



Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS

21 December 2014

OSCE/ODIHR NEEDS ASSESSMENT MISSION REPORT

28-30 October 2014



Warsaw
18 November 2014

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I. INTRODUCTION

Following an invitation from the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan to observe the upcoming 21 December 2014 parliamentary elections, the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODIHR) undertook a Needs Assessment Mission (NAM) to Uzbekistan from 28 to 30 October 2014. The NAM included Ms. Nicola Schmidt, Deputy Head of the OSCE/ODIHR Election Department, and Mr. Alexander Shlyk, OSCE/ODIHR Election Adviser.

The purpose of the mission was to assess the pre-election environment and the preparations for the parliamentary elections. Based on this assessment, the NAM recommends whether to deploy an OSCE/ODIHR election-related activity for the forthcoming elections, and if so, what type of activity best meets the identified needs. Meetings were held with officials from state institutions and the election administration, as well as with representatives of political parties, media, civil society, and international community. A list of meetings is annexed to this report.

The OSCE/ODIHR would like to thank the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Central Election Commission for their assistance and co-operation in organizing the visit. The OSCE/ODIHR would also like to thank all of its interlocutors for having taken the time to meet with the mission and sharing their views.

II. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with the legislation, the Central Election Commission (CEC) announced that the elections to the legislative chamber of the *Oliy Majlis* (the parliament), as well as to local and regional councils, will take place on 21 December 2014. Voters will elect 135 out of 150 members of the lower chamber of *Oliy Majlis* in single-mandate majoritarian districts. An additional 15 seats are reserved for representatives of the Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan (EMU) who will be elected by EMU members at their Congress.

A number of significant amendments have been introduced to the Constitution since the previous elections. In accordance with these, the prime minister will be proposed by the political party that obtains the largest number of seats in the parliament for the first time and, upon nomination by the president, will be appointed by the majority of votes in the parliament. The Central Election Commission has also been made a constitutional body. While the Constitution and other laws provide guarantees of fundamental freedoms, a number of OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors highlighted that these are curtailed in practice.

In 2012, several amendments were introduced to the parliamentary election law. In a positive step, these amendments took into account some of the previous OSCE/ODIHR recommendations; a number of other significant recommendations, including those pertaining to respect of fundamental freedoms, however, remain unaddressed. Moreover, the actual practical implementation of these amendments and their effect and impact remains to be seen.

Candidates for the elections can only be put forward by political parties. Independent candidacies are not provided for by the law, despite a previous recommendation of the OSCE/ODIHR. The four registered political parties have submitted their required documents and have been allowed by the CEC to nominate candidates in the majoritarian constituencies. All parties intend to register candidates in each of the 135 constituencies and to adhere to the legally stipulated quota of 30 per cent for female candidates.

The parliamentary elections will be administered by a three-tiered election administration, including the CEC, 135 District Election Commissions (DECs), and some 9,000 Precinct Election Commissions (PECs). The law on the CEC was amended in September 2014 to reflect that the CEC was made a constitutional body and the principles of work of the CEC that were introduced to the Constitution, namely independence, lawfulness, collegiality, transparency, and fairness.

Citizens who have reached 18 years of age have the right to vote, unless their rights have been suspended by a court decision or are serving a prison sentence for any crime. Positively, amendments were introduced to the legislation to facilitate voting by those in pre-trial detention. There is no central voter register and voter lists are compiled for each election by the PECs with significant support provided by representatives of the precinct, namely the *mahalla* committees. Voters residing abroad will be able to cast their ballots in 44 polling stations established at diplomatic representations.

The election campaign will commence upon completion of candidate registration by the CEC. Political parties welcomed the detailed list of possible campaign methods provided in the revised law and informed the OSCE/ODIHR NAM that they will use all of these avenues during the campaign. Political parties plan that their candidates will campaign on the basis of the general election programmes of the parties while also highlighting the local issues of their respective constituencies.

There is a large number of media outlets registered, including 1,016 print outlets and 95 electronic media. Recent amendments to the legislation provided a definition of a 'blogger' and obliged owners of websites and bloggers to verify the truthfulness of published information, under threat of blocking the websites. According to the law, all electoral contestants will be provided an equal amount of free airtime in state broadcast media and space in print media for the purpose of campaigning. In addition, electoral contestants will be able to purchase airtime for political advertisement under equal conditions, and a number of them informed the OSCE/ODIHR NAM that they plan to do so. At the same time, amendments to the parliamentary election law establish restrictive limitations on what kind of information can be disseminated by the media. The four political parties that the OSCE/ODIHR NAM met with expressed their support of these legal amendments.

Individual citizens, as well as political parties contesting the elections, can file complaints with regard to the decisions or actions of the election commissions either with the higher-level election commissions or the courts, which may create conflicting jurisdictions. Complaints about the decisions of the CEC can be filed with the Supreme Court. The number of complaints during previous elections was very low and OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors did not expect many complaints during this election nor did they expect any issues with regards to the pre-election period or election procedures on election day.

Legislation provides for international election observation but, despite previous recommendations of the OSCE/ODIHR, does not contain provisions for citizen election observation. Electoral contestants are entitled to nominate agents of political parties, as well as candidate proxies who can be present at polling stations on election day and file complaints on behalf of the contestants.

All interlocutors met with during the OSCE/ODIHR NAM underscored the need for an OSCE/ODIHR election observation activity for the parliamentary elections. In considering an observation activity, the OSCE/ODIHR NAM has taken into account the various findings outlined in this report. These include issues related to the implementation of the amended legal framework, campaign, voter registration, and media coverage.

On this basis, and despite outstanding issues with regards to the respect of fundamental freedoms, the OSCE/ODIHR NAM recommends the deployment of a Limited Election Observation Mission (LEOM) to the Republic of Uzbekistan to assess the 21 December 2014 parliamentary elections for their compliance with OSCE commitments, other international obligations, and domestic legislation. In addition to a core team of experts, the OSCE/ODIHR NAM recommends that eight long-term observers be seconded by participating States. Due to the limited nature of the competition and since none of the interlocutors expected problems on election day, it is not considered necessary to deploy short-term observers. While the mission would visit a limited number of polling stations on election day, systematic observation of electoral proceedings is not envisaged.

III. FINDINGS

A. BACKGROUND

In accordance with the Constitution and the 2012 constitutional law on periodic elections to representative bodies and of the president of Uzbekistan, the Central Election Commission (CEC) announced that the elections to the legislative chamber of the *Oliy Majlis*, as well as to local and regional councils, will take place on 21 December 2014. Voters will elect 135 out of 150 members of the lower chamber of *Oliy Majlis* in single-mandate majoritarian districts.

OSCE/ODIHR previously deployed an Election Assessment Mission (EAM) to the 2009 parliamentary elections, as well as Limited Election Observation Missions (LEOMs) to the 2007 presidential and 2004 parliamentary elections. The OSCE/ODIHR has never deployed a full election observation mission, as minimum conditions for genuine democratic elections had not yet been entirely met. The 2009 OSCE/ODIHR EAM concluded that “the 27 December parliamentary elections took place in the context of Uzbekistan’s declared ‘step-by-step approach’ towards further democratization. While some of the December 2008 amendments to the election law slightly improve the legal framework for elections, their good faith implementation remains indispensable to ameliorate electoral practices in Uzbekistan. However, other amendments, such as providing 15 reserved seats in the lower chamber for the Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan and the abolishment of the possibility for civic initiative groups to nominate independent candidates, constituted further departures from OSCE commitments. These provisions are contrary to paragraph 7.2 and 7.5 of the 1990 OSCE Copenhagen Document, respectively. Overall, the election legislation continues to fall short of OSCE commitments and requires significant improvements.”¹

B. LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The legal framework for parliamentary elections comprises the Constitution, adopted in 1993 and last amended in September 2014, the 1994 Law on Guarantees of Suffrage to Citizens, the 2003 Law on Elections to *Oliy Majlis* of Uzbekistan (parliamentary election law), last amended in 2012, and the 1998 Law on Central Election Commission (CEC law), last amended in 2014. These are supplemented

¹ All OSCE/ODIHR election observation and assessment mission reports on Uzbekistan can be found at: <http://www.osce.org/odihr/elections/uzbekistan>.

by the 1996 Law on Political Parties, last amended in 2014, the 2004 Law on Financing of Political Parties, as well as relevant provisions of the Criminal Code and the Code of Administrative Offences, which was amended in 2014 to include significant election-related provisions. Uzbekistan has acceded to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) on 19 July 1995, to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) on 28 September 1995, and has signed the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CPRD) on 27 February 2009.² While the Constitution and other laws provide guarantees of fundamental freedoms, a number of OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors highlighted that these are curtailed in practice.

A number of significant amendments have been introduced to the Constitution since the previous elections. In accordance with these the prime minister will be proposed by the political party that obtains the largest number of seats in the parliament for the first time and, upon nomination by the president, will be appointed by the majority of votes in the parliament. All interlocutors of the OSCE/ODIHR NAM underscored that this strengthening of the role of parliament and political parties is in line with the concept of further deepening democratic reforms and establishing civil society in the country, presented by President Islom Karimov in 2010.³ At the same time, significant power remains concentrated in the hands of the president. The Constitution was also amended to determine the method of formation and principles of work of the CEC, thus establishing it as a constitutional body and providing for independence, lawfulness, collegiality, transparency, and fairness as the key principles for its operations. Significant legal limitations of the freedoms of expression and association, previously highlighted by the OSCE/ODIHR, were, however, not addressed by the legal changes.

In 2012, several amendments were introduced to the parliamentary election law. Specifically, the law was amended to provide for international observer access to the election of members of parliament from the Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan (EMU), as well as to clarify legal provisions for early voting, and registration and voting of those in pre-trial detention. Additionally, the law was amended to explicitly prescribe permissible campaigning methods and to prohibit publication of opinion polls up to three days prior to election day. In a positive step, these amendments took into account some of the previous OSCE/ODIHR recommendations; a number of other significant recommendations, however, remain unaddressed.⁴ Moreover, the actual practical implementation of the introduced amendments and their effect and impact remains to be assessed.

C. ELECTORAL SYSTEM

Uzbekistan has a bi-cameral parliament (*Oliy Majlis*) comprising a 150-member lower chamber and a 100-member Senate. Of the 150 members of the lower chamber, 135 will be directly elected from single-mandate majoritarian districts. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, a second round between the two leading candidates will be held within one month. Elections are repeated if less than 33 per cent of the voters on the voter list cast their ballots.⁵

An additional 15 members of the lower chamber will be elected at the national conference of the EMU to be held on 21 December, on the basis of the legal provisions contained in the parliamentary election

² Uzbekistan has yet to ratify these conventions.

³ Full text of the concept is available at <http://www.osce.org/odihr/77674?download=true>.

⁴ See Joint Opinion of the OSCE/ODIHR and Council of Europe Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission) on Draft Amendments and Addenda to the Law “On Elections to the *Oliy Majlis* of the Republic of Uzbekistan” and “On Elections to the Regional, District and City Councils (Kengesh) of People’s Deputies of Uzbekistan”, adopted on 14-15 December 2012, available at <http://www.osce.org/odihr/elections/98277?download=true>.

⁵ Legislation contains no limitations on whether the same candidates can contest the repeated elections.

law as well as an instruction issued by the CEC.⁶ Interlocutors of the OSCE/ODIHR NAM explained the necessity to reserve seats in the lower chamber of the parliament given the importance of ecological issues. This provision, however, coupled with the indirect election of senators by the regional and local councils and appointment of 16 senators by the president, is at odds with Paragraph 7.2 of the OSCE 1990 Copenhagen Document, as previously underscored by the OSCE/ODIHR.⁷

Candidates for the lower chamber of the *Oliy Majlis* can only be put forward by political parties. Independent candidacies are not provided for by the law, despite a previous recommendation of the OSCE/ODIHR. The four registered political parties have submitted their required documents, including at least 40,000 supporting signatures, and have been allowed by the CEC to nominate candidates in the majoritarian constituencies. Candidates need to be at least 25 years of age and have to permanently reside in Uzbekistan for at least 5 last years, which is at odds with international standards and good practice.⁸ According to the law, those with uncancelled or uncleared convictions for committing grave or particularly grave crimes, active military or security servicemen, and professional clergy of religious organizations cannot stand as candidates. All parties intend to register candidates in each of the 135 constituencies and to adhere to the legally stipulated quota of 30 per cent for female candidates.⁹

D. ELECTION ADMINISTRATION

The parliamentary elections will be administered by a three-tiered election administration, including the CEC, 135 District Election Commissions (DECs), and some 9,000 Precinct Election Commissions (PECs).

The CEC is a permanent body composed of 18 members, elected by the parliament upon nomination by the regional councils. The chairperson of the CEC is elected by its members from amongst themselves, upon nomination by the president. The law on the CEC was amended in September 2014 to reflect that the CEC was made a constitutional body and the principles of work of the CEC that were introduced to the Constitution. The CEC completed formation of the DECs on 10 October and announced the delineation of each constituency and membership of the DECs. The smallest constituency includes some 124,000 voters and the largest some 183,000 voters. Each DEC will, in turn, form the PECs in the corresponding constituency. The OSCE/ODIHR NAM was informed that, in accordance with the law, each PEC will cover between 20 and 3,000 voters and that representatives of the *mahalla* committees are involved in the delineation of precincts.

The CEC informed the OSCE/ODIHR NAM that it is actively training the leadership of DECs throughout the country, placing special emphasis on the amendments introduced to the parliamentary

⁶ The EMU is not a political party and comprises non-governmental organizations and individual activists predominantly working on issues of environmental protection and health.

⁷ Paragraph 7.2 of the 1990 OSCE Copenhagen Document provides for “all seats in at least one chamber of the national legislature to be freely contested in a popular vote.”

⁸ Paragraph 15 of the UN Human Rights Committee General Comment 25 states, in part, that “any restrictions on the right to stand for election...must be justifiable on objective and reasonable criteria. Persons who are otherwise eligible to stand for election should not be excluded by unreasonable or discriminatory requirements such as education, residence or descent, or by reason of political affiliation.” Uzbekistan has recognized the competence of the Human Rights Committee to receive and consider communications from individuals by acceding to Optional Protocol 1 to the ICCPR in 1995. See also Paragraph 1.1 (c) of the Code of Good Practices in Electoral Matters of the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe, [http://www.venice.coe.int/docs/2002/CDL-AD\(2002\)023-e.pdf](http://www.venice.coe.int/docs/2002/CDL-AD(2002)023-e.pdf), which details that “a length of residence requirement may be imposed on nationals solely for local or regional elections.”

⁹ In the present composition of the lower chamber of the *Oliy Majlis* there are 32 women, which is 21 per cent of the total number of members of the chamber.

election law in 2012. The CEC also plans to organize large-scale public outreach campaigns to inform voters about methods of voting.

E. VOTER REGISTRATION

According to the law, citizens who have reached 18 years of age have the right to vote, unless their rights have been suspended by a court decision or are serving a prison sentence for any crime.¹⁰ Positively, amendments were introduced to the legislation to facilitate voting by those in pre-trial detention. There is no central voter register and voter lists are compiled for each election by the PECs with significant support provided by the representatives of the *mahalla* committees. Interlocutors of the OSCE/ODIHR NAM pointed out that the introduction of biometric passports, scheduled to be completed by the end of 2014, could potentially serve as a basis for enhanced voter registration. This, however, will not apply to the upcoming parliamentary elections. According to the law, voter lists will be provided for public scrutiny at PECs 15 days before elections, as a general rule, and 7 days before elections in specific types of polling stations. Complaints about voter registration can be submitted by any citizen to the corresponding PEC; the PEC is required by law to address the complaint within 24 hours.

Voters residing abroad will be able to cast their ballots in 44 polling stations established at diplomatic representations. All votes cast abroad will be counted towards a specific constituency in Tashkent, as determined by the CEC. While there are accounts of significant numbers of citizens residing abroad as temporary workers,¹¹ it remains to be seen what steps will be made to effectively guarantee their suffrage rights.

F. THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN AND POLITICAL FINANCE

The election campaign will commence upon completion of candidate registration by the CEC, i.e. 35 days before election day. Amendments introduced to the parliamentary election law in 2012 detailed the list of permissible campaign activities. The law now provides that campaign activities can take the form of “public debates, discussions, press conferences, interviews, presentations, meetings with electorate, placement of short videos about the candidate for deputy, political party.” In a welcome step, as highlighted by the Joint Opinion of the OSCE/ODIHR and Venice Commission, the legal provision states that other types, forms, and methods of election campaigning are permissible as long as they are not prohibited by the law. Political parties welcomed this detailed list and informed the OSCE/ODIHR NAM that they will use all of these avenues during the campaign.

OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors from the four political parties unanimously pointed out that they expect the ensuing campaign to be more active than during the previous elections. They attributed this to the increasing role of political parties (although the legal limitations on freedom of association previously noted by the OSCE/ODIHR remain), and the parliament as a whole, due to the constitutional amendments in 2014 providing nomination of the Prime Minister by the political party which won the majority of seats in the election. Political parties informed the OSCE/ODIHR NAM that their candidates will campaign on the basis of the general election programmes of the parties while also highlighting the local issues of their respective constituencies. The political parties pointed

¹⁰ Limitation of suffrage based on conviction for any crime is at odds with the principle of proportionality, as provided in Paragraph 24 of the 1990 OSCE Copenhagen Document: “any restriction on rights and freedoms must, in a democratic society, relate to one of the objectives of the applicable law and be strictly proportionate to the aim of that law.”

¹¹ According to the Federal Migration Service of the Russian Federation, as of 4 October 2014, there were some 2.45 million citizens of Uzbekistan officially registered in Russian Federation, of whom some 2.28 million have reached 18 years of age. See <http://www.fms.gov.ru/about/statistics/data/details/54891/>.

out that to distribute their message they will rely to a significant degree on their own newspapers. The CEC is expected to announce the amount of public funding that will be allocated to political parties contesting the election in proportion to the number of registered candidates. The OSCE/ODIHR NAM was informed that this amount will be increased compared to the previous elections. Political parties informed the OSCE/ODIHR NAM that they rely exclusively on public campaign funds and that any private donations, although these are rarely received, will be channelled through the CEC and divided equally between the parties.

G. THE MEDIA

As of 1 January 2014, there were 1,372 media outlets registered, including 1,016 print outlets and 95 electronic media (63 television and 32 radio channels). The State National Television and Radio Company comprises 12 nationwide and 12 regional television and radio channels. Recent amendments to the Law on Informatization provide a definition of a ‘blogger’ and oblige owners of websites and bloggers to verify the truthfulness of published information. The amendment also introduced a provision which allows the authorities to block access to the websites that do not follow these requirements.¹²

According to the law, all electoral contestants will be provided an equal amount of free airtime in state broadcast media and space in print media for the purpose of campaigning. The exact amount of free airtime and space will be determined by the CEC. In addition, electoral contestants will be able to purchase airtime for political advertisement, and a number of them informed the OSCE/ODIHR NAM that they plan to do so. Legal amendments introduced in 2012 to the parliamentary election law include a provision to ensure equality of electoral contestants by stating that the terms of payment and other requirements for purchasing airtime and space in the media must be equal for all candidates and political parties. At the same time, amendments to the parliamentary election law establish limitations on what kind of information can be disseminated by the media, providing that “the information disseminated by the media, should be accurate, not violate the rights and lawful interests of candidates and political parties. Dissemination of false information and discrediting the honour and dignity of the candidates is prohibited.” A similar provision was introduced to the Code of Administrative Offences in 2014. The four political parties that the OSCE/ODIHR NAM met with expressed their support of these legal amendments, although they do restrict the freedom of expression.

The OSCE/ODIHR NAM was informed by representatives of the media that both the state broadcaster and private channels plan to organize debates between representatives of political parties, as well as a variety of election-related programmes, such as interviews, talk shows, and voter education discussions.

H. COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS

Individual citizens, as well as political parties contesting the elections, can file complaints with regard to the decisions or actions of the election commissions. Complaints should be filed within 10 days after the decision has been taken and can be submitted either to the higher-level election commission or the court, which may create conflicting jurisdictions. Both the courts and the commissions are obliged by the law to address such complaints within 3 days (or immediately if the complaint is submitted less than 6 days before the elections). Complaints about decisions of the CEC can be filed with the Supreme Court. According to the law, complainants have the right to participate in the deliberations pertaining to their complaints in the courts or election commissions. Appeals can be

¹² The OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media pointed out that these amendments “further limit free expression on Internet,” see <http://www.osce.org/fom/123275>.

submitted within 10 days after the court or an election commission takes its decision and is to be considered within 1 day of receipt, as compared to the standard 20 days for non-election related cases. The number of complaints during previous elections was very low and OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors did not expect many complaints during this election nor did they expect any issues with regards to the pre-election period or election procedures on election day.

Since the last elections, a number of legal amendments were introduced as part of the general agenda of reform of the judiciary and de-criminalization of the legislation. The OSCE/ODIHR NAM was informed that the appeal and cassation procedures, as opposed to the oversight procedures, now account for a larger share of the overturned decisions of the lower-level courts. Some of the OSCE/ODIHR NAM interlocutors, however, questioned the independence of the judiciary highlighting that the legislation provides for appointment of most judges by the president.

I. CITIZEN AND INTERNATIONAL ELECTION OBSERVATION

Legislation provides for international election observation but, despite previous recommendations of the OSCE/ODIHR and at odds with of Paragraph 8 of the 1990 OSCE Copenhagen Document, does not contain provisions for citizen election observation.¹³ International observers are to be accredited by the CEC and are obliged to adhere to the regulations specified in the parliamentary election law. Among other things, international observers are entitled to be present at the sessions of the DEC and PECs, as well as to receive certified copies of election results protocols.

Electoral contestants are entitled to nominate political party agents as well as candidate proxies who can be present at polling stations on election day and file complaints on behalf of the contestants. The OSCE/ODIHR NAM was informed by the four political parties contesting the elections that they will deploy a large number of their representatives both as party agents and candidate proxies on election day.

IV. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

All interlocutors met with during the OSCE/ODIHR NAM underscored the need for an OSCE/ODIHR election observation activity for the parliamentary elections. In considering an observation activity, the OSCE/ODIHR NAM has taken into account the various findings outlined in this report. These include issues related to the implementation of the amended legal framework, campaign, voter registration, and media coverage.

On this basis, and despite outstanding issues with regards to the respect of fundamental freedoms, the OSCE/ODIHR NAM recommends the deployment of a Limited Election Observation Mission (LEOM) to the Republic of Uzbekistan to assess the 21 December 2014 parliamentary elections for their compliance with OSCE commitments, other international obligations, and domestic legislation. In addition to a core team of experts, the OSCE/ODIHR NAM recommends that eight long-term observers be seconded by participating States. Due to the limited nature of the competition and since none of the interlocutors expected problems on election day, it is not considered necessary to deploy short-term observers. While the mission would visit a limited number of polling stations on election day, systematic observation of electoral proceedings is not envisaged.

¹³ Paragraph 8 of the 1990 OSCE Copenhagen Document states that “The participating States consider that the presence of observers, both foreign and domestic, can enhance the electoral process for States in which elections are taking place.”

ANNEX: LIST OF MEETINGS

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Dilyod Khakimov, First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs
Dilshod Akhatov, Directorate of Multilateral Affairs, Head

Central Election Commission

Svetlana Artikova, Deputy Chairperson
Komiljon Adilov, Secretary
Janabay Sadikov, Member

Oliy Majlis

Ulugbek Mukhammadiev, Deputy Speaker
Akmal Rakhmanov, Member of Parliament
Aliya Yunusova, Member of Parliament
Khairullo Ruzmetov, Member of Parliament

Supreme Court

Kuchkar Togaev, Deputy Head

National Human Rights Center of Uzbekistan

Akmal Saidov, Director

Ombudsperson's Office

Sayora Rashidova, Ombudsperson

Media

Olim Toshboev, First Deputy Chairperson, State Television and Radio Company
Golib Nematov, Chief Specialist, State Television and Radio Company
Abdulaziz Abdullayev, Director, Public Fund for Support and Development of Independent Print Media and Information Agencies
Firdavs Abdukhaliqov, Head, National Association of Electronic Mass Media

Institute on Monitoring Current Legislation under the President of Uzbekistan

Farrukh Mukhamedov, Director

Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan

Saydirasul Sanginov, Deputy Chairman of the Executive committee of Central Kengash (Council)
Sergey Samoilov, Member of Parliament
Anastasiya Saidmakhmudova, Head of International Affairs

Political Parties

Sodikjon Turdiev, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Political Council, Liberal Democratic Party of Uzbekistan
Dilshod Shoumarov, Deputy Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Political Council, Liberal Democratic Party of Uzbekistan
Maruf Usmanov, Head of Department, Liberal Democratic Party of Uzbekistan
Azamat Seitov, Head of Department, Liberal Democratic Party of Uzbekistan
Sarvar Otamuratov, Chairperson of Executive Committee of the Central Council, Democratic Party "Milliy Tiklanish"
Nariman Umarov, Chairman, Social Democratic Party of Uzbekistan "Adolat"

Social Democratic Party of Uzbekistan “Adolat”
Hatamjon Ketmonov, Chairman of Central Council, People’s Democratic Party
Rustam Kamilov, Deputy Chairman of Central Council, People’s Democratic Party

Civil Society

A.Khamdamov, Deputy Director, Independent Institute on Monitoring of Formation of Civil Society
Vasila Inoyatova, Chairperson, Human Rights Society “Ezgulik”

International Community

Yuri Sterk, Head, Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Uzbekistan
Ondrej Simek, Head of Political, Press and Information Section, Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Uzbekistan
Shamil Shamsutdinov, Counsellor, Embassy of the Russian Federation in the Republic of Uzbekistan
Ivan Prokopenko, Third Secretary, Embassy of the Russian Federation in the Republic of Uzbekistan
Seth Miller, Second Secretary, Embassy of the United States of America in Tashkent
Mark Granus, Senior Development Specialist, USAID
Erica Breth, Resident Director, National Democratic Institute