



**International Covenant on
Civil and Political Rights**

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**Consideration of reports submitted by States
parties under article 40 of the Covenant**

Fourth periodic reports of States parties due in 2013

Uzbekistan*

[15 April 2013]

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Contents

	<i>Paragraph</i>	<i>Page</i>
Acronyms		3
I. Introduction	1–32	4
II. Information on the implementation of the Covenant.....	33–965	13
Article 1. Right to self-determination.....	33–50	13
Article 2. Observance of and respect for the rights specified in the Covenant.....	51–141	15
Article 3. Equality of men and women with regard to civil and political rights.....	142–210	27
Article 4. Conditions under which citizens' rights and freedoms may be restricted.....	211–224	36
Article 5. Prohibition of unwarranted restriction of the rights of citizens	225–235	39
Article 6. Realization of the right to life as an inherent human right	236–271	42
Article 7. Prohibition of torture and cruel treatment or punishment	272–317	46
Article 8. Prohibition of slavery and the slave trade	318–382	51
Article 9. Realization of the right to liberty and security of the person	383–408	59
Article 10. Humane treatment of persons deprived of their liberty.....	409–464	62
Article 11. Prohibition of arbitrary imprisonment for failing to fulfil a contractual obligation.....	465–471	68
Article 12. Right to liberty of movement and freedom to choose one's residence.....	472–495	69
Article 13. Grounds for expelling foreign nationals.....	496–513	73
Article 14. Equality of citizens before the courts	514–572	75
Article 15. Definition of and penalties for offences	573–595	82
Article 16. Legal personality of citizens	596–605	84
Article 17. Personal privacy.....	606–633	85
Article 18. Ensuring freedom of conscience	634–661	87
Article 19. Exercise of freedom of thought and opinion	662–687	90
Article 20. Prohibition of propaganda for war	688–710	95
Article 21. Freedom of peaceful assembly and grounds for restricting it.....	711–724	98
Article 22. Freedom of association.....	725–775	100
Article 23. Social and legal support and protection of the family	776–816	109
Article 24. Protection of children's rights and freedoms.....	817–867	116
Article 25. Prohibition of discrimination in the exercise of civil and political rights	868–902	121
Article 26. Equality before the law	903–918	126
Article 27. Rights of minorities.....	919–965	129
Annexes.....		134

Acronyms

CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
GTZ	German Technical Cooperation Agency
HIV/AIDS	human immunodeficiency virus infection/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
ILC	International Labour Conference
ILO	International Labour Organization
NAESMI	National Association of Electronic Media
NANNOUZ	National Association of Non-Profit Non-Governmental Organizations of Uzbekistan
NGO	non-governmental organization
NIMFOGO	Independent Institute for Monitoring the Development of Civil Society
OSCE	Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
OSCE/ODIHR	OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
SCO	Shanghai Cooperation Organization
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WHO	World Health Organization

I. Introduction

1. The foundations for a new period in Uzbekistan's development were laid in the policy framework for further deepening democratic reforms and establishing civil society in Uzbekistan, which was presented by the President of the Republic, Mr. I. A. Karimov, at a joint session of the Legislative Chamber and the Senate of the Oliy Majlis on 12 November 2010. The main objectives of that document were formulated after taking stock of 20 years of independent development towards reforming and modernizing the State and society.

2. In that framework, the following strategic thrusts have been laid down with a view to further social reform:

(a) Democratization of State power and administration through progressive implementation of the constitutional principle of separation of powers, a more effective system of "checks and balances", strengthening of the oversight functions of the legislative and representative authorities, at both the central and the local levels, and reinforcement of the independence of the judiciary;

(b) Continued democratization, liberalization and humanization of the judicial and legal system, improved judicial protection of rights, measures to safeguard the equality of prosecutors and defence counsel, the adversarial system and fair justice at all stages of judicial proceedings, and enhancement of judicial oversight to ensure the legality of the action of the agencies conducting initial inquiries and pretrial investigations, with a view to implementing the generally recognized principles and standards of international law regarding the protection of citizens' rights and freedoms;

(c) Further reform in information-related matters and protection of freedom of speech and of information through enhancement of the legal and economic foundations of the media and increased accountability of State bodies for ensuring broad public access to information on the work of State and governmental authorities;

(d) Progressive development and democratization of electoral law to encourage citizens to participate actively in the electoral process and give them the democratic skills to exercise their right to vote and to stand for election; and to create the conditions necessary for effective election campaigning, and a transparent and open system of election monitoring, including by international organizations;

(e) Targeted support for the establishment and development of civil society institutions that enable citizens to realize their potential and to step up their political involvement and awareness of the law, and that also facilitate the establishment and development of social partnerships between governmental and citizens' associations and the practical implementation of legislation on citizens' involvement in the administration of public affairs and public scrutiny of the work of State bodies;

(f) Further deepening of democratic market reforms and liberalization of the economy on the basis of improved economic management, bolstering of the right to protection of private property, expansion of small businesses and entrepreneurship, and an increase in their share of the country's economy through the adoption of additional measures to protect the rights of entrepreneurs.

3. Since the consideration of Uzbekistan's third periodic report on the implementation of the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the country has continued its practice of devoting individual years to tackling major social and economic aspects of human rights. Thus Uzbekistan declared:

- 2008 Year of Youth;

- 2009 Year of Development and Improvement of the Countryside;
- 2010 Year of a Harmoniously Developed Generation;
- 2011 Year of Private Enterprise and Small Business;
- 2012 Year of Reinforcement of the Family;
- 2013 Year of Well-being and Prosperity.

4. All of the measures carried out in these years were ultimately designed to enhance the people's well-being and the living standards of every family, to extend the rights and options of civil society institutions, and to consolidate human rights and freedoms.

5. A defining feature of the aforementioned period was the ratification by the Uzbek Parliament of a number of international instruments aimed at increasing the effectiveness of the national system of human rights protection.

6. The following international legal instruments were ratified in the year of the sixtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. That celebration was the subject of the Presidential Decree of 1 May 2008 on a programme of events to mark the said anniversary:

- Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty;
- United Nations Convention against Corruption;
- International Labour Organization (ILO) Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138);
- ILO Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182)
- International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism;
- Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime;
- Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography;
- Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict.

7. Since the ratification of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, considerable importance has been attached to cooperation with such United Nations bodies as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Uzbekistan joined the Istanbul Anti-Corruption Action Plan of the OECD for the countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia and has already presented two reports on that plan. Work has begun on drawing up a draft anti-corruption bill. Steps have been taken to enlarge the role of judicial bodies in monitoring compliance with the law and to ensure that, in their action, State bodies and law enforcement agencies, including procuratorial authorities, are guided by the principle of the rule of law.

8. In the period 2008–2011, the effectiveness of the Uzbek Parliament's legislative and oversight work with regard to the protection of human rights and freedoms improved significantly.

9. In that period, in addition to ratifying international human rights instruments, the Oliy Majlis adopted legislation aimed at implementing international standards and

strengthening legal mechanisms for the protection of human rights, including the following Acts:

- Rights of the Child Safeguards Act of 7 January 2008;
- Prevention of Human Trafficking Act of 17 April 2008;
- Act of 16 April 2008 on amendments and additions to certain legislative acts of Uzbekistan to improve the law on protection of the rights of minors;
- Disabled Persons Social Welfare Act of 11 July 2008 (new version);
- Prevention of Micronutrient Deficiencies Act of 7 June 2010;
- Act of 28 September 2010 on amendments and additions to the Code of Criminal Procedure to improve the procedure for cooperation between the courts, procurators, pretrial investigators and agencies conducting initial inquiries with the competent authorities of foreign States;
- Prevention of Child Neglect and Juvenile Delinquency Act of 29 September 2010;
- Act of 18 April 2011 on amendments and additions to various articles of the Constitution (arts. 78, 80, 93, 96 and 98);
- Pretrial Detention during Criminal Proceedings Act of 29 September 2011;
- Prevalence and Use of Alcohol and Tobacco Products Limitation Act of 5 October 2011;
- Act of 12 December 2011 amending article 90 of the Constitution;
- Constitutional Act of 9 April 2012 on regular elections to representative State bodies and to the Office of the President of the Republic;
- Family Entrepreneurship Act of 26 April 2012;
- Private Property Protection and Property Owners' Rights Guarantee Act of 24 September 2012;
- Legal and Regulatory Instruments Act (new version) of 24 December 2012;
- Police Operations Act of 25 December 2012;
- Act of 28 March 2013 on amendments and additions to the Citizens' Self-Governance Bodies Act and the Act on the election of chairpersons (aksakals) of citizens' assemblies and their advisers (new version);
- Act of 28 March 2013 on amendments and additions to, *inter alia*, article 6 of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis Regulations Act.

The regulatory activity of the President and the Cabinet of Ministers in ensuring the exercise of various categories of human rights has increased in recent years. The following instruments have been adopted:

- Presidential Decision of 13 April 2009 on additional measures for protecting maternal and child health and shaping a healthy young generation;
- Presidential Decision of 1 July 2009 on a programme of measures for more effective efforts for better reproductive health, healthy newborns and a physically and spiritually robust generation, 2009–2013;
- Presidential Decree of 2 March 2010 on measures for further improving the judicial decisions enforcement system and meeting the material and financial needs of the judicial department of the Ministry of Justice;

- Cabinet of Ministers Decision of 23 December 2010 on measures for raising the effectiveness of the medical, social and vocational rehabilitation of persons with disabilities;
- Presidential Order of 14 January 2011 on a programme of measures implementing the policy framework for deepening democratic reforms and promoting civil society;
- Cabinet of Ministers Decision of 5 January 2011 approving the regulations concerning financial penalties for organizations violating the law on employment and on social protection of disabled persons and concerning suspension of activities of organizations violating occupational safety and health law;
- Cabinet of Ministers Decision of 26 January 2011 on additional measures for implementing the Millennium Development Goals;
- Cabinet of Ministers Decision of 28 February 2011 on measures for further improving the informal education system;
- Cabinet of Ministers Decision of 14 March 2011 on measures for preparing and conducting sample-based statistical surveys on the population;
- Cabinet of Ministers Decision of 19 March 2011 on special helplines at judicial bodies;
- Presidential Decision of 27 February 2012 on the State programme “Year of the Family”;
- Cabinet of Ministers Decision of 10 March 2012 on measures for enhancing the health-improvement system and the organization of recreational activities for children;
- Cabinet of Ministers Decision of 26 March 2012 on additional measures for implementing in 2012–2013 the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29) of ILO and the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) of the same organization, both ratified by Uzbekistan;
- Cabinet of Ministers Decision of 7 April 2012 on additional measures for improving living conditions for the family.

10. Parliamentary scrutiny of compliance with international treaties on human rights and freedoms has recently been strengthened by monitoring compliance with international instruments ratified by the parliament, and through relevant parliamentary hearings, seminars and conferences.

11. Thus, on 21 May 2009 the Committee on Democratic Institutions, Non-Governmental Organizations and Citizens’ Self-Governance Bodies of the Legislative Chamber conducted a joint seminar with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on the parliamentarians’ role in implementing the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international treaties protecting those rights. Moreover, on 25 June 2009 a discussion was held regarding compliance with article 10, paragraph 3, of the Covenant; and, on 25–26 September 2009, an international workshop conference took place on social partnerships between the State and non-governmental non-profit organizations (NGOs) as a key to civil society’s development.

12. On 23 July 2010, the Legislation and Judicial Committee of the Senate held a conference entitled “Raising the effectiveness of parliamentary supervision: current situation and prospects”; on 24 September 2010, the Committee on Democratic Institutions, Non-Governmental Organizations and Citizens’ Self-Governance Bodies of the Legislative Chamber conducted hearings on the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; and on 28 December 2010 a round table

was held regarding the rights of the child, focusing on international standards and national legislation.

13. In the period 2008–2011, the Committee on International Affairs and Interparliamentary Relations of the Legislative Chamber monitored the incorporation of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment into national legislation, assessing *inter alia* the status of implementation of that Convention by the law enforcement agencies of Navoi province.

14. The above Convention was discussed twice at events organized by the Committee on Foreign Policy Matters of the Senate: on 15 February 2008, a conference on international standards in penal enforcement law and their implementation in Uzbekistan was held in cooperation with the Human Rights Commissioner (Ombudsman) of the Oliy Majlis; and, on 14 March 2008, the same Committee met at the Senate to discuss progress in implementing the Convention against Torture.

15. On 26 January 2011, the Committee on Democratic Institutions, Non-Governmental Organizations and Citizens' Self-Governance Bodies of the Legislative Chamber conducted parliamentary hearings on compliance with the Covenant. On 8 February 2011, the same Committee held hearings on measures taken by the Ministry of Justice to enforce the Convention on the Rights of the Child. On 6 July 2011, the Senate Committee on Foreign Policy Matters met in the khokimiyat (administration) of Fergana province to discuss compliance with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. On 9 September 2011, the Legislative Chamber Defence and Security Committee held a round table on developing the legal framework for combating corruption, focusing on national and international practice. On 16 September 2011, the Legislative Chamber Committee on International Affairs and Interparliamentary Relations conducted a parliamentary hearing on steps to enforce the Convention on the Rights of the Child; and on 27 December 2011, a round table was held in the Legislative Chamber to discuss the fourth national report of Uzbekistan on the implementation of the Convention against Torture.

16. In 2012, among other events, the Committee on Democratic Institutions, Non-Governmental Organizations and Local Authorities of the Legislative Chamber discussed the outcomes of monitoring and fact-finding activities related to the implementation of the Prevention of Child Neglect and Juvenile Delinquency Act with the khokimiyat of Andijan province on 22 February and in Fergana province on 4–5 April. On 10 April, a round table on monitoring the rights of minors took place in the Oliy Majlis; and on 30 April, a parliamentary hearing was held on the activity of guardianship and trusteeship bodies in the public education system of Bukhara province.

17. On 20 September 2010, the interdepartmental working group to monitor the observance of human rights and freedoms by law-enforcement and other State bodies, which reports to the Ministry of Justice, considered and approved the national plan of action to implement the recommendations made by the Committee on Racial Discrimination with regard to the third periodic report. The implementation status of the plan was regularly discussed at the meetings of the group.

18. In Uzbekistan, the programme of measures aimed at ensuring compliance with the provisions of the Covenant and other international human rights treaties is implemented through the following instruments:

- National plan of action to implement the concluding observations and recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination following consideration of the sixth and seventh periodic reports;

- National plan of action to implement the recommendations of the Human Rights Council following consideration of the national report in the context of the universal periodic review;
- National plan of action to implement the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child following consideration of the second periodic report;
- National plan of action to implement the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women following consideration of the fourth periodic report;
- National Plan of Additional Measures to implement in 2012–2013 ILO Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138) and ILO Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182);
- National plan of action for the prevention of human trafficking;
- Plan of Additional Measures to improve the education of children and raise a healthy and harmoniously developed generation;
- Cabinet of Ministers Decision on additional measures to implement the Millennium Development Goals.

19. Particular attention is paid to organizational, legal and financial support for the country's national human rights institutions. Specifically, in 2009 a number of amendments and additions were made to the Act on the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis, the Act on the Senate of the Oliy Majlis, the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Penal Enforcement Code with a view to strengthening the legal safeguards underpinning the parliamentary Ombudsman's powers to consider citizens' complaints and petitions.

20. As part of celebrations marking the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 2008, the Government adopted a special decision envisaging a set of measures to be undertaken by the State in support of national human rights institutions. The decision has helped to enhance the technical and human resources and capacities of the Ombudsman and the National Centre for Human Rights.

21. In 2011, the National Centre for Human Rights marked 15 years since inception. During that period, the Centre worked with State bodies and civil society institutions on preparing and submitting around 30 national reports to international human rights treaty bodies regarding the country's compliance with its international obligations in respect of human rights and freedoms. In the same period, the Centre participated in preparing and implementing more than 10 national plans of action to apply the recommendations of such bodies, assessed over 100 draft laws pertaining to human rights, considered more than 10,000 citizens' complaints, prepared and published over 2,000 digests and books on international human rights law and developed an effective system for interacting with national and international organizations, including the Academic Coordination Council for Research in the Field of Human Rights and Freedoms.

22. Special emphasis is accorded to developing the country's system of State and public human rights monitoring, which includes the following bodies:

- Committees and commissions of the Legislative Chamber and the Senate;
- Human Rights Commissioner (Ombudsman) of the Oliy Majlis;
- Institute for Monitoring Current Legislation in the Office of the President;
- National Centre for Human Rights;
- Centre for Monitoring the Application of Legislation, Ministry of Justice;

- Supreme Court Research Centre on the Democratization and Liberalization of Judicial Legislation and the Independence of the Judicial System;
- Interdepartmental working group to monitor the observance of human rights and freedoms by law-enforcement and other State bodies;
- Independent Institute for Monitoring the Development of Civil Society, which coordinates public monitoring and scrutiny of non-governmental non-profit organizations;
- Women's Committee of Uzbekistan;
- Forum of Culture and Art of Uzbekistan Foundation;
- National Association of Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organizations;
- National Association of Electronic Mass Media;
- Foundation for the Support and Development of Independent Print Media and News Agencies of Uzbekistan.

23. National experts have now drafted a series of legislative acts geared towards refining the legal framework for monitoring and verifying compliance with human rights and freedoms, including, *inter alia*, bills on parliamentary oversight, on openness in the work of State and Government authorities, on environmental oversight and on social partnership.

24. In 2011, priority activities included the preparation of a national framework for human rights action, formulated on the basis of proposals from more than 60 State bodies and civil-society institutions for improving the national human rights protection system.

25. With regard to meeting its international obligations on human rights and freedoms, Uzbekistan closely cooperates with the Charter bodies, treaty bodies and special mechanisms of the United Nations and regularly submits information to these entities on various aspects of human rights. In 2010–2012, detailed information was provided with regard to communications from, *inter alia*, the:

- United Nations Special Rapporteur on secret detention in the context of countering terrorism;
- United Nations Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography;
- Special Representative of the Secretary-General on violence against children and national mechanisms for the prevention of violence against children;
- Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on contemporary forms of slavery, Ms. Gulnara Shahinian;
- Former Special Rapporteur on torture, Mr. Theo van Boven, regarding the implementation of his recommendations; and the Rapporteur for follow-up to the concluding observations of the Committee against Torture, Ms. Felice Gaer;
- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 64/174 entitled "Human rights and cultural diversity";
- Special Rapporteur on torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman, degrading treatment or punishment, Mr. Juan Mendes;
- Human Rights Council Special Rapporteur on the right to education, Mr. Kishore Singh;

- Human Rights Council Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and procurators regarding the activity of procuratorial authorities in Uzbekistan;
- Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, Ms. Joy Ngozi Ezeilo;
- Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, Ms. Rashida Manjoo;
- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 65/206 entitled “Moratorium on the use of the death penalty”.

26. In the period 2008–2012, Uzbekistan prepared the following 10 national reports on the implementation of the provisions of international human rights treaties:

- Fourth periodic report on the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (considered between 18 January and 5 February 2010);
- Sixth and seventh periodic reports on the implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (considered between 2 and 27 August 2010);
- First national report on human rights in the context of the universal periodic review, considered by the Human Rights Council in 2009 and approved in March 2010;
- Third and fourth periodic reports on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, submitted to the Committee on the Rights of the Child in January 2010;
- Second periodic report on the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, submitted to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in June 2010;
- Initial report on the implementation of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, submitted to the Committee on the Rights of the Child in January 2011;
- Initial report on the implementation of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, submitted to the Committee on the Rights of the Child in February 2011;
- Fourth periodic report on the implementation of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, submitted to the Committee against Torture in December 2011;
- Eighth and ninth periodic reports on the implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, submitted in September 2012;
- Second national human rights report in the framework of the universal periodic review, submitted in January 2013.

27. The aforementioned national reports were prepared with the involvement of more than 30 State bodies and 20 NGOs. These reports are public and are posted in the relevant sections of the website of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

28. Publishing has recently gained momentum in the area of human rights. The following publications, among others, appeared in the period 2008–2012:

- Protecting the Rights of the Child: a handbook for parliamentarians, in Uzbek;
- Convention on the Rights of the Child, in Uzbek, Karakalpak and Russian;
- Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols, in Uzbek;
- Human Rights for Parliamentarians, in Uzbek;
- Collection of Fundamental Conventions and Recommendations of the ILO, in Uzbek;
- Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour (Practical Guidance in Applying ILO Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182)): a handbook for parliamentarians, in Uzbek;
- Commemorative Edition of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in Uzbek and Russian;
- Expert Commentary on the Rights of the Child Safeguards Act, in Uzbek and Russian;
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Rights of the Child Safeguards Act, a collection in Uzbek, Russian and English;
- Commentary on the Rights of the Child Safeguards Act, in Uzbek and Russian;
- Legal Foundations of Protecting the Rights of the Child: International Standards and National Legislation, a collection in Uzbek;
- A collection of standard legal documents on combating human trafficking, in Uzbek and Russian;
- A collection of United Nations international-law instruments relating to human rights and combating crime, in Uzbek and Russian;
- Priorities and Current Tasks in Preventing Antisocial Behaviour in Children, a handbook in Uzbek and Russian;
- The Rights of the Child: a Collection of International Agreements, an e-book;
- The Rights of the Child, a study manual for graduate and master's-level students;
- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the National System for Protecting Human Rights, a book in Uzbek, Russian and English;
- A series of 15 brochures on the implementation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in the country, in Russian and Uzbek;
- Third edition of a collection of documents of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) on the human dimension, in Uzbek;
- A handbook on the registration and organization of the activity of NGOs, in Russian;
- A statistical compendium on "Women and men in Uzbekistan, 2007", in Russian and Uzbek;
- A statistical compendium on "Women and men, 2007–2012", in Russian, Uzbek and English;
- Developing Ethnic Relations in Independent Uzbekistan, a book in Russian and Uzbek;

- Monitoring the Rights of the Child, a study guide in Uzbek and Russian;
- Human Rights Education: National and International Standards, in Russian;
- Prisoners' Rights: International and National Standards, in Uzbek and Russian;
- International Standards and Refining National Legislation on Political Parties and NGOs, a collection of international round table deliberations, in Russian;
- Human Rights Research: Status and Prospects, a collection of deliberations from an international conference, in Russian;
- A collection of international round table deliberations entitled "Establishing a human rights culture: the top priority in ensuring the protection of human rights and freedoms and the further development of civil society in Uzbekistan", in Uzbek, Russian and English;
- International Treaties on Combating Human Trafficking, and the National Legislation of Uzbekistan.

29. In preparing this report, due regard was paid to the observations and recommendations of the Committee following consideration of the third periodic report on the implementation of the Covenant, and to the Committee's general observations.

30. The preparation of the report drew on the provisions of article 40 of the Covenant and on the United Nations Compilation of Guidelines on the Form and Content of Reports to be Submitted by States Parties to the International Human Rights Treaties.

31. State bodies and NGOs that contribute to the implementation of the Covenant participated in the preparation of this report.

32. This report was discussed at a meeting of the Committee on Democratic Institutions, NGOs and Local Authorities of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis and at a meeting of the interdepartmental working group to monitor the observance of human rights and freedoms by law-enforcement and other State bodies.

II. Information on the implementation of the Covenant

Article 1

Right to self-determination

33. In acquiring national independence in 1991, Uzbekistan became entitled to full self-determination and the independent pursuit of its political, social and economic and cultural development.

34. The people of Uzbekistan opted for building a democratic State ruled by the law, having a market economy and governed by general human principles, according to which the human being, human life, freedom, honour, dignity and other inalienable rights constitute the ultimate value.

35. The Foundations of State Independence Act of 31 August 1991 provides as follows: "Uzbekistan, of which Karakalpakstan is an integral part, is an independent democratic State. The people of Uzbekistan are a sovereign people and the sole source of State power in the Republic. It exercises that power directly and through the system of representative bodies."

36. Uzbekistan enjoys full political authority, determines independently its national State and territorial governance structure and its system of Government authority and administration.
37. The State frontier and territory of Uzbekistan are inviolable and indivisible, and may not be modified without the freely expressed will of its people.
38. In Uzbekistan, the Constitution and the law are supreme. The system of State authority is based on the principle of the separation of powers between the legislature, the executive and the judiciary.
39. The assets owned by the State constitute the material basis of its independence. The land, subsoil, waters, forests, plant and animal life and other natural resources of the territory of the Republic, together with its intellectual values, constitute the national achievements and property of Uzbekistan.
40. Uzbekistan implements an independent financial and credit policy. Taxes and charges collected in the country's territory enter into the national budget and local budgets.
41. Uzbekistan establishes diplomatic, consular, trade and other relations and exchanges plenipotentiaries with foreign States, concludes international agreements and is a member of international organizations.
42. As an independent international economic actor, Uzbekistan determines conditions for foreign investment and the rights of investors, creates its own convertible currency reserves, and sells and buys gold, other holdings and convertible currency.
43. In Uzbekistan, Uzbek citizenship is established in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. All Uzbek citizens, regardless of gender, race, ethnic background, language, religion, social background, views and personal and public status enjoy the same rights and are protected by the Constitution and the law.
44. Uzbekistan determines its way of development, name and State symbols, namely coat of arms, flag and anthem, and its official language. The symbols of Uzbekistan's independent statehood are sacred and any insult to them is punished by law.
45. The people's right to self-determination at the political, economic and cultural levels is enshrined in the Constitution and such enactments as, *inter alia*, the State Language Act of 21 October 1989, the Property Act of 31 October 1990, the State Independence Foundations Act of 31 August 1991, the State Flag Act of 18 November 1991, the Citizenship Act of 2 July 1992, the Nature Protection Act of 9 December 1992, the National Anthem Act of 10 December 1992, the State Coat of Arms Act of 2 July 1992, the Subsoil Resources Act of 23 September 1994, the International Treaties Act of 22 December 1995, the Free Trade Zones Act of 25 April 1996, the Political Parties Act of 26 December 1996, the Fauna Protection and Use Act of 26 December 1997, the Flora Protection and Use Act of 26 December 1997, the Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organizations Act of 14 April 1999, the Citizens' Self-Governance Bodies Act of 14 April 1999, the Budget System Act of 14 December 2000, the Universal Military Duty and Military Service Act of 12 December 2002, the Conservation and Use of Archaeological Heritage Sites Act of 13 October 2009, the Archives Act of 15 June 2010, the Private Property Protection and Property Owners' Rights Guarantee Act of 24 September 2012, and the Uzbek Foreign Policy Outline Establishment Act of 7 September 2012.
46. Uzbekistan ensures respect for the languages, customs and traditions of the nations and ethnic groups living in its territory and creates the conditions for their development.
47. Uzbekistan respects the right to self-determination of the people of Karakalpakstan, a sovereign republic that is an integral part of Uzbekistan. The sovereignty of Karakalpakstan is protected by Uzbekistan.

48. The Republic of Karakalpakstan has its own Constitution. The territory and boundaries of Karakalpakstan may not be altered without its consent. Karakalpakstan independently resolves any issues related to its territorial administrative structure and has the right to secede from Uzbekistan on the basis of a nationwide referendum among the people of Karakalpakstan.

49. Relations between Uzbekistan and Karakalpakstan are regulated on the basis of treaties and agreements concluded within the framework of the Constitution of Uzbekistan.

50. Karakalpakstan has established its own system of legislative, executive and judiciary authorities and defines the main thrusts of its political, social, economic and cultural development on the basis of the provisions of the Constitution and law of Uzbekistan and Karakalpakstan.

Article 2

Observance of and respect for the rights specified in the Covenant

Legislative bases of equality and non-discrimination in the exercise of civil and political rights

51. All citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan, regardless of their nationality, ethnic group, social origins, religious faith, or opinions, have equal civil and political rights and enjoy the protection of the Constitution and laws of the Republic.

52. Under article 18 of the Constitution, “all citizens enjoy the same rights and freedoms and are equal before the law, without distinction as to gender, race, ethnic background, language, religion, beliefs, personal or social status or social origin. Privileges may be established only by law and should be in keeping with the principles of social justice”.

53. Article 6 of the Referendum Act (new version) of 30 August 2001 prohibits “any direct or indirect restrictions on the rights of citizens to participate in a referendum on the grounds of origin, social group, gender, education or language”.

54. Pursuant to Article 4 of the Education Act of 29 August 1997, everyone is guaranteed equal rights to an education, regardless of gender, language, age, racial or ethnic origin, beliefs, views on religion, social origin, occupation, social status, place of residence, or length of residence in the national territory. In line with international agreements, citizens of other States are entitled to receive an education in Uzbekistan. Stateless persons residing in Uzbekistan have the same rights to an education as the country’s citizens.

55. Under article 6 of the Labour Code of 21 December 1995, “all citizens have equal opportunities with regard to the possession and exercise of labour rights. The imposition of any restrictions or the granting of advantages in the area of labour relations on the basis of gender, age, race, ethnic background, language, social origin, property and employment status, views on religion, beliefs, membership of voluntary associations or other considerations not related to employees’ qualifications and the results of their work is unacceptable and shall constitute discrimination”.

56. Articles 4 and 7 of the Rights of the Child Safeguards Act of 7 January 2008 prohibit discrimination against children and stipulate that the State shall take the action necessary to protect a child from all forms of discrimination.

57. Article 11 of the Citizens’ Applications Act (new version) of 13 December 2002 prohibits discrimination against citizens exercising their right to appeal in connection with gender, race, ethnic background, language, religion, social origin, beliefs and personal or social status.

58. Article 7 (4) of the Pretrial Detention during Criminal Proceedings Act of 29 September 2011 prohibits discrimination against detainees and remand prisoners on grounds of gender, race, ethnic group, language, religion, social origin, beliefs and personal or social status.

59. Article 6 (2) of the Advertising Act of 25 December 1998 prohibits, in advertising, discrimination on grounds of gender, race, ethnic background, language, religion, social origin, beliefs, personal or social status or other characteristics, and discrimination against the products of other persons.

60. Under article 8 of the Freedom of Information Principles and Safeguards Act of 12 December 2002, the State protects everyone's right to seek, obtain, study, disseminate, use and store information. Restriction of the right to information on the basis of gender, race, ethnic background, language or religion is prohibited.

61. Under article 2 of the Nationality Act of 2 July 1992, citizens of Uzbekistan are equal before the law, regardless of origin, social and property status, racial and ethnic background, gender, education or language.

62. Under article 5 of the Criminal Code, persons who have committed crimes have the same rights and obligations and are equal before the law, with no distinction as to gender, race, ethnic background, language, religion, social origin, beliefs and personal or social status.

63. Under article 16 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, justice in criminal cases is to be administered on the principle that citizens are equal before the law and courts, regardless of gender, race, ethnic background, language, religion, social origin or personal or social status.

64. Restriction of citizens' rights on the basis of gender, race, ethnic group, language and religion is also prohibited under, *inter alia*, the Nationwide Discussion of Draft Laws Act of 14 December 2000, the Oliy Majlis Elections Act of 29 August 2009, the Presidential Elections Act of 18 November 1991 and the Kengash People's Deputies Provincial, District and Municipal Elections Act of 5 May 1994.

65. Under article 141 of the Criminal Code, direct or indirect infringement or restriction of rights or the granting of direct or indirect advantages to citizens on the basis of gender, race, ethnic group, language, religion, social background, beliefs, or personal or social status is punishable by a fine of up to 50 times the minimum wage, suspension of a specific right for up to three years or punitive deduction of earnings for up to two years. If they involve violence, the same acts are punishable by punitive deduction of earnings for two to three years, detention for up to six months or deprivation of liberty for up to three years.

Effective means of protection against discrimination

66. Uzbekistan has established a legislative basis and an institutional system for receiving and reviewing citizens' communications concerning unlawful acts by State authorities and public officials, including violations of civil and political rights.

67. The legislative basis for exercising the right to file a complaint regarding violations and for the timely review of such complaints by the relevant State authorities includes:

- Article 35 of the Constitution, under which all persons have the right, both separately and jointly with other persons, to file petitions, proposals or complaints with the competent State authorities, institutions or elected representatives.
- The Citizens' Applications Act of 13 December 2002, which gives effect to article 35 of the Constitution and specifies not only the procedure and time frames for filing communications with the relevant State authorities, but also the rights of citizens to

participate personally in the review of such communications, by using the services of a lawyer or representative and studying the documents used to verify the grounds of their communications. Under articles 20 and 21 of the Act, the State authorities reviewing complaints must take immediate steps to stop unlawful acts or omissions, identify the causes and circumstances of violations of the rights, freedoms and lawful interests of citizens, and take steps to compensate for harm caused to citizens. A new bill on applications by legal entities and individuals is being submitted to the Legislative Chamber.

- Article 44 of the Constitution, which guarantees all persons judicial protection of their rights and freedoms and the right to appeal against unlawful acts and decisions of State bodies, officials and community associations in the courts.
- The Act on appeal to the courts against acts and decisions violating citizens' rights and freedoms of 30 August 1995, which sets out in detail the procedure for implementing article 44 of the Constitution. Pursuant to the Act, if a citizen seeking extrajudicial protection of his or her rights does not within one month receive a response to his or her complaint or a refusal to uphold it, he or she may apply to the courts in his or her place of residence or the place where the body whose acts are the subject of the complaint is located. The complaint is considered by the civil courts.
- Articles 10–16 of the Human Rights Commissioner (Ombudsman) of the Oliy Majlis Act of 24 August 2004, empowering the Ombudsman to consider complaints from Uzbek citizens and foreign nationals or stateless persons situated in Uzbekistan concerning acts or omissions of organizations or officials that violate their rights, freedoms or lawful interests, and to carry out a review, if the applicant has sought protection of his or her rights through other means and is not satisfied with the decisions taken.
- Article 7 of the Procurator's Office Act of 29 August 2001, which obliges procuratorial authorities to review citizens' petitions and complaints and legal entities' communications, to take steps to restore their violated rights and protect their lawful interests, and to meet citizens and legal entities individually.
- Article 18 of the Pretrial Detention during Criminal Proceedings Act of 29 September 2011, which establishes the right of detainees and remand prisoners to receive information on their rights and duties and on the procedure for filing petitions, proposals and complaints, and their right to file, personally or through a defence counsel or legal representative, petitions and complaints concerning the lawfulness and validity of their detention and violations of their rights, freedoms and lawful interests. Article 19 of the Act sets out in detail the procedure for filing petitions, proposals and complaints.
- Applications to a judicial body empowered to defend the human rights and freedoms by considering objectively and comprehensively applications from the public concerning violation of constitutional rights and freedoms and by adopting measures in accordance with the law.
- Applications to law offices offering legal assistance to individuals and legal entities. The rights and duties of lawyers are set out in the Bar Act of 27 December 1996 and the Safeguards for Lawyers' Legal Practice and Social Protection Act of 25 December 1998, the Code of Civil Procedure, the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Administrative Liability Code.
- Applications to NGOs which are empowered by their statutes to defend the human rights of their members and participants.

68. An interdepartmental working group to monitor the observance of human rights and freedoms by law-enforcement and other State bodies has been created and is functioning effectively in the country. Its members include senior staff of law enforcement agencies, the Ministries of Justice and Foreign Affairs and the National Centre for Human Rights, representatives of the Office of the Ombudsman and NGOs. Representatives of the National Association of NGOs, the Women's Committee of Uzbekistan, the Bar Chamber and other civil society bodies participate in the meetings of the working group.

69. During its meetings, the working group considers applications, including those lodged with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, concerning unlawful acts of law enforcement officers, checks them and then adopts the appropriate decision. The working group carefully examines communications from citizens concerning the use by law enforcement officers of torture and other prohibited forms of treatment. Meetings of the working group were held on 24 February 2010, 27 December 2010, 5 April 2011, 22 August 2012 and 26 December 2012.

70. The Ministry of Health received 801 applications in 2010, 796 in 2011 and 645 in 2012. Of those, 494 citizens' applications regarding medical treatment or preventive care were considered in 2010, 570 in 2011 and 478 in 2012. On the basis of that examination, 28 persons were dismissed from their positions in 2010, 46 in 2011 and 29 in 2012. Administrative penalties were imposed on 139 persons in 2010, 244 persons in 2011 and 142 persons in 2012.

71. In the period 2010–2012, the Ministry of Justice and its local agencies examined 9,944 statements and complaints. Violated rights of citizens were restored in 4,363 cases. In order to redress the human rights protection law violations identified, 3,402 recommendations were issued (442 to khokimiyats, 142 to internal affairs offices, 62 to community service entities, 54 to commercial banks and 2,383 to other bodies), 819 documents were revoked, and disciplinary action was taken against 4,587 offenders, 274 of whom were dismissed.

72. In order to redress the legal violations identified, 836 warnings, 1,041 orders, 1,139 directives to initiate administrative proceedings and 27 rulings to initiate criminal proceedings were issued. Of the 7,893 claims totalling more than 6.9 billion sum that were filed with the judicial authorities, 7,520 claims totalling more than 6.2 billion sum were upheld.

73. In the period 2011–2012, the Centre for Monitoring the Application of Legislation of the Ministry of Justice and its local establishments carried out 65 inspections and verifications concerning the activity of 31 central and local authorities, including 20 State administration bodies (*inter alia*, the Ministry of Internal Affairs regarding the observance of crime prevention legislation, the Ministries of Health and Education regarding the observance of legislation on the minors, and the State Committee for Nature Protection and the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources regarding the observance of legislation on plants and animals).

74. Overall, through such measures, more than 17,000 legal violations and more than 3,000 defects, including 261 system shortcomings, were detected in good time; criminal charges were brought in five cases; administrative proceedings were initiated against 121 persons; disciplinary measures were taken against 960 persons, 33 of whom were dismissed; and nine obligatory departmental regulations (of the Ministries of Internal Affairs, Education and Health and the State Committee for Nature Protection) and 272 decisions of State administration bodies and law-enforcement and inspection authorities (*inter alia*, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the State Committee for Nature Protection and local executive bodies) were revoked.

75. Of the 194 citizens' complaints and statements received by the Labour Inspectorate of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection in 2012, 191 were examined, 2 were referred to the competent departments and 1 was characterized as anonymous. Of the statements examined, 123 were upheld, while explanations were provided in the case of 68. The statements mainly involved illegal discharges, delayed wage payments, the amount of wages, working time and secondary employment.

76. In 2012, procuratorial authorities, in the framework of supervision of the legality of the activity of State bodies and officials, restored the rights of 51,346 citizens. Regarding rights to social benefits, 4,702 procuratorial directives were issued, damages were paid in the amount of 306.6 million sum, claims totalling 343 million sum were filed with courts, criminal charges were brought in 341 cases and the rights of 1,146 citizens were restored.

77. With regard to violations of the rights of the child, 34,000 procuratorial directives were issued; disciplinary, financial or administrative sanctions were imposed on 31,000 officials; and criminal charges were brought in 842 cases.

78. In order to prevent violations of the law, the procuratorial authorities undertook to explain it to the population through 125,542 informational activities, and 22,909 media presentations, including 6,490 television broadcasts, were organized.

79. In 2010, the Human Rights Commissioner received 7,124 citizens' communications, including 3,531 regarding the observance and defence of personal rights and 2,951 regarding safeguards for social and economic rights. Of the 7,134 citizens' communications received in 2011, 3,889 (54.5 per cent) concerned the observance and defence of personal rights, 2,380 (33.4 per cent) concerned social and economic rights safeguards, 549 (7.7 per cent) concerned political rights, 315 (4.4 per cent) concerned other issues and 1 concerned environmental issues. Of the 7,658 citizens' communications received in 2012, 4,125 (54 per cent) concerned the observance and defence of personal rights, 2,238 (29 per cent) concerned social and economic rights safeguards, 399 (5 per cent) concerned political rights, 895 (12 per cent) concerned other issues and 1 concerned environmental issues.

80. In total, a positive decision was taken on 607 citizens' communications in 2011, compared to 663 in 2010. Almost every fourth upheld communication concerned safeguards related to the right to life, freedom and inviolability of the person, humane treatment and respect for human dignity and honour.

81. Under the Citizens' Applications Act, citizens' complaints are examined also by the parliament. In 2012, the Legislative Chamber received 2,751 written and 1,107 oral complaints (compared to 3,261 and 1,214, respectively, in 2011). A number of citizens' complaints cite legal violations by law-enforcement and judicial officers, failings in the performance of social welfare services and indifference to complaints at the local level. In particular, 1,402 written and 339 oral complaints (respectively, 50.9 and 30.6 per cent of the total) involve failings in the performance of courts, procuratorial authorities, internal affairs bodies and the judiciary.

82. Of the 3,539 written and 5,852 oral complaints received by the national Federation of Trade Unions in 2012, more than 30 per cent were submitted by education workers and approximately 25 per cent by health workers. Measures are taken and explanations given for every application received. Hotlines created in local trade-union associations in 2011 help to respond to workers' complaints faster and more effectively.

83. In 2011–2012, the national administration of the Makhalla Foundation received 1,023 citizens' applications (462 in 2011 and 561 in 2012) related to housing and social, spiritual and material support for families. A positive decision was made on all such applications.

84. In 2010, more than 10,000 round tables and broad dissemination of the provisions of the Covenant were organized in order to raise public awareness of reforms in the area of human rights and of the relevant legal, political, spiritual and moral issues.

85. A legal awareness-raising month entitled “Inson khukuklari-eng oliy kadriyat” (“Human rights: the supreme value”), organized in 2011 under Presidential Decision No. 1516 of 6 April of the same year, included 13,200 dissemination events, approximately 2,000 lectures and seminars and 11,000 round tables, attended overall by more than one million persons.

86. In recent years, considerable impulse was given to information- and education-related activities of the Chambers of the Oliy Majlis with a view to informing the deputies and senators on the provisions of the Covenant. Of the 147 relevant conferences, seminars and round tables held in 2012, more than 50 were carried out in the country’s regions.

87. The Chambers’ committees organized 10 national and regional activities on boosting parliamentary and public oversight, 10 on supporting the media and strengthening their role in the system of civil society bodies for the development of electoral law and the liberalization of the electoral system, 16 on social partnerships and the participation of public organizations in the protection of the rights and interests of various population categories and groups, and 9 on further democratic market-related reforms, the development of small business units, particularly family enterprises, economic governance liberalization, protection of private property and guarantees of the rights of property owners.

88. On 11 March 2011, the Legislative Chamber’s Committee on Democratic Institutions, Non-Governmental Organizations and Citizens’ Self-Governance Bodies, by the National Centre for Human Rights and the Centre for the Study of Legal Problems (Tashkent) organized an international academic and practical conference on improving domestic law on expanding the partnership between the State and civil society institutions, in the context of the President’s report of 12 November 2010 on a policy framework for further deepening democratic reforms and developing civil society in Uzbekistan.

89. On 7 April 2011, the Legislative Chamber’s Committee on Legislation and Judicial Questions organized a training seminar on the formation of a Government and the role of political parties, and on improving parliamentary scrutiny of the action of the bodies of the executive.

90. On 6 May 2011, the National Centre for Human Rights and the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis, with the help of the French Embassy in Uzbekistan, organized an international seminar on the development of constitutional law and parliamentarism in a democratic society in the light of the experience of Uzbekistan and France.

91. On 27 May 2011, the Senate Commission on supporting and strengthening the activity of local representative authorities in cooperation with the Federation of Trade Unions organized a seminar on the development of the various types of social partnership and on cooperation between local authorities, NGOs and other civil society bodies.

92. On 25–26 June 2012, the Legislative Chamber, the National Association of Electronic Media (NAESMI), the Independent Institute for Monitoring the Development of Civil Society (NIMFOGO) and the OSCE project coordinator’s office organized an international round table on strengthening the economic foundations of the media, as a key prerequisite for the democratization of the information sector. On 26 September 2012, the Committee on Democratic Institutions, Non-Governmental Organizations and Citizens’ Self-Governance Bodies organized in the Legislative Chamber an academic and practical seminar on the place and significance of State authorities, the media, NGOs and citizens’

self-governance bodies in guaranteeing the rights and freedoms of children. On 19 November 2012, the Oliy Majlis Parliamentary Commission responsible for managing the finances of the Public Foundation for the Support of NGOs and other civil society institutions, attached to the Oliy Majlis, organized in the Legislative Chamber a round table on forms of social and economic support for the institution of social-partnership.

Information on the rights enshrined in the Covenant

93. Uzbekistan has fully embraced the ideas of the United Nations and has created its own system of human rights education. This has primarily involved taking steps to develop a legal framework for education and national programmes geared towards promoting and protecting human rights. In pursuance of these objectives, on 29 August 1997 the Education Act was passed, the national staff training programme was approved and the Oliy Majlis adopted a resolution on a national programme to improve legal awareness in society. On 29 May 1998, the Cabinet adopted a national programme of measures to implement this programme. On 25 June 1997, a Presidential Decree was adopted aimed at improving legal education, legal awareness, the training of legal professionals and public opinion research.

94. In order to promote the study of the social role and significance of the Constitution and the education and legal awareness, thought and culture of the young generation, the Presidential Order “on the organization of the study of the Constitution” was adopted on 4 January 2001, providing for specific courses on the Constitution in all types of education. Textbooks and specialized literature were prepared, taking account of the special characteristics of children and students of various ages so as to upgrade their legal culture.

95. On 1 May 2008, the President issued a decree on measures to commemorate the sixtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, thereby giving additional impulse to the improvement of human rights education in line with the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training.

96. Instruction on human rights issues is provided in the establishments of the following educational levels:

- Preschool education;
- Primary and general secondary education;
- Special and vocational secondary education;
- Higher education;
- Skills-upgrading of specialists in various fields.

97. The first, second and third levels of the educational system are attended by children aged 5–6 and up to 16–17. The relevant educational process consists in step-by-step teaching of human rights, acquisition of habits and abilities for their defence, and inculcation of respect for the equality and dignity of all persons.

98. In preschool education establishments, legal education and training is imparted as part of everyday games and activities. Such activities are organized for children in the middle, older and preparatory groups. The subject “Lessons of the Constitution” in the middle and older groups includes 16 hours per year in the form of games and 9 hours in the form of playtime activities and celebrations.

99. At school level (grades 1–9), human rights are taught in the subjects of “Foundations of the State and the law”, “Jurisprudence” and “ABC of the Constitution” (50 hours).

100. In lycées (academic secondary schools) and colleges (vocational secondary schools), 68 hours over two years are devoted to acquiring a knowledge of the branches of the law.

101. All higher education students are given a basic grounding in the law and the Constitution, including information on human rights and how they are protected.

102. Specialized human rights courses are taught to students at the Tashkent State Institute of Law, the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Institute of the National Security Service, to professional lawyers at the Centre for the Further Training of Legal Specialists of the Ministry of Justice, and to those attending the advanced training courses offered by the Office of the Procurator-General.

103. These specialized programmes include a mandatory introduction to international human rights standards in the area of criminal justice, law enforcement, prison administration and crime prevention, distinct categories of human rights and national mechanisms and means for defending human rights.

104. Currently, more than 20 law journals and reviews containing material on the protection of rights are published in Uzbekistan. A database on Uzbekistan's current legislation has been established and is available on the Internet.

105. With a view to implementing the recommendation formulated in paragraph 5 of the Committee's concluding observations, consistent action is taken in the country in order to raise awareness of the rights set out in the Covenant.

106. In the Tashkent State Institute of Law, human rights issues, gender equality safeguards and the eradication of torture are studied, in a special course on human rights, under the specific themes of "women's rights" and "international human rights protection mechanisms"; and, in a course on international law, under the specific theme of "international human rights law".

107. At the University of World Economics and Diplomacy, issues addressed in the Covenant are examined in the curricula as follows:

Bachelor's degree:

- A 72-hour human rights course studies in detail the value, essence, content and mechanisms for the realization of the rights and freedoms enshrined in the Covenant are. The following issues are thoroughly covered: combating torture, human trafficking and violence against women and children; applying habeas corpus procedures; safeguarding the rights related to freedom of movement (registration, citizenship acquisition, and issuance of passports); and safeguarding the rights to inviolability of the home, correspondence, honour and dignity.

Master's degree:

- An international human rights law course provides detailed knowledge regarding the implementation of the norms set forth in the Covenant, namely the international and national mechanisms for the realization of the rights and freedoms enshrined therein.
- A special course on national human rights bodies studies the activity of such bodies in relation to the implementation of the Covenant with regard to combating torture, human trafficking and violence against women and children; applying habeas corpus procedures; safeguarding the rights related to freedom of movement (registration, citizenship acquisition, and issuance of passports); and safeguarding the rights to inviolability of the home, correspondence, honour and dignity.

108. The Centre for the Further Training of Legal Specialists of the Ministry of Justice is an educational institution for retraining and upgrading the qualifications of workers in the judiciary, the courts and the procuratorial authorities, the legal profession and the staff of legal departments of enterprises, establishments and organizations regardless of type of ownership. In 15 years of activity, the Centre provided training to approximately 20,000

jurists. According to the Presidential Decree “on measures for the fundamental improvement of the social protection of judicial system workers”, adopted on 2 August 2012, training at the Centre is compulsory for newly appointed judges.

109. A human rights course is taught in the international law and human rights department and includes thematic components (each comprising two lecture and two seminar hours) on the “spirit of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment”, “international standards and national legislation on the administration of justice”, “international law aspects of combating international crime”, “international-law and national mechanisms for safeguarding the rights of women”, “key provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women” and “international standards and national legislation on children’s rights”.

110. In the criminal law department, lectures are held on the subjects of “human trafficking, crimes against personal freedom and the Human Trafficking Act” (two lecture and two seminar hours), “remand in custody as a preventive procedure”, “penal enforcement procedures for deprivation of liberty and detention”, “basis of and procedure for remand in custody as a preventive measure”, “amendments and additions to the Code of Criminal Procedure, the Procurator’s Office Act and the Courts Act in connection with the transfer to the courts of the authority to order remand in custody”.

111. Moreover, the curricula for criminal and civil judges and attorneys include sections on the role of law-enforcement agencies in protecting women’s rights and preventing violence against women.

112. The Centre cooperates with international organizations under a project to support the development of the Centre’s work, carried out in cooperation with the OSCE project coordinator and aimed at increasing the information available to judicial personnel regarding international human rights standards; and under a European Union project for assistance for judicial reforms in Uzbekistan. This project focuses on providing jurists with additional information on international standards for the administration of justice.

113. In relation to issues covered by the Covenant, the advanced training courses offered by the Office of the Procurator-General organized 66 field conferences, seminars and training activities in 2010, 62 in 2011 and 54 in 2012. In the period 2010–2012, the training programme of the Centre addressed more than 40 themes related to provisions of the Covenant.

114. In addressing issues covered by the Covenant, the Centre’s courses rely on international collaboration with the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the UNODC regional office for Central Asia, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) of the United States, OSCE, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol), the Konrad Adenauer Foundation and the University of Westminster.

115. The Central Penal Correction Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs takes the necessary measures to raise the level of training of penitentiary system workers. They regularly attend retraining and skill-upgrading courses in the Almalyk training centre, the Tashkent military technical college and the Ministry of Internal Affairs academies.

116. The staff of the institutions and units of the said Department taking courses at the further training department of the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs attend sessions on the “spirit and letter of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment in relation to the work of internal affairs officers” and on “ensuring the exercise of human rights at penal institutions”.

117. In 2010, a booklet entitled “Prisoners’ rights: national and international standards” was published in Uzbek and Russian with the support of the Embassy of Germany in Uzbekistan and the National Centre for Human Rights in order to improve the legal education of the personnel and inmates of penitentiary establishments.

118. In the period 2010–2011, with support from the German Adult Education Association, training workshops were organized for the personnel of penitentiary establishments in the city and province of Tashkent on “the bases of prison psychology: psychological characteristics of prisoners” and on “legal culture and professional ethics for prison system staff”, including the study of international standards and national legislation in that area.

119. The European Union project for assistance for judicial reforms in Uzbekistan, implemented successfully since 2012, includes training for prison system personnel, with the participation of international and national human-rights protection experts.

120. In order to raise the level of preparedness for facing emergencies among the staff of the Ministry, exercises are systematically organized in connection with provisions of the Covenant. In the period of 2010–2012, Ministry specialists participated, under existing international agreements, in 160 international activities, during which issues related to cooperation on preventing natural and anthropogenic emergencies and responding to related risks were extensively discussed.

121. The Ministry’s emergency protection information and outreach activities include training for senior staff of enterprises and the population; command staff and special tactical exercises with rescue services and the population; and cooperation with international organizations. Training for senior staff of enterprises and the population is provided as part of the annual plan of the civil defence institute and provincial training centres. In the period considered, a total of 135,696 persons received training in the said establishments.

122. In the military training system of the Defence Ministry, special attention is paid to the legal preparation and the promotion of the legal culture of the troops. Thus, issues related to combating torture are examined as part of the study of the “law of war” or “international humanitarian law”. The said system includes a set of information and education activities aimed at strengthening discipline and respect for law among the troops and preventing offences, including on issues covered by the Covenant.

123. In the period 2009–2012, more than 20 training seminars were organized in the Ministry of Internal Affairs through international cooperation and assistance by international human rights institutions. The partners in question included the OSCE project coordinator in Uzbekistan and the regional delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Central Asia. With the participation of international experts of the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights (Warsaw, Poland), the seminars covered, *inter alia*, the following themes:

- Theoretical foundations and international standards in respect of human rights;
- Monitoring of compliance with and implementation of human rights by the internal affairs authorities;
- Action of law-enforcement agencies against human trafficking;
- Women’s rights in the action of internal affairs authorities;
- Human rights and professional ethics in the action of internal affairs authorities;
- Implementation of international agreement provisions in the action of law-enforcement authorities;

- Safeguards related to human rights and freedoms in the action of internal affairs authorities;
- Cooperation between ICRC and law-enforcement agencies;
- Methodological particularities of teaching human rights theory and practice in internal affairs authorities;
- Information processing work in the action of the police.

124. With a view to enhancing the staff's skills and providing advanced training for specialists in the area of human rights protection, the Department for the Protection of Human Rights and Legal Support of the Ministry of Internal Affairs developed a training programme on the protection of human rights for Ministry staff. Approved by the Minister on 2 March 2010, the programme was transmitted to all Ministry subdivisions and local internal affairs authorities, which on 2 February 2012 received the related curriculum for implementation in the period 2012–2013.

125. On the initiative of the above Department, a chair of human rights theory and practice was established in January 2009 at the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The curriculum in this area is structured as follows:

- In their second year, full-time students study general human rights theory for a total of 40 hours, consisting of 20 hours of lectures, 8 hours of workshops and 12 hours of self-study;
- Higher academic courses include the study of human rights and the work of internal affairs agencies for a total of 40 hours, consisting of 12 hours of lectures, 18 hours of workshops and 10 hours of self-study;
- Higher training courses for non-commissioned officers encompass legal training that includes a module on human rights and the work of the internal affairs agencies, which consists of 16 hours of teaching;
- The curriculum of the department of further training for internal affairs officers includes courses on international standards for the observance of human rights in the work of the law enforcement agencies, on the observance of human rights in the work of the internal affairs agencies, and on international treaties and covenants.

126. The Ministry's system also includes four centres for the training and retraining of non-commissioned officers, whose curriculum contains courses on international standards and national law relating to human rights protection.

127. In 2011, with the assistance of the OSCE project coordinator in Uzbekistan, two human rights information and resource centres were created in the Academy and the Department for the Protection of Human Rights and Legal Support of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The centres help to enhance the legal knowledge of staff and trainees, promote effective self-development, and conduct training exercises, conferences and round tables using an extensive human rights database and the latest innovative technology.

128. The National Centre for Human Rights donated to the above Department more than 10,000 copies of 17 publications on issues related to the protection of human rights. The OSCE project coordinator in Uzbekistan donated more than 600 copies of 30 book titles on human rights law. The regional delegation of ICRC donated more than 450 books published by ICRC on international humanitarian law.

129. All of the aforementioned legal literature was forwarded to units of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and local internal affairs agencies as additional material for their legal libraries and reading rooms.

130. With the assistance of the OSCE project coordinator in Uzbekistan, approximately 20,000 copies of posters publicizing the Citizens' Applications Act and the helplines of the Ministry of Internal Affairs were produced in Uzbek, Russian and Karakalpak. It is currently planned to produce the said posters in Tajik, Turkmen, Kyrgyz and Kazakh.

131. In cooperation with State law-enforcement agencies, NGOs and international organizations and with the participation of representatives of citizens' self-governance local bodies, communities and the media, a broad range of informational and explanatory activities for the population is carried out in the area of human rights protection, as described below:

Period	Dissemination of legal information through the media	Oral dissemination of legal information		Dissemination of printed legal information		Visual dissemination of legal information		
		Number of activities	Number of listeners	Number of activities	Number of collections of articles	Number of posters and booklets	Of which: Number of posters	Number of booklets
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2010	3 182	44 869	3 103 750	212	4 190	17 170	16 569	601
2011	3 409	3 223	186 564	106	48	262	202	60
2012	3 215	3 827	288 676	55	21	273	161	112

132. On 6 June 2010, the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the OSCE project coordinator in Uzbekistan concluded an agreement on support for the development of the educational methods and resource base of the Academy's department of human rights theory and practice. A human rights resource centre was created and outfitted in the orientation office, which includes a human rights library and is equipped with computers, Power Point for exercises and presentations and a conference room for the department.

133. In the period 2010–2012, the Constitutional Court conducted in the Republic of Karakalpakstan and the Uzbek provinces more than 70 information, awareness-raising and educational events on issues covered by the Covenant and addressed by the Constitution.

134. With a view to implementing the recommendation formulated in paragraph 6 of the Committee's concluding observations concerning the specification of the authorities empowered to ensure compliance with the First Optional Protocol to the Covenant, steps were taken to broaden the powers of the interdepartmental working group to monitor the observance of human rights and freedoms by law-enforcement and other State bodies.

135. Cabinet of Ministers Decision No. 227 of 23 July 2012 approving the regulations of the above interdepartmental working group defined the main tasks of the group as follows:

- Examining and analysing questions relating to the protection of human rights and freedoms, such as monitoring the consideration and settlement of complaints by citizens of violations of their rights and freedoms, including complaints of torture and other degrading treatment;
- Introducing proposals for measures to eliminate violations of legislation in the area of human rights and freedoms;
- Preparing proposals for improving legislation and ensuring that basic United Nations treaties regarding of human rights and freedoms are taken into account in national legislation and law enforcement practice;
- Examining the concluding observations and recommendations of the United Nations treaty bodies following consideration of Uzbekistan's periodic reports, and

approving and monitoring national plans of action for giving effect to those conclusions and recommendations.

136. In that context, under the above Decision, the working group monitors the implementation of national plans of action to ensure compliance with the recommendations of the Human Rights Committee and other United Nations treaty bodies and collects information related to human rights. The findings of such monitoring are reported during the regular meetings of the working group.

137. In accordance with the Decision, the Ministry of Justice in cooperation with the appropriate ministries and departments reviews any claims formulated in the observations of the Human Rights Committee concerning offences against individual Uzbek citizens. Information and documents prepared in connection with such criminal cases are examined at every meeting of the working group.

138. A review conducted in connection with the recommendation formulated in paragraph 26 of the Committee's concluding observations concerning alternative service has shown that citizens experience no difficulties in that area.

139. Alternative service provisions, which are contained in chapter VI of the Universal Military Duty and Military Service Act of 12 December 2002, apply only to Uzbek citizens.

140. Under article 37 of the above Act, alternative service may be substituted for military service as a means of fulfilling military obligations and involves the performance of unskilled (accessory) work in various branches of the economy or in the provision of social services, or work of clearing up after accidents, disasters, natural calamities and other emergencies.

141. Alternative service is available to citizens aged 18–27 who are on the military register and subject to call-up, provided that they belong to registered religious organizations whose members are not allowed to bear arms or serve in the armed forces. Alternative service lasts 24 months, or 18 months in the case of persons with higher education. The procedure for the organization and fulfilment of alternative service is laid down in Cabinet of Ministers Decision No. 128 of 11 March 2003 adopting the relevant regulations.

Article 3

Equality of men and women with regard to civil and political rights

142. In acceding to the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women in 1995, Uzbekistan undertook to ensure gender equality in the political, economic, social and cultural areas of social life.

143. The State condemns discrimination against women, an obstacle to the participation of women in all areas of the country's life on an equal footing with men and to the full realization of women's rights and opportunities. That does not diminish the significance of women's contribution to the welfare of the family or the social value of motherhood and women's role in procreation and the upbringing of children. State and society are cooperating in changing the traditional role of both men and women in society and the family.

144. The foundations of State policy for the prevention of discrimination against women have been established as follows:

- Uzbekistan has acceded to the basic international instruments enshrining the principles and standards for the protection of women's rights.

- National gender equality legislation takes full account of international standards, and special measures have been taken to protect mothers and create conditions conducive to women's all-round development.
- Uzbekistan implements special programmes to develop the health-care system, protect the health of pregnant women and children and raise a healthy generation. A comprehensive social support system for mothers and children has been set up since independence.

145. The provisions of article 3 of the Covenant and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women have been incorporated into the Constitution and into legislation on electoral, family, labour, criminal, administrative and other matters. The President of the Republic has promulgated two relevant decrees: one on enhancing the role of women in building the State and society (2 March 1995) and one on additional measures to support the activities of the Women's Committee of Uzbekistan (24 May 2004). The Cabinet of Ministers has adopted appropriate decisions for implementing those decrees.

146. The Constitution lays the foundations for equality of rights between men and women, defines the principles of maternal and child welfare and in fact prohibits any discrimination based on gender, age, ethnic background, social status or religion. There is no gender asymmetry in the constitutional provisions: all persons in Uzbekistan have the same political, civil, socio-economic and cultural rights.

147. Particular attention is paid to women in the yearly State programmes and national plans of action for the fulfilment of the country's international obligation to ensure gender equality.

148. The State programme for the Year of the Family, which was carried out in 2012, included specific measures for the protection of women's health, the family, motherhood and children in accordance with the "healthy mother – healthy child" principle; for the employment of women; for their involvement in social production; for improvement of women's social and living conditions; and for the elimination of violence and human trafficking suffered by women. The amounts of 1,478.7 billion sum and USD 114 million were earmarked for the implementation of this programme.

149. The State programme for the Year of Well-being and Prosperity, approved by the President on 14 February 2013, sets out systematic measures to improve the population's quality of life by creating new jobs, strengthening social support for vulnerable groups, developing entrepreneurship and improving the public health-care system, particularly for children and mothers.

150. Section VII of the above programme focuses on measures for further strengthening the family, enhancing the role and status of women in the family and in society, promoting their social activity, ensuring their employment and encouraging their decent involvement in various economic branches and sectors, and creating favourable social and living conditions for their self-development and facilitating household work.

151. The amount of 6,655.0 billion sum or USD 319.2 million was earmarked for the implementation of the State programme for the Year of Well-being and Prosperity.

152. Legislative, institutional and educational measures aimed at achieving gender equality are provided for in the national plans of action for the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Human Rights Committee and the Human Rights Council after consideration of the country's respective fourth periodic report, third periodic report and national report in the framework of the universal periodic review.

153. In response to the comments contained in paragraph 13 of the Committee's concluding observations, special attention is paid to eliminating violence against women.

154. Uzbekistan supports the United Nations in its call for intensified efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women. Such support is provided through the:

- Ratification of international legal instruments governing the protection of women and girls from violence. Since it became independent, Uzbekistan has acceded to more than 70 international human rights instruments that *inter alia* affect the rights of women.
- Prohibition of any form of violence against human beings, including women and girls, in accordance with the Constitution, the Children's Rights Safeguards Act and the Prevention of Human Trafficking Act.
- Liability under the Criminal Code for crimes against the life, health and sexual freedom of human beings, including women and girls. Perpetration of such offences against women or girls constitutes an aggravating circumstance.
- Steps taken to improve the Family Code and the Criminal Code and to adopt, with regard to violence against women, special legislation that provides for necessary pretrial and judicial protection of female victims and children and criminalizes such acts of violence.
- Establishment on 20 April 2010, by the Deputy Prime Minister, of a working group under the Women's Committee to study international experience in the prevention of violence against women, for the purpose of preparing a policy framework for a bill on the prevention of domestic violence.

155. As part of the international campaign to collect comprehensive data on violence against women, Uzbekistan has provided responses to, *inter alia*, the questionnaire for the Secretary-General's coordinated database on violence against women; to surveys on the prevention of violence against women by the special rapporteur Ms. Nadia Taher; and to questions on the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 62/136 on improvement of the situation of women in rural areas and 62/206 on women in development.

156. Since the internal affairs authorities are not expected to keep separate account of domestic violence offences, the creation in such authorities of a system for ongoing data collection on cases of violence against women and the measures taken to punish the offenders and help the victims of violence is being considered.

157. The Supreme Court of Uzbekistan has studied and summarized judicial practice in cases involving offences against sexual freedom. Meeting in plenary session on 29 October 2010, the Supreme Court, after consideration of that issue, adopted a decision "on judicial practice in cases of rape and deviant sexual practices", which contains relevant procedural explanations.

158. Analysis of criminal cases concerning violence against women in 2010 and the first three months of 2011 shows that, during that period, the courts heard 270 criminal cases against 354 individuals. In 222 of these cases, 293 individuals were convicted; 43 trials were halted without exoneration of the 60 individuals involved; and 1 case was referred for further investigation.

159. Sentencing practice shows that courts usually impose custodial penalties on persons convicted of offences in this category. Of a total of 293 individuals convicted, 7 were fined, 38 were sentenced to punitive deduction of earnings, 4 were given short-term, rigorous sentences, 34 were given a suspended sentence and 200 received various longer-term sentences, while 11 defendants were released under an amnesty.

160. According to statistics of the Ministry of Internal Affairs information centre, the number of registered crimes under Criminal Code articles 118–119 (on rape) was 521 in 2010 and 389 in the first nine months of 2011. In 2012, the investigative agencies brought no charges for marital rape nor did they receive any citizens' statements or complaints for such a crime.

161. In accordance with the Citizens' Applications Act, units of the crime prevention department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs register all communications from women concerning any form of violence against them. The claims contained in such communications are then subjected to initial inquiry and verification. Where a case of violence against a woman is confirmed, the initial inquiry file is immediately passed on to the pretrial investigation units of internal affairs agencies.

162. Of the 74 women' rights violation complaints received and resolved by procuratorial authorities in 2010, 18 were upheld, while the women' rights were restored in 14 such cases. The respective figures for 2011 are 54, 7 and 30. For 2012, they are 47, 10 and 6.

163. The relevant departments of the Ministry of Health and the Women's Committee are responsible, on an ongoing basis, for the social welfare of women who need support and protection from violence.

164. Special entities have been set up in Uzbekistan to provide assistance to victims of violence: crisis centres, helplines and centres for the social adaptation of women are in operation in various regions of the country and provide counselling, medical care and legal assistance to women victims of violence. The National Rehabilitation Centre to Assist and Protect Victims of Human Trafficking has been established in Tashkent to provide assistance to women and girls who have been subjected to sexual exploitation. Steps are being taken to establish regional rehabilitation centres for human trafficking victims. The Non-Governmental Centre for the Support of Civil Initiatives has established in the cities of Tashkent, Kokand and Navoi a women's inquiry service which provides legal assistance and counselling to women with family problems.

165. A national centre for social and legal assistance to women and their families has been set up at the Women's Committee of Uzbekistan. There are in the country 10 major centres for the social adaptation of women and their families in Uzbekistan. Those centres provide counselling and legal and social assistance to victims of violence and also support women's training and employment. They are located in Andijan, Namangan, Fergana, Jomboy, Kashkadarya, Surkhandarya, Jizak, Pakhtakor, Khorezm, Navoi and Syrdarya. Almost all such centres have a helpline.

166. The internal affairs agencies in cooperation with the mediation commissions of citizens' self-governance bodies and other public structures examine systematically the situation in the families, and appropriate measures are taken to prevent physical and psychological violence against women.

167. Of the 66,037 documents and files on family and domestic issues prepared in 2012 by prevention officers in cooperation with the said commissions and with the participation of the community (compared to 64,175 in 2011 and 65,027 in 2010), those of 54,714 families were considered at joint sessions (compared to 56,063 in 2011 and 52,241 in 2010). Of the total number of families discussed, 42,416 were reconciled (compared to 43,866 in 2011 and 40,261 in 2010), a divorce was averted in the case of 25,255 families (compared to 26,606 in 2011 and 23,710 in 2010) and 18,202 conflict-ridden families were placed on preventive registers of the internal affairs agencies (compared to 17,961 in 2011 and 18,454 in 2010).

168. At the end of 2012, 20,771 persons having committed offences in the area of family and domestic relations were on preventive registers (compared to 20,687 in 2011

and 22,495 in 2010). Local prevention officers engage in outreach work with persons in that category in order to avert recidivism.

169. In response to the comments contained in paragraph 13 of the Committee's concluding observations with regard to measures for preventing bride abductions and polygamy, it is noted that under article 137 of the Criminal Code abduction constitutes a crime. The second part of that article punishes abduction of a minor and abduction for personal gain or other base motives or by a group of persons having conspired.

170. According to Supreme Court data, in 2010 the general courts heard 13 criminal cases under article 137 (on abduction), compared to, respectively, 18 and 20 such cases in 2011 and 2012; and 7 criminal cases under article 126 (on polygamy) compared to, respectively, 8 and 13 such cases in 2011 and 2012.

171. In line with the recommendations of the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, consistent measures are taken for the development of gender statistics that reflect the actual gender-related processes occurring in the country.

172. Statistical handbooks on gender equality are prepared by the State statistical bodies, with the involvement of a broad range of public organizations, on the basis of household surveys and data of the Women's Committee, the National Centre for Human Rights and women's NGOs. Such handbooks are published with support from international organizations. Thus, the "Women and men of Uzbekistan, 2007–2010" statistical handbook was published in 2012 with support from the Asian Development Bank and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women); and the "Men and Women in Uzbekistan, 2007" statistical handbook was published in 2010 with the help of the OSCE project coordinator in Uzbekistan.

173. Statistical studies reveal differences between women and men with respect to the sectoral structure of employment. In 2010, the sectors accounting for the highest percentage of the total number of employed women were agriculture and forestry (with 28.5 per cent), education, culture, art, science and scientific services (20.6 per cent), health, gymnastics and social welfare (12.8 per cent), trade, catering, sales and procurement (12.6 per cent) and industry (11.7 per cent); while the sectors accounting for the highest percentage of the total number of employed men were agriculture and forestry (25.5 per cent), construction (15.1 per cent), industry (14.5 per cent), trade, catering, sales and procurement (9.1 per cent), and education, culture, art, science and scientific services (8.2 per cent).

174. Among employed workers (in the formal sector), the educational level of women is higher than men's. The relevant indicators tend to increase for both genders. Thus, in 2010, of the total number of employed workers, women with higher and special secondary education accounted for 75.2 per cent (compared to 70.8 per cent in 2007), while men of the same educational level accounted for 62.8 per cent (compared to 56.7 per cent in 2007); and women with secondary and incomplete secondary education accounted for 24.8 per cent (compared to 29 per cent in 2007), while men of the same educational level accounted for 37.2 per cent (compared to 43.3 per cent in 2007). These figures indicate the actual contribution of education reform to the country's economy.

175. In early 2011, of the 2,913.1 thousand pensioners registered countrywide with the social security bodies (1.8 per cent more than in 2007), 57.9 per cent were women and 42.1 per cent men (the respective 2007 rates being 58.6 and 41.4 per cent).

176. Old-age pension and disability benefit recipients account for, respectively, 77.8 and 15.1 per cent of the total number of female pensioners and 63.6 and 22.8 per cent of the total number of male pensioners.

177. In 2010, as a result of measures taken by the State to facilitate women's full-fledged participation in decision-making at all levels of administration, 33 women were Legislative Chamber deputies and 15 women were members of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis.

178. The offices of Speaker of the Legislative Chamber and Human Rights Commissioner of the Oliy Majlis are held by women. The chairpersons of the women's committees of the Republic of Karakalpakstan and the city and province of Tashkent, also women, are simultaneously deputy khokims of those areas.

179. In May-June 2011, elections of presiding officers (aksakals) of citizens' assemblies and their advisers were held, pursuant to article 105 of the Constitution. Of the 9,975 such officers elected, 1,264 (12.7 per cent) were women.

180. As part of the implementation of the Family Entrepreneurship Act and the Private Property Protection and Property Owners' Rights Guarantee Act, which were adopted in 2012, measures are taken to assist women who carry out an entrepreneurial activity.

181. The Women's Committee, in cooperation with the international project "Promoting the Economic Rights of Women in Uzbekistan" of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), provides financial support for specialists in the social adaptation centres of the Fergana and Kashkadarya provinces and the Republic of Karakalpakstan. In 2010, 13 million sum were spent on conducting training seminars for the staff of the said centres.

182. Since early 2011, the Women's Committee, in cooperation with the Central Bank and the German Savings Banks Foundation for International Cooperation, has been carrying out a partnership project to promote small and personal entrepreneurship among women. In 2011, through that partnership, information and counselling centres attached to women's committees were created to provide advice regarding enterprise development in six regions of the country (Karakalpakstan, Navoi, Surkhandarya, Syrdarya, Fergana and Tashkent province). In 2012, seven additional such centres were created in the regions, namely in Samarkand, Jizak, Bukhara, Khorezm, Kashkadarya, Andijan and Namangan.

183. The creation of the above centres and the issuance of loans in remote rural districts and makhallas have helped to spur the development of work-from-home for women, their training in new occupations and their acquisition of knowledge in the field of family entrepreneurship. Since these centres began operating, 4,000 women have received advice on the development of businesses and assistance in securing loans. Of those, 118 received loans totalling 1,781,086,000 sum from a revolving loan fund and started up their own businesses, while 457 women secured decent work. Loans were issued to eight small enterprises headed by and employing mainly women. Of the women having received advice in the centres, 2,655 were granted credits by Uzbek banks other than those participating in the project.

184. In 2012, as a result of the development of small businesses and micro-enterprises, 240,000 jobs were created for women, and loans totalling 905 billion sum were granted, including loans amounting to 450 billion sum extended to women to enable them to engage actively in entrepreneurial activities.

185. In 2012, microcredits totalling € 218,000 were granted to women entrepreneurs in the Republic of Karakalpakstan and the Navoi, Surkhandarya, Syrdarya and Tashkent provinces as starting capital from the revolving microcredit fund for private entrepreneurship, financed by the German Savings Banks Foundation for International Cooperation.

186. The Cabinet of Ministers Decision of 7 April 2012 on additional measures for improving family living conditions contributed to expanding consumer credit for families to

enable them to acquire more home and kitchen electrical appliances, which facilitate women's household work. Loans totalling 317 billion sum were extended to that purpose.

187. The enhancement of women's political literacy and culture and the development of multiparty politics in the country have contributed considerably to women's social and political activity. Between 2007 and 2010, the percentage of women increased from 43.6 to 48.6 per cent in the Social Democratic Party (Adolat), from 36.8 to 47.5 per cent in the Democratic National-Revival Party (Milliy Tiklanish), from 40.0 to 40.7 per cent in the People's Democratic Party and from 35.0 to 36.6 per cent in the Liberal Democratic Party.

188. Currently, the Women's Committee covers 168 district, 26 municipal and 14 provincial subdivisions, which number approximately 42,000 grassroots organizations active in, *inter alia*, enterprises and organizations (16,486), higher and special secondary educational institutions (1,608), schools and preschool establishments (14,748) and citizens' self-governance bodies (8,996).

189. A programme was developed in 2005 for the annual training of the chairpersons of district, municipal and provincial women's committees in the Academy of Public Administration attached to the Office of the President. In the period 2005–2011, all chairpersons of women's committees of the towns and districts of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, of the provinces and of the city of Tashkent received training and refresher training (200 chairpersons of women's committees of towns and districts every year).

190. Considerable importance is attached to the conduct of information campaigns and educational activities aimed at raising the level of awareness of gender equality issues in all areas of social life among the population, State central and local body representatives, judges and law-enforcement officers. Practically all State bodies, including the parliament, NGOs, citizens' self-governance bodies and legal study institutions as well as citizens participate in that work.

191. In the period 2010–2012, the Chambers of the Oliy Majlis conducted the parliamentary hearings and information and awareness-raising activities described below with regard to women's rights.

192. On 6 July 2011, the Senate Committee on Foreign Policy Matters met with the women's committee of the khokimiyat of Fergana province to discuss compliance of the provincial council of people's deputies with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. On 7 February 2012, a round table on "Legal guarantees of the family as the basic unit of society: a factor of increased prosperity", dedicated to the Year of the Family, was organized in the Legislative Chamber Committee on Democratic Institutions, NGOs and Citizens' Self-Governance Bodies. On 29 February 2012, an international conference on "The rights of women and children in the human rights system: international and national aspects" was organized by the Human Rights Commissioner of the Oliy Majlis, the National Centre for Human Rights and the "Regional Dialogue" NGO (Slovenia) in Uzbekistan, with the participation of the Ombudsman of Slovenia, Ms. Zdenka Cebasek Travnik. On 21 December 2012, the Senate Committee on Foreign Policy Matters organized a training seminar on gender development issues in cooperation with the Women's Committee and the UNDP project to support parliamentary development in Uzbekistan.

193. The Women's Committee of Uzbekistan organized 23 regional-level seminars on the subject of strengthening legal safeguards of women's rights in the country and in family life. The seminars discussed the provisions of the draft Act on equal rights and equal opportunities for women and men and the outline of the draft Domestic Violence prevention Act. The seminars were attended by more than 400 leading personalities from various bodies in the province, namely members of provincial, municipal and district

councils of people's deputies and representatives of the Women's Committee, province-level judicial, internal affairs and procuratorial authorities, the media and NGOs.

194. Developed by the National Centre for Human Rights and Women's Committee, the draft Act on equal rights and equal opportunities for women and men is being reviewed and revised after being examined by the international expert, Ms. Violeta Neubauer.

195. On 16–18 March 2011, an international training workshop was held on the implementation of the national plan of action for compliance with the concluding observations formulated by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women following consideration of the country's fourth periodic report regarding the implementation of the relevant Convention and on the tasks of internal affairs agencies. On 21 June 2011, a round table was organized by the Women's Committee and the office of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation in Uzbekistan on women's role in building the State and society. On 9 September 2011, the Women's Committee and the Human Rights Commissioner (Ombudsman) of the Oliy Majlis organized a round table on the roles of the Ombudsman, the Women's Committee and other public organizations in the development of civil society.

196. On 31 January 2012, the Centre for Support for Civic Initiatives together with the MARTA Resource Centre for Women (Latvia), the Italian Coordination of the European Women's Lobby (Italy) and the National Association of Non-Profit Non-Governmental Organizations of Uzbekistan (NANNOUZ) conducted a round table on the launching of the European Union project for increasing the potential and expanding the network of women's inquiry services — an integrated project for reducing the social marginalization of vulnerable women in Tashkent, Fergana and Andijan and enhancing their potential. On 27 March 2012, a seminar on national and international standards for women's rights was organized in the National Centre for Human Rights by the Centre and the academic lycée of the Tashkent State Law Institute.

197. On 10–13 April 2012, the Centre for Support for Civic Initiatives, the above National Association, the Women's Committee and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) organized trainers' training in the framework for developing and improving national monitoring of women's rights. On 25–27 April 2012, an international training seminar on preventing and investigating domestic violence offences was held in the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in cooperation with the OSCE project coordinator in Uzbekistan. On 10 May 2012, the National Centre for Human Rights in cooperation with the advanced training courses offered by the Office of the Procurator-General held a round table on implementing women's social rights protection standards in national legislation. On 28 August 2012, the Women's Committee held a meeting of the working group on monitoring the execution of the national plan of action to implement the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women following consideration of the related fourth periodic report. On 20–21 September 2012, the aforementioned National Association, in partnership with the Millennium social and legal rehabilitation centre for disabled young persons, organized a two-day session of training in support for disabled women in Central Asia countries. On 24 October 2012, the National Centre for Human Rights, the Office of the Procurator-General, the Women's Committee and the Central Penal Correction Department organized in the women's detention centre a round table on international and national experience in abiding by international law standards regarding the protection of the rights of female and juvenile prisoners.

198. In 2011, the procuratorial authorities held 184 appearances in the media (57 on television, 50 on the radio, 75 in newspapers and 2 in magazines) on the protection of women's rights. Moreover, 474 related events (236 talks, 205 round tables and 33 seminars) were organized.

199. NGOs not only participate in information and educational activities, but also contribute to the training of experts and trainers in women's rights and provide various social services to vulnerable groups of women.

200. For instance, the area of activity of the Centre for Support for Civic Initiatives includes addressing issues related to disseminating information on a healthy way of life, strengthening the family, enhancing women's professional, creative and intellectual potential, contributing to building women's decision-making capacities and helping to implement Security Council resolutions 1325, 1820, 1888 and 1889 at the national and regional levels.

201. Under the 2010–2015 country programme of UNFPA on cooperation between the Uzbek Government and the Fund, the above NGO launched work on the training of trainers for the country's regions with a view to improving legal literacy regarding family relations and national and international guarantees in the area of women's rights.

202. In 2010, the same NGO pursued the implementation of a project for strengthening the culture of respect for women's rights in Uzbekistan — an integrated 2009–2010 initiative for reducing the social marginalization of vulnerable women in Tashkent, Kokand and Navoi and enhancing their potential. The project was supported by the European Commission in the framework of the Institution-Building Partnership Programme (IBPP) of Technical Assistance to the Commonwealth of Independent States (TACIS)

203. Under the project, four seminars were carried out and attended in total by 100 participants; and, as from January 2010, business and social activity centres for women were organized in Tashkent, Kokand and Navoi. The centres, provided with a helpline, offered free advice by a jurist, a psychologist and a business consultant. The centres received 2,830 persons and 2,090 helpline calls; the psychologist advised 628 beneficiaries, the jurist 1,009 and the business consultant 1,099; and 152 master classes were carried out in the pilot areas. Of the total number of 1,971 requests for advice received by the business and social activity centres for women in Tashkent, Fergana and Andijan in the period May–November 2012, 1,255 were made through the helpline, while 840 were addressed to the jurist and 600 to the psychologist.

204. Citizens' self-governance bodies also take measures to protect the interests of women, enhance their role in public life, instil a spiritual and moral atmosphere in the family and educate the younger generation. In each makhalla there are mediation commissions which endeavour to resolve family problems, avert factors that may affect intra-family relations and lead to domestic violence, help to achieve peace and harmony in the family, and promote a healthy way of family life.

205. Broad-based outreach work on issues related to the protection of the rights of women is undertaken at makhalla level. In Andijan province, 1,452 persons, including 1,035 women, participated in meetings of the population with the "Xukukshunos ael" public organization. In Fergana province, 1,248 women participated in 27 seminars and 86 meetings dedicated to women's rights. In Kashkadarya province, 9,776 persons, including 4,888 women, participated in meetings on the topics of "Women and the law" and "Religion and women". In the city of Tashkent, more than 23,000 women participated in more than 450 seminars and round tables on the implementation of the national plan of action for the elimination of discrimination against women. In Navoi, 1,500 students participated in a seminar on men's and women's rights and responsibilities in domestic life. In Navoi province, 32,100 women and young persons participated in 825 meetings on the general topic of women's role in society. On 21–22 August 2012, more than 1,634 women volunteers attended, in Namangan province, a skills contest for the title of "model chairperson of a women's commission (a citizens' self-governance body)".

206. In 2012, the Makhalla Foundation carried out, in total, more than 45,000 information and awareness-raising activities attended by approximately 1,900 citizens, including women and young persons.

207. Makhalla-level surveys carried in the country with regard to the social condition of approximately 4 million families revealed that 442,000 families need financial assistance, approximately 383,000 families need medical assistance and more than 641 families need moral support. More than 185,000 poor families have received financial assistance totalling 1.5 billion sum.

208. Gender equality issues are addressed in the framework of, *inter alia*, the activities of the Forum of Culture and Arts of Uzbekistan Foundation (known as the Fund Forum).

209. A programme for the promotion of young women's employment has been implemented since 2010 in cooperation with the national "Women's Assembly" public association. Under the programme, sewing equipment is granted to girls, and training courses on the development of small business and home-based work are organized. In 2010, 35 young entrepreneurs received sewing machines and training certificates. A microfinancing programme for rural women, implemented since 2007, is mainly aimed at helping young female farmers new to the trade develop their activity by offering them appropriate business training and micro-loans. Approximately 10,998 jobs have been created through such loans. Since inception of the programme, loans totalling 32,346,863,000 sum have been granted to 3,234 participants.

210. The Makhalla Foundation, in cooperation with the "On life's behalf" women's association, the EUROPA DONNA-Uzbekistan breast cancer advocacy organisation and the Uzbekistan traditional medicine association, carries out projects for the prevention and treatment of oncological diseases among women. International conferences and forums on breast cancer and other oncological ailments, fund-raising events to finance action against such diseases, and other activities aimed at solving related problems have been carried out since 2009. A programme for the prevention, early diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer and the rehabilitation of women diagnosed with that disease was adopted early that year. International organizations and leading specialists and experts in that area contribute to the implementation of the projects in question.

Article 4

Conditions under which citizens' rights and freedoms may be restricted

211. Uzbek legislation proscribes discrimination under any circumstances, including emergency situations.

212. In Uzbekistan, the legal regulation of issues related to emergency situations is specifically addressed in:

- Article 78 (19) of the Constitution, which empowers the Chambers of the Oliy Majlis to confirm presidential decrees that declare, prolong or terminate states of emergency;
- Article 93 (19) of the Constitution, which empowers the President of the Republic to declare a state of emergency in the entire territory or particular localities of the country under exceptional circumstances (actual external threat, large-scale disorders, major disasters, natural calamities and epidemic diseases), and specifies that the conditions and procedure for declaring a state of emergency are regulated by law.

213. The Act on protection of the population and the territory from natural and anthropogenic emergencies, which entered into force on 20 August 1999, establishes the principles of protection of the population in emergency situations: a humanitarian approach, precedence of human life and health, transparency, provision of reliable and prompt information, and introduction of emergency-prevention measures. The Act spells out the basic functions of the central and local authorities in protecting the population and territory in emergencies, and the rights of citizens, foreign nationals and stateless persons in respect of protection of their life and health, access to State agencies, and compensation for harm done to health.

214. Cabinet of Ministers Decision No. 558 of 23 December 1997 on the State system for prevention and action in emergencies is crucial to the regulation of state of emergency issues. The Decision lays down the basic tasks, organization, composition and operational procedure of the mechanisms for emergency prevention and response; the specific role of the national and local authorities, enterprises, establishments and organizations regarding the protection of the population and territory in emergency situations; the relevant permanent administrative bodies; and the financial framework for handling emergency situations.

215. On 3 August 2007, the Government adopted the State Programme on Forecasting and Preventing Emergencies, the purpose of which is to ensure a guaranteed level of protection for the population and the territory against emergency situations, reduce the risks and mitigate the impact of accidents, disasters and natural calamities.

216. The activity of public bodies in protecting the population against natural or anthropogenic emergencies is also regulated by, *inter alia*, the Hazardous Industrial Installations Labour Protection Act of 28 September 2006, the Rescue Service and Status of Rescuers Act of 26 December 2008, the Fire Safety Act of 30 September 2009 and the Radiation Safety Act of 13 April 2011.

217. In articles 37 and 40, the Universal Military Duty and Military Service Act of 12 December 2002 establishes the responsibility of persons assigned to alternative service to engage in dealing with the effects of emergencies, disasters, natural calamities and other emergency situations.

218. Article 35 of the Media Act obliges the media to publish special communications regarding emergency situations or announcements by the competent State bodies.

219. In order to ensure the protection of the rights of citizens in the face of emergency situations, the Cabinet of Ministers adopted the Decisions of:

- 5 January 2010 on the procedure for involving rescue services and units in dealing with emergency situations;
- 24 August 2011 on further improvement of the State emergency prevention and action system;
- 19 July 2011 on the approval of a comprehensive programme for preparing the population for action in the face of natural or anthropogenic emergency situations resulting from earthquakes.

220. The Senate Defence and Security Committee held a joint session with the Kengash of people's deputies of:

- Samarkand province on 22 April 2011 to review the implementation of the Rescue Service and Status of Rescuers Act therein;

- Surkhandarya province on 16 November 2011 to review the issue of the protection of the population and the territory from natural and anthropogenic emergency situations therein;
- Andijan province on 22 December 2011 to review the implementation of the Fire Safety Act therein;
- Navoi province on 19 December 2012 to review the implementation of the Radiation Safety Act therein.

221. In view of the internal and external factors necessitating clear legal regulation of states of emergency and in accordance with the national plan of action to implement the recommendations of the Human Rights Council following consideration of the national report of Uzbekistan in the context of the universal periodic review, a draft State of Emergency Act was drawn up with the participation of the Ministry for Emergency Response, the Office of the Procurator-General, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ombudsman and the National Centre for Human Rights. Moreover, the need to adopt the said Act was stressed in a conference held on 8 April 2010 on human rights and freedoms in the context of a state of emergency.

222. In preparing the State of Emergency Act, attention was paid to General Comment 29 of the Human Rights Committee (on article 4 of the Covenant), which lays down the following clear rules:

- Under state of emergency conditions, derogations from the following articles are categorically precluded: article 6 (right to life); article 7 (prohibition of torture); article 8, paragraphs 1 and 2 (prohibition of slavery); article 11 (prohibition of imprisonment because of non-fulfilment of a contractual obligation); article 15 (compliance with legality in the field of criminal law); article 16 (recognition of everyone as a person before the law); and article 18 (freedom of thought, conscience and religion);
- Any restrictions on human rights and freedoms that are permitted under international law in a state of emergency context must comply with the principle that discrimination on the grounds of race, colour, gender, language, religion or social origin is inadmissible.

223. Preparation and adoption of the State of Emergency Act will mean:

- Establishing basic and framework legislation defining the principles of State policy on human rights safeguards in a state of emergency;
- Implementing norms and principles for the protection of human rights and freedoms under state of emergency conditions within national legislation;
- Defining the “state of emergency” concept, forms, purposes and tasks and the grounds for declaring a state of emergency;
- Determining the powers of the Head of State and supreme legislative body;
- Setting out clear procedures for organizing and coordinating action in dealing with emergency situations;
- Specifying interrelations between the State and international organizations;
- Taking measures to improve legislation and the activity of State bodies regarding the protection of human rights and freedoms in the event of a state of emergency;
- Informing the population on the legal framework pertaining to a state of emergency.

224. The above Act and of the related strategy, including special measures during a state of emergency, are designed by an interdepartmental working group directed by the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

Article 5

Prohibition of unwarranted restriction of the rights of citizens

225. The State's policy is based on the inadmissibility of any unwarranted restriction of the rights and freedoms of citizens. There can be no such restrictions based on gender, race, ethnic background, religion, language, origins, opinions, or personal or social status.

226. Article 19 of the Constitution establishes the following principle: "The rights and freedoms of citizens embodied in the Constitution and the law are immutable. No one may deprive a citizen of these rights and freedoms or restrict them except by order of a court." The human rights of liberty and security of person, freedom of movement and freedom to hold and express opinions may not be restricted except on grounds established by the law, the supremacy of which is enshrined in article 15 of the Constitution.

227. The guidelines for human rights legislation and for fundamental rules that public bodies must take into account in ensuring the realization of human rights are laid down in the Constitution as follows:

- Equality of citizens' rights before the law and in court; and non-discrimination in relation to gender, race, ethnic background, language, religion, social origin, views, and personal or public status (art. 18);
- Privileges accorded solely on the basis of the law and the principles of social justice (art. 18);
- Inalienable individual rights and freedoms under the Constitution and the law; and prohibition of denying citizens' rights or restricting them without a court decision (art. 19);
- Legal protection and cover of Uzbek citizens at home and abroad (art. 22);
- Respect for the rights and freedoms of foreign citizens and stateless persons in accordance with the standards of international law (art. 23);
- Rights to freedom and privacy denied (through arrest or pretrial detention) only on the basis of the law (art. 25);
- Presumption of innocence and prohibition of torture and violence (art. 26);
- Non-subjection to medical or scientific experiments without consent of the person concerned (art. 26);
- Inviolability of private life, the home, personal correspondence and telephone conversations and restriction of such rights only in cases and according to procedures established by law (art. 27);
- Freedom of movement within, into and out of the national territory subject to limitations provided for by the law (art. 28);
- Right to freedom of thought, speech and opinion restricted only on the basis of the law (art. 29);
- Safeguarding by the State of the citizens' right to information (art. 29);
- Guarantee of the right to hold rallies, meetings and demonstrations in accordance with national legislation (art. 33);

- Prohibition of infringing the rights and freedoms of opposition minorities (art. 34);
- Right to lodge complaints with the authorities according to the law (art. 35);
- Legally guaranteed confidentiality of bank deposits (art. 36);
- Legally guaranteed protection from unemployment and forced labour (art. 37);
- State-guaranteed right to rest and social security in accordance with the law (arts. 38 and 39);
- Right to complain to the courts against illegal acts committed by public bodies or officials (art. 44);
- Guaranteed freedom of economic activity, enterprise and labour; equal rights and legal protection of all forms of ownership; and inviolability of private property (art. 53).

228. The above constitutionally guaranteed standards and principles underpinning human rights and freedoms in Uzbekistan are aimed at facilitating, as the State has an obligation to do, the realization of those entitlements of the citizens. The personal rights, freedoms and responsibilities enshrined in the Constitution and national law define the legal status of a citizen.

229. The current legislation reflects the aforementioned constitutional principles. The Act of 11 July 2007 on amendments and additions to certain legislative acts of the Republic of Uzbekistan in connection with the transfer to the courts of the authority to order remand in custody establishes the procedure for the imposition of remand in custody by the courts as a preventive measure, and the judicial procedure for extending a period of remand in custody. That procedure includes necessary procedural safeguards against infringing constitutional rights and personal freedoms in criminal proceedings. Thus:

- Remand in custody as a preventive measure may be ordered only in respect of a detained suspect or a person formally charged with an intentional offence for which the Criminal Code prescribes a punishment of deprivation of liberty for a period of more than three years, or an offence committed through negligence for which the Criminal Code prescribes a punishment of deprivation of liberty for a period of more than five years.
- Only in exceptional cases may such a preventive measure be ordered in respect of intentional offences for which the prescribed punishment is deprivation of liberty for a period of no more than three years or offences committed through negligence for which the prescribed punishment is deprivation of liberty for a period of no more than five years.
- Remand in custody as a preventive measure may be ordered on application by a procurator, or an investigator with a procurator's consent, in cases where it is impossible to order another, less stringent preventive measure.
- A list has been established of the persons who must participate in the consideration of an application for remand in custody, namely the procurator, the defence counsel (if one participates in the proceedings) and the detained suspect or accused person. That person's participation in the court's consideration of the application is obligatory. Moreover, the adversarial principle is observed and the right of the suspect or the accused to a defence is ensured. That is an important procedural safeguard. Only where the whereabouts of the accused is unknown may the application for remand in custody be considered without his or her participation.
- The period of detention is strictly limited to 72 hours and may be extended by a court for a further 48 hours on application by the parties, namely the procurator, the

detained suspect or the accused, or their defence counsel. That period is intended for the parties to submit additional evidence supporting or opposing remand in custody. No further extension of the period of detention is permitted.

- Provision has been made for a procedure for appealing against a judge's decision to grant or reject an application for remand in custody.
- The Act specifies limits on the periods for which an accused person or a suspect may be remanded in custody and the procedure for extending such a period. That is an important safeguard of the lawful interests of the individual.

230. Currently, remand in custody during the investigation of an offence may not exceed three months. That period may be extended by a court, on application by a procurator, to five, seven or nine months or, only in exceptional cases involving particularly complicated investigations, to one year.

231. In order to strengthen the protection of detainees' rights and based on the experience of developed countries, the following provisions were added to article 224 (1) of the Code of Criminal Procedure pursuant to an act of 31 December 2008: "Where it is established, directly or from eyewitness accounts, that one of the grounds for detention referred to in article 221 of the Code exists, an internal affairs officer or other competent person shall inform the suspect that he or she is being arrested on suspicion of committing an offence and shall require him or her to proceed to the nearest police station or other law enforcement agency. The internal affairs officer or other competent person shall also explain to the detainee his or her procedural rights to make a telephone call or to inform a lawyer or close relative, to have a defence counsel, and to refuse to give testimony, and shall also inform him or her that any testimony he or she gives may be used as evidence in a criminal case against him or her. The person carrying out the arrest shall identify himself or herself and, where requested to do so by the detainee, shall produce an identity document."

232. Pursuant to the new wording of articles 46 and 48 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, persons accused or suspected of a crime are entitled to make a telephone call or to inform a lawyer or close relative that they have been detained or arrested and where they are being held; to have a defence counsel from the time of their arrest or as soon as they have been informed of the decision to declare them suspects, and to meet with him or her in private, without restriction as to the number or duration of such meetings, except in the cases provided for in article 230 (2) of the Code of Criminal Procedure; to give testimony or refuse to do so and to be informed that their testimony may be used as evidence in a criminal case against them; to conduct their own defence; and to take copies of materials and documents at their own expense.

233. With regard to conditions of detention, the Pretrial Detention during Criminal Proceedings Act, adopted on 29 September 2011, establishes a clear procedure and conditions of detention for persons arrested on suspicion of committing an offence and persons who have been remanded in custody.

234. Of particular significance regarding the procedural rights of participants in criminal proceedings were the adoption of the Forensics Act of 1 June 2010 and the additions made to the Code of Criminal Procedure, which clearly specify, *inter alia*, the rights and duties of experts taking part in proceedings, the requirements for experts carrying out forensic examinations, types of forensic examinations, the procedure for repeated, commissioned and comprehensive forensic examinations, and the rules for the preparation of expert findings (articles 67, 174–178 and 182–188 of the Code of Criminal Procedure).

235. Pursuant to article 66 of the Criminal Code, a person who commits a first offence that does not pose a serious risk to the public or is a less serious offence may be exempted from liability if he or she surrenders to the authorities, sincerely repents, actively helps to

elucidate the crime and makes reparation for any injury caused. In the cases specifically referred to in the relevant article of the special part of the Code, an offender may be exempted from liability where he or she actively repents of the offence.

Article 6

Realization of the right to life as an inherent human right

Commutation of the death sentence to a long prison sentence or to life imprisonment

236. Under article 13 of the Constitution, democracy in Uzbekistan is based on universal principles according to which “the ultimate value is the human being, human life, freedom, honour, dignity and other inalienable rights”.

237. Under article 24 of the Constitution, “the right to life is the inalienable right of every human being. Any infringement thereof constitutes the most serious crime”.

238. On 1 August 2008, the Presidential Decree on abolition of the death penalty was adopted as part of the reform of the law and the system of justice and the liberalization of the penal system. Pursuant to that Decree, amendments and additions were made to criminal and penal enforcement law to replace capital punishment with deprivation of liberty.

239. Since 2005, not a single death sentence handed down earlier has been carried out.

240. Pursuant to the above amendments, death sentences were converted to life or long-term imprisonment and the sentencing court was entrusted with informing the prisoner’s relatives accordingly.

241. Under article 50 of the Criminal Code, long-term imprisonment lasts 20–25 years and may be imposed for intentional homicide with aggravating circumstances (art. 97 (2)) and terrorism (art. 155 (3)).

242. Women, minors and men aged over 60 may not be sentenced to long-term imprisonment.

243. Men sentenced to long-term imprisonment serve their sentences:

- If they are first-time offenders having committed an intentional serious or extremely serious crime, in ordinary-regime penal colonies;
- If they have already served a prison sentence for an intentional crime and are serving a sentence for a new intentional crime, in strict-regime penal colonies;
- If they are particularly dangerous recidivists or are serving a life sentence or their life sentence has been converted to imprisonment by way of pardon, in special-regime penal colonies.

244. Life sentence enforcement procedures and conditions are laid down in chapter 24, articles 136–139, of the Penal Enforcement Code.

245. Persons sentenced to life imprisonment are held under separate conditions in special regime penal colonies. They serve their sentences under the special-regime rules as adjusted by the provisions of the legislation. They are housed in cells for a maximum of two prisoners. At their request, or when necessary, they may be housed alone.

246. Life prisoners serve their sentences under a strict, ordinary or light regime. They serve at least the first 10 years under the strict regime. Thereafter, prisoners with clean disciplinary records may be transferred to the ordinary regime.

247. When they have served at least 15 years and if they have clean disciplinary records, they may be transferred to the light regime.

248. The standard area of living space for life prisoners may not be less than four square metres.

249. Life prisoners serving their sentences under the strict regime are entitled to purchase every month food products and personal necessities in an amount of up to 75 per cent of the minimum wage established by law with funds drawn from their personal accounts; and every year receive one short visit, one telephone call, one parcel or package and one postal wrapper of printed matter.

250. Life prisoners serving their sentences under the ordinary regime are entitled to purchase every month food products and personal necessities in an amount of up to 100 per cent of the minimum wage established by law with funds drawn from their personal accounts; and every year receive one extended and one short visits, two telephone calls, two parcels or packages and two postal wrappers of printed matter.

251. Life prisoners serving their sentences under the less-strict regime are entitled to purchase every month food products and personal necessities in an amount of up to 150 per cent of the minimum wage established by law with funds drawn from their personal accounts; and every year receive one extended and two short visits, three telephone calls, three parcels or packages and three postal wrappers of printed matter.

252. Regardless of the regime, life prisoners are entitled to a walk of up to one and a half hours per week.

Responsibility for causing harm to the life and health of persons

253. Under criminal law, perpetrators of crimes involving harm to human life and health are subject to criminal prosecution.

254. According to Ministry of Internal Affairs data, in the period 2010–2012 the following numbers of persons were prosecuted for such crimes:

<i>Criminal Code</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Number of persons prosecuted</i>
1. Article 104 Intentional serious bodily injury	2010	1 471
	2011	1 525
	2012	1 479
2. Article 112 Threat of murder or violence	2010	73
	2011	67
	2012	61
3. Article 113 Propagation of venereal diseases or HIV/AIDS	2010	10
	2011	19
	2012	20
4. Article 117 Failure to assist a person in danger	2010	89
	2011	61
	2012	69

255. In 2012, criminal charges were brought against 641 persons for causing harm to human life or health (under articles 97–103 of the Criminal Code).

256. Of the persons found guilty, 16 were sentenced to punitive deduction of earnings, 581 to deprivation of liberty and 11 to fines and other types of penalty.

Preservation of public health

257. Health system reform has been a key goal of State policy ever since Uzbekistan became independent. The reform years produced a coherent statutory framework for the development of a national model for a health-care system, based on 14 acts, 20 presidential decrees and decisions and more than 100 Government decisions focused on the protection of the rights of women and children, concern for the younger generation and their health, prevention of infectious diseases, improvement of the primary health-care system and effective specialized care using high technology.

258. The primary health-care reform measures brought qualified medical assistance closer to even the remotest communities. Currently, health care is provided to the country's population through approximately 3,200 rural medical centres. They use modern facilities, instruments and laboratory equipment secured through the "Health-1" and "Health-2" projects, supported by the World Bank, with a total cost of more than US\$ 76 million. Recourse to modern diagnostic, prevention and treatment technologies and extensive use of modern equipment has naturally reduced the number of hospitalizations. It has decreased by 30 per cent. In the last three years alone, the number of persons seeking assistance at rural medical centres increased 1.6 times, which indicates the population's growing confidence in the primary health-care system.

259. A key way of reducing children's morbidity consists in early detection of congenital and hereditary diseases to prevent birth of children disabled since childhood. To that end, a State programme for monitoring the health of mothers and children, launched on the initiative of the President of the Republic, has been carried out since 1998. In all of the country's regions, modern screening centres with appropriate laboratory and diagnostic equipment and qualified personnel have been organized to prevent congenital and hereditary diseases. Annual screening of more than 30 per cent of all pregnant women and practically 100 per cent of women in a high-risk group averts the birth of more than 2,000 children with such diseases per year. Thus, the indicator of such births per 1,000 live births decreased from 4.95 in 2000 to 2.88 in 2010, declining by a factor of 1.7 in 10 years.

260. Mandatory premarital medical examinations for a series of diseases, such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and psychological, drug-related and venereal disorders, have been introduced in order to develop healthy families and reduce the number of potential hereditary disease cases in the country.

261. Under a special State programme, budget funds are allocated to the acquisition of multivitamin preparations used to revitalize more than 400,000 pregnant women per year.

262. Programmes for improving nutrition through flour fortification, salt iodination and provision of vitamin products for children up to 5 are implemented with success and have contributed to better growth and development among children, lower morbidity indicators among mothers and children and a decrease of anaemia among women of child-bearing age by a factor of 2.5 in the last 10 years.

263. In endeavouring to raise the general level of health, considerable significance is attached to measures against controllable infectious diseases. Currently, immunization of all children up to 2 years of age is ensured under the State budget. Child immunization coverage is such that infections such as poliomyelitis, diphtheria and neonatal tetanus are no longer reported, while the number of cases of measles, epidemic parotitis and viral hepatitis has substantially declined. In view of unfavourable developments in many countries, including European ones, measles and German measles immunization weeks

were twice organized preventively in 2012, covering approximately 99.4 per cent of children aged up to 12.

264. The creation of a largely new system for emergency medical care constitutes a key achievement of the national health-care model. Measures have been taken to ensure that emergency medical care is provided with modern diagnostic and treatment equipment by the national emergency medical care centre and 13 provincial branches and 173 district divisions of that centre. Emergency in- and out-patient services are provided to more than 1.8 million patients each year. More than 7 million calls per year are made through recourse to the “03” emergency medical assistance hotline and the aeromedical service. In the last 10 years, timely provision of emergency medical care increased by 40 per cent. Pursuant to a presidential decision on improving the emergency medical aid system, measures have been taken to ensure that at least 10 per cent of the relevant infrastructure is renovated each year.

265. Considerable efforts are made to combat diseases with social repercussions, such as tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS. Basic indicators for tuberculosis have been stabilized in recent years. A strategic programme to prevent tuberculosis and reduce the related morbidity in the period 2003–2008 helped to slash tuberculosis-related mortality and morbidity by, respectively, 50.4 and 22.5 per cent. A national programme against tuberculosis, 2010–2015, marks a new stage: it provides for improving the regulatory framework and building, reconstructing or fully renovating or repairing 44 anti-tuberculosis establishments at a cost exceeding US\$ 100 million and upgrading them with modern medical equipment at a cost of US\$ 22 million.

266. Uzbekistan strictly observes the obligations undertaken with regard to the Millennium Development Goals. In cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO), the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and UNICEF, large-scale initiatives are undertaken to contain and reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS. As a result of coordinated counter-epidemic and preventive action, Uzbekistan is the first country in the region to have not only stabilized HIV/AIDS indicators, but also reversed their formerly growing trend.

267. National and regional HIV/AIDS prevention centres and inter-district laboratories with state-of-the-art laboratory and diagnostic equipment have been created at a cost of more than US\$ 10.0 million, funded from the State budget. Considerable work is carried out for prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission (PMTCT) and 100 percent coverage of pregnant women by voluntary testing for HIV/AIDS has been achieved. Specific antiretroviral treatment is available for HIV-positive pregnant women and their children.

268. In the period 2010–2012, the Government took various measures to strengthen the material and technical infrastructure and the legal framework for further developing the system of protection against HIV/AIDS and stabilizing the situation in that area. A national commission for the coordination of measures against HIV/AIDS, headed by the Prime Minister, has been created and attached to the Cabinet of Ministers. Under a national plan of action against the propagation of HIV/AIDS, 2009–2011, State funding for relevant programmes has substantially increased, attaining US\$ 9.0 million in 2010 and ensuring the provision of national and regional HIV/AIDS prevention centres with appropriate equipment under the State budget.

269. Assistance in the area of drugs is accessible to the population through a network of specialized detoxification agencies, comprising a national drug therapy centre, 15 drug- and alcohol-related treatment centres (including 13 with in-patient departments), 2 drug therapy hospitals and 11 drug therapy departments in psychiatric hospitals. The drug- and alcohol-related treatment centres include sections for adolescents. There are in total 1,812

(1,730) beds for drug abuse treatment, including 754 (724) beds for obligatory treatment, while 174 drug therapy units operate in the central health centres of all rural districts.

270. Drug therapy complies with the “standards for diagnosis, treatment and medico-social rehabilitation of patients with drug-related illnesses” approved through Minister of Health Order No. 310 of 17 November 2011. Since 2010, social workers are assisted by former patients who have completed a rehabilitation programme. Detoxification establishments currently employ 12 medical psychologists and 29 social workers.

271. Health system reform has clearly brought about positive trends regarding the quality of life of the population. Thus, life expectation increased from 67 years in 1990 to 73.1 years in 2010 (75 years in the case of women), while the overall mortality rate declined in the last 20 years from 6.1 to 4.9 per thousand.

Article 7

Prohibition of torture and cruel treatment or punishment

272. Uzbekistan has an appropriate legislative framework for the prohibition and eradication of torture.

273. In order to implement articles 1 and 4 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, a new version of article 235 of the Criminal Code took effect pursuant to an act of 30 August 2003. In the first part of that article, torture is defined as follows: “Use of torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, namely illegal exertion of mental or physical pressure on a suspect, accused person, witness, victim or other party to criminal proceedings, or on a convict serving a sentence, or on close relatives of the above, by a person carrying out an initial inquiry or pretrial investigation, a procurator or other employee of a law-enforcement agency by means of threats, blows, beatings, cruel treatment, victimization, infliction of suffering or other illegal acts in order to obtain from them information of any kind or a confession, or to punish them arbitrarily for action they have taken, or to coerce them into action of any kind.”

274. The definition of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment provided in article 235 of the Criminal Code fully meets the requirements of the above Convention.

275. The use of violence against military personnel is prohibited by the following articles of the Criminal Code: 235 (use of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment); 282 (death threats or threats to use force against a superior); 283 (battery or minor or moderate bodily harm in connection with the performance of military service obligations); and 285 (violation of the statutory rules governing relations among military personnel of equal rank, in the form of systematic abuse, cruel treatment, minor bodily harm with impairment of health or moderate bodily harm, or unlawful deprivation of liberty).

276. The prohibition of the use of torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment is also included in the Rights of the Child Safeguards Act. Under paragraph 4 of article 10, “Safeguards of the freedom and inviolability of a child’s person”, “the State shall ensure the inviolability of a child’s person and home and the confidentiality of children’s correspondence and shall protect children from all forms of exploitation, including physical, mental and sexual violence, torture or other forms of cruel, harsh or degrading treatment, sexual abuse, involvement in criminal activity or prostitution”.

277. Under article 56 of the Criminal Code, the use of particular cruelty in the commission of an offence is considered an aggravating circumstance. The Criminal Code

establishes liability for offences involving cruel treatment of the victim, characterized *inter alia* by elements of torture, namely other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment of the person.

278. Article 103 of the Criminal Code, “Incitement to suicide”, establishes liability for inciting a person to commit or attempt to commit suicide, through cruel treatment or systematic humiliation or degrading treatment of a person not financially or otherwise dependent on the perpetrator.

279. Article 110 of the Criminal Code, “Cruel treatment”, is also directly related to torture, in that it refers to systematic beatings or other acts having the character of cruel treatment, which may include three forms of ill-treatment: torture, inhuman treatment or degrading treatment.

280. Article 138 of the Criminal Code, “Forcible unlawful deprivation of liberty”, states that “forcible unlawful deprivation of a person’s liberty shall be punishable with a fine of up to 50 times the minimum wage or punitive deduction of earnings for up to three years or deprivation of liberty for up to three years. The same act shall be punishable with deprivation of liberty for three to five years if accompanied by:

- Infliction of physical suffering;
- Detention in conditions that pose a threat to life or health”.

281. Under the new Pretrial Detention during Criminal Proceedings Act of 29 September 2011, the use of torture is prohibited, for the first time in legislative practice. Article 7 of the Act, which specifies the legal situation of detainees and remand prisoners, provides that “the use of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment against detainees and remand prisoners shall be prohibited”.

282. Article 7 of the Criminal Code, “Principle of humanity”, states that the purpose of punishment and other legal sanctions shall not be to cause physical suffering or to undermine human dignity.

283. Under article 17 of the Police Operations Act, no officers engaged in police operations may use violence, threats, blackmail or other unlawful means violating a person’s rights, freedom or lawful interests.

284. With a view to implementing the recommendation formulated in paragraph 10 of the Committee’s concluding observations, a study was made of other countries’ legislation related to torture. It was found that the wording of article 235 of the Criminal Code meets the requirements of the provisions of article 7 of the Covenant and of article 1 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

285. The prohibition of the use of torture, contained in national law, is absolute and admits no exceptions. Persons responsible for using torture are prosecuted under article 235 of the Criminal Code.

286. Under article 17 of the Criminal Code, judges, procurators, and officials carrying out initial inquiries or pretrial investigations are under an obligation to respect the honour and dignity of persons involved in a case. No one may be subjected to torture, violence or other cruel, humiliating or degrading treatment. Under article 15 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, criminal proceedings must be instituted if there are sufficient grounds to suspect the commission of a crime, including torture.

287. Every prisoner is entitled to personal security. If his or her personal security is threatened, a prisoner may request any official of the penal establishment to ensure that

security. That official must without delay take measures to that effect. Moreover, the head of the penal establishment must take appropriate action to remove the threat in question.

288. An official investigation is carried out into every identified case of use of physical force, ill-treatment or violation of the rights and lawful interests of persons deprived of liberty. Senior officials of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Central Penal Correction Department carry out a thorough review. Perpetrators are subjected to severe disciplinary measures and are usually dismissed from the internal affairs agencies, while the official review file must be handed over to the procuratorial authorities.

289. The responsibilities of prison system staff regarding the examination and timely treatment of prisoners' complaints are governed by the Citizens' Applications Act and the Pretrial Detention during Criminal Proceedings Act and laid down in the departmental regulations of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

290. In 2003, a single procedure was introduced in all units of the Ministry of Internal Affairs for the registration of all communications from citizens, including complaints and petitions concerning the use of prohibited methods of investigation and treatment of remand prisoners or those detained in penal institutions. Such communications are subjected to a special verification procedure.

291. Moreover, with a view to providing a timely response to citizens' reports of use of torture, all penal institutions have been provided with helplines that citizens can use to make complaints to the head of the institution or an official.

292. Every penal institution has a box for complaints addressed to the Procurator's Office. The box may be opened only by procuratorial staff. The procuratorial authorities, which monitor compliance with the law in detention facilities and remand centres, decide directly on the response to be given to such complaints.

293. The outcome of the consideration of any proposals, statements or complaints must be communicated to the prisoner concerned against receipt not later than three days from their arrival in the establishment and is placed in the inmate's personal file.

294. To ensure that the physical condition of persons held in places of detention is monitored, and that any unlawful treatment of them is detected, in 2004 the Central Penal Correction Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs introduced regular training for medical and other staff of the prison system in new methods for identifying signs of torture. The training programme includes the study of the Manual on the Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (the Istanbul Protocol).

295. The Central Penal Correction Department, together with WHO and the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims, ran an educational project to train prison medical staff in the identification, evaluation and documentation of alleged cases of torture. The project trained 97 medical professionals (69 doctors and 28 mid-grade medical staff).

296. Since 2010, the forensic medicine department of the Tashkent Institute of Advanced Medical Education of the Ministry of Health has provided in-service training for prison physicians. Trainees attend a course on forensic aspects of identifying medical and biological signs of torture and unlawful treatment.

297. Since 2004, more than 190 prison medical staff have been trained in identifying, evaluating and documenting cases of torture and other forms of unlawful treatment, and in ways of treating and rehabilitating the persons referred to them. In the period 2010–2011, 55 doctors from Ministry of Internal Affairs prisons were given certified training in workshops on the forensic aspects of determining biological signs of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. In the period 2010–2012, in the

faculty of anatomical pathology and forensic medicine of the Tashkent Institute of Advanced Medical Education, special training courses and single training sessions are conducted for physicians of the Central Penal Correction Department on identifying medical and biological signs of torture. In 2010 and 2011, the said courses were attended by, respectively, 35 and 40 such physicians.

298. The medical staff of the establishment proceeds immediately with a physical examination of any detainees having received bodily injuries, notes the findings in the out-patient chart and draws up a relevant report. Moreover, an internal investigation is conducted and the file, regardless of the results, is transmitted to the local procurator for decision. The final conclusion as to whether torture or other prohibited forms of treatment were applied is incumbent on the forensic experts of the Ministry of Health.

299. Of the 27 complaints received in 2011 by the Ombudsman for prohibited methods of mental or physical pressure by law-enforcement agencies, 20 were accepted for investigation and transmitted to the Office of the Procurator-General and the Ministry of Internal Affairs for verification. In the period 2012–2013, of the 13 complaints received, 4 were accepted for investigation.

300. In 2010, of the 51 complaints received which protested the use of prohibited methods in conducting inquiries, 37 were accepted for investigation and transmitted to the Office of the Procurator-General and the Ministry of Internal Affairs for verification.

301. According to the records of the Office of the Procurator-General, the number of statements and communications registered by procuratorial authorities regarding unlawful acts by law-enforcement personnel was 3,317 in 2010, 3,204 in 2011 and 3,216 in 2012.

302. After investigation into the 303 (92+141+70) statements and communications registered in total with regard to torture and other degrading forms of treatment, criminal charges for torture (under article 235 of the Criminal Code) were brought in 22 (7+10+5) cases, of which 9 (6) involved law-enforcement personnel.

303. In the first nine months of 2012, procuratorial authorities registered, according to the records, 2,331 statements and communications regarding unlawful acts by law-enforcement personnel. Of the staff concerned, 1,926 worked for the Ministry of Internal Affairs, 205 for the State Tax Committee, 69 for the Ministry of Justice, 28 for the courts, 28 for procuratorial authorities, 24 for the State Customs Committee, 18 for the Department for Combating Tax and Currency Crimes and Money Laundering, 2 for the National Security Service and 31 for other bodies.

304. Of the total number of registered statements and communications, 42 regarded torture and other forms of degrading treatment. After investigation into those matters, in the first nine months of 2012 criminal charges for torture (under article 235 of the Criminal Code) were brought in four cases.

305. In accordance with chapter 29 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, the offenders were removed from their posts upon indictment.

306. Criminal charges for torture were brought against 13 persons in 2012, 15 in 2011 and 16 in 2010.

307. For that crime, 3 persons were sentenced to punitive deduction of earnings (compared to 3 in 2011 and 0 in 2010) and 35 persons were sentenced to deprivation of liberty (compared to 10 in 2011 and 1 in 2010).

308. According to Supreme Court data, 5 persons were found guilty of torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment in four criminal cases in 2010, 13 persons in seven criminal cases in 2011 and 12 persons in four criminal cases in 2012.

309. Of the above offenders, 15 worked for internal affairs bodies, 1 for the Central Penal Correction Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and 4 for other bodies.

310. The population and the representatives of State bodies are informed of the provisions of international treaties and national legislation related to torture, in order to prevent and eliminate that phenomenon.

311. On 31 May 2011, a national academic and practical conference took place on incorporating the Convention against Torture into domestic legislation (article 235 of the Criminal Code). The event was attended by representatives of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis, the Office of the Procurator-General, the Ministry of Justice and the Central Penal Correction Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The following international experts were invited to the conference: Ms. Heather Huhtanen (United States); Mr. Friedrich Schwindt (Germany); Mr. Pierre Pouchairet, Central Asia regional police attaché of the Embassy of France, based in Almaty, Kazakhstan; Mr. Marcin Wydra (Poland); and Mr. Marc Labalme (France). In March 2011, the Human Rights Commissioner (Ombudsman) of the Oliy Majlis carried out an academic and practical conference on priorities in the implementation of the Convention against Torture. On 26 September 2011, the Centre for the Professional Development of Legal Specialists of the Ministry of Justice and the Central Investigative Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs held a round table on certain issues involved in incorporating the standards of the Convention against Torture into Uzbek law.

312. On 13–16 March 2012, in cooperation with UNODC, a training seminar was carried out on applying international standards and national law as regards torture and inhuman treatment of suspects and defendants.

313. Information workshops and conferences have been introduced into the advanced training courses offered by the Office of the Procurator-General. On 15 February 2010, an academic and practical conference was held in the city of Fergana on liability for torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, as a result of which a textbook was published on the same topic. On 14 March 2011, an academic and practical conference on priorities in the implementation of the Convention against Torture was organized jointly with the Ombudsman.

314. In 2011, staff of the Department for Human Rights Protection and Legal Support and other units and local agencies of the Ministry of Internal Affairs made 1,483 media appearances, including 461 on television, 546 on the radio, 454 in the newspapers and 22 in magazines. A total of 2,072 information events were organized, including 954 lectures, 861 round tables, 235 workshops and 22 academic and practical conferences. Conferences, workshops and round tables were held in 945 urban areas and 1,053 rural areas and were attended by 124,068 persons. A total of 77 publications were produced, including 24 study guides, 15 reference books, 39 compilations of presentations and reports, 188 visual aids, including 150 different posters, and 27 booklets.

315. The television and radio programmes *Khaët va konun*, *Bir zhinoyat izidan* and *Konun khimoyasida*, the television and radio information programmes *Okshom tulkinlarida* and *Akhborot*, and the *Ogokh buling* special television and radio clips deal with issues relating to torture, violence and human trafficking, particularly involving women and children.

316. In 2010, 116,442 initiatives took place to raise awareness of the law (32,677 in the first three months of 2011), including 97,877 (26,649) conferences, workshops and lectures, and 21,565 (6,028) television and radio appearances and articles published in the print media. Of the total number of initiatives, 12,890 (3,916) related to human rights protection, including the prevention of torture and the punishment of the perpetrators. In 2011, 9,765 such initiatives took place in the media.

317. The Ministry of Internal Affairs and its local agencies made 1,483 media appearances, organized 2,072 information events (seminars, conferences, round tables and appearances) among the population, published 78 educational titles and study guides, and produced 358 visual aids, including on the prevention of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Article 8

Prohibition of slavery and the slave trade

Prohibition of forced labour

318. In article 37, the Constitution guarantees the citizens' right to work. Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of work, to fair working conditions, and to protection against unemployment in accordance with the procedures established by law.

319. Forced labour, except in execution of a court sentence or in other instances specified by law, is prohibited.

320. With a view to developing the constitutional norms that safeguard every person's right to work, to free choice of work, to fair working conditions and to protection against unemployment, Uzbekistan has adopted, *inter alia*, the Labour Code, the Employment Act, the Occupational Safety Act, the Farming Act and the Household Plots (Dekhkan) Act.

321. State employment policy and measures adopted to ensure that everyone wanting to work or seeking work finds employment are underpinned by the following principles, *inter alia*:

- Ensuring that equal opportunities in exercising the right to work and to free choice of employment are enjoyed by all citizens regardless of gender, age, race, ethnic background, language, social origin, property and employment status, views on religion, beliefs and other characteristics not related to employees' qualifications and the results of their work;
- Supporting and promoting workplace and entrepreneurial initiatives, and building the people's capacities for productive and creative work as a guarantee of decent working and living conditions;
- Ensuring the voluntary nature of work;
- Providing social safeguards with regard to employment and protection against unemployment;
- Pursuing employment initiatives that are coordinated and integrated with other areas of economic and social policy.

322. Although not a party to the Slavery Convention, Uzbekistan complies with its fundamental provisions. Forced and involuntary labour are prohibited in Uzbekistan.

323. All forms of forced labour are prohibited under Uzbek law. Forced labour, namely coercion to carry out work under threat of any type of punishment (including as a means of maintaining discipline in the workplace) is prohibited. Work that must be performed on the basis of legislative instruments concerning military or alternative service, in emergencies, in pursuance of a court sentence that has entered into force, or in other circumstances provided for by law are not considered forced labour.

324. Pursuant to articles 43 and 64 of the Criminal Code, a person convicted by a court may be sentenced to punitive deduction of earnings, namely compulsory work, performed in accordance with the court's sentence in the person's place of work or in other places

determined by the authority supervising the enforcement of the sentence, whereby the State withholds 10–30 per cent of the remuneration. Such work may be ordered for a period of six months to three years and may not be imposed on persons of pensionable age, persons unfit to work, pregnant women, women on maternity leave, or serving members of the armed forces.

325. At the 99th, 100th and 101st sessions of the International Labour Conference (ILC), held respectively in June of 2010, 2011 and 2012, the delegation of Uzbekistan presented reports containing specific and detailed information on the work accomplished regarding the implementation of the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29) and the Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105) of the ILO.

326. In order to prevent and combat forced labour and employment-related discrimination, which are prohibited by law, the State Legal Inspectorate of Labour of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection monitors the observance of working rights and guarantees enshrined in the legislation in respect of various worker categories (*inter alia* women; minors; higher, special secondary and vocational education students; persons with disabilities; and persons discharged from the Armed Forces).

327. The above Inspectorate checked 800 undertakings and 1,598 publicly financed organizations. That action revealed more than 59,000 labour law violations, including 11,822 regarding the formulation of and compliance with employment contracts, of which 5,692 concerned wages. The inspections led to 8,943 written orders to eliminate violations and to administrative proceedings against 2,088 managers and officials.

328. In 2012, employment bodies carried out 2,646 activities to explain the citizens' work-related rights and responsibilities and the guarantees related to employment. As of 1 January 2013, such activities included 114 radio and television broadcasts, 222 newspaper and magazine articles and 2,310 seminars, round tables and various meetings.

Measures for preventing the worst forms of child labour

329. On the recommendation of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, Uzbekistan adopted on 7 January 2008 the Rights of the Child Safeguards Act, which incorporates virtually all of the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Under article 10 of that Act, the State must protect children from all forms of exploitation, including physical, mental and sexual aggression, torture, other cruel, harsh or degrading forms of treatment, soliciting for sexual purposes, and involvement in crime or prostitution.

330. In April 2008, in line with recommendations formulated by the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the parliament ratified the Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138) and the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) of the ILO. On 12 September 2008, the Government adopted the national plan of action for the implementation of those Conventions. In accordance with that plan, the legislation and the practices of public bodies, employers and parents were aligned with the provisions of the said Conventions.

331. The Labour Code stipulates the minimum age for admission to employment. That age has been raised from 14 to 15 years. In fact, with a view to preparing young persons for work, general-education and special or vocational secondary education students who have turned 15 may be admitted to employment during non-study periods to carry out light tasks causing no harm to their health or moral development and no disruption to their education, subject to the written consent of a parent or person *in loco parentis*.

332. An act of 21 December 2009 amending the Administrative Liability Code in order to improve the legal protection of the rights of minors established administrative liability for citizens, including parents, who use child labour on jobs that may harm a child's health,

safety or morals. Employer liability for violating labour and occupational safety and health laws with respect to minors was also increased.

333. The Government adopted a decision regulating vocational college student internships in enterprises, establishments and organizations, and establishing mechanisms and conditions for such training.

334. A procedure for admitting to employment children aged up to 16, adopted in December 2008 by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection and the Council of the Federation of Trade Unions of Uzbekistan, regulates in detail labour relations between employers and workers aged 15 and, *inter alia*, requires completion of general, specialized or vocational secondary education.

335. By joint decision of 29 July 2009, the Ministries of Labour and Social Protection and of Health established a list of types of work characterized by untoward working conditions which may not be performed by persons under 18. The list includes manual picking of cotton.

336. The same ministries, by joint decision of 15 January 2010, adopted regulations on the mandatory non-admission of minors to employment, specifying the types of work subject to that requirement, laying down working hours and wages for children, prohibiting parents from using force or any punishment to compel children to work, and establishing a procedure for children's participation in family enterprises or craft work.

337. A monitoring system has been set up to prevent forced labour. The bodies participating in the system are the Office of the Procurator-General, the Ministries of Internal Affairs, of Labour and Social Protection and of Education, the Centre for specialized and vocational secondary education in the Ministry of Higher and Secondary Specialized Education, the Trade Union Federation Council, the Kamolot Youth Movement, the Council of Ministers of Karakalpakstan and local State authorities.

338. A Cabinet of Ministers decision of 25 March 2011 created an interdepartmental working group to prepare and present information on compliance with ILO conventions ratified by Uzbekistan. The group consists of senior officials of the Ministries of Labour and Social Protection, of Foreign Affairs, of Justice, of Internal Affairs, of National Education, of Higher and Special Secondary Education and of Health, the Trade Union Federation Council, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the National Centre for Human Rights, the Women's Committee, the Kamolot youth movement and the Farmers' Association.

339. Parliamentary monitoring of implementation of the ILO conventions ratified by Uzbekistan has been introduced. In particular, progress in the implementation of the Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138) and the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) was discussed at a joint session of the Legislative Chamber Committee on International Cooperation and Interparliamentary Relations and the Senate Committee on Foreign Policy Matters.

340. On 8 February 2012, a parliamentary hearing of the Committee on Democratic Institutions, Non-Governmental Organizations and Local Authorities was held in the Legislative Chamber regarding the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child by the Ministry of Justice.

341. Through Cabinet of Ministers Decision No. 82 of 26 March 2012, a plan of additional measures was adopted for implementing in 2012–2013 the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29) and the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) of the ILO, both ratified by Uzbekistan.

342. With a view to intensifying action against the illegal use of child labour, measures were taken for effective monitoring to ensure that enterprises, organizations and individuals do not compel children to work but comply with the norms and conditions of work established by law with respect to minors.

343. As a result of procuratorial inspections, in 2011 more than 2,600 procuratorial supervision documents were processed, while disciplinary and administrative liability was incurred by, respectively, 1,034 and 447 officials.

344. Similarly, in the first nine months of 2012, more than 2,800 procuratorial supervision documents were processed, while disciplinary, administrative and financial liability was incurred by, respectively, 1,073, 456 and 21 officials.

345. Pursuant to Cabinet of Ministers Decision No. 82 of 26 March 2012, the Ministry of National Education adopted Order No. 90 of 30 March 2012, approving a package of measures to explain to parents of minors the dangers and consequences of employing children in the worst (harshes) forms of child labour, to improve monitoring of students' school attendance and to prevent, *inter alia*, juvenile crime and vagrancy.

346. A 26 June 2012 joint decision of the Ministry of National Education and the Secondary Special Vocational Education Centre of the Ministry of Higher and Secondary Specialized Education was aimed at ensuring monitoring and local inspections to preclude forced labour in the case of students of general education schools, vocational colleges and academic lycées. Moreover, a joint decision of 27 June 2012 on better monitoring of students' school attendance, increased personal responsibility for managers of educational establishments and greater social pressure on parents of students who miss lessons without a valid excuse was adopted by the Ministry of National Education, the above Secondary Special Vocational Education Centre, the Central Council of the Kamolot youth movement and the national administration of the Mahalla charitable foundation.

347. On 24 August 2012, a meeting of the national ad hoc working group on awareness-raising activities around the country was held with regard to the prohibition of recruiting general education students to help with the cotton harvest. On that basis, working groups were also set up and given mandates at local level.

348. Under a 31 August 2012 Cabinet of Ministers Decision, a national central office, headed by the Minister of National Education, was set up to coordinate and provide methodological assistance to local working groups in implementing a programme of measures for the effective use of the students' free time with a view to fully excluding the involvement of children in cotton harvesting.

349. By Circular Letter No. 01-523 of 8 September 2012, the Ministry of National Education advised the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Karakalpakstan and the central departments of education of the province and city of Tashkent that general education students must not participate in cotton harvesting, and instructed those bodies to organize lessons and exercises in the period September-October 2012.

350. Inspections showed that, in 2012, school attendance averaged 98.4 per cent in the first week of September, 98.1 per cent in the second and 98 per cent in the third and fourth.

351. As a result of considerable efforts, not a single confirmed case of involvement of schoolboys in cotton harvesting was identified in the period September-October 2012.

Combating trafficking in human beings

352. The Prevention of Human Trafficking Act, in which the concept of human trafficking is defined, was adopted on 17 April 2008. Pursuant to article 3 of the Act, human trafficking means recruiting, transporting, transferring, concealing or receiving a

person for purposes of exploitation by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, kidnapping, fraud, deception, abuse of power or of a person's vulnerability, or by means of bribery in the form of payments or benefits to obtain the consent of a person who controls another person. Exploitation of human beings means exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude, or the removal of human organs or tissue.

353. The Act also specifies the list and powers of State bodies responsible for preventing, detecting and suppressing human trafficking, minimizing its impact and providing assistance to victims. These bodies include the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the National Security Service, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Health and other State bodies.

354. The Act designates the National Interdepartmental Commission against Human Trafficking, which has regional offices, as coordinator of the work of State bodies responsible for preventing human trafficking.

355. The Act governs the provision of legal assistance, counselling, medical care, support for occupational rehabilitation and employment, and temporary housing to victims of human trafficking; and stipulates security measures for victims who assist in identifying persons suspected of human trafficking.

356. In order to organize the implementation of the Prevention of Human Trafficking Act, a Presidential Decision on measures to improve the effectiveness of efforts to prevent human trafficking was adopted on 8 July 2008, approving the national plan of action to improve the effectiveness of such efforts in 2008–2010, the regulations for the National Interdepartmental Commission against Human Trafficking, and the membership of the above Commission, which is headed by the Procurator-General.

357. Under the Act on amendments and additions to the Criminal Code in connection with the adoption of the Prevention of Human Trafficking Act, article 135 of the Criminal Code was amended to read as follows: "Human trafficking, namely buying or selling a human being or recruiting, transporting, transferring, concealing or receiving a person for purposes of exploitation, shall be punishable with deprivation of liberty for 3 to 5 years." The same acts shall be punishable with deprivation of liberty for 5 to 8 years if committed:

- (a) By means of kidnapping, use or threat of force or other forms of coercion;
- (b) In relation to two or more persons;
- (c) In relation to a person known by the perpetrator to be in a helpless condition;
- (d) In relation to a person who is materially or otherwise dependent on the perpetrator;
- (e) Repeatedly or by a dangerous recidivist;
- (f) By a group of persons conspiring to that effect;
- (g) Through abuse of official position;
- (h) With transfer of the victim across the national borders or his or her illegal detention abroad;
- (i) By using forged documents or confiscating, concealing or destroying the victim's identity documents;
- (j) For the purpose of obtaining organs for transplant.

358. The same acts shall be punishable with deprivation of liberty for 8 to 12 years if:

- (a) Committed in relation to a person known by the perpetrator to be under 18;

- (b) Resulting in the death of the victim or other serious consequences;
- (c) Committed by a particularly dangerous recidivist;
- (d) Committed by or on behalf of an organized group.

359. On 5 March 2011, the chairperson of the Interdepartmental Commission and the Procurator-General adopted a programme of key measures for the period 2011–2012 to raise drastically the effectiveness of human trafficking prevention and prosecution. In implementing the programme, an analytical inquiry group carried out 209 inspections of district, municipal and provincial interdepartmental commissions against human trafficking. All components of the above programme were carried out and on 28 January 2013 the Procurator-General adopted a programme of key measures for the period of 2013–2014.

360. The Public Opinion Centre conducts surveys on public awareness of and attitude towards human trafficking crimes. According to the findings, 90 per cent of interviewees were adequately informed about such crimes and their grave consequences.

361. In the period 2010–2012, procuratorial authorities received a total of 2,127 citizens' communications in connection with protection from forced labour (of which 839 in 2010, 635 in 2011 and 657 in 2012).

362. Of the total number of 2,957 cases in which, in the period 2008–2010 and the first seven months of 2011, preliminary investigation bodies initiated criminal proceedings under article 135 of the Criminal Code, 670 occurred in 2008, 1,242 in 2009, 718 in 2010 and 327 in the first seven months of 2011. The figure for the first seven months of 2012 was 430.

Breakdown by gender of persons prosecuted under article 135 of the Criminal Code and of recognized victims

<i>Victims</i>				<i>Individuals prosecuted</i>			
<i>Period</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Men</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Men</i>	<i>Total</i>
2008	324	2 617	2 941	2008	195	452	647
2009	644	4 016	4 660	2009	403	839	1 242
2010	499	1 826	2 325	2010	342	505	847
2011 (7 months)	283	720	1 003	2011 (7 months)	224	176	400
Total: 10 929				Total: 3 136			

363. In 2010, 803 persons were convicted of human trafficking, and 281 related special rulings were issued. The respective figures in 2011 were 656 persons and 220 rulings, and in 2012 630 persons and 190 rulings.

364. Based on Ministry of Internal Affairs data, in 2012 preliminary investigation bodies initiated criminal proceedings under Criminal Code article 135 in 574 cases (compared to 597 in 2011 and 718 in 2010).

365. The overall number of persons prosecuted in relation to human trafficking was 710 in 2012 (compared to 645 in 2011 and 906 in 2010). Those figures are broken down as follows:

Women: 350					Men: 380				
<i>Ages</i>					<i>Ages</i>				
<i>Under 18</i>	<i>18–25</i>	<i>25–30</i>	<i>30–40</i>	<i>Over 40</i>	<i>Under 18</i>	<i>18–25</i>	<i>25–30</i>	<i>30–40</i>	<i>Over 40</i>
1	45	80	111	113	-	29	115	143	93

366. In the case of 254 of those indicted for a crime related to human trafficking, the preventive measure opted for was remand in custody, given the seriousness of the offence.

367. In 2012, 1,653 were recognized as victims of a crime related to human trafficking, as follows:

Women: 459					Men: 1 194				
<i>Ages</i>					<i>Ages</i>				
<i>Under 18</i>	<i>18–25</i>	<i>25–30</i>	<i>30–40</i>	<i>Over 40</i>	<i>Under 18</i>	<i>18–25</i>	<i>25–30</i>	<i>30–40</i>	<i>Over 40</i>
35	184	134	90	16	15	290	397	317	175

368. All 459 victims identified in the first nine months of 2012 were women. Of them, 77 had been subjected to labour-related and 382 to sexual exploitation; 202 were urban women, including 77 unemployed; and 257 were rural women, including 58 unemployed.

369. Pursuant to Cabinet of Ministers Decision No. 240 of 5 November 2008 on the creation of a national rehabilitation centre for assisting and protecting human trafficking victims, such a centre was created and attached to the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection and began to operate on 18 November 2009. In the period 2009–2012, 901 human trafficking victims, regardless of citizenship, received medical, psychological and social care at the said centre, which has 30 places.

370. State bodies take all measures necessary for the return of human trafficking victims to Uzbekistan. In 2012, help, including repatriation assistance, was provided to more than 80 human trafficking victims in various countries, mainly the United Arab Emirates (22), Russia (17), Kazakhstan (17), Ukraine (14), Turkey (7), Thailand (6), Pakistan (4), India (2) and the Peoples' Republic of China (2).

371. The said persons were provided with certificates for returning to Uzbekistan free of charge. Certain victims, who had been left without any resources, were assisted in acquiring railroad or airline tickets and provided with a temporary place to stay and food.

372. Uzbek law-enforcement agencies maintain close relations with UNODC and OSCE coordinators, who help to locate Uzbek citizens and ensure their repatriation.

373. The following measures are taken in Uzbekistan to prevent human trafficking:

- Inspection of habitable and office premises to ascertain their actual use;
- Monitoring of buildings, markets and other sites that are likely places of human trafficking for labour-related exploitation;
- Raids on employment agencies operating illegally;
- Checking of various advertisements proposing work abroad;

- Monitoring of marriage agencies proposing to help girls or young women to find a life partner abroad;
- Preventive country-wide collection and analysis of information on long-term absentees from their place of residence.

374. In order to protect the rights and freedoms of citizens travelling to other countries, departmental and interdepartmental regulatory instruments have been drawn up on the departure abroad of persons, especially women aged 16–30, who fill out exit documents at the offices of the Directorate of Entry, Exit and Citizenship Formalities Centre; persons engaging in prostitution or pimping are identified, and appropriate legal action is taken; and, in cooperation with self-governance bodies and other NGOs, talks, round tables and meetings with the public are organized on the prevention and suppression of human trafficking.

375. Given the special attention paid to combating human trafficking in the country, statistical figures show a reduction in the number of convictions for that crime.

376. More than 260,000 awareness-raising activities and more than 10,000 appearances in the media have taken place in the framework of the national plan of action for the prevention of human trafficking.

377. In order to prevent and forestall crimes related to human trafficking, the art film “Ukubat” has been repeatedly broadcast on national television, and the National Theatre of Uzbekistan has staged shows entitled “Tortadurman zhabrini” and “Ogokh buling odamlar” in Tashkent city, all provinces and Karakalpakstan.

378. In order to improve the legal literacy of citizens, more than one million educational manuals, teaching materials and booklets have been published and distributed, and over 300,000 posters and 1,851 banners have been produced. They have been displayed in densely populated areas and in bus and train stations and airports.

379. The Women’s Committee, together with State bodies and NGOs, including the Istikbolly Avlod NGO, carries out activities to raise the young girls’ and women’s awareness of the problem of trafficking in women for sexual exploitation. There have been a number of radio and television broadcasts for young persons, including talk shows and live transmissions featuring questions and answers on the topic. Discussions, seminars and round tables are held in higher educational institutions and at the workplace to explain the risks of illegal labour migration. Istikbolly Avlod, in cooperation with State and law-enforcement bodies, publishes and distributes among the population, especially the young, many relevant bulletins and booklets in the State language.

380. In all regions of the country, Istikbolly Avlod has set up helplines offering on the basis of anonymity free advice regarding the risks of illegal work abroad. In the period January 2004–January 2011, 135,004 calls on all questions related to illegal labour migration and human trafficking were received on such helplines. In the period 2008–2012, Istikbolly Avlod, in cooperation with law-enforcement agencies, identified 618 victims of human trafficking; helped with the repatriation of 244 such victims; and carried out 1,788 information and awareness-raising activities.

381. In the last 10 years, the Women’s Committee in cooperation with Istikbolly Avlod helped more than 2,596 human trafficking victims to return to Uzbekistan. In Tashkent and Bukhara, Istikbolly Avlod has set up for such persons rehabilitation centres, which have offered shelter, rehabilitation services and legal and other necessary assistance to more than 700 girls.

382. The Fund Forum pays considerable attention to the employment of young persons. The Kelajak Ovozi Youth Initiatives Centre, established by the Fund Forum and the

Kamolot youth movement, created in 2009 the Centre for Youth Employment Assistance, which comprehensively helps young persons to find a job, adapt and build a successful career. Every year, thousands of job seekers aged 18–30 and hundreds of leading companies wishing to recruit turn to the Centre. A centralized information network makes it possible to obtain and analyze employment-related information on higher education graduates by type of background, region, area of specialization and educational institution.

Article 9

Realization of the right to liberty and security of the person

383. In the period 2008–2012, the following specific steps were taken with a view to implementing the recommendation formulated in paragraphs 14 and 15 of the Committee's concluding observations:

- Adoption of the Act on amendments and additions to certain legislative acts in connection with the transfer to the courts of the authority to order remand in custody. The Act has contributed to more effective judicial protection of rights at the pretrial stage and to early detection of investigation errors.
- Adoption of the Act on amendments and additions to certain legislative acts to improve the institution of the legal profession. The Act has strengthened safeguards of the right of detainees, inditees, witnesses and other parties to proceedings to legal protection during initial inquiries and pretrial investigation.
- Adoption of the Pretrial Detention during Criminal Proceedings Act, which has strengthened safeguards of the rights of detainees and remand prisoners.
- Introduction of amendments and additions to the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Penal Enforcement Code, under the Act of 10 April 2009 on amendments and additions to certain legislative acts to improve the work of the Human Rights Commissioner (Ombudsman) of the Oliy Majlis. As a result, detention and remand centre administrations are obliged to provide the conditions necessary for detainees and remand prisoners to hold unrestricted and confidential meetings and discussions with the Ombudsman.
- Strengthening of Miranda rules in the legislation. Based on the experience of developed countries, the following provisions were added to article 224 (1) of the Code of Criminal Procedure under the Act of 31 December 2008: "Whereit is established, directly or from eyewitness accounts, that one of the grounds for detention referred to in article 221 of the Code exists, an internal affairs officer or other competent person shall inform the suspect that he or she is being arrested on suspicion of committing an offence and shall require him or her to proceed to the nearest police station or other law enforcement agency. The internal affairs officer or other competent person shall also explain to the detainee his or her procedural rights to make a telephone call or to inform a lawyer or close relative, to have a defence counsel, and to refuse to give testimony, and shall also inform him or her that any testimony he or she gives may be used as evidence in a criminal case against him or her. The person carrying out the arrest shall identify himself or herself and, where requested to do so by the detainee, shall produce an identity document."
- Adoption of the Police Operations Act on 25 December 2012. The Act strengthens the guarantees protecting the rights of arrested and detained persons, prohibiting any acts or omissions that threaten human life or health, debase human honour or dignity or involve the use of violence or other prohibited methods during police operations.

384. A social survey has shown that the introduction of habeas corpus into domestic law has increased the authority of judges and the judiciary. In particular, 73.2 per cent of the people believe that the measure has improved the protection of the rights and freedoms of suspects and accused persons and 58.9 per cent consider that the equality of the parties is assured to a greater extent in proceedings concerning decisions on remand orders.

385. The introduction of habeas corpus has made more effective the defence by lawyers of the rights and freedoms of suspects and accused persons who are the subject of applications for remand in custody. Lawyers appealing against remand orders handed down by judges are now using more compelling evidence to support their arguments. As a result, the number of cases in which lawyers' appeals against remand orders were upheld has increased.

386. The participation of a defence counsel in the examination of a petition for remand in custody as a preventive measure is regulated by the provisions of criminal procedure law and of an order adopted on 14 November 2007 by the Supreme Court in plenary session on the use by the courts of preventive measures in the form of remand in custody during pretrial investigations.

387. Recapitulation by the Supreme Court of judicial practice concerning the consideration of applications for remand in custody shows that lawyers were involved in 80 per cent of cases in which applications were considered in the period from 2008 to mid-2012. A lawyer participates in all criminal cases involving applications for remand orders concerning minors.

388. Of the 16,681 investigative agency applications for remand in custody as a preventive measure received by judicial authorities in 2010, 16,550 (including 177 concerning minors) were upheld and 112 (including 11 concerning minors) were rejected.

389. Of the 11,902 applications for remand in custody filed in 2011, 11,867 (including 69 concerning minors) were upheld and 20 were rejected.

390. Of the 12,661 such applications filed in 2012, 12,641 (including 87 concerning minors) were upheld and 12 were rejected.

391. Of the 393 applications for extension of the duration of remand in custody received by judicial authorities in 2010, 392 (including 2 concerning minors) were upheld and 1 was rejected. All of the 365 and 375 such applications received in, respectively, 2011 and 2012 were upheld.

392. In 2010, of the 665 orders for remand in custody as a preventive measure, 593 were upheld; and so were all of the 13 contested orders for extension of the duration of remand in custody. In 2011, of the 372 contested orders for remand in custody as a preventive measure, 350 were upheld; and of the 12 contested orders for extension of the duration of remand in custody, 11 were upheld. In 2012, of the 345 contested orders for remand in custody as a preventive measure, 317 were upheld; and all of the 5 contested orders for extension of the duration of remand in custody were upheld.

393. An inquiry conducted with a view to implementing the recommendation formulated in paragraph 14 of the Committee's concluding observations revealed that the international instruments do not specifically define the duration of detention but use such terms as "promptly", "within a reasonable time" and "without delay" (article 9 of the Covenant and article 5 of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms). The legislation of a number of countries provides for an overall duration of detention (including extensions by a court) that, as a rule, does not exceed five days. However, as a general trend among most States, a 48-hour duration of detention is practiced. Thus, in view of the development of information technologies in

law-enforcement activities, the duration of detention in Uzbekistan may be shortened to 48 hours in the future.

394. Under article 7 of the Pretrial Detention during Criminal Proceedings Act, detainees and remand prisoners are considered innocent until their guilt is proven by due process and confirmed by an enforceable court decision.

395. Detainees and remand prisoners have the rights, freedoms and responsibilities applicable to Uzbek citizens, under the restrictions established by law.

396. Detainees and remand prisoners may not be discriminated against on grounds of gender, race, ethnic group, language, religion, social origin, beliefs and personal or social status; nor may they be subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading forms of treatment.

397. Article 18 of the above Act sets out a full list of rights of detainees and remand prisoners, including the right to, *inter alia*:

- Receive information concerning their rights, freedoms and duties, the regime in remand centres, the rules of conduct, and the procedure for filing petitions, proposals and complaints;
- Request an individual appointment with the head of the remand centre or a person authorized by him or her, and also with the officials who supervise or oversee the remand centre;
- File, personally or through a defence counsel or legal representative, petitions and complaints concerning the lawfulness and validity of their detention and violations of their rights, freedoms and lawful interests;
- Engage in correspondence and to have paper and stationery items at their disposal;
- Enjoy security of person;
- Hold meetings with a defence counsel or legal representative, relatives and other persons.

398. Article 19 of the Act establishes the following procedure for the filing of petitions, proposals and complaints: detainees and remand prisoners have the right to file petitions, proposals and complaints with the remand centre administration, State bodies, clubs and associations, and community associations in their native language or another language and to receive written replies in the language of their communication, in accordance with established procedure.

399. Complaints filed about the actions or decisions of a person conducting an initial inquiry or pretrial investigation are forwarded or passed on by the remand centre administration to the head of the investigation agency or procurator no later than one working day after the date of filing, and complaints about the actions or decisions of a procurator are forwarded or passed on to a higher-ranking procurator.

400. Under the Act, petitions, proposals and complaints addressed to the Ombudsman are not subject to censorship and are forwarded or passed on to the addressee under seal no later than one working day after the date of submission. The administrations of detention and remand centres are obliged to ensure the conditions necessary for detainees and remand prisoners to hold unrestricted and confidential meetings and discussions with the Ombudsman.

401. Of the 74 communications regarding illegal arrest and remand in custody received by the parliamentary Ombudsman in 2011, 48 were accepted for investigation and 5 were

upheld. Of the 34 such communications filed in 2012, 13 were accepted for investigation and 1 was upheld.

402. In accordance with the Act amending and completing certain enactments in relation to improving the institution of the Bar, detainees, suspects and defendants may call their counsel or a close relative on the telephone to inform them of their detention and their current location. A detainee may refuse to give testimony and must be informed that his or her testimony may be used as evidence against him or her in criminal proceedings.

403. The defence counsel has access to any stage of preliminary inquiries. In case of arrest, he or she has that right from the first moment of detention. Moreover, the counsel is entitled to meet with his or her client in private without any restriction as to the duration and number of interviews and without needing authorization by the criminal investigation authorities.

404. The investigative branch of the Ministry of Internal Affairs engages in monitoring to ensure strict implementation of the said Act and guarantees that offenders are duly protected by the investigators. Where offenders waive their right to a counsel, the leadership of local investigative units verifies that due process has been followed through a report drawn up in the presence of a counsel and specifying the reasons for such waiver. Where impossibility to hire a counsel on financial grounds is established, the State, under the Act, pays detainees, suspects and defendants a legal services benefit so that they can use a defence counsel.

405. Criminal procedure law has done away with standards obliging defence lawyers to receive written confirmation from law enforcement bodies authorizing them to take part in a case or to receive permission to visit their clients. The lawyer's certification and the authorization issued by the lawyer's group now suffice.

406. The law specifies that it is illegal to impede the professional activities of lawyers or to attempt to influence them in any way with the aim of changing their positions in respect of their clients. In 2012, no lawyers' statements or complaints were received concerning any obstacles raised by investigative bodies in order to prevent the defence of the rights of offenders.

407. In order to create the basis for providing free legal aid to various categories of citizens, the National Centre for Human Rights prepared the draft Free Legal Counsel Act, which defines the concept, types and beneficiaries of such assistance and lays down procedures for extending it to vulnerable social groups, in criminal, civil and administrative proceedings.

408. To improve the situation of persons held in places of detention, supervision is constantly ensured both internally within the penal correction system (including remand centres) and by other State bodies. This ensures that the system carries out its activities in compliance with the law.

Article 10

Humane treatment of persons deprived of their liberty

409. Measures have been taken to improve detention conditions for detainees, arrested persons and convicted prisoners.

410. The court determines the imprisonment regime for convicted persons in accordance with the gravity of the crime committed and with the provisions of article 50 of the Criminal Code.

411. In the case of men, a prison sentence is served:
- In open prisons, for offences that pose no serious danger to society, offences committed through negligence, or less serious premeditated offences;
 - In ordinary-regime colonies, if serving a first custodial sentence for a serious or less serious premeditated offence;
 - In strict-regime colonies, for particularly serious crimes or for premeditated crimes subsequent to an earlier prison sentence for such a crime;
 - In strict-regime colonies, for particularly dangerous recidivism, and in the case of persons sentenced to life imprisonment or to capital punishment commuted to imprisonment by an act of pardon.
412. In the case of women, a prison sentence is served:
- In strict-regime colonies, for particularly serious crimes or particularly dangerous recidivism;
 - In open prisons, for offences that pose no serious danger to society, offences committed through negligence, or less serious premeditated offences;
 - In ordinary-regime colonies, for other types of crimes.
413. Incarceration may be imposed during a part of the sentence not exceeding five years in the case of:
- Particularly dangerous recidivists;
 - Persons sentenced to a prison term exceeding five years for serious or particularly serious crimes.
414. The rights of sentenced women are protected insofar as penal enforcement law provides for separate prison sections for men and women, minors and adults, and first-time offenders and re-offenders (article 58 of the Penal Enforcement Code).
415. In penal institutions, female inmates are separated into categories as follows: convicted juveniles are separated from convicted adults, and first-time offenders are separated from particularly dangerous recidivists and other re-offenders. Imprisoned older persons, pregnant women, nursing mothers and foreign citizens are also assigned to separate quarters.
416. Female prisoners live in dormitories and individual bunks in a space of at least 3 m² per person. They are provided with linen and other necessary articles. Adolescent and adult female prisoners are housed separately.
417. The detention facilities include community service areas specially designed for the satisfaction of the everyday needs of female prisoners, a food unit, a shop, a dispensary with in-patient capacity, baths, laundry and disinfection chambers, barbershop, and storage space for personal effects. The accommodation areas are provided with necessary items, table games, and wards equipped with television sets. The establishment is provided with hot and cold water supply and heating.
418. For educational work with the prisoners and to upgrade their learning, penal facilities include a library, classrooms, a vocational college with workshops, a sport area, and a club to watch films and attend cultural and group events.
419. Save in open prisons, female inmates wear standard clothes provided by the administration as appropriate. Prisoners are issued standardized outer clothing, underwear, head gear and footwear. Female inmates in open prisons wear civilian clothes.

420. Women prisoners may acquire food and other necessities only with the money on their personal account and by written order. Under penal enforcement law, the prisoners' personal accounts are credited with their earnings in the establishment, transfers from relatives and remittances from other persons in the form of fees, interests, dividends and payments.

421. Female inmates are served three warm good-quality meals. Enhanced nutrition standards are established for inmates who are pregnant, nursing, under age, sick or affected by category I or II disability. Additional nutrition may be provided on the basis of a medical certificate.

422. Inmates who are pregnant or have children under the age of three may live outside the facility, place the children in the children's home in the facility, or leave the facility to place or meet with their children.

423. Women prisoners are allowed long meetings of up to five days with their under age children, including outside the penal facility.

424. While released from work for pregnancy or childbirth or until their child turns three, women prisoners with a positive record may be allowed to reside outside the colony by decision of the head of the facility, subject to approval by the procurator.

425. A medical department with in-patient facilities has been set up to provide medical and health care to women prisoners, while a separate department has been organized for the treatment and care of patients suffering from tuberculosis. Medical and health care for the inmates is financed under the State budget.

426. Under article 88 of the Penal Enforcement Code, when prisoners are employed, their gender, age, state of health, ability to work and, if possible, specialized skills are taken into account. The prisoners' work relations are regulated by labour law, with exceptions and limitations established by the Penal Enforcement Code. Women over 50 and persons with category I or II disabilities are assigned work in accordance with their wish. Female inmates are released from work in connection with pregnancy and childbirth for a period determined by law. Female and under age inmates may not undertake work prohibited by labour legislation. A list of types of work and duties to which inmates may not be assigned is established by law.

427. Secondary general and vocational-technical education schools in women's penal establishments provide training in sewing-machine work, service and repair. Moreover, groups for learning manual and machine knitting are organized for the inmates.

428. Women prisoners may work in a sewing factory in the penal establishment and thus help their families financially. Over 50 types of ready-made articles are produced: military uniforms and gear, bedding items, special clothing and various items for particular needs (including for children's homes in the establishment), and articles ordered for specific users (*inter alia*, theatrical costumes, children's suits and school uniforms).

429. In penitentiary institutions, strict compliance with the established sanitary and hygienic rules and with the regulations for the prevention of epidemics is ensured. Persons entering these institutions under a court verdict undergo a comprehensive health examination.

430. Upon entry and, subsequently, twice a year, prisoners undergo a full medical check-up. Treatment for any diseases identified is provided by the establishment. If necessary, specialists are invited to give a clearer diagnosis. Until they recover, women prisoners and patients with infectious diseases are separated from the main body of prisoners. Special attention is paid to the prevention of various diseases. Medical department personnel organize lectures, discussions and training sessions to inform the

prisoners of personal hygiene rules, the ways various infectious diseases are transmitted, and the symptoms of the most common diseases.

431. Of the 155 complaints received in 2011 by the Human Rights Commissioner from penal institution inmates, including 26 women prisoners requesting restoration of their rights, 130 were accepted for investigation and in 6 cases the rights of prisoners were restored.

432. Communications from citizens held in detention facilities or their relatives concern the transfer of convicted prisoners to other places of detention; the granting of amnesty; substandard medical care; objections to acts of prison staff; unwarranted imposition of disciplinary measures; unwarranted use of special measures; failure to dispatch postal correspondence; unwarranted refusal by the prison administration to apply to the courts for parole; and refusal by the prison administration of visits by family and friends.

433. Meetings of Women's Committee members who are deputy khokims in the Syrdarya, Jizak, Navoi, Bukhara, Andijan, Namangan, Samarkand and Surkhandarya provinces or national representatives with women prisoners have become standard practice. In such meetings, inmates are offered assistance in locating relatives and children, resolving social questions, seeking employment for close relatives and children, placing children left without care in orphanages and residential establishments, making arrangements after their release, securing a place to stay and having their lost documents replaced.

434. In 2010, 2011 and 2012, more than, respectively, 265, 200 and 165 women prisoners were released pursuant to the Oliy Majlis Senate decision on amnesty.

435. Under age prisoners, including persons convicted for offences that they committed while still juveniles, are detained in the country's unique ordinary-regime juvenile correctional facility.

436. The conditions in which juveniles are held meet the standards of penal enforcement legislation and comply with international standards as much as possible.

437. Convicted minors are held in separate groups by age and type as follows:

- Those aged up to 16 are held separately from those over 16;
- First-time offenders are held separately from re-offenders.

438. Juvenile inmates in young offenders' institutions are provided with living space meeting the standards established in the Penal Enforcement Code (at least 3 m²) and individual bunks.

439. The reformatory area includes housing facilities; a kitchen; a dining room; a shop; a school; vocational education and training buildings for the inmates; a club; a library; a medical division and a dispensary; baths; laundry and disinfection chambers; a barbershop; storage space for linen, work clothes, personal effects of daily use, tools and supplies; clothing and footwear repair shops; a water boiling vat; and washrooms.

440. Inmates are served three warm good-quality meals meeting the standards established by the Cabinet of Ministers; and are provided with regulation clothes, underwear, footwear and linen, financed from the State budget. The shop sells food products and necessities and is open daily.

441. Twice a year, all inmates undergo physical checks, including anthropometric measurement, weighing, laboratory tests and fluorographic examinations.

442. There are no punishment cells in the disciplinary section of the juvenile correctional facility. No restraints or straitjackets may be used on minors.

443. Inmates may spend their free time watching television or exercising in the sport areas or in amateur art groups. Films are screened every day. With money on their personal accounts, inmates may also subscribe to newspapers and magazines published in Uzbekistan.

444. Under age inmates are entitled to receive 6 short and 6 long visits, 12 telephone calls, 6 packages and 6 wrappers of printed matter per year, and to acquire per month foodstuffs and other necessities of a value not exceeding 3.5 times the minimum wage.

445. All convicted minors receive compulsory education in Russian and Uzbek at a school set up in the establishment. Those finishing school-leaving classes receive a standard transcript allowing them to continue their education outside the penal establishment after their release.

446. In vocational schools organized in penal establishments, under age inmates may be trained in the specialities of assembly fitter, machinist and motor mechanic, electric welder, automobile mechanic, and B and C category vehicle driver.

447. Inmates are assigned work taking into consideration their age, health condition, ability to work and, if possible, speciality. Their working hours are in line with labour legislation standards.

448. A medical department with in-patient facilities has been set up to provide medical and health care to prisoners. There are colonies for tuberculosis-related treatment and care, and qualified medical care is provided in specialized hospitals for prisoners.

449. Medical and health care for the inmates is financed under the State budget.

450. The procedure for providing prisoners with medical care and medicines, organizing and conducting health monitoring and using preventive and treatment establishments or the services of the medical staff of health care bodies is specified by the Ministry of Internal Affairs in consultation with the Ministry of Health.

451. Inmates receive the following medical attention and care:

- Upon entry, medical examination for infectious, parasitic and other diseases;
- Medical and preventive check-ups for the timely diagnosis of illnesses and the formulation and application of appropriate treatment and other medical or sanitary measures;
- Thorough examinations for the timely detection and treatment of tuberculosis, drug addiction, HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmissible diseases;
- Clinical observation of inmates suffering from chronic diseases;
- Outpatient and inpatient treatment through methods and means recommended in the relevant instructions of the Ministry of Health.

452. Upon entry into the penal establishment, inmates are placed and kept for 15 days in the receiving department. In that period, they undergo obligatory medical checks, including X-ray and fluorographic examinations and laboratory tests in order to identify patients that must be isolated or receive emergency medical care. The checks are carried out by physicians in a specially equipped examination room. Where the staff of the medical service includes specialists, they examine all arriving prisoners.

453. The medical departments of penal establishments are equipped with the technical apparatus necessary for electrocardiograms, ultrasound diagnosis, X-raying, and general and biochemical blood tests. If necessary, specialists from the national hospital of the Central Penal Correction Department and from national health care bodies are invited to carry out consultations in the establishment.

454. Prisoners are regularly checked for tuberculosis by fluorographic examination twice a year. If the disease is diagnosed, they are isolated and undergo further examinations and treatment. All inmates having had contact with the diseased are taken to a clinic and receive preventive treatment.

455. HIV/AIDS patients are examined by the specialists of the national HIV/AIDS centre, undergo the necessary tests and, if it is so recommended, are placed under antiretroviral (ARV) treatment.

456. If an inmate's health deteriorates, the establishment's medical staff organizes further laboratory tests and, where appropriate, arranges examinations by specialized physicians. The inmate may, under standing procedures, be referred to the national hospital of the prison system for special medical treatment.

457. The activities of prison establishments are monitored by the Chambers of the Oliy Majlis, the parliamentary Ombudsman, the National Centre for Human Rights, NGOs, the interdepartmental working group to monitor the observance of human rights and freedoms by law-enforcement and other State bodies, which reports to the Ministry of Justice, and the Procurator-General and his or her special procurators responsible for ensuring respect for the law in prisons.

458. Since 2001, groups of ICRC delegates have conducted more than 230 visits to penal correction colonies and remand centres in the Tashkent, Andijan, Bukhara, Navoi, Kashkadarya and other provinces. Of the total number of such visits, five in 2010, three in 2011 and two in 2012 were paid to the women's colony.

459. Of the 18,265 prisoners were seen during 57 visits to 18 detention facilities in 2010, 807, including 113 women, were placed under individual monitoring. ICRC received 269 messages from prisoners and sent 179 messages. In 2012, 33 visits were carried out.

460. Penal establishments (including remand centres) are visited by representatives of foreign embassies in Tashkent and of international organizations active in Uzbekistan (*inter alia*, ICRC, OSCE, UNICEF, WHO and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation). In the period 2010–2012, the penal establishment for women was visited by representatives of, *inter alia*, the OSCE project coordinator, the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, the United States embassy and the European Union project for assistance for judicial reforms in Uzbekistan.

461. During such visits, the visitors meet inmates of various categories and examine the conditions in which they are detained, including medical care, nutrition, access to a counsel, and access to a library and to periodical publications. Special attention is paid to convicted minors and women.

462. As regards information on the rights of inmates, considerable attention is currently paid to enhancing the knowledge and qualifications of law-enforcement and prison personnel concerning humane treatment of arrested persons, detainees and convicted prisoners through, *inter alia*, conferences, seminars, round tables and the publication of books, articles and booklets.

463. On 23 May 2011, a presentation of a book entitled "Prisoners' rights: international and national standards" was organized by the National Centre for Human Rights, the Central Penal Correction Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the German embassy in Uzbekistan. On 25 February 2011, a conference was held in the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs on the incorporation of international standards regarding the rights of prisoners into national legislation.

464. On 24 October 2012, a round table on international and national experience in implementing international law standards regarding the protection of the rights of female

and juvenile prisoners was organized in the women's detention centre. In 2012, the National Centre for Human Rights with support from UNODC published in Uzbek and Russian three booklets, entitled "The rights of arrested and detained persons", "Protection of the rights of witnesses" and "Miranda rules and the rights of the accused" in the collection "Human rights in the sphere of justice".

Article 11

Prohibition of arbitrary imprisonment for failing to fulfil a contractual obligation

465. The main trends in the development of policy on criminal matters have been liberalization, humanization and decriminalization in the framework of criminal legislation and criminal procedure law.

466. The Act of August 2001 amending and updating the Criminal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Code of Administrative Liability in connection with the liberalization of criminal penalties led to the reclassification of offences. Approximately 75 per cent of the offences categorized as serious or especially serious were reclassified as less serious or minor. Forms of punishment unrelated to deprivation of liberty were established for economic crimes. Disputes regarding non-fulfilment of contracts are examined by economic or arbitration courts.

467. Economic courts dispense justice by settling disputes arising in the economic field and hearing other cases coming under their jurisdiction (article 2 of the Code of Economic Procedure).

468. Under article 24 of the Code of Economic Procedure, economic courts settle disputes involving:

- (a) Disagreements relating to contracts whose conclusion is provided by law or under which the parties have agreed that any relevant disputes will be settled by an economic court;
- (b) Changes to the conditions or termination of contracts;
- (c) Acknowledgment of property rights;
- (d) Non-fulfilment or improper discharge of obligations;
- (e) Recovery of property in detinue, by the owner or other legitimate holder;
- (f) Violation of an owner's or other legitimate holder's rights that are unrelated to deprivation of ownership;
- (g) Damages;
- (h) Protection of honour, dignity and business reputation;
- (i) Full or partial annulment of any acts of State or citizens' self-governance bodies that are at variance with legislation and violate the rights and lawful interests of organizations or individuals;
- (j) Declaration of unenforceability of an enforcement document or other instrument incontestably (automatically) entailing a penalty;
- (k) An appeal against refusal or avoidance of State registration within the established time limit;
- (l) Penalization of citizens' organizations with fines by supervisory bodies where the law does not provide for incontestable (automatic) penalization;

(m) Incontestable (automatic) recovery, from the budget, of funds unduly debited by supervisory bodies.

469. Economic courts settle other disputes coming under their jurisdiction.

470. The parties may, by mutual consent, submit to an arbitration tribunal for examination any actual or potential dispute arising from civil law relations and coming under the jurisdiction of an economic court, pending that court's decision (article 25 of the Code of Economic Procedure).

471. Under the Arbitration Tribunals Act, the tribunals in question settle disputes arising from civil law relations, including economic disputes arising between business entities.

Article 12

Right to liberty of movement and freedom to choose one's residence

472. Under article 28 of the Constitution, Uzbek citizens are entitled to liberty of movement throughout the national territory and have the right to enter and leave the country. Only in cases established by law may that right be subject to restrictions.

473. Issues related to the realization of the right to liberty of movement are regulated by a series of legal and regulatory instruments.

474. Pursuant to Cabinet of Ministers Decision No. 8 of 6 January 1995 establishing the procedure to be followed when citizens travel abroad and the regulations on diplomatic passports, citizens intending to travel abroad apply to the Ministry of Internal Affairs office at their place of residence, presenting a duly filled out application form and an Uzbek passport. This procedure applies solely to travel to places outside the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), for which no travel documents need to be processed.

475. The office in question processes the application within 15 days and endorses the passport with a stamp authorizing temporary trips abroad over a period of two years. In that interval, the passport holder may make multiple such trips without having to apply to the Ministry for authorization.

476. In the period 2010–2012, Ministry of Internal Affairs offices issued the following travel authorizations or rejections:

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Official business</i>	<i>Tourism</i>	<i>Private business</i>	<i>Return to permanent place of residence</i>	<i>Rejection</i>
2010	156 597	11 143	142 197	3 257	568	127
2011	181 878	10 798	167 285	3 795	704	127
2012	206 912	14 072	187 548	5 292	664	318

477. The main grounds for rejecting departure applications consist in the applicant's:

- Possession of information constituting a State secret;
- Having been found in a judicial sentence to be a dangerous recidivist, or being under administrative supervision by internal affairs authorities;
- Having unfulfilled obligations imposed by a court;
- Having knowingly submitted false information about himself or herself;

- Being registered in a call-up district and liable to be called up for active military service;
- Being the subject of information available to the Ministries of Internal Affairs or Foreign Affairs to the effect that the applicant's departure is inadvisable.

478. Citizens intending to travel abroad apply for visas to the diplomatic or consular missions of the countries concerned.

479. Applications may be submitted by citizens aged 18 or older. If children under 18 are to travel abroad, their applications are made by their legal representatives. Children aged 14–18 who intend to take up permanent residence abroad must submit notarized documents certifying the consent of the travellers and of their parents or spouses or, if these persons are deceased, copies of the death certificates.

480. Cabinet of Ministers Decision No. 408 of 19 October 1995 on the employment of Uzbek citizens abroad and of foreign nationals in Uzbekistan was adopted in order to regulate the entry and exit of workers. Regulations have been drafted for recruitment and use of foreign workers in Uzbekistan. On 12 November 2003, the Cabinet of Ministers adopted Decision No. 505 on measures to improve arrangements for the employment of Uzbek citizens abroad. Regulations have been drafted for the External Labour Migration Agency. Self-funding regional offices have been opened in the cities of Tashkent, Fergana, Karshi and Nukus to organize the employment of citizens abroad. Such offices are State enterprises with the status of legal entities reporting directly to the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection.

481. The basic functions of the above Agency and the regional offices consist in assisting citizens seeking employment abroad; providing them with information on opportunities and conditions for such employment; selecting candidates meeting foreign employers' requirements to go to work abroad; and helping citizens with exit formalities, particularly visas and other documents needed for official employment abroad.

482. A policy outline and bills on external labour migration and on migration have been drafted and are under discussion in the various ministries and departments concerned.

483. Pursuant to the provisions of Cabinet of Ministers Decision No. 408 on procedures for foreign nationals' and stateless persons' entry into, exit from, temporary residence in and transit through Uzbekistan, foreign nationals in possession of exit visas issued by Uzbek consular offices abroad may enter and leave the country on private or official business, as tourists or holiday-makers, for purposes of study or medical treatment, or to take up permanent residence.

484. Entry visas, except for transit visas, are valid for the entire national territory except locations and facilities closed to foreigners.

485. Foreigners who arrive in Uzbekistan must, within 72 hours, register temporarily with Ministry of Internal Affairs offices dealing with entry and exit formalities and nationality matters at the place of temporary residence or register at a hotel (localities and installations closed to foreigners are excluded).

486. Foreign nationals may reside permanently in Uzbekistan if they have authorization to do so and a residence permit. Residence permits are issued in accordance with the Decision on residence permits for aliens and stateless persons and certification of stateless persons.

487. Authorization to reside permanently in Uzbekistan is granted to foreign nationals in accordance with the procedure stipulated by law on application to the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

488. A foreign national may be refused entry into Uzbekistan:
- (a) In the interests of national security or public order;
 - (b) In order to protect the rights and legitimate interests of Uzbek citizens and other individuals;
 - (c) If he or she is burdened by an outstanding conviction for violating Uzbek law;
 - (d) If the individual is involved in the activities of foreign terrorist, extremist or other criminal organizations;
 - (e) If the individual has knowingly provided false personal data, or has not submitted the necessary documents;
 - (f) If during a previous stay the individual was found to have violated the entry or departure procedures, the rules governing the stay of foreign nationals in Uzbekistan, or the country's legislation on customs, currency or other matters;
 - (g) If the individual is ill or has a health problem which creates a threat to public safety and health, and if the illness in question is included on the list approved by the Ministry of Health.

489. According to External Labour Migration Agency data, in the period 2010–2012, a total number of 23,100 foreign citizens received a permit to work in Uzbekistan.

490. The right to liberty of movement and freedom to choose one's residence implies the possibility for citizens to choose at their discretion a place of residence and a place of a stay. The offices of the Ministry of Internal Affairs register citizens by place of residence in order to ensure public safety and order.

491. Of the 1,743,277 persons registered in Uzbekistan in 2010, 1,330,281 were Uzbek citizens, 1,345 citizens of CIS member countries, 280 citizens of other States and 2,168 stateless persons. Thus:

- In 2011, of the 1,774,949 persons registered, 1,769,916 were Uzbek citizens, 2,853 citizens of CIS member countries, 94 citizens of other States and 2,086 stateless persons;
- In 2012, of the 1,997,298 persons registered, 1,986,112 were Uzbek citizens, 9,329 citizens of CIS member countries, 186 citizens of other States and 1,671 stateless persons.

492. Pursuant to the aforementioned Cabinet of Ministers Decision No. 408, the offices of the Ministry of Internal Affairs proceeded with the temporary registration of 141,984 foreign citizens and stateless persons in 2010, 163,259 in 2011 and 210,962 in 2012.

493. The Act of 14 September 2011 on the List of Categories of Uzbek Citizens Subject to Permanent Registration in the City of Tashkent and Tashkent Province was adopted in order to streamline the process of registering citizens in the capital and its province. Thus, permanent residence therein is governed by the following rules:

- (1) Uzbek citizens (hereinafter "citizens") owning a private residence in accordance with the law may be registered at the privately owned residence in question;
- (2) Persons may be registered at a residence where first- or second-degree relatives of theirs are permanently registered;
- (3) Wards may be registered at a residence where their guardians (or trustees) are permanently registered;

- (4) Minor biological siblings who do not have parents, and adult biological siblings who are unable to work and do not have families of their own, may be registered at a residence where their biological siblings are permanently registered;
- (5) Spouses may be registered at a residence where their husbands or wives are permanently registered, provided they have had at least one year of cohabitation;
- (6) Citizens with permanent registration in the city of Tashkent may be registered in the city of Tashkent or Tashkent province if they apply for permanent registration at a different address;
- (7) Citizens with permanent registration in Tashkent province may be registered if they apply for permanent registration at a different address in the same province;
- (8) Citizens permanently registered previously in the city or province of Tashkent may be registered upon their return to that city or province for permanent residence after graduation, an employment contract, a long-term business trip or release from prison;
- (9) Citizens who are elected, or appointed or approved for posts by the Chambers of the Oliy Majlis, the Office of the President or the Cabinet of Ministers, or in agreement with the President of the Republic, and their family members (spouses and children who do not have families of their own) may be registered for the duration of the duties in question;
- (10) Citizens elected in accordance with the law to representative bodies of State power and their family members (spouses and children who do not have families of their own) may be registered for the duration of the duties in question;
- (11) Highly qualified specialists and experts in certain areas who are invited to work for State authorities, State administration and economic management bodies or other State organizations of national significance and their family members (spouses and children who do not have families of their own), may be registered, at the request of the head of the respective body or organization, for the duration of the duties in question;
- (12) Military personnel housed in accordance with the Regulations for housing military personnel of the Armed Forces of Uzbekistan, approved by Presidential Decision No. 694 of 14 September 2007, and their family members (spouses and children who do not have families of their own) are entitled to registration.

494. The Presidential Decrees of 23 June 2009 on measures for the further improvement of the passport system and 5 January 2011 on additional measures for the improvement of the passport system have aimed at further improving the national passport system in line with international standards and requirements.

495. Pursuant to the above decrees, systematic and consistent work is carried out with a view to introducing Uzbek travel documents with an electronic secure storage device containing personal biometric parameters and background information on their holders. Passports for Uzbek citizen were partially launched in January 2011. There are plans to introduce travel documents for stateless persons residing permanently in the country and Uzbek diplomatic passports with the said storage.

Article 13

Grounds for expelling foreign nationals

496. Article 23 of the Constitution provides that foreign nationals and stateless persons in the territory of Uzbekistan are guaranteed rights and freedoms in accordance with the rules of international law. They also have the obligations established by the Constitution and domestic law and by the international treaties to which Uzbekistan is a party.

497. Offences involving unlawful migration trigger both administrative and criminal liability.

498. Article 225 of the Administrative Liability Code provides as follows:

- Infringement of the rules governing the presence of foreign nationals and stateless persons in Uzbekistan, namely lack of documents (residence permits) or possession of invalid documents; non-compliance with the procedures governing registration, movement, or choice of place of residence; refusal to depart upon expiry of the period of residence; or non-compliance with the rules governing transit through Uzbek territory, incurs a fine equal to 50–100 times the minimum wage or expulsion from the country;
- Infringement by a public official of the procedure for the reception of foreign citizens and stateless persons, as provided for in the rules for their stay in Uzbekistan, incurs a fine equal to 20–150 times the minimum wage;
- Failure by a citizen, who has invited in Uzbekistan foreign citizens or stateless persons for private business, to ensure their temporary registration, their departure upon expiry of their term of stay, and the provision of accommodations, vehicles or other services, where such failure knowingly violates the rules governing presence in the country, incurs a fine equal to 10–100 times the minimum wage.

499. Article 224 of the Criminal Code provides as follows:

- Infringement of the rules governing presence of foreign nationals and stateless persons in Uzbekistan (namely lack of documents (residence permits) or possession of invalid documents; non-compliance with the procedures governing registration, movement, or choice of place of residence; refusal to depart upon expiry of the period of residence; or non-compliance with the procedure for transit through Uzbek territory), if committed after imposition of an administrative penalty for such acts, incurs a fine equal to 200–600 times the minimum wage or deprivation of liberty for one to three years;
- Infringement by a public official of the procedure for the reception of foreign citizens and stateless persons, as provided for in the rules for their stay in Uzbekistan, if committed after imposition of an administrative penalty for such acts, incurs a fine equal to 300–400 times the minimum wage or deprivation of liberty for up to three years;
- Failure by a citizen, who has invited in Uzbekistan foreign citizens or stateless persons for private business, to ensure their temporary registration, their departure upon expiry their term of stay, and the provision of accommodations, vehicles or other services, where such failure knowingly violate the rules governing presence in the country, if committed after imposition of an administrative penalty for such acts, incurs a fine equal to 200–400 times the minimum wage or deprivation of liberty for up to two years.

500. A foreign citizen may be expelled from Uzbekistan for violating the rules governing presence in the country (namely sojourning without appropriate or valid documents, failing

to comply with the procedures governing registration, movement, or choice of place of residence; or refusal to depart upon expiry of the period of residence), with subsequent limitation of the right to enter Uzbekistan for one to three years.

501. A foreign citizen is expelled from Uzbekistan after performing or serving a punishment imposed by a court for committing in Uzbek territory a crime or, in cases specified by law, after being exonerated from criminal liability or from a sentence, with subsequent limitation of the right to enter Uzbekistan for:

- Five years if the offence committed poses no serious danger to society or is a less violent crime;
- Ten years in the event of commission of a violent crime;
- Life in the event of commission of an especially violent crime.

502. The period of limitation of the foreign citizens' right to enter Uzbekistan is counted from the moment of expulsion from Uzbek territory (crossing of the State border).

503. Foreign citizens and stateless persons subject to expulsion may appeal the relevant decision to a higher agency or to the courts.

504. Uzbekistan pursues a policy of prohibiting the expulsion, return (*refoulement*) and extradition of persons to another State if there are substantial grounds for expecting the person in question to be in danger of undergoing torture.

505. In order to specify clearly the rules for international cooperation on these issues, a new section 14, "International cooperation in criminal proceedings", was added to the Code of Criminal Procedure on 28 September 2010.

506. Uzbekistan has concluded a number of bilateral international treaties on cooperation in the provision of legal assistance in various types of cases, with the Turkey (23 June 1994); Latvia (23 May 1996); Lithuania (20 February 1997); China (11 December 1997); India (2 May 2000); the Czech Republic (18 January 2002); the Republic of Korea (25 April 2004); and Bulgaria (30 April 2004); between the Office of the Procurator-General of Uzbekistan and the Office of the Procurator-General of the Kyrgyzstan (3 October 2006); between the Government of Uzbekistan and the Government of Pakistan (14 March 2007); and between the Office of the Procurator-General of Uzbekistan and the Office of the Procurator-General of Azerbaijan (27 September 2010).

507. In accordance with section 14 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, extradition of persons to foreign States is handled by the Procurator-General.

508. A person situated in Uzbekistan may be extradited if:

- The act committed by that person incurs under the Uzbek Criminal Code deprivation of liberty for at least one year or a more severe penalty and if the purpose of extradition is criminal prosecution;
- The person whose extradition is sought has been sentenced to deprivation of liberty for at least six months or a more severe penalty;
- The foreign State requesting extradition guarantees that the person whose extradition is requested will be prosecuted only for the offence referred to in the request and, after the trial has ended and the sentence has been served, will be free to leave the territory of that State, and also will not be deported, handed over or extradited to a third State without Uzbekistan's consent, or subjected to torture, violence or other cruel, humiliating or degrading treatment, or be subject to the death penalty.

509. A decision by the Procurator-General or his or her deputy to extradite a person situated in Uzbekistan may be appealed by that person or his or her defence counsel before

the Supreme Criminal Court of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, a provincial criminal court or the Tashkent city criminal court, depending on where the person sought is being held on remand, within 10 days of receiving written notification.

510. During the period 2008–2010 and the first nine months of 2011, the Office of the Procurator-General, pursuant to requests from the competent authorities of foreign States, extradited a total of 45 persons (9 in 2008, 11 in 2009, 14 in 2010 and 11 in the first nine months of 2011) who were wanted for prosecution or for the enforcement of court judgements.

511. With a view to implementing the recommendation formulated in paragraph 12 of the Committee’s concluding observations, the legislation was thoroughly reviewed and all legal or regulatory instruments related to refugee issues in any way were identified.

512. That review showed that, despite the lack of specific provisions designed to regulate particular issues, the national legislation reflects the basic principles of international law underpinning the protection of the rights of refugees. In particular, national legislation lays down universally recognized human rights principles and standards arising from the obligations undertaken by Uzbekistan in the framework of six basic international human-rights instruments of the United Nations.

513. Based on universally recognized standards of international law, the Constitution specifies the powers of the President in issues that involve granting citizenship and political asylum in the country. Thus, the President makes the final decision by signing a decree on a case-by-case basis. Under the current legislation, political asylum issues may be resolved through uniform established procedures for granting citizenship. The Constitution does not provide for the adoption of a specific law in that area.

Article 14

Equality of citizens before the courts

514. A national legislation review carried out with a view to implementing the recommendation formulated in paragraph 16 of the Committee’s concluding observations found that comprehensive measures have been adopted in Uzbekistan to ensure the independence and effectiveness of the judicial system.

515. The principle of the independence of judicial authorities is enshrined in the Constitution and the law. According to the Constitution, “the judiciary in Uzbekistan operates independently of the legislature, the executive, political parties and other public associations” (art. 106) and “judges are independent and subject solely to the law. Any interference in the work of judges in administering justice is inadmissible and punishable by law” (art. 112).

516. The constitutional provisions on the independence of the courts are developed in the Courts Act of 14 December 2000, which in article 2 defines the main duties of the court as follows: “Courts in Uzbekistan are called upon to provide judicial protection for civil rights and freedoms enshrined in the country’s Constitution and law and in international human rights instruments for the rights and lawful interests of enterprises, institutions and organizations.”

517. Pursuant to article 67 of the Courts Act, the independence of judges is ensured through:

- Statutory procedures governing their election, appointment and removal;
- Judicial immunity;

- Stringent procedures governing the administration of justice;
- Confidentiality of their deliberations in formulating judgements and prohibition of requests to disclose such deliberations;
- Liability for contempt of court, interference with judicial decision or violations of judicial immunity;
- Salaries and benefits paid by the State to judges which are commensurate with their important status.

518. The proclaimed principle that justice is administered only by a court is also reflected in the rules underpinning the law on civil, economic and criminal procedure.

519. The following courts function in Uzbekistan: Constitutional Court of Uzbekistan; Supreme Court of Uzbekistan; Higher Economic Court of Uzbekistan; Supreme Courts of the Republic of Karakalpakstan for civil and criminal matters; city and province of Tashkent courts for civil and criminal matters; inter-district and district (municipal) courts for civil matters; district (municipal) courts for criminal matters; military courts; Economic Court of the Republic of Karakalpakstan; and city and province of Tashkent economic courts.

520. With a view to the impartiality of decisions handed down by courts and the prevention of influencing them or interfering in their activity, the modern structure of the Uzbek judicial system ensures the independence of judges individually and within the judicial system. Higher courts may not direct the activity of subordinate courts or interfere in the examination of specific cases, in dealing with which every judge is fully independent and free. Higher courts exercise judicial oversight over the activity of subordinate courts only in the procedural sense, examining cases under appeals, cassation or supervisory procedures.

521. Of all criminal cases heard in 2010, higher courts reviewed 16.2 per cent. Of those, 70.3 per cent were reviewed by way of appeal, 23.9 per cent by way of cassation, and 5.8 per cent by way of supervision.

522. Of all criminal cases heard in 2011, higher courts reviewed 10.2 per cent. Of those, 66.6 per cent were reviewed by way of appeal, 27.8 per cent by way of cassation, and 5.6 per cent by way of supervision.

523. Of all criminal cases heard in 2012, higher courts reviewed 14.2 per cent. Of those, 66.2 per cent were reviewed by way of appeal, 30.0 per cent by way of cassation, and 3.8 per cent by way of supervision.

524. Of all civil cases heard in 2010, higher courts reviewed 3.8 per cent. Of those, 49.0 per cent were reviewed by way of appeal, 45.0 per cent by way of cassation, and 6.1 per cent by way of supervision.

525. Of all civil cases heard in 2011, higher courts reviewed 3.6 per cent. Of those, 48.0 per cent were reviewed by way of appeal, 47.5 per cent by way of cassation, and 4.5 per cent by way of supervision.

526. Of all civil cases heard in 2012, higher courts reviewed 7.0 per cent. Of those, 49.4 per cent were reviewed by way of appeal, 47.4 per cent by way of cassation, and 3.3 per cent by way of supervision.

527. With a view to the equitable conduct of proceedings and compliance with the rights of the parties, the principle of the independence of the courts implies an obligation for fair, lawful and objective judicial process. Provisions on compliance with legality are contained in the Code of Criminal Procedure (art. 11), in the Code of Civil Procedure (arts. 4 and 7),

in the Code of Economic Procedure (arts. 4, 5 and 12) and in the Administrative Liability Code (arts. 2 and 3).

528. Equality of citizens before the courts signifies that all courts hear cases within a single procedural framework with respect to any citizen regardless of the defender's and the plaintiff's race, ethnic background, religious beliefs, social, official or financial status; and that in the State there are no class- or race-based or other exclusive courts governed by procedures or principles of action related to any of the above attributes.

529. Article 7 of the Courts Act establishes the principle of openness of court proceedings.

530. Every person is entitled to open judicial proceedings. In particular, this principle is reflected in article 10 of the Code of Civil Procedure, under which all court proceedings are conducted in open session, except when this may jeopardize the protection of State or commercial secrets.

531. The court may also resolve by reasoned decision to conduct proceedings in closed session in order to prevent the public disclosure of information on the private life of a person participating in the proceedings or to safeguard the secrecy of adoption or of correspondence.

532. Sound or video recordings, photography and filming are permitted in the courtroom only with the consent of the presiding judge.

533. In order to enhance openness in the activity of the courts, the media, civil society organizations and associations may be notified of forthcoming trials. Moreover, judicial proceedings may be conducted directly in enterprises, establishments and organizations.

534. The question of the language used in legal proceedings, a key issue in justice, is resolved in article 8 of the Courts Act, under which such proceedings in Uzbekistan must be conducted in Uzbek, Karakalpak or the language of the majority population in a given area.

535. Parties to the proceedings who are not proficient in the language in which the proceedings are being conducted have the right to be fully apprised of the case and participate in the court proceedings through an interpreter, and the right to address the court in their native language.

536. Any limitation of the rights of a suspect, accused, defendant or counsel resulting from their ignorance of the language in which the proceedings are conducted or failure to allow such persons to use their native language in any stage of the proceedings constitutes a serious violation of criminal procedure law and grounds for setting aside the judgement (article 487 of the Code of Criminal Procedure).

537. According to Supreme Court data, of the 2,133 cases in which a translator participated in 2010 (compared to 2,080 in 2009) because participants were not proficient in the language in which criminal, civil or administrative proceedings were conducted, the translation was provided free of charge in 2,126 cases (2,077 in 2009) and on a paying basis in 7 (3 in 2009). Translation was provided from Kyrgyz in 1 case (6 in 2009), Kazakh in 17 (5 in 2009), Tajik in 38 (59 in 2009), Turkmen in 7 (7 in 2009), Tatar in 5 (16 in 2009), Russian in 1,996 (1,836 in 2009), English in 3 (5 in 2009), and other languages in 66 (146 in 2009).

538. With regard to civil proceedings, a translator participated free of charge in 948 cases in 2010 (1,456 in 2009). Translation in 2010 was provided from Kazakh in 9 cases, Tajik in 8 (9 in 2009), Tatar in 4, Russian in 925 (1,425 in 2009), English in none (2 in 2009) and other languages in 2 (20 in 2009).

539. Of the 3,213 cases in which a translator participated in 2011 because participants were not proficient in the language in which criminal, civil or administrative proceedings were conducted, the translation was provided free of charge in 3,210 court proceedings.

540. In 2012, of the 1,207 civil cases in which a translator participated, the translation was provided free of charge in 1,205 cases and on a paying basis in 2; and of the 1,582 criminal cases in which a translator participated, the translation was provided free of charge in 1,578 cases and on a paying basis in 4.

541. The Constitution, the Courts Act, the Act on court appeals against acts and decisions violating the people's rights and liberties, and other legislative acts entitle citizens to petition a court for protection of the rights infringed.

542. In 2012, the Office of the Procurator-General received 3,970 citizens' communications regarding procedural rights in civil proceedings (compared to 3,402 in 2010 and 3,932 in 2011). In the same period, procuratorial authorities lodged 2,589 contestations of court decisions as illegal (2,545 in 2010 and 2,672 in 2011). In the same period, court decisions were contested by way of appeal in 976 cases (927 in 2010 and 913 in 2011), by way of cassation in 1,356 cases (1,330 in 2010 and 1,343 in 2011) and by way of supervision in 257 cases (402 in 2010 and 302 in 2011).

543. In 2012, of the 6,604 communications received concerning violations of citizens' procedural rights in criminal proceedings (compared to 6,073 in 2010 and 6,378 in 2011), 4,804 were referred to subordinate procuratorial offices, 780 to courts, and 846 were handled directly by the Office of the Procurator-General.

544. In the same period, of the 2,190 contestations of court decisions as illegal lodged by procuratorial authorities in criminal cases (compared to 2,528 in 2011), 2,010 were upheld (2,304 in 2011). Of the decisions concerned, 666 were contested by way of appeal (770 in 2011), 767 by way of cassation (884 in 2011) and 200 by way of supervision (261 in 2011).

545. On the basis of enforceable documents issued on damages by courts of general jurisdiction with regard to offences against citizens, 23,779.5 million sum were collected in 2010, 73,341.5 million sum in 2011 and 38,026.0 million sum in 2012.

546. Compensations collected by individuals for psychological damage totalled 690.7 million sum in 2010, 1,135.6 million sum in 2011 and 1,740.2 million sum in 2012.

547. With regard to strengthening the safeguards of the right to a defence and legal aid, additional legislative measures have been adopted to enhance the status of lawyers in criminal proceedings, pursuant to the Act of 31 December 2008 on amendments and additions to certain legislative acts to improve the institution of the legal profession.

548. Safeguards of the rights of defence counsel have been significantly strengthened by the following provisions of article 53, paragraphs 1 and 2, and article 63 of the Code of Criminal Procedure on the right to:

- Participate in proceedings on presentation of a lawyer's certificate and a warrant conferring authority to deal with the specific case;
- Gather and submit information that may be used as evidence;
- Take copies of materials and documents at one's own expense or to record in another form the information contained in them, using technical means;
- Be informed of any complaints or protests filed in the given case and enter objections against them;

- Meet with the suspect, accused person or defendant in private, without restriction as to the number or duration of such meetings and without the permission of the State bodies or officials responsible for conducting the criminal case;
- Apply for an expert to be summoned to provide explanations.

549. Pursuant to article 87 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, the defence counsel has the right to gather information that may be used as evidence by questioning individuals who have information relating to the case and obtaining written statements with their consent; and to send requests for and receive references, testimonials, explanations and other documents from State and other bodies, and also enterprises, institutions and organizations. The defence counsel's application for inclusion of such material in the case file must be approved by the persons conducting the initial inquiry and pretrial investigation and the procurator.

550. New requirements for certification have been introduced with a view to filling the ranks of lawyers with qualified specialists well versed in the defence of human rights. These call for an internship to be performed in the persons' legal speciality for at least two years, including a traineeship at a lawyers' group for at least six months. Until these provisions were introduced, individuals without the corresponding professional skills and with very little knowledge had in some cases entered the profession. Such persons had become lawyers after being dismissed by the law enforcement services for misconduct. This had undermined the quality of service and was not conducive to the effective implementation of constitutional standards ensuring the right of citizens to professional legal assistance.

551. As of 1 January 2013, the judicial authorities had issued licenses to work as a lawyer to 3,823 persons and 1,267 lawyers' groups had been registered. In 2012, 556 lawyers received training at the Centre for the Professional Development of Legal Specialists of the Ministry of Justice.

552. As regards funding and technical and administrative support for the courts, "the work of the courts of general jurisdiction and the economic courts is, under article 11 of the Courts Act, organized strictly in line with the principles of the independence of judges and their subordination solely to the law and to the Higher Commission for Selection and Recommendation of Judges, attached to the Office of the President, which selects and recommends candidates for judgeships".

553. Funding and technical and administrative support for the courts are the responsibility of the Department for Implementing Court Decisions and the Technical, Administrative Support and Funding of Courts, attached to the Ministry of Justice.

554. General jurisdiction courts are financed from the State budget and a fund for the development of the courts and other judicial bodies.

555. In the period 2010–2012, the following resources were allocated to general jurisdiction courts:

- In 2010, 25,399.3 million sum, including 10,654.5 million sum in payroll and similar payments, 13,482.8 million sum for maintenance of court buildings and 1,262.0 million sum for administrative expenses. The total amount of 16,805.7 million sum allocated from the fund for the development of the courts and other judicial bodies included 3,062.9 million sum in payroll and similar payments, 4,011.8 million sum for new construction, 4,241.3 million sum for renovation and repair of court buildings, 4,106.7 million sum for the purchase of equipment and 1,383.0 million sum for administrative expenses.

- In 2011, 31,667.2 million sum, including 13,559.4 million sum in payroll and similar payments, 16,796.8 million sum for maintenance of court buildings and 1,311.0 million sum for administrative expenses. The total amount of 20,180.5 million sum allocated from the fund for the development of the courts and other judicial bodies included 5,304.6 million sum in payroll and similar payments, 9,126.9 million sum for new construction, 2,325.3 million sum for renovation and repair of court buildings, 4,241.3 million sum for the purchase of equipment and 1,448.3 million sum for administrative expenses.
- In 2010, 43,698.7 million sum, including 20,318.6 million sum in payroll and similar payments, 21,629.3 million sum for maintenance of court buildings and 1,750.8 million sum for administrative expenses. The total amount of 29,137.5 million sum allocated from the fund for the development of the courts and other judicial bodies included 9,278.2 million sum in payroll and similar payments, 7,291.2 million sum for new construction, 6,063.8 million sum for renovation and repair of court buildings, 4,149.8 million sum for the purchase of equipment and 2,354.5 million sum for administrative expenses.

556. In the period 2010–2012, general jurisdiction courts were provided with 60 vehicles at a cost of 1,419.4 million sum, 788 computer sets at a cost of 1,408.6 million sum, furniture at a cost of 1,309.6 million sum, and 4,036 legal publications at a cost of 26.5 million sum. For the same courts, 4 buildings were acquired at a cost of 2,582.1 million sum, 13 new buildings were constructed at a cost of 11,187.7 million sum, and 77 buildings were renovated or repaired at a cost of 7,157.6 million sum.

557. The Presidential Decree of 2 August 2012 “on measures for the fundamental improvement of the social protection of judicial system workers” was adopted in order to improve the social protection of judges and promote independence in court proceedings. Pursuant to the Decree, as of 1 August 2012, the wages and similar payments received by general jurisdiction court judges were raised (by two grades on the unified pay scale) and increased by 50 per cent per month for special working conditions, while the wages and similar payments received by first-class rank workers of the same courts increased by 10 per cent per month. The said judges are exempted from income tax. A provision of 132.5 million sum, to be funded from the State budget, has been entered in the expenditures schedule to cover housing rent for judges.

558. With regard to qualification, selection and training of judicial officials, article 61 of the Courts Act lays down the basic requirements to be met by candidates for posts of judges.

559. Persons eligible for designation as judges of inter-district or district (municipal) courts or economic courts are citizens of at least 25 years of age, with higher education in law and at least three years of specialized experience in legal work, and must have passed a qualifying examination.

560. Persons eligible for designation as judges of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, provincial courts, Tashkent city courts and military courts are citizens of at least 25 years of age, with higher education in law and at least five years of specialized experience in legal work, including, as a rule, at least two years as a judge, and must have passed a qualifying examination.

561. Persons eligible for designation as judges of the Supreme Court and the Higher Economic Court of Uzbekistan are citizens of at least 25 years of age, with higher education in law and at least seven years of specialized experience in legal work, including, as a rule, at least five years as a judge, and must have passed a qualifying examination.

562. Persons eligible for designation as judges of military courts are citizens who are active commissioned officers and meet the requirements of the article in question.

563. The procedure for the selection and designation of judges is set forth in article 63 of the above Act, according to which Supreme Court and Higher Economic Court judges are selected by the Senate of the Oliy Majlis on the basis of proposals made by the President of the Republic.

564. Judges of the courts of the Republic of Karakalpakstan are selected or appointed by the Jokargy Kenes of Karakalpakstan on the proposal of its presiding officer, as previously approved by the President of the Republic. These appointments are submitted to the President of the Republic for approval on the basis of the decisions of the aforementioned Higher Commission for Selection and Recommendation of Judges.

565. Judges of provincial, city of Tashkent, inter-district, district (municipal) and military courts and the province and city of Tashkent economic courts are appointed by the President of the Republic on the proposal of the aforementioned Higher Commission for Selection and Recommendation of Judges. Judges are selected or designated for a period of five years.

566. The above Higher Commission for Selection and Recommendation of Judges plays a key role, being responsible for the organization of the work of the courts, and the selection and recommendation of candidates for the posts of judge of the Supreme Court and the Higher Economic Court of Uzbekistan, the Supreme Court of the Republic of Karakalpakstan for civil and criminal matters, the city and province of Tashkent courts, inter-district and district (municipal) courts for civil and criminal matters, the military courts, the Economic Court of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, and the city and province of Tashkent economic courts.

567. The Commission consists of representatives of the Senate and the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis, the Supreme Court, the Higher Economic Court, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Office of the Procurator-General, other highly qualified legal specialists and representatives of the community. The Commission has 17 members and its composition is approved by Presidential Decree.

568. For awareness-raising purposes and in order to improve the system for the protection of the citizens' right to equality before the courts, numerous information activities are organized in the country by the Supreme Court and its research centre, the Office of the Procurator-General and the Advanced Training Centre of that Office, the National Centre for Human Rights, the Ombudsman, the Centre for the Professional Development of Legal Specialists of the Ministry of Justice, other State bodies, the Association of Judges and the Bar Chamber.

569. In 2010, the National Centre for Human Rights in cooperation with the khokimiyats and with the help of the UNDP delegation organized in all regions of the country seminars on "exercising the human right to judicial protection: national and international standards of access to justice". The Centre for the Professional Development of Legal Specialists, together with the OSCE project coordinator in Uzbekistan, organized international seminars on "international standards in the administration of justice: practical implementation".

570. On 25 January 2011, the Committee on Legislation and Judicial Questions of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis organized in the Supreme Court a round table on "issues related to safeguarding independence of the courts and strengthening the principle of adversarial criminal proceedings". On 31 January 2011, the National Centre for Human Rights, together with the OSCE project coordinator in Uzbekistan, held in the Centre itself an expanded meeting of the Academic Coordination Council for Research in the Field of

Human Rights and Freedoms on “further democratization of the judicial and legal system in Uzbekistan”.

571. On 17 May 2012, the National Centre for Human Rights, together with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, organized a theoretical and practical seminar on “judicial and legal reforms to safeguard human rights and freedoms: the experience of Uzbekistan and Germany”. On 19 May 2012, the Supreme Court and the Higher Economic Court, together with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, organized a round table on “international standards regarding the administration of justice”. On 29 June 2012, the Human Rights Commissioner (Ombudsman) of the Oliy Majlis, together with the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, organized an international round table on “current issues involved in raising the effectiveness of judicial and extrajudicial mechanisms for human rights protection: the experience of Uzbekistan and Germany”.

572. As part of the implementation of the European Union project for assistance for judicial reforms in Uzbekistan, 15 seminars and round tables attended by more than 400 judges of the Supreme Court, provincial courts, the city of Tashkent court and the staff of various courts were carried out in 2012. A handbook entitled “Human rights and due legal process”, with references to relevant international documents, was prepared in cooperation with the OSCE project coordinator in Uzbekistan.

Article 15

Definition of and penalties for offences

573. The criminality and punishability of unlawful acts are regulated by the Criminal Code.

574. Every person whose acts involve perpetration of a crime must be subject to prosecution.

575. Anyone who commits an offence in Uzbekistan is subject to prosecution under the Criminal Code.

576. An offence should be recognized as having been committed in Uzbekistan if it:

- (a) Is begun, completed or interrupted on the territory of Uzbekistan;
- (b) Is committed outside Uzbekistan but has criminal consequences in Uzbekistan;
- (c) Is committed in the territory of Uzbekistan but has criminal consequences outside Uzbekistan;
- (d) Constitutes on its own or in conjunction with other acts an offence committed partly in Uzbek territory.

577. Where a crime is committed on an aircraft, sea vessel or river vessel located outside the borders of Uzbekistan and not on the territory of a foreign State, liability arises under the Criminal Code if the aircraft or vessel is operating under the Uzbek flag or is registered in an Uzbek port.

578. The liability of foreign nationals who commit a crime in Uzbek territory but who, pursuant to the law in force or international treaties or agreements, do not fall within the jurisdiction of Uzbek courts, shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of international law.

579. Nationals of Uzbekistan and stateless persons permanently residing in Uzbekistan who commit a crime in the territory of another State are liable under the Criminal Code if

no penalty is imposed on them by a verdict of the courts of the State in which the crime was committed.

580. Any enactment that decriminalizes an act, reduces the punishment or otherwise improves the situation of the person concerned has retroactive effect. That is, it applies to persons who committed the acts in question before the entry into force of such enactment, including persons who are serving or have served a sentence but whose criminal record has not been expunged.

581. Any enactment that criminalizes an act, increases the punishment or otherwise worsens the situation of the person concerned does not have retroactive effect.

582. An offence consists in any culpable socially dangerous act (or omission) prohibited and punished by the Criminal Code.

583. Offences are classified according to their nature and the degree of social danger that they represent into offences not representing any great social danger, and less serious, serious, and extremely serious offences.

584. The category of offences not representing any great social danger include intentional crimes for which the law prescribes a penalty of deprivation of liberty for not more than three years and crimes committed out of negligence for which the law prescribes a penalty of deprivation of liberty for not more than five years.

585. Less serious offences include intentional crimes for which the law prescribes a sentence of deprivation of liberty for more than three but not more than five years and crimes committed out of negligence for which the law prescribes a penalty of deprivation of liberty for more than five years.

586. The serious-offence category includes intentional crimes for which the law prescribes a penalty of deprivation of liberty for more than five but not more than 10 years.

587. Extremely serious offences are those intentional crimes for which the law prescribes a penalty of deprivation of liberty for more than 10 years or for life.

588. Criminal liability is the legal consequence of the commission of a socially dangerous act and entails the perpetrator's conviction, sentencing or subjection to other legal measures by a court.

589. Individuals of sound mind aged at least 16 when they commit an offence may be held liable.

590. Persons aged at least 13 when they commit an offence may be held liable only if it consists in aggravated homicide (art. 97, para. 2).

591. Persons aged at least 14 when they commit an offence may be held liable if it is covered by articles 97 (para. 1), 98, 104–106, 118, 119, 137, 164–166, 169, 173 (paras. 2 and 3), 220, 222, 247, 252, 263, 267, 271 and 277 (paras. 2 and 3) of the Criminal Code.

592. Persons aged at least 18 when they commit an offence may be held liable if it is covered by articles 122, 123, 127, 144, 146, 193–195, 205–210, 225, 226, 230–232, 234, 235 and 279–302 of the Criminal Code.

593. A person who, when committing a socially dangerous crime, is not of sound mind, namely can not realize the significance of his or her acts or control them because of chronic mental illness, temporary mental derangement, mild mental retardation or any other morbid psychiatric disorder, may not be held liable.

594. A court may apply coercive medical measures to a person who has committed a socially dangerous act and has been recognized as insane.

595. A person who has committed a crime after consuming alcohol, drugs or psychotropic or other substances affecting one's reason or will is not absolved of criminal liability. Such a condition may not serve as grounds for recognizing the person concerned as insane.

Article 16

Legal personality of citizens

596. Under article 17 of the Civil Code, the capacity to exercise civil rights and perform civil obligations is recognized equally to all citizens.

597. A citizen's legal personality comes into being at the moment of birth and terminates with death.

598. Citizens may own property by virtue of the right of ownership, inherit and bequeath property, hold savings in banks, engage in business and agricultural activities and other activities not prohibited by law, use hired labour, create legal entities, conduct transactions and undertake obligations, seek compensation for harm, choose their type of occupation and place of residence, and hold copyrights to works of science, literature and art, as well as patents to inventions and other intellectual property protected by law.

599. Citizens may also enjoy other property and personal non-property rights (article 18 of the Civil Code).

600. A citizen's capacity to acquire and exercise civil rights and undertake and meet civil obligations through his or her acts (dispositive capacity) arises in full measure at the age of majority, namely 18.

601. A citizen who lawfully marries before attaining the age of majority acquires full dispositive capacity upon entering into marriage. Such capacity is fully retained in the event that the marriage is dissolved before a person reaches age 18. In annulling a marriage, the court may decide that a minor spouse should lose full dispositive capacity from a time to be determined by the court (article 22 of the Civil Code).

602. Under article 30 of the Civil Code, an individual who, by reason of mental disorder (mental illness or dementia), can not realize the significance of his or her acts or control them may be declared incompetent by a court according to established procedures. Such a person is placed under guardianship, the tutor being responsible for managing the affairs on his or her behalf. If the grounds for declaring that person incompetent cease to exist, the court must recognize him or her as having dispositive capacity, and the guardianship must be lifted.

603. A person who puts his or her family in a difficult material position through abuse of alcohol, narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances may have his or her dispositive capacity restricted by a court, as provided in the law of civil procedure. Such a person is placed under custody. He or she has the right to carry out independently small everyday consumer transactions; and may conduct other transactions and receive or use wages, a pension or other income solely with the consent of the tutor. Such a person, however, shall bear sole property-related liability for transactions that he or she has carried out and for damage caused by him or her.

604. If the grounds for restricting that person's dispositive capacity cease to exist, the court must terminate such restrictions. The custody is lifted by court decision (article 31 of the Civil Code).

605. Currently, a draft Guardianship and Custody Act is being prepared in order to create the necessary procedural and institutional mechanisms for the protection of the rights of

persons in need of guardianship or custody and to improve the activity of State and civil-society bodies in that area.

Article 17

Personal privacy

606. Under article 27 of the Constitution, everyone has the right to protection against encroachments on his or her honour and dignity, interference in his or her private life and inviolability of his or her home.

607. No one may enter a home, carry out a search or inspection, or violate the privacy of correspondence and telephone conversations save under the circumstances and procedure established by law.

608. Under article 100 of the Civil Code, a citizen is entitled to petition a court to refute information disparaging his or her honour, dignity or business reputation, unless the person who disseminated the information can show it to be true. Upon the request of interested persons, the protection of a citizen's honour and dignity shall be ensured even after his or her death.

609. Any dissemination of calumnious information detrimental to honour, dignity or business reputation via the media must be retracted through the same media. If such information is contained in a document issued by an organization, that document is subject to retraction or recall. In other cases, the procedure for the rebuttal of information is laid out by the court.

610. A citizen, with respect to whom defamatory information regarding his or her rights or lawful interests is disseminated through the media, shall have the right to publish his or her defence in the same media.

611. If a court decision is not implemented, the court may impose on the violator a fine payable in the amount and manner laid down in the law. Payment of the fine shall not release the violator from the obligation to undertake the action specified in the court decision.

612. A citizen, with respect to whom defamatory information detrimental to his or her honour, dignity or business reputation is disseminated, may, in addition to retraction of such information, demand compensation for any losses and moral damage caused by the dissemination of the information.

613. Article 40 of the Administrative Liability Code establishes liability for slander, namely disseminating information that knowingly consists of defamatory fabrications, and punishes such an act with a fine equal to 20–60 times the minimum wage.

614. Under article 41, insult, namely deliberate disparagement of a person's honour and dignity, incurs a fine equal to 20–40 times the minimum wage.

615. Under article 46, violation of medical or commercial secrets or of the secrecy of correspondence or other communications, notarial documents, banking operations and savings, or disclosure of any other information that may occasion moral or material harm to citizens and their rights, freedoms and lawful interests, incur liability and a fine equal to 2–5 times the minimum wage.

616. The rights of citizens to inviolability of the home and to secrecy of correspondence and telephone conversations may be restricted only in cases provided for by the law.

617. Under article 166 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, if there are sufficient reasons to presume that postal or cable correspondence from or to a suspect, an accused or a

defendant may contain information on the committed crime or documents or objects important to the case, the inquiry officer, investigator or court may impound such correspondence in full or in part.

618. The following postal and telegraph correspondence may be impounded: letters of all types, cables, radiograms, printed matters, packages, parcels, and post containers.

619. Postal and cable correspondence is impounded pursuant to an inquiry officer's or investigator's decision confirmed by the procurator or to a court ruling. Such a decision or ruling must state the last name, first name, patronymic and address of the person concerned; the types of postal or cable correspondence to be impounded; the time limit for impounding; and the name of the communications office obliged to withhold the postal and cable correspondence concerned and inform the inquiry officer or investigator thereof.

620. The above decision or ruling is addressed to and binding on the head of the communications office concerned. Non-execution or disclosure of the decision or ruling incurs liability.

621. Upon arrival at the communications office, the inquiry officer or investigator opens and examines the postal or cable correspondence in the presence of witnesses and, if necessary, an expert. If information, documents or objects related to the case are found, the investigator or inquiry officer seizes or copies the impounded correspondence. If no such items are found, the investigator or inquiry officer gives instructions to deliver the correspondence examined to the addressee or hold it for a period that the officer determines.

622. In each instance of postal or cable correspondence review, an official record is drawn up, specifying the correspondence examined, withheld, to be forwarded to the addressee, temporarily kept, or copied (article 167 of the Code of Criminal Procedure).

623. Wiretapping of telephone or other communications of a suspect, accused or defendant takes place pursuant to an inquiry officer's or investigator's decision confirmed by the procurator or to a court ruling.

624. Where there is a risk of violence, extortion or other illegal acts against a victim, a witness or their relatives or close acquaintances, wiretapping of telephone or other communications is authorized on the basis of such persons' written request or consent, a procurator's order or a court ruling.

625. In case of emergency, the inquiry officer or investigator may address a wiretapping decision to the national security service without the procurator's authorization and promptly inform him or her thereof in writing. Such unauthorized decisions are valid for 24 hours.

626. A decision or ruling to wiretap telephone or other communications indicates the type and extent of information to be wiretapped and the form of recording to be obtained and is transmitted for execution to the national security service. The duration of wiretapping may not exceed six months.

627. A sound record is made of wiretapped telephone or other communications. The recordings are attached to the official investigation report (article 169 of the Code of Criminal Procedure).

628. Under article 158 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, an investigator or inquiry officer may carry out a search, if there is sufficient information to presume that objects or documents significant for a criminal case may exist in a residence, office, workplace or other location, or with a person. Searches may also be undertaken to locate missing persons or corpses.

629. The Police Operations Act of 25 December 2012 further safeguarded the citizens' right to inviolability of personal life. Under article 13 of the Act, agencies conducting police operations may not disclose, without the consent of the citizens concerned, any information related to their private lives or affecting their honour or dignity and must safeguard their life and health and the property of individuals or legal entities.

630. Procuratorial authorization is required for measures that, as part of police operations, restrict the right to secrecy of correspondence, telephone or other conversations, postal dispatches and cabled or other transmitted information and the right to inviolability of the home (art. 16).

631. Under article 45 of the Administrative Liability Code, illegal penetration into a home against the will of the occupants by a person who is not an official incurs a fine equal to 33–100 per cent of one minimum wage.

632. Under article 142 of the Criminal Code, illegal forceful entry into a home against the occupant's will is punishable with punitive deduction of earnings for up to three years or imprisonment for up to five years.

633. Under article 143 of the Criminal Code, intentional violation of the confidentiality of correspondence, telephone conversations, cable or other communications committed after receiving an administrative penalty for the same acts incurs a fine equal to 25 minimum wages, suspension of a specific right or punitive deduction of earnings for up to three years or arrest for up to six months.

Article 18

Ensuring freedom of conscience

634. With regard to the right to freedom of conscience, religion and confession, note should be made that, in Uzbekistan, freedom of conscience is guaranteed for all. Everyone has the right to profess any religion or none. Under article 31 of the Constitution, the imposition of religious views by force is prohibited. The Freedom of Conscience and Religious Organizations Act of 1998 governs social relations in the area of realization of citizens' rights in respect of freedom of conscience.

635. In Uzbekistan, there are 2,224 religious organizations belonging to 16 different confessions, including the Orthodox, Catholic, Lutheran, Baptist, Full Gospel, Seventh Day Adventist and other Christian churches, religious communities of Bukhara and European Jews, Baha'i, Hare Krishna and Buddhists.

636. The country's 2,049 Islamic organizations account for 92 per cent of the above total number. There also operate 158 Christian organizations, 8 Jewish communities, 6 Baha'i communities, 1 Hare Krishna association, 1 Buddhist temple, and an interfaith Bible Society.

637. Islam is, traditionally and historically, the biggest faith in numerical terms. In institutional terms the country currently has the Moslem Board of Uzbekistan, the Kaziat of Moslems of Karakalpakstan, the Tashkent Islamic Institute, 10 madrasas and 1,862 mosques, 90 per cent of which keep Friday as the Sabbath day. The Board runs its own publications (the newspaper *Islom nuri* which comes out twice a month, and the monthly magazine *Khidoyat*) and has its own publishing house, Maverannakhr.

638. Adherents of Islam have every opportunity to observe the five pillars, or Moslem obligations. In other words, believers are free to pray in mosques, give zakat, fast in the month of Ramadan, and make the pilgrimage, the hajj, to Saudi Arabia.

639. Believers are free to celebrate all religious holidays. Every year, an increasing number of Moslems mark Kurban Khait and Ramadan, of Christians Easter and Christmas, and of Jews Purim and Hanukkah.

640. Pilgrimage to holy sites is carried out on the basis of the Freedom of Conscience and Religious Organizations Act; the Presidential Decree of 28 August 2006 establishing a public council on issues of organization and conduct of annual hajj- and umrah-related activities; and Presidential Decision No. 869 of 20 May 2008 on additional State support measures for believers engaging in the hajj and the umrah rites.

641. In the years since independence, over 85,000 Uzbek citizens have travelled to Saudi Arabia for the hajj and more than 1,000 have undertaken pilgrimages to Russia, Greece and Israel. Every year, members of more than 120 non-islamic religious communities make pilgrimages to the holy sites of their religion, enjoying all the privileges accorded to believers traveling abroad.

642. One of the largest religious faiths in Uzbekistan is the Russian Orthodox Church. Founded more than 140 years ago, the Orthodox Church in Uzbekistan now comprises more than 30 religious associations and 3 monasteries. More than 20 seminarians are being trained at the diocese seminary. The Orthodox Church runs a number of publications, of which the newspaper *Slovo zhizni* has the widest circulation.

643. Under article 19 of the Freedom of Conscience and Religious Organizations Act, the central administrative bodies of religious organizations import religious literature into Uzbek territory according to the relevant procedure.

644. The publication of religious literature is handled by the Tashkent Islamic University, the Imam Bukhari International Centre and the Bible Society, which engage in importing and publishing religious literature in various languages.

645. In the years since independence, three Uzbek translations of the Koran, 16 books of the Old Testament, and the New Testament have been published. Uzbekistan is the third country in the world to have published the Koran in Braille.

646. As of 1 January 2013, the following 12 religious educational institutions functioned in Uzbekistan: Tashkent Islamic Institute, nine intermediate special Islamic educational institutions (madrasas), the Tashkent Orthodox Seminary and the Tashkent Christian Seminary.

647. The Tashkent Orthodox Seminary, unique in Central Asia, is attended by local students and foreign citizens from Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan.

648. Qualification upgrading courses for the leaders of the county's mosques are organized in the Imam Bukhari International Centre, created in the hadith study centre of Samarkand province on 23 May 2008. Since then, 20 such courses have been offered. They have been attended by 1,200 imams.

649. Considerable attention is paid to the exercise of freedom of conscience by convicted prisoners. Under article 12 (Exercise of freedom of conscience among prisoners) of the Penal Enforcement Code, inmates are guaranteed freedom of conscience and may profess any religion or none. At the convicts' request, ministers of duly registered religious organizations may be invited to visit convicts serving sentences of rigorous imprisonment or deprivation of liberty. Prisoners are allowed to perform religious rites and to have religious objects and religious literature. The performance of religious rites is voluntary and must not infringe the internal regulations of the establishment where the sentence is served or encroach on the rights and legitimate interests of other persons.

650. In connection with liability for violating the right to freedom of conscience, Uzbek law prohibits:

- Prevention of the lawful activity of religious organizations or the performance of religious rites.
- Recruitment of minors to religious organizations, and religious instruction of minors against their will or against the will of their parents or persons *in loco parentis*.
- Religious activities which prevent citizens from exercising their civil rights or fulfilling their civil obligations; compulsory imposition of dues or taxes on believers; application of measures injurious to personal honour and dignity; forcing of a person to receive religious instruction or to define his or her attitude to religion, to profess or not to profess a religion, or to participate or not to participate in acts of worship, religious rites and ceremonies; and religious rites causing minor or moderate bodily injury.
- Acts calculated to wound national honour and dignity or insult the feelings of believers or non-believers, committed with a view to inciting hatred, intolerance or discord with regard to certain communities on national, racial, ethnic or religious grounds, and the direct or indirect restriction of rights or the establishment of direct or indirect advantages in connection with the nationality, race, ethnicity or attitude to religion of such communities.
- Inducement to participate in activities of public associations or religious organizations, movements or sects prohibited in Uzbekistan.
- Conduct of unlawful religious activity, avoidance of registration of statutes by the leaders of religious organizations, and convening and conduct by ministers of religion and members of religious organizations of special meetings for children and young persons or of work-related, literary or other clubs and groups not connected with acts of worship.
- Conversion of believers from one religion to another (proselytism) and other missionary work (article 240 of the Administrative Liability Code and article 216 of the Criminal Code).
- Violation of the legislation governing religious instruction, provision of religious instruction by persons without special religious training or without the authorization of the chief administrative body of a religious organization, or provision of private religious instruction. These acts incur a fine of 5–10 times the minimum wage or administrative detention for up to 15 days.

651. It is prohibited to recruit minors to religious organizations and instruct them in religion against their will or against the will of their parents or persons *in loco parentis*. On attaining majority, every person may independently exercise his or her right to freedom of conscience.

652. As regards cooperation of the State with religious organizations, the Committee on Religious Affairs of the Cabinet of Ministers is responsible for coordinating relations between State agencies and religious organizations and for monitoring compliance with the legislation on freedom of conscience and on religious organizations.

653. A Council on Faith Matters has been established under the Committee on Religious Affairs for purposes of close cooperation with religious organizations, assistance to various denominations to conduct their activities and joint formulation of proposals and initiatives promoting inter-religious and inter-ethnic peace and harmony in society, nurturing a culture to that effect and enhancing inter-faith communication.

654. Members of the Council on Faith Matters include the heads of the Moslem Board of Uzbekistan, the Tashkent and Central Asian diocese of the Russian Orthodox Church, the Roman Catholic Church, the Union of Churches of Evangelical Christian Baptists, the Full Gospel Christian Church Centre, the Evangelical Lutheran Church and the Jewish religious community of Tashkent.

655. Religious organizations may use for their needs buildings and property provided to them by State bodies on the basis of an agreement. Sites and items of historical and cultural value may be turned over to religious organizations for use, in accordance with the law.

656. Land may be made available to religious organizations, and buildings may be constructed for worship-related purposes in accordance with established procedure, based on authorization by the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, the khokimiyats of provinces or Tashkent city, or the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan, as appropriate.

657. Presidential Decision No. 938 of 7 August 2008 established and attached to the Moslem Administration of Uzbekistan a charitable foundation to coordinate activities related to the maintenance and construction of places of worship.

658. In the years since independence, believers funded various religious facilities, including tens of mosques and Orthodox churches, Catholic churches in Tashkent (1992) and Samarkand (1997), a Lutheran church in Tashkent (1993) and an Armenian church in Samarkand (1992).

659. Facilities built or restored in the years since independence include the complexes of Khazrati Imam in Tashkent, Imam al-Bukhari and Imam al-Moturidi in Samarkand, Abdukhalik Gizhduvan and Bakhaiddin Nakshband, and Minorai Kalon and Maszhidi Kalon in Bukhara, the monuments of Akhmad al-Fargoni and Burkhoniddin al-Marginoni in Fergana, and Khakim at-Termizi and Imam at-Termizi in Surkhandarya, the historical complexes of Itchan Kala in Khiva, Dor Ut Tilovat in Shakhrisabz, Odina and Kuk gumbaz in Karshi, and the Qasim-Sheik mausoleum in the city of Karman.

660. Believers are currently served by an appropriate number of religious organizations and are given every opportunity to exercise their religious rights.

661. The Committee on Religious Affairs maintains bilateral relations with the Moslem religious organizations of Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and the countries of Central Asia. Meetings are held with representatives of the main bodies of non-Islamic religious organizations registered in Uzbekistan, including the Russian Orthodox Church, the Roman Catholic Church, the Armenian Apostolic Church, the Seventh-day Adventist Church, the New Apostolic Church, "Jehovah's Witnesses" Church, the Buddhist temple and the Baha'i community.

Article 19

Exercise of freedom of thought and opinion

662. Under article 29 of the Constitution, everyone is guaranteed freedom of thought, speech and convictions. Everyone has the right to seek, obtain and disseminate any information, save where it is directed against the existing constitutional system and in certain other cases specified by law.

663. Implementation of these constitutional provisions has been facilitated by the creation of an appropriate legal framework, particularly through the adoption of, *inter alia*, the Media Act, the Act on guarantees of freedom of access to information, the Act on protection of the professional activities of journalists, the Act on principles and guarantees

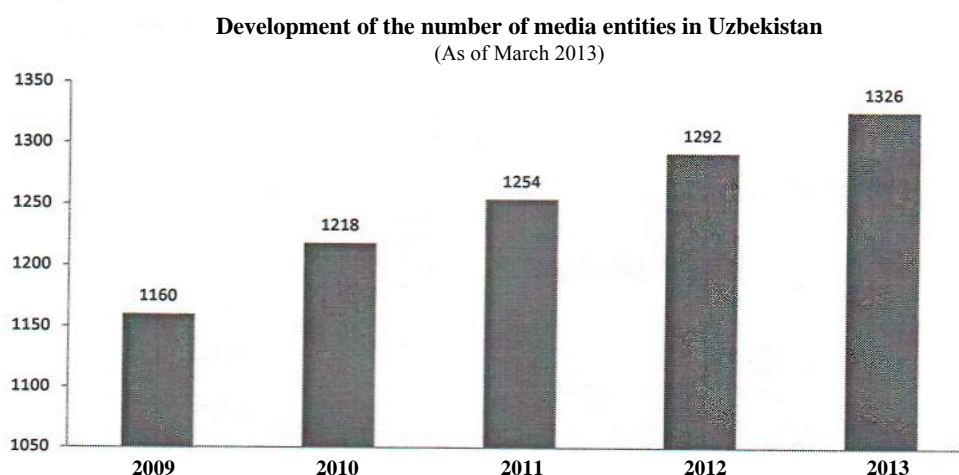
of freedom of information, and the Information Technology Act. In Uzbekistan, more than 10 acts and more than 20 subsidiary legislation instruments have been adopted to regulate the activity of the media.

664. Under the Media Act, the media are free and conduct their activities in accordance with the legislation. The right of the media to seek, receive and disseminate information has been strengthened (art. 5). Censorship is prohibited. Every citizen has the right to address the media and to express opinions and convictions openly.

665. At the same time, the media are responsible for ensuring objectiveness and accuracy of information. Article 6 of the Act prohibits the use of the media in order to, *inter alia*, call for alteration of the existing constitutional order or territorial integrity of the Republic of Uzbekistan by force, and make propaganda for war, violence or terrorism or promote ideologies of religious extremism, separatism and fundamentalism. Moreover, the media may not publish the findings of any initial enquiry or pre-trial investigation without the written permission of the procurator or investigator concerned, prejudge the outcome of a specific case before the court makes its decision, or bring influence to bear on the court in any other way before its decision becomes enforceable.

666. Currently, the media play a key role in guaranteeing pluralism of views in society. In the years since independence, it has been possible to undo the monopoly of a single ideology over the media, introduce market mechanisms in the information sector consistently and gradually, and develop a non-State radio and television network, and non-State agencies and foundations supporting printed and audiovisual means of information and the Internet.

667. The number of domestic media entities increased from 1,160 in 2009 to 1,326 in early 2013.



668. Various foreign media operate in the country. As of January 2013, correspondents' offices were accredited to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the following nine foreign media: Kabar information agency (Kyrgyzstan), TRT radio and television (Turkey), BBC World Service Monitoring (United Kingdom), AzerTaj information agency (Azerbaijan), Sinhua information agency and Tszintszi Zhibao newspaper (China), Regnum information agency and RIA-Novosti (Russian Federation) and Arzu Radio TV (Afghanistan).

669. A total of 42 correspondents, *inter alia* of the following foreign media, are accredited to the above ministry: Interfax information agency (Russian Federation),

TRT radio and television (Turkey), China Radio International (CRI) and Zhenmin Zhibao (China), Aftenposten newspaper (Norway), Agence France-Presse (France) and BBC World Service Monitoring (United Kingdom).

670. The activity of foreign media correspondents in the country is regulated by the Cabinet of Ministers decision of 24 February 2006 approving guidelines for professional activities of foreign media correspondents, which specifies the procedure for foreign media accreditation, establishment of correspondent offices, and entry, residence, rights and responsibilities of foreign correspondents in Uzbekistan.

671. The following measures are taken in order to ensure freedom of information:

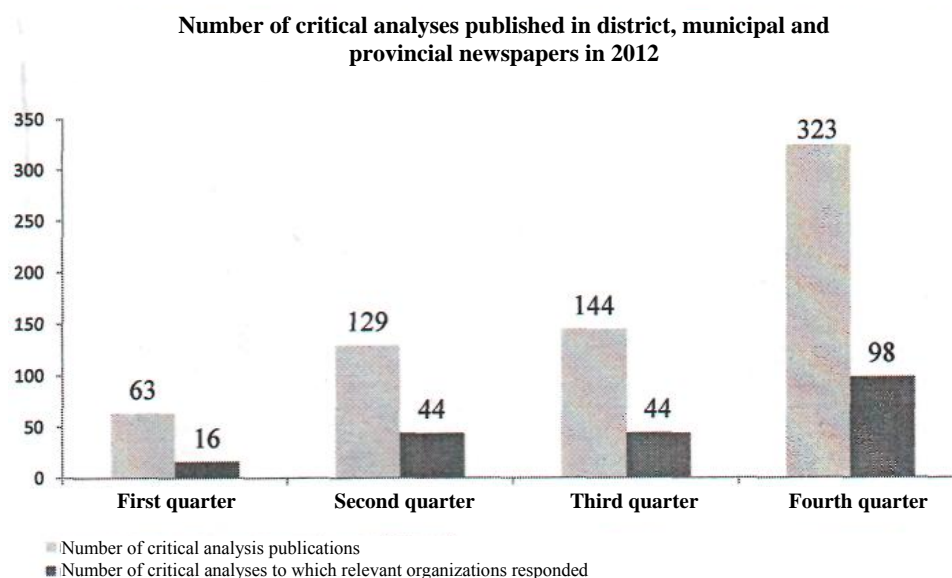
- Systematic development of market relations and healthy competition in the information sector, and financial self-reliance of print media and information agencies as a prerequisite for independent growth, a key to freedom of the press and information.
- Expansion of the network of domestic news portals on the Internet and provision of grants to that end through competitive tenders among such portals and domestic information agencies. In the new version of the Media Act, electronic versions of printed periodic publications are referred to for the first time as part of the media.
- Modernization and enhancement of the physical and technical infrastructure of the media in line with high contemporary requirements.
- Training and retraining of journalists and technical staff to upgrade their skills in line with current trends of the information sector worldwide, with particular attention paid to the development of analytical journalism in the country.
- Planning and organization of media activities on the basis of, *inter alia*, public opinion surveys, assessed information needs and demand, and rating indicators.

672. The television and radio broadcasting system has been restructured on the basis of the Presidential Decree of 8 November 2005 on measures for the reform and development of independent television and radio channels. The Television and Radio Company of Uzbekistan was converted into the National Television and Radio Company of Uzbekistan, which consists of the following four independent television and radio channels: TRK Uzbekistan State unitary enterprise (GUP), TRK Eshlar (“Youth”) private limited company (ZAO), TRK Sport GUP, and TRK Tashkent GUP.

673. As a result of the development of healthy competition among the various State and non-State television and radio channels and printed and Internet publications, the quality and effectiveness of the provision of information on key world and domestic events and of political, social, economic and other news coverage improved considerably. Civil society actively participates in discussions on the country’s current social, political, spiritual and cultural issues, broadcast by the National Television and Radio Corporation.

674. There are regular broadcasts of the “Davri-interview”, “Davri-mavzusi” (“Theme of the day”), “Zamondosh” (“Contemporary”), “Tarakkiet sari” (“On the road of progress”) and “Erkin iktisodiet” (“Free economy”) television programmes, while debates and critical presentations are organized on analytical information television broadcasts (“Akhborot”, “Takhliilnoma”, “Davri” and “Poytakht”). Representatives of, *inter alia*, NGOs, citizens’ self-governance bodies and elected authorities participate in the broadcasts.

675. In addition to Uzbek, television and radio programmes, newspapers and magazines appear also in Russian, Tajik, Kazakh, Kyrgyz and other languages.



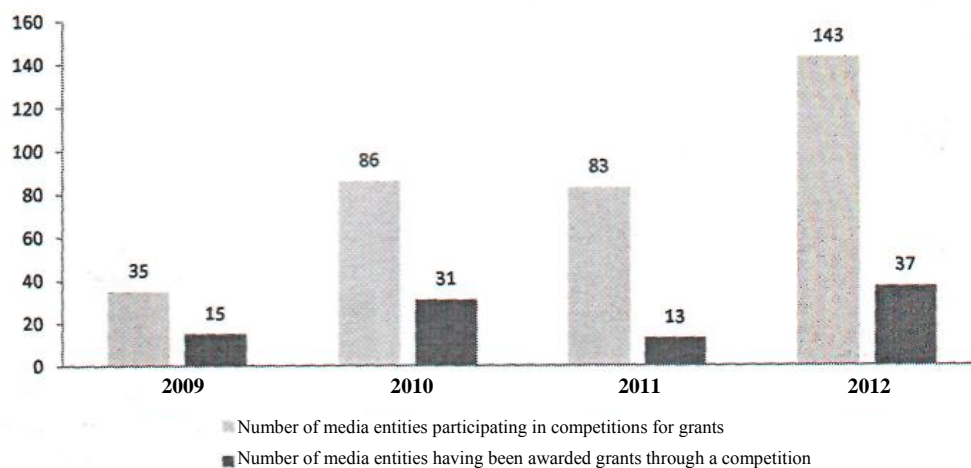
676. State support covers a wide spectrum of active assistance and encouragement, encompassing *inter alia* the provision of economic advantages in the form of a preferential tax regime for media production, including a preferential value-added tax rate, concessional postal charges, a special investment regime and exemption from business/corporate tax; reductions in printing costs; and further training for staff.

677. The Journalists' Code of Conduct, adopted at the national media forum in September 2008, addresses the moral and ethical side of journalists' activities.

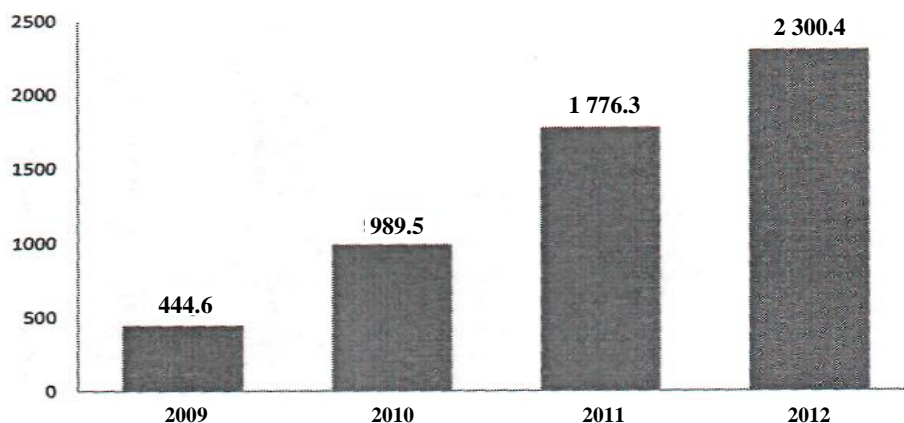
678. The Foundation for the Support and Development of Independent Print Media and News Agencies of Uzbekistan, the National Electronic Media Association (NAESMI) and the Creative Union of Journalists are some of the civil society organizations that play a key role in the development of independent media.

679. Since 2007, under the Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organizations Safeguards Act, independent media receive subsidies, grants and State procurement orders.

Number of media entities participating in competitions for grants of the support fund of the Oliy Majlis, 2009–2012



Development of grants to NGOs, 2009–2012
(Million sum)



680. More than 12,000 journalists work in the Uzbek media. Journalists are trained and receive further training in the journalism department and in two-year advanced journalism programmes of the National University of Uzbekistan, the journalism departments of Uzbekistan State University of World Languages, Uzbek State Institute of Art and Karakalpak State University, and the International In-Service Training Centre for Journalists.

681. The Forum of Culture and Arts of Uzbekistan Foundation (Fund Forum) contributes considerably to training and qualifications upgrading for young journalists. The Kelajak Ovozi Youth Television Studios operate in every region of Uzbekistan. There young journalists prepare announcements and programmes on aspects of young persons' lives that are regularly broadcast on the NTT network. Since 2008, the Fund has been carrying out videoconferences, transmitted in real time in all regions of the country. Connected by

telebridge with the Youth Creativity Centre in Tashkent, members of Youth Initiative Centres in 12 provinces and in the Republic of Karakalpakstan can see and confer with each other.

682. On-line conferencing, one of the country's most technology-oriented current projects, based on the Fund Forum's unique know-how, constitutes a modern and effective method for recapitulating annual activity outcomes through direct dialogue with the community via the www.on-line.uz website.

683. Inquiry into the issues raised in paragraph 24 of the Committee's concluding observations has revealed that in the period 2010–2012 law-enforcement agencies investigated no criminal cases involving threats or assaults against journalists and so-called "human rights defenders".

684. The draft Act on openness in the work of State and governmental authorities, which has been reviewed by independent experts of OSCE, has been drawn up in order to provide individuals and legal entities with a broad access to information on the activity of State structures, improve the mechanisms for the realization of the citizens' constitutional right to information, and build the informational capacities of State bodies. The provisions of the Act are based on stated standards and principles of international law, including OSCE documents, and specify methods for ensuring access to the information in question.

685. The Television- and Radio-broadcasting Act, drawn up on the initiative of the President of the Republic, constitutes, according to OSCE experts, an improvement on the existing legislation on the media. The Act provides for the creation of a body coordinating broadcasting activities, details a procedure for issuing broadcasting licences, prohibits media monopolization and abuse, calls for the introduction of digital television and radio, and protects the rights of media users.

686. Parliamentary oversight and scrutiny of the implementation of legislation and programmes regulating the information sector intensified in recent years. Thus, at a 2010 joint session, the Senate Committees on Science, Education, Culture and Sport and on Budget and Economic Reforms reviewed the compliance of the Communication and Information Agency of Uzbekistan (UzACI) with the Information Technology Act requirements and of the Copyright Agency with the Copyright and Associated Rights Act. The Committees also reviewed progress made in implementing State programmes for extensive introduction of advanced information and communication technologies in the media sector and in developing the non-State media sector in Tashkent province.

687. On 17 February 2011, at a joint session, the Senate Committees on Science, Education, Culture and Sports and on Foreign Policy Matters and the Kengash of people's deputies of Fergana province reviewed the implementation of the Media Act and the Freedom of Information Principles and Guarantees Act in that province. On 20 February 2012, the same Committee and the Jokargy Kenes of Karakalpakstan reviewed the implementation of the Media Act in the Republic of Karakalpakstan. On 17 April 2012, the same Committee and the Kengash of people's deputies of the province of Syrdarya reviewed the implementation of the Freedom of Information Principles and Guarantees Act by the local State authorities in the said province.

Article 20

Prohibition of propaganda for war

688. There exists in Uzbekistan a legal framework for a peaceful foreign policy and for the protection of the citizens against any military threats.

689. Under article 17 of the Constitution, Uzbekistan is a full-fledged subject of international relations. Its foreign policy is based on the principles of the sovereign equality of States, non-use of force or the threat of force, inviolability of frontiers, peaceful settlement of disputes and non-interference in the internal affairs of States and on the other generally recognized principles and rules of international law.

690. Uzbekistan may form alliances and join commonwealths and other inter-State groupings or leave them, on the basis of the supreme interests of the State and the people and their welfare and security.

691. Under article 4 of the Defence Act, State policy on defence relies on the following principles:

- Non-use of the Armed Forces against any other State, save in cases of countering and repulsing aggression and assisting States, with which Uzbekistan is linked through relevant agreements;
- Participation in collective security systems in accordance with international law standards;
- Non-participation in military and political blocs;
- Adequacy of the military structure in view of the nature of modern warfare and armed conflicts;
- Abstention from producing, processing, acquiring, storing, propagating or deploying nuclear or other weapons of mass destruction;
- Constant readiness of the Armed Forces, the economy, the population and the territory to repulse aggression;
- Defensive sufficiency;
- Preservation of the prestige of military service.

692. Article 57 of the Constitution prohibits the creation and operation of political parties and other public associations whose purpose is to change the constitutional system by force, or which act against the sovereignty, integrity and security of the Republic and the rights and freedoms of its citizens under the Constitution, or advocate war or social, ethnic, racial or religious strife and undermining the health and morality of the people; as well as the creation and operation of paramilitary groups and political parties based on ethnic or religious criteria.

693. Under the 2012 Act establishing the Uzbek foreign policy outline, Uzbekistan reserves the right to enter into or leave alliances, cooperation agreements or other inter-State arrangements, guided by the better interests of the State, its people, the people's welfare and security, and the country's modernization priorities, current national legislation and international obligations.

694. Uzbekistan is committed to a peaceful policy; does not participate in military and political blocs; reserves the right to withdraw from any inter-State arrangement that turns into such a bloc; takes political, economic and other measures to avoid involvement in armed conflicts and tensions in neighbouring countries; and does not authorize the establishment of foreign military bases and facilities in its territory.

695. In accordance with the Constitution, the Defence Act and military doctrine, the Armed Forces of Uzbekistan are organized solely to protect national sovereignty, the country's territorial integrity and the peace and security of its population and do not participate in peacemaking operations abroad.

696. The Criminal Code provides for liability for offences against the peace and security of humanity.

697. Under article 150 of the Criminal Code, making propaganda for war, namely disseminating in any form views, ideas or appeals with the aim of causing aggression by one party against another, incurs liability and is punished with deprivation of liberty for 5–10 years.

698. Under article 151 of the same Code, aggression, namely planning or preparation of aggressive war or engagement in a conspiracy to carry out such acts, is punished with deprivation of liberty for 10–15 years. Launching or conducting aggressive warfare is punished with deprivation of liberty for 15–20 years.

699. Under article 152, breach of the law and customs of war through torture, physical destruction of civilian population or prisoners of war, forced relocation of civilian population for forced labour or other purposes, application of weapons prohibited under international law, purposeless destruction of cities and populated localities, and despoilment of property, including orders to carry out such acts, are punished with deprivation of liberty for 10–20 years.

700. Under article 153, genocide, namely intentional creation of living conditions that lead to full or partial physical destruction of a group of individuals on the basis of their ethnic origin, race or religion, forced reduction of childbirths in such a group or transfer of children from that group to another, including orders to carry out such acts, is punished with deprivation of liberty for 10–20 years.

701. Under article 154, activities involving mercenaries, namely participation of a person in an armed conflict or military action for the purpose of obtaining remuneration or other personal benefits, if that person is not a national or a member of the military of a country involved in the armed conflict, or is not a permanent resident of a territory controlled by a party to the conflict, or is not authorized by any State to perform official duties in armed forces, is punished with deprivation of liberty for 5–10 years.

702. Moreover, recruitment, instruction, funding or other material assistance extended to a mercenary, or use of a mercenary in armed conflicts or in military action, is punished with deprivation of liberty for 7–12 years.

703. Under article 154-1, entry of an Uzbek citizen in the military or security services, police, military justice or other analogous bodies of foreign States incurs a fine equal to 300 minimum wages or punitive deduction of earnings for up to three years.

704. Moreover, recruiting an Uzbek citizen into the military or security services, police, military justice or other analogous bodies of foreign States is punished with deprivation of liberty for 3–5 years.

705. Under article 155, terrorism, namely violence, use of force or other acts that pose a threat to an individual or property, or the threat to undertake such acts in order to force a State body, an international organization, officials thereof, an individual or a legal entity to carry out or omit an activity in order to complicate international relations, infringe the sovereignty and territorial integrity or undermine the security of a State, provoke war or armed conflict, destabilize the sociopolitical situation or intimidate the population, and any activity aimed at supporting the existence, operation or funding of a terrorist organization, the preparation or commission of terrorist acts, and the direct or indirect provision or collection of any resources or other services for the benefit of terrorist organizations or of persons assisting or participating in terrorist activities are punished with deprivation of liberty for 8–10 years.

706. Moreover, any attempt on the life of, or infliction of a bodily injury to, a State official, public figure or representative of an authority, committed in connection with State or public activities of that person in order to destabilize the situation, affect decisions by State bodies or obstruct political or other public activities, is punished with deprivation of liberty for 10–15 years. The acts punishable under paragraphs 1 or 2 of this article incur deprivation of liberty for 15–20 years if they cause:

- The death of a person;
- Other grave consequences.

707. Moreover, a person having participated in the preparation of terrorism is exonerated from criminal liability if he or she actively assists in averting grave consequences and the attainment of terrorist goals by informing the authorities in a timely manner or in any other way, provided that his or her acts do not constitute another type of crime.

708. Under article 156, the production or possession for dissemination or the dissemination of material advocating national, racial, ethnic or religious enmity, subsequent to the imposition of an administrative penalty for such acts, is punished with a fine equal to 600 times the minimum wage or punitive reduction of earnings or deprivation of liberty for up to three years.

709. Moreover, deliberate acts disparaging ethnic honour or dignity or insulting the religious or atheistic feelings of individuals and carried out to incite hatred, intolerance or division on national, ethnic, racial, or religious grounds, and direct or indirect restriction of rights or provision of advantages on national, racial, ethnic or religious grounds are punished with deprivation of liberty for up to five years. The acts punishable under paragraphs 1 or 2 of this article incur deprivation of liberty for 5–10 years if they are committed:

- (a) In a manner endangering the lives of others;
- (b) With infliction of serious bodily injuries;
- (c) With forced eviction of persons from their place of permanent residence;
- (d) By an authorized official;
- (e) By a group acting on the basis of prior concert.

710. In 2012, criminal charges were brought to 11 persons for incitement to national, racial or religious hatred (compared to 25 in 2011 and 23 in 2010). In the same period, no cases of advocating war were brought before a court.

Article 21

Freedom of peaceful assembly and grounds for restricting it

711. The right of citizens to participate in rallies, demonstrations and meetings is enshrined in article 33 of the Constitution, under which citizens may engage in public life by holding such events in accordance with the law. Government bodies may suspend or ban such events solely on the basis of justified security considerations.

712. In accordance with the rules for organizing mass events, established in Cabinet of Ministers Decision No. 15 of 13 January 2003, peaceful gatherings of 100 or more persons in open or closed sites during national, religious or professional special occasions may take place in spaces specifically intended for such purposes, subject to prior authorization by the local State and Government authorities.

713. In order to obtain an authorization to hold a mass event, the organizers must file an application with the competent commission at least one month in advance.

714. The application must contain:

- (a) The designation and address of the legal entity concerned; the surname, first name, patronymic and position of its authorized representative; and the surname, first name, patronymic and home address of the individual organizing the event;
- (b) At least two contact telephone numbers;
- (c) The designation, purpose and form of the event;
- (d) The date and place of the event;
- (e) The times of commencement and termination of the event;
- (f) The expected number of participants;
- (g) The organizers' obligation to take measures to ensure the participants' security;
- (h) The date of submission and the organizers' signature.

715. The application must be accompanied by:

- (a) The programme of the event, stating the technical equipment to be used (*inter alia*, stage platform, sound amplification, power source, lighting and disposal facilities);
- (b) A certificate from the administration of the facilities to the effect that they will be ready for the event;
- (c) A specific authorization if the given activity is of a type subject to prior permission.

716. The commission reviews the documents thus submitted within 10 days and decides to issue the authorization or to reject the application, indicating the grounds for such rejection. A copy of the commission's decision is forwarded to the organizers within one day from the taking of the decision.

717. In the event of rejection, the organizers may reapply after eliminating the defects cited as grounds for the rejection. That new application may not be rejected on additional grounds, not cited in connection with the earlier rejection.

718. The commission's decision not to authorize an event may be appealed to higher bodies or the courts.

719. After obtaining an authorization, the organizers must, at least 10 days before the beginning of the event, notify the event to the local internal affairs authorities in writing and conclude an agreement for the protection of public order and security. The notification must be accompanied by the authorization and the programme of the event, indicating the means provided for the said protection.

720. The costs of the services provided by the local internal affairs authorities to ensure the protection of public order and security in connection with the event is established by agreement between the parties. The local internal affairs authorities provide the personnel and the special and technical equipment required to ensure the said protection.

721. The aforementioned authorization and public-order and security protection agreement form the basis for organizing a mass event.

722. Under article 201 of the Administrative Liability Code, failure to comply with the procedure for the organization and conduct of assemblies, meetings, street marches and demonstrations incurs liability and is punished with a fine equal to 60–80 times the minimum wage or administrative arrest for 15 days.

723. Under article 241 of the Administrative Liability Code, failure to comply with the rules for the conduct of religious meetings, street processions and other worship-related ceremonies incurs a fine equal to 60–100 times the minimum wage or administrative arrest for 15 days.

724. Under article 244 of the Criminal Code, organization of riots accompanied by personal violence, pogroms, arsons, damage or destruction of property, resistance to a representative of the authorities with actual or threatened use of arms or other objects as arms, and active participation in riots are punished with deprivation of liberty for 10–15 years.

Article 22

Freedom of association

725. The Constitution lays down the basis for the creation and activity of civil society bodies and the principles of their cooperation with the State.

726. The Constitution establishes the following principles:

(a) Public associations (trade unions, political parties or other citizens' associations) must be duly registered;

(b) The creation and activity of political parties or other public associations is prohibited if they encroach upon the constitutional system, the sovereignty, integrity or security of the country, or the constitutional rights and freedom of its citizens; advocate war or social, national, racial or religious enmity; are detrimental to the health or morals of the people; or constitute armed associations, political parties based on national and religious principles, or secret societies or associations;

(c) Public associations have an equal legal entitlement to participate in public life, and the State protects their rights and lawful interests;

(d) State bodies and officials do not interfere in the activity of public associations and vice versa.

727. The following legislation, *inter alia*, is based on provisions of the Constitution and forms a specific legal framework for the realization of the citizens' right to association and to participation in dealing with State and social issues: Citizens' Applications Act of 13 December 2002, Freedom of Information Principles and Guarantees Act of 12 December 2002, Legal and Regulatory Instruments Act of 24 December 2012, Media Act (new version) of 14 December 2000, Citizens' Self-governance Bodies Act of 14 April 1999, Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organizations Act of 14 April 1999, Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organizations Safeguards Act of 3 January 2007, Act on strengthening the role of political parties in the renewal and further democratization of governance and in the modernization of Uzbekistan of 11 April 2007 and Environmental Assessment Act of 25 May 2000.

728. Of the more than 5,900 NGOs currently functioning in the country in various spheres of social life, more than 4,500 (a figure 2.5 times greater than in 2000) operate at the regional level.

729. NGOs are officially registered by the justice authorities within two months from the date of the constituent assembly (conference) or general meeting. For the purposes of such registration, appropriate documents, specified by law, must be presented to the registering body.

730. A justice authority receiving documents for the official registration of an NGO must, within two months, consider and take decision on such registration and issue to the founders, within three days after the decision, a registration certificate or a document specifying the legal provisions whose violation has led to denial of the official registration.

731. Under article 25 of the Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organizations Act, official registration of an NGO may be denied if:

- The constitutive documents of the NGO purpose violent change of the constitutional system, undermining of the sovereignty, integrity and security of the Republic of Uzbekistan, limitation of citizens' rights and freedoms, propaganda for war or social, national, racial or religious enmity, or encroachment on the citizens' health or morals;
- The required documents are not presented in full or are drawn up inappropriately;
- The required documents are presented later than two months after adoption of the charter;
- The NGO has been registered earlier under the same name;
- The legal procedure for creating an NGO is violated;
- The constitutive documents are found to contain deliberately inaccurate information;
- The NGO designation or symbols offend the citizens' morals or national or religious feelings;
- The constitutive documents provide for the establishment of military-type associations.

732. Registration of NGOs may be denied if its constitutive documents include provisions that are at variance with the Constitution or domestic legislation.

733. With a view to implementing the recommendation formulated in paragraph 25 of the Committee's concluding observations, a review was undertaken of international practice and of the legislation of such European States as Germany, Italy, Spain, Greece and Austria. That legislation provides for obligatory registration of NGOs, including political parties (in Germany and Austria), with the competent authorities. The review showed that Uzbek legislation in this area is compatible with the practice of other countries.

734. Parliamentary oversight of compliance with the legislation on NGOs was recently strengthened. On 17 April 2012, the Committee on Legislation and Judicial Questions reviewed the implementation of the Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organizations Safeguards Act by the local State and Government authorities in the Namangan and Jizak provinces. On 17 May 2012, the Senate Committee on Science, Education, Culture and Sports organized in the khokimiyat of Samarkand province a round table on current issues related to the effective implementation of the Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organizations Act and the Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organizations Safeguards Act. On 3 February 2012, the Senate Committees on Science, Education, Culture and Sports and on Agrarian and Water Supply Questions and the Environment organized in the khokimiyat of Fergana province a round table on experience and practice in connection with NGO activities for the development of cottage industry. On 27 December 2012, the Senate Committee on Defence and Security, in cooperation with the Ministry of Internal Affairs, organized a round table

on practice and prospects in connection with cooperation between internal affairs authorities and civil society bodies in providing citizens with a peaceful life and security.

735. In connection with State support for NGOs, the Legislative Chamber and Senate of the Oliy Majlis adopted in 2008 a decision to strengthen support for non-governmental, non-profit organizations and other civil society institutions. That decision created, and attached to the Oliy Majlis, the Public Foundation for the Support of NGOs and other civil society institutions, which plays a key role in providing support for NGOs.

736. The activity of that Fund and of the Parliamentary Commission is increasingly becoming the key tool for strengthening tangible social partnerships between NGOs and State structures in the areas of formulating and implementing social and economic development programmes, resolving humanitarian problems, and protecting democratic values and the rights, freedoms and lawful interests of the population.

737. The Fund is financed with budget allocations and voluntary contributions from donors, including grants from international organizations and financial institutions.

738. In the period 2010–2012, more than 1,700 NGOs submitted 2,100 social projects in 17 competitions for grants. In 2012, 234 agreements were concluded with recipients of State support (grants, State procurement orders and subsidies), namely with NGOs and other civil society bodies.

739. Of the 523 socially significant projects and programmes of NGOs and other civil society bodies financed on a competitive basis in all regions of the country in the period 2010–2012, 483 were funded with State grants and 40 consisted in carrying out State procurement orders.

	<i>Subsidies</i>	<i>State procurement orders</i>	<i>Grants</i>	<i>Total</i>
2010	2 665.1	696.7	1 138.2	4 500.0
2011	1 810.0	1 058.4	2 131.6	5 000.0
2012	2 300.0	1 173.3	2 964.6	6 437.9

740. Of the 2010 total of 4.5 billion sum, 1,098.2 million consisted in grants to 124 projects, 696.7 million in 16 State procurement orders, and 2,705.1 million in subsidies.

741. Of the 2011 total of 5 billion sum, 2,131.6 million consisted in grants to 148 projects, 1,058.4 million in 9 State procurement orders, and 1,810.0 million in subsidies.

742. Of the 2012 total of 6 billion sum, 2,964.6 million consisted in grants to 211 projects, 1,173.3 million in 15 State procurement orders, and 2,300.0 million in subsidies.

743. The main beneficiaries of State support are young persons', women's and environmental NGOs, regional branches of major national associations and organizations, such as, *inter alia*, the National Association of Non-Profit Non-Governmental Organizations of Uzbekistan (NANNOUz), the National Association of Electronic Media (NAESMI), the Foundation for the Support and Development of Independent Print Media and News Agencies of Uzbekistan, the Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan, associations of the blind and other persons with disabilities, cardiologists and other physicians, Tadbirkor ayol and Khunarmand. NGO projects have been carried out in the areas of ecology and environmental protection, public health, business development, home-based work, promotion of a harmoniously developed generation, and democratization and enhancement of the independence of the media.

744. As regards participation of NGOs in tackling socially significant tasks, State bodies are currently engaged in active cooperation with NGOs in ensuring the protection of human rights through:

- Provision by NGOs of information on the situation regarding the promotion of human rights by various State bodies or in various regions;
- Transmission of draft national reports to NGOs to obtain their opinion;
- NGO participation in the work of interdepartmental bodies for information exchange, consultation and coordination of activities in the area of human rights;
- Preparation of alternative human-rights reports by NGOs;
- Involvement of NGOs in the preparation of national plans of action for the implementation of recommendations of United Nations treaty bodies;
- Inclusion of NGO representatives in national plans of action to help to carry them out;
- NGO participation in monitoring and surveys to identify human rights violations;
- NGO participation in campaigns to improve public awareness of human rights issues;
- Provision by NGOs of free legal assistance to vulnerable social groups;
- Involvement of NGOs in international projects contributing to the fulfilment of State commitments related to human rights.

745. The non-governmental Centre for Legal Studies plays an important role in the areas of human rights legislation, awareness-raising and publishing. The Centre actively develops social partnerships with State bodies, especially the Ministry of Justice and the parliament. In the period January 2010–December 2012, the Centre organized the preparation and drafting of a series of books on current problems, with the participation of representatives of the parliament, the Ministry of Justice, the Cabinet of Ministers, and international organizations (*inter alia*, OSCE, UNICEF and the German Technical Cooperation Agency (GTZ)). Thus, a handbook on the registration and organization of the activity of NGOs (450 pages, 1,500 copies) and a Civil Code commentary (three volumes, more than 2,500 pages) were published in Uzbek and Russian in 2009. In 2012, publications included an international commercial arbitration documents collection (900 pages, 300 copies), a book on the foundations of juvenile justice (292 pages, 500 copies), and a book, prepared in Uzbek in cooperation with the National Centre for Human Rights, on international experience regarding social partnerships and public participation in making State decisions (540 pages, 1,000 copies).

746. In order to promote civil society in the country, the Centre organized a series of conferences and round tables to discuss draft Acts on social partnership, on public oversight and on openness in the work of State and governmental authorities. These were carried out in cooperation with and the support of the National Centre for Human Rights, the Ministry of Justice and the parliament.

747. In its capacity as expert body to three Legislative Chamber committees, the Centre at their request regularly (two or three times per month) analyzes bills and draws up relevant expert reports. In the period 2010–2012, the Centre drew up reports on more than 40 bills dealing with the rights of children, the independence of justice, the development of citizens' self-governance, and the rights of women.

748. The Centre's website includes a separate page for informing NGOs. Thus, in the period 2010–2012, NGOs submitted more than 1,000 questions regarding their activity and

taxation and received a comprehensive reply, based on the legislation, for each such question.

749. In the period 2010–2012, the main thrusts of the activity of the Association for child and family support in Uzbekistan have consisted in conducting awareness-raising and information activities with respect to children’s rights; raising social awareness and implementing programmes for the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child; and supporting the relevant process. A project entitled “Think of the future today” was launched to those ends. The targeted programme of that project was carried out through the creation, in makhallas, of youth clubs functioning as resource centres.

750. In order to implement paragraph 12.2 of the national plan of action for the implementation of Human Rights Council recommendations, the Association, with the support of UNICEF, sought in the period 2010–2011 to build the capacities of NGOs working for children, through monitoring and by training 60 NGO representatives in observing compliance with the principles and provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child at the regional level and in collecting factual and statistical information at the local level.

751. The Association participated in the development and discussion of the draft Rights of the Child Safeguards Act; the consideration of the new versions of the Disabled Persons Social Protection Act, the Prevention of Child Neglect and Juvenile Delinquency Act and articles 99, 110, 119 and 144 of the Family Code; and training aimed at improving knowledge of children’s rights through interactive methods, discussions, round tables, meetings, activities and seminars for NGOs working for children, the staff of local administrative structures, law-enforcement personnel and journalists.

752. The tasks of the Independent Institute for Monitoring the Development of Civil Society (NIMFOGO) include, *inter alia*, comprehensive analysis and assessment of social, political and economic processes in the country; upgrading of the political culture; raising of legal awareness as a prerequisite for building an open democratic state and implementing the principle of transition from a strong State to a strong civil society; enhancement of the role of civil society institutions in protecting human rights, guaranteeing freedom of choice, freedom of speech and information and openness of ongoing reforms, and in increasing the effectiveness of social partnerships; and systematic analysis of the effectiveness of the activity of State and civil society bodies towards the harmonious development of the young generation.

753. The regional offices of the Institute systematically build on the findings of observation of the social and political situation in the regions concerned to analyze identified problems that obstruct the deepening of democratic reforms and the development of civil society.

754. The Institute pays considerable attention to the conduct of awareness-raising activities.

755. In order to promote civil society institutions and boost the role of NGOs in society’s democratization and the country’s integration into the global community of developed democratic countries, the Institute has carried out more than 85 activities in various regions. In particular, 42 round tables have been held in all regions on the following subjects: “Improvement of the legal and regulatory framework for the activities of NGOs”, “Social partnership as a key to the solution of urgent social and economic problems of the region” and “Sustainable development of NGOs as a key to the growth of civil society”. Moreover, 4 round tables have been held on “The NGO taxation procedure: advantages and preferential treatment” in the Jizak, Andijan and Surkhandarya provinces and the Republic of Karakalpakstan. Furthermore, 7 round tables have been held on enhancing the role of the National Association of Non-Profit Non-Governmental Organizations of Uzbekistan

(NANNOUz) in promoting civil society, in the Republic of Karakalpakstan and the Andijan, Bukhara, Syrdarya, Kashkadarya, Namangan, Khorezm and Tashkent provinces.

756. The Institute cooperates with such international organizations as the office of the OSCE project coordinator in Uzbekistan, the National Democratic Institute (NDI), USAID, the University of Tsukuba (Japan), and the Konrad Adenauer and Friedrich Ebert Foundations (Germany). Of the 10 international events (conferences, round tables, seminars and training workshops) organized in 2012 by the Institute in cooperation with domestic and international partners, 3 took place abroad (in Germany, the Czech Republic and Hungary).

757. The Fund Forum, established in February 2004, is a volunteer and independent NGO that brings together citizens' groups and community-based organizations for the purpose of providing support for national scientific research, culture, education and sport.

758. The Forum's goal is to revive the spiritual heritage and national traditions of Uzbekistan, consolidate the creative potential of prominent public and cultural figures, support fresh talent, gifted young people and artistic dynasties and provide the international community with objective information on the unique national culture, rich heritage and diverse artistic scene of modern Uzbekistan. The Forum also informs the Uzbek public about trends in international culture. The Forum pays considerable attention to concerted efforts by diplomatic and public structures to promote social, humanitarian and generally human relations between countries and various national entities.

759. In the period 2010–2012, the major areas of activity of the Forum included culture and the arts; young persons and education; public health and social projects; children's projects; support through grants; international activity; sport; conferences; scientific research; and publishing activity.

760. The Forum is the first public organization in the region that has been accepted as an official partner of UNESCO. A memorandum of understanding between the two organizations was signed in Paris in March 2007. Cooperation memoranda have also been concluded with the Instituto Cervantes, the Hirayama Ikuo Silk Road Museum, the Uzbek-Japanese Centre, the Louvre museum, the Dubai Culture & Arts Authority, the International Friendship Exchange Council (FEC), the Nagoya University, the China Institute of International Studies, the Victor Hugo French Cultural Centre, the Cultural Development Fund (Egypt) and the Moscow State Linguistic University.

761. In 2010, the Fund Forum became the first public organization in Uzbekistan to obtain consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

762. The National Association of Non-Profit Non-Governmental Organizations of Uzbekistan (NANNOUZ), with a membership of 421 NGOs, contributes to strengthening the role and significance of NGOs in implementing key programmes of the State.

763. NANNOUZ promotes social oversight, by NGOs, of the activity of State authorities in implementing the law and various programmes in the areas of health care, environmental protection, employment, support for vulnerable social groups and other issues of considerable social significance.

764. In March 2012, a series of round tables was held with the Independent Institute for Monitoring the Development of Civil Society and other public organizations in all regions of the country in order to consider the draft Social Partnership Act, draft Social Oversight Act and draft Environmental Oversight Act. The events were attended by more than 550 NGO representatives with specific proposals for improving the bills.

765. On 7 November 2012, in cooperation with the Council of the Federation of Trade Unions of Uzbekistan, the expert group on drafting the Social Partnership Act held a round table on current issues related to determining the forms of social partnership. On 10 November 2012, a round table was organized to discuss the draft Social Oversight Act. The event was attended by approximately 30 representatives of State and Government authorities, civil society organizations and NGOs, business firms and the media.

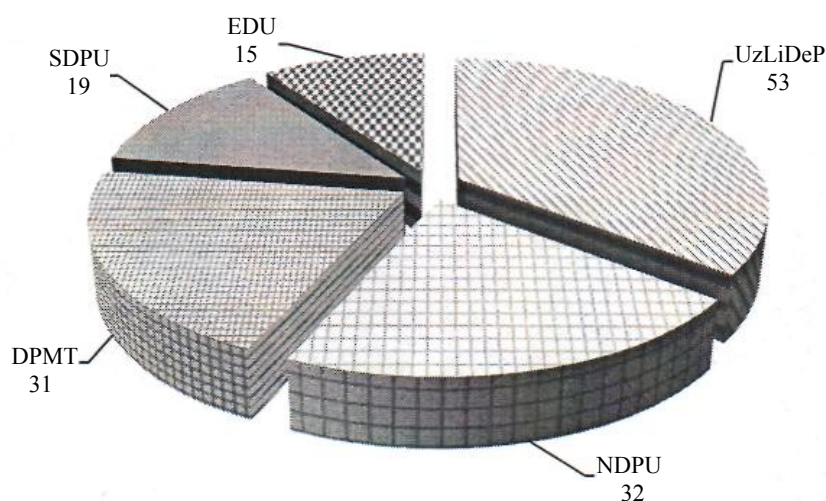
766. As regards the enhancement of the role and influence of political parties in society, a legal framework was established in the years since independence for the activity of such parties, which express the will of specific social sectors that through their representatives participate in dealing with State and social issues.

767. The functioning of political parties is regulated by, *inter alia*, articles 56–60 of the Constitution, the Political Parties Act of 26 December 1996, the Political Parties Funding Act of 30 April 2004, the Act on strengthening the role of political parties in the renewal and further democratization of governance and in the modernization of Uzbekistan of 11 April 2007, the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis Act of 12 December 2002, the Senate of the Oliy Majlis Act of 12 December 2002, the Legislative Chamber and Senate Composition Act of 2 December 2004, the Oliy Majlis Elections Act of 28 December 1993, the Presidential Elections Act of 18 November 1991, and the Kengash People's Deputies Provincial, District and Municipal Elections Act of 5 May 1994.

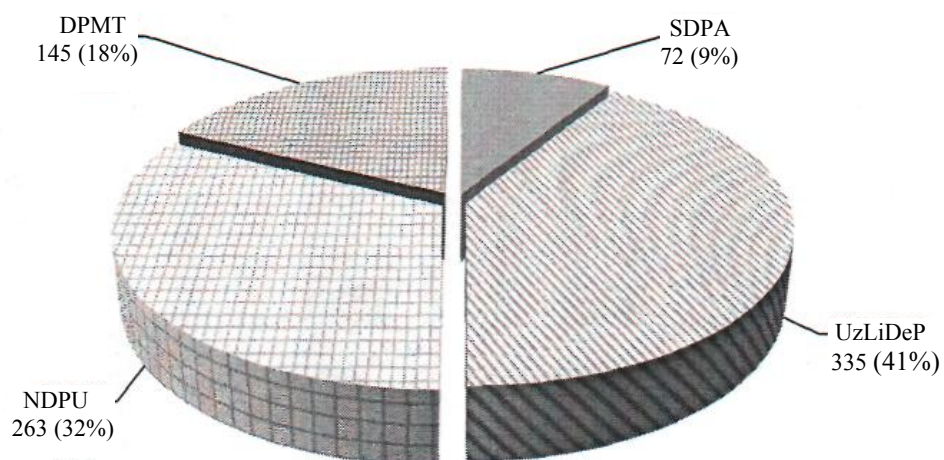
768. Currently, the following four political parties and one social movement function in the country: Social Democratic Party of Uzbekistan "Adolat" (SDPU or SDPA); Democratic Party of Uzbekistan "Milliy Tiklanish" (DPMT); Liberal Democratic Party of Uzbekistan (UzLiDeP); People's Democratic Party of Uzbekistan (NDPU), and Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan (EDU).

769. Elections to the Legislative Chamber and the local Kengashi of people's deputies provided UzLiDeP with the greatest number of parliamentary seats.

**Breakdown of parliamentary seats of the Legislative Chamber
of the Oliy Majlis**
(After the 2009 elections)

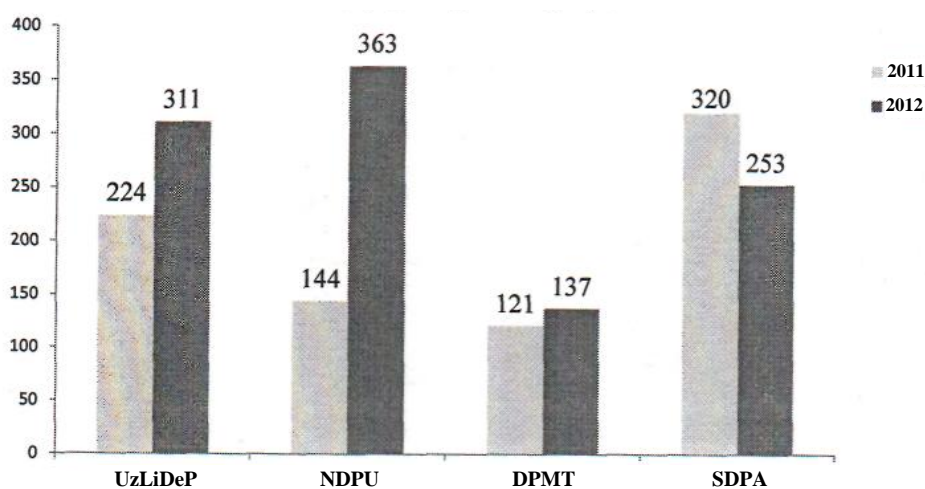


Breakdown of parliamentary seats of the Jokargy Kenes of the Republic of Karakalpakstan and the Kengashi of people's deputies of the city and province of Tashkent
(After the 2009 elections)

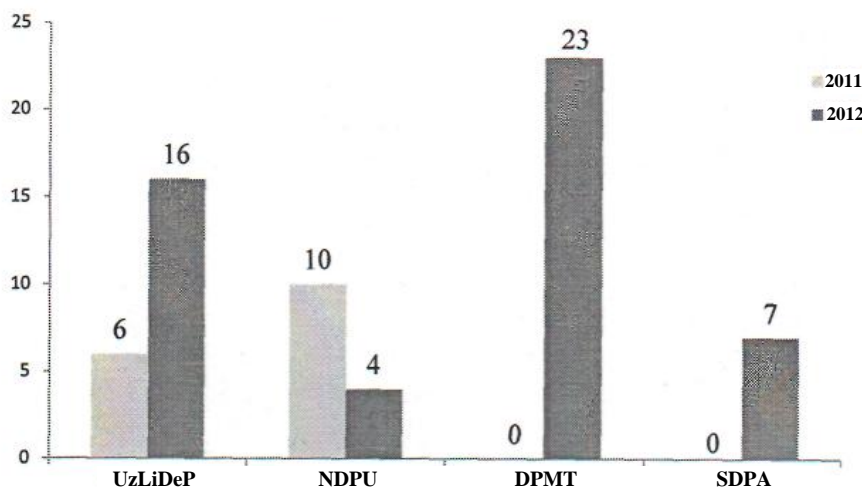


770. The political factions in the Legislative Chamber and the political groups in local Kengashi of people's deputies have recently stepped up parliamentary oversight over the bodies of the executive.

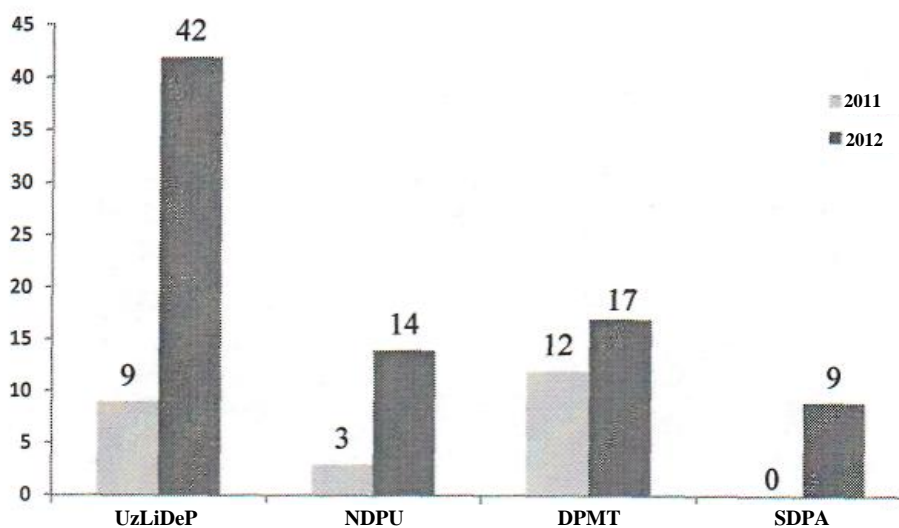
Number of times the deputies' right to enquire was used in Kengashi of people's deputies, 2011–2012
(Broken down by political parties)



Number of hearings held by party groups in Kengashi of people’s deputies on reports of public officials, 2011–2012
(Broken down by political parties)



Number of proposals submitted for consideration in meetings of Kengashi of people’s deputies, 2011–2012
(Broken down by political parties)



6

771. The Act on strengthening the role of political parties in the renewal and further democratization of the governance of the State and modernization of the country not only defined the concept of “political party faction”, but also considerably broadened the political factions’ rights to form a parliamentary majority, an opposition, and party blocks; and granted to parliamentary opposition the rights to introduce alternative bills, formulate its own opinion on questions discussed in the parliament, participate in the Conciliation Committee, and propose a representative as deputy speaker of the Legislative Chamber.

772. The above Act established the procedure for designating the Prime Minister through his or her nomination by the Chambers of the Oliy Majlis based on a proposal made by the President of the Republic after consultations with each political faction. The appointment of the Prime Minister is terminated by the President of the Republic, also on the initiative political party factions.

773. Under the Act, the khokims of the city and province of Tashkent are nominated on the basis of a proposal made by the President of the Republic after preliminary consultations with the political groups in the local Kengashi of people's deputies, which may also inform the President of unsatisfactory performance on the part of the khokims.

774. In 2012, the following amendments were made to the Constitution with a view to further strengthening democratic reforms and the development of civil society, democratizing State and administrative bodies, ensuring a better balance of power among the President (Head of State), the legislature and the executive, and strengthening the role and influence of political parties in implementing socioeconomic, public and political reforms and renewing and modernizing the country:

The institution of the vote of no confidence in the Government was introduced. In the event of a deadlock between the Prime Minister and the Legislative Chamber, at least one third of the delegates of the Legislative Chamber, upon a proposal officially put forward on behalf of the President of the Republic, may raise the question of a vote of no confidence in the Prime Minister for discussion in a joint session of the Oliy Majlis. A vote of no confidence in the Prime Minister is admissible if no less than two thirds of the delegates of the Legislative Chamber and of the members of the Senate vote in favour. The President then dismisses the Prime Minister. The entire Cabinet of Ministers also resigns.

- The political party which won the most seats in the election to the Legislative Chamber, or several political parties which won an equal number of seats, propose a candidate for Prime Minister.
- If the President in office is unable to perform his or her duties, they are temporarily vested in the President of the Senate, and presidential elections follow within three months, as required by law.
- After due consultations with all factions of political parties in the Legislative Chamber, the President of the Republic proposes to the chambers of the Oliy Majlis for consideration and approval a new candidate for the office of Prime Minister. If two such proposals are turned down by the Oliy Majlis, the President of the Republic designates an acting Prime Minister and dissolves the Oliy Majlis.

775. Thus, political parties have obtained broader rights in the area of forming a Government.

Article 23

Social and legal support and protection of the family

776. In a chapter specifically on the family (arts. 63–66), the Constitution states that the family is the basic unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State.

777. In Uzbekistan, 2012 was devoted to the implementation of the State programme “Year of the Family”, as part of which the following enactments were adopted:

- Family Entrepreneurship Act of 26 April 2012;

- Act of 24 September 2012 on the protection of private property and guarantees of the rights of property owners;
- Cabinet of Ministers Decision of 10 March 2012 on measures for enhancing the health-improvement system and the organization of recreational activities for children;
- Cabinet of Ministers Decision of 26 March 2012 on additional measures for implementing in 2012–2013 the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29) and the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) of ILO, both ratified by Uzbekistan;
- Cabinet of Ministers Decision of 7 April 2012 on additional measures for improving family living conditions;
- Cabinet of Ministers Decision of 30 April 2012 on additional measures for the provision of social support to young families;
- Cabinet of Ministers Decision of 7 June 2012 on the further improvement of the procedure for assigning social benefits and the provision of a more complete account of total family revenue;
- Cabinet of Ministers Decision of 13 June 2012 adopting regulations for children’s homes;
- Cabinet of Ministers Decision of 19 June 2012 on measures for promoting cooperation between family support institutions, citizens’ self-governance bodies and educational institutions in bringing up a harmoniously developed generation.

778. In the framework of the “Year of the Family”, social support was provided to vulnerable social groups through citizens’ self-governance bodies and targeted assistance was made available to low-income and child-raising families. In 2012, citizens’ self-governance bodies made 1,237,500 payments of benefits or material assistance, including benefits to more than 799,900 poor families with under age children, material assistance to 120,100 families, and benefits to 317,500 mothers foregoing employment to attend to their children up to the age of 2. In the same year, local khokimiyat sponsor organizations disbursed 1,574 million sum for the preparation of wedding and family celebrations for 2,372 low-income families.

779. As part of ongoing policies aimed at strengthening the institution of the family, promoting the well-being of the population, bringing up a harmoniously developed generation and safeguarding the human rights of the members of all national and ethnic groups living in the country, 2013 has been declared Year of Well-being and Prosperity. The relevant State programme adopted by the President of the Republic on 14 February 2013 is aimed at, *inter alia*:

(a) Enhancement of stability, peace, security, civil and inter-ethnic concord in the country; protection of human rights, freedoms and interests; and sustainable well-being and prosperity in society;

(b) Steady increase in the population’s real income and welfare and in employment; further development of small business, private enterprise and farming; and improvement of the State system for targeted protection and social assistance, primarily to vulnerable social groups and low-income families;

(c) Improvement of the health care system; upgrading of the material and technical infrastructure of health establishments; provision of health units with modern diagnostic and treatment equipment; expansion of the prevention of diseases and

introduction of advanced medical technology and methods for their treatment; in sum, promotion of the health of the population, especially children and mothers.

780. An amount of 6,655 billion sum (US\$ 319.2 million) was allocated to the implementation of the above programme.

781. Despite the serious problems that still affect the global economy, in 2012 the Uzbek economy continued to grow at steady rates, ensured a stable increase in the population's standard of living and strengthened its position in the global market. GDP increased by 8.2 per cent, industrial production by 7.7 per cent, agricultural output by 7 per cent and the retail trade by 13.9 per cent. State budget revenue increased while the tax burden was reduced.

782. The social orientation of the State budget continues. Of the 59.2 per cent of total State expenditures allocated to the social sector and social protection measures, more than 34 per cent are spent on education and more than 14.5 per cent on health care.

783. Particular attention is paid to job creation and employment, primarily for young persons. Of the approximately one million jobs generated in 2012 through the implementation of a comprehensive programme of measures, approximately 62 per cent were created in rural areas. In that connection, 485,000 persons found employment through the development of small business and private enterprise, and 218,000 persons through the expansion of all forms of home-based work.

784. In 2012, the Public Opinion Centre conducted a survey on "the family and morals" in order to study the factors contributing to the development of the family and determining its role in the citizens' spiritual orientation.

785. The survey was carried out on 24–30 July 2012 in all regions of the country: the City of Tashkent, the Republic of Karakalpakstan, and the Andijan, Bukhara, Jizak, Kashkadarya, Navoi, Namangan, Samarkand, Surkhandarya Syrdarya, Tashkent, Fergana, and Khorezm provinces.

786. In reply to the question "What do you consider as the mission of the family in society?", an absolute majority of Uzbeks stressed the fundamental role of the family in the areas of education and morals.

787. Comparison with the results of earlier surveys (conducted in 1999, 2003, 2006 and 2011) on the same topic reveals an increasing trend in the number of persons underscoring the moral role of the family. That reflects the promotion of cultural continuity through the transmission of the cultural heritage to younger generations, the stabilization of the social structure and the social scrutiny of behaviour. Education and health workers were more prone to emphasize the moral function of the family (scoring, respectively, 60.1 and 68 per cent) than the sample of respondents as a whole.

788. Most of the respondents (85.2 per cent in 2011 and 85.5 per cent in 2012) think highly of the attention paid to the family by the State. In 2012, that rate was higher in the rural than in the urban population.

Views of citizens as to the contribution of social institutions to the morals of the population

(Per cent)

<i>Preferred institutions</i>	<i>1999</i>	<i>2003</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2012</i>
Family	76.9	77.1	85.6	80.9	88.1
Makhalla	58.1	43.2	43.0	56.5	50.0
Educational institutions	48.2	43.2	45.6	49.6	57.7
Social surroundings (colleagues, neighbours, friends)	45.3	36.9	32.6	45.8	34.5
Television	60.1	28.1	25.0	28.6	27.8
Press	19.5	7.2	6.7	4.3	5.0
Religion	10.6	6.8	11.1	4.3	4.9
Literature	8.7	3.4	4.2	4.2	4.2
Cinema and theatre	3.8	2.2	2.1	3.3	4.2

789. The survey findings corroborate the Uzbek citizens' positive assessment of State policy in the spiritual and moral sphere. According to the 2012 survey, 44.5 per cent of Uzbeks regard economic difficulties as a temporary phenomenon and spiritual and moral values as eternal. Of the respondents, 35.2 per cent hold material wealth to be less valuable than moral values and 20.3 per cent believe that morality constitutes the cornerstone of society.

790. In addition to social support for the family, the legal regulation of marital and family relations constitutes a State policy priority.

791. Marriage and family relations issues are regulated by the Family Code, whose main provisions aim to protect women's rights in the family and prevent discrimination against women in family relations.

792. Rights within family relations may be restricted only on the basis of the law and only to the extent necessary for the protection of the moral integrity, honour, dignity, health, entitlements and lawful interests of other family members and citizens.

793. Marriage may not be concluded between:

- Persons one or both of whom is already registered as married;
- Relatives in directly ascending and descending lines, siblings, and adopter and adoptee;
- Persons, at least one of whom has been declared by a court to be legally incompetent on the grounds of mental disorder or feeble-mindedness.

794. According to the Family Code, a marriage shall be declared null and void in the following cases:

- Infringement of the conditions and procedure for the conclusion of a marriage;
- Conclusion of a fictitious marriage, namely where one or both of the spouses entered into marriage without the intention to form a family;
- Concealment by either spouse from the other of any venereal disease or HIV/AIDS infection, provided that the other spouse files a relevant petition with a court.

795. Under article 13 of the Code, marriages are contracted at civil registry offices. Refusal on the part of a civil registry office to register a marriage may be contested by filing a complaint directly with the court or by a higher-ranking body.

796. In 2012, civil registry offices registered 299,119 marriage certificates.

797. Under article 15, the minimum age for marriage is 18 for men and 17 for women. If there are valid reasons or exceptional circumstances, the regional chief administrator of the district, city or town where the marriage is being registered may, at the request of the persons wishing to marry, reduce the age of marriage by up to one year.

798. The Criminal Code incriminates, in article 136, coercing a woman to enter or preventing her from entering marriage; and, in article 126, polygamy.

Article 136	2010	29	86
Coercing a woman to enter or preventing her from entering marriage	2011	37	106
	2012	26	88

799. Article 126 of the Criminal Code establishes liability for polygamy, namely, cohabitation with two or more women on the basis of a common household. In that connection, according to the Ministry of Internal Affairs information centre, charges were brought against 23 persons in 2007, 13 in 2008, 21 in 2009, 13 in 2010, 15 in 2011 and 14 in the first 11 months of 2012.

800. In connection with the implementation of the recommendation formulated in paragraph 21 of the Committee's concluding observations, attention is drawn to the above article, which establishes liability for polygamy.

801. Maintenance of a common household with two or more women by a man should be understood to mean joint performance of work and joint use of income derived from maintenance of a common household. If a person cohabits with a woman or several women but does not maintain a common household, there is no polygamy. There is also no polygamy where a person who has not dissolved a marriage ceases to have marital relations and enters into an informal marriage. However, if a man who is in such a new marriage cohabits with both women on the basis of a common household, he is committing polygamy.

802. In view of the foregoing, there is no need or justification for making amendments to the legislation on polygamy.

803. A review related to article 120 of the Criminal Code and conducted in connection with the recommendation formulated in paragraph 22 of the Committee's concluding observations revealed that charges under that article were brought against 2 persons in 2007, 6 in 2008, 6 in 2009, 6 in 2010, 25 in 2011 and 12 in the first 11 months of 2012. It is currently impossible to repeal that article, which establishes liability for *besakalbazlyk* (sodomy), since such decriminalization would lead to propagation of HIV/AIDS in the country and undermine the moral and physical health of young generations.

804. The Labour Code and other legal and regulatory instruments provide for additional guarantees for women and persons with family responsibilities. Thus, among other provisions, employers:

- May not refuse to hire female workers or reduce their wages for reasons associated with pregnancy or children. Knowingly unlawful refusal to hire a woman or dismissal of a woman on the grounds of pregnancy or childcare entails criminal liability of the hiring officials (article 148 of the Criminal Code).

- May not subject pregnant women and women with children aged up to 3 to any trial period before hiring.
- May not assign women to arduous tasks, underground work or lifting or carrying loads exceeding the maximum permissible limits.
- Must grant women pregnancy and maternity leave consisting of 70 calendar days before and 56 calendar days after the birth (70 days if there are birth complications or two or more children are born), paying them throughout that period a social benefit equal to 100 per cent of their average earnings.
- Must grant women who so request, after the end of pregnancy and maternity leaves, a childcare leave:
 - (a) Up to attainment by the child of age 2, paying during that period a benefit twice the national minimum wage;
 - (b) Thereafter, up to attainment by the child of age 3, without pay.
- Must establish for female workers with a child under 2 pauses during the workday to feed the child, such pauses being included in work time and paid at the average wage rate.
- In establishments or organizations financed from the budget, must establish for female workers having children under 3 a reduced (35-hour) workweek without any decrease in wages.
- In the case of pregnant women and based on a relevant medical certificate, must lower the production or performance requirements; or transfer such workers, and also women with children under 2, to a job that is less arduous or involves less unfavourable production factors, at the same average wage.
- May not require pregnant women and mothers of children under 14 to work in the night, overtime or on days of rest or holidays, or to travel on business, without their consent. Assignment of pregnant women and mothers of children under 3 to night work is permissible only on the basis of a medical certificate stating that such work is not hazardous for the mother's or the child's health.
- At the request of a pregnant woman with a child under 14 (or 16 if the child is disabled), including children under her care, must allow her to work only part of the workday or workweek.
- At the request of a pregnant woman or a woman having given birth, must grant her a leave before or after pregnancy or maternity leave or after childcare leave.

805. Under article 238 of the Labour Code, the guarantees and benefits to which mothers are entitled (*inter alia*, limitation of night and overtime work, work on days of rest and travel on business; additional leave; and favourable work arrangements) are also extended to fathers bringing up children alone (in the case of, *inter alia*, the mother's death, loss of parental rights or prolonged hospitalization); to the guardians or custodians of minors; and to grandparents or other relatives who actually bring up children deprived of parental care.

806. Under the Labour Code, the realization of labour rights and guarantees is incumbent upon the employer. The internal regulations of an enterprise and the employment contract concluded with a worker may not stipulate conditions less favourable to the worker than the provisions of the law. Under article 5 of the Code, any such conditions that are included in a labour contract or agreement shall be null and void.

807. NGOs play a key role with regard to support for families, children and women.

808. As part of the “Year of the Family” State programme, the Oila (“Family”) Centre for Applied Research carried out in 2012 three social surveys on problems related to the current state of the family, prepared the publication of three textbooks, two curricula and 15 brochures and handbooks, published more than 80 scientific articles, more than 30 popular science articles, and 25 articles in international conference collections and abroad, and developed nine types of booklets.

809. In the framework of State programmes, more than 70 talks, meetings and seminars were carried out in makhallas, organizations, establishments and educational institutions, participation was ensured in more than 30 scientific conferences, and more than 30 appearances took place in the media (radio and television) with a view to the promotion of the family, the protection of mothers and children, a harmoniously developed generation, and the prevention of early marriages.

810. The Soglom Avlod Uchun (“for a healthy generation”) foundation participates actively in the implementation of the State programme “System for medical and social protection in Uzbekistan”.

811. In particular, the foundation’s mobile medical and social protection teams, with the support of local khokimiats, makhalla councils, women’s committees and health institutions, conducted systematic studies of the mental and physical health of the members of 41,613 families in 1,045 of the remotest villages and in 2,720 makhallas. Medical treatment was provided to 210,287 persons, including 60,159 children and 108,279 women.

812. More than 592,197,100 sum were spent for the implementation of the above State programme through the said mobile teams. At a total cost of 56,419,900 sum, humanitarian assistance was provided to persons from large single-parent families and to disabled persons in the form of 110,604 units and 108,660 packages of medicines, 104,703 units of sanitary and hygiene items, 21,271 units of clothing, 4,652 kg of food products, and the necessary number of wheelchairs and orthopaedic appliances.

813. In 2012, specialists of the above mobile teams in cooperation with local representatives of the Women’s Committee of Uzbekistan and the Ministry of Health engaged in extensive public health education work. In particular, 3,450 talks and lectures were carried out and were attended by 202,334 persons, to whom 34,660 booklets were distributed.

814. Considerable work is carried out to raise awareness of the provisions of the Family Code, explain the spouses’ rights and responsibilities within the family, and address the inadmissibility of violence against women and children. NGOs contribute significantly to raising women’s awareness of, and providing legal assistance to the population on issues related to, domestic conflicts. NGOs specialized in support for women and protection of the family operate in practically every region of the country.

815. In the preceding period, more than 45,000 awareness-raising events, round tables and talks were carried out for the benefit of approximately 1,900 citizens, including women and young persons.

816. Local offices of the Makhalla Foundation carried out more than 1,000 round tables, 254 meetings and 12 seminars, attended by more than 105,000 persons, in order to increase parents’ legal knowledge in relation to bringing up the young generation.

Article 24

Protection of children's rights and freedoms

817. After acceding in 1992 to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Uzbekistan created a legal framework for the protection of children's rights and freedoms, which are regulated by the Constitution, adopted acts, presidential decrees, Cabinet of Ministers decisions and other legal and regulatory instruments.

818. The Rights of the Child Safeguards Act, taking into account the recommendation of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, confirms the children's rights established in the above Convention, whose provisions it develops through the regulation of the children's rights to private property, housing and employment, and further safeguards the rights of socially vulnerable children to, *inter alia*, a family environment, integration into society, housing, social assistance and education.

819. In the period 2010–2012, Uzbekistan implemented a number of policy documents aimed at creating legal and organizational mechanisms and social and economic conditions necessary for the comprehensive realization of the rights of children. Under the adopted programmes, considerable attention is paid to the social protection of children and the exercise of their rights in the areas of education, health care, and legal protection by the competent State bodies, civil society organizations, parents and persons *in loco parentis*.

820. As part of the State programme “Year of a Harmoniously Developed Generation”, adopted by the Presidential Decision of 27 January 2010, and on the basis of the review of 600 legal and regulatory instruments, various acts were adopted with a view to the protection of children's rights, including *inter alia* the Prevention of Child Neglect and Juvenile Delinquency Act and the Physical Education and Sport Act (new version). Under the said programme, 400,000 pregnant women received preventive treatment to avert the birth of children with congenital defects. An amount of 1,700 billion sum was allocated to preventing morbidity among children, while allocations to educational institutions for technical and other equipment amounted to 315 billion sum in 2010 and 370 billion sum in 2011.

821. Under the State programme “Year of the Family”, launched in 2011, State social support for the harmonious physical and intellectual development of children is a priority; and additional measures were adopted to improve the system for protecting the health of families, mothers and children, facilitate cooperation between the family and educational and training establishments, and promote social partnerships in safeguarding the basic rights and freedoms of children.

822. On 14 October 2011, the Cabinet of Ministers adopted the plan of additional measures to improve the education of children and raise a healthy and harmoniously developed generation, including specific steps for safeguarding the children's rights to education, health care, social protection and cultural development. The plan also provides for improving the legislation on the rights of children, including adoption of the Guardianship and Trusteeship Bodies Act.

823. On 26 March 2012, the Cabinet of Ministers adopted the National Plan of Additional Measures for implementing in 2012–2013 the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29) and the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) of ILO, both ratified by Uzbekistan. That Plan is aimed at developing and strengthening systematic monitoring and inspections to ensure that enterprises, establishments, organizations and individuals prohibit the coercion of children to labour and comply with the relevant legislation.

824. Further policy documents adopted in the same period aim to improve the national system for the protection of human rights and freedoms, including the rights of the child. In

that context, a set of additional measures for the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals in Uzbekistan in the period 2011–2015 includes monitoring progress towards those targets and annual reports to the parliament on the implementation of the measures.

825. The right to identity is a prerequisite for guaranteeing the child's other fundamental rights and freedoms, namely the rights to a name, to a citizenship, and to know and be cared for by one's parents.

826. The right to a surname, given name and patronymic constitute personal non-property rights. Every child is registered immediately after birth and, from the moment of birth, has a right to a surname, given name and patronymic. The Family Code specifies the procedure for their determination.

827. Under article 205 of the Family Code, the birth of a child must within one month be entered in the civil registry of the place of birth or place of residence of one of the parents.

828. Under paragraphs 16 and 17 of the rules for the registration of civil status certificates, adopted through Cabinet of Ministers Decision No. 171 of 12 April 1999, missing the deadline is no obstacle to having a birth registered. Registration of the birth of persons older than 16 is governed by the procedure and rules for the re-establishment of lost official records. In 2012, public registry offices registered 627,528 birth certificates.

829. A child's right to the acquisition and preservation of citizenship is regulated by the Constitution and the Citizenship Act.

830. Uzbek citizenship is equal for all, regardless of the basis for its acquisition.

831. Where both parents are Uzbek citizens, Uzbek citizenship is acquired by the child upon birth, regardless of whether he or she was born in Uzbek territory or abroad.

832. Where the parents have different citizenships and one of them was an Uzbek citizen when the child was born, the child is an Uzbek citizen if born:

- In Uzbek territory;
- Abroad but at least one of the parents was at that time a permanent resident of Uzbekistan.

833. Where the parents have different citizenships, one of them was an Uzbek citizen when the child was born, both parents at that time resided permanently outside Uzbekistan, and the child was also born outside Uzbekistan, the child's citizenship is determined by written agreement between the parents.

834. Where one of the parents was an Uzbek citizen when the child was born and the other parent was a stateless person or was unknown, the child is an Uzbek citizen regardless of the place of birth.

835. Under article 12 of the Rights of the Child Safeguards Act, the State and society have an obligation to provide support for families raising children.

836. Under the above Act, significant amendments were made to administrative and family legislation in order to protect children's rights within the family. Thus, article 47-1, added to the Administrative Liability Code, established liability for failure to inform the guardianship and custodianship authorities of children deprived of parental care; and article 149 of the Family Code was enhanced with a provision on the liability of, *inter alia*, the personnel of preschool, general education, medical and related establishments, and citizens' self-governance bodies for such failure.

837. According to the Family Code, the Civil Code and the Rights of the Child Safeguards Act, a child is entitled to own private property according to the established procedures. A child's personal effects and any items obtained by a child as a gift, through

inheritance, through personal work or in any other lawful manner are the child's private property. Under article 90, paragraphs 1 and 2, of the Family Code, children shall have no claim on the property of their parents during their life, and parents shall have no right to the property of their under age children.

838. In line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Rights of the Child Safeguards Act affirms the children's right to housing. The Act obliges the State to help parents (and other persons bringing up children) towards the realization of that right and, if necessary, to provide for appropriate housing.

839. The Housing Code protects as follows the children's rights during exchanges of living quarters: "Citizens owning a dwelling or apartment, may, subject to the written consent of all adult family members, including those temporarily absent, exchange the living quarters that they occupy against such quarters owned by another person or a member of a home construction or housing cooperative, including persons living in another community. In that procedure, the consent of under age family members must be verified by the parents or, in their absence, by the guardianship and custodianship bodies" (art. 26).

840. The above provision guarantees the retention of the right of orphans and children deprived of parental care or placed in educational, therapeutic or other establishments, or with relatives, guardians or custodians in accordance with article 52 of the Housing Code, to own or occupy living quarters. Unless occupied by members of their family, lodgings thus left by children may be leased to other citizens up to the children's end of stay in an establishment; majority; return from relatives, guardians or custodians; where appropriate, termination of attendance of general, specialized or vocational secondary or higher education institutions; or completion of military service. The same provisions apply to persons or minors deprived of liberty.

841. Examination of complaints concerning violations of children's and young person's rights is a priority for the Human Rights Commissioner (Ombudsman) of the Oliy Majlis. However, most complainers are adults, namely parents, guardians or neighbours. Cases of children filing a complaint are extremely rare.

842. Of the 240 complaints related to protection of children's rights that were submitted in the period 2008–2011, 7 were received in 2011 (fewer than in 2010). Of the 7 complaints accepted for investigation by the Ombudsman in 2011, 3 were upheld.

	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
Complaints concerning violations of children's rights	34	7	168	42	23

843. Upon receiving a complaint concerning a violation of children's rights, the Ombudsman checks the alleged facts and, if necessary, transmits to the competent State bodies a recommendation to restore the rights violated. As a result of the examination of such complaints, a number of officials have been found guilty of administrative and criminal offences, compensation has been paid, financial resources have been collected in a special account and material assets have been transferred to families, among other steps taken.

844. Currently, the conceptual framework for establishing the institution of a children's ombudsman in Uzbekistan exists and a relevant outline and draft Children's Ombudsman Act have been prepared and submitted to appropriate public and international assessments.

845. On the basis of the Rights of the Child Safeguards Act and the State programme for a harmoniously developed generation, Uzbekistan continues to improve the system for ensuring children's access to education and helping them to attain a high standard of knowledge and learning.

846. Under the approved National Personnel Training Programme, compulsory and free 12-year general education has been introduced in the “9+3” form, namely nine years of attendance of a general education school, followed by three years of study or training in specialized vocational colleges or academic lycées. Thus, in addition to general education disciplines, each student is trained in two or three specialized professional areas for which there is a demand in the labour market.

847. In recent years, considerable efforts were undertaken to renew and reform the education sector. Approximately 9,500 schools were built or underwent major reconstruction and were provided with modern training and laboratory equipment, while far-reaching measures were systematically taken to upgrade and update the teaching process. More than 1,500 new vocational colleges and academic lycées were built. Modern educational laboratory, computer and production equipment in the colleges helps to provide students with a full general education and in addition familiarize them with current technical practices and technology. In the period under review, the construction of approximately 1,500 highly modern and generally accessible children’s sport facilities was financed through a relevant fund.

848. Higher education institutions are crucial to educational reform and to the training of specialized workers to meet labour market demand. The number of such establishments doubled in recent years. There are currently 59 universities and higher education institutions, attended by more than 230,000 students.

849. In Uzbekistan, instruction is provided in seven languages, namely Uzbek, Karakalpak, Kyrgyz, Russian, Kazakh, Tajik and Turkmen. Periodicals appear in 8 languages and newspapers in 10.

850. Children with special needs are the subject of considerable attention and concern on the part of the State. Measures for the protection of the rights of disabled persons and children with impaired health are taken in order to realize their right to education, training, comprehensive development, rehabilitation, adaptation and social integration.

851. There are in the country:

- 88 specialized schools and boarding schools that bring up and train 18,388 children with disabilities;
- 23 sanatorium-type boarding schools, where 6,356 convalescent children receive an education;
- 183 special preschool establishments, where 18,118 children with special needs receive remedial care;
- 937 facilities that, integrated into ordinary preschool establishments, educate more than 11,340 children with special needs;
- 10,703 children with various disabilities, who are educated at home under special educational plans and programmes.

852. Alternative types of placement of children deprived of parental care are provided to a total of 2,604 children in 25 Mekhribonlik children’s homes, 2 children’s communities and 4 family-type children’s homes.

853. The State takes family protection measures consisting in the prevention of child neglect and juvenile delinquency.

854. The Central Department for Crime Prevention of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and its regional offices and centres for social and legal aid to minors (TsSPPNs) is one of the law-enforcement mechanisms tasked with preventing neglect of minors, juvenile

delinquency and offences involving minors, and protecting the children's rights and lawful interests. Currently, 13 such centres operate in the country.

855. The Rights of the Child Safeguards Act, the Pretrial Detention during Criminal Proceedings Act and the Prevention of Child Neglect and Juvenile Delinquency Act are crucial to the protection of children's rights in the area of justice.

856. The Rights of the Child Safeguards Act of 7 January 2008 guarantees children's rights to freedom and inviolability of the person. A child may not be subjected to detention, arrest or confinement otherwise than on the basis of the law. The State protects the child from torture or other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment (art. 10).

857. The Pretrial Detention during Criminal Proceedings Act of 29 September 2011 specifies the legal situation of detainees and remand prisoners, including minors. Article 32 of the Act stipulates specific characteristics of the detention of minors, including improved living conditions, higher nutrition standards, educational opportunities, gymnastics and sport exercises and participation in cultural events.

858. Amnesty decisions taken every year by the Senate of the Oliy Majlis reflect a humane attitude towards under age prisoners. Such decisions invariably contain a provision for the release of inmates who were under 18 years when they committed the offence for which they were punished.

859. Of the more than 6,355 convicted prisoners released in the period 2010–2012, 151 had committed the offence when still minors (including 64 who were under 18 at the time of release). Thus:

- In 2010, of the more than 2,390 convicted prisoners released, 86 had committed the offence when still minors (including 39 who were under 18 at the time of release);
- In 2011, of the more than 1,955 convicted prisoners released, 37 had committed the offence when still minors (including 8 who were under 18 at the time of release);
- In 2012, of the more than 2,010 convicted prisoners released, 28 had committed the offence when still minors (including 17 who were under 18 at the time of release).

860. During the above period, fewer than 100 minors were in prison in any year.

861. Considerable attention is paid to undertaking comprehensive measures to identify and eliminate the causes and conditions conducive to neglect, homelessness and delinquency among minors. The Prevention of Child Neglect and Juvenile Delinquency Act of 29 September 2010 provides for a system comprising State and civil-society bodies and parents engaged in the prevention of juvenile delinquency.

862. Currently, 5,591 children are on the follow-up lists of juvenile vagrancy and delinquency prevention units of internal affairs authorities. Inspectors of such units undertake proactive and prevention work with such children on an individual basis. Measures are taken to provide such children with material assistance, help in finding a job, support in tackling problems related to living conditions, and opportunities to engage in sport. The inspectors periodically transmit to the local citizens' self-governance bodies and makhalla committees the above lists for the purpose of individualized educational work with the children concerned at their place of residence.

863. In 2012, staff of the internal affairs agencies held 94,211 meetings, talks and lectures (compared to 79,372 in 2010 and 78,906 in 2011) on legal subjects, including the prevention of crime among minors and young persons and of offences against public morals, the value of a healthy way of life and the protection of human rights.

864. From the total number of meetings, talks and lectures carried out, 26,870 (23,410 in 2010 and 23,770 in 2011) took place in makhallas with the local population, 50,790

(43,610 in 2010 and 41,172 in 2011) with school children, 15,825 (11,632 in 2010 and 13,447 in 2011) with vocational college and academic lycée students, and 726 (720 in 2010 and 587 in 2011) with higher education students.

865. Of the 2,632 reports (2,828 in 2010 and 3,007 in 2011) prepared in the period considered by internal affairs staff on the aforementioned issues, 1,186 (1,244 in 2010 and 1,337 in 2011) were broadcast on the radio, 589 (772 in 2010 and 758 in 2011) on television and 857 (862 in 2010 and 912 in 2011) appeared in newspapers and periodicals.

866. In view of the current interest in issues related to the protection of the rights and interests of minors, round tables and seminars on such topics have become a regular practice.

867. On 22 February 2011, in cooperation with UNICEF, a round table was held on developing and improving the national system for monitoring children's rights in Uzbekistan. On 5 May 2011, the Social Initiatives Support Fund (SISF), the Uzbek Special Olympics, the Fund Forum, the Ministry of National Education, the Ministry of Higher and Secondary Specialized Education and the delegation of UNESCO organized an international conference on social strategies for inclusive education. On 16 September 2011, the Legislative Chamber Committee on International Cooperation and Interparliamentary Relations carried out parliamentary hearings on the implementation of Convention on the Rights of the Child standards, transposed into the national legislation, in the Tashkent, Navoi and Bukhara provinces. On 20 October 2011, the National Centre for Human Rights and the Bar Chamber with the support of Friedrich Ebert Foundation held a round table on the "Role of the lawyer in protecting the rights of minors: experience, problems, prospects". On 28 November 2011, the National Centre for Human Rights together with UNICEF conducted a round table on "Raising the parents' awareness of children's rights in accordance with the Constitution and the Convention on the Rights of the Child". On 27 June 2012, in collaboration with the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), a round table was carried out on "Issues related to the protection of the rights of minors: the experience of Uzbekistan and international practice", with the participation of German experts, and judges of the Supreme Court and other courts.

Article 25

Prohibition of discrimination in the exercise of civil and political rights

868. The fundamental principles and rules governing the inter-relationship between the State and the individual are enshrined in the Constitution, which specifies the powers and forms of activity of higher State bodies and establishes legal guarantees necessary for the realization of the individual's rights and freedoms.

869. The procedure for citizens' participation in resolving issues of social and State significance is regulated by a series of enactments, including the Nationwide Discussion of Draft Laws Act of 14 December 2000, the Referendum Act of 30 August 2001, the Citizens' Applications Act of 12 December 2002, the Oliy Majlis Elections Act of 29 August 2003, the Kengash People's Deputies Provincial, District and Municipal Elections Act of 29 August 2003 and the Legal and Regulatory Instruments Act of 24 December 2012.

870. Uzbek citizens have the right to be involved in the management of the affairs of society and of the State by way of direct participation or through their representatives. Such involvement occurs by means of self-governance, referendums and the democratic formation of State bodies (article 32 of the Constitution).

871. Citizens are involved in the management of the affairs of society and of the State by way of their direct and individual participation in national referendums, in the election of members of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis and members of the Kengashi of people's deputies, and in national debates on draft legislation.

872. In the years since independence, the most far-reaching reforms have concerned the creation and development of an effective democratic electoral system.

873. Amendments and additions made to the Constitution in 2003 and 2008, the Voters' Rights Safeguards Act, the new versions of the Oliy Majlis Elections Act, the Kengash People's Deputies Provincial, District and Municipal Elections Act, the Presidential Elections Act and other enactments adopted in the period considered have formed the legislative framework for a gradual and consistent liberalization of the national electoral system and the organization of elections to the bicameral parliament fully in line with the provisions of the law and universally accepted international principles and standards.

874. Election-related enactments include fundamental provisions to the effect that:

- Elections to representative bodies are carried out exclusively on a multi-party basis.
- Candidates for the presidency and for the Legislative Chamber are chosen by political parties.
- Candidates to Kengashi of people's deputies are chosen by the competent bodies of local political parties.
- The practice of designation of deputies by the executive is abolished.
- The Central Electoral Commission, exclusively, is entrusted with the preparation and conduct of elections, a practice rarely encountered among the most developed democratic States.
- Interference of State and Government authorities in the election process is prohibited by law.
- The Central Electoral Commission formulates the actual outline for the preparation and conduct of elections to the Oliy Majlis and of provincial, district and municipal elections to Kengashi of people's deputies.
- Advantages and privileges for any candidates participating in an election are excluded by the law.
- Under the Constitution, presidential, parliamentary and local representative body elections are statutorily held on the same day, namely, the first Sunday in the last ten days of December in the last mandate year.
- Of the Legislative Chamber parliamentary seats, whose number increased from 120 to 150 in 2008, 135 are occupied by deputies from political parties and, in view of the importance and growing urgency of environmental protection issues, 15 are occupied by Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan deputies.
- The pre-election period for the registration of political parties intending to participate is reduced from six to four months.
- The number of voter signatures necessary for admission of a political party to participate in elections is reduced from 50,000 to 40,000.
- The maximum number of legal representatives of candidates is increased from 5 to 10.

- A new institution is introduced, that of the authorized representative of a political party, who may participate in checking the validity of signature lists and in counting votes at precinct level.
- One observer from each political party, media representatives, and observers from other States and international organizations or movements may be present at all stages of preparation and conduct of elections, at voting premises on election day and at the counting of votes.
- At least 30 per cent of political party candidates for the office of deputy must be women. As a result, 33 woman (22 per cent of the total number of deputies) were elected to the Legislative Chamber in 2009. Women account for 15 per cent of the members of the Senate and for more than 20 per cent of the total number of deputies in local representative bodies.
- Elections to the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis, the Jokargy Kenes of Karakalpakstan and the representative bodies of State authority in provinces, districts and cities are scheduled to take place at the time provided for in article 117 of the Constitution, namely on the first Sunday in the last 10 days of December 2014; while, pursuant to the Presidential Elections Act, presidential elections are scheduled to take place on the first Sunday after 90 days from the day of announcement by the Central Electoral Commission of the results of the elections to the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis.

875. The Act of 19 December 2012 on “amendments to the Oliy Majlis Elections Act and to the Kengash People’s Deputies Provincial, District and Municipal Elections Act” in connection with further freedom-of-choice safeguards and improved electoral legislation defined the concept of election campaigning as the activity, carried out in the pre-election period, aimed at motivating voters to vote for a candidate for deputy or for a candidate of a political party.

876. Election campaigning commences on the day of registration of candidates by the Central Election Commission and is prohibited on election day and the day before.

877. Election campaigning may not be accompanied by distribution to the voters of goods or services (other than information) free of charge or on favourable terms, and of cash payments.

878. Election campaigning consists in disseminating information on the programme or platform of a political party and inviting the public to vote for the party candidates; or in disseminating information regarding a candidate and inviting the public to vote for him or her.

879. Election campaigning may take the form of public debates, discussions, press conferences, interviews, appearances, voters’ meetings, or candidate or party advertisements.

880. Election campaigning takes place through the media, including television and general information and communication networks (including the Internet); production and distribution of printed, visual, audiovisual or other publicity material (*inter alia*, posters and flyers); and organization of meetings with voters.

881. Candidates or political parties may use any other lawful type, form or method of election campaigning.

882. Uzbek citizens participate actively in presidential, Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis and local Kengashi of people’s deputies elections.

883. According to data provided by the Central Election Commission:

- (1) In 2007, the total number of voters at the time of presidential elections was 16,297,400;
- (2) Of those, 14,765,444 voted in the presidential elections of 2007;
- (3) In 2009, the total number of voters at the time of elections to the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis and local Kengashi of people's deputies was 17,215,700;
- (4) Of those, 15,108,950 voted in the said elections of 2009;
- (5) Of the four presidential candidates proposed by political parties, one was a woman;
- (6) Of the total number of 517 candidates proposed by political parties for the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis, 163 were women;
- (7) Of the total number of 1,597 members of district electoral commissions in the elections to the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis, 327 were women;
- (8) Of the total number of 76,835 members of precinct electoral commissions in the elections to the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis and to local Kengashi of people's deputies, 32,659 were women;
- (9) Of the 150 deputies elected to the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis, 33 were women;
- (10) In the local Kengashi of people's deputies:
 - Of the 4,499 deputies elected at district level, 762 were women;
 - Of the 810 deputies elected at municipal level, 208 were women;
 - Of the 815 deputies elected at provincial level, 151 were women.

884. In order to ensure that, during the period of election campaigning, the candidates and political parties participating in elections to the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis may use the media on an equal footing and the political parties can exercise their right to present their programme of proposed measures, the Central Election Commission decided that the candidates and the parties are to appear in the media in alphabetical order; established weekly schedules for such appearances on the channels of the National Television and Radio Corporation; and provided for relevant space in the *Khalk suzi*, *Narodnoe slovo* and *Pravda vostoka* newspapers.

885. Approximately 300 domestic and foreign journalists participated in ensuring broad coverage of the 2007 presidential elections.

886. The media and local and foreign information agencies contributed to transparency and openness in the electoral process. In 2009, more than 500 domestic and more than 200 foreign media covered the elections to the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis, while 201 representatives of local and 39 of foreign media were accredited to the Central Election Commission.

887. Approximately 260 foreign observers from more than 30 countries and representatives of leading international organizations: (CIS, OSCE, Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), Eurasian Economic Community (EAEC) and Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)) monitored the 2007 presidential elections. More than 23,000 observers from political parties and voters' action groups helped to ensure conditions of equality among the presidential candidates and compliance with the principles of justice, legality and openness in the election process.

888. The 2009 elections to the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis were monitored by more than 270 observers from 36 States and four international organizations (the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), the Executive Committee of CIS, SCO and OIC) and by more than 60,000 observers and authorized representatives of the political parties having proposed parliamentary candidates.

889. Of the 195 complaints and communications received by the Central Election Commission in the period 2009–2010, 22 concerned acts of provincial, district and municipal election commissions.

890. As a result of the inquiries carried out in accordance with electoral law, the Office of the Procurator-General transmitted instructions for the elimination of identified violations of the law and of the factors and conditions facilitating such violations, 40 contestations of illegal decisions taken by khokims and other officials were filed, while in one case criminal charges were brought for a major breach of the law.

891. According to Supreme Court data, cases relating to electoral law that were handled by civil courts during the period considered are broken down as follows:

- (1) In 2010: Of the 22 claims filed, 13 were judged, including 5 that were upheld, and 9 were dismissed;
- (2) In 2011: Of the 37 claims filed, 13 were judged, including 11 that were upheld, and 2 were not heard;
- (3) In 2012: Of the 10 claims filed, 8 were judged, including 6 that were upheld, and 2 were not heard.

892. Issues related to the realization of the citizens' right to be involved in the management of the affairs of the State and society through participation in elections are frequently discussed in conferences, seminars and round tables.

893. On 28 June 2011, the Independent Institute for Monitoring the Development of Civil Society, the Central Election Commission, the Committee on Legislation and Judicial Questions of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis and the Ministry of Justice organized a national workshop conference on "current issues related to electoral system development and to the regulation of the organizational and legal aspects of election campaigning". In May-June 2011, the regional offices of the Institute carried out a series of regional round tables on "election campaigning by candidates to the office of deputy and by political parties: experience and prospects for improvement". On 18 November 2011, a seminar on "further democratization of electoral processes in representative local government bodies" was held in the city of Gulistan, Syrdarya province, on the initiative of the Senate, the Central Election Commission and the Institute. In July 2012, the Institute, the Senate and Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis and the Central Election Commission organized in all provinces regional round tables on "current tasks related to improving the country's electoral law".

894. As their authority in society is established and strengthened, civil society organizations play an increasingly significant role in effective public scrutiny of the work of State and Government structures. Currently, the institution of civil and social oversight constitutes a key component of effective feedback between society and the State and of understanding the people's state of mind and attitudes towards the reforms undertaken in the country.

895. A draft act on public oversight in Uzbekistan is currently under preparation with a view to creating a system-wide effective legal mechanism for society and civil institutions to monitor the implementation of legislative acts by State and administration authorities. The draft act specifies public oversight types, forms and entities, the purpose of scrutiny,

the legal mechanisms for carrying it out and the rules governing the liability of officials for non-compliance with the relevant legislation.

896. The new version of the Legal and Regulatory Instruments Act promotes the participation of citizens and public associations in the preparation and public examination of legislation and other legal or regulatory instruments. Under article 14 of the Act, a body adopting such an instrument may contractually assign or order its preparation to public structures, scientific or other organizations or individual citizens; contractually entrust specific entities with drawing up alternative drafts of the instrument; and organize competitions for the preparation of the best draft of such an instrument.

897. Draft acts may be submitted to nation-wide discussion according to procedures established by law. Drafts of other legal or regulatory instruments may be submitted to public or professional consideration.

898. Public discussion of draft legal or regulatory instruments takes place with the participation of representatives of the interested State bodies, citizens' self-governance bodies or other organizations, scientists and specialists. The author of a draft legal or regulatory instrument must provide participants in its public or professional consideration with an advance copy thereof.

899. Any proposals or observations formulated during consideration of a draft legal or regulatory instrument constitute recommendations to be examined by the author. Rejection of such proposals or observations must be reasoned. Draft discussion documents are presented for consideration by the body adopting the legal or regulatory instrument together with the draft.

900. During legal examination of a draft act, judicial bodies seek to determine whether it contains any provisions and rules conducive to corruption or other offences.

901. The preparation of the Social Partnership Act is crucial to the development of partner relations between State and society in undertaking tasks of social utility. The Act provides for the regulation of organizational and legal mechanisms for cooperation between NGOs and State bodies in protecting human rights and freedoms and addressing humanitarian problems.

902. Further improvement of the organizational basis of the functioning of the institution of citizens' self-governance at the level of makhallas, expansion of the relevant functions and close cooperation with State and Government bodies are of particular current interest. This task will be addressed on the basis of the Act of 28 March 2013 amending and completing the Citizens' Self-governance Bodies Act, which places the makhalla at the centre of targeted social support, aims at developing private enterprise and family business and enhances the role of makhallas in the system of public oversight of State administration bodies. The new version of the Act on the election of chairpersons (aksakals) of citizens' assemblies and their advisers, adopted on 28 March 2013, provides for further improvement of the system of election of the chairpersons of citizens' self-governance bodies and for the election of aksakals and their advisers by outstanding citizens and broadens the role of makhallas in the public activities of citizens.

Article 26

Equality before the law

903. The Constitution is the primary legislative instrument providing for the equal enjoyment of fundamental human rights and freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural and other spheres of public life.

904. For Instance, under article 4 of the Constitution, the Republic of Uzbekistan ensures respect for the languages, customs and traditions of the nations and nationalities living in its territory and facilitates their development. Under article 8, the people of Uzbekistan is constituted by its citizens, regardless of their ethnic background. Under article 12, public life in Uzbekistan proceeds on the basis of a plurality of political institutions, ideologies and opinions.

905. Over a short period of time, Parliament adopted 15 codes and more than 500 acts regulating human rights and fundamental freedoms. Almost every act contains provisions prohibiting racial discrimination, and mechanisms for implementing such prohibitions.

906. According to article 13, the ultimate value is the human being, human life, freedom, honour dignity and other inalienable rights. The State founds its activities on the principles of social justice and legality for the benefit of humankind (art. 14) without distinctions based on gender, race, ethnic background or any other criterion. Article 16 proclaims the fundamental principle of the inter-relationship between the State and the individual, a principle expressed in the following considerations: all Uzbek citizens have the same rights and freedoms and are equal before the law without any distinctions based on: (a) gender; (b) race; (c) ethnic background; (d) language; (e) religion; (f) social origin; (g) opinions; and (h) personal or social status. The grounds of discrimination prohibited by the Constitution are fully consistent with the list of grounds contained in article 26 of the Covenant.

907. Thus, under article 3 of the Citizens' Self-governance Bodies Act, citizens exercise their constitutional right to self-governance in settlements, townships, villages and makhallas in accordance with the guaranteed electoral rights through citizens' assemblies (meetings of representatives).

908. Regardless of gender, race, ethnic background, language, religion, social origin, views or personal or social status, citizens have an equal right to participate in self-governance directly or through their elected representatives. It is prohibited to restrict a citizens' right to self-governance.

909. Under article 4 of the Freedom of Conscience and Religious Organizations Act, Uzbek citizens are equal before the law, regardless of their religious views. A citizen's attitude towards religion may not be indicated in official documents. Any direct or indirect restriction on the rights or any privileged treatment of a citizen in relation to his or her attitude to religion, any incitement to hostility or hatred or any insult to a citizen in connection with his or her religious or atheistic persuasion and any profanation of revered objects of worship constitute grounds for bringing charges in accordance with the law.

910. No one may fail to fulfil his or her legal obligations on the grounds of his or her religious persuasion. Replacing fulfilment of an obligation with the fulfilment of another on the grounds of religious persuasion is permitted only in cases specified by the law.

911. Under article 6 of the Courts Act, all Uzbek citizens are equal before the law and the courts without distinction as to gender, race, ethnic background, language, religion, social origin, beliefs, or personal or social status. Enterprises, institutions and organizations are also equal before the law and the courts.

912. Uzbek legislation stipulates administrative and criminal liability for violations of the right to equality before the law.

913. Article 42 of the Code of Administrative Liability prescribes fines equal to once to twice the minimum wage for violating the citizens' right to use the language of their choice in child-rearing and education, for obstructing or restricting the use of a language and for showing disrespect towards the State language or other languages of the ethnic groups and peoples living in Uzbekistan.

914. Under article 49 of the Code of Administrative Liability, an official violating the laws on labour and occupational safety incurs a fine equal to 2–5 times the minimum wage.

915. If committed with respect to a minor, the same offence is punished with a fine equal to 5–10 times the minimum wage.

916. Under article 141 of the Criminal Code, direct or indirect infringement or restriction of the rights of citizens or the establishment of direct or indirect advantages for citizens by reason of their gender, race, ethnic background, language, religion, social origin, opinions, or personal or social status incur a fine equal to up to 50 times the minimum wage or suspension of a specific right for up to three years, or punitive deduction of earnings for up to two years. The same acts accompanied by violence shall be punishable by punitive deduction of earnings for from two to three years or deprivation of liberty for up to three years.

917. Article 156 of the Criminal Code, “Incitement to ethnic, racial or religious hatred”, makes wilfully offending the honour and dignity of an ethnic community or insulting the feelings of believers or atheists with a view to inciting enmity, intolerance or discord towards groups of people on the basis of national origin, race, ethnic background or religion, or directly or indirectly restricting rights or extending direct or indirect advantages based on national origin, race, ethnic background or religion, punishable by deprivation of liberty for up to five years.

918. Underpinned by the provisions of the Constitution, efforts have been made to improve the following judicial and extrajudicial mechanisms protecting and restoring violated civil and political rights:

- (1) Application to the relevant State agencies, which, in accordance with established procedures, receive, consider and settle complaints from citizens (administrative protection);
- (2) Application to the courts concerning unlawful acts or decisions of State agencies or officials (judicial protection);
- (3) Application to the Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman) of the Oliy Majlis concerning a violation of civil rights or freedoms once the applicant has exhausted the remedies described above (extrajudicial protection);
- (4) Application to agencies of the Procurator-General, which supervise the application of legislation by ministries and departments, enterprises, establishments and organizations and khokims, as well as the conduct of the preliminary investigation of offences and the treatment of persons held in penal institutions;
- (5) Application to a judicial body empowered to defend the human rights and freedoms embodied in the Constitution and the law;
- (6) Application to law offices offering legal assistance to individuals and legal entities on the basis of the principles of independence of counsel, strict compliance with professional ethics, secrecy of counsel, and recourse to ways and means of defence not prohibited by law;
- (7) Application to NGOs which are empowered by their statutes to defend the human rights of their members and participants.

Article 27

Rights of minorities

919. Since it first became independent, Uzbekistan created the legal and organizational conditions necessary for supporting, guaranteeing and protecting the human rights of the members of all peoples and ethnic groups living in its territory. Thus:

920. First, the Constitution is the primary legislative instrument ensuring that fundamental human rights and freedoms are upheld even-handedly in the political, economic, social, cultural and other spheres of public life. Article 8 of the Constitution provides the following constitutional definition of the “people of Uzbekistan”: “The people of Uzbekistan consist of the citizens of Uzbekistan regardless of their ethnicity.”

921. Second, all Uzbek legislation provides citizens with identical rights and freedoms in terms of equality before the law regardless of race, gender, ethnic background, language, religion, social origin, views and personal or social status (article 18 of the Constitution).

922. Third, with a view to ensuring that all peoples and nations resident in the country are able to exercise their human rights, Uzbekistan ratified in 1995 the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and fully supports the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and the Outcome Document of the Durban Review Conference.

923. Fourth, in order to prevent discrimination based on religion or belief and to ensure adequate legal protection against such discriminatory practices, Uzbekistan acceded in 1997 to the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief.

924. Fifth, State policy on the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination is aimed at:

- Creating an atmosphere of ethnic harmony and tolerance in society;
- Developing institutions and legislative machinery to safeguard individual and collective rights, including those of racial, national and ethnic minorities;
- Adopting specific measures to preserve the cultural identity of national minorities and encourage their integration into Uzbek society;
- Ensuring the proportional representation of national groups in all areas of public life.

925. Sixth, the State ensures a respectful attitude towards the languages, customs and traditions of the peoples and ethnic communities residing in its territory and facilitates their development by prohibiting:

- The organization of political parties set up on racial or national principles and of public associations seeking to propagate racial or religious division;
- The use of religion to foment enmity, hatred or ethnic division;
- The use of the media for the purpose of propagating national, racial or religious hatred;
- Acts preventing citizens from exercising their right to free choice of language in communication and in the education and training of children.

926. Seventh, the Government of Uzbekistan instituted the “Dustlik” (“Friendship”) order, which is awarded to persons working in the fields of science, culture, education, health care, the media and social welfare for contributions to ethnic harmony among the peoples living in Uzbekistan.

927. Since independence, members of 24 ethnic groups (71 persons in all) have been awarded the highest State honours.

928. Under article 42 of the Constitution, everyone is guaranteed the right to enjoy the benefits of culture. The State shall ensure the cultural, scientific and technological development of society.

929. At present, the country has 37 professional and many amateur theatres, including:

- 1 opera and ballet company performing in two languages (Uzbek and Russian);
- 7 theatre companies (including 3 performing in Russian);
- 14 musical and musical drama companies (including 1 Russian and 1 Karakalpak);
- 4 young people's theatres and 1 young spectators' theatre (including 1 Russian and 1 Karakalpak);
- 10 puppet theatres (including 1 Karakalpak and 4 bilingual — Uzbek and Russian).

930. Uzbekistan has many amateur theatres: the Ilhom, Aladin, Mulokot, Eski Machit, Turon and others. In addition, almost all higher educational institutions have theatre groups. Nihol or Hazina theatre group festivals take place every year.

931. The Ministry of Culture oversees 90 museums. Museum collections comprise 1.5 million exhibits. These include historical documents, archaeological and ethnographic objects, coins and works of applied art, sculpture, painting and graphic art.

932. Uzbekistan has 1,853 cultural and arts centres, 148 amusement parks, and 78 sports federations representing various types of sport.

933. Particular emphasis is placed on guarding the cultural heritage of the country's ethnic groups. Members of the public have a duty to conserve historical, spiritual and cultural artefacts. Cultural monuments are protected by the State.

934. NGOs continue to make significant contributions to improving the inter-ethnic situation and promoting cultural diversity.

935. Uzbekistan currently has over 150 ethnic cultural centres and associations set up by 27 different ethnic groups. Of these centres, 14 have national status.

936. Among the cultural centres, 31 were established by Koreans, 23 by Russians, 9 by Kazakhs, 6 by Tatars, 3 by Bashkirs, 6 by Kyrgyz, 7 by Turkmens, 4 by Armenians, 4 by Germans, 10 by Tajiks, 3 by Uighurs, 8 by Jews, 5 by Turks, 6 by Ukrainians, 8 by Azerbaijanis, 4 by Poles, 2 by Belarusians, 2 by Crimean Tatars and 1 each by Arabs, Bulgarians, Greeks, Georgians, Latvians, Karakalpaks, Chinese and Dungans.

937. Of the 131 ethnic cultural centres operating in the country's regions, 4 are in Karakalpakstan, 6 in Andijan province, 5 in Jizak province, 5 in Kashkadarya province, 10 in Navoi province, 5 in Namangan province, 11 in Samarkand province, 6 in Syrdarya province, 4 in Surkhandarya province, 7 in Fergana province, 4 in Khorezm province, 33 in Tashkent province and 22 in the city of Tashkent.

938. The Inter-ethnic Cultural Centre was established under Cabinet of Ministers Decisions No. 10 of 10 January 1992 and No. 180 of 8 April 2003.

939. The Centre represents the country's ethnic cultural centres at meetings of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. For instance, the Centre's director attended the meeting of the 77th session of the Committee in Geneva on 2–7 August 2010 to give a presentation on the implementation of national policy, illustrating it with a photo album produced by the Centre and entitled "Uzbekistan, Our Common Home".

940. Under article 29 of the Constitution, “everyone has the right to freedom of thought, speech and opinion and may seek, receive and impart any information, except information directed against the existing constitutional order and other restrictions specified by law. Freedom of opinion and the freedom to express one’s opinion may be restricted by law only in connection with a State or other secret”.

941. Currently, the country’s media provide information in 12 languages. Thus, 502 titles are published in Uzbek, 164 in two and more languages, and 84 in 3–4 languages (Uzbek, Russian, Karakalpak, Tajik).

942. Centrally published minority-language newspapers in Uzbekistan include the Korean *Kore sinmun*, the Tajik *Ovozi tochik* and the Kazakh *Nurli Jol*. Other periodicals such as the Armenian diaspora newspaper *Apaga*, *Tkhonil-Edinstvo*, published in Korean and Russian, and *Bulubulcha Dono*, in Tajik, have large readerships.

943. Newspapers in minority languages are published in districts with dense concentrations of the respective minorities. Examples include the Tajik papers *Ovozi Samarkand* in the Samarkand province and *Istiklol Iuli* and *Sadoi Sukh* in the Fergana province.

944. The Republic of Karakalpakstan publishes approximately 40 newspapers and 7 magazines. More than 80 per cent of these publications are in Karakalpak.

945. Television and radio programmes such as *Under One Sky*, *In One Family*, *Uzbekistan Our Common Home*, *Chinsen*, *Didar*, *Striving to Be Just*, *Rondo* and *Elaman* illustrate the history and daily lives of the peoples, ethnic groups and minority communities living in Uzbekistan, and their distinctive cultures, art, customs and traditions, and seek to strengthen inter-ethnic understanding, concord, cross-cultural relations and communication.

946. More than 20 television and radio programmes are broadcast on national radio in the languages of the peoples and minority groups living in the country, including Korean, Tajik, Kazakh, Karakalpak, Russian, Turkmen, Tatar, Uighur and Kyrgyz.

947. All ethnic minorities have access to education. Secondary and higher education is offered in seven languages: Uzbek, Karakalpak, Russian, Tajik, Kazakh, Turkmen and Kyrgyz.

948. Uzbekistan has 9,779 general education schools, 246 of which conduct lessons in Karakalpak, 110 in Russian, 172 in Tajik, 207 in Kazakh, 28 in Kyrgyz and 34 in Turkmen. There are also schools with classes taught in these languages: 134 offer tuition in Karakalpak, 689 in Russian, 96 in Tajik, 265 in Kazakh, 33 in Kyrgyz, and 22 in Turkmen.

949. Of the 1,601,732 students of various nations and ethnic groups attending Uzbekistan’s total number of 1,536 intermediate vocational educational institutions, 168,323 (11 per cent) are members of other nations: *inter alia*, 40,435 are Russian, 35,033 Kazakh, 26,101 Tajik, 6,416 Tatar, 4,036 Korean, 2,421 Iranian, 2,335 Kyrgyz, 1,867 Uighur and 1,327 Turkmen.

950. On 1–10 February 2010, the *Ijtimoi Fikr* Centre for the Study of Public Opinion conducted two surveys, respectively entitled “Uzbekistan, Our Common Home” and “Reform of the Judicial and Legal System in the Mirror of Public Opinion”. Not a single case of racial discrimination was identified through those surveys.

951. Voting rights may be exercised by all citizens who have reached the age of 18. The Constitution provides for exceptions only with respect to certain categories. Citizens ruled incompetent by a court and persons held in prisons and detention centres pursuant to a court sentence may not vote in elections.

952. Following elections to the Legislative Chamber in 2009, 132 Uzbeks, 5 Karakalpaks, 3 Russians, 1 Kazakh, 2 Tajiks and 1 person of another ethnic background were voted in as deputies.
953. 82 Uzbeks, 3 Karakalpaks, 1 Russian, 1 Kazakh, 1 Turkmen and 2 persons of another ethnic background were elected to the Senate.
954. Members of the various ethnic groups and peoples living in Uzbekistan are free to enter public service and to choose a profession. There are no laws restricting the recruitment of candidates to vacant posts in public service or other employment on the grounds of ethnicity.
955. Members of various ethnic groups work — in certain cases as senior officials — for State executive and administrative bodies, educational, training and scientific institutions and NGOs, including citizens' self-governance bodies.
956. Middle management posts in the judiciary system, for instance, are held by persons who are not ethnic Uzbeks, namely 29 Karakalpaks, 12 Tajiks, 2 Tatars, 2 Armenians, 2 Koreans, 2 Kazakhs, 2 Kyrgyz and 1 Russian.
957. Persons employed in senior positions by the public education department at the district level include 12 Karakalpaks, 5 Kazakhs and 4 Tajiks. Of 194 senior district-level personnel, 23 (11.8 per cent) are women, while 1,378 principals (14 per cent of the total) at general education schools are not ethnic Uzbeks.
958. Of the 110,000 teachers of various ethnic groups employed in the secondary specialized vocational education system, 92,712 are Uzbeks, 4,582 Karakalpaks, 4,474 Russians, 3,384 Tajiks, 1,346 Kazakhs, 349 Kyrgyz, 1,069 Tatars, 60 Armenians and 49 Ukrainians. Women account for 51 per cent of teaching staff.
959. Of the directors of 1,537 educational institutions, 1,230 are Uzbek, 66 Karakalpak, 33 Tajik, 14 Kazakh, 4 Tatar, 4 Turkmen, 1 Greek, 2 Russian, 2 Korean and 2 Azerbaijani.
960. Of Uzbekistan's 33,603 trade union leaders in 2012, 29,116 were Uzbek, 1,410 Russian, 1,015 Tajik, 77 Karakalpak, 488 Kazakh, 380 Tatar, 105 Kyrgyz, 87 Korean and 423 members of other ethnic groups. Women accounted for 48 per cent of all trade union leaders.
961. Following the election of chairpersons (aksakals) of citizens' assemblies and their advisers in May-June 2012, the ethnic composition of the total number of 9,973 aksakals was as follows: 8,935 Uzbeks (89.6 per cent), 438 Tajiks (4.4 per cent), 259 Kazakhs (2.6 per cent), 184 Karakalpaks (1.8 per cent), 65 Kyrgyz (0.65 per cent), 26 Turkmens (0.26 per cent), 24 Tatars (0.24 per cent), 15 Russians (0.15 per cent) and 27 from other ethnic groups (0.27 per cent).
962. In Uzbekistan, citizens are consistently and systematically informed of the provisions of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, which are frequently discussed at conferences, round tables, meetings and talks. Thus, on 19 November 2008, 2009 and 2010, respective round tables were held on the subjects of "Tolerance as a cultural standard and moral value", "Tolerance in Uzbek society" and "The constitutional foundations of tolerance as the cornerstone of the democratic world view".
963. As part of the relevant national plan of action, in August 2011 the Committee on Democratic Institutions, Non-Governmental Organizations and Citizens' Self-Governance Bodies of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis conducted hearings on the implementation in Uzbekistan of the above Convention and of the measures provided for in the said plan.

964. Pursuant to paragraph 1.3 of the national plan of action, the National Centre for Human Rights, in cooperation with other State bodies, NGOs and international partners carried out on 24 October 2012 a workshop conference on problems encountered in harmonizing Uzbek legislation with the said Convention.

965. Uzbekistan duly submits national reports to the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Thus, the country's first and second periodic reports were considered at the fifty-seventh session of that Committee in 2000; the third, fourth and fifth such reports were considered at the sixty-eighth session of the same Committee in 2006; the sixth and seventh such reports were considered at the seventy-seventh session of the same Committee in 2010; and the eighth and ninth such reports were addressed to the said Committee in October 2012.

Annexes

Working group for the preparation of the fourth periodic report of Uzbekistan on the implementation of the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

1. A. Saidov, professor of law: Director, National Centre for Human Rights of the Republic of Uzbekistan
2. A. Ismailov — Deputy Director, National Centre for Human Rights of the Republic of Uzbekistan
3. F. Bakayev, candidate of legal science — Chief, Department of Human Rights Research and Studies
4. K. Arslanova — Chief Consultant, Department of Human Rights Research and Studies
5. M. Karimov — Technical editor, *Democratization and human rights* journal

State bodies and educational institutions having participated in the preparation of this report

Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis

Senate of the Oliy Majlis

Human Rights Commissioner (Ombudsman) of the Oliy Majlis

Ministry of Justice

Ministry of Internal Affairs

Ministry of Health

Ministry of Labour and Social Protection

Ministry for Emergency Response

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Constitutional Court

Office of the Procurator-General

Supreme Court

Supreme Court Research Centre on the Democratization and Liberalization of Judicial Legislation and the Independence of the Judicial System

Central Penal Correction Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs

Committee on Religious Affairs of the Cabinet of Ministers

Department for the Enforcement of Court Decisions and Logistical and Financial Support for the Work of the Courts, Ministry of Justice

Central Election Commission

State Statistics Committee

National Television and Radio Corporation

Uzbek Press and Information Agency

Academy of Public Administration

Institute for Monitoring Current Legislation in the Office of the President of the Republic

Academy of the Ministry of Defence

Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs

Tashkent State Institute of Law

Advanced training courses offered by the Office of the Procurator-General

University of World Economics and Diplomacy

Centre for the Professional Development of Legal Specialists of the Ministry of Justice

National University of Uzbekistan

National Centre for Human Rights

Non-governmental non-profit organizations having participated in the preparation of this report

Women's Committee of Uzbekistan

Council of the Federation of Trade Unions of Uzbekistan

National Association of Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organizations

Independent Institute for Monitoring the Development of Civil Society

Public Foundation for the Support and Development of Independent Print Media and News Agencies in Uzbekistan

Public Foundation for the Support of NGOs and other civil society institutions, attached to the Oliy Majlis

Forum of Culture and Arts of Uzbekistan Foundation (Fund Forum)

Kamolot Public Youth Movement

Makhalla National Charitable Foundation

International Cultural Centre

Ijtimoiy Fikr Centre for the Study of Public Opinion

Sen Yolg'iz Emassan Foundation

Soglom Avlod Uchun Foundation

National Centre for the Social Adaptation of Children

Oila Centre for Applied Research

Bar Chamber of Uzbekistan

Association of Judges of Uzbekistan

Association for Support for Children and the Family

Centre for Support for Civic Initiatives

Centre for the Study of Legal Problems

Istikbolli Avlod Youth Information Centre

National Association of Electronic Mass Media

Population of Uzbekistan (thousand persons)

	31 January 2011			31 January 2012			1 January 2013*
	<i>Total number</i>	<i>Of whom</i>		<i>Total number</i>	<i>Of whom</i>		
		<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>		<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	
Republic of Uzbekistan	29 123.4	14 568.4	14 555.0	29 555.4	14 792.5	14 762.9	29 994.6
Republic of Karakalpakstan	1 680.9	839.9	841.0	1 692.8	846.5	846.3	1 711.7
<i>Provinces</i>							
Andijan	2 672.3	1 345.8	1 326.5	2 714.2	1 367.5	1 346.7	2 756.5
Bukhara	1 683.8	837.6	846.2	1 707.4	849.7	857.7	1 729.8
Jizak	1 166.7	584.0	582.7	1 186.6	594.1	592.5	1 205.0
Kashkadarya	2 722.9	1 367.4	1 355.5	2 777.8	1 395.9	1 381.9	2 830.4
Navoi	873.0	442.2	430.8	881.2	446.4	434.8	888.4
Namangan	2 379.5	1 203.0	1 176.5	2 420.6	1 224.2	1 196.4	2 458.6
Samarkand	3 270.8	1 633.3	1 637.5	3 326.2	1 661.8	1 664.4	3 380.8
Surkhandarya	2 175.1	1 093.7	1 081.4	2 218.9	1 115.7	1 103.2	2 260.5
Syrdarya	727.2	365.0	362.2	739.5	371.2	368.3	750.6
Tashkent	2 644.4	1 315.5	1 328.9	2 671.0	1 330.0	1 341.0	2 696.1
Fergana	3 229.2	1 619.8	1 609.4	3 280.8	1 646.5	1 634.3	3 329.6
Khorezm	1 601.1	797.3	803.8	1 629.1	811.5	817.6	1 654.1
City of Tashkent	2 296.5	1 123.9	1 172.6	2 309.3	1 131.5	1 177.8	2 342.5

**Breakdown of the permanent residents of Uzbekistan by ethnic group
(persons)**

	<i>1 January 2011</i>	<i>1 January 2012</i>
Total	29 123 367	29 555 365
Uzbek	23 983 153	24 421 811
Karakalpak	641 530	651 213
Russian	837 454	824 808
Ukrainian	78 201	76 853
Belarusian	19 658	19 502
Kazakh	832 661	813 347
Azerbaijani	41 015	41 104
Kyrgyz	254 584	257 367
Tajik	1 411 554	1 430 219
Armenian	37 382	37 025
Turkmen	174 660	177 123
Tatar	218 604	215 140
Jewish	10 233	10 219
Other	582 678	579 634

**Information on the number of permanent residents of Uzbekistan
(thousand persons)**

	<i>1 January 2011</i>			<i>1 January 2012</i>		
	<i>Total</i>	<i>Of whom</i>		<i>Total</i>	<i>Of whom</i>	
		<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>		<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>
Total	29 123.4	14 568.4	14 555.0	29 555.4	14 792.5	14 762.9
<i>Of whom</i>						
Number of persons under working age	9 099.3	4 671.8	4 427.5	9 051.1	4 652.1	4 399.0
Working-age population	17 804.7	9 115.1	8 689.6	18 184.6	9 327.6	8 857.0
Number of persons above working age	2 219.4	781.5	1 437.9	2 319.7	812.8	1 506.9

Breakdown of the number of pensioners by gender and type of pension, 2007–2010

(Excluding recipients of pensions for loss of breadwinner)
(As of end of year)

	2007		2008		2009		2010	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
<i>Thousand persons</i>								
Total number of pensioners	1 678.9	1 184.0	1 702.1	1 198.7	1 680.7	1 247.2	1 686.3	1 226.8
<i>Of whom, recipients of</i>								
Old-age pensions	1 260.6	749.9	1 288.4	780.9	1 262.3	771.8	1 311.2	780.8
Disability pensions	280.8	280.9	277.2	262.0	290.0	310.4	255.5	279.8
Other pensions	137.5	153.2	136.5	155.8	128.4	165.0	119.6	166.2
<i>Per cent</i>								
Total number of pensioners	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Of whom, recipients of</i>								
Old-age pensions	75.1	63.3	75.7	65.1	75.1	61.9	77.8	63.6
Disability pensions	16.7	23.7	16.3	21.9	17.3	24.9	15.1	22.8
Other pensions	8.2	13.0	8.0	13.0	7.6	13.2	7.1	13.6
<i>Per cent breakdown by gender</i>								
Total number of pensioners	58.6	41.4	58.7	41.3	57.4	42.6	57.9	42.1
<i>Of whom, recipients of</i>								
Old-age pensions	62.7	37.3	62.3	37.7	62.1	37.9	62.7	37.3
Disability pensions	50.0	50.0	51.4	48.6	48.3	51.7	47.7	52.3
Other pensions	47.3	52.7	46.7	53.3	43.8	56.2	41.8	58.2

Breakdown of the number of persons recognized as victims by gender, age and area

Area	Year	Victims	Men						Women					
			Total	Aged:					Total	Aged:				
				up to 18	18-25	25-30	30-40	40 or older		up to 18	18-25	25-30	30-40	40 or older
1 City of Tashkent	2010	105	29	1	10	10	2	6	76	1	44	18	11	2
	2011	119	27	18	0	0	4	5	92	18	37	27	10	0
	2012	128	28	0	4	9	8	7	100	8	41	29	16	6
2 Tashkent province	2010	310	241	13	0	113	97	18	69	0	37	32	0	0
	2011	297	224	3	27	99	75	20	73	0	3	39	31	0
	2012	222	149	5	0	73	58	13	73	6	30	21	16	0
3 Samarkand province	2010	115	68	1	10	12	31	14	47	3	5	18	12	9
	2011	54	27	0	3	8	10	6	27	3	6	14	3	1
	2012	74	50	0	2	9	25	14	24	2	7	10	4	1
4 Syrdarya province	2010	82	57	2	22	25	1	7	25	4	7	8	6	0
	2011	49	34	0	2	6	18	8	15	3	1	5	5	1
	2012	45	41	1	8	8	13	11	4	1	0	1	1	1
5 Jizak province	2010	118	95	0	21	55	19	0	23	1	20	2	0	0
	2011	86	70	0	11	47	10	2	16	0	9	7	0	0
	2012	66	43	1	20	15	6	1	23	1	14	7	1	0
6 Bukhara province	2010	127	98	0	21	28	26	23	29	3	13	10	3	0
	2011	119	58	1	27	11	12	7	61	3	22	20	8	8
	2012	128	96	1	22	22	27	24	32	4	10	11	7	0
7 Navoi province	2010	71	60	0	20	15	16	9	11	1	7	2	1	0
	2011	44	31	1	10	11	8	1	13	0	9	1	3	0
	2012	66	45	0	15	15	11	4	21	4	8	6	3	0
8 Fergana province	2010	88	54	0	10	10	25	9	34	0	19	12	3	0
	2011	92	61	0	19	16	19	7	31	0	11	14	4	2
	2012	130	75	0	21	19	22	13	55	0	31	15	8	1
9 Andijan province	2010	105	64	4	4	30	14	12	41	2	22	15	2	0
	2011	129	86	1	19	42	22	2	43	3	14	18	6	2
	2012	140	124	3	23	48	38	12	16	1	9	5	1	0
10 Namangan province	2010	518	475	24	111	74	152	114	43	1	8	10	16	8
	2011	222	197	3	48	52	53	41	25	1	14	6	4	0
	2012	144	117	0	37	22	27	31	27	4	3	11	8	1

Area	Year	Victims	Men						Women					
			Total	Aged:				40 or older	Total	Aged:				40 or older
				up to 18	18-25	25-30	30-40			up to 18	18-25	25-30	30-40	
11 Surkhandarya province	2010	95	84	1	15	37	19	12	11	2	1	6	2	0
	2011	105	94	2	7	47	28	10	11	3	4	1	3	0
	2012	178	159	2	38	36	46	37	19	0	3	0	12	4
12 Kashkadarya province	2010	299	286	0	11	105	118	52	13	1	2	2	8	0
	2011	151	139	0	34	59	41	5	12	1	7	3	1	0
	2012	177	171	0	83	72	15	1	6	0	6	0	0	0
13 Khorezm province	2010	163	149	2	12	62	62	11	14	0	0	12	2	0
	2011	72	55	1	15	18	15	6	17	1	2	7	7	0
	2012	113	84	2	16	44	16	6	29	0	8	8	11	2
14 Republic of Karakalpakstan	2010	75	66	2	17	15	22	10	9	0	2	4	3	0
	2011	41	34	5	12	1	4	12	7	3	1	1	2	0
	2012	17	9	0	1	4	3	1	8	4	1	3	0	0
15 Internal affairs administration for transport	2010	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	1	10	8	5	0
	2011	38	2	0	0	1	1	0	36	2	18	11	4	1
	2012	25	3	0	0	1	2	0	22	0	13	7	2	0
16 Central Investigative Department, Ministry of Internal Affairs	2010	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	2	15	13	0	0
	2011	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2012	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17 Country as a whole	2010	2 325	1 826	50	284	591	604	297	499	22	212	172	74	19
	2011	1 618	1 139	35	234	418	320	132	479	41	158	174	91	15
	2012	1 653	1 194	15	290	397	317	175	459	35	184	134	90	16

Weekly schedule of campaign appearances of candidates and political party representatives on the channels of the National Television and Radio Corporation in connection with elections to the Legislative Chamber of the Oily Majlis

<i>Week days</i>	<i>Political parties</i>	<i>Time of broadcast</i>			
		<i>Television channels</i>		<i>Radio channels</i>	
		<i>“Uzbekiston”</i>	<i>“Eshlar”</i>	<i>“Uzbekiston”</i>	<i>“Eshlar”</i>
1. Monday	Social Democratic Party (Adolat) (No. 1)	7.05-7.20 a.m.	9.00-9.15 a.m.	7.05-7.20 a.m.	7.40-7.55 a.m.
		8.05-8.10 p.m.	6.30-6.45 a.m.	9.35-9.50 p.m.	6.50-6.55 p.m.
		9.35-9.50 p.m.	10.35-10.40 p.m.	8.05-8.10 p.m.	8.45-9.00 p.m.
		5-min ads	5-minute ads	5-minute ads	5-minute ads
2. Tuesday	Democratic National-Revival Party (Milliy Tiklanish) (No. 2)	7.05-7.20 a.m.	9.00-9.15 a.m.	7.05-7.20 a.m.	7.40-7.55 a.m.
		8.05-8.10 p.m.	6.30-6.45 p.m.	8.05-8.10 p.m.	6.50-6.55 p.m.
		9.35-9.50 p.m.	10.35-10.40 p.m.	9.35-9.50 p.m.	8.45-9.00 p.m.
		5-minute ads	5-minute ads	5-minute ads	5-minute ads
3. Thursday	Movement of Entrepreneurs and Businesspeople – Liberal Democratic Party (No. 3)	7.05-7.20 a.m.	9.00-9.15 a.m.	7.05-7.20 a.m.	7.40-7.55 a.m.
		8.05-8.10 p.m.	6.30-6.45 p.m.	8.05-8.10 p.m.	6.50-6.55 p.m.
		9.35-9.50 p.m.	10.35-10.40 p.m.	9.35-9.50 p.m.	8.45-9.00 p.m.
		5-minute ads	5-minute ads	5-minute ads	5-minute ads
4. Friday	People’s Democratic Party (No. 4)	7.05-7.20 a.m.	9.00-9.15 a.m.	7.05-7.20 a.m.	7.40-7.55 a.m.
		8.05-8.10 p.m.	6.30-6.45 p.m.	8.05-8.10 p.m.	6.50-6.55 p.m.
		9.35-9.50 p.m.	10.35-10.40 p.m.	9.35-9.50 p.m.	8.45-9.00 p.m.
		5-minute ads	5-minute ads	5-minute ads	5-minute ads

Note: Every political party is allotted equal periods of broadcasting time, namely 40 minutes per week, on each television and radio channel, including two 15-minute broadcasts and 5 minutes for party leaders. The parties’ television and radio advertisements are broadcast in a single 5-minute package (75 sec for each party). If for any reason that happens to be impossible on a given channel, the broadcast is shifted to another time on the same day.

**Weekly schedule of space allotted to candidates and political parties in
print publications *Newspaper Khalk suzi***

<i>Week days</i>	<i>Political parties</i>	<i>Front page</i>	<i>Second page</i>
		<i>For advertisements</i>	<i>For information</i>
1 Tuesday	Social Democratic Party (Adolat) (No. 1); Democratic National-Revival Party (Milliy Tiklanish) (No. 2)	Upper right-hand section	Side-by-side, 1.5 column each
2 Wednesday	Movement of Entrepreneurs and Businesspeople – Liberal Democratic Party (No. 3); People’s Democratic Party (No. 4);	Upper right-hand section	Side-by-side, 1.5 column each
3 Thursday	Social Democratic Party (Adolat) (No. 1); Democratic National-Revival Party (Milliy Tiklanish) (No. 2)	Upper right-hand section	Side-by-side, 1.5 column each
4 Friday	Movement of Entrepreneurs and Businesspeople – Liberal Democratic Party (No. 3); People’s Democratic Party (No. 4)	Upper right-hand section	Side-by-side, 1.5 column each

**Weekly schedule of space allotted to candidates and political parties in
print publications *Newspaper Narodnoe slovo***

<i>Week days</i>	<i>Political parties</i>	<i>Front page</i>	<i>Second page</i>
		<i>For advertisements</i>	<i>For information</i>
1 Tuesday	Social Democratic Party (Adolat) (No. 1); Democratic National-Revival Party (Milliy Tiklanish) (No. 2)	Upper right-hand section	Side-by-side, 1.5 column each
2 Wednesday	Movement of Entrepreneurs and Businesspeople – Liberal Democratic Party (No. 3); People’s Democratic Party (No. 4);	Upper right-hand section	Side-by-side, 1.5 column each
5 Thursday	Social Democratic Party (Adolat) (No. 1); Democratic National-Revival Party (Milliy Tiklanish) (No. 2)	Upper right-hand section	Side-by-side, 1.5 column each
4 Friday	Movement of Entrepreneurs and Businesspeople – Liberal Democratic Party (No. 3); People’s Democratic Party (No. 4)	Upper right-hand section	Side-by-side, 1.5 column each

**Weekly schedule of space allotted to candidates and political parties in
print publications *Newspaper Pravda vostoka***

<i>Week days</i>	<i>Political parties</i>	<i>Front page</i>	<i>Second page</i>
		<i>For advertisements</i>	<i>For information</i>
1 Tuesday	Social Democratic Party (Adolat) (No. 1); Democratic National-Revival Party (Milliy Tiklanish) (No. 2)	Upper right-hand section	Side-by-side, 1.5 column each
2 Wednesday	Movement of Entrepreneurs and Businesspeople – Liberal Democratic Party (No. 3); People’s Democratic Party (No. 4);	Upper right-hand section	Side-by-side, 1.5 column each
5 Thursday	Social Democratic Party (Adolat) (No. 1); Democratic National-Revival Party (Milliy Tiklanish) (No. 2)	Upper right-hand section	Side-by-side, 1.5 column each
4 Friday	Movement of Entrepreneurs and Businesspeople – Liberal Democratic Party (No. 3); People’s Democratic Party (No. 4)	Upper right-hand section	Side-by-side, 1.5 column each

Note: In each newspaper issue, the second page is earmarked for the publication of election campaigning material, while brief announcements appear on the front page. If on Tuesday or Wednesday there is an increased volume of official information, the scheduled publication of election campaigning material may be shifted to the next day.

**Number of men and women employed in managerial positions, by
branch of economic activity, as of 1 January 2011**

	<i>Per cent breakdown by sector for each gender</i>		<i>Per cent breakdown of totals by gender</i>	
	<i>Women</i>	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Men</i>
Total	100.0	100.0	26.8	73.2
<i>Of whom in</i>				
Industry	8.9	18.1	15.2	84.8
Agriculture and forestry	0.5	2.4	6.8	93.2
Transport	1.4	3.5	13.0	87.0
Communications	0.6	1.0	18.6	81.4
Construction	1.2	2.4	16.1	83.9
Trade, catering, sales, procurement	1.4	1.7	22.3	77.7
Housing, consumer services	1.1	3.2	10.8	89.2
Health, physical education, sport, social services	9.3	6.0	36.2	63.8
National education	53.9	26.0	43.2	56.8
Culture and the arts	1.8	1.4	32.4	67.6
Science, scientific services	0.8	1.0	23.9	76.1
Finance, credit, insurance	3.7	5.8	18.8	81.2
Other branches	15.4	27.5	17.0	83.0

Economically active population, 2007–2010 (thousand persons)

	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total economically active population	11 299.2	11 603.1	11 929.5	12 286.6
Women	5 332.6	5 362.2	5 523.5	5 648.5
Men	5 966.6	6 249.9	6 406.0	6 638.1
<i>Of the total economically active population</i>				
Employed	10 735.4	11 035.4	11 328.1	11 628.4
Women	5 017.1	5 057.1	5 200.3	5 295.1
Men	5 718.3	5 978.3	6 127.8	6 333.3
Unemployed	563.8	567.7	601.4	658.2
Women	315.5	305.1	323.2	353.4
Men	248.3	262.6	278.2	304.8
<i>Per cent breakdown by gender</i>				
Total economically active population	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Women	47.2	46.2	46.3	46.0
Men	52.8	53.8	53.7	54.0
<i>Of the total economically active population</i>				
Employed	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Women	46.7	45.8	45.9	45.5
Men	53.3	54.2	54.1	54.5
Unemployed	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Women	56.0	53.7	53.7	53.7
Men	44.0	46.3	46.3	46.3

Per cent breakdown of the membership of political parties by gender

	<i>Per cent breakdown by gender</i>			
	<i>2007</i>		<i>2010</i>	
	<i>Women</i>	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Men</i>
People's Democratic Party	40.0	60.0	40.7	59.3
Liberal Democratic Party	35.0	65.0	36.6	63.4
Democratic National-Revival Party (Milliy Tiklanish)	36.8	63.2	47.5	52.5
Social Democratic Party (Adolat)	43.6	56.4	48.6	51.4

Number of preschool, out-of-school and residential establishments for children (units as of end of year)

	<i>2010</i>	<i>2011</i>
Out-of-school establishments for children	562	211*
Preschool establishments	5 375	5 221
Children's homes	13	13
Mekhribonlik homes (orphanages)	27	25
SOS Children's Villages	2	3
General-type residential schools	290	281
Boarding schools for disabled children	6	6

* As from 2011, Barkamol avlod children's centres are set up pursuant to Cabinet of Ministers Decision No. 50 of 28 February 2011 on measures for further improvement of the out-of-school education system.

Number of educational institutions (units as of end of year)

	2010–2011	2011–2012	2012–2013
General education schools	9 806	9 780	9 779
Academic lycées	143	142	143
Vocational colleges	1 396	1 398	1 408
Higher education institutions	65	65	64

Breakdown of functioning sport facilities by type (units)

	2010	2011
Total	50 668	51 198
<i>Of which</i>		
Stadiums	366	369
Sports halls	9 008	9 152
Swimming pools	218	228
Shooting ranges	520	447
Sports and play grounds	40 535	40 981
Horse race courses	8	8
Riding schools	11	12
Clay target shooting facilities	2	1

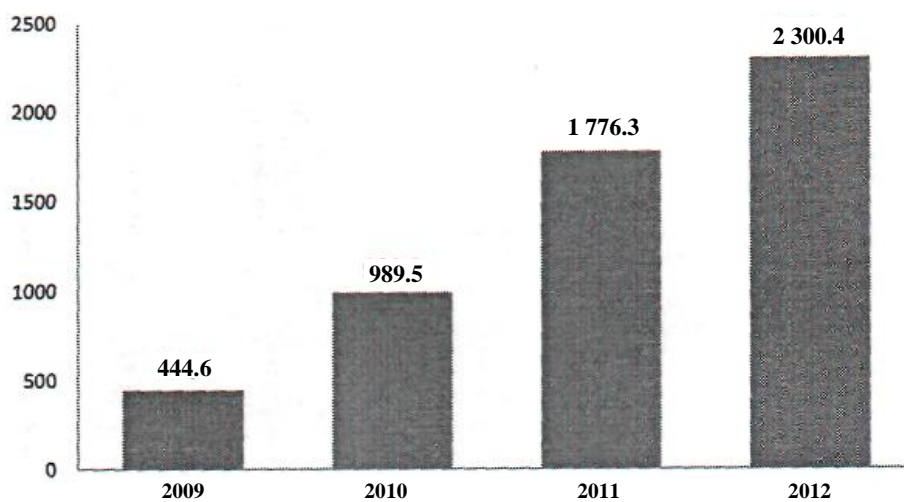
Number of cultural establishments (units)

	2010	2011
Theatres	42	43
Museums	105	106
Clubs	1 889	1 824
Circuses	1	1
Information-resources and reference-library centres	2 809	2 809

Number of NGOs participating in competitions for grants of the support fund of the Oliy Majlis, 2009–2012



Development of grants to NGOs, 2009–2012
(Million sum)



Development of the number of NGOs in Uzbekistan
(1 January 2009-1 January 2013)

