

Legal Strategic Decision-Making System in Uzbekistan

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Abstract: Uzbekistan's legal strategic decision-making system has undergone profound transformation since independence in 1991, evolving from a traditional administrative model toward a modern governance framework characterized by rule of law, institutionalization, and participatory mechanisms. This study systematically examines the institutional framework, decision-making mechanisms, and implementation-supervision characteristics of Uzbekistan's legal strategic decision-making system. The analysis reveals that the system operates within a presidential leadership structure, where the President defines national strategic priorities, the Cabinet of Ministers implements policies, and Parliament exercises legislative and oversight functions. Recent reforms initiated in 2016, particularly through the "Action Strategy for 2017–2021" and the "Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan for 2022–2026," have significantly strengthened the legal foundations of decision-making through constitutional amendments, enhanced judicial oversight, and the introduction of Regulatory Impact Assessment mechanisms. The implementation system features target-oriented management and performance evaluation, while supervision mechanisms encompass parliamentary oversight, judicial review, public participation through e-government platforms, and anti-corruption institutions. Digital governance innovations have further modernized decision-making processes, improving transparency and citizen engagement. Despite persistent challenges in administrative capacity and institutional development, Uzbekistan's reform achievements demonstrate a consistent trajectory toward governance modernization, offering valuable insights for transitional

states seeking to balance executive leadership with rule-of-law principles and public participation.

Key words: Uzbekistan, legal strategic decision-making, governance reform, rule of law, decision-making mechanisms, institutional environment, parliamentary oversight, judicial reform, e-government, governance modernization, public participation, anti-corruption

1. Institutional Framework and Reform Background

Following its independence in 1991, Uzbekistan gradually established a national governance system centered on the Constitution and characterized by a presidential form of government. According to the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, “the principle of the separation of power into the legislative, executive and judicial authorities shall underlie the system of state authority in the Republic of Uzbekistan” (2023). The President serves as the Head of State and the Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, playing a central role in determining national strategic priorities and making major policy decisions (Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, 2023). Within the legal strategic decision-making system, the President, the Parliament (Oliy Majlis), the Cabinet of Ministers, and administrative bodies at various levels collectively constitute the principal decision-making actors. Nevertheless, the system generally exhibits a strong executive-led character.

Following the inauguration of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev in 2016, Uzbekistan launched comprehensive governance reforms aimed at transforming its governmental decision-making system from a traditional administrative model to a modern public governance model. The “Action Strategy on Five Priority Areas of Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2017–2021”, issued in 2017, became a key guiding document for these reforms. Its priorities included modernization of public administration, enhancement of judicial independence, economic liberalization, and public service reform.

These reforms not only reshaped the country's governance structure but also had a profound impact on its legal strategic decision-making system.

One of the most significant features of these reforms has been the strengthening of the rule of law. Through constitutional amendments, improvements in administrative legislative procedures, and the enhancement of judicial oversight, the government has sought to increase the legal basis and legitimacy of decision-making activities. For example, Uzbekistan has actively promoted e-government initiatives and the digitalization of public services in recent years in order to improve administrative transparency and decision-making efficiency. At the same time, the role of Parliament in legislative review and policy supervision has gradually expanded, enabling legal strategic decisions to receive broader institutional support.

From an institutional perspective, Uzbekistan's legal strategic decision-making system can be characterized as one of presidential leadership, governmental implementation, and parliamentary oversight. The President is responsible for proposing national development strategies and major reform directions, the Cabinet of Ministers is responsible for policy formulation and implementation, and Parliament exercises legislative and supervisory functions to ensure the legality of governmental decisions. This arrangement not only promotes decision-making efficiency but also reflects the efforts of a transitional state to balance centralized leadership with rule-of-law development during the modernization process.

Overall, Uzbekistan's current legal strategic decision-making system has evolved gradually since independence and has been significantly shaped by recent waves of reform. It continues to move toward greater institutionalization, legalization, and modernization.

2. Decision-Making Mechanisms and Legal Foundations

Uzbekistan's legal strategic decision-making mechanism is founded upon the Constitution and related legal institutions and generally follows the sequence of strategic

formulation, policy design, legislative review, and administrative implementation. According to the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, “State power in the Republic of Uzbekistan shall be exercised in the interests of the people and solely by the bodies empowered by the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the laws passed on its basis” (2023). Accordingly, governmental decision-making must adhere to the principles of the rule of law.

At the strategic level, the President typically formulates long-term development plans and reform objectives in accordance with national priorities. For example, “On the Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan for 2022–2026”, promulgated on January 28, 2022, explicitly identified “making the principles of justice and the rule of law the most basic and necessary condition for development in our country” as a central objective. Subsequently, Presidential Decree No. PF-21, issued on February 16, 2026, entitled “On Additional Measures to Consistently Continue Reforms and Bring Them to a New Stage within the Framework of Priority Directions of the Country’s Development until 2030,” further strengthened strategic governance through several institutional innovations. These included the introduction of “a completely new strategic planning and development system based on the ‘goal–action–result’ chain,” the “full digitalization of the processes of monitoring the achievement of the goals of the ‘Uzbekistan–2030’ Strategy,” and the requirement that “the Cabinet of Ministers shall submit a report on the implementation of the ‘Uzbekistan–2030’ Strategy to the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis every six months.” The decree also emphasized ensuring that the “Uzbekistan–2030” Strategy remains aligned with global trends, international developments, and emerging challenges. Through these measures, reforms of the legal and judicial system are designed to remain responsive to changing domestic and international conditions. Strategic objectives are subsequently translated into legally binding policies through presidential decrees, governmental resolutions, and legislative amendments.

In the policy formulation process, Uzbekistan has increasingly adopted modern policy-making methodologies. Before proposing major policies, government agencies are generally required to conduct socioeconomic analyses, legal evaluations, and interdepartmental consultations. In recent years, the Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) mechanism has been progressively incorporated into the policy-making process to assess the potential economic and social consequences of proposed laws and regulations. This approach contributes to improving the scientific basis, effectiveness, and practicality of policy formulation.

Parliament plays an important role in the decision-making process through its legislative review functions. Draft laws are generally reviewed by both the Legislative Chamber and the Senate before being submitted to the President for signature and promulgation (2023). Through this legislative process, national strategic decisions are transformed into formal legal norms. In addition, the judiciary is responsible for safeguarding the authority of the Constitution and the law, thereby ensuring that administrative decisions comply with legal requirements.

In recent years, the development of digital governance has further modernized Uzbekistan's decision-making mechanisms. The government has actively expanded e-government platforms and introduced online consultation systems, electronic approval procedures, and public information platforms to enhance citizen participation and administrative transparency (World Bank, 2024). As a result, Uzbekistan's legal strategic decision-making system is gradually transitioning from a traditional command-and-control administrative model toward a governance model characterized by the rule of law, digitalization, and participatory decision-making.

3. Implementation and Supervision Characteristics

The effectiveness of legal strategic decision-making depends not only on the quality and rationality of the decisions themselves but also on the effectiveness of implementation

and supervision mechanisms. In recent years, as part of its efforts to modernize national governance, Uzbekistan has attached increasing importance to strengthening policy implementation capacity and improving supervisory institutions to ensure the effective realization of national strategic objectives.

At the implementation level, Uzbekistan has established an execution system centered on the Presidential Administration, the Cabinet of Ministers, and various ministries and agencies. The President provides overall strategic guidance, while the Cabinet of Ministers is responsible for policy coordination and implementation. Individual ministries, governmental agencies, and local authorities undertake specific implementation tasks within their respective areas of responsibility. To enhance implementation efficiency, the government has widely adopted target-oriented management and performance evaluation mechanisms, under which specific objectives derived from national development strategies are assigned to administrative bodies at different levels, and progress is regularly monitored and assessed.

The supervision system exhibits a multi-layered structure. First, parliamentary oversight plays an important role. According to the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Oliy Majlis exercises supervisory and regulatory authority over state governance and government activities through the joint powers of the Legislative Chamber and the Senate, as well as through their respective exclusive competencies. Joint sessions of the two chambers are empowered to determine the maximum size of public debt, regulate the administrative-territorial structure of the country, alter state boundaries, and hear the annual National Anti-Corruption Report. In addition, the Legislative Chamber has the authority to hear the annual report of the Cabinet of Ministers on the most important issues of the country's socio-economic development and to improve the policy framework through legislative activities (2023). These constitutional powers enable Parliament to supervise government performance and contribute to the accountability of public institutions.

Second, judicial supervision has become increasingly important. As judicial reforms have deepened in recent years, courts have played a more prominent role in protecting citizens' rights and ensuring that administrative authorities act in accordance with the law. Strengthening judicial independence and enhancing access to justice have further reinforced the legal constraints on executive decision-making and implementation.

In addition, public oversight mechanisms have been significantly strengthened. The government has expanded channels for citizen participation through initiatives such as public reception offices, the Virtual Reception of the President, and various e-government platforms. These innovations allow citizens to communicate concerns directly to government authorities, thereby improving feedback mechanisms, increasing transparency, and enhancing responsiveness in the policy implementation process.

Anti-corruption oversight has also become a central component of Uzbekistan's governance reforms. Specialized anti-corruption institutions established in recent years have strengthened supervision over public resource allocation and the implementation of government decisions, thereby promoting greater governmental accountability and integrity (Transparency International, 2025). At the same time, the role of the media and civil society organizations in public oversight has gradually expanded, contributing to a governance framework that combines state supervision with societal monitoring.

Overall, Uzbekistan's system for the implementation and supervision of legal strategic decisions is evolving toward greater legalization, digitalization, and public participation. Although challenges remain, including limitations in administrative capacity and the need for further institutional development, the achievements of recent reforms have made Uzbekistan an important example of governance modernization within Central Asia.

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