



## **THE ROLE OF SOCIAL PROTECTION IN THE NEW DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY OF UZBEKISTAN**

**Djurakulovich Ziyadullaev Makhmudjon**

Independent applicant of the University of Public Security of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Head of the Department of Private and Legal Rights Specialized branch Tashkent State Law University (PhD), Associate Professor

E-mail: [maxmud1970@rambler.ru](mailto:maxmud1970@rambler.ru)

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<b>Received:</b> January 30 <sup>th</sup> 2022 <b>Accepted:</b> March 4 <sup>th</sup> 2022 <b>Published:</b> April 18 <sup>th</sup> 2022	<p><i>This article highlights the ongoing reforms in the field of social security in the Republic of Uzbekistan, the constitutional consolidation of the rights of the population to social security, the existing problems and ways to solve them in the coming years.</i></p> <p><i>It is also noted that one of the seven priority areas identified in the "new development strategy of Uzbekistan for 2022-2026", developed on the principle of "from an action strategy to a development strategy", is the implementation of a fair social policy, the development of human capital, as well as the implementation of reforms implemented after 2017, including by appointment and the payment of pensions, methods have been affected.</i></p>
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It is known that the care of the State and society for the segments of the population in need of social protection is carried out through social security institutions. The issues of social protection established by the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan are fully reflected in life.

Currently, the Republic provides pensioners with decent pensions, the provision of permanent social assistance to individual pensioners, free provision of various foodstuffs, free provision of necessary prosthetic and orthopedic products for the disabled, free vouchers to sanatorium-resort institutions, the appointment of social benefits to the poor, financial assistance and benefits to unemployed citizens, all this is evidenced by the fact that the issues of The social security of every person in the **New Uzbekistan** is guaranteed by the state.

Indeed, of the seven priority areas identified in the "new development strategy of Uzbekistan for 2022-2026", developed on the principle of "from an action strategy to a development strategy", one of the priorities is the implementation of a fair social policy, the development of human capital.

This development strategy specifically identifies several important and urgent tasks for social protection aimed at improving human dignity, including:

- Full coverage of the needy population with social benefits and material assistance until 2026;
- development of a draft National Strategy for Social Protection of the population;

- implementation of a unified state policy in the field of social protection;
- creation of a social insurance system, including the creation of a Social Insurance Fund;
- provision of social assistance and services to low-income families on the basis of a social contract;
- Starting from January 1, 2023, the maximum salary for calculating pensions is ten to twelve times higher than the base amount for calculating pensions.

The development strategy also defines the task of developing a separate draft law providing for the following amendments to the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On State pension provision of citizens".

When developing this project;

- an increase of six years - a three-year period when calculating pensions for women, which is counted in the total length of service during their time on parental leave;
- when assigning pensions to children with disabilities from childhood up to the age of 18, it is envisaged to take into account such important issues as an increase in work experience.

As can be seen from the above priorities, the issues of social protection in the country have been raised to the level of the head of state, which indicates that the priority goal of reforms aimed at further improving the welfare of citizens in need of social protection, unconditional provision of human rights and interests and the formation of an active civil society is the principle of "for human dignity".

Within the framework of the action strategy for the five priority areas of development of the Republic of



Uzbekistan for 2017-2021, over the past short period, about 300 laws, more than 4 thousand presidential resolutions were adopted in order to radically reform all spheres of state and public life, according to the analysis, about 60 resolutions and decrees on social security of the population were adopted during this period alone.

As it is known, until recently there were a number of problems with the appointment and payment of pensions and benefits to citizens.

In particular, previously, about 30 documents were required for the appointment of pensions or pensions were forcibly transferred to bank plastic cards, pensions of 50 percent were paid to working pensioners, and pension payments were delayed for months and other problems caused reasonable objections of the population.

Article 39 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan establishes that "everyone has the right to social security in old age, disability, as well as in case of loss of a breadwinner and in other cases provided for by law."

Over the past short period, the above problems have been solved and even forms of social security have been introduced, which is a rarity in world practice.

For example, appointment-granting the right to appoint and pay pensions to persons serving sentences in colonies, sentenced to imprisonment, is also a rare practice in the legislation of developed countries.

It is known that since 2020, the countries of the world have experienced the consequences of the coronavirus pandemic. Despite the pandemic conditions, the country has adopted relevant regulatory documents to provide targeted assistance to persons in need of social protection, regularly increase pensions, create favorable conditions for pensioners, provide material assistance to persons in need of social assistance, and some work has been carried out.

Including;

- the validity period of the passport and power of attorney has expired, payments have been extended to citizens and persons with disabilities without presenting documents;

- In 2020, the surpluses identified as a result of checking the pension affairs of citizens were written off;

- citizens who have the right to a pension have been granted the right to apply within a month after the end of quarantine;

- every child who has lost a breadwinner and has a disability since childhood has been allocated funds from the Pension Fund for the purchase of winter clothes, school uniforms and school supplies.

Although during the pandemic in foreign countries, even in countries with developed economies;

- maintaining the size of pensions at the same level;

- temporary reduction of contribution rates;

- temporary non-increase of pensions;

- it was forced to develop measures such as deferral of contributions to social insurance funds.

As an integral continuation of the ongoing reforms and in order to further improve the social protection of pensioners, on April 7 of this year, the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. PP-198 **"on additional measures to further improve the system of payment of state pensions, allowances, compensations and other social benefits"** was adopted.

In accordance with this resolution, a number of favorable conditions have been created for the timely payment and delivery of pensions and allowances, compensations.

To date, there are more than 4 million recipients of pensions and benefits in the republic, the necessary recipients of pensions and benefits were introduced into the financing system before the 5th of each month.

In particular, it is envisaged that starting from May 1 of this year, until the 5th of each month, financing and payment of socially significant payments to citizens included in the "Temir daftar", "Yoshlar daftari" and "Ayollar daftari", as well as unemployment benefits, scholarships and material assistance to citizens released after serving their sentences, will be carried out in accordance with the established procedure.

As you know, today the task of timely delivery of pensions and benefits in cash is assigned to JSC "Xalq Bank". Payment of remuneration in the amount of 1 percent is provided to the bank for the provision of this service.

It is important to note that the recipients of pensions by means of bank plastic cards by the exit cash desks of AT "Xalq Bank" are also obliged to exchange the funds on their cards for cash at their discretion.

It is also determined that for this category of citizens, that is, recipients of pensions, allowances, compensation payments and other material assistance through bank cards, a monthly surcharge of 1 percent of the amount of pension and allowance will be introduced.

The decree abolished the practice of maintaining pension accounts in commercial banks for pension payments of employees of the paramilitary system, which had been in effect since post-Soviet times, and from September 1, 2022, automation of the system for



calculating and calculating payments of their pensions is provided.

This resolution also assigns a number of tasks to commercial banks, including in order to fully solve problems with the money circulation of the population, especially those living in remote regions, and create more favorable conditions for them to accept ATMs from abroad, the development of new mobile applications of the bank that allow remote management of pension funds of pensioners.

In conclusion, it should be noted that the widespread recognition in society of the humanistic idea that a person, his rights and freedoms are the highest value in the light of the socio-economic reforms carried out in the republic and that everything should be subject to human happiness and well-being, contributes to the emergence of new human and social relations, new approaches to events.

After all, in the New Uzbekistan, based on the principle: "reform is not for reforms, but first of all for a person," as the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan put it, reforms in the social sphere are aimed at improving the level and quality of life of the people.

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