



# INCREASE IN THE INTERNATIONAL RATINGS AND INDEXES OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

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## ANNOTATION

*This article deals with the large-scale reforms carried out in Uzbekistan during the years of independence, international rankings and indices, the state policy to increase and enhance the position of our country in these rankings and indices.*

**KEYWORDS:** *international rankings, indices, investment, reforms, corruption, action strategy, economic freedom*

## INTRODUCTION

Since gaining independence, the Republic of Uzbekistan has been achieving high results in all areas. Especially in recent years, the guarantee of human rights and the rule of law, the liberalization of tax policy and economic reforms have been recognized by foreign countries. Also, the role of large-scale reforms in our country in international rankings and indices is growing. Reforms in this area and the results achieved are being presented to the general public.

## OBJECTIVES

The Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on improving the position of the Republic of Uzbekistan in international rankings and indices and the introduction of a new mechanism of systematic work with government agencies and organizations was adopted. Reforms aimed at ensuring the protection of human rights, improving the living standards of the population, ensuring freedom of economic activity, improving the material and procedural norms in the field of justice have led to an increase in the country's international rankings and indices.

The tasks set in the Action Strategy for strengthening the country's investment attractiveness and image in the international arena, the introduction of new mechanisms for working with international ratings and indices in government agencies and organizations, as well as five priority areas of development of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2017-2021.

Therefore, the Action Strategy for the five priority areas of development of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2017-2021 provides for "strengthening the international prestige of the Republic of Uzbekistan, objective information to the world community about the ongoing reforms in the country." The resolution "On measures to improve the position of the Republic of Uzbekistan in international rankings and indices" signed by President Sh. Mirziyoyev marked a new stage of reforms in this area.

In particular, over the past four years, the country has risen by 52 points in the "Economic Freedom" index of the Heritage Fund, by 19 points in the "Logistics Efficiency" index of the World Bank, and by 18 points in the "Doing Business" index. Uzbekistan has risen from Group 6 to Group 5 in the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development's Country Risk Classification system. At the same time, due to the fact that some leaders do not pay enough attention to working with ratings and most of the reforms are not reflected in surveys conducted by international organizations, the Republic of Uzbekistan is not included in the priority international rankings and indices.

According to the Happiness Index, in 2019 Uzbekistan ranked 47th out of 155 countries. Uzbekistan is also included in the latest ranking of Freedom House in the latest ranking of political and religious freedoms, as well as freedom of the press and the rule of law. However, Uzbekistan has risen five places in the World Press Freedom Index compared to 2019. In this ranking, it was ranked 169th in 2017, 165th in 2018 and 160th in 2019.



Despite the signing of a presidential decree aimed at improving Uzbekistan's position in international rankings on freedom of speech, Uzbekistan's position in international rankings is not commendable. Reporters Without Borders, an international non-governmental organization, publishes its annual World Press Freedom Index. The ranking is based on the "level of freedom of local journalists" and selects 180 countries. It is based on the responses of journalists, lawyers and sociologists from different countries to a special survey. The survey covers aspects such as legislation, self-censorship, freedom of the media, diversity of opinion, and willingness of various institutions and agencies to work with journalists. In this ranking, Uzbekistan has grown significantly in recent years. By 2020, Reporters Without Borders has positively assessed freedom of speech in our country and noted the best results.

The stability of the country's economy, its ability to compete with developed countries in all areas, in turn, depends on the labor market. Personnel who develop the country's economy are educated in educational institutions. This means that a quality education system builds quality personnel, and quality personnel builds a developed, rich society. In this regard, today, when our country has entered a new stage of development, investing in human capital, reforming education has become one of the priorities. In particular, over the past two years, teachers' salaries have increased 1.5 times. A number of measures have been taken to increase the prestige of teachers in society. Presidential schools, creative schools, specialized schools have been established in all regions of the country, and the most qualified specialists have been attracted to these educational institutions. Also, the material and technical base of existing schools is being strengthened, modern schools are being built in all regions.

Of course, it is important to study, analyze and monitor international experience before implementing reforms in all areas. The effectiveness of education policies in countries is reflected in international rankings. Ratings in various areas are determined and published through international evaluation programs such as ICILS, ICCS, TEDS, TIMSS, PIRLS, PISA, TALIS. The most prestigious of these programs is the PISA assessment program, which has 85 member states. According to the Decree of President Sh. Mirziyoyev, the priority of our country to become one of the top 30 countries in the world by 2030 in the ranking of the international assessment program PISA (The Program for International Student Assessment) is a sign of high government attention. [4].

The attractiveness of the university for applicants and the reliability of the diploma for employers are largely determined by the rating of this institution. On the one hand, the ranking helps talented young people who want to get high quality information and allows them to realize their full potential. On the

other hand, the higher the position of the university in the ranking, the greater the number of those who want to study. The first ranking was published in 1983 by USNews & WorldReport in response to the globalization of higher education.

Reforms in the international rating system have not bypassed the education sector. In particular, in the concept of development of the higher education system of the country until 2030, at least 10 higher education institutions in the country are included in the list of top 1000 higher education institutions in the ranking of internationally recognized agencies (Quacquarelli Symonds World University Rankings, Times Higher Education or Academic Ranking of World Universities). The National University of Uzbekistan and Samarkand State University will be included in the list of the top 500 higher education institutions. Over the past period, the Education Inspectorate has studied in depth the experience of developed countries. An international team of experts was involved and the current national rating system was re-analyzed. Experts from reputable rating agencies such as QS (Quacquarelli Symonds) and THE (Times Higher Education World University Rankings) reviewed the national rating system and made relevant recommendations. Today, cooperation is underway to further improve the methodology of rating.

Over the past year, the number of full-time professors in national universities has increased by 10.6%, the number of students by 25.4%, the number of professors with the degree of Doctor of Science (DSc) or the title of Professor by 11.0%, PhD professors with academic degrees or associate professions increased by 10.1%, dissertation defenses (including awarded professor or associate professor titles) increased by 41.1%. 84.5% of the level of knowledge and practical skills of graduates, 80.2% of the level of cooperation of higher education institutions with employers, 85.3% of the potential for future growth of graduates, the quality of training of higher education institutions 82, 5% responded positively [6].

The indicator of the level of research activity is one of the main indicators of scientific and technological development of the country and is calculated as the total number of research materials published in edited scientific journals and publications included in the index of scientific sources. The index of research activity of the countries of the world is published annually in a special report of the National Science Foundation of the United States called "Science and Engineering Indicators". In 2017, Uzbekistan ranked 82nd out of 195 countries.

The Center for Economic Research and Reform ranked 10th among the top 63 research think tanks in Central Asia in the Global Go To Think Tank Index Report 2019, compiled by the University of Pennsylvania. There are several other think tanks in Uzbekistan in the 2020 ranking: the Institute for



Strategic and Interregional Studies and the Center for Social Research "Analysis".

The value of the Human Development Index of Uzbekistan for 2017 was 0.710, which puts the country in the highest category of human development, ranking 105th out of 189 countries and regions. Between 2000 and 2007, the Human Development Index of Uzbekistan increased by 19.3% from 0.595 to 0.710. The Corruption Perceptions Index has also been compiled annually since 1996 using the methodology of the international non-governmental organization Transparency International. It consists of a combination of public statistics and global survey results. The countries surveyed are ranked from 0 (highest corruption rate) to 100 (lowest corruption rate) based on their attitude to the level of corruption in the public sector. According to the results of 2019, the indicators have improved slightly, ranking 153rd in the ranking of 180 countries. Despite the fact that Uzbekistan's score on the Corruption Perceptions Index increased from 22 to 23 points, the country's position in the index fell by one point. The main reason for this is that the results of the index of Tajikistan and Eritrea increased from 21 points to 25 points and from 20 points to 24 points, respectively, rising from 161st to 152nd place and from 165th to 157th place. The Economist Intelligence Unit and Freedom House gave Uzbekistan a score of 0 on the anti-corruption sub-indicator. The main reasons for this are: the destruction of citizens' housing; violations of citizens' rights by officials go unpunished; the presence of domestic corruption on the ground; the deterioration of the legal situation in the judiciary was taken into account.

The Environmental Performance Index is an environmental policy and law mark at Yale University.

The index is based on 11 indicators used in 2007 by the International Telecommunication Union to assess the development of ICT. The index combines these indicators into a single criterion, and is aimed at comparing the achievements of countries around the world in the development of ICT, which can also be used as a tool for comparative analysis at the global, regional and national levels. In 2017, Uzbekistan ranked 95th on this index.

In the biennial World Bank Logistics Performance Index, Uzbekistan rose 19 places in 2018 from 118th place in 2016. The main criteria for the performance of logistics activities include customs, infrastructure, international transportation, logistics skills, mobility, tracking and periodicity.

To date, such ratings and indices have been used not only by experts, but also at the state level as criteria for the success of reforms and economic policy. The results of the UN Human Development Index, the Global Competitiveness Index of the World Economic Forum, the World Bank's Doing Business rating and a number of other factors are targeted at

the development of programs at various levels in countries, including Uzbekistan. serves as a route.

Among the international socio-economic rankings in the world, first of all, it is necessary to note the World Bank's Doing Business rating. The Doing Business report is the result of the World Bank's annual survey, which assesses the ease of doing business in 10 countries in 190 countries. The report focuses on the assessment of regulatory documents governing the life of small and medium-sized businesses, the order of their application in practice. This report has been prepared by the World Bank since 2003 and is published annually in the fall. It is gratifying that over the past 5 years, Uzbekistan has risen from 166th place in 2012 to 74th place in 2017 among 190 countries in the ranking of "Doing Business" and is among the top ten reformers in terms of creating the most favorable business environment for doing business. Uzbekistan is striving to create the most favorable conditions by 2022 for the World Bank and the International Finance Corporation's Doing Business report, which is in line with the top twenty countries in the world. This goal is reflected in the Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated July 13, 2018 "On measures to further improve the rating of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the annual report of the World Bank and the International Finance Corporation" Doing Business".

Uzbekistan's economic freedom is 53.3 points, ranking 140th in 2019. Freedom of business, freedom of labor and freedom of investment increased, and economic freedom of Uzbekistan increased by a total of 1.8 points. Uzbekistan ranks 36th out of 43 countries in the Asia-Pacific region and its overall rating is lower than the regional and global averages. According to the Doing Business report, Uzbekistan is among the top 20 countries that have made great strides in improving the business environment. Frankly, in recent years, entrepreneurs have been provided with more opportunities and benefits than ever before. In this practice, the improvement of the business environment, ultimately contributes to the expansion of the ranks of business entities. A good example of this is the fact that it is among the TOP-10 countries in terms of business registration indicators [9].

Although Uzbekistan ranks low in international investment rankings such as Bloomberg, Fitch Ratings and S&P Global Ratings, the International Monetary Fund estimates that Uzbekistan will be one of the few countries to end 2020 with economic growth.

Uzbekistan first entered the international bond market in February 2019. At that time, the republic issued 10-year bonds with a yield of 5%. In 2020, the international rating agencies Fitch Ratings and S&P Global Ratings rated the People's Bank as a steadily growing financial institution. Fitch Ratings has maintained the People's Bank's rating at VV-



Stable. This will further expand the bank's cooperation with international financial institutions and increase customer confidence. S&P Global Ratings upgraded the People's Bank's credit rating from V + to VV. This means that Uzbekistan is rated the same as the sovereign rating.

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, it should be noted that last year alone, more than a dozen important international initiatives of the head of our state have been fully implemented. For example, the US State Department removed Uzbekistan from the list of countries involved in "systematic, persistent and serious violations of religious freedom." Or the adoption of a special resolution entitled "Enlightenment and Religious Tolerance" at the plenary session of the UN General Assembly in late 2018 is a clear evidence of the international community's support for the international initiative put forward by our President. Indeed, it is important to further enhance the image of Uzbekistan in the international arena by developing models for the development of trade, economic, investment and social spheres in our country, strengthening ties with the world's leading international analysis and research and production institutions.

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