

Brussels, 16 July 2026
(OR. en)

12037/26
ADD 4

POLCOM 279
SPG 5

COVER NOTE

From:	Secretary-General of the European Commission, signed by Ms Martine DEPREZ, Director
date of receipt:	16 July 2026
To:	Ms Thérèse BLANCHET, Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union

No. Cion doc.:	SWD(2026) 187 final
Subject:	JOINT STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT The EU Special Incentive Arrangement for Sustainable Development and Good Governance (GSP+) assessment of the Republic of Uzbekistan covering the period 2023-2025 Accompanying the document Joint Report to the European Parliament and the Council on the Generalised Scheme of Preferences covering the period 2023-2025

Delegations will find attached document SWD(2026) 187 final.

Encl.: SWD(2026) 187 final



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

HIGH REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE UNION FOR
FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND
SECURITY POLICY

Brussels, 16.7.2026
SWD(2026) 187 final

JOINT STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT

The EU Special Incentive Arrangement for Sustainable Development and Good Governance (GSP+) assessment of the Republic of Uzbekistan covering the period 2023-2025

Accompanying the document

Joint Report to the European Parliament and the Council

on the Generalised Scheme of Preferences covering the period 2023-2025

{JOIN(2026) 16 final} - {SWD(2026) 184 final} - {SWD(2026) 185 final} -
{SWD(2026) 186 final} - {SWD(2026) 188 final} - {SWD(2026) 189 final} -
{SWD(2026) 190 final} - {SWD(2026) 191 final} - {SWD(2026) 192 final}

1. Executive Summary

Uzbekistan has been a beneficiary of the EU's Special Incentive Arrangement for Sustainable Development and Good Governance of the Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP+) since 2021. From an economic perspective, Uzbekistan has benefited substantially from GSP+, with EU imports using GSP+ tariff preferences increasing almost five-fold since 2021 to EUR 448.2 million in 2024. The GSP+ utilisation rate remains high (92.2 % in 2024), indicating strong trade integration, particularly for textiles, agricultural products, and light manufacturing. The EU-Uzbekistan Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (EPCA) which entered into provisional application on 1 March 2026, complements GSP+'s market access and sustainability commitments.

The 2023–2025 monitoring period¹ presents a complex picture. Uzbekistan received an EU monitoring visit in March 2025 and further exchanged information with the EU as part of GSP+ monitoring. On the positive side, Uzbekistan cooperates well with the United Nations (UN) and has advanced on social protection and healthcare, action against violence against women and children, as well as on environmental and climate compliance and drug control. At the same time, there has been backsliding in important areas—particularly civic and media space, freedom of speech, independence of the judiciary, fair trials, and torture prevention and prosecution.

Uzbekistan has advanced in several areas linked to their GSP+ commitments. Increased social protection and legislative and practical steps to protect women and children from domestic violence, such as the 2024 Law on Violence against Children and its strategy, as well as the re-establishment of the Labour Inspectorate are welcome developments. The eradication of systemic and systematic child and forced labour in cotton harvesting was maintained, as the cotton sector continues to transition to free and compensated labour, but the lack of independent monitors and issues raised regarding farmers' rights remain areas of concern. The 2025 Labour Code reform should provide for better alignment with international labour standards. Uzbekistan has also progressed on its environmental and climate commitments, including updated ambitious United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and biodiversity targets, and made advances in afforestation around the Aral Sea.

Despite progress, significant political, institutional, and practical challenges hinder full compliance with GSP+ obligations, in particular regarding civil and political rights. There are continued and worsening limitations to media and civic space and restrictions on freedom of association, including through intimidation and prosecution of dissenting voices, which have severe impact on independent oversight across all four key areas: human rights, labour rights, environment and climate, and anti-corruption. Concerns about the independence of the judiciary and access to fair trials also pose crosscutting challenges, including on freedom of expression, housing rights, torture, and anti-corruption. Similarly, a still weak Labour Inspection system and restrictions on its functioning undermine monitoring of labour rights.

To ensure continued GSP+ eligibility, in particular in view of the revised GSP rules as of 2027, and increase compliance with international commitments, the following key priorities stand out for future engagement: ensuring civil society and media space and freedom of association; ensuring adequate protection against torture; adopting and implementing anti-discrimination legislation and policy; strengthening labour rights and their enforcement including the labour inspectorate; strengthening anti-corruption bodies and their independence.

2. Key developments

2.1 Political and economic developments

Uzbekistan aims to reach upper-middle-income status by 2030². In the meantime, the country remains eligible for GSP+ benefits based on the economic criteria – it is classified as lower-middle-income country by the World Bank and meets the diversification and economic vulnerability criteria set in the GSP Regulation.

The EU and Uzbekistan signed an EPCA in October 2025, which entered into provisional application on 1 March 2026. The EPCA complements GSP+’s market access and sustainability commitments. Uzbekistan aims to join the WTO during 2026, which would further align its trade policies with international norms.

Uzbekistan’s economy has continued its robust growth trajectory, with GDP forecasted to expand by 6.2 % in 2025 (following 6.6 % in 2024) and projected to reach 6 % in 2026³. This growth is driven by strong domestic demand, sustained structural reforms, and favourable external conditions.

Uzbekistan continues its reform trajectory under the framework of the ‘New Uzbekistan’ agenda, with a strong emphasis on economic modernisation, state-led reforms, and regional engagement. However, some observers note a slowdown in the implementation of reforms. While the authorities remain committed to gradual economic transformation, albeit with a strong role for the State, political liberalisation, good governance, human rights, and the rule of law continue to backslide. These trends intensified in 2023-2025.

2.2 GSP+ trade impact

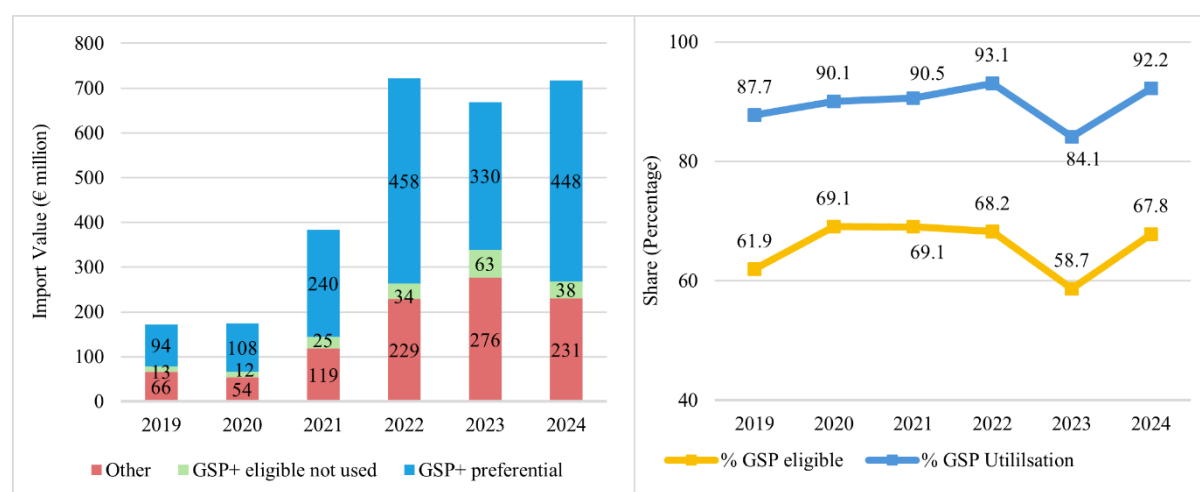
Between 2022 and 2024⁴, total EU imports from Uzbekistan remained broadly stable, declining marginally from EUR 721.4 million in 2022 to EUR 716.6 million in 2024, equivalent to an average annual change of -0.3 %. They had fallen more significantly in 2023 but then recovered. Nonetheless, both total imports into the EU and GSP+ eligible imports have increased more than four-fold compared to pre-COVID levels. Imports of GSP+ eligible products from Uzbekistan to the EU fell from EUR 492.1 million in 2022 to EUR 392.5 million in 2023, then recovered to EUR 485.9 million in 2024 – an increase of almost two times since Uzbekistan joined GSP+ in 2021.

Figure 1. EU imports from Uzbekistan and GSP+ utilisation rate, 2019-2024

Indicators	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Annual Growth (2022-2024)
Total imports, (EUR million)	172.3	174.4	383.7	721.4	668.9	716.6	-0.3 %
GSP+ eligible, (EUR million)	106.7	120.4	265.0	492.1	392.5	485.9	-0.6 %
GSP+ used, (EUR million)	93.6	108.5	239.9	458.0	330.0	448.2	-1.1 %
Share of GSP+ eligible in total	61.9 %	69.1 %	69.1 %	68.2 %	58.7 %	67.8 %	
GSP+ utilisation rate	87.7 %	90.1 %	90.5 %	93.1 %	84.1 %	92.2 %	
MFN=0 % imports, (EUR million)	40.0	31.8	86.4	191.9	256.4	220.3	7.1 %
Share of MFN=0 % imports	23.2 %	18.2 %	22.5 %	26.6 %	38.3 %	30.7 %	

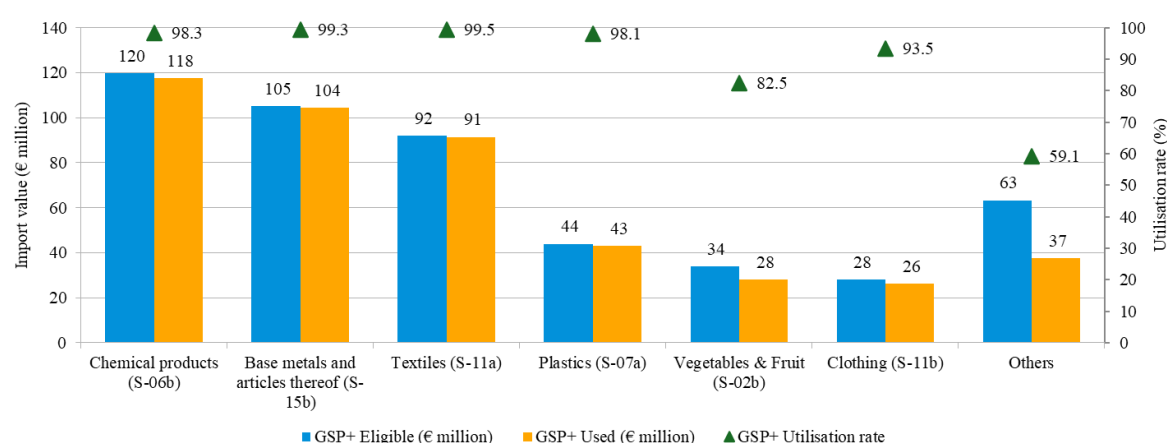
In line with this, imports utilising GSP+ preferences remained relatively stable from EUR 458 million in 2022 to EUR 448.2 million in 2024. The GSP+ utilisation rate remained high in 2022 at 93.1 %, dipping to 84.1 % in 2023, and increased again to 92.2 % in 2024, indicating continued strong use of preferences by Uzbek exporters. As a result of GSP+, Uzbekistan benefited from an estimated EUR 26.7 million in tariff exemptions in 2024. This corresponded to around 4 % of Uzbekistan’s export value to the EU in 2024.

Figure 2. EU imports from Uzbekistan by trade regime and utilisation rates, 2019-2024



The sectors⁵ benefiting the most from GSP+ preferences in 2024 were (in order of import value) chemical products (S06-b)⁶, base metals and articles thereof (S-15b), textiles (S-11a), plastics (S-07a), vegetables & fruit (S02-b), and clothing (S-11b). Chemicals accounted for the largest share of total EU-eligible imports from Uzbekistan (EUR 120 million), with a GSP+ utilisation rate of 98.3 %. Among the top five export sectors, textiles had the highest utilisation rate of 99.5 %. Vegetables & fruit, on the other hand, had the lowest utilisation rate of the GSP+ preferential tariff scheme among the top exporting sectors, at 82.5 %. GSP+’s potential to support the diversification of Uzbek exports can be further exploited.

Figure 3. Top product groups benefiting from GSP+ tariff preferences for Uzbekistan, 2024



3. Compliance with GSP+ obligations

Uzbekistan has maintained ratification of all 27 GSP+ relevant conventions and has issued no new reservations. Uzbekistan is broadly compliant with its reporting obligations to the monitoring bodies (for details, see Annex), but its responses are often delayed or incomplete. This section is based on the latest reports of UN monitoring bodies and supplemented with

information from civil society and GSP monitoring. Uzbekistan has continuously engaged with the EU GSP+ monitoring process through regular exchanges of information, including at high level events, and a GSP+ monitoring mission in March 2025.

3.1 Human rights

In November 2023, Uzbekistan underwent its fourth Universal Periodic Review (UPR) before the UN Human Rights Council, where ongoing concerns were highlighted in fundamental rights areas, particularly freedom of expression, media, and civic space. The adoption of a National Human Rights Strategy until 2030, including measures to implement UPR recommendations, is still pending as of May 2026. An Uzbekistan citizen was elected as member of the UN Human Rights Committee from 2025 to 2028.

Uzbekistan has made efforts and progress, in particular in the areas of social and economic rights and gender equality, through healthcare reform and legal advancement on the protection of women and children from violence, aiming for better alignment with international standards. The government spending on education stands at 20 % of the state budget and pre-school enrolment increased to 73 % in 2024 (from under 30 % in 2017); nonetheless, disparities continue to exist between regions and between urban and rural areas⁷. The government has expanded access to basic services with healthcare reforms that focus on primary healthcare, infrastructure and digitalisation of health services and thus enhance social and economic rights.

Increased **legal protections against violence against children**, developed with the support of United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF), are positive and advance the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), including the 2024 law on Violence against Children⁸, which bans corporal punishment and recognises neglect as violence, and the related strategy for its implementation (2026-2030). The law introduces new institutions aimed at protecting vulnerable children, details legal assistance and support services for victims, and specifies the oversight and monitoring mechanisms. The practical impact of the law will have to be analysed. Further positive steps on **children's rights** include the National Program for the Development of School Education (2022–2026), which sets priorities for curriculum reform, teacher salaries and training, inclusive education measures to provide quality education for children with disabilities, and school infrastructure⁹. The institutional framework was strengthened through the Parliament's Human Rights Commissioner for the Rights of a Child (March 2024¹⁰) the Commission on Children's Issues (Dec. 2024¹¹) and the National Agency for Social Protection (June 2023¹²), tasked with consolidating and enhancing child protection services. However, it is too early to assess the impact of these reforms as implementation challenges persist, and only limited data is available.

As for advancements in **gender**-related topics and alignment with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), legislative changes in the gender realm since 2023 show positive impacts on gender equality and public awareness of the issue. However, challenges remain in the implementation, including insufficient victim support services or the lack of reliable data. Among the most important achievement is the cancelation of the so-called reconciliation period in divorce proceedings for the victims of domestic violence under the Family Code (Art. 40) from 2025. University quotas and preferential loans for women and girls were also introduced in the monitoring period.

At the same time, concerns remain with regard to **civil society and media space** and, therefore, compliance with commitments under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). The initial momentum for opening up civic space after President Mirziyoev's first election in 2016 appears to have stagnated and been partially reversed, with critical voices such

as human rights defenders, journalists (including particularly female journalists), bloggers, and other civic activists reporting harassment offline and online and prosecution. Civic space continues to be considered ‘not free’¹³. There has also been increased pressure on **media freedom**, including through shutdowns of information platforms and expansion of prohibited materials. Increasing numbers of criminal prosecutions for slander, defamation, and insult (30 000 cases in 2024 as reported by the government¹⁴), in particular of journalists and bloggers, are a cause for concern. The UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention found two cases in 2024 of arbitrarily detained journalists in Uzbekistan, with one of them being forcibly held in a psychiatric hospital¹⁵.

Concerns have also been reported about the access to **fair trial** and judicial **independence**, in particular in politically exposed cases. While there has been some positive work on **access to justice** for instance through a legal aid portal for people with disabilities developed with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Rule of Law project, considerable challenges remain in place, including the low number of lawyers, missing accountability mechanisms, and the lack of independence of the Chamber of Advocates.

Independent **NGOs** further report interference in their work and bureaucratic obstacles: while changes in 2023 offer theoretical improvements for NGO registration procedures (including registration online), the Ministry of Justice is reported to frequently reject unwanted NGO applications on purely technical grounds. The Law on Public Associations additionally restricts access to foreign funding and grants above 3 400 USD, and a ‘national’ partner clause means that NGOs that receive foreign funds need to work under a government-appointed supervisor¹⁶. In addition, there remain significant gaps in establishing a fair fiscal environment for NGOs. In August 2025, the President of Uzbekistan signed a law amending nine statutes that govern non-governmental and non-commercial organisations (NNOs), which further tightens reporting obligations, in particular regarding foreign funding, including the requirement to notify the MoJ about upcoming trips of NNO representatives to foreign countries, and to obtain approval for the receipt of all funds and assets from foreign states, organisations, and citizens¹⁷.

There are also increased legislative restrictions to **freedom of assembly**, in particular through amendments of the Criminal Code on the offense of ‘mass unrest’ (Article 244) of December 2024¹⁸. There are concerns that the amendments could be used to punish for the preparation and participation of legitimate peaceful protests in the country, which would violate Uzbekistan’s international human rights commitments.

While legal safeguards on **torture** have improved, the UN Human Rights Committee has raised concerns that obstacles to reporting and independent monitoring persist and reports of torture and death of detainees continue emerging¹⁹. Despite requests by the Committee against Torture, Uzbekistan has not yet amended Article 221 of the Criminal Code to abolish arbitrary extensions of the sentences of political prisoners. Compensation and the access of victims to medical, psychological and socio-economic rehabilitation, although guaranteed by law since 2022, remain inadequate. In terms of legal safeguards, Criminal Code amendments (2023) strengthen protection against torture and provide better alignment with the UN Convention against Torture (CAT), while Uzbekistan has not yet acceded to the Optional Protocol (OPCAT). While the Ombudsperson’s Office carries out visits to places of deprivation of liberty, there remain significant gaps in its ability to exercise independent oversight in this area, including by addressing reports of torture and other ill-treatment. Most recently, in June 2025, Uzbekistan amended legislation regarding custody procedures²⁰, introducing a mandatory medical examination within two hours of arrival at a detention centre and a mandatory notification to the prosecutor in case of any injuries recorded. In August 2024, a draft law to

amend the Criminal Code, Article 235, and to increase penalties for torture, was submitted to Parliament, but has not been adopted yet. The Ombudsperson's Office, in cooperation with the UNDP, initiated in 2025 a comprehensive review to align national legislation with the Istanbul Protocol²¹.

Discrimination persists in practice – in particular regarding the continued lack of legal protection for **LGBTIQ+** persons, and consensual same-sex conduct remains criminalised (Art. 120 of the Criminal Code), resulting in a range of serious human rights concerns. Ethnic minorities (e.g., Tajiks, Karakalpaks, Lyulu/Roma and Mugat) report discrimination in employment and education and exiled Karakalpaks in Kazakhstan report transnational repression, raising concerns about compliance with the Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. While the Ombudsperson's office has reportedly prepared a report on the 2022 **Karakalpakstan** protest, where according to official sources at least 18 were killed and 500 arrested, the document is still not publicly available. In its Concluding observations of the combined thirteenth and fourteenth periodic reports of Uzbekistan of 29 April 2026, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination recommended the government, *inter alia*, to review its legal framework, including article 19 of the Constitution and article 141 of the Criminal Code, with a view to bringing it into line with the Convention, explicitly incorporating the principle of equality and the prohibition of racial discrimination on all prohibited grounds, in line with article 1 of the Convention, as well as to expedite the adoption of the draft Law on Equal Treatment and Non-Discrimination, within a defined and short time frame.

An increasing number of **forced evictions** linked to rapid urbanisation and infrastructure projects, also in world heritage sites such as Samarkand and Bukhara, poses a new challenge²² and seems to particularly affect minorities (e.g., Roma/Lyuli communities), with no access to effective judicial remedies, no alternative housing provided, and under severe pressure from local authorities²³. This links to the proper implementation of the International Convention on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, rule of law, public participation, and non-discrimination.

Priorities for future engagement include facilitating an enabling environment for civil society and freedom of assembly and association to ensure that NGOs are able to function as provided by international standards. Alignment with international standards and norms, especially the ICCPR, is also required for reforms of the legal framework governing the media and the Criminal Code, in particular with regards to the criminalisation of insult, defamation, and dissemination of false information, as well as consensual same-sex conduct. Uzbekistan should remove the use of forced labour as judicial punishment and ensure effective investigation and adjudication of cases of torture and ill treatment, and strengthen oversight and conditions, in particular in pre-trial detention and enhancing judicial independence to ensure fair trials and access to justice. It will also be important to follow-up on the UN Special Rapporteur's recommendations on the right to adequate housing, including concerning forced evictions and on the implementation of new legislation on domestic violence and violence against children, and the rights of persons with disabilities in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The country should also adopt comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation. Uzbekistan should also increase the number of state-funded shelters and rehabilitation centres that are scarce, under-resourced, and subject to restrictive admission procedures.

3.2 Labour rights

Among the positive developments in the area of labour is that the **State Labour Inspectorate (SLI)**²⁴, which was re-established in 2019 alongside the ratification of ILO Convention concerning Labour Inspection in Industry and Commerce No. 81, reportedly increased the number of its inspectors by 66 between 2024 and 2025²⁵, to a total number of 411 in 2025. However, despite the positive steps, the SLI still needs more capacity and training to meet the country's rapid economic growth, with a growing number of businesses outside the cotton sector. The ILO has expressed deep concern about limits to the effectiveness of the SLI, such as the lack of unannounced visits and the option for a business to refuse a restriction²⁶. On the positive side, the previous requirement for prior notification to the Business Ombudsperson ahead of an inspection has been lifted as of 1 September 2025²⁷, thereby improving compliance of the national legislation with ILO Conventions No. 81 and No. 129 (concerning Labour Inspection in Agriculture).

A new **Social Insurance Law** was adopted in December 2025 (in force since January 2026) which establishes maternity, sickness, and unemployment insurance and created the Social Insurance Fund — a foundational institutional shift from employers' liability to social insurance managed at national level.

While full assessment by the ILO is pending, 2023 **Labour Code** amendments are expected to improve alignment with ILO Convention concerning Minimum Age for Admission to Employment, No. 138 and ILO Convention concerning Forced or Compulsory Labour, No. 29, by further restricting child and forced labour.

Another positive development is that Uzbekistan ratified the fundamental ILO Occupational Safety and Health Convention, No. 155 in 2024. The country has now ratified all ten ILO fundamental Conventions and all four ILO priority conventions (a total of 25 ILO Conventions and 1 Protocol (P29) ratified, 23 of them in force). The Government also intends to ratify ILO Violence and Harassment Convention, No. 190, ILO Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention No. 102, ILO Maternity Protection Convention, No. 183, ILO Protection of Workers' Claims (Employer's Insolvency) Convention, No. 173 and ILO Safety and Health in Agriculture Convention, No. 184. However, enforcement gaps - particularly in eliminating child labour from further sectors, collective bargaining, and labour inspections - remain of significant concerns

With regards to the abolition of **forced labour** (ILO Convention No. 29, Protocol 29, and ILO Convention concerning the Abolition of Forced Labour, No. 105), the elimination of forced labour in cotton harvesting and the lifting of the Cotton campaign's boycott in 2022 remains a key success for Uzbekistan. The Third-Party Monitoring of the cotton harvest confirmed no systematic forced labour and child labour in 2023, but cases of local government coercion to fulfil cotton production targets were still reported in the cotton harvest²⁸. As there is no recent official information (post 2023) but rather occasional media and international organisations reports, such cases reinforce concerns about non-availability of official data and demonstrate the need for consistent and continuous independent monitoring.

ILO monitoring notes that the government continued to promote decent work principles in Uzbekistan, to improve workplace environments and to strengthen the mechanisms that protect citizens' labour rights, particularly through the 2021–2025 Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP) and the new ILO project, 'RISE for Impact: Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work in the Cotton Supply Chain (2023–2026)'²⁹. The ILO launched a Better Work project in Uzbekistan in 2023, focusing on the textile and clothing sector³⁰. The ILO, however, noted an

increased vulnerability of farmers in the new agricultural cluster system - which could increase the risk of forced labour³¹. This was also the subject of a February 2026 Human Rights Watch and Uzbek Forum for Human Rights report, which highlighted significant vulnerabilities for farmers created by, among other factors, state production quotas and their compliance mechanisms, which in certain circumstances could effectively lead to unpaid involuntary labour in the cotton sector.

The most recent available data published 2021/22 showed a country-wide **child labour rate of 18 %**³². In 2023, the government approved the new List of Heavy Work and Work with Harmful or Hazardous Working Conditions in which the employment of persons under the age of 18 is prohibited³³ - this is a positive step forward.

Regarding **equal remuneration and elimination of discrimination** (ILO Convention concerning Equal Remuneration of Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value, No 100 and ILO Convention concerning Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupation, No 111), a positive development is that section 4 of the new Labour Code (2023³⁴), now prohibits, ‘any direct or indirect restrictions or [...] advantages in the sphere of employment and occupation’, based on several grounds of discrimination. Still, the Government did not seize the opportunity of the 2023 revision of the Labour Code, nor its subsequent amendments in 2024 and 2025, to explicitly prohibit discrimination based on ‘colour’ and ‘political opinion’ or to include a general definition of direct and indirect discrimination in employment and occupation.

The ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (CEACR) noted with interest the adoption of the Uzbekistan 2030 Strategy and the Strategy to Achieve Gender Equality in Uzbekistan Until 2030, and the creation of gender-focused institutions such as the Gender Commission and the National Commission on Advancing Women’s Role in Society. At the same time, the gender pay gap remains significant, standing at 29 % in 2024, according to National Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Statistics. The Government indicates that this gap is largely attributable to occupational segregation, with women concentrated in lower-paid sectors, the disproportionate burden of family responsibilities borne by women, and gender-based discrimination. The ILO’s CEACR also pointed out that the effective assessment of the gender pay gap is hampered by the absence of regularly published gender-disaggregated data. In this regard, the Committee welcomed the Government’s indication that, in the framework of the Strategy to Achieve Gender Equality Until 2030 – which identifies achieving equal pay for men and women for work of equal value as a specific objective – a reform of the national statistical system is planned with a view to introducing gender-disaggregated data³⁵.

Challenges also persist when it comes to **freedom of association and collective bargaining** (ILO Convention concerning Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise, No. 87 and Convention concerning the Application of the Principles of the Right to Organise and to Bargain Collectively, No. 98). Concerns persist regarding trade union pluralism and the ability to establish independent trade unions outside the Federation of Trade Unions of Uzbekistan (FPU)³⁶. The Uzbek Labour ministry indicated³⁷ on-going legal amendments to reduce the number of members required to form a nation-wide trade union from 3000 to 1000, but the number is still too high according to the ILO, which recommends a number as low as possible. In June 2026, the President approved amendments to the Labour Code to legally introduce the **right to strike**, which represents a major milestone in advancing freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining, depending on the interpretation and application in the future³⁸.

Priorities for future engagement include guaranteeing freedom of association and collective bargaining in the legislation and demonstrable progress in trade union pluralism, in line with ILO Conventions No. 87 and No. 98. Uzbekistan should also expand the positive achievements in the cotton sector to other sectors and put in place a robust monitoring system with the unhindered participation of civil society to prevent resurgence of child and forced labour in at-risk sectors (cotton, silk, construction, informal) and prevent child labour displacement; as well as taking measures to address the root causes of forced labour in line with CEACR recommendations, including effectively implementing the DWCP and protecting vulnerable farmers in the new agricultural cluster system against the risk of forced labour. As a horizontal matter, the authorities should strengthen the State Labour Inspectorate and empower it to conduct inspections on all economic entities, to conduct unannounced inspections and ensure labour inspections are excluded from any future moratoria on business inspections.

3.3 Environment and Climate

In 2025, the Ministry of Ecology, Environmental protection and Climate was transformed into the National Committee on Ecology and Climate Change under the President, with its existing staff structure preserved. Despite Uzbekistan facing increasing environmental challenges, including unprecedented levels of air pollution in the winter months, some positive commitments and increasing government ambition in biodiversity and climate targets were observed. The ratification of the Aarhus Convention on 18 March 2025 is a hopeful step toward greater transparency, though a gap remains between legislation and practical implementation in sensitive and non-sensitive areas, particularly in biodiversity monitoring, climate transparency, and hazardous waste management.

In 2025, Uzbekistan submitted its new Nationally Determined Contribution (**NDC 3.0**) under the **Paris Agreement**, with the ambitious target of reaching a 50 % reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2035, which represents a significant increase from Uzbekistan's last NDC which promised a 35 % reduction of GHG emissions by 2030³⁹. A 2024 presidential resolution introduced a national transparency system for the transition to the green economy⁴⁰. The National Adaptation Plan for the Green Economy (2019–2030) remains in force, and Uzbekistan is preparing a long-term low-carbon development strategy with support from the World Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). At COP28 in 2023, the then Ministry of Ecology announced intentions to establish a national greenhouse gas emissions registry and to explore the introduction of a carbon pricing framework. The Law ‘On Limiting Greenhouse Gas Emissions’, adopted in 2025, provides a general legal basis for emissions monitoring and possible market-based tools, but detailed secondary legislation and implementation rules are still pending⁴¹.

Uzbekistan has adopted new **biodiversity** conservation targets, with Global Environmental Facility (GEF-8) support for an updated National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) and seventh national report agreed with UNDP⁴². In efforts to advance the reforestation of the Aral Sea, the government has exceeded the original NBSAP target (about 1.856 million ha afforested by 2024)⁴³. At the same time, there are major structural pressures noted: habitat loss and degradation of desert, tugay, and other riparian ecosystems, unsustainable irrigation and water management in the Aral Sea basin, pollution from energy and mining sectors, and poaching and overuse of wild species. Uzbekistan’s 6th national report under the Convention on Biological Diversity also underlines indirect drivers critical for implementation: limited public and decision-maker awareness of biodiversity, lack of up-to-date scientific information, and insufficient integration of biodiversity into sectoral development planning⁴⁴.

Uzbekistan has made moderate advancements in **managing persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and pesticides**. Uzbekistan's 2022–2024 National Action Plan under the Stockholm Convention on POPs aimed to establish a basic POPs management system, improve safety conditions at storage warehouses and burial sites for toxic substances, and initiate the development of a unified national chemicals database. By the end of the plan period, implementation appears to have been partial, with progress mainly reported on institutional coordination, preliminary inventories and capacity-building activities, while necessary legislative amendments to the 'Law on Waste', comprehensive remediation, and database consolidation remain incomplete.

Regarding management of illegal wildlife trade and compliance with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (**CITES**), Uzbekistan's legislation is still classed as Category 2⁴⁵. The CITES Secretariat has analysed draft CITES implementing regulations, with government comments received in February 2024, and work is continuing on a revised version for resubmission. Uzbekistan's hosting of CoP20 in Samarkand in December 2025 and the signing of Uzbekistan and other Central Asian countries of the Samarkand Declaration and Action Plan on Regional Cooperation in Nature Conservation (2026-2032)⁴⁶ further demonstrate engagement with CITES. At the same time, wildlife trafficking remains a concern, with Uzbekistan acting both as a source and a transit country for endangered species, including saker falcons and the steppe tortoise (*Testudo horsfieldii*), which was under active compliance review⁴⁷. Illegal logging and unauthorised deforestation also occur, particularly of juniper forests in mountainous regions, while there is limited evidence of significant international trafficking in flora products, as most cases appear local and economically driven⁴⁸.

Regarding **biosafety and hazardous waste**, the first report under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety is still pending since Uzbekistan ratified the convention in 2020⁴⁹. Regarding the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Waste, no country-specific compliance decision or submission concerning Uzbekistan has been published by the Implementation and Compliance Committee. The Uzbek Ministry of Ecology has announced follow up plans for implementation including preparation of proposals to amend national regulatory documents, research on plastic waste generation, and the development of an inter-agency action plan for plastics, tyres, batteries and e-waste.

Priorities for future engagement include the timely submission of outstanding CITES illegal trade reports and the strengthening of enforcement measures against wildlife trafficking, both online and offline. Further efforts are needed to implement the updated NDC and the National Adaptation Plan through concrete sectoral measures and improved monitoring systems. It is also important to submit the first national implementation report under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to enhance transparency and demonstrate progress in biosafety governance.

3.4 Good governance

Drug control remains a priority for the government, with the institutional framework being upgraded recently (2024 establishment of National Drug Control Centre under the President, transformed into the Agency for Control over Narcotics and Firearms in July 2025). The 2024 International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) report⁵⁰ records several positive developments, including the 2024 national strategy for combating drug dependence and drug-related crime for the period 2024–2028. The strategy outlines actions to strengthen drug control legislation and improve the national monitoring system for drug-related issues, with the overarching aim of

safeguarding public security and protecting public health. Nevertheless, the drug policy is still more driven by punitive measures than by public health concerns.

In June 2024, Uzbekistan adopted amendments to the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Administrative Liability Code to address increasing drug trafficking through the Internet and other communication networks. The amendments introduce heavier penalties for distributing or advertising materials that illegally promote narcotic drugs, their analogues, psychotropic substances or potent substances, and for drug trafficking conducted online. They also establish criminal and administrative liability for certain offences involving the misuse of information technologies, including offences involving minors. There are only limited data to assess the effect of the new policies. The 2025 INCB report⁵¹ noted that on 30 April 2025, the President of Uzbekistan issued a decree introducing several measures to combat cybercrime, strengthening coordination and imposing stricter penalties for cybercrime, including the trafficking of drugs online, as well as increasing the accountability of banks and payment operators for cybersecurity failures.

As announced by the President on multiple occasions, **anti-corruption** is also a priority for the Presidential administration and relevant strategies have been developed. Nonetheless, for the first time since 2012, Uzbekistan's ranking in Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index declined in 2024 and the trend continued in 2025, declining by another point and three positions in the ranking⁵². This suggests that anti-corruption reforms remain extremely fragile and have slowed in impact.

The development of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy 2030 with UNDP support, which outlines reforms in public procurement and judicial independence, is a positive development. In April 2025, a presidential decree set out a comprehensive 2025 anti-corruption plan and action programme for 2025-2026⁵³. Close monitoring and implementation updates will be an important next step. A hybrid country-visit to Uzbekistan under the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) review cycle 2 was conducted in November 2025.

The current enforcement of anti-corruptions measures is mixed. While petty corruption is decreasing, high-level corruption cases are rarely addressed, there are limited prosecutions of senior officials, and whistleblower protections are weak. The institutional power of the Anti-Corruption Agency has been strengthened, but the Agency lacks independence and serves merely as a preventative body. Concerns about judicial independence also apply particularly in corruption cases⁵⁴.

Priorities for future engagement include strengthening anti-corruption institutions at all levels, including prosecutorial bodies, and aligning them more closely with UNCAC, in line with the recommendations arising from its implementation review process. They also include enhancing judicial independence to ensure fair trials in corruption cases. In addition, priorities include submitting overdue drug control reports in order to comply with UN drug control conventions. Continued efforts are further needed to pursue a comprehensive and balanced approach to drug policy, focusing on both drug supply and drug demand reduction, addressing drug-related harms, and ensuring the full implementation of the National Drug Control Strategy in line with the UN drug control conventions and international drug policy commitments.

4. Development cooperation in support of GSP+ objectives

EU-Uzbekistan Development Cooperation is framed by the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe (NDICI-Global Europe) Multi-annual Indicative Programme 2021–2027, with EUR 76 million for 2021–2024 and EUR 43 million

for 2025–2027, focusing on green and inclusive growth, governance, and human development. This is complemented by regional Central Asia programmes and European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus (EFSD+) investments under Global Gateway, including support for the Trans-Caspian Transport Corridor.

Flagship projects back public administration reform including anti-corruption, digitalisation, green agriculture, and rural development, while Team Europe initiatives prioritise sustainable connectivity and critical raw-materials value chains. Uzbekistan participates in several EU-funded regional initiatives aimed at strengthening drug-control capacity.

Several interventions are particularly relevant for the GSP+ context. **‘Support to anti-corruption project’** contributes to justice reform with a strong focus on anti-corruption and rule of law and good governance, helping to modernise the judicial system and improve access to justice in line with international human-rights standards. The **‘World Trade Organisation (WTO) Accession project’** aims to improve the capacity of the Uzbek government in view of complying with all requirements linked to access to WTO. The project will continue after Uzbekistan accession expected for this year. Third, the **‘Sustainable agri-food system’** programme, which supports the reform process and tries to address two remaining structural constraints that limit the sector’s contribution to sustainable and inclusive growth: insecure economic land-use rights and weak food safety governance. In addition, several regional trade initiatives like **‘Ready4Trade Central Asia: Fostering Prosperity through the Trans-Caspian Transport Corridor’** support greener value chains, WTO-related trade facilitation and private-sector competitiveness, thereby helping Uzbek exporters comply with labour and environmental standards important for GSP+.

Lastly, to help Uzbekistan businesses take full advantage of the EU GSP+ instrument, the EU is launching a new project of 18 months duration **‘Uzbekistan: Strengthening Trade Integration and Partnership through GSP+ and the Country Platform’**. The overall objective of this action is to support the increasing use of the EU’s instruments and the strengthening of the EU as a trusted and reliable partner to the Government of Uzbekistan in implementing reforms and achieving the goals of its Development Strategy.

Annex: Uzbekistan -Compliance with GSP ratification and reporting obligations

Convention	Ratification status / Reservations	Compliance with reporting obligations to monitoring bodies
Human Rights conventions		
1. Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (1948)	Ratified: 09.09.1999 No reservations	No reporting obligations.
2. International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (1965)	Ratified: 28.09.1995 No reservations	Compliant with reporting obligations • Last Committee report: 03.12.2019 • Last report submitted on: 03.11.2022 • Next report due: not yet set.
3. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966)	Ratified: 28.09.1995 No reservations	Compliant with reporting obligations • Last Committee report: 01.05.2020 • Last report submitted on: 24.11.2024 Follow-up to Concluding Observations (FCO) • Next report due: 2027
4. International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights (1966)	Ratified: 28.09.1995 No reservations	Compliant with reporting obligations • Last Committee report: 04.03.2022 • Last report submitted on: 01.04.2024 (FCO) • Next report due: 31.03.2027
5. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (1979)	Ratified: 19.07.1995 No reservations	Not compliant with reporting obligations • Last Committee report: 25.02.2022 • Last report submitted on: 08.04.2024 (FCO) • Next report due: February 2026 (not submitted)
6. Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (1984)	Ratified: 28.09.1995 No reservations	Compliant with reporting obligations • Last Committee report: 14.01.2020 • Last report submitted on: 05.01.2024 • Next report due: not yet set
7. Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989)	Ratified: 29.06.1994 No reservations	Compliant with reporting obligations • Last Committee report: 29.09.2022 • Last report submitted on: 03.04.2019 • Next report due: 28.07.2027
Labour rights conventions^{1 2}		
8. Convention concerning Forced or Compulsory Labour, No 29 (1930)	Ratified: 13.07.1992	Compliant with reporting obligations • Last CEACR comments: 2024 • Last Government report submitted: 2023 • Next report due: 2028 (provisional schedule)
9. Convention concerning Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise, No 87 (1948)	Ratified: 12.12.2016	Compliant with reporting obligations • Last CEACR comment: 2024 • Last Government report submitted: 2026 (out of cycle report) • Next report due: 2029 (provisional schedule)
10. Convention concerning the Application of the Principles of the Right to Organise and to Bargain Collectively, No 98 (1949)	Ratified: 13.07.1992	Compliant with reporting obligations • Last CEACR comments: 2022 • Last Government report submitted: 2026 (out of cycle report) • Next report due: 2029 (provisional schedule)

¹ Following a decision taken by the ILO Governing Body in November 2025 to modernise the ILO reporting system, as from 2027 Governments will no longer submit separate reports for each ratified Convention, but instead, they will submit thematic reports based on a new ILO template which has grouped the conventions and protocols into 15 thematic areas. As 2026 will be a transition year, only a limited number of reports will be requested in 2026. See: The future of reporting on ratified conventions. <https://www.ilo.org/international-labour-standards/applying-and-promoting-international-labour-standards-overview-ilo/future-reporting-ratified-conventions>.

² Reservations do not apply in the ILO system.

Convention	Ratification status / Reservations	Compliance with reporting obligations to monitoring bodies
11. Convention concerning Equal Remuneration of Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value, No 100 (1951)	Ratified: 13.07.1992	Compliant with reporting obligations • Last CEACR comments: 2025 • Last Government report submitted: 2024 • Next report due: 2028 (provisional schedule)
12. Convention concerning the Abolition of Forced Labour, No 105 (1957)	Ratified: 15.12.1997	Compliant with reporting obligations • Last CEACR comments: 2024 • Last Government report submitted: 2021 • Next report due: 2028 (provisional schedule)
13. Convention concerning Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupation, No 111 (1958)	Ratified: 13.07.1992	Compliant with reporting obligations • Last CEACR comments: 2025 • Last Government report submitted: 2024 • Next report due: 2028 (provisional schedule)
14. Convention concerning Minimum Age for Admission to Employment, No 138 (1973)	Ratified: 06.03.2009 Minimum age specified: 15 years	Compliant with reporting obligations • Last CEACR comments: 2024 • Last Government report submitted: 2024 • Next report due: 2028 (provisional schedule)t
15. Convention concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, No 182 (1999)	Ratified: 24.06.2008	Compliant with reporting obligations • Last CEACR comments in 2024 • Last Government report submitted: • Next report due: 2028 (provisional schedule)
Environment and Climate Conventions		
16. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (1973)	Ratified: 10.07.1997 No reservations	Compliant with reporting obligations • Annual Trade Report for 2023 submitted 06.12.2024 • Annual Trade Report for 2024 submitted 09.01.2026 • Next Annual Trade Report due 31.10.2026. • Annual Illegal Trade Reports: due for 2023,2024.³ • Last Implementation Report: submitted for 2018,2019 ⁴
17. Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (1987)	Ratified: 18.05.1993 No reservations	Compliant with reporting obligations. • Last report submitted: Article 7 data report covering 2024 • Next report due: Article 7 data report covering 2025 due 30.09.26
18. Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal (1989)	Ratified: 07.02.1996 No reservations	Compliant with reporting obligations • National Report (NR) for 2023 submitted 25.04.2025. • NR for 2024 submitted 01.03.2026 • Next NR (2025) due 31.12.2026.
19. Convention on Biological Diversity (1992)	Ratified: 19.07.1995 No reservations	Compliant with reporting obligations • Seventh National Report (7NR): submitted on 05.03.2026 • National Biodiversity Strategy and Action plan (NBSAP) under revision • Next report due: 8NR due by 30.06.2029
20. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (1992)	Ratified: 20.06.1993 No reservations	Compliant with reporting obligations • Latest updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0) submitted 06.11.2025 • Latest National Communication (NC): NC4, submitted 14.10.2024 • First Biennial Transparency Report (BTR1) submitted 11.03.2025 • Next report due: BTR2 due 31.12.2026
21. Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (2000)	Ratified: 25.10.2019 No reservations	Not compliant with reporting obligations • First National Report (NR) since accession due: 5NR due 28.02.2026 (not submitted).

³ Reporting mandatory but not subject to compliance procedure.

⁴ Ibid.

Convention	Ratification status / Reservations	Compliance with reporting obligations to monitoring bodies
22. Stockholm Convention on persistent Organic Pollutants (2001)	Ratified: 28.06.2019 No reservations	Compliant with reporting obligations • Latest National Report (NR): 5NR submitted 10.10.2022 • Next Report: 6NR due 31.08.2026. • Initial National Implementation Plan (NIP): submitted 15.03.2022 • NIP updates: COP4 and COP5 amendments included
23. Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (1998)	Ratified: 12.10.1999 No reservations	No separate reporting obligations separate from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
Good Governance Conventions		
24. United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs (1961)	Ratified: 24.08.1995 No reservations	Compliant with reporting obligations 2024 reporting fulfilled. First (and latest) INCB mission in March 2018
25. United Nations Convention on Psychotropic Substances (1971)	Ratified: 12.07.1995 No reservations	
26. United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (1988)	Ratified: 24.08.1995 No reservations	Compliant with reporting obligations Reporting on precursors fulfilled, with the exception of 2024 report in which the information required under article 12 of the Convention (Form D) was not provided. Information provided in 2025 report.
27. United Nations Convention against Corruption (2004)	Ratified: 29.07.2008 Reservation on Article 66 of the Convention	Compliant with reporting obligations First review cycle completed in 2019. Full country review report not published. Second review cycle started in 2020; self-assessment checklist in March 2022; country visit conducted 17-19.11.2025; review in progress.

¹ Key events in 2026 at the moment of writing have been included in this Staff Working Document. All links provided were up to date as of 28 April 2026.

² OECD, 'Roadmap for Sustainable Investment Policy Reforms in Uzbekistan', OECD Investment Policy Reviews, 26 Nov. 2025. https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/roadmap-for-sustainable-investment-policy-reforms-in-uzbekistan_20865f29-en/full-report/assessment-and-recommendations_11cf7850.html.

³ World Bank, 'Jobs and Prosperity: Europe and Central Asia Economic Update', Fall 2025. <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/entities/publication/e4463608-4160-4318-a0b1-d028fd887d89>

⁴ Source for all statistics: Eurostat COMEXT data covering 2022-2024 based on latest available validated full year data as of September 2025. GSP statistics only cover goods imported into the EU market, i.e., goods released for free circulation in the EU. The GSP statistics do not cover other EU-imports, like goods imported for the customs inward processing procedure or re-imports after the customs outward processing procedure. Trade flows registered as 'confidential' do not appear in the GSP+ usage figures and regime 1 normal trade; but do appear in total trade figures (regime 4). https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/cache/metadata/en/ext_go_agg_esms.htm#conf1537195068659.

⁵ Products that benefit from GSP are separated in sections according to the GSP Regulation. Information on which CN codes are included in the GSP sections can be found in Annex V of the Regulation No 978/2012. [EUR-Lex – 02012R0978-20250101 – EN – EUR-Lex](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/02012R0978-20250101-EN-EUR-Lex).

⁶ April 2026 corrected data since the original data extraction from COMEXT in September 2025 indicates total imports for this section were almost double at EUR 268 million.

⁷ United Nations Country Team, 'UN Common Country Analysis Uzbekistan', Nov. 2024, pp. 14-15. <https://uzbekistan.un.org/en/288273-common-country-analysis>

⁸ Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan 'On the protection of children from all forms of violence', LRU-996, 14 Nov. 2024. www.lex.uz/docs/7219508.

⁹ Khidirov, Abduaziz, 'Children as the Main Priority of New Uzbekistan', UZA O'zbekiston Milliy axborot agentligi, 1 Jun. 2025. https://www.uza.uz/en/posts/children-as-the-main-priority-of-new-uzbekistan_726186

¹⁰ <https://www.gazeta.uz/ru/2024/03/04/childrens-ombudsman/>

¹¹ Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan 'On measures to improve the efficiency of commissions on children's issues', No UP-201, 2 Dec. 2024 <https://www.xalqtaqliminfo.uz/en/document-show/117>

¹² Presidential Decree dated June 1, 2023 on comprehensive measures to provide quality social services and assistance to the population and to establish an effective monitoring system. National Agency for Social Protection under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan. <https://ihma.uz/en/agency/social-protection>.

¹³ Freedom House, 'Freedom in the World 2025: Uzbekistan', 2025. www.freedomhouse.org/country/uzbekistan/freedom-world/2025

¹⁴ 'Freedoms under threat as Uzbekistan continues to put pressure on journalists and human rights defenders', Civicus Monitor Tracking Civic Space, 2025. <https://monitor.civicus.org/explore/freedoms-under-threat-as-uzbekistan-continues-to-put-pressure-on-journalists-and-human-rights-defenders/>

¹⁵ United Nations Human Rights Council, Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, 'Opinions adopted by the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention at its 101st session', Opinion No 47/2024 concerning Valijon Kalonov (Uzbekistan), 28 Feb. 2025; and Opinion No 62/2024 concerning Dauletmurat Tazhimuratov (Uzbekistan), 10 Mar. 2025.

¹⁶ Uzbekistan, Cabinet of Ministers, 'Нодавлат нотижорат ташкилотлари томонидан ижтимоий фойдали дастурлар ва лойиҳалар амалга оширилишида ижтимоий шериклик ҳамда халқаро ҳамкорликни янада қўллаб-қувватлаш чора-тадбирлари тўғрисида', (On measures to further support social partnership and international cooperation in implementing socially significant programs and projects by non-governmental non-profit organizations), Resolution No. 527, Oct 10, 2023. <https://lex.uz/docs/6627539>.

¹⁷ International Center for Not-for-Profit Law, 'Uzbekistan: New law on amendments to NNO legislation', Sept. 2025. www.icnl.org/resources/civic-freedom-monitor/uzbekistan

¹⁸ Civicus Monitor, 'Freedoms under threat as Uzbekistan continues to put pressure on journalists and human rights defenders', Civicus Monitor Tracking Civic Space, 2025. <https://monitor.civicus.org/explore/freedoms-under-threat-as-uzbekistan-continues-to-put-pressure-on-journalists-and-human-rights-defenders/>

¹⁹ United Nations Human Rights Committee, 'Evaluation of the information on follow-up to the concluding observations on Uzbekistan', CCPR/C/140/2/Add.4, 18 Apr. 2024.

²⁰ Law No O'RQ-1072 'On the Procedure for Holding in Custody During Criminal Proceedings', amended on 26 Jun. 2025.

²¹ UNDP, 'Progress and Achievements in Strengthening the Rule of Law and Human Rights Protection in Uzbekistan', Press release, 16 Sept. 2025. www.undp.org/uzbekistan/press-releases/progress-and-achievements-strengthening-rule-law-and-human-rights-protection-uzbekistan.

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- ²² United Nations Human Rights Council, ‘Report of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context: visit to Uzbekistan’, A/HRC/58/50/Add.1, 2 May 2025. <https://docs.un.org/en/A/HRC/58/50/Add.1>.
- ²³ Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, ‘Uzbekistan and UNESCO must address forced evictions at world heritage sites’, Press release, 30 Oct, 2025. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2025/10/uzbekistan-and-unesco-must-address-forced-evictions-world-heritage-sites>
- ²⁴ While ILO C81 on Labour Inspection is not a requirement of GSP+, the relevant findings are included here as there is direct impact for the capacity to monitor and implement labour standards.
- ²⁵ Better Work, ‘Uzbekistan: Our programme’. <https://betterwork.org/uzbekistan/our-programme/>
- ²⁶ ILO, ‘Observation (CEACR) on Conventions No 81 and No 129’, adopted 2024. https://normlex.ilo.org/dyn/nrmlx_en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID,P13100_COUNT_RY_ID:4408807,103538.
- ²⁷ ILO, ‘Observation (CEACR) on Conventions No 81 and No 129’, adopted 2025, published in ‘Application of International Labour Standards 2026’, Report of the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations. <https://www.ilo.org/sites/default/files/2026-02/Report%20III%28A%29-2026-%5BNORMES-251223-001%5D-Web-EN.pdf>
- ²⁸ Uzbek Forum for Human Rights, ‘Cotton Harvest 2023’, 2024. https://media.business-humanrights.org/media/documents/UZBEK-FORUM_harvest_report_2023_FINAL_LR-1.pdf
- ²⁹ ILO, ‘Observation (CEACR) on Convention No 105’, adopted 2024, published 113th ILC session, 2025. https://normlex.ilo.org/dyn/nrmlx_en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID,P13100_COUNT_RY_ID:4418293,103538:NO.
- ³⁰ Better Work, ‘Uzbekistan: Our programme’. <https://betterwork.org/uzbekistan/our-programme/>
- ³¹ ILO, ‘Observation (CEACR) on Convention No 105’, adopted 2024, published 113th ILC session, 2025. https://normlex.ilo.org/dyn/nrmlx_en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID,P13100_COUNT_RY_ID:4418293,103538. https://normlex.ilo.org/dyn/nrmlx_en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID,P13100_COUNT_RY_ID:4418293,103538
- ³² The UNICEF/ILO database Excel sheet of July 2025 points to a MICS survey published in 2021/22 in cooperation with UNICEF. A figure of 21 % is mentioned in case children performing household chores are included.
- ³³ ILO, ‘Observation (CEACR) on Convention No 182’, adopted 2024, published 113th ILC session, 2025. https://normlex.ilo.org/dyn/nrmlx_en/f?p=1000:13100:0::NO:13100:P13100_COMMENT_ID,P13100_COUNT_RY_ID:4400288,103538.
- ³⁴ ILO, ‘Application of International Labour Standards 2026’, Report of the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations. <https://www.ilo.org/sites/default/files/2026-02/Report%20III%28A%29-2026-%5BNORMES-251223-001%5D-Web-EN.pdf>.
- ³⁵ Ibid.
- ³⁶ ILO, ‘Observation (CEACR) on Convention No 87’, adopted 2024, published 113th ILC session, 2025. https://normlex.ilo.org/dyn/nrmlx_en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:13100:0::NO::P13100_COMMENT_ID%2CP13100_0_COUNTRY_ID:4417536%2C103538.
- ³⁷ ILO, ‘Observation (CEACR) on Convention No 87’, adopted 2024, published 113th ILC session, 2025. https://normlex.ilo.org/dyn/nrmlx_en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:13100:0::NO::P13100_COMMENT_ID%2CP13100_0_COUNTRY_ID:4417536%2C103538.
- ³⁸ This development is reported nationally and the text not yet assessed by the ILO.
- ³⁹ Government of Uzbekistan, ‘Updated NDC 3.0’. <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/2025-11/Uzbekistan%20Third%20NDC.pdf>.
- ⁴⁰ Resolution RP-213. <https://lex.uz/en/docs/7572123>
- ⁴¹ Carbon Standard, ‘The Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change of the Republic of Uzbekistan, in collaboration with Industrial Innovation Group, establishes the national emissions registry’. <https://carbonstandard.eco/news/the-ministry-of-ecology-environmental-protection-and-climate-change-of-the-republic-of-uzbekistan-in-collaboration-with-industrial-innovation-group-establishes-the-national-emissions-registry/>
- ⁴² CBD Uzbekistan country profile. <https://www.cbd.int/countries/profile?country=uz>;
- ⁴³ UNDP, ‘A new biodiversity project agreed on the sidelines of COP16 (desertification) in Riyadh’, Press release, 13 Dec, 2024. <https://www.undp.org/uzbekistan/press-releases/new-biodiversity-project-agreed-sidelines-cop16-riyadh>
- ⁴⁴ UNDP, ‘Uzbekistan Sixth National Report 2018’. <https://www.cbd.int/doc/nr/nr-06/uz-nr-06-en.pdf>
- ⁴⁵ CITES, ‘Uzbekistan country profile’. <https://cites.org/eng/parties/country-profiles/uz/compliance-status>

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- ⁴⁶ National Committee on Ecology and Climate Change of the Republic of Uzbekistan. ‘Samarkand Declaration on the Conservation of Wildlife and Flora in Central Asia’, 24 Nov, 2025. <https://gov.uz/en/eco/news/view/104614>.
- ⁴⁷ CITES Standing Committee, ‘SC78 Doc. 35.1’, 2025. <https://cites.org/sites/default/files/documents/E-SC78-35-01.pdf>
- ⁴⁸ Global Organised Crime Index, 2025. <https://ocindex.net/country/uzbekistan>
- ⁴⁹ CBD country profile for Uzbekistan. <https://www.cbd.int/countries/?country=uz>;
- ⁵⁰ International Narcotics Control Board, ‘Report of the International Narcotics Control Board 2024’, E/INCB/2024/1, United Nations, 2025. https://www.incb.org/incb/uploads/documents/Publications/AnnualReports/AR2024/Annual_Report/E-INCB-2024-1-ENG.pdf.
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- ⁵² Transparency International. ‘Uzbekistan Corruption Perceptions Index 2025’. <https://www.transparency.org/en/cpi/2025/index/uzb>.
- ⁵³ Anti-Corruption Portal, AntiCor.World, ‘Uzbekistan Adopts 2025 Anti-Corruption Plan’, 22 May 2025. https://anticor.world/en/main/news_page/v_uzbekistane_utverzhden_12_05_2025_en.
- ⁵⁴ Gogidze, Lasha, ‘Corruption and Anti-Corruption Efforts in Uzbekistan’, U4 Helpdesk Answer 2023:28, U4 Anti-Corruption Resource Centre, 23 Feb. 2024. <https://cdn.sanity.io/files/1f1lcoov/production/fcb13dd7e9bc6e9fa21100e17d3155517960e6f8.pdf>.