

National Statement of the Republic of Uzbekistan - 2022 *on the transformation of education*

The Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan, in cooperation with the national and international development partners in education; youth and the private sector:

recognizing that education is the foundation of peace and economic and social stability and strengthening friendly ties among nations and is the principal and only pillar of human rights and for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

recognizing the importance of developing educational transformation measures aimed at inclusive, innovative and accelerated development, considering the overall education sector, in particular teachers, youth, civil society and the general public to eliminate the consequences of the pandemic, finding collaborative practical solutions;

taking into account the national values and particularities of our country, and also considering our country's national goals and objectives until 2030;

regarding the transformation and revision of the national education system, reports the following:

The education system must be prepared to respond appropriately to future changes, to transform itself to overcome inequality and the educational crisis, and to contribute to a peaceful, inclusive, and sustainable future for humanity and the Planet. Such transformation requires holistic structural reforms in the following priority areas:

Inclusive, equitable, safe and healthy schools

Inclusive education, and providing equal opportunities for children, women, people with disabilities and vulnerable groups is one of the key ideas of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG-4)

The Government of Uzbekistan expresses its determination and commitment to the justice and inclusiveness in transforming education by eliminating discrimination and inequality that are embedded in the legal system.

We commit to providing equal access to education and training regardless of demographics, race, background, gender, health status, disability, geographic and socio-economic status.

Quality and relevance of education

Curricula, educational resources, and teaching methods should be student-centered, inclusive and competency-based. They should also reflect our culture and traditions. In this format, the particular relevance is expressed in building students' skills to adapt to economic and political changes as well as be sustainable.

This, in turn, requires the revision of curriculum content and teaching methods revision to be updated with sustainable development, extensive use of innovative and flexible pedagogical approaches to students, and improved assessment of learning outcomes for evidence-based decision-making.

Creating an inclusive learning environment based on the principles of safety, health and equality for all is a key priority of the educational policy of Uzbekistan.

Learning and skills for life, work and sustainable development

Transforming education calls for a holistic approach to learning and lifelong skills development. At the same time, the importance of building a strong foundation at an early age, preparing and supporting the school-to-work transition during the second decade, labor market vulnerabilities, and high youth unemployment rates must be considered.

Today, in order to ensure the consistency and continuity in all types of education, the content of education is updated to meet the needs of the labor market, modern technological knowledge and skills, taking into account the pace of economic development of New Uzbekistan, changes in social life. Methodological resources based on new curricula help students to develop modern skill sets, professional competencies and an active civic engagement.

The skills necessary for students to succeed in life, including 21st century skills, must be developed through competency-based learning.

Multiple and flexible learning and development pathways should be strengthened for all ages with certification, including life-long retraining and professional development opportunities.

Building a generation of highly qualified teachers

Uzbekistan has taken a course toward building a New Uzbekistan, where educators are at the heart of the education reform and are the central figure of quality education.

Increasing the professional prestige of teachers and improving the quality of teachers should be seen as a top priority in society. In addition, the educator's task of providing knowledge should be transformed into a task that includes guiding and motivating students to acquire knowledge.

This, in turn, requires the creation of an environment that encourages the practical implementation of professional teacher standards, improvements in teacher training, retraining and in-service training curricula, student-centered pedagogy taking into account the use of digital technology.

It is necessary to raise teachers' status, to create favorable environment for teachers by rewarding them, improving the in-service training system based on continuous development and performance efficiency.

Digital transformation

The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated the potential and need for a student-centered digital transformation that enhances learning with the help of evolving technology. As a result, digital transformation has been shown to improve learning opportunities and make a contribution to students' learning.

This requires the creation of a comprehensive digital learning environment based on the requirements for quality education. Priorities include free, inclusive, and equal access to online education for all, quality e-learning programs, teacher training to implement and apply digital education, safe use of digital technologies, and artificial intelligence together with introduction of alternative options for students in rural areas.

The Government of Uzbekistan hereby declares that it will mobilize all available resources to ensure implementation of the commitments set out in this Statement. Particular attention will be paid to overcoming the consequences of the pandemic and achieving SDG-4, considering the national context.

The Government of Uzbekistan calls on the UN and all international development organizations to cooperate in the implementation of these tasks.