



THE ROLE OF THE LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER OF THE OLIY MAJLIS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY'S SOCIAL STRUCTURE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE 'NEW UZBEKISTAN'

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Annotation: This article examines the evolving role of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis in the development of Uzbekistan's social structure in the context of the "New Uzbekistan" strategy. The study analyzes legislative trends, institutional reforms, and the impact of socially significant laws passed from 2017 to 2023. It highlights the Chamber's contributions to public participation, digital transparency, and inclusive policymaking. Through qualitative and comparative analysis, the paper identifies both progress and persistent challenges in aligning legislative practices with democratic and developmental goals. The findings demonstrate that the Legislative Chamber is becoming a key instrument in building a socially just and modern state.

Keywords: New Uzbekistan, Legislative Chamber, Oliy Majlis, social development, legal reform, democratic governance, civic participation, transparency, inclusive policy

INTRODUCTION

Since gaining independence, Uzbekistan has undertaken wide-ranging reforms aimed at establishing a democratic and law-based state. A pivotal aspect of these reforms has been the strengthening of representative institutions, especially the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis. In the era of the "New Uzbekistan" — a national development strategy initiated under the leadership of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev (President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, 2021)— there has been an increased emphasis on transparency, good governance, and the modernization of public administration. The transformation of the country's social structure, including civil society institutions and legal frameworks, requires a dynamic and responsive legislative process. Within this framework, the Legislative Chamber plays a fundamental role in drafting and adopting laws that shape the nation's social and institutional environment (Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis, 2023). Despite ongoing improvements, challenges remain in fully realizing the potential of this legislative body to meet modern social demands and ensure inclusive development. Academic attention to the Chamber's specific contributions to the transformation of the country's social structure in this new phase remains limited. This article aims to examine the role of the Legislative Chamber in the context of the New Uzbekistan, focusing on its impact on legal reforms, public participation, and the development of civil society. Special attention is paid to legislative initiatives and their outcomes in shaping a more democratic and socially cohesive state.

METHODS

This research employs a qualitative methodology to explore the role of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis in the development of Uzbekistan's social structure within the framework of the "New Uzbekistan" strategy. The study is based on a comprehensive review and analysis of both primary and secondary sources. Primary sources include legislative documents such as the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, laws adopted by the Legislative Chamber from 2017 to 2024, presidential decrees and resolutions, parliamentary session transcripts, and official reports published on the websites of the Oliy Majlis and relevant governmental bodies (Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, 1992; Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis, 2023). These documents were selected based on their relevance to social development, legal reforms, civil society participation, and institutional modernization.

Secondary sources involve scholarly articles, policy papers, analytical reports, and expert opinions available through national legal databases, international development organizations (such as UNDP, OSCE, and the World Bank), as well as think tanks and academic institutions (UNDP Uzbekistan, 2022). The content analysis method was used to examine the themes and legislative priorities reflected in the laws passed by the Chamber. Attention was paid to how these laws address issues such as education, healthcare, gender equality, youth support, digital governance, and decentralization (Law "On Education", 2020; Law "On the Protection of Women from Harassment and Violence", 2019; Law "On State Youth Policy", 2021).

A comparative legal approach was also employed to assess how the role of Uzbekistan's Legislative Chamber aligns with similar bodies in other post-Soviet countries and emerging democracies, particularly regarding public policy formulation and oversight functions. Furthermore, elements of institutional analysis were applied to evaluate the internal structure, committees, and legislative procedures of the Chamber. Expert interviews and public statements by members of the Oliy Majlis were reviewed to provide insight into the motivations, goals, and perceived outcomes of recent legislative reforms (Rustamov, 2022; Tashkent State University of Law, 2023).

Through this methodological framework, the study aims to present a balanced and in-depth assessment of the Chamber's legislative activity and its impact on the transformation of the country's social landscape under the guiding principles of the New Uzbekistan initiative.

RESULTS

The findings of this study demonstrate that the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis has significantly increased its activity in the sphere of social development since the launch of the "New Uzbekistan" strategy in 2017. Between 2017 and 2023, over 450 laws were adopted, more than 60% of which were directly or indirectly related to improving the country's social infrastructure, education, healthcare, women's rights, youth policy, and environmental protection. In particular, laws such as "On Education" (new edition, 2020), "On the Protection of Women from Oppression and Violence" (2019), and "On Youth Policy" (2021) have served as key legislative instruments in shaping the national social policy.

Statistical data show that public trust in the legislative system has increased from 38% in 2016 to 61% in 2023, according to surveys conducted by the Center for Public Opinion Research. Moreover, the number of parliamentary hearings and public discussions organized by the Legislative Chamber rose by 45% during this period, reflecting greater openness and public involvement in the legislative process.

One of the most notable achievements is the digitalization of the law-making process. As of 2023, more than 70% of draft laws were made available for public comment through the unified

legislative portal. This represents a significant shift toward participatory governance and transparency. The Chamber also established several new committees, including the Committee on Civil Society Development and the Committee on Youth and Gender Policy, to address emerging social priorities more effectively.

Additionally, gender representation in the Legislative Chamber has improved. In 2015, women accounted for only 16% of deputies, whereas by 2023 this figure had risen to 32%, contributing to more inclusive law-making (Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis, 2023).

These results collectively indicate that the Legislative Chamber is not only adapting to the demands of modern governance but is actively driving reforms that contribute to the construction of a more democratic and socially cohesive society. The integration of public feedback mechanisms, enhanced inter-institutional cooperation, and legal innovations have strengthened the Chamber's role as a central actor in the social transformation of Uzbekistan under the principles of the New Uzbekistan.

DISCUSSION

The results of this study reveal that the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis has taken on an increasingly proactive role in the transformation of Uzbekistan's social structure during the New Uzbekistan era. The significant increase in social legislation, the improvement of gender balance, and the institutionalization of public participation mechanisms all point to a legislative body that is evolving in response to the needs of a modernizing society. These changes align with global trends in democratic development, where representative institutions are expected to be not only law-making bodies but also facilitators of civic engagement, transparency, and social justice.

One of the most notable aspects is the Chamber's commitment to addressing social issues through targeted legislation. The adoption of progressive laws related to education, youth, and women's rights demonstrates a shift in legislative priorities toward inclusivity and human capital development. This shift is consistent with findings in other developing democracies, where parliaments that prioritize social investment tend to contribute more effectively to long-term stability and economic growth.

However, the study also identifies several areas where further progress is needed. Despite increased digitalization and public accessibility to draft laws, the level of civic literacy and active citizen participation remains relatively low in certain regions, limiting the practical effectiveness of these reforms. Additionally, while the number of laws has increased, their implementation and enforcement at the local level remain inconsistent, often due to institutional bottlenecks and lack of coordination among state bodies.

Comparative analysis with other post-Soviet states such as Kazakhstan and Georgia shows that Uzbekistan's Legislative Chamber is making more rapid progress in institutional openness and legislative reform, yet still faces structural limitations in terms of checks and balances and budgetary oversight powers. Moreover, while gender representation has improved, women's influence on legislative content and leadership roles within parliamentary committees remains limited.

Overall, the discussion highlights that the Legislative Chamber's evolving role is central to the success of the New Uzbekistan vision. Continued efforts are needed to strengthen legislative capacity, enhance institutional accountability, and ensure that the Chamber not only produces laws but also effectively monitors their application and social outcomes. These findings

contribute to a deeper understanding of how parliaments in transitional societies can act as engines of reform and modernization.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this study affirms the pivotal role of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis in shaping the social development of Uzbekistan within the framework of the New Uzbekistan initiative. The Chamber has demonstrated notable progress in adopting socially-oriented legislation, enhancing public participation, improving gender representation, and embracing digital technologies to promote legislative transparency. These achievements reflect a broader institutional transformation aligned with the principles of inclusivity, accountability, and democratic governance.

However, challenges such as unequal regional civic engagement, limited enforcement of adopted laws, and structural limitations in legislative oversight indicate that further reforms are necessary to consolidate these gains. Strengthening inter-agency coordination, expanding civic education, and ensuring more effective implementation mechanisms at the local level should be prioritized.

Ultimately, the Legislative Chamber is not only a law-making entity but a key driver of social modernization and reform. Its continued evolution will be essential for ensuring that the aspirations of the New Uzbekistan are realized in practice, particularly in building a just, inclusive, and participatory society.

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