

STRATEGIC TASKS OF ENSURING YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN STATE POWER AND GOVERNANCE IN THE NEW UZBEKISTAN

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Abstract

As a result of the socio-political reforms being implemented in our country, youth are emerging as a leading force in the development of society. In particular, ensuring the active participation of young people in the system of state power and governance is laying the groundwork for building a democratic state and establishing transparent and effective administration.

In the practice of developed foreign countries, ensuring youth participation in state power and governance is considered one of the key indicators of building a democratic society. In Uzbekistan, recent reforms have similarly focused on actively involving young people in state and societal governance.

Today, youth policy has been defined as a priority area in the process of building a New Uzbekistan, and the principle “Youth – the Foundation of the New Uzbekistan” is being systematically and consistently implemented in state governance practice. Engaging the intellectual, initiative, and innovative potential of young people, who constitute a large portion of the country’s population, in state administration is of great importance. Ensuring youth participation in governance is an essential component of the theory of democratic management. In particular, involving young people in decision-making processes within state governance creates conditions for enhancing the legitimacy and effectiveness of public administration.

The Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan enshrines citizens’ right to participate in the management of state affairs. In this regard, the Law “On State Policy in the Sphere of Youth” defines the active participation of young people in state and societal life as one of the country’s priority tasks. The updated Constitution further strengthens the principles of human dignity, transparency, and public participation, thereby providing a solid legal foundation for enhancing the role of youth in state governance.

In recent years, comprehensive reforms have been carried out to fully implement people’s power, including improving the powers of local councils of people’s deputies to address socio-economic development and pressing issues of concern to the population. The updated Constitution clearly separates the positions of the heads of local councils and governors. Based on this, the principle of “Strong Council, Accountable and Initiative Governor” was introduced through the Decree No. PF-98 of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on June 23, 2025,

“On Approving the Concept for the Development of Local Government Representative Bodies in Uzbekistan until 2030.”

The main objectives of this decree include:

Fully realizing people’s power at the local level, including strengthening the role of local government representative bodies in addressing key social and state matters;

Consolidating democratization processes to ensure broad citizen participation in local governance;

Enhancing the accountability of executive bodies to local people’s representatives;

Decentralizing territorial administration based on the principle of “serving the interests of the population”;

Balancing the powers of regional and Tashkent city councils and district/city councils;

Clearly defining the functions of local government representative bodies at each level;

Strengthening the legal basis for international cooperation of local government representative bodies to enhance interregional trade, economic, and cultural-humanitarian relations.

At the same time, in recent years, a number of institutional reforms have been implemented to involve youth in state power and governance. In particular, the Youth Parliament under the President has been established, playing a significant role in involving young people in the legislative process. In this regard, the Agency for Youth Affairs, youth councils under local government bodies, and internship programs in state institutions contribute to developing young people’s governance experience. Additionally, the “Reserve of Young Cadres” system has been introduced to prepare talented youth for public service, while the implementation of digital governance systems—including electronic appeals, open budget, and public discussion platforms—further expands opportunities for youth participation in state administration.

At present, as a result of ongoing reforms in youth policy, it has become a pressing task to form a reserve of young cadres who are initiative-driven, possess innovative ideas, and are capable of addressing local challenges. Currently, such youth are being entrusted with responsibilities, and special attention is given to appointing them to key positions. Systematic implementation of youth-focused reforms has led to comprehensive measures aimed at fully supporting young people, providing them with greater opportunities and conditions, and introducing innovative approaches to their development.

In today’s rapidly progressing New Uzbekistan, developing human capital and nurturing a creative younger generation are being emphasized as one of the country’s strategic priorities. In particular, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev highlighted this issue in his Address to the Oliy Majlis and the people of Uzbekistan on December 26, 2025. As the President stated: “My goal is for our youth to become competitive in the world in high-demand professions, and if necessary, to surpass others”[3]. Accordingly, preparing highly creative and competitive

personnel, as well as raising young people in the spirit of patriotism and high morality, is an urgent task for advancing Uzbekistan among the world's developed nations.

Ensuring youth participation in state power and governance has become one of the key priorities in the process of building a New Uzbekistan. Engaging the intellectual, social, and innovative potential of young people, who make up a large portion of the country's population, in the system of state administration is a crucial condition for deepening democratic reforms. The idea of "New Uzbekistan – the Land of Youth," put forward by President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, forms the conceptual foundation of the state policy aimed at ensuring that youth actively participate as key actors in society and public life. This concept positions youth as the country's strategic reserve, the driving force behind social change, and a fundamental resource for future governance. According to this vision, young people should not only receive education but also become active participants in economic, social, cultural, and political reforms being implemented across the country.

Currently, large-scale reforms in Uzbekistan are being implemented in close alignment with the "New Uzbekistan" concept. This concept aims to comprehensively develop the country, uphold human dignity, and build a lawful democratic state and a just civil society. Within this process, the active segment of society, particularly the builders of the New Uzbekistan, plays a vital role. It is important to note that in recent years, the extensive reforms undertaken in the country have launched a new stage of development, which is closely associated with the "New Uzbekistan" vision, with human beings—especially the younger generation – at its core.

In his speeches and addresses, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev has consistently recognized youth as the most active and initiative-driven segment of society, describing them as the "Builders of the New Uzbekistan." Through this approach, the strategic role of young people in the country's development is clearly defined. This perspective reflects both the strategic and human-centered essence of state policy. As President Shavkat Mirziyoyev noted:

"We are creating all the necessary conditions to ensure the rights and interests of young people, so that they can study, work, gain knowledge, and demonstrate their abilities. After all, just like the rest of our people, young people are the Builders of the New Uzbekistan!"[4]

These words reflect the profound trust and confidence vested in the youth. Today, the "New Uzbekistan" concept, put forward by President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, envisions qualitative transformations across all sectors of society. Youth serve as the main pillar and support of our nation, playing a decisive role in the effective implementation of wide-ranging reforms. Young people, as the country's future, are not merely the object of reforms but their active subjects. In particular, the rapid pace of globalization has created a strong demand for young people who are well-educated, proficient in modern professions, skilled in innovative technologies and foreign languages, and capable of generating new ideas and initiatives.

Historically, youth have always been recognized as a dynamic force within society. Therefore, this segment must be continually nurtured, guided, and supported. In the current context of complex global socio-economic changes, young people – who constitute a large portion of Uzbekistan's population – represent a significant intellectual resource for society.

One of the main priorities of state policy is to raise youth comprehensively: to make them mature, spiritually resilient, physically healthy, morally upright, and loyal to the heritage of their ancestors. In this context, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev's reference to youth as the "Builders of the New Uzbekistan" carries both symbolic and practical significance. It expresses confidence in youth, encourages active civic engagement, and fosters a sense of responsibility and accountability for the fate of society. Recognizing young people as a constructive force contributes significantly to their education, professional development, and acquisition of innovative thinking, which are essential for building the New Uzbekistan.

In conclusion, as President Shavkat Mirziyoyev emphasized:

"Looking at our youth and seeing their achievements, our hearts swell with pride; we are proud to witness such a powerful constructive force joining our ranks"[5].

Indeed, ensuring youth participation in state power and governance is a fundamental prerequisite for laying the foundation of the New Uzbekistan.

References:

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