



RETROSPECTIVE ANALYSIS AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES IN THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM OF UZBEKISTAN

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Article history:	Abstract:
Received: 26 th May 2025 Accepted: 24 th June 2025	<i>This article presents reflections on the retrospective analysis and legal foundations of applying information and communication technologies in the activities of economic courts. It also discusses how this process has developed gradually, systematically, and as one of the priority areas of reform.</i>
Keywords: Economic court, judge, information and communication technologies, video conferencing, openness, transparency, digitalization.	

The adoption of the Presidential Decrees of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated August 2, 2012, "On Measures for the Fundamental Improvement of Social Protection for Judicial System Employees"¹ and November 30, 2012, "On Organizational Measures to Further Improve the Functioning of the Courts"², played a significant role not only in strengthening the authority of the judiciary but also in advancing the implementation of modern information and communication technologies (ICT) that align with the practices of democratic states.

Notably, under the Presidential Decree of August 2, 2012, the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan was tasked with approving a program for the introduction of ICT in judicial activities, in coordination with the Supreme Court, and with proposing the establishment of specialized ICT units within court structures. As a result, the Cabinet of Ministers adopted Resolution No. 346 on December 10, 2012, "On Measures to Implement Modern Information and Communication Technologies in Court Operations", which approved a separate program for 2012–2014 consisting of six sections and 17 action items.³ This program aimed to enhance computerization in court operations, improve the efficiency of computer equipment use, develop court information systems and

resources, and expand and improve the quality of interactive services for businesses and the public.

The program specifically called for the development of:

- An electronic court system,
- Video and audio recording of court hearings,
- New methods of court hearing stenography,
- Information systems like "Court Activities" and "Court Documents" for collecting, processing, systematizing, and storing court-related information,
- Mechanisms for electronic submission of claims and applications to the Supreme Court, including supporting documents,
- Mandatory publication of economic court decisions,
- Modernization of court websites,
- Electronic notifications and document delivery to hearing participants.

By the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated October 4, 2013, "On Measures to Improve the Activities and Efficiency of District and City Courts" (as amended by Presidential Decree No.5187 of September 11, 2017 - National Legal Database, 2017, Issue 37, Article 980)⁴, an Information and Analytical

¹ Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated August 2, 2012, "On Measures for the Fundamental Improvement of Social Protection for Judicial System Employees". Available at: <https://lex.uz/docs/2037985>.

² Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated November 30, 2012, "On Organizational Measures to Further Improve the

Functioning of the Courts". Available at: <https://lex.uz/docs/4910826>.

³ Note: This decree was repealed by Resolution No. 396 of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated July 21, 2022, "On Further Systematization of the Legal Framework"—<https://lex.uz/docs/2101057>.

⁴ Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated October 4, 2013, "On Measures



Department was established within the structure of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The decree also addressed several key developments, including the introduction of improved and simplified procedures for maintaining statistical reports based on the use of modern information and communication technologies (ICT) in judicial practice, and the equipping of newly established courts with up-to-date ICT tools and systems.

Amendments and additions introduced by Law No.352 of April 30, 2013, to the Economic Procedural Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan, which had been in force since August 30, 1997, and remained valid until April 1, 2018, stipulated that applications to the economic court were to be made in accordance with forms prescribed by the Code. Applications and attached documents could be submitted to the economic court electronically through the information system. If parties involved in the case had provided their telephone, fax numbers, or email addresses to the court, they were required to inform the court in writing either in hard copy or electronically via the information system of any changes to that information during the course of proceedings.

Additionally, decisions of the economic court were to be sent within five days from the date of issuance to the participants of the case by registered mail with acknowledgment of receipt or delivered against a written receipt. If the parties had valid email addresses, decisions could also be sent electronically via the information system. In cases where the court issued a ruling as a separate procedural document, that ruling was to be delivered within five days of its issuance to the participants and other persons concerned either by mail with acknowledgment or with a signed receipt and, where applicable, also electronically.⁵

In the Presidential Decree dated October 21, 2016, titled "On Measures for Further Reform of the Judicial-Legal System and Strengthening Guarantees for the Reliable Protection of Citizens' Rights and Freedoms," this issue received even broader attention. The decree designated the use of advanced scientific and technical means, ICT, and modern methods of organizing work as one of the primary tasks of courts, law enforcement, and supervisory bodies in implementing the main

priority areas of state policy. Furthermore, it assigned the task of developing proposals to introduce modern methods and formats of electronic court proceedings and advanced mechanisms for achieving fair justice with the aim of improving the quality of judicial activity.

Under this decree, the "Program of Comprehensive Measures for Further Reform of the Judicial and Legal System and Strengthening Guarantees for the Reliable Protection of Citizens' Rights and Freedoms" was approved. Clause 18 of the program envisioned, in the fourth quarter of 2017, the development of a set of measures aimed at ensuring full compliance with the rights and lawful interests of citizens, improving efficiency through the application of advanced scientific and technical tools, ICT, and modern methods of work organization.

Moreover, Clause 32 of the program provided for the development and implementation of legislative amendments and additions aimed at introducing modern methods and formats of electronic court proceedings, enabling electronic interaction with participants, using video conferencing, recording procedural actions via audio and video, and expanding the use of new forms of stenographic recording of court-investigation processes. Undoubtedly, the implementation of these initiatives contributed to improving the efficiency of court operations. They also served to systematically realize the principles of transparency, openness, and accessibility of justice to the public, fully in line with the requirements of the modern stage of national development and the implementation of the Law "On Electronic Government." By the Presidential Decree of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated February 21, 2017, titled "On Measures to Radically Improve the Structure and Enhance the Efficiency of the Judicial System of the Republic of Uzbekistan"⁶, the task was set to conduct a critical assessment of the use of modern technologies in court activities, and to approve a practical action program aimed at further improving information systems and resources that contribute to the effectiveness of the judiciary and citizens' access to fair justice.

Additionally, the Presidential Resolution dated April 19, 2017, "On Organizing the Activities of the Research

to Improve the Activities and Efficiency of District and City Courts". Available at: <https://lex.uz/mact/2255026>.

⁵ Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan No.352 dated April 30, 2013, "On Amendments and Additions to Certain Legislative Acts of the Republic of Uzbekistan". Available at:

<https://lex.uz/docs/2159832?ONDATE=01.05.2013%2000#2160720>

⁶ Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated February 21, 2017, "On Measures to Fundamentally Improve the Structure and Increase the Efficiency of the Judiciary". Available at: <https://lex.uz/docs/3121087>



Center for the Study of Justice Issues under the Supreme Judicial Council of the Republic of Uzbekistan”, assigned one of the Center’s functions as the development of proposals for implementing advanced scientific and technical tools, information and communication technologies, and modern organizational methods to improve the efficiency of the courts⁷.

In this context, it is no exaggeration to say that the Presidential Decree No.4947 of February 7, 2017, “On the Strategy for the Further Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan” marked a new stage of reform. The Strategy outlines six priority areas, and the second of these ensuring the rule of law and further reforming the judicial and legal system includes as its first objective the true independence of the judiciary, enhancing its authority, and democratizing and improving the judicial system. Among the set of measures in this area was the integration of modern information and communication technologies into court operations.

Clause 65 of the 2017 State Program for Implementing the Development Strategy of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2017–2021 (declared the “Year of Dialogue with the People and Human Interests”) called for the implementation of modern ICT in the judiciary. In particular, the following measures were specified:

- Introducing an automated system for the distribution of cases among judges;
- Establishing internal corporate communications for timely electronic information exchange in courts;
- Incorporating a modern ICT infrastructure into judicial operations;
- Creating an electronic legal-information database for court decisions;
- Publishing all court decisions (except those from closed hearings) with the consent of

⁷ This decree was repealed by Presidential Resolution No. PQ-4096 dated January 6, 2019, “On Measures for Comprehensive Improvement of the Training and Qualification System for Judicial Candidates and Court Staff” – <https://www.lex.uz/acts/3171002>.

⁸ UN Special Rapporteur Diego García-Sayán, “We Cannot Yet Call Uzbekistan’s Judiciary Fully Independent”, UN Human Rights Council report, 2020. Available at:

<https://www.gazeta.uz/uz/2020/07/17/review/>;

<https://undocs.org/ru>

the participants and while ensuring personal data privacy.

Amendments and additions to certain legislative acts of the Republic of Uzbekistan were envisaged to support these innovations, which undoubtedly serve to protect citizens' rights and freedoms, ensure legality, safeguard the legitimate interests of business entities, and enhance the effectiveness of justice.

In 2019, at the invitation of the Government of Uzbekistan, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers, **Mr. Diego García-Sayán**, visited the country. In his report to the UN Human Rights Council, published on July 13, 2019, he noted that since President Shavkat Mirziyoyev’s inauguration, several steps had been taken to strengthen judicial independence and enable lawyers to perform their professional duties freely. Among the positive changes in the judiciary, he specifically emphasized the regular publication of court decisions on the website of the Supreme Court and the phased introduction of electronic procedures to enhance transparency and access to justice.⁸

Notably, to implement the recommendations made by the UN Special Rapporteur and as a logical continuation of ongoing judicial-legal reforms in the country, the President of Uzbekistan issued Decree No.6012⁹ on June 22, 2020, “On Approval of the National Strategy on Human Rights of the Republic of Uzbekistan”, followed by Decree No.6034 on July 24, 2020, “On Additional Measures to Further Improve the Activities of the Courts and Enhance the Effectiveness of Justice”.¹⁰ By the Presidential Decree No.6034 dated July 24, 2020, “On Additional Measures to Further Improve the Activities of Courts and Enhance the Effectiveness of Justice”, the establishment of a Directorate for Public Relations and Cooperation with Mass Media within the structure of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan was mandated. In addition, press services

⁹Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No.6012 dated June 22, 2020, “On Approval of the National Strategy on Human Rights of the Republic of Uzbekistan”. National Legislative Database, June 23, 2020, No. 06/20/6012/0953.

¹⁰ Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No.6034 dated July 24, 2020, “On Additional Measures to Further Improve the Functioning of the Courts and Increase the Effectiveness of Justice”. National Legislative Database, July 24, 2020, No. 06/20/6034/1103.



were to be created within the structures of regional and equivalent-level courts. The decree also stipulated that the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan, in cooperation with the Supreme Court, must submit to the Presidential Administration within two months proposals for a program aimed at further expanding the use of information and communication technologies (ICT) in court operations.¹¹

Furthermore, with the aim of digitalizing the activities of judicial authorities and improving data exchange between courts and other institutions, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan adopted the Resolution dated September 3, 2020, "On Measures for the Digitalization of the Activities of Judicial Authorities."¹²

To ensure the right to access information on court activities and to guarantee consistent application of the relevant legal acts by courts, the Plenum of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan adopted Resolution No. 04 on February 21, 2020, "On Ensuring the Transparency of Court Hearings and the Right to Access Information about Court Activities." The Plenum Resolution underlined that transparency in court proceedings and the timely and objective provision of information to the public about court activities serve as key guarantees for the implementation of fair justice. They also enable increased legal awareness in society, enhance public oversight of the judiciary, and act as an effective means of strengthening public trust in the courts. Accordingly, courts are required to create the necessary conditions for the realization of the right to access information on judicial processes and activities (Clause 1 of the Resolution).¹³

As part of the broader goal of digitalizing judicial operations and improving data exchange between courts and other institutions, the Presidential Resolution "On Measures for the Digitalization of the Activities of Judicial Authorities" dated September 3, 2020, defined the following key tasks:

- expanding the types of interactive electronic services provided to citizens and business entities, ensuring that the process of reviewing each application can be monitored online, and enabling free use of interactive services in court buildings;
- enhancing electronic data exchange between the courts and ministries, agencies, and other organizations to ensure prompt access to information necessary for the administration of justice;
- introducing special information software to ensure openness and transparency in the functioning of judicial self-governance bodies;
- expanding opportunities to participate in court hearings remotely, including through mobile devices and other forms of electronic interaction, and enabling parties to receive court decisions online;
- strengthening measures to ensure the information and cyber security of court information systems, databases, and other software tools, including comprehensive protection of service information and data.¹⁴

By Presidential Decree No.6034 dated July 24, 2020, a program for the digitalization of the activities of judicial authorities for 2020–2023 was approved in Uzbekistan. According to this program, the following milestones were set:

- From January 1, 2021 – All courts were to start recording court hearings using audio recordings, based on the petition of the parties and with the consent of the presiding judge. Court session protocols were to be generated using this system.
- From July 1, 2021 – Courts of appeal and cassation were to implement automated case distribution among judges.
- From October 1, 2021 – All participants in court proceedings were to be notified free of charge via SMS about the time and location of court hearings.

¹¹ Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No.6034 dated July 24, 2020, "On Additional Measures to Further Improve the Functioning of the Courts and Increase the Effectiveness of Justice". National Legislative Database, July 24, 2020, No. 06/20/6034/1103.

¹² Presidential Resolution dated September 3, 2020, "On Measures for the Digitalization of Judicial Authorities". Available at: <http://uza.uz/oz/documents/sud-okmiyati-organlari-faoliyatini-ra-amlashtirish-chora-ta-04-09-2020>.

¹³ Resolution of the Plenum of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 04 dated February 21, 2020, "On Ensuring the Transparency of Judicial Hearings and the Right to Access Information about the Activities of Courts". Available at: <https://lex.uz/docs/4751577>

¹⁴ Presidential Resolution dated September 3, 2020, "On Measures for the Digitalization of Judicial Authorities". Available at: <http://uza.uz/oz/documents/sud-okmiyati-organlari-faoliyatini-ra-amlashtirish-chora-ta-04-09-2020>.



- From January 1, 2022 – Court decisions were to be provided to parties online, and in paper format upon request.

- By July 1, 2022 – Approximately 10 types of interactive services were to be launched to facilitate access to justice for citizens and business entities.

- From January 1, 2023 – Case files were to be transferred to and received by state archives in electronic format. It was also planned to further improve the ICT infrastructure of courts, the Supreme Judicial Council, and the Higher School of Judges.¹⁵

On January 16, 2023, Presidential Decree No.11 “On Additional Measures to Expand Access to Justice and Increase the Effectiveness of Courts” was adopted. The decree approved the Short-Term Strategy for Advancing the Judicial System to a New Level for 2023–2026, identifying the full digitalization of court operations, introduction of artificial intelligence (AI), enhancement of interagency data exchange, and expansion of remote participation in court hearings as key priorities.

Clause 3.7 of the Strategy specifically provides for the integration of ICT in courts and the protection of information security, including:

- Accelerating the digitalization of judicial authorities;
- Introducing AI for legal aid, automated preparation of court documents, and analysis of judicial decisions.¹⁶

Furthermore, on **January 25, 2025**, a **draft Presidential Decree** of the Republic of Uzbekistan titled “On Measures for the Further Implementation of Artificial Intelligence Technologies in Court Activities and Effective Organization of Digitalization in the Judiciary” was published for public discussion on the unified electronic system for the development and coordination of draft legal acts ([project.gov.uz / loyiha.adliya.uz](http://project.gov.uz/loyiha.adliya.uz)).

A retrospective analysis of the introduction of ICT into the judiciary of Uzbekistan and its legal foundations shows that this process has developed **gradually, systematically**, and as **one of the priority areas of reform**. Particularly over the past decade, digital information systems, **video conferencing**, and the **digitalization of judicial procedures** have been actively implemented to ensure openness, transparency, and effectiveness in the functioning of the judiciary.

Notably, the implementation of projects such as “**Electronic Court**” (**E-Sud**), “**Reliable Protection**”, and other e-systems has significantly improved user convenience enabling **electronic submissions, remote participation, and digital document exchange**. Economic courts, too, have been adopting **video conferencing** tools, and are progressively accepting and analyzing **electronic evidence**.

The process of digitalizing judicial activities in Uzbekistan is being implemented in full alignment with national legislation and international legal standards. The integration of information and communication technologies (ICT) has become a critical factor in improving the efficiency, transparency, and accessibility of judicial procedures, while also facilitating the effective realization of citizens’ right to access justice.

At the same time, the legal framework regarding the status of electronic data its recognition as admissible evidence and the mechanisms governing its use requires further development and refinement. It is essential to establish clear legal definitions of the concepts of “electronic information” and “electronic evidence” within the Economic Procedural Code. Moreover, the right to participate in court proceedings via videoconferencing must be guaranteed by law, supported by the development of specific procedures to ensure the availability of necessary technical infrastructure during judicial hearings.

Ensuring both legal and technical protections for the safeguarding of personal data and information security in judicial processes is also of paramount importance. In addition, the organization of regular professional development programs aimed at enhancing the digital literacy of judges and court staff is vital. Raising public awareness and promoting a culture of using online judicial services through mass media and internet-based educational campaigns should be considered a strategic priority.

These measures, taken together, would contribute meaningfully to the creation of a modern, transparent, and accessible judiciary in Uzbekistan, consistent with national reform goals and international best practices.

¹⁵ Presidential Resolution dated September 3, 2020, “On Measures for the Digitalization of Judicial Authorities”. Available at: <http://uza.uz/oz/documents/sud-okmiyati-organlari-faoliyatini-ra-amlashtirish-chora-ta-04-09-2020>.

¹⁶ Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. PF-11 dated January 16, 2023, “On Additional Measures to Expand Access to Justice and Increase the Efficiency of the Courts”. Available at: <https://lex.uz/docs/6358976#6360188>.