



# THE INSTITUTIONAL SYSTEM OF ENSURING TOURISM SAFETY IN UZBEKISTAN

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## Abstract:

This article provides a historical, legal, and organizational analysis of the formation and development processes of the institutional system for ensuring tourism safety in Uzbekistan. The study examines the mechanisms of cooperation between state governing bodies, local authorities, tourism organizations, and other stakeholders involved in ensuring tourism safety. It also highlights the management system formed as a result of reforms implemented in the tourism sector during the years of independence, its legal foundations, and practical activities.

**Keywords:** tourism, tourism safety, institutional system, public administration, tourism organizations, legal mechanism, tourist rights, safety policy, Uzbekistan

**INTRODUCTION.** Today, tourism is one of the rapidly developing sectors of the global economy, and its sustainable functioning largely depends on the effectiveness of safety measures. In the modern tourism system, the concept of safety has a broad meaning, encompassing not only the physical protection of tourists but also ensuring their legal interests, monitoring the quality of services, compliance with sanitary and hygienic requirements, and ensuring the safety of transport and infrastructure.

After gaining independence, Uzbekistan identified the development of the tourism sector as one of the important directions of state policy. The country's rich historical and cultural heritage, ancient cities, pilgrimage sites, and natural resources have created significant opportunities for transforming tourism into a promising sector of economic development. At the same time, alongside the development of tourism, there emerged a need to establish an effective institutional system capable of ensuring the safety of tourists.

**MAIN PART.** The institutional system for ensuring tourism safety refers to the mechanisms of cooperation between state governing bodies, authorized organizations in the tourism sector, law enforcement agencies, local government authorities, service providers, and the public. The effective functioning of this system contributes to protecting tourists' rights, improving the quality of tourism services, and strengthening the country's position in the international tourism market.

The initial legal foundations for ensuring tourism safety in Uzbekistan began to take shape in the early years of independence. Initially, tourism activities were regulated within the framework of general legislation related to entrepreneurship and consumer protection. Later, taking into account the specific characteristics of the tourism sector, specialized legal mechanisms were developed.

The Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Tourism," adopted in 1999, became an important stage in the legal regulation of the tourism sector. This law defined the main principles of tourism activities, the rights of tourists, the responsibilities of tourism organizations, and mechanisms of state regulation. This document created the initial legal foundation for the formation of an institutional system aimed at ensuring tourism safety.

In subsequent years, the rapid development of the tourism sector required further improvement of the state management system. While addressing issues related to the development of tourism, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh.M. Mirziyoyev emphasized the necessity of "effectively utilizing the country's great tourism potential, improving the management system of the sector, and creating modern infrastructure" [1]. This approach further increased the importance of institutional mechanisms in ensuring tourism safety.

The Presidential Decree No. PF-4861 of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated December 2, 2016, "On Measures to Ensure the Accelerated Development of the Tourism Sector of the Republic of Uzbekistan," brought state management in the tourism sector to a new level. Based on this document, the activities of authorized state bodies responsible for tourism development were improved, and mechanisms for comprehensive management of the sector were established [2].

The new edition of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Tourism," adopted on July 18, 2019, further strengthened the institutional foundations of ensuring tourism safety. The law established legal provisions related to protecting the life, health, and safety of tourists, ensuring that tourism services comply with established requirements, and increasing the responsibility of tourism entities [3].



The institutional system for ensuring tourism safety is a continuously developing process that requires the integration of public administration, economic mechanisms, and social factors. Particularly in the context of expanding international tourism flows, ensuring tourist safety has become one of the important factors determining the country's investment attractiveness and tourism competitiveness. The relevance of this research lies in the fact that the scientific study of the institutional system formed in Uzbekistan for ensuring tourism safety, analysis of its development stages, and identification of existing problems have significant scientific and practical importance for improving modern tourism policy.

**RESEARCH METHODOLOGY.** In conducting this research, historical-legal analysis, systematic analysis, comparative-legal analysis, and institutional approach methods were used to study the institutional system of ensuring tourism safety in Uzbekistan. The main objective of the research is to identify the stages of formation of the tourism safety management system during the years of independence, analyze the activities of state and non-state institutions involved in this system, and reveal the mechanisms of their interaction.

Using the historical-legal method, the institutional changes implemented in the tourism sector after Uzbekistan gained independence, the formation of the management system, and the development process of the legal framework were studied. In this regard, the content of laws related to tourism, presidential decrees, resolutions of the Cabinet of Ministers, and state programs was analyzed. The main sources of the research included the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Tourism," presidential decrees, government resolutions, scientific literature related to the tourism sector, and recommendations of international organizations. In particular, the new edition of the Law "On Tourism" adopted in 2019 was used as one of the main sources for studying the modern institutional foundations of ensuring tourism safety. Through the comparative-legal analysis method, the tourism safety management system in Uzbekistan was compared with international experience. This method was used to analyze issues related to the powers of state bodies, the responsibilities of tourism organizations, and the legal protection of tourists' rights. Based on the institutional approach, tourism safety was assessed not as the responsibility of a single organization or state body, but as an integrated system based on cooperation between various management entities. In this context, the interaction between public administration bodies, local authorities, tourism organizations, law enforcement structures, and service consumers was considered as the main object of the research.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION.** The institutional system for ensuring tourism safety in Uzbekistan has been gradually formed during the years of independence. Initially, the tourism sector was regulated through general mechanisms of public administration; however, with the increasing economic and social significance of tourism, specialized management institutions in this field were established. State governing bodies play a particularly important role in the formation of the tourism safety system. This is because the implementation of unified tourism policies, establishment of safety standards, monitoring of tourism services, and development of international cooperation are carried out primarily through state institutions.

The tourism management system in the Republic of Uzbekistan has been continuously improved since the early years of independence. While these responsibilities were initially carried out by various state organizations, the establishment of specialized authorized bodies for tourism development marked a new stage in the management of the sector. One of the key elements of the institutional system for ensuring tourism safety is the activity of authorized state bodies. These institutions perform important tasks related to monitoring compliance with legal requirements in the tourism sector, improving service quality, and protecting tourists' rights.

The Presidential Decree No. PF-4861 of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated December 2, 2016, paid particular attention to improving the tourism management system, developing tourism infrastructure, and introducing modern management mechanisms in the sector. The document identified the development of tourism as one of the strategic directions of the national economy [4].

The development of legal institutions also plays an important role in ensuring tourism safety. The Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Tourism," adopted in 2019, further strengthened the legal foundations of this system. The law clearly defines issues related to ensuring tourist safety, compliance of tourism services with established requirements, and the responsibility of tourism entities. The law pays particular attention to the protection of tourists' rights and states that tourists have the right to receive safe conditions while using tourism services [5]. This provision contributes to increasing the responsibility of the state and service providers in ensuring tourism safety.

Research conducted by Uzbek scholars also emphasizes the importance of institutional management in the tourism sector. According to I.S. Tuxliyev, "the effective functioning of the tourism system is formed on the basis of harmonizing the interests of public administration bodies, service providers, and consumers" [6]. This idea demonstrates the necessity of cooperation among all institutions involved in ensuring tourism safety. Local government bodies also play a significant role in ensuring tourism safety. This is because the condition of tourist facilities, the level of infrastructure



development, sanitary and hygienic conditions, and the prevention of emergency situations in regions largely depend on the activities of local administrative authorities.

The issue of ensuring tourism safety in Kashkadarya region is also closely connected with the regional management system. Historical sites such as the Shahrisabz Historical Center, the Kitab Geological Area, pilgrimage sites, and natural tourist attractions require not only increasing tourist flows but also strengthening safety measures. In the process of developing regional tourism, cooperation between local government authorities, tourism organizations, and institutions responsible for managing cultural heritage sites is of great importance. Such cooperation creates opportunities for providing tourists with high-quality and safe services.

As B. Safarov emphasizes, "the effective development of the regional tourism services market is directly related to the improvement of regional management mechanisms and the enhancement of service quality" [7]. This view demonstrates the importance of institutional mechanisms in ensuring tourism safety at the regional level. Information support mechanisms also occupy an important place in the tourism safety system. Informing tourists about potential risks, service conditions, and procedures for action in emergency situations is one of the effective means of protecting their rights. In the studies of U. Matyoqubov, particular attention is also paid to the role of information support and consumer rights protection in improving the quality of tourism services [8]. Thus, the institutional system for ensuring tourism safety in Uzbekistan represents a complex structure formed on the basis of cooperation between public administration, legal mechanisms, regional governance, and tourism organizations.

**CONCLUSION.** In conclusion, the institutional system for ensuring tourism safety in Uzbekistan has been gradually formed during the years of independence and has been improved in accordance with modern requirements. Initially, the tourism sector was regulated through general legal and administrative mechanisms. However, with the increasing importance of tourism in the country's economy and social life, specialized state management systems, legal institutions, and monitoring mechanisms were established. In the future, further improvement of tourism safety in Uzbekistan requires the wider implementation of international standards, the development of regional safety programs, the use of modern monitoring technologies at tourist facilities, and the improvement of legal and professional training of specialists working in the tourism sector. These measures will contribute to strengthening the country's tourism potential and ensuring the sustainable development of the tourism industry.

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