

**The Thirtieth Anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women
and the Adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995)**

REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

**COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BEIJING
DECLARATION AND PLATFORM FOR ACTION (1995)***

* This English version was prepared by UN-Women. It has not been officially validated by the submitting Government and is provided solely for informational purposes. To access the full report, please refer to the original submission.

Section 1. Key messages

The essentials of the process of national review

The review process of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA) was carried out in accordance with the *Guidance note for comprehensive national-level reviews* and was based on a comprehensive and inclusive approach. This approach included conducting studies and collecting statistical data for analysis of the situation of women in various areas of life; analysis of the implementation of international obligations undertaken by the country within the BPfA; evaluating legislative reforms and government programmes aimed at achieving gender equality; and identifying challenges and new possibilities for the full implementation of gender equality objectives.

Consultative meetings were held with the broad participation of stakeholders, including government bodies, courts, law enforcement agencies, national human rights institutions, civil society institutions, as well as the private sector and international organizations.

Uzbekistan has set up a special steering committee to monitor the implementation of the BPfA in the form of the National Commission on Enhancing the Role of Women in Society, Gender Equality and the Family, presided over by the President of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis.

An innovation in the process of preparing the review was the participation of parliament, represented by the Senate of the Oliy Majlis in accordance with the recommendations of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU).

This review was prepared by the National Centre for Human Rights using the data provided by the ministries and agencies and contains information about the fundamental changes and progress achieved by Uzbekistan in the provision of economic, social, cultural, civic and political rights of women in the period of 2019–2024.

Progress in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action

Through wide-ranging reforms aligned with the “**Uzbekistan – 2030**” Strategy, the country has achieved significant progress in implementing the BPfA in the following areas:

1. Strengthening the legal framework of gender equality:

Gender-responsive laws were adopted, and a mandatory gender legal analysis of legislation was introduced to identify possible discriminatory risks in the process of their implementation.

In 2021, the country's parliament approved the Strategy for Achieving Gender Equality by 2030, which identified eight key areas for ensuring gender equality, empowering women and eliminating all forms of discrimination. The government adopted the National Programme for Increasing the Participation of Women in all Spheres of Economic, Political and Social Life in the country for 2022–2026.

2. Reinforcing the institutional gender mechanism:

The establishment of the National Commission on Enhancing the Role of Women in Society, Gender Equality and the Family; the formation of the Committee on Women and Gender Equality in the upper house of parliament; the establishment of the Committee on Women and the Family in the Republic of Uzbekistan and its territorial subdivisions, including the appointment of special representatives for women's affairs in 9,940 mahallas; as well as the creation of gender equality units in the government bodies – all have contributed to increasing engagement of women in all areas of economic, political and social life of the country, and enabled significant progress in advancing women's rights and gender equality in the society.

3. Expanding the number of women in politics:

A gender quota was introduced requiring at least 40 per cent of candidates nominated for parliamentary elections to be women (or at least 2 of every 5 candidates). The proportion of women in legislative bodies was 33.3 per cent, 35 per cent in managerial positions and 44 per cent in political parties, indicating the progress in increasing the participation of women in political life. The introduction of a new system for appointing a woman as deputy head in government bodies and organizations where the state's stake exceeds **50 per cent**, contributed to the advancement of women in leadership positions.

4. Expanding economic opportunities for women, developing women's entrepreneurship:

Through government support programmes – including the promotion of equal employment opportunities, reduction of the gender pay gap, development of women's entrepreneurship and (re)training in new professions – efforts to expand women's economic opportunities and improve social protection for women have demonstrated good results. Work to study and address the problems of women on the ground has reached a new level. Last year alone, allotting 1 trillion 234 billion sums based on the “Women's Notebook” system helped to solve the problems of around 994,000 women.

5. Combating gender-based violence:

Uzbekistan became the first country in Central Asia to adopt innovative legislation to combat gender-based violence. For the first time, domestic violence, stalking and sexual harassment were criminalized with administrative and criminal liability introduced. Hotlines and support centres have been set up for abused women. These measures have been critical in confronting and preventing violence against women and girls.

6. Expanding access to higher education:

The literacy rate among women in Uzbekistan exceeds 99 per cent, which is a significant achievement in access to basic education.

The introduction of a system of interest-free educational loans for women and targeted quotas for women's education in all higher, specialized secondary and vocational educational institutions in the country on a fee-paying basis, as well as refunds of the contract payments from the State Budget to all women pursuing graduate studies at state higher educational institutions have expanded access of women to higher education.

Challenges and success factors

Traditional gender stereotypes: Maintained gender stereotypes and traditional ideas of female roles in the family and society remain one of the obstacles on the path to achieving full gender equality.

Inadequate mechanism for monitoring and assessing progress: Even though the legislation to protect women's rights has improved and benefited the progress in some areas, the problems in implementing and monitoring these measures have hampered the achievement of steady progress.

Addressing the needs of marginalized women and girls

Uzbekistan has taken targeted actions to address and meet the special needs of women and girls from marginalized groups and strives to implement the principle of "leaving no one behind" within the BPfA. These measures include:

1. Social protection and support for women from rural areas:

Since 2021, a series of benefits have been introduced to promote self-employment, including the mechanism to allocate subsidies to the unemployed women and women in difficult social situations to start their own businesses. These women are identified through the "Iron Notebook", "Women's Notebook" and "Youth Notebook".

As a result of the assessment of the situation of women across the households, the targeted aid has been provided to more than 690,000 families in need of social protection, and the social environment was improved in 116,000 vulnerable families.

In rural areas, microcredit programmes have been launched to support female farmers and entrepreneurs, enabling many women to access financing to start and run their own businesses.

Vocational training programmes have been established for women in rural and remote areas, enabling them to acquire in-demand skills and enhance their competitiveness in the labour market.

2. Support for women with disabilities:

Measures have been developed to improve the access of women with disabilities to education and employment. Special quotas and programmes help to integrate them into social and economic life. Work is underway to improve the infrastructure for people with disabilities, including adapting public spaces and facilities, which help women and girls with disabilities to better integrate into society.

3. Protecting the rights of women and girls from ethnic minorities:

Uzbekistan is making efforts to ensure equal access for women and girls from ethnic minorities to educational resources, while taking into account their cultural characteristics. Literacy and vocational training are being developed in such communities.

4. Support for victims of domestic and gender-based violence:

Legislation has been amended to reinforce the protection of women's rights, including the introduction of more stringent penalties for domestic violence and discrimination. Crisis centres and support services have been set up to provide legal, psychological and medical assistance to victims of abuse.

5. Support for women returning from conflict zones:

For women returning from the areas of military conflicts, the Government has developed reintegration programmes that include psychological rehabilitation, vocational training and social support, which has helped such women and their families to rebuild their lives.

6. Measures to improve reproductive health and access to health services:

For women living in remote and rural areas, mobile medical teams have been organized to provide maternal and child health services, as well as reproductive health services.

Programmes have been launched to improve adolescent girls' access to reproductive health information, which is especially important for girls from poor and marginalised groups.

Best practices and lessons learned

During the implementation of the BPfA and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, several best practices were introduced in Uzbekistan that may be beneficial for other countries. These examples illustrate how successful interventions can have a synergistic effect towards the achievement of gender equality, sustainable development and social progress.

1. Programme to Support Women's Entrepreneurship and Microcredit in Rural Areas

As part of the efforts to empower women economically in Uzbekistan, microcredit programmes have been launched to target women from rural and marginalized groups. These programmes include: the provision of preferential loans for women to start and develop a business; training in financial literacy and entrepreneurial skills, especially for women who do not have access to traditional financial services.

Microfinance programmes targeting women can be an effective tool for poverty alleviation and women's economic empowerment, especially in rural areas. Microfinance programmes increase women's economic independence and promote sustainable development through job creation and small business development.

2. Introduction of quotas for women in politics

In Uzbekistan, a quota mechanism has been introduced to increase the representation of women in legislative bodies and citizens' self-governing bodies. This has enabled women to participate in important policy decisions and increase their influence on public policy. Quotas are an effective tool for increasing women's political participation, especially in countries where traditional gender stereotypes limit women's access to power. The introduction of quotas helps to achieve gender equality in politics faster and creates more inclusive and equitable decision-making processes.

3. Education and vocational programmes for women and girls

Uzbekistan is actively developing vocational training and professional development programmes for women and girls, especially in remote regions. These include specialized courses on in-demand skills, as well as training in such sectors as information technology, entrepreneurship and science. Increasing educational opportunities for women not only

contributes to their professional advancement but also helps to reduce the gap in employment and income.

4. Establishment of crisis centres for victims of gender-based violence

Uzbekistan has opened crisis centres for women affected by domestic and gender-based violence. These centres offer comprehensive assistance, including psychological and legal support, medical services and temporary shelter for women and their children, and rehabilitation and recovery programmes for affected women. These centres help women get their lives back on track, giving them the opportunity to gain independence and restore their psychological and emotional state.

Areas requiring support

To continue to successfully implement the BPfA and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, Uzbekistan will need support in the following key areas:

1. Financing and economic support:

In order to achieve gender equality and improve the status of women in Uzbekistan, financial resources need to be increased to support programmes for the socio-economic inclusion of women.

International donors, financial institutions and organizations can provide targeted financing to expand microfinance programmes, social welfare and training programmes for women, especially in rural and remote areas.

2. Institutional and human capacity development:

Continuous capacity building of politicians, state and local executive authorities working in the field of gender policy and women's rights protection is crucial for the implementation of gender-sensitive policies.

International organizations can provide technical support and conduct trainings and educational programmes for government officials, NGOs and other stakeholders.

3. Data collection and analysis:

Further improvements in data collection, analysis and dissemination systems are needed to monitor the progress and effectiveness of programmes related to gender equality.

It is important that international organizations assist in the development of methodologies for the collection of gender-disaggregated data in various areas.

4. Technologies and digital tools:

Women's empowerment requires access to modern technology, especially in rural areas. Digital literacy, Internet access and modern technology will help women participate in educational and professional programmes.

International partnerships with technology companies and non-governmental organizations can provide support in the form of digital learning, development of applications and programmes aimed at empowering women and girls.

5. Development of partnerships:

Successful implementation of programmes requires strengthened partnerships between the government, non-governmental organizations, international agencies and the private sector. Such partnerships can facilitate the exchange of best practices, joint research and the development of effective solutions for gender equality.

International support will allow for the creation of effective and sustainable initiatives to promote gender equality.

In general, both nationally and internationally, including as a member of the United Nations Human Rights Council for 2021–2023, Uzbekistan has demonstrated its commitment to promoting gender equality by focusing on identified priorities and mobilising international support.

Uzbekistan's experience in supporting women is widely recognised internationally. In **the World Bank's index** for 2023, Uzbekistan is among the five countries **that have made the most progress in implementing reforms in gender equality**.

As part of the implementation of the United Nations SDGs until 2030, Uzbekistan has developed nine objectives aimed at ensuring gender equality and empowering all women and girls based on the principle of "leaving no one behind".¹ According to the SDG Index report **published in 2024** by the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) **and international experts**, Uzbekistan ranked **81st** among 167 countries with a score of 69.2.

¹ <https://api.mf.uz/media/documentfiles/VOLUNTARYNATIONALREVIEW.pdf>: information on Uzbekistan's experience in ensuring women's rights and freedoms in the framework of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was distributed among the Member States of the United Nations as an official document of the 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly (A/75/773) // <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n21/049/70/pdf/n2104970.pdf>.

Uzbekistan ranks 52nd **among 190** national parliaments **in the world in the “Women in Politics” ranking.**

In the World Bank’s **2024 Women, Business and Law Index**, Uzbekistan scored **82.5 out of 100 points** and had **the best results in Central Asia.**

At the end of 2023, Uzbekistan entered the top 20 **countries in the world in the Open Gender Data Index**, scoring 69.7 points.

At the end of 2023, in the **Gender Data Compass rating of Open Data Watch**, Uzbekistan ranked 56th **among 185** countries, **scoring 37 points.**

For the first time, Uzbekistan **was included in the report of the Global Gender Gap Index** for 2024. According to the 2024 Global Gender Gap Index report, Uzbekistan ranked 108th among 146 countries with an indicator of 0.681. Uzbekistan is proud of its achievements and is eager to address current challenges in order to create a more inclusive and equitable society for all women.