

## **THE IMPACT OF SOCIETAL REFORMS ON CITIZENS' POLITICAL CONSCIOUSNESS AND POLITICAL CULTURE**

**Yaxshiboyev Sh. Q. –PhD, Acting Associate Professor, Urgench State University,  
Uzbekistan**

**ABSTRACT:** This article analyzes the impact of political, social, and economic reforms implemented in society on citizens' political consciousness and political culture. The study examines how reforms influence citizens' participation in state and public administration, political activity, legal awareness, and attitudes toward democratic values. Furthermore, the article highlights the role and significance of reforms in strengthening civil society, enhancing public oversight, and promoting political culture.

**Keywords:** society, reforms, political consciousness, political culture, civil society, democratic values, political participation, legal awareness, public oversight, public administration.

### **INTRODUCTION**

After gaining independence, our country chose the path of building a civil society and a rule-of-law state based on market economy principles as its primary strategic objective. These tasks are closely connected with creating legal foundations for enhancing citizens' political culture and ensuring their active participation in societal reforms. In this regard, reforming public life, state governance, and local self-government systems means achieving the level of development attained by advanced countries through a harmonious combination of national and international experience. Enhancing political culture as a crucial factor of political processes constitutes the essence of political modernization being implemented in Uzbekistan. It aims to increase citizens' participation in political and administrative decision-making, establish effective public oversight over government institutions, continuously analyze these processes, and adapt the political system to the requirements of civil society.

In contemporary Uzbek society, human beings are viewed not only as the ultimate goal of development but also as the primary means of modernization. Therefore, improving citizens' knowledge, professional skills, and intellectual potential is regarded as an integral component of modernizing the country and its governance system. From this perspective, following the assumption of office by President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, comprehensive reforms aimed at improving the effectiveness of public administration were initiated.

Globalization and the pluralization of service delivery have become key driving forces behind these transformations. The policy challenges faced by governments are no

longer simple, linear, or exclusively national; instead, they are increasingly complex and global in nature. Nevertheless, the paradigms available for designing and implementing public sector reforms remain relatively static. Across the developing world, public sector reforms are being carried out in accordance with political realities and the specific regional and national characteristics of each country.

A review of international experience demonstrates that leading nations have developed unique strategies and objectives corresponding to their historical paths of development. For example, the United States advanced significantly during the twentieth century through several strategic initiatives, including Franklin D. Roosevelt's "New Deal." Likewise, Germany, one of the world's most developed countries, adopted its National Sustainable Development Strategy more than a decade ago and updated it in 2018 in response to contemporary global development trends.

For more than thirty years, Uzbekistan has been steadily advancing toward development, striving to improve social welfare and achieve economic growth. Although this period is relatively short from a historical perspective, the rapid pace of global development and the expansion of globalization have intensified the demands of time, requiring political authorities to identify effective and accelerated pathways for national progress. If development merely meant moving forward through large-scale reforms, results could be achieved more easily and within a shorter period. However, in the geopolitical context of Central Asia, development primarily depends on maintaining rational cooperation with major political powers and geopolitical poles, ensuring regional and societal security, and demonstrating resilience against various political and ideological threats.

From this perspective, since 2016 Uzbekistan has been developing medium- and long-term strategies based on national and historical characteristics while taking into account the evolving global political order and international development standards. These programs encompass various dimensions of development and clearly outline the state's priorities and plans for the coming years. Importantly, they have been formulated through extensive public consultation. Thus, approximately six years ago, Uzbekistan entered a new stage in its development trajectory. The foundation for this transition was provided by the Action Strategy, developed under the initiative of the country's leadership and with the direct participation of citizens through their proposals and recommendations. This strategy identified five priority areas for implementing political, legal, economic, and social reforms in Uzbekistan. Subsequently, the Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan for 2022–2026 and the "Uzbekistan–2030" Strategy, adopted in September 2023, became logical continuations of these reforms.

Within the framework of these strategies, numerous regulatory and legal documents have been adopted to improve the system of state and societal development. Their implementation has facilitated the resolution of long-standing problems accumulated in various sectors and has contributed to the comprehensive regulation and modernization of these spheres.

Today, the people of Uzbekistan are guided by ambitious goals, including achieving living standards comparable to those of the world's most developed countries and building a modern democratic society. Creating a contemporary and attractive image of the country and constructing a New Uzbekistan have become the primary aspirations of the nation's citizens.

It should be particularly emphasized that the reforms being implemented under the leadership of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev embody the traditions of statehood that were established in the historical region of Movarounnahr, as well as the scientific ideas and views of prominent scholars and statesmen regarding governance and public administration.

It is worth noting that while the implementation of the Action Strategy launched in 2017 and designed for a five-year period elevated reforms in Uzbekistan to a new level and deepened their scope, the Development Strategy ensured the continuation of these efforts. The public presentation of the Development Strategy in 2021 marked the beginning of a new phase of comprehensive reforms in the country. The fact that the draft strategy underwent broad public discussion and that nearly 100 conceptual amendments and more than 200 specific additions were introduced based on over 17,500 proposals and comments submitted by citizens clearly demonstrates the people-oriented nature of this important document.

To achieve these noble objectives, on January 28, 2022, the Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan for 2022–2026 was approved by Presidential Decree No. PF-60 of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The significance of this document lies in its role in creating the necessary political, legal, socio-economic, scientific, and educational foundations for large-scale reforms to be implemented over the next five years under the principle of “From the Action Strategy to the Development Strategy.”

In conclusion, the ongoing modernization of the public administration system in Uzbekistan serves as an important factor in ensuring the effectiveness of reforms across all sectors. Ultimately, the achievements and successes attained through these reforms will contribute to laying the foundation for a new era of national renaissance in Uzbekistan—the Third Renaissance.