healthy lifestyles through youth clubs; Age appropriate sex education; Health counselling at school level; Drug de-addiction; awareness; skills training for employment; family skills training; Promote responsible use of social media (cyberhealth / cyberhygiene); promote volunteerism;	Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations Ministry of Economy Ministry of Interior Ministry of Public Education Ministry of Health

Basis of Vulnerability	Population Group	Manifestations	Causes	What SDGs / Human Rights affected	What needs to be done	Principal Duty bearers
Disability	Persons with disability, Women with disability, Women with disability and victims of violence, Children with disability and their parents	Limited mobility, Stigmatisation (worse for people with mental disabilities), Lower employment, Lower participation in politics and administration; Exacerbated vulnerability to disasters Limited opportunity for decent living	<u>Immediate Causes</u> Lack of access to public spaces, inadequate infrastructure, care and support, Higher disability related costs. <u>Underlying Causes:</u> Lower employability, Residential approach to care, Low coverage of social protection, Lack of professional social workers. Ineffective policy environment. <u>Root Causes:</u> Social attitudes, Stereotypes, Stigma, Medical approach to disability	1.4 3.0 3.3 5.5	Ratify CRPD and OP, Enact national law on PWDs, Implement measures to support PWDs, Enhance skills and employability, Improve access to buildings and transport, Support NGOs working for PWDs, Counselling for parents of children with disabilities, Inclusive education (not segregated), Fiscal incentives for quality mobility aids and those who employ PWDs, guidance on certifying degree of disability; Direct engagement with PWDs in decision making. Ensure disaster risk reduction inclusive approach, specific measures such as early warning systems	Ministry of Health Ministry of Public Education Ministry of Higher and Specialised Education Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs)
HIV Status	Persons infected by HIV, Persons affected by HIV	Stigmatisation and discrimination Lower employment, No / inadequate access to social protection Detention of the MSM, SW. (according to the criminal law). Low coverage for the harm reduction and drug dependence treatment	<u>Immediate Causes</u> Inadequate access to HIV prevention and care facilities. Access to ART especially by migrant men. <u>Underlying Causes:</u> Lack of awareness, Laws that impede effective HIV response, Lack of HIV impact mitigating strategies like social protection <u>Root Causes:</u> Social attitudes, Stereotypes, Discrimination, Stigma, Inadequate mainstreaming	1.3 3.3	Increase access to prevention and care, Scale up rapid diagnostic strategies, Implement integrated patient centred care treatment and support strategies. Repeal laws that impede effective HIV response, Remove legal barriers that stigmatize the key population: MSM, SW. Provide social protection services to people infected and affected by HIV, Make stigma reduction and raising general awareness mainstreaming part of response, Put more men on ART	Ministry of Health Republican Centre to Fight AIDS

Basis of Vulnerability	Population Group	Manifestations	Causes	What SDGs / Human Rights affected	What needs to be done	Principal Duty bearers
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GEORGRAPHY:

Fragile Ecology / Location	Environmental degradation affected rural communities around Aral Sea area	Decline in incomes and productivity, Lower quality of life, Serious health issues	<u>Immediate Causes</u> Degraded land, lack of irrigation water, salinization, contamination of soil with heavy elements, chemical fertilisers and pesticides, inefficient irrigation system with waste of water. Contaminated water. <u>Underlying Causes:</u> Lack of climate-resilient policies and programmes. <u>Root Causes:</u> Overexploitation of natural resources for cotton production	13.1 13.2 13.3 15.1 15.2 15.3	Promote climate-resilient agriculture and pastoral system, Address unsustainable and outmoded irrigation practices, Direct income transfers to vulnerable farmers,	Ministry of Economy
	Surkhandarya (due to remoteness)					Ministry of Health

VULNERABILITY / EXPOSURE TO SHOCKS:

Disasters	Communities in Fergana valley (and mostly eastern portion of the country, Tashkent)	Sense of insecurity; Disincentive to invest	<u>Immediate Causes</u> High exposure to hazards that may cause disruption / damage to people, property, infrastructure and environment <u>Underlying Causes:</u> Lack of capacity to implement policies on disaster preparedness and risk reduction; lack of awareness; lack of technologies (e.g. quake proof buildings); weak adaptation to climatic risk <u>Root Causes:</u> Public apathy, sense of resignation	11.5	Enhance resilience and local capacity to manage seismic and climatic risks; Improve systems to gather and analyse hazard information; Modernise early warning systems and weather forecasting; Strengthen adaptation to water stress / droughts; Modify building codes; Create repository of database with central authority; Disseminate met data. Mainstream DRR in sector programmes.	Ministry of Emergency Situations
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Basis of Vulnerability	Population Group	Manifestations	Causes	What SDGs / Human Rights affected	What needs to be done	Principal Duty bearers
Economic Shocks	People in poverty, Migrant labour, households with catastrophic health expenditure	Vulnerability to inflation (electricity, water, food prices); Reduced incomes; Loss of jobs; Catastrophic health expenditures	<p><u>Immediate Causes</u> Loss of jobs, catastrophic health expenditure</p> <p><u>Underlying Causes:</u> External factors (e.g. economic slowdown in host countries); Return of migrants; Structural reform; Labour market reform; SOEs privatisation (lay offs); lack of social protection and health finance support</p> <p><u>Root Causes:</u> Economy based on commodity exports vulnerable to global price changes; regressive health system; lack of employment</p>	1.5 2.1 2.2	Social protection; Income transfers; health financing protection; Active labour market programmes (ALMPs); pre-migration orientation for migrants; skills training	Ministry of Economy Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations

GOVERNANCE:

Impact of laws, policies, institutions	Women, LGBTI, Forced labour, Persons evicted by force, national and ethnic minorities	Violence based on sex or sexual identity / orientation Exclusion from social protection (LGBTI) Lack of participation Work and studies compromised due to forced labour	<p><u>Immediate Causes</u> No immediate recourse available. No access to support system.</p> <p><u>Underlying Causes:</u> Lack of progressive laws and policies, linking women rights to family code. Impunity of law enforcement agencies.</p> <p><u>Root Causes:</u> Social attitudes, lack of awareness, Stereotypes, Stigma,</p>	5.1 5.2 5.3 5.c	Remove barriers to gender justice (amend laws, provide protection, civic space,)	Ministry of Justice Ministry of Interior General Prosecutor
Civil registration	Persons without civil registration, Stateless persons, Refugees, persons of undetermined nationality Lulis/Roma	Vulnerable to police brutality, Denial of social services, Social protection, Inheritance, Restricted mobility for employment	<p><u>Immediate Causes</u> Lack of legal documents.</p> <p><u>Underlying Causes:</u> Administrative capacity, Corruption apathy towards stateless</p> <p><u>Root Causes:</u> Illegality, Hard to reach, Cultural factors (Lulis);</p>	16.9	Strengthen civil registry, provide registration certificates,	Ministry of Interior

Basis of Vulnerability	Population Group	Manifestations	Causes	What SDGs / Human Rights affected	What needs to be done	Principal Duty bearers
Persecution	Political opponents, journalists, religious leaders in detention, Women in detention	Lack of freedom of expression and association	<p><u>Immediate Causes</u> Lack of independent and effective human rights mechanisms and judicial system; no oversight to executive actions; impunity of law enforcement agencies</p> <p><u>Underlying Causes:</u> Non-ratification of treaties; aversion to international scrutiny; lack of capacity; weak demand for justice from people</p> <p><u>Root Causes:</u> Legacy of repressive previous regime; intolerance to dissent</p>	16.3 16.6 16.10	Allow human rights defenders to work; Promote independence of judiciary; Comply with UPR recommendations	Ministry of Interior General Prosecutor
Illegality / Stigma	Drug users, sex workers, PLWHIV, MSM Prison population and released prisoners	Stigmatisation, Discrimination, Lower employment, Inadequate access to social protection, poor quality and limited access to prevention, treatment and care services for key population (drug users, IDUs)	<p><u>Immediate Causes</u> Lack of facilities, care and support system; lack of infrastructure to treat drug abusers. Lack of access to social and psychological services and social workers.</p> <p><u>Underlying Causes:</u> Regressive laws; lack of awareness, no rehabilitation and reintegration policies / programmes</p> <p><u>Root Causes:</u> Social attitudes, biases, Stereotypes</p>	3.5	Expand access to quality service on prevention, treatment and care. Expand social protection to cover these groups.	Ministry of Interior Ministry of Health Republican Centre to fight AIDS
SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS:						
Employment	Unemployed youth, women in informal employment, national and ethnic minorities	Radicalisation; Violent social behaviour; Exclusion,	<p><u>Immediate Causes</u> Lack of employment; Lack of higher education, vocational training, skills; Absence of entrepreneurship;</p> <p><u>Underlying Causes:</u> Economic slowdown; weak GDP growth; lack of social protection for unemployed</p> <p><u>Root Causes:</u> Job-less growth; capital-intensive economy</p>	8.6	Formulate an action-oriented youth policy and time-bound reduction in NEET youth; Promote skills and vocational education; Co-create curriculum with private sector; Promote safe migration Enhance active labour market policies aimed at expanding employment opportunities for youth including women Develop labour market information system strengthening analytical functions, skills needs and occupations forecasting	Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations Ministry of Higher and Professional Education

Basis of Vulnerability	Population Group	Manifestations	Causes	What SDGs / Human Rights affected	What needs to be done	Principal Duty bearers
Poverty	People in extreme poverty Roma	Helplessness; Exclusion	<p><u>Immediate Causes</u> Unemployment; Inadequate social protection coverage</p> <p><u>Underlying Causes:</u> Lack of education or skills to get out of poverty; inadequate access to digital technology; geographical isolation; lack of legal identity; climatic and environmental factors</p> <p><u>Root Causes:</u> Job-less growth</p>	1.1 1.2 11.1	Public works; Direct income transfer; Free access to social services; needs analysis of homeless and targeted assistance	Ministry of Economy Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations
Mobility	Migrants, Disaster-displaced persons	Lack of legal protection, vulnerability to economic slowdowns, Violence, discrimination, psychosocial issue in host countries, exploitation by radical elements	<p><u>Immediate Causes</u> Economic slowdown in host countries forcing migrants to return; Inadequate access to health, legal, and social services. Episodes of violence or discrimination.</p> <p><u>Underlying Causes:</u> Ineffective labour and migration policies; limited pre-migration information; poor monitoring of migrants; mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction in policies and programmes</p> <p><u>Root Causes:</u> Limited access to employment at home; lack of disaster resilient infrastructure and livelihoods</p>		Scale up psychosocial support to mobile groups of population, provide social protection services, develop regional cooperation to protect human rights of mobile population; Take resilience building measures to reduce impact to dwellings	Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations

ANNEX 4: MULTIDIMENSIONAL RISKS, RISK FACTORS AND ASSESSMENT OF LIKELY IMPACT

#	Risk factors	Assessment / Analysis	Impact	Likelihood
1	Political Stability	<p>After the death of President Karimov in 2016, the transition has been smooth. The current President has taken many steps to reform the governance and the economy. There is some resistance to reform in some quarters but remains muted given the popular support to overall reform agenda²⁰⁶. The cost of living is rising which could trigger some social discontent but is not a source of political instability. Corruption in high places may create mistrust between the people and the authorities and failed aspirations may spill over into violence.</p> <p>Affected SDGs: 16, 17 Affected population groups: Youth, Human Rights Activists, Civil Society, Political Opponents.</p>	High	Low
2	Democratic Space/ Civil Society Voice and Participation	<p>Despite the ongoing reforms, overall democratic space remains limited. 2017 was the “year of the dialogue”. Moreover, NGOs Youth and other groups have limited platforms to voice their concerns. The civil society activists who assisted the Special Rapporteur on Judicial Independence were hounded by the authorities²⁰⁷. LGBTI civil society activism remains highly restricted. Critics, activists, media and bloggers are regularly targeted / monitored. Democracy has not taken roots yet and the risk of reversals is always present. Government is not traditionally equipped to handle social mobilisations, protests and demonstrations and may overreact. Freedom House still ranks the country as “Not Free”.</p> <p>Affected SDGs: 16, 17 Affected population groups: Youth, Human Rights Activists, NGOs, Media, Bloggers, Academia, Political Opponents.</p>	High	Medium
3	Social cohesion, gender equality and non-discrimination	<p>The key risks to social cohesions include prejudices and discrimination against women, LGBTI and people with disabilities; domestic violence; and high share of youth NEET (42 per cent), among other issues. While the efforts of the Government in this area are commendable, discrimination against ethnic minorities (e.g. Lulis). Hostility towards families of returning Uzbek fighters from Syria at community level.</p> <p>Affected SDGs: 1, 5, 10, 17 Affected population groups: Youth, Women, Ethnic, linguistic and sexual minorities, Civil Society.</p>	Medium	Medium

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#	Risk factors	Assessment / Analysis	Impact	Likelihood
4	Regional and global influences	<p>The country is taking effective steps to curb illicit drug and human trafficking, terrorism and promoting cross border peace and stability. However, the threat from VE and terrorist groups remains. Poppy cultivation in Afghanistan has increased and may remain a risk to Uzbekistan as a transit route for drugs. The country's relationship with neighbouring countries has shown improvement which might resolve the challenges relating to water and energy sharing arrangements. Borders with neighbouring countries are peaceful.</p> <p>Affected SDGs: 16, 17 Affected population groups: Population at border areas, Youth at risk of radicalisation, Migrants</p>	Medium	Low
5	Internal Security	<p>The risk to internal security is minimal. The country has been successful in preventing terrorism in the country. The country has strong intelligence. Uzbek fighters and their families returning from Syria are being rehabilitated to which there appears to be some local resistance but government is monitoring the situation. Radicalisation of youth, including due to restrictions on religious practice, is a threat. The 2018 Global Terrorism Index ranks Uzbekistan at 132 / 138 countries with a score of 0.038 (low impact of terrorism)²⁰⁸.</p> <p>Affected SDGs: 16, 17 Affected population groups: Youth, Migrants.</p>	Low	Low
6	Justice and rule of law	<p>Judicial independence remains elusive despite some judicial reforms²⁰⁹. Prosecution acts with impunity. Acquittals remain rare. Availability of lawyers is limited and there have been reports that some of those handling politically sensitive cases are subject to harassment²¹⁰. Use of force to extract confessions, later produced as evidence, reportedly continues. Recent evictions of homeowners for a housing project without warning or adequate compensation with no legal recourse resulted in gross violation of human rights and could trigger conflict. People's faith in the judicial system remains low. Judicial reforms are in process but results are yet to be seen on the ground.</p> <p>Affected SDGs: 16, 17 Affected population groups: All rights holders, Human Rights Activists, Civil Society</p>	High	High
7	Economic stability	<p>As the country enters the second and more complex phase of reform, the risks are also high²¹¹. Rising prices, high unemployment, reliance on remittances make the country vulnerable to risks. Deceleration of growth may limit the fiscal space to spend on social services. Risk that reforms may not match demographic changes and expectations of young people is high. They may not see any direct benefit for them and perceive reforms to be for a few people and thus may be further aggravating inequalities (between regions and groups of people).</p> <p>Affected SDGs: 1,8,9,10, 17 Affected population groups: People below poverty line, Youth, Human Rights Activists, Civil Society.</p>	High	High
8	Infrastructure and access to social services	<p>There are regional disparities in access to infrastructure. Basic access to health and education does not pose any immediate risk. Irrigation infrastructure is out-dated and may affect water use efficiency and hence agricultural production.</p> <p>Affected SDGs: 4, 6, 7, 9, 11, 17 Affected population groups: People living in remote areas, .</p>	Medium	Medium

208 Global Terror Index 2018

209 Preliminary observations on the official visit to Uzbekistan of the UN Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers, 19-25 September 2019

210 See A/HRC/44/47/Add.1

211 WB loan documents: the country in its second phase will have to address land, labour markets, privatize state owned enterprises, financial sector and capital market reforms which are more sensitive and run the risk of not being addressed.

#	Risk factors	Assessment / Analysis	Impact	Likelihood
9	Displacement and migration	<p>There has been significant displacement of people from Aral Sea to relocate in other areas under environmental stress. Uzbekistan is a source country for migration for employment. Slowdown in Kazakhstan and Russia might adversely affect employment overseas and remittances. Uzbekistan is also a source country for illicit trafficking of women. Very little is known about living and working conditions of these out migrants. Given the large numbers involved, this is a major risk. If Uzbekistan does not join Eurasian Economic Union then Russia might impose restrictions on Uzbek migrants.</p> <p>Affected SDGs: 1, 8, 10, 16, 17</p> <p>Affected population groups: Migrants, Aral Sea-affected population, Youth</p>	High	Medium
10	Public Health	<p>There are 52,000 PLWHIV. The number of new infections increased by 77 per cent (mostly women and sexual route) since 2010. Overall prevalence of HIV is high among high-risk groups like sex workers (2.9 per cent), MSM (3.3 per cent) and IDUs (5.6 per cent). Overall coverage of ART remains low (29 per cent). Uzbekistan is among the 30 high MDR-TB burden countries in the world. Lack of professional socio-psychological support results in high adolescent suicides. NCDs account for 79 per cent of deaths and its economic cost is 4.7 per cent of GDP. Risk of communicable diseases coming back and Hepatitis is high. Health sector financing strategy could raise the cost of health care.</p> <p>Affected SDGs: 3, 17</p> <p>Affected population groups: People living with multiple morbidities,</p>	Medium	Medium
11	Food security, food safety, agriculture and land	<p>The limited agricultural land that is available in the country is prone to degradation. Water wastage is high. Pasture management is unsustainable. Climate change adaptation is poor and with rising population the country might face food shortages. Food quality is another risk factor.</p> <p>Affected SDGs: 2, 15, 17</p> <p>Affected population groups: Food insecure and mal-nourished population, Young children, Women (especially with anaemia)</p>	Medium	Medium
12	Environment and climate	<p>Climate change and associated rise in temperature and risks of extreme weather events like glacial lake bursts and droughts. Pace and spread of natural resource degradation and increased frequency of disasters, including earthquakes, floods, mudslides and droughts, pose high risk. Uranium tailing sites are also a risk factor. Inform Global Risk Management Initiative (GRI) rates risk of earthquakes at 9.9 and droughts at 6.6. Central Asia and Caucasus Disaster Risk Management Initiative (CAC DRMI) also considers earthquake as the most prominent risk.</p> <p>[Inform Global Risk Index, 2018 http://www.inform-index.org]</p> <p>[CAC DRMI: https://www.unisdr.org/we/inform/publications/11641]</p> <p>Affected SDGs: 12, 13, 15, 17</p> <p>Affected population groups: Population living in disaster-prone areas, close to uranium tailing sites [Aral sea, Fergana valley, east of the country including Tashkent]</p>	High	Medium

ANNEX 5: UNSDCF MULTI-STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS: COMBINED CHALLENGES / SOLUTIONS (GOV, PARL, CSO, ACAD)

Over a period of three months in Fall 2019, over 1,400 people had the opportunity to participate in unprecedented country-wide consultations organized by the UN system in Uzbekistan. Some 32 consultations took place in five regions of Uzbekistan namely Surkhandarya, Kashkadarya, Namangan, Andijan and Syrdarya as well as in Tashkent. The consultations allowed the UN to brainstorm with 19 members of parliament, 10 Academics, 48 representatives of ministries based in Tashkent, 496 representatives of local government, 566 young men and women, 179 members of civil society organizations including human rights defenders and associations working with vulnerable groups, 55 bloggers and employees of mass media and 86 members of organizations

working with people with disabilities. Overall, close to 40 per cent of the participants were young people. In Tashkent alone, more than 40 per cent of the participants were women. 92 per cent of the participants were consulted in the Regions. Moreover, in November 2019 during the activity “Children Take Over UNICEF” many questions were raised by young children that aligned with issues raised by adults and youth across the country. The below table summarizes the results of these multi-stakeholder consultations grouping them into 4 out of 5 “P’s” – Planet, People, Prosperity, and Peace. This information was used to validate the current analysis, including the LNOB findings, as well as in formulating the conclusions and recommendations of this paper (Section 9)

Strategic priority areas PPs	Challenges	Who?	Negative Effects	Causes	Solutions
PLANET	Pollution / Waste management	CSO PARL		Industrial Activity Human waste (gases) Misuse of natural resources and pollution lack of recycling incl. and waste recycling technologies	Modern cleaning facilities Create standards for measuring the environmental impact / toxins (air/water/land, etc.) Accelerate the transition to a green economy Modernize recycling management system /Garbage disposal UN Role (Parl.): Bring recycling technologies

Strategic priority areas PPs	Challenges	Who?	Negative Effects	Causes	Solutions
	Desertification	GOV PARL	Low yield of soil Dust storms Air pollution Deterioration of health Soil salinization (Aral Sea) Migration Decrease in land (area) for agriculture / <u>Food Security Threats</u> (ACAD)	<u>Climate change</u> Intensification of droughts <u>Irrational use of water</u> Ineffective irrigation system Increased irrigated area	<u>Control human effects on environment</u> Introduction of environmentally friendly technologies: moisture-saving / intensive drip irrigation method Establishment of an early warning system Development of climate change programme / adaptation measures incl. Appropriate farmland type Reduce the role of the State/Government in agriculture and strengthen the in Institution of private property in agriculture
	Deforestation	GOV	Desertification / Low yield of soil	Lack of legal framework Ineffective urban planning and urbanization Weak political and civil activity	- Reforestation - Afforestation, including the dried bed of the Aral Sea - Create Preserve / strengthen laws on forest and animal protection Moratorium until 2030 Fund for implementation (international) City planning with public consultation
	Inadequate water management	GOV	A lack of quality water	Staff shortage Lack of technology	Establishment of research institutes Prepare highly qualified staff
		PARL CSO GOV	Water shortage Low yield Land degradation Food security (malnutrition and hunger)	limited water resources <u>outdated / insufficient infrastructure</u> Irrational and ineffective use of water No standards to control and manage water use system Inadequate funding Low incentives for water supply High cost of water saving technologies Imperfect Agricultural Regulation	Reconsider the policies on trans-boundary waters use Increase public awareness and education on water usage; Increase transparency and accountability of used centralized funds for improving irrigation systems Introduction of environmentally friendly technologies Modernize of infrastructure - build new / fix water drainage systems UN Role (Parl.): Suggested that the UN to control the agreements among neighbouring countries on water use Develop a framework on saving drinking water and water use Improve mechanisms for stimulating water supply, including the introduction of fees for water use (step by step)

Strategic priority areas PPs	Challenges	Who?	Negative Effects	Causes	Solutions
PEOPLE	Low pre-school enrolment	GOV	Child socialization Lack of sufficient development A lack of employment opportunities for one of the family members	Price Number of pre-schools Low private sector involvement Low level of material and technical resources Number of teachers	to attract private sector to the pre-school system pre-school training (children of 6) to renovate and modernize pre-school institutions to develop alternative forms of pre-schooling
	Poor quality education	GOV PARL ACAD	Graduate with poor knowledge Lack of awareness in economic, political, and social areas of life	Lack of teachers with high qualifications No link between state educational standards with international ones Poor educational resources Lack of internship opportunities during study time Insufficient funding Corruption	To train personnel in high quality education system / Retraining To utilize international expertise in the adjustment of infrastructure planning and educational needs Increase the number of HEd. institutions (regions) To increase salaries, incentives, benefits for teachers To incorporate international educational standards with national ones Academia: To develop innovative educational Labs. Foster public control and monitoring To open more private HEd. institutions Upward mobility (to create favourable conditions for increasing free HEd.) Increase the importance and the role of women
	Limited access to Education for vulnerable groups (young women and girls, people with disabilities / PLHIV)	ACAD CSO		Stereotypes regarding girls Lack of Infrastructure Non-compliance with the law on social protection of persons with disabilities No ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Create opportunities for girls to develop their leadership and self-confidence from the early age (to give them a chance to express themselves) Adopt the law on inclusive education Increase the power of NGOs of people with disabilities to monitor the execution of the laws, etc. UN support for Ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
		CSO	High stigma in relation to PLHIV	Lack of public awareness No programme that would reduce the level of stigma in the long run	to create special programmes reducing the stigma of different vulnerable groups by the UN sections

Strategic priority areas PPs	Challenges	Who?	Negative Effects	Causes	Solutions
	Poor Health Care (incl. access to health care services)	GOV CSO ACAD PARL	untimely detection of diagnosis and disease increase in mortality, morbidity and disability financial costs on health care impact on overall health of people	medical culture of people lack of skills and knowledge of the health care professionals insufficient infrastructural provisions (electricity, hot water, etc.) no guaranteed set of health care services	to raise awareness of people about risk factors using different information sources, discussions and lectures to improve professional development programmes considering international standards to create developed infrastructures in distant regions to move to a compulsory universal medical insurance (priority for kids)
	Domestic violence	GOV PARL	Physical and psychological injuries Crime rate Suicide Children's Health	Gender stereotypes Low legal and educational awareness Unemployment Lack or low level of rehabilitation services Low cooperation between mahalla, law enforcement units and other governmental agencies vulnerability of women and children	to develop a gender equality programme for school system to counter act and prevent domestic violence via social information sources to improve the efficiency of rehabilitation centres to create favourable conditions for women to get education and a profession
	Food Safety and Malnutrition – improper nutrition in children	ACAD		A lack of a systemic integrated focused long-term government policy on food security and including a methodology for determining issues and their effects Low awareness of people on healthy food Food culture Income of the population	to establish a national Food Education & quality nutrition programme for children to promote good nutrition to calculate a minimum consumer basket to use innovative methods in agriculture, to increase agricultural productivity and strengthen infrastructure <u>Food Safety</u> to prevent the spread and use of GM food to develop Healthy Food & Life style project to create a special Food Security body UN Role (Parl.) Assist in developing a framework to accommodate people with healthy food and healthy lifestyle, also to modernize health care

Strategic priority areas PPs	Challenges	Who?	Negative Effects	Causes	Solutions
	Limited social protection / low pension	ACAD CSO		Lack of public awareness of existing social protection opportunities High level of stigma towards people with disabilities and PLHIV A low priority for social protection excessive bureaucracy	to study the existing successful practices in other countries and adjust them to our reality to allocate social benefits based on the number of children and their consumer basket (change basket calculation methodology) to strengthen Social Security for vulnerable groups
	High rate of immigration/ migration / Brain Drain	GOV ACAD CSO	Outflow of the working-age population Ineffective use of a demographic window Impact on the GDP	High level of unemployment Low income Underdeveloped labour-intensive industries (Acad)	GOV to take into consideration peculiarities of the <u>regions</u> to retrain the labour force based on market needs to improve the mechanism for determining unemployment benefits ACAD: to harness local as well as international investment to initiate infrastructure projects in regions to develop service-sector to develop a Population policy
PROSPERITY	Unemployment (general + regions)	GOV CSO PARL	Crime and addiction Divorce Labour migration and social orphanhood	Lack of connection between education and labour market Lack of sufficient incentives for small and medium-sized enterprises Poor quality education Low level of investment in infrastructure and industries High taxes	To connect education with the market needs To ensure transparency of the loan / credit system To promote tax incentive programmes for SMEs to develop "Safe City" project in all cities and regions to stimulate favourable conditions and reduce prices for access to property Continuing education Tax reform To establish a social protection body
	Unemployment (youth and PwDs)	GOV CSO	Expansion of the informal / parallel sector	Lack of workplaces No quota for workplaces / jobs	to improve access to higher education and secondary special education to develop non-traditional forms of employment UN Role (Parl.): Assist in developing a framework for reducing youth and women unemployment

Strategic priority areas PPs	Challenges	Who?	Negative Effects	Causes	Solutions
	Skill Mismatch Labour market / Education system	PARL ACAD		No link between education and labour market Low level of investment	Assistance in planning and education (experts) modernize education system in the regions and target to meet the needs of the job market UN Role (Parl.): Assist in developing a framework to close the gap between education and market
	Difficulty to access financing (of people with disabilities and women)	GOV	Impoverishment of vulnerable people Not enough employment, educational and health opportunities Increase in the suicide rate	Poor implementation of local social protection systems Lack of individual approach to vulnerable people	develop a single job vacancies data to establish a system for social worker (case MNMT) to develop social entrepreneurship to create a system of independent trade unions
	Low level of energy supply, drinking water and infrastructure work in remote rural areas	GOV (remote area angle) PARL (general)	Little provision and impoverishment Unfavourable conditions for entrepreneurship Environmental degradation and the epidemiological situation	no calculations on the costs of resources Ineffective (insufficient) financing of infrastructure from local budgets Poor resource management outdated infrastructure a lack of processing technology lack of widespread use of innovative technologies in Energy field undeveloped renewable energy technologies/projects	to establish resource-saving (sustainable energy) programmes to improve management systems (State Unitary Enterprises, billing, digitalization, etc.) to improve the efficiency of infrastructure financing (local budgeting / finance) Increase the use of alternative energy-saving technologies (solar panels) UN Role (Parl.) Developing a framework to improve infrastructure (roads, electricity, gas, etc.) in cities and regions Assist in finding experts to train specialists for renewable energy, infrastructure
	Bad road quality	GOV PARL	Mortality on the roads, accidents Increased Maintenance Costs Decrease in investment, turnover, including tourism	Insufficient funding Inefficiency of road services Poor community public services cooperation <u>Outdated infrastructure</u>	improve the interaction of public services and road services improve city planning and publishing master plans for cities improve the transparency and accountability of the used road funds.

Strategic priority areas PPs	Challenges	Who?	Negative Effects	Causes	Solutions
PEACE	Transparency (and low CPI – 158)	GOV PARL ACAD	Low rating affects the image of the country and investment Implementation of reforms	Inconsistency of national legislation with international ones and their best international practice Use of outdated information for developing CPI Corruption at all levels (domestic and governmental) A lack of transparency in all government bodies and special services Absence of a contract between the state and the governing bodies administrators and the state power (no access to docs.) A lack of guarantee to protect government employees	to create an independent expert group prevention and active fight against corruption; Regulations to assist transparency / accountability of governmental activities and decision making, etc. UN Role (Parl.) Assist in developing a framework on ethical code of governmental employees
	Corruption	GOV PARL	Negative impact on welfare of population	low wages complicated mechanism of implementation of normative docs. ineffective system for declaring income of civil / governmental officials / employees a lack of transparency in decision-making process by in the executive body absence of an independent, unbiased anti-corruption organization	Digitalization of admin and legal processes Development of law on Civil Services to use experience of other countries <i>UN Role (Parl.):</i> Assist in developing programmes for training professionals for preventing any forms of violence and corruption, etc. Regulatory assistance in drafting a new anti-corruption law
	Lack of system of checks and balances among three main powers – legislature, executive and judicial	ACAD	Top-down decision making Lack of enforcement mechanism of international treaties, norms and standards in national legislation	Lack of public oversight over the execution of the laws and reforms Lack of an effective grievance redress mechanism Weak Rule of Law	increase people's political awareness in Makhallas The right to appeal to the Senate Commission with a report from citizens

Strategic priority areas PPs	Challenges	Who?	Negative Effects	Causes	Solutions
	Inadequate provision of public services by administration and problems with personnel capacity among government bodies	ACAD PARL		Poor quality of education (HEd.) Wrong incentive system for civil servants / career unattractiveness Ineffective appointment system of officials Lack of merit-based hiring system High workload and irregular working hours/ Unrealistic deadlines A low salary despite progress Ineffective civil control of the public-administration	Public administration reform incl. Decentralization Adjust successful practices of other countries to Uzbek reality foster public-service careers improve HR management Results-based management Enforce rule of law and improve accountability of civil servants establish administrative justice and parliamentary monitoring Simplification of procedures and mechanisms
	Weak Rule of Law and Access (trust) to justice system	GOV CSO	Human rights violations Lack of equality	lack of full independence judiciary inadequate professionalism lack of transparency Legal illiteracy education quality inadequate and insufficient number of sources of knowledge and info.	Establish new types of sources (centres, hubs, literature, etc.) for legal education. Register new NGOs for Human Rights protection
	Reinsertion / Rehabilitation Adaptation difficulties of people after being sentenced	GOV CSO	There is likelihood to commit a crime. Negative impact on society	Inadequate probation service Inadequate level of social support (rehabilitation programmes in prisons) Stigmatized relationships in society	to increase the capacity of probation officers by studying abroad, studying experiences of international probation services to provide state support (legal assistance) crime prevention "Safe City" media involvement to improve the quality of rehabilitation incl. social-psycho support

An analysis by an online AI-based tool²¹² of the above matrix has suggested that the issues of Human Capital (i.e., health (SDG3) and education (SDG4)), Corruption and Governance (SDG16), Clean Water (SDG6), and Nutrition (SDG2) were among the most commonly raised and discussed during the consultations. On the other hand, the lack of emphasis on climate and environment issues

(SDGs 11-15) underscores that the issues are probably not well understood and require public dialogue and education on climate change in order to ensure longer term sustainability and also to mitigate against entrenching inter-generational inequalities.

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