

YESTERDAY'S, TODAY'S AND FUTURE PENSION REFORMS IN UZBEKISTAN

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Annotation: In this article, the topic of discussion is the high value of human, rights and freedoms, as well as the reforms of the social security system today and their consequences.

The issues of social protection listed in the Development Strategy of Uzbekistan and the measures that have been taken to solve the existing problems of the pension system over the past five years are also disclosed.

Key words: social security, social protection, social insurance, social assistance, pension, child disability.

The wide dissemination of the humane idea that human rights and freedoms are the highest value and that everything should be subordinated to human happiness and well-being leads to the emergence of new human and social relations, new approaches to events.

A radical change in a person's attitude to his vital interests as a social phenomenon leads to a radical change in both philosophical and legal views on social protection, the emergence of a modern concept in this area, irrigated with new ideas.

Recognizing all the positive achievements of world civilization, humanitarian values, international legal criteria and requirements, Uzbekistan is implementing reforms in accordance with international standards in the field of social protection of its population. This activity is especially manifested in a new approach to human interests, the creation of its legal basis, the introduction of positive rules for the development of mankind in our national system.

"Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and his family, including clothing, food, medical care and necessary social services, and the right to benefits in respect of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or any another lack of means of subsistence in circumstances beyond his control.

Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, should enjoy the same social protection," states the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights[1].

Indeed, the establishment of social protection for citizens and the reduction of poverty as a priority direction of state policy, providing the population with new jobs and a guaranteed source of income, qualified medical and educational services, and decent living conditions have reached a qualitatively new level.

As a result of the reforms of the last five years, the necessary political, legal, socio-economic, scientific and educational foundations have been created in our country for the restoration of a new Uzbekistan.

One of the seven priorities set out in the "new development strategy of Uzbekistan for 2022-2026", developed on the basis of the principle "action strategy - to a development strategy", is the implementation of a fair social policy, the development of human capital[2].

In this development strategy, several important social protection policy objectives have been set out separately to promote human dignity,

including:

- Full coverage of the needy population with social benefits and material assistance until 2026;
- development of a national strategy for the social protection of the population;
- implementation of a unified state policy in the field of social protection;
- creation of a social insurance system, including the creation of a social insurance fund;
- provision of social assistance and services to low-income families on the basis of a social contract;
- Creation of a separate database on women, youth and disabled people in need of assistance in the Information System "Unified Register of Social Protection", including the integration of the "Iron Book", "Youth Book" and "Women's Book" of the Unified Register of Social Protection;
- Starting from January 1, 2023, the maximum salary for calculating pensions is a tenfold to twelvefold increase in the basic amount of pension calculation;

The development strategy also set the task of developing a draft law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On state pension provision of citizens", which provides for the following changes[3].

In the development of this project;

- increase the 3-year period to 6 years, which is calculated by adding to the length of service when calculating the pension for women, summing up the entire time they are on parental leave;
- it is envisaged to take into account such important issues as the calculation of the period from childhood to 18 years of age for disabled children by adding to the length of service when assigning a pension.

In addition, as part of the tasks set by the New Development Strategy of Uzbekistan for 2022-2026 to ensure justice and legality, in 2022 the state will provide free legal assistance to citizens in need of social protection, as well as civil and administrative cases.

The tasks of ensuring labor, social and other internationally recognized rights of convicted and punished persons, introducing effective measures to promote their social adaptation and reintegration into society, and establishing joint activities of state and public institutions in this direction are defined[4].

Also, in order to provide citizens with a decent pension in the development strategy, get rid of excessive paperwork in the registration of pensions and improve the pension system;

Ensure a consistent increase in the size of pensions of citizens in accordance with the economic indicators of the country;

Introduction of a multi-stage and state-guaranteed pension system in accordance with international principles and standards;

Important tasks are being set, such as the transition to a system of assigning pensions based on interdepartmental electronic exchange of information without requiring excessive documents from citizens.

In fact, Uzbekistan is undergoing intensive reforms in the field of social protection of the population. Given the next five years, the problematic issues that have been tormenting pensioners for many years are finding their own solution[5].

In particular, pensioners who continue to work pay 50 percent of their pension by 2019, while paying social contributions for work on an equal basis with other citizens. Currently, this category of our citizens has the opportunity to receive full salaries and pensions.

The problem of cash, which has become a problem over the years, or cases of transferring pensions to mandatory bank plastic cards, have found their solution since 2017.

The elderly receive a pension for 10-20 years, and then errors are revealed in the pension process, and the overpayment is returned to the Pension Fund, thus this is a sign of disrespect for the elderly, and today these problems have been resolved and specific measures have been taken.

The bureaucratic burden on registration of pensions has been eliminated, a self-sufficient work book has been introduced as a document confirming the length of service until 2005, and a mechanism for calculating the period after 2005 through an electronic database.

Thus, over the past five years, about sixty changes have taken place in the pension sector. Such rapid change is hard to find in other countries.

Despite the fact that today complex processes are taking place on a global scale, the priority goal of reforms aimed at further improving the well-being of our people, the unconditional provision of human rights and interests, as well as the formation of an active civil society, is clear evidence of the focus on the principle "for human dignity" .

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