



Implementation of State Youth Policy at a New Stage of Development of Uzbekistan

Nigora Zaynitdinovna Saydalieva

Candidate of Philosophical Sciences, Senior Lecturer, Tashkent State University of Oriental Studies, Uzbekistan

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Abstract

The socio-political activity of youth is an indicator of the processes taking place in modern society. Since the young generation is the main mobilization resource of society, which determines the future of the state. This article is devoted to youth policy, international legal documents developed by the UN, the growing relevance of this issue in connection with the deepening of globalization processes and the ensuing dangers and challenges covering all countries, the solutions of which are impossible without the active participation of young people, a question that is always one of the priority tasks of the international community and in particular the UN. The international legal documents regulating the youth sphere are considered, since this issue has been an object of state policy in more than 130 countries of the world since the middle of the 20th century. The article comprehensively surveys the new course taken by Uzbekistan to increase the role of youth in the socio-political life of society. In this regard, emphasis is placed on the comprehensive support of youth initiatives, both from the state and from youth organizations. Based on this, it can be argued that an open dialogue with youth has become a strategic direction at a new stage in the development of Uzbekistan. In this strategy, a key place is given to increasing the social activity of youth, their involvement in the processes of formation of a modern, democratic state.

Keywords: *Youth; State Youth Policy; Innovative Thinking; Self-Realization; The Youth Strategy – 2030; Features of Youth Policy; Youth Political and Social Activity; Youth Culture, Participation of Ngos in the Implementation of Youth Policy, Youth Organizations*

Introduction

The implementation of youth policy is one of the objective laws of the modern stage of world development, associated with the constant strengthening of the role of the “youth factor” in modern socio-economic and political processes.

It is not a secret for anyone today that the modern young generation is growing in the world with rather wide opportunities arising, first of all, from the production and overproduction of information, which required them to adapt to these conditions (Pavlov: 2019, p. 55). The ever-deepening globalization

of international relations has put forward the need to develop a unified criterion of international law in various spheres of social and political life, in particular, youth policy.

The Main Findings and Results

Today more than 60 percent of the population of Uzbekistan is young people. That is why all the creative changes taking place in our country are based on all-round development - physical health, intelligence, not only a large amount of knowledge, but also a profession in demand today, at the same time an intelligent, creative person.

The relevance of youth upbringing is determined by the following factors:

First, Uzbekistan is a country with great youth potential. In our country, people under the age of 30 make up 60% of the population.

Secondly, youth is a layer that transfers national values to future generations, continuing the tradition of continuity.

Thirdly, young people are the force for the continuation of democratic reforms in our society.

Fourthly, young people are by their nature a unique social group, inclined to imitation, followers, and carriers of new ideas in society, immature.

The strong youth policy pursued in the country has a solid legal basis. This policy is reflected in the provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, 22 laws in this area. One of the first legislative acts adopted after our country gained independence is the Law of November 20, 1991 "On the foundations of state youth policy in the Republic of Uzbekistan". During this period, many targeted government programs have been successfully implemented.

International Legal Documents Regulating the Youth Sphere

In different years, the UN and its bodies adopted a number of conceptual and normative documents on the problems of youth policy: Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), Declaration of the UN General Assembly No. 2037 (XX) "On the dissemination of the ideals of peace, mutual respect and understanding among peoples among the youth" (1965), UN General Assembly Resolution 36/17 "Channels of communication between the United Nations and youth and youth organizations" (1981); UN General Assembly Resolution 45/112 United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (Riyadh Guidelines) (1990), The United Nations General Assembly Recommendations "United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (Beijing Rules)" (1985), Braga Youth Action Plan (1999). In 1999, the UN General Assembly in Resolution "A / RES 54120" supported the recommendation of the World Conference of Ministers for Youth Affairs (Lisbon, 1998) to declare August 12 as International Youth Day (Tarsan: 2010, pp. 323-324).

Since 2004, the UN Secretary General has been delivering an annual Message to the world's youth on the occasion of International Youth Day (12 August). The message in 2004 was devoted to the issues of demography and the reduction of the share of the young generation in the world's population, in 2007 - to the issue of participation of young people in development (UN YOUTH FLASH), in 2008 - "Sustainability is our challenge, our future", in 2018 - the implementation of a new strategy "Youth 2030" to revitalize the UN in cooperation with youth and in their interests (<https://www.un.org/sg/ru/content/>), in 2019 - to change the education system in order to increase its inclusiveness, accessibility and relevance in modern conditions (<https://www.un.org/sg/ru/content/>).

Today it is impossible to solve modern challenges and threats without the active participation of the younger generation, which “has innovative approaches”. They need to be equipped with modern skills, to encourage initiatives (Speech by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan: 2017).

In this context, the initiatives of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoev, put forward during the 72nd session of the UN General Assembly in September 2017, including on the development of the UN International Convention on the Rights of Youth, are aimed at the formation and effective implementation of youth policy in the context of globalization and turbulent development of information and communication technologies.

As the head of our country noted, providing conditions for self-realization of youth will create a barrier to the spread of the “virus” of the ideology of violence. In order to develop multilateral cooperation for social support of the young generation, protection of its rights and interests, it is necessary to develop an appropriate international document on the rights of youth. The signatory states of this document must commit themselves to raising this area to the level of one of the main, vital priorities of their social policy (UN Strategy “Youth-2030. Work with and for youth”).

In the context of dynamic economic growth and development of information technologies, in 2018 the UN launched a new strategy “Youth 2030” (Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan: 2018) aimed at enhancing cooperation with youth, creating conditions for the constructive participation of young people in making decisions that affect them and in their interests.

As noted in the message from UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres to youth: “Young people need security - security in public, civic, physical and digital spaces, with which they can freely express their opinions and follow their dreams.

We must make efforts to ensure that young people have the opportunity to receive education, undergo vocational training and get decent jobs, thereby realizing their full potential” (<https://www.un.org/sg/ru/content/>).

Youth Issue as an Object of State Policy

Uzbekistan has taken a course towards building a modern democratic rule-of-law state with a strong civil society. This presupposes a qualitatively new level of relations between the state, society and the individual. In this context, the country's youth acts as a driving force for the development of the state and one of the important factors of social stability in society. In today's conditions in Uzbekistan, young people can become a socially active force of society, capable of fully embracing new democratic values and in the future to take responsibility for the development of society.

The Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan has become a solid legal foundation in the field of youth. For the first time in the history of Uzbek legislation, the Constitution enshrines the right of the country's youth to conduct entrepreneurial activities based on the recognition of private property, social guarantees, including the right to work, free general education and qualified medical care, but their provision is entrusted to state bodies. In particular, guaranteeing the right to education, as well as state guarantees for receiving free general education (Article 41 of the Constitution), play an important role in the upbringing of young people and shaping their lives (Festive congratulations to the youth of Uzbekistan: 2018).

The basic law of the country enshrines guarantees for the formation of the political culture of youth. The Constitution pays special attention to the social institution of the family, the education system, national and universal values. For example, article 65 of the Constitution guarantees the equality of children before the law, regardless of the origin and civil status of the parents, as well as the protection of motherhood and childhood by the state.

In general, over the years of independence, a developed regulatory framework has been formed in Uzbekistan, legal and economic conditions have been created to ensure the interests of young people, to display their talent and potential. More than 20 laws, decrees and decrees adopted during this period reflect the norms and rules directly related to the life of young people (The Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On State Youth Policy”: 2019).

Along with this, during the years of independence in Uzbekistan, a special state program has been developed that proclaims the social direction of the year. In particular, 2008 was declared the Year of Youth, 2010 - the Year of Comprehensively Advanced Generation, 2014 - the Year of the Healthy Child, 2016 - the Year of the Healthy Mother and Child. 2021 - “The Year of Youth Support and Health Promotion”. This fact testifies to the colossal attention of the state to creating the proper conditions for the younger generation.

Currently, more than 60 percent of the population is young people, that is, there is a whole generation of people living in the country under the age of 30. Therefore, the key priority of the entire social policy in Uzbekistan has become a concern for the upbringing of a harmoniously developed young generation.

On September 14, 2016, the Law “On State Youth Policy” was adopted, which created a solid legal basis for the upbringing of harmoniously developed, independently thinking, proactive and energetic youth, capable of taking responsibility for the future of our country, using their potential in the name of the interests of the people, as well as the realization of her intellectual and creative potential.

The state youth policy in the law means a system of measures implemented by the state and providing for the creation of conditions for the social formation and development of the intellectual, creative and other potential of youth. The document refers to youth (young citizens) all persons aged 14 to 30 years inclusive (Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan: 2017).

According to the law, the main directions of the state youth policy of Uzbekistan are: ensuring the rights, freedoms and legitimate interests of youth; protection of life and health of young people; assistance to the spiritual, intellectual, physical and moral development of youth; provision of affordable and quality education for young people; creation of conditions for employment and employment of youth; educating young people in the spirit of patriotism, citizenship, tolerance, respectful attitude to laws, national and universal values, capable of resisting harmful influences and trends, with firm convictions and outlook on life; protecting young people from actions that undermine moral foundations, ideas of terrorism and religious extremism, separatism, fundamentalism, the cult of violence and cruelty; raising the level of legal consciousness and legal culture of youth; support and stimulation of gifted and talented youth; creating conditions for the development of youth entrepreneurship; the formation of a desire for a healthy lifestyle among young people, as well as the creation of conditions for the organization of meaningful leisure time for young people and the mass development of youth sports; implementation of a comprehensive system of measures for the moral and material support of young families, the creation of decent housing and social conditions for them; development of cooperation with international organizations carrying out activities in the field of the implementation of the rights and freedoms of youth.

Features of the State Youth Policy of Uzbekistan

The strategy of actions in five priority areas of development of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2017-2021, adopted at the initiative of the President of the country, identified a number of new important tasks to increase the activity of youth in the process of reforms to build a democratic state and develop a civil society. In the Strategy, a separate section is devoted to the issues of improving the state youth policy.

As part of the implementation of the Strategy, a set of measures is being implemented to educate physically healthy, spiritually and intellectually developed, independently-minded young people loyal to the Motherland with firm views, their social activity is increasing in the process of deepening democratic reforms and the development of civil society (Speech by President Shavkat Mirziyoev: 2017).

In this direction, the emphasis of the government's work is placed on employment and attracting graduates of secondary specialized, professional and higher educational institutions to the sphere of private entrepreneurship. The practice of targeted training of specialists will be developed, implying the formation of admission quotas on the basis of forecast indicators of the development of economic sectors and the conclusion of quadripartite agreements with college graduates for their further employment. More attention is paid to supporting and realizing the creative and intellectual potential of the younger generation, the formation of a healthy lifestyle among children and youth, their wide involvement in physical culture and sports. Work on the social protection of youth is being improved, and the creation of decent housing and social conditions for young families (Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan: 2017).

The adoption of a number of measures aimed at comprehensive support of young people, the protection of their rights and interests, the provision of all possible assistance so that they find their place in life is acquiring ever more important historical significance. Especially, the announcement of June 30 as Youth Day in our country, the creation of a completely new organization - the Youth Union of Uzbekistan, has really become a support for young people who are full of noble goals and aspirations, and brought them confidence in the future.

As the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh.M. Mirziyoev emphasized, "... this Union will become a structure that ensures effective interaction with government bodies, non-governmental non-profit organizations and other civil society institutions in the implementation of state youth policy, carrying out professional activities under the slogan "Youth is the builder of the future" (Resolutely continuing the path of national development: 2017).

The Union's activities are also supported financially. According to the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On measures to improve the efficiency of state youth policy and support the activities of the Youth Union of Uzbekistan" dated July 5, 2017, 8% of the accrued amount of the single tax payment of small businesses will be transferred to the Development Fund of the Youth Union of Uzbekistan. Subsidiaries organized under the Union will be exempt from all types of taxes for a period of 10 years. At the same time, 20% of the amount remaining at the disposal of the enterprise as a result of the application of this privilege will be transferred to the Development Fund of the Youth Union of Uzbekistan (Speech by President Shavkat Mirziyoev: 2017).

In Uzbekistan, a new practice is being implemented to qualitatively improve cooperation between local authorities and the structures of the Youth Union of Uzbekistan. For example, deputy governor of regions and districts on youth policy, social development and spiritual and educational affairs, deputy heads of the district department of internal affairs for youth are appointed to their posts in accordance with the recommendations of the Youth Union of Uzbekistan (Resolutely continuing the path of national development: 2017, p. 526).

As President Sh. Mirziyoev emphasized, "The Youth Union of Uzbekistan should become a kind of center for the training of leading personnel for the state and society, if we speak in modern language, a "social lift" for youth. He needs to create a reserve of competent, proactive and organizational, selfless young leaders" (Resolutely continuing the path of national development: 2017, p. 520).

For these purposes, in 2017, the Institute for the Study of Youth Problems and the Training of Promising Personnel was established at the Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The Institute is entrusted with such tasks as the formation of a database of

promising young personnel of state authorities, public organizations, the creation of a system for monitoring their professional development; preparation of proposals for the promotion of these personnel to managerial positions, as well as the organization of training courses for retraining and advanced training of promising young personnel of state authorities, state and economic management, public organizations.

In order to stimulate active youth who serve as an example for everyone with their work, initiative and moral qualities, the state prize “Mard Oglon” (“Valiant son of the Motherland”) and the medal “Kelajak bunyodkori” (“Creator of the future”) were established.

It should be noted that the next big step to ensure employment, unleash the potential of young people and assist them in effective socialization in society was the State Program “Yoshlar – kelajagimiz” (“Youth is our future”), approved by a separate decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The state program “Yoshlar – kelajagimiz” is aimed at ensuring youth employment through assistance and support in the implementation of youth business initiatives, start-ups, ideas and projects, training unemployed youth in specialties and business skills in demand in the labor market, as well as increasing their socio-economic activity in the whole (The decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan: 2018).

Within the framework of the State program, the “Yoshlar - kelajagimiz” Foundation was established under the Youth Union of Uzbekistan, from which funds will be used to finance the following activities, including:

- Provision through commercial banks of soft loans and property on lease at a rate of 7 percent per annum for the implementation of youth business initiatives, start-ups, ideas and projects;
- Issuance of guarantees for loans received under the State Program, for an amount not exceeding 50 percent of the loan amount;
- Participation in entrepreneurial projects carried out within the framework of the State Program, in the amount of not more than 50 percent of their value, with the subsequent sale of the Fund's share within 5 years;
- Purchase of up to 20 young poultry and rabbits, 5 heads of small and 2 heads of cattle for households in which unemployed young people live with the appropriate skills, assistance in their cultivation and subsequent sale, with a refund of their value within the agreed time frame.

Also, on July 1, 2018, the construction of “Yosh tadbirkorlar” (Young Entrepreneurs) co-working centers (in order to provide young entrepreneurs on preferential terms with renting premises, office equipment and supplies, as well as assistance in the implementation of youth business initiatives, start-ups, ideas and projects, etc.) and “Yoshlar mehnat guzari” (Youth Labor Quarter) complexes (in order to create retail and household and small production sites).

In accordance with the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On measures to radically reform the state youth policy in the Republic of Uzbekistan” on June 30, 2020, on the basis of the Youth Union of Uzbekistan, the Youth Agency of the Republic of Uzbekistan was created.

The agency develops and implements a unified state policy, strategic directions and state programs in the field and areas related to youth. The agency exercises state control over the observance of legislation in the field of youth policy.

Also, on June 30, 2020, by the decision of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Youth Parliament was created under the Senate. The Youth Parliament is an advisory body formed on the basis of the Youth Union.

Conclusion

In general, Uzbekistan has taken a course to increase the role of youth in the social and political life of society. In this regard, an emphasis is placed on the comprehensive support of youth initiatives, both from the state and from youth organizations.

In this state youth policy, a key place is given to the development of public activity of young people, their involvement in modern, democratic processes of state development.

In our opinion, the question should be raised about further increasing the effectiveness of the model of attracting young people into the sphere of public life, which would meet the needs of young people, rely on democratic values and be able to organize young people as one of the main resources of the country's future.

Therefore, in Uzbekistan, public institutions are of great importance, where young people gain experience of constructive interaction with the government, business, local communities, learn to defend their rights and achieve their plans and interests. In this regard, the activities of the Youth Union of Uzbekistan are of great importance for increasing the social activity of youth in the context of their real modern needs.

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