V. УНИВЕРСИТЕТ ИЛМИЙ ХАЁТИ Научная повестка Университета Overview of the University Research Agenda

The Institute for Advanced International Studies organized a discussion of the international vector of the Constitutional reform in Uzbekistan

On April 14 the Institute for Advanced International Studies (IAIS) under the University of World Economy and Diplomacy (UWED) organized a "round table" focusing on "International Vector of the Constitutional Reform in Uzbekistan".

The event was attended by heads of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, heads and senior staff of diplomatic missions and international organizations accredited in Uzbekistan, leading analytical and research centers, national media, faculty staff and students of UWED.

Presentations were made by IAIS researchers, as well as by the President of the Institute for Global Studies, Ambassador A. Sajanhar (India), director of the Institute for Security Policy and Development S. Cornell (Sweden), Executive Director of the Center for South Asia and International Studies M. Ul Hassan Khan (Pakistan), founder of the law firm Specht & Partner Rechtsanwalt GmbH L. Specht (Austria) and Professor of International Law at the Universities of Glasgow and Paris 1 (Sorbonne Panthéon) K. J. Thames.

In his welcoming speech, the First Deputy Chairman of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis, Rector of UWED S. Safoev pointed to the program milestones in the development of Uzbekistan, the specific features of the current stage of modernization and the paradigm of the country's development, which are reflected in the updated Constitution. He noted that current active and constructive foreign policy of Uzbekistan has turned our country into regional power through effective interaction in Central Asia, as well as the successful building of relations with the states of neighboring regions, such as South and Southeast Asia, the Middle East, participation in the activities of international structures.

It was noted that the Constitutional reform in its foreign policy aspect pursues several goals of a strategic and long-term nature. **Firstly**, it is designed to consolidate the new foreign policy model of Uzbekistan, which has been implemented since the second half of 2016 and has made it possible to achieve a major breakthrough in the country's regional and international development.

Secondly, the constitutional reform should demonstrate to the world community the system-forming principles and norms of Uzbek foreign policy, on the basis of which Uzbekistan, as a regional power, will act in the conditions of the growing crisis of international law and the system of international relations. **Thirdly**, the principles being enshrined clearly demonstrate foreign policy model Uzbekistan bases and uses the potential of its bilateral and multilateral relations to support the dynamics of its socio-political and economic reforms.

It was noted that the renewed Constitution of Uzbekistan can ensure the dynamic development of the country in the future: the importance of the ongoing reforms in the administrative system in the country, the creation of a compact but highly efficient public administration system, designed to provide public services of the highest quality. In addition, the experts emphasized that the constitutional reform creates more favorable conditions for attracting foreign investment. The new Constitution, along with the law and the courts, will be the most important protector of property and investment in Uzbekistan. In this regard, the practical work to organize the International Commercial Court in the country has already begun.

The speakers expressed their confidence that the Constitutional reform can be seen as a new "social contract" that will have a serious impact on the countries of the region. Moreover, the growing trend towards building a security community will increasingly shape the regional subjectivity of Central Asia, similar to that observed in Europe.

The existence of a multi-party system in society is one of the crucial aspects of the creation of democratic principles in the nation. This notion is first and foremost established in our nation's Constitution. Political parties today are required to use their constitutional rights to actively contribute to the development of the nation based on their program proposals, put forth alternate ideas for the advancement of society, and take great initiative in successfully defending the interests of their constituents. This will enable the success of significant reforms implemented in the direction of the creation of a new democratic state under the rule of law and the development of civil society.

The Republic of Uzbekistan's newly revised Constitution, which places a strong emphasis on social justice, freedom, and equality in defining the legal standing of both the individual and the state, is founded on the principles of human rights prioritization and shared political and legal responsibility between the state

and its citizens. This is the first time the category of human rights has been codified at the constitutional level.

Our country's economy is growing gradually, and both population wellbeing and growth rates are increasing year over year. In other words, the new version of the Constitution and its principles, which fully incorporate humanistic ideas, are the main reasons for the rising status of our nation in the international community.

Our Constitution has undergone the appropriate changes and additions in accordance with specific stages of Uzbekistan's growth. The primary objective of these measures was to further democratize society. Today's program included the president of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, who said that our Constitution should become a true roadblock, firmly ingrained in every citizen's thoughts and hearts, and completely protect their rights and liberties.

In the end, these reforms reinforced the protection of our people's rights and liberties by democratizing government and implementing citizens' constitutional rights in these procedures.

The newly revised Constitution ushers in a new phase in the creation of the new Uzbekistan. The esteemed head of state emphasized that if we implement the constitutional change based on the opinions and support of our residents, through a referendum, it will be a manifestation of our people's will—a real people's Constitution. The rules outlined in the Constitutional Law are crucial since they were created to safeguard our rights and interests.

Protecting human rights and liberties is the state's top priority, according to Article 54 of our new constitution. The state is responsible for protecting legal, constitutional, and human rights and freedoms.

The youth populate Uzbekistan. Young people's development and upbringing are thus given special consideration. The legal foundation for organizing activities in this area is being strengthened first. "The state ensures the protection of the personal, political, economic, social, cultural, and ecological rights of the youth and encourages their active participation in the life of society and the state," reads Article 79 of our new Constitution. Young people's intellectual, artistic, physical, and moral growth as well as the enjoyment of their rights to education, health care, housing, employment, and recreation must be supported by the state.

Opinions were expressed that the constitutional reform in Uzbekistan would make the public - state model of the country a unique example of the synthesis of Muslim traditions, liberal democracy and secularism. It was also emphasized that current the global problems, which encompass climate change, depletion of water and other natural resources, are becoming a serious challenge and require the joint efforts of all mankind.

Concluding the results of the "round table", the participants agreed that the constitutional reform consolidates the priorities of the modern foreign policy of Uzbekistan, based on openness, pragmatism, as well as mutual trust and respect in relations with all countries.

Institute for Advanced International Studies, University of World Economy and Diplomacy