

Uzbekistan towards planned Development after Islam Karimov

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ABSTRACT

This paper explores and scrutinizes the visionary summary and evaluation of the planned development of Uzbekistan with the status quo of economic analyses and its sectoral overviews like Judiciary, public administration, Social area and National security, Agriculture, Education, Tourism, Foreign policy and Sustainable development as a whole. As the objectives, descriptions of the concept of planned development are analysed and classified through current theoretical views. The former president leaves behind vigorous macroeconomic fundamentals for his inheritor. Since taking over the presidency in late 2016, Shavkat Mirziyoyev popularized immense measures that create an impression of a de facto start to the passage of development in the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Key Words : Islam Karimov, National security, Agriculture, Education Tourism

INTRODUCTION

In late 2016 when prime minister Shavkat Mirziyoyev succeeded Islam Karimov as President of Uzbekistan, many bystanders and onlookers expected his administration regime to exemplified continuity rather than developmental change, while consistency and vitality are present in terms of the focus on self-reliance and sovereignty of Uzbekistan, Mirziyoyev also showcased energetic and enthusiastic aspirations to improve foreign relations and triggered major industrial or economic reforms, fashioned to enlarge and strengthen the strategic position of Uzbekistan. The former prime minister inherited an economic structure left behind by his forerunner, who steadily accentuated that his approach to economic change had been based on gradualism. The Uzbek government was cautious, but it was not opposed to change. Mostly Small-scale privatization was quickly implemented after independence, based on an appeal to a tradition of family homes and small businesses. In the 1990s, Uzbekistan's economy was benefitted from a plethora of cotton, which was comparatively easy to bring to world markets at prices that were buoyant and floatable at the time. The state's marketing monopoly ensured that

a substantial share of the higher cotton revenues went to the government, which, as a result, was able to maintain social services better than other Central Asian countries. By somehow, Uzbekistan was the best-performing of all Soviet successor states in the 1990s, despite its rejection of the rapid reforms recommended by International Financial Institutions. But, crumbling cotton prices in 1996 led the government to spontaneity its commitment to make the currency adaptable and instead introduce strict exchange controls. When global demand dipped a decade later, the government again tightened forex controls, leading to the emergence of a substantial black market. The consequences of this multiple exchange rate economy the Government failed to further diversify its economy. On the other hand, the country's borders remained tightly controlled, both for reasons of security and to protect import-competing industries. The inefficiency of administration became one of the primary challenges for growth and development in Uzbekistan, contributing to many illnesses of the Uzbek economy, including health, unemployment and education. As a result, millions of migrants were forced to move neighbouring countries primarily to Russia, in search of work. By the 2010s, Uzbekistan's social policies – once a source of

pride – were perceived to be deteriorating. In contempt of many shortfalls, Uzbekistan by the end of 2016, remained economically durable, but with the need to revamp and reconstruct to meet the challenges it was facing, it was from this position of stability, but also an anticipating urgency, that the newly elected president branding himself a “Reformer” visited many countries in the first year of presidency and shifted the country’s foreign policy and introduced several economic and social measures. He had a very good idea where to initiate and start since most of these measures were designed under the tenure of Islam Karimov and they only required political will to be implemented. On October 5, 2016, He signed the decree “On Additional Measures to Ensure the Accelerated Development of Entrepreneurship, the Full Protection of Private Property, and the Qualitative Improvement of the Business Environment.” “This spunk sent a clear signal as to his priorities: an understanding that the private sector will be the key driver for economic growth and job creation in Uzbekistan. The program of reorganisation in the economic sphere like other spheres has been all-inclusive and very determined, and well-articulated in multiple public statements of the president and governmental documents. During his first year of presidency March 2017, He adopted a thoroughly crafted reform manifesto for 5 years 2017-2021 National Development Strategy (N.D.S) The (N.D.S) pinpointed four priority areas: Reforms in Judiciary and strengthening the rule of law,

Reforms in Development, economic modernization and Liberalization includes (Education, Foreign Policy, Tourism and Sustainable development), Comprehensive and ambitious reforms in Public administration and National security, Modernization and intensive development in Agriculture.

Reforms in Judiciary and strengthening the rule of law:

It was almost the first Milestone to cross because when Mirziyoyev became president he first quoted Immanuel Kant, “If Justice perishes Human life on earth has lost its meaning” he was explaining, anyone entering the court of Uzbek, He should be fully confident that the principals of Justice and legality are unfailingly upheld because of widespread condemnation by Western countries and international organizations, but the changes were nonetheless afoot within the country. Up until that time, there had been no real separation of powers in

Uzbekistan. The top-down decision-making process proceeded from the president through ministers and state advisers; the Parliament’s role was limited to rubber-stamping presidential decrees. All political parties supported the presidential policies and elected representatives rarely uttered a critical word. The media was heavily controlled, which caused the coverage to be boring and reduced journalists nearly to the status of insignificant bystanders. The press in the country did not provide coverage promptly. Digital media existed but many domestic and international websites were blocked. Today, at a time where several democracies – including the long-established democratic system in Western and Central Europe – show a worrying backslide towards authoritarianism and executive control over the judiciary, the wind has started to blow in the opposite direction here in Uzbekistan. Under the leadership of President Mirziyoyev, the country has embarked on a far-reaching reform of the judicial system, which aims at strengthening the independence of the judiciary and the effective realisation of the principle of separation of powers. Several study trips by governmental officials followed, both to the United States and Europe. Numerous Western experts came on short visits to engage in detailed discussions with Uzbekistan’s reform-minded legal authorities. This deliberative process was as delicate as it was significant. These visits provided an opportunity for Uzbek jurists to build trust with European and American colleagues and to discover new solutions to old problems. As this process went forward the Uzbeks gained self-confidence, which facilitated more candid internal discussions on how to advance the process of reform. Indeed, the main benefit of these experiences for the new generation of potential leaders was the development of direct peer-to-peer contacts with like-minded Uzbeks. The President has appointed a talented and young educated in England justice minister, Ruslanbek Davletov and with more than 85% of prosecutors were replaced after Mr Mirziyoyev condemned their rampant bribe-taking for which government has decreed that evidence obtained by torture Islam Karimov is inadmissible. A special counsel has been set up to boost judicial independence. In February 2018, the Supreme Court Uzbekistan hosted a round-table meeting to discuss reforms in the judicial and legal sphere covered by the State Programme, chaired by Kozimdjon Komilov, the Chairman of the Supreme court, Akmal Saidov, the Director of the National Human Rights Centre Uzbekistan, Akmal Burhanov, the Executive Director of

the Development Strategy Centre, and Helena Fraser the UN Regional Coordinator, John MacGregor, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan, and Ashita Mittal, the UNODC Regional Representative in Central Asia were present at the meeting along with the representatives of other international organizations and diplomatic missions, and the Supreme Court and Oliy Majlis (the Parliament) of Uzbekistan. In 2018 alone more than Fifty legislative documents related to the judicial system were adopted and can now serve as a solid legal basis for transformation and this work will not only continue but also deepen. The administration will take an active part in the implementation of the tasks outlined and will conduct regular monitoring, and timely inform the population. Following the plan to build close cooperation with international partners and attract foreign experts to increase the effectiveness of measures taken by the Government. The President on finding solutions to Uzbekistan's new judicial reforms in which he proposed new blood into the Judiciary and enlightened the role of the supreme court which is the highest level of faith that a citizen and the system has in the interpretation and application of the law that ensures the justice is delivered and seen to be delivered, and the work underway for people are at the heart of the response, and access to justice is ensured for the most vulnerable populations including women and children.

Reforms in Development, Economic modernization and liberalization:

As nearly, 1000 years ago the whole landlocked region was a nerve centre and a heart of Trade and Transformation, it was in Tashkent, Bukhara, Ferghana Valley, Samarkand and many other places all around us that the Silk Road grew from a simple trading route into a place that captured the world's imagination and early openness to trade allowed cities to flourish. The Republic of Uzbekistan is now wavering its equation of growth and impassioned once again to become a place of innovation and assimilation. Since 2017, its reforms have apprehended global attention and opportunity to capitalize on its stamina and efficiency and pursue a path that will create inclusive growth throughout Uzbekistan. And in this course, you can put the Republic of Uzbekistan back where it belongs — an impetus for break-through across the region of central Asia. President Shavkat Mirziyoyev implemented many ambitious market-oriented economic reforms which began to start in late 2017, the government

Liberalized the Foreign Exchange Market and Unified the Exchange Rate, initiated Price and Trade liberalization and from the beginning of 2019 the government has made significant cuts to tax rates for both individuals and Firms. The Republic of Uzbekistan has eliminated the need for entry visas to promote Business and Tourism and revived its pledge ties with WTO. The government has expanded social safety net coverage and substantially improved the availability of economic statistics. President Shavkat Mirziyoyev also drew attention to the implementation of the e-governance system. It was suggested to establish the program of Digital Uzbekistan till the end of 2030, He underlined that the main goal is to make Uzbekistan a developed country, which can be achieved only through intensive reforms, Health, Education, Tourism and Innovation. Uzbekistan in the wide range of market-oriented programs, the Republic of Uzbekistan made three paramount shifts to the economy: from Public sector dictated economy to private sector managed economy, from Command and control to the Market-based economy and from being Inbound and Solitude to apparent and accessible. It is now quite challenging to steer a transformation by shifting the role of government from being the main allocator of resources to one of the guiding and regulating markets to address informational asymmetries, dealing with the externalities, providing public goods and creating safety nets, the president in the inaugural meeting in parliament of Uzbekistan in 2017 highlighted the four main development deficits Employment and Education, Enterprises and Exports, Sustainable Development and energy efficiency and foreign policy and Tourism. In addressing these deficits.

The Country is making new opportunities for the private sector. These opportunities are strongest in tradable sectors which can generate more Sustainable development and higher-paying employment and the ambitious reforms will bring enormous gains, but also could deliver many setbacks. Besides, they are not easy to start and sustain, but the payoff to being persistent is that Uzbekistan will achieve the goals of a more competitive, open and wealthy society. As a result of these efforts, the unemployment rate in 2018, 2019 was down 5.92% and 5.72%, respectively. Recently in 2020, The State foundation 'El-Yurt Umidi' of the Republic of Uzbekistan will send more than 1000 lawyers, Scholars, Doctors and Professors abroad for research and training. From the last three years, the internationalization of education has become a priority in developing education

in Uzbekistan. The gravity of internationalization is emulated by becoming a powerful project to develop higher education. As well as it has become a key factor in the development of national economy and mechanisms for promoting cultural diversity and national education system. Maintaining the policies aimed at further improving the system of continuous education, increasing access to quality education, training of qualified personnel's, targeted measures aimed at strengthening the material-technical base of educational institutions through repairment, reconstruction and, equipping with modern teaching and laboratory equipment, computers etc. improving training and employment of students of professional colleges on specialties that meet the requirements of the market economy and the needs of employer, improving the quality and effectiveness of higher education institutions through introduction of international standards of training and assessment of the quality of teaching by stimulating research and innovation, creation of effective mechanisms for the implementation of scientific and innovative achievements into practice, creation of scientific and experimental specialized laboratories, high-tech centres, industrial parks at universities and research institutes. For these aspirations to achieve the President in his recent speech of 2020, He talked candidly about his challenges growing up and reminded the nation for better future to compete with the world, in which it is necessary to raise the quality of education to the level of international requirements and further improve the infrastructure of universities. It is also important to pay more attention to the issues of developing educational programs and increasing the quality of educational services that attract foreign students. Uzbekistan has been focusing on raising the higher education system to a global level in recent times. Participation in the process of world higher education is one of the key factors to achieve success. The internationalization of higher education should be the mechanism that promotes the national higher education system of Uzbekistan, its national language, and its national identity.

Shavkat Mirziyoyev is the only second person after Independence to hold the office but in comparison with his prototype Islam Karimov whose rule was like an iron fist, it was through and through like dictatorship and the foreign policy was driven by distorted promises, uncertainties and suspicion of powerful states. The onlookers, bystanders and speculations from media

indicated continuity rather than change but the positive transformations that occurred in Uzbekistan increased the Global interest not only in Uzbek but in the whole region as they have enthusiastically trying to obtain international cooperation with the United Nations office in Uzbekistan and International Labour Organisation (ILO) which become the outstanding and prominent voices both within the country and in highlighting progress to the wider international community. There has been significant growth in the number of international consultants and donor agencies advising on the reform process. The UN has identified Social security transformation and wider public sector measures like climate change and water management, and the protection of historic buildings as the key areas for international focus. Uzbekistan has recently sought to improve ties with Central Asian neighbours and deepen relations with some international institutions, the 'Reformer' almost visited many Asian and Central Asian countries and shifted the country's foreign policy and also initiated balanced relations with external great powers like Russia, China, and the United States. Despite the change in central administration Uzbekistan's outdoor policy still adheres to core principles such as abstention from military alliances or the Moscow-led Eurasian Economic Union; refusal to deploy the troops beyond its national province and to host foreign military bases; and non-intervention in the internal affairs of foreign countries. However, Tashkent's tactics have recently emphasized developing deeper international economic ties, resolving disputes with neighbouring countries, and overtly prioritizing Central Asian solidarity. Although the new Uzbek government under Shavkat Mirziyoyev has initially focused on developing ties with other Eurasian states, the declared intent to transform Uzbekistan into a regional transportation hub should also lead to deepening Uzbekistan's ties with the Middle East, Europe, Japan, South Korea and India. The urgent need to prioritise and strengthen the Foreign Policy will deliver transformative changes in the Tourism of the country. Opening Uzbekistan to foreign trade and investment leads to the development of the Tourism sector which the country has great potential of Historical, Archaeological, Architectural, and precious spiritual heritage of Natural treasures that can attract exceptional tourism. The country's diverse ecology ranging from deserts to glaciers, mountains to steppes, gives the country great eco-tourism potential. The reform process in the Tourism sector aims

to create jobs and new business opportunities; further the diversification and accelerated development of regions; increase incomes and living standards and quality of life, boost foreign-exchange earnings; and improve Uzbekistan's overall image and investment. Although Uzbekistan has made substantial efforts and launched numerous reforms to expand and improve its tourism industry as part of its program of economic growth, further actions are needed. The Uzbek government has addressed shortcomings inconveniences still connected with border procedures, transportation, and guest accommodations. Still, some support facilities and services require action by the government or private sector, especially given the role they play in attracting tourists or encouraging them to become repeat visitors. A two-day event in 2018, International Investment Forum in Tourism with business representatives of more than 50 countries and 30 International Media outlets, the forum was the first of its kind in which the Concept of Development of Tourism Industry was planned to implement till 2025, and the 36 action plan list contains the bigger and Internationally developed competitive Tourism, Further developed the tourism infrastructure, Transportation and organized protective zones for Sustainable development.

The Country's Long term sustainable Development Goals committed to implementing till 2030, agenda for Sustainable development. Uzbekistan has an objective to become a high middle-income nation and double the per capita income with a reduction in Poverty and Inequality. The health care system in Uzbekistan has taken measures to improve the quality and accessibility of services through improving the financing and insurance system, training of medical personal in professional development as well as developing medical science and introduction of e-Health. The country has also prioritized strengthening the role and protecting the rights of women. Recently, laws have been adopted on gender equality and the protection of women from violence, the proportion of women in parliament has improved to 32%, and women have been promoted to leadership positions at all levels of state and local authorities. Uzbekistan prioritizes mitigation and adaptation to climate change under the Paris Agreement 2015, with a special focus on the Aral Sea region, conservation and the efficient use of water, land and energy resources, as well as biodiversity conservation.

Comprehensive and ambitious reforms in Public administration and National security:

The strategy of actions for the transformation of Uzbekistan's appointment of new President worked quietly to diversify the voices heard in national political discussions and promises the reshaping of barriers of the domestic political landscape and rebalancing the geopolitical order in a region. Shavkat Mirziyoyev campaigned on the principle of openness and transparency, an effective system of public administration, Social and National security. The renewal of the political system was the top priority of Mirziyoyev, on September 2017, the Republic of Uzbekistan on approval of "Administrative Reforms" was issued. The government of Uzbekistan identifies six key areas for radical reforms throughout the Country; Development and growth of the organizational, legal and institutional framework of the executive authorities and their activities, Stipulation and designation of responsibilities which include functions and powers, mechanisms for their implementation and responsibilities of executive bodies, improvement of coordination and interaction processes, Further reduction of administrative influence on economic sectors and expansion of market management mechanism, Improving the mechanisms of the vertical management system and interaction of executive authorities, Introduction of modern forms of strategic planning, innovative ideas, developments and technologies in the system of public administration and The formation of an effective system of professional civil service, the introduction of effective mechanisms to combat corruption in the system of executive authorities. Uzbekistan is a work in progress, and the new regime has yet to make significant medium-term gains. Where there has been some evidence of Western influence, it has been in the area of public management, specifically decentralization and optimization of public services; privatization, outsourcing, and public-private partnerships; limited anti-corruption measures; and greater transparency through one-stop shops and electronic government. The situation remains however that Central Asia, comprising five authoritarian states with monopoly powers in the hands of the president and elite groupings, is likely to continue, in part as a legacy of the Soviet Union. There is little evidence that this will change in the short term and, as a result, the potential for the significant public sector and administration reforms drawing on Western models remains limited.

After coming into power in the fall of 2016, Shavkat

Mirziyoyev practically changed all the power structure and the National Security head was replaced to ensure stability and security in Uzbekistan. The country is different among all Central Asian members, it has the largest population of more than 30 million and Uzbekistan is the only country that has the most ethnically homogenous structure among the Central Asian members and the will to become the regional power in Central Asia because of its largest and strongest army in the region, many natural sources and a developing economy. But the Domestic and Foreign problems vividly after Independence was heavily shaped under the influence of Security issues like the struggle against Fundamental activities, Narcotics Trafficking, Regional civil wars, Radicalization and Terrorism. These challenges and threats have indicated a shift in the policies since 1999, and Uzbekistan takes an active process of fight against it with the help of International cooperation for counteracting and repeatedly emphasized the need of strengthening cooperation in the fight against this phenomenon on a global scale. In combatting these internal and external challenges, Uzbekistan has organised many International conferences to enhance security and stability in the region and they have amended the laws to reflect the changing threat. Mirziyoyev in 2018, implemented many Security reforms like maintaining peace and stability in the region through preventive conflict resolution, creation of stable economic ties with the other Central Asian countries through greater humanitarian and economic assistance from development agencies, which in turn will help create the foundation for political and social stability and combating inter-ethnic strife, terrorism, drug-trafficking, forced migration, and the illegal sale of weapons. Successful strategies that promote stabilization and national self-sufficiency in regional development, economic integration, and regional security must take into consideration the circumstances of all countries of the region. By continuing to look for common interests and overcoming distrust, Uzbekistan will be able to maintain economic growth, implement further democratic reforms, and truly develop a “conflict-free” zone within the region.

Modernization and intensive development in Agriculture:

Uzbekistan the doubly landlocked country favoured the climatic conditions for the production of various Agricultural products, agriculture is Central and the main

sector for the people and the national economy. In 2017, President Mirziyoyev introduced the strategy of the action plan to the region in which agriculture was one among by combatting desertification, land degradation and droughts are reflected in priority areas. In January 2019, the government of Uzbekistan started “Farm Restructuring” with more emphasis on Cotton and Wheat. In recent times the economic policy of Uzbekistan is aimed at efficient and adaption of exports of cotton to polished products with high added appraisal, by doing so the textile industry should create modern ventures or enterprises that are actively involved in investments, running enterprises should be equipped with modern technologies, and by introducing advanced production methods and innovative projects being implemented. The export of cotton from Uzbekistan should be repaired and also the logistics which consists of cotton terminals, transport infrastructure and route corridors should be created. It is mandatory to reiterate that the development of domestic agro-industrial production is possible only at assimilation of the interfaced participants of the business. Nonetheless, a certain mass of recognition that is accomplished by industrial and management subsystems of agrarian and industrial complex and are already realized by them at integration, in many cases, they are used not in full that which reduces a positive synergy of association of subjects and testifies to the preservation of some asymmetry in management of organizational evolution and interface of target interests. Eradication of fundamental shortcomings and formation of conditions for mobilization of integration advantages seems possible during the formation of cluster associations. In the last 5 years, the agricultural sector of Uzbekistan underwent series of market-oriented reforms such as the introduction of business activity, different types of land ownership, license and granting permission to use natural resources for agricultural businesses, various types of agro-industrial plants and financial and technical support of the government. Multifaceted reforms have led to improvement in all aspects of the life of the population and an increase in economic performance. Crop diversification, yield maximization and land use optimization frameworks were launched and have been operating in some parts of the country with considerable successes which can be seen in enhanced life quality of population, market saturation and ongoing industrial modernization programs. Decreasing rate of poverty, quality growth and economic activeness in people’s life

reflect socioeconomic wellbeing. In addition to the supervision of introduction of modernization of the agricultural sector is the initiation of innovations which can ensure more effective use of competitive advantages in the production of different kinds of food. In extension and addition of investments in the expansion of the raw materials base, shift in policies and creation of new processing facilities for the production competitive on external markets, it is mandatory to focus other areas of investment in agriculture that are equally important for the translational motion of the countries of the region towards the creation of effective, having a real income of the population and the state sector of the economy.

Conclusion:

In the last years mainly since 2017, Uzbekistan has been somehow active and remarkable especially when the new President Shavkat Mirziyoyev has launched the new initiatives which in turn influenced the Social, Economic and Political life of the people of Uzbekistan. The promises made during the election campaign even though with some difficulties are gradually reclaimed, the government and administration are giving a push to reforms. Uzbekistan has begun to radically reconstruct the national economy which recently was in a stable but paralysed state. The assortment and diversification of industry for which Uzbekistan has the significant ability and is finally started and the currency and financial reform which has become a powerful catalyst for the process of economic liberalization. The government of Uzbekistan has opened new opportunities for attracting large foreign investors who were kept standoffish for a long time from the Uzbek market due to many synthetically shaped

obstacles. Uzbekistan is migrated through an interminable process and systematic ecosystem of rejuvenation and restoration with a positive dynamic. Economic developments have acute and prudent character however, there are still many problems to solve that have accumulated over the previous years. The good news is that the country’s administration and leadership have not turned away from addressing these problems, but efficiently built a program of practical and scientific measures for the swift stabilization of the national economy of Uzbekistan. Regarding the internal and domestic reforms, it can be said that the Uzbek people live in a state of jubilation and the direction of the current policies gives hope that Uzbekistan can climb the category of countries with a stable socio-political shape. In general, Mirziyoyev’s foreign policy and internal developments like Judicial, Economic liberalization, Public administration reforms are characterized by a strong focus on humanity and on improving the living conditions of the people which might be the greatest achievement of the past years.

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