

STRATEGY FOR FAIR TRANSITION TO THE ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY THROUGH THE CREATION OF «GREEN» JOBS

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Uzbekistan is implementing large-scale reforms in all spheres of life, including in the field of social and labor relations, aimed at improving the level and quality of life of the population and ensuring human interests. Thanks to the decisive political will of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, in a short period of time, the country managed to achieve fundamental changes to completely prevent child and forced labor, and significant results were achieved in promoting the principles of decent work. The irreversibility and consistency of reforms are firmly guaranteed by the updated Constitution of the country.

The adoption of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan in a new edition by popular vote in a referendum held on April 30, 2023, served to strengthen the constitutional foundations for the construction of New Uzbekistan.

In order to ensure the will of our people to build a free and prosperous, strong New Uzbekistan, as well as guaranteed justice, the rule of law, security and stability, the Strategy “Uzbekistan - 2030” was approved.

The Strategy “Uzbekistan - 2030” reflects a number of ideas, among which the creation of favorable environmental conditions for the population also has its place.

In order to implement the objectives, increase the effectiveness of measures taken to ensure green and inclusive economic growth within the framework of the Strategy, as well as further expand the use of renewable energy sources and resource conservation in all sectors of the economy, was approved the “Program for the transition to a green economy and ensuring a green growth in the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2030”.

The program is designed to achieve a reduction in specific greenhouse gas emissions, an increase in the production capacity of renewable energy sources, an increase in energy efficiency, a reduction in energy intensity, an increase in water use efficiency, an expansion of green areas, an increase in the level of recycling of generated household waste and etc.

Also, the “Concept of transition to a green economy”, “Action plan for the transition to a green economy and ensuring green growth in the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2030” and “Target parameters for saving fuel and energy resources aimed at reducing the energy intensity of products” were approved.

From June 1, 2023, a system of “green certificates” was introduced based on requirements to limit the impact on ecology and the environment during

production.

An infrastructure for state regulation of greenhouse gas emissions has been created, providing for:

- state accounting of greenhouse gas emissions and maintaining their state cadastre;
- formation and maintenance of a register of carbon units;
- determination of target indicators for reducing greenhouse gas emissions by economic sectors;
- state support for activities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;

From January 1, 2024, the modern monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) system in the field of climate change will be implemented, covering all greenhouse gases.

In Uzbekistan, the Ministry of Economy and Finance is the authorized for coordinating the implementation of activities under the Sustainable Development Support Mechanism in accordance with Article 6 of the Paris Agreement (December 12, 2015, Paris).

To coordinate measures for the transition of the Republic of Uzbekistan to a “green” economy, there is an Interdepartmental Council, a Coordination Group of Donors and a Technical Secretariat, which ensures execution and systemic control of implementation.

Effective implementation is carried out in a number of areas, among which a special place is given to capacity building and human capital development as part of green growth. It identifies an increase in the number of jobs created through green rate programs and businesses based on natural resources:

- creation of “green” jobs and development of “green rate” programs;
- increasing the capacity of enterprises based on the management of natural resources for climate change resilience in improving local living standards, creating jobs in the fields of agriculture, natural resources and ecotourism.

In order to support the population and places of their residence that are most susceptible to strong influence during the transition to a “green” economy, priority tasks have been identified:

- implementing comprehensive policies to support the retraining and upskilling of vulnerable populations at risk of unemployment due to climate change during the transition to a green economy, as well as supporting increased labor mobility in order to create sustainable jobs in the long term;
- improving the system of continuous training of the workforce in new skills for created and existing jobs for an effective transition to a “green” economy.

Priority directions:

a) development of inclusive and sustainable human capital - ensuring macroeconomic stability and inclusive economic growth to improve the standard of living of the population, reduce poverty through job creation and provide a favorable environment for entrepreneurship, especially among youth and women;

b) eliminating the gap in the quality of life between urban and rural areas - developing programs to reduce the gap between urban and rural areas, between the poor, at risk of poverty and climate-vulnerable areas;

c) support for innovative youth startup projects - improving mechanisms for supporting innovation and startups to diversify the economy and stimulate youth employment;

d) improving the quality and effectiveness of education - ensuring inclusive education, improving the quality and coverage of education to support children, youth and women;

e) increasing the coverage and effectiveness of the social protection system for people: increasing the well-being of people and strengthening their social protection; development and improvement of the quality of health services;

f) support and stimulation in the context of the transition period - support for the growth of small and medium-sized enterprises combined with support for their legalization to create decent and safe jobs.

Strategy for fair transition to the environmentally sustainable economy through the creation of «green» jobs aims to achieve the following strategic objectives:

- compliance with labor and other employee rights in the process of transition of the Republic of Uzbekistan to a “green” economy. Workers' rights in employment include freedom of association, freedom of speech, equal participation of men and women in decisions that affect their lives, the right to collective bargaining, non-discrimination, freedom from forced and child labor, recognition of rights and access to lawmaking, the existence of labor laws and the rule of law;

- promoting stable and secure employment in a flexible and green economy, in which, decent income and which provides decent livelihoods, equality of treatment and equality of opportunity for all, good working conditions, where health and safety at work are respected, accessibility productive and meaningful work prospects for personal development;

- social protection places particular emphasis on the necessary link between productive employment and security for those who are unemployed for any reason, protection against loss or reduction of income due to unemployment, injury, maternity, paternity or old age, fair social participation in social questions;

- social dialogue emphasizes that workers and employers have the right and opportunity to be represented by their organizations, that the best and most reliable solutions are always achieved through cooperation, which plays a leading role in maintaining social stability, sustainable growth and development, that there are ways of discussion and conflict resolution.

Green jobs must meet decent work criteria, i.e. these must be high-quality jobs that guarantee good wages, safe working conditions, stable employment, acceptable prospects for advanced training and career growth, as well as respect for the rights of hired workers.

Based on the objectives, implementation mechanisms for each area have been specified. Also, the expected results were predicted and recommendations were given to social partners on the adoption of the National Action Program for the implementation of measures for the transition to a “green” economy.

Thus, it can be noted that the creation of “green” jobs in Uzbekistan is based on the political will of the country’s leadership, effective public-private

partnership, and constructive social dialogue.

Literature

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