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**Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections: election of members of the Human Rights Council**

### **Letter dated 30 September 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly**

I have the honour to inform you that the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan has decided to present its candidature to the Human Rights Council for the term 2021–2023 at the elections to be held during the seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly in 2020 in New York.

I transmit herewith the voluntary pledges and commitments of the Republic of Uzbekistan for its candidature to the Human Rights Council, in accordance with the provisions of the General Assembly resolution [60/251](#) (see annex).

I should be grateful if you could circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 114 (c).

*(Signed)* Bakhtiyor **Ibragimov**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative



## **Annex to the letter dated 30 September 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly**

### **Candidature of Uzbekistan to the Human Rights Council, 2021–2023**

#### **Voluntary pledges and commitments pursuant to General Assembly resolution [60/251](#)**

##### **Introduction**

1. In consonance with its internal democratic process, the Republic of Uzbekistan has the honour to present its candidature to the Human Rights Council for the period 2021–2023 in the elections to be held in New York in 2020, as an evidence of its commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights and freedoms.
2. The Republic of Uzbekistan is a founding member of the Human Rights Council. It had the honour to participate in the negotiations and approval of measures for institutional formation of major global human rights machinery, and currently supports the efforts aimed at further strengthening it.
3. Uzbekistan is firmly committed to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and strictly accomplishes its international obligations on human rights in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, which encompass the values and principles of democracy and the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the International Bill of Human Rights.
4. However, until nowadays, Uzbekistan has not been a member of the Human Rights Council. Deeply committed to the promotion of human rights and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Uzbekistan hopes for further support and trust from the international community in its efforts to promote the promotion and protection of human rights both at the regional and international levels, including in the context of the Human Rights Council.
5. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution [60/251](#), the summary of the contribution of Uzbekistan and its promises and voluntary pledges and commitments in the field of human rights is presented below.

##### **Progress achieved in the promotion and protection of human rights**

6. In Uzbekistan, issues of the promotion, observance and protection of human rights are considered as one of the priorities of State policy. Today, a stable political system has been created in the country that meets modern criteria of democracy and human rights. A unique model of systematic and phased implementation of international human rights standards in national legislation and law enforcement practice has been formed in the country.
7. Pursuant to international obligations, a system of legislation on personal, political, economic, social and cultural human rights has been created: 12 constitutional laws, 18 codes and over 700 laws regulating human rights and fundamental freedoms proclaimed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and relevant international agreements and treaties have been adopted. A practice has been introduced in accordance with which draft laws are publicly discussed and posted on the open data portal.
8. In 2017, the Republic of Uzbekistan moved to the most important stage of its democratic and legal development – a phase of further modernization of the country

and the reform of all aspects of society. The ambitious and reform-oriented “Action strategies in the five priority areas of development of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2017–2021” became the strategic programme of political and economic reforms in Uzbekistan. This programme defined a common vision of the country’s development based on the implementation of the principle “people should not serve the Government, but the Government should serve the people”.

9. In accordance with the action strategies, five priority directions for the development of Uzbekistan were identified in 2017–2021, which include: (a) strengthening the role of parliament and political parties in the deepening of democratic reforms; (b) ensuring the rule of law and further reforming the judicial and legal system, aimed at ensuring the true independence of the judiciary and guaranteeing the reliable protection of the rights and freedoms of citizens; the accountability and transparency of State institutions, e-government, the fight against corruption; (c) economic development and liberalization; (d) development of the social sphere – reforms in the sphere of labour, migration, health care, education; (e) ensuring security, inter-ethnic harmony and religious tolerance, and strengthening the role of civil society institutions and the mass media.

10. In order to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Government adopted national sustainable development goals and objectives for the period until 2030, which enlisted 16 national goals and 127 national targets for the Sustainable Development Goals and 206 indicators on the available data sources. A “road map” was adopted to implement the national goals and objectives, which envisages consistent measures to reduce the poverty of the population, enhance food security, promote a healthy lifestyle, ensure quality education, enhance the role of women in the democratic renewal and modernization of the country, reduce inequality in all manifestations, and ensure access to justice.

11. In 2018, the world community solemnly celebrated the seventieth anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action on human rights. Uzbekistan adopted a special State programme of events aimed at all-round promotion of the essence and meaning of the first universal international document on human rights, as well as the improvement of human rights legislation and law enforcement practice, and adherence to new international treaties.

12. Uzbekistan supports the strengthening of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights through the implementation of initiatives in order to ensure its effective and independent functioning. In connection with the seventieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Uzbekistan has made a voluntary contribution to the budget of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in the amount of \$100,000.

13. As part of the implementation in Uzbekistan of the World Programme for Human Rights Education and the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training, a human rights education system has been established, covering children, students of specialized secondary and higher educational institutions, government officials, law enforcement officers and pedagogical, medical and social workers to increase their level of knowledge of human rights in the framework of relevant institutes, centres and refresher trainings.

14. Uzbekistan makes a significant contribution to the realization of human rights in the framework of all its measures in the international arena. The country is entering a new level of development as a subject of international law and is initiating the conclusion of international treaties, as an active participant in international rule-making. During the seventy-third session of the General Assembly, at the initiative of Uzbekistan, an important document was adopted – the resolution entitled

“Enlightenment and religious tolerance”, which was the practical implementation of the initiative of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev. In the resolution, the Assembly underlines the importance of promoting education, peace, human rights, tolerance and friendship, and also recognizes the importance of inclusion, mutual respect, respect for human rights, tolerance and understanding, in order to build a more secure and peaceful world.

15. Uzbekistan is a consistent author and supports almost all resolutions of the General Assembly affecting the protection, promotion and development of human rights.

16. A constructive dialogue has been established with both national and international non-governmental human rights organizations.

17. In November 2018, the Asian Forum on Human Rights, dedicated to the seventieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, was held in Samarkand. The significance of this event lies in the fact that it was aimed at improving existing, and establishing new, mechanisms for the protection of human rights and the development of practical recommendations to ensure the cooperation of national human rights institutions in the region. During the Forum, the Samarkand Declaration on human rights was adopted, which was approved as a document of the seventy-third session of the General Assembly. The parliament of Uzbekistan approved the road map for the implementation of the “Samarkand spirit” of human rights, where it is emphasized once again that there are no civilizations and States where the ideas of freedom, equality and the protection of human rights would not be of primary importance.

18. We are committed to continuing this important work. Our main priorities are comprehensive assistance in self-realization, ensuring the protection of fundamental human rights and legitimate interests. Peace, stability and the well-being of citizens depend on it.

### **Empowerment of women**

19. The level of cultural development in any society is determined by its attitude towards women. Based on this principle, Uzbekistan is taking active measures as a priority to ensure the principles of non-discrimination and gender equality and the protection and empowerment of women.

20. Uzbekistan is making active efforts to implement the principles of gender equality to achieve goals of the Sustainable Development Goals on the empowerment of women. The country’s parliament established the Commission for the Protection of Gender Equality of Women, whose main task is to ensure gender parity in all spheres of society and to increase the proportion of women in the decision-making process, as well as to develop proposals for the implementation of generally accepted international norms to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women.

21. Currently, Uzbekistan is implementing the Beijing Platform for Action and a national plan, developed in accordance with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

22. In order to implement the provisions of international human rights treaties, work is under way to develop draft laws on guarantees of equal rights and opportunities for men and women and the protection of women from harassment and violence.

23. Uzbekistan intends to make tremendous progress in ensuring gender equality. At the time of preparation of the current document, it should be taken as evidence the election of a woman as Chair of the upper house of parliament and the establishment

of the Committee on Women and Gender Equality in the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

### **Rights of the child**

24. Uzbekistan has made noticeable progress in promoting the rights of the child. The country is carrying out large-scale work to support motherhood and childhood, full coverage of children in preschool and school education, creating conditions for the spiritual and physical development of children, and ensuring compliance with the requirements of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

25. In 2019, the world community widely celebrates the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. For this purpose, the State has taken additional measures to further strengthen the guarantees of the rights of the child, including to ensure the best interests of orphans and children left without parental care, to ensure that children are guaranteed the right to appeal to State bodies and to ensure that the right of children under the age of 14 to independently file claims for the maintenance of alimony from their parents has been cemented in the legislation.

26. In accordance with the recommendations of the United Nations treaty bodies, the minimum age of marriage for both men and women is fixed at 18 years.

27. Pursuant to the provisions of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, amendments and additions have been made to the Criminal Code to toughen the rules of responsibility for recruiting a person under 18 years of age as a mercenary, as well as for educating, financing or providing material assistance with the aim of recruiting underage persons as mercenaries, the use of children in armed conflict or hostilities, as well as increased responsibility for trafficking in children.

28. Laws are being drafted to prohibit violence against and the abuse of children, increase the age of criminal responsibility and review the juvenile justice system.

### **Youth rights**

29. Young people constitute approximately 40 per cent (12.2 million people) of the population of Uzbekistan. Uzbekistan is making efforts to strengthen existing international mechanisms and explore new ways to solve the problems faced by young people, to promote the development of policies aimed at empowering young people through training and education, providing training, expanding employment opportunities and increasing degree of autonomy.

30. Uzbekistan is the developer of the United Nations International Convention on the Rights of Youth, initiated by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, at the seventy-second session of the General Assembly and intends to promote its adoption on the international stage.

### **Elimination of child and forced labour**

31. Uzbekistan is proud of the achievements in the field of the eradication of child and forced labour. The country managed to completely eradicate child labour and significantly advance protection against forced labour. Uzbekistan's implementation of its international commitments under the International Labour Organization conventions, including the recommendations they submitted following the monitoring of the cotton harvesting campaign, and the Decent Work Country Programme in Uzbekistan for 2017–2020, resulted in positive assessments from international partners.

32. The activities of the Parliamentary Commission on ensuring guaranteed labour rights of citizens and of the Coordination Council on child and forced labour have achieved positive results in ensuring parliamentary and public control over the prevention of violations of labour rights of citizens.

### **Implementation of international obligations and agreements at the national level**

33. Uzbekistan remains fully committed to the promotion and protection of human rights and has adopted a range of legislative, institutional and administrative measures to fulfil international obligations in the field of human rights.

34. Uzbekistan is a party to 70 international human rights instruments, including 6 core United Nations treaties and 4 optional protocols thereto. The country is currently making efforts to ensure the implementation of these documents at all levels.

35. In order to implement the recommendations submitted by the United Nations human rights mechanisms, in December 2018 Uzbekistan created a national mechanism for reporting and follow-up actions by strengthening the status of the National Centre for Human Rights of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The main task of the national mechanism is to coordinate the cooperation of State bodies in the implementation of international obligations in the field of human rights, as well as broad interaction with international and regional human rights mechanisms, including with human rights treaty bodies and special procedures mandate holders.

36. Uzbekistan fulfils its obligations to submit periodic reports to various treaty bodies in a timely fashion. Uzbekistan submitted 38 national reports to the statutory and treaty bodies of the United Nations on the fulfilment of its international obligations in the field of human rights. During 2018–2019, Uzbekistan prepared and submitted five national reports on human rights and freedoms:

- The third national report of Uzbekistan under the universal periodic review
- The fifth national report of Uzbekistan on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child
- The fifth national report of Uzbekistan on the implementation of the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- The ninth to twelfth national reports of Uzbekistan on the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
- The third national report on the Implementation of the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

37. Uzbekistan attaches great importance to its reporting obligations on human rights mechanisms and is closely monitoring the implementation of its recommendations. A national system of monitoring the observance of constitutional human rights and freedoms and the fulfilment of international human rights obligations has been formed. An important part of the system is the preparation and adoption of national action plans to implement the recommendations of the Charter of the United Nations and treaty bodies following the review of national reports.

38. Uzbekistan supports Human Rights Council resolution [35/29](#) and notes that the country's parliament plays an important role in translating international commitments into national strategies and laws, including by supporting the implementation of recommendations made by international human rights mechanisms, especially the recommendations submitted under the universal periodic review. Since 2016, the practice of approval by the parliament of Uzbekistan of national action plans to implement the recommendations of the Charter of the United Nations and treaty bodies has been introduced.

39. Uzbekistan supports Human Rights Council resolution 17/4 regarding the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations “Protect, Respect and Remedy” Framework. The country is developing a national action plan on the issue of business in the aspect of human rights in order to implement in Uzbekistan the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, adopted by the Human Rights Council in 2011.

#### **Fulfilment of universal periodic review commitments**

40. The universal periodic review process is an important mechanism for strengthening the protection of human rights worldwide. The Republic of Uzbekistan strongly supports the universal periodic review process due to its universal and transparent nature, which allows each State to inform the international community of measures taken to improve the situation in the field of observance and protection of human rights and the progress achieved in this area.

41. Uzbekistan successfully conducted its first universal periodic review on 11 December 2008, the second universal periodic review on 24 April 2013, and its third universal periodic review on 9 May 2018. The Government remains committed to participating in this mechanism and in efforts to promote and protect human rights in the country and around the world.

42. Uzbekistan welcomes the results of its universal periodic review conducted in the framework of the third cycle. According to the results of the consideration of its third report, Uzbekistan received 212 recommendations from States Members of the United Nations; from these, 198 recommendations were supported; 93 per cent of all recommendations made to it were addressed, and 14 recommendations were noted.

43. Uzbekistan is taking the necessary measures to implement these recommendations and observations made by the States Members of the United Nations on human rights in the framework of the universal periodic review. The Government has prepared a draft national action plan for the implementation of all recommendations of the Human Rights Council, international organizations and other human rights institutions and has held national consultations with government agencies and civil society.

44. The country has prepared a national action plan for the implementation of the recommendations of the Human Rights Council following the consideration of the national report of Uzbekistan in the framework of the third cycle of the universal periodic review and intends to monitor its implementation.

#### **National human rights institutions**

45. Uzbekistan complies with the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action on human rights. In accordance with the Paris Principles, in 1995, the Human Rights Commissioner of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan (hereinafter, Ombudsman) was established, which exercises parliamentary control over the observance of human rights in the country. Currently, the Ombudsman is a constitutional body that has a proportionate mandate, has authority and enjoys independence, and also has regional representatives.

46. The country is actively building the capacity of national human rights institutions and is taking steps to include the Ombudsman in the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions.

47. In 2017, a new extrajudicial mechanism for the protection of the rights of entrepreneurs was introduced – the Business Ombudsman. Guarantees of its individuality and independence from State bodies and officials have been established.

48. Another significant event related to human rights was the establishment in 2019 of the Ombudsman for the Rights of the Child. A draft law on the rights of the child is being developed. Uzbekistan stressed that the creation of the Children's Ombudsman is an important step that will contribute to the further promotion and protection of the rights of children in Uzbekistan. The country is discussing the establishment of a Media Ombudsman.

49. In accordance with the recommendations in the Charter of the United Nations and treaty bodies, an effective national preventive mechanism for the prevention of torture, based on the "Ombudsman Plus" model, has been created.

### **Cooperation with international and regional human rights mechanisms**

50. Uzbekistan's commitment to the protection of human rights is integrated into all spheres of foreign policy and cooperation for development. Uzbekistan firmly upholds human rights and fundamental freedoms in its bilateral and multilateral relations, including within the framework of the United Nations, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and other international forums.

51. Uzbekistan seeks to further contribute to the development of cooperation with international and regional human rights mechanisms through active interaction with the Human Rights Council and its mechanism, processes and initiatives, as well as with members of the international community, United Nations agencies and civil society representatives.

52. Cooperation between States and international and regional organizations is fundamental to the promotion and protection of human rights. During the years of independence, the Republic of Uzbekistan has strengthened cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the special procedures of the Human Rights Council. In this regard, in May 2017, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, António Guterres and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra'ad Zeid al-Hussein visited Uzbekistan; in October 2017, the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, Ahmed Shaheed, visited the country.

53. The Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan welcomed the recommendations made by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the special procedures and used them as a guide to strengthen the relevant systems. The country's parliament adopted the "road maps" for the implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief. Uzbekistan is committed to continuing the implementation of the recommendations and carrying out subsequent related activities.

54. Confirming its commitment to cooperate with the special procedures of the United Nations, Uzbekistan sent an invitation to the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers to visit the country in 2019.

55. In the interest of implementing a common strategy for the protection and promotion of human rights, the post of National Programme Coordinator of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights was established at the United Nations Office in Tashkent.

56. In 2018, the country became a full member of the International Organization for Migration.

57. In regional cooperation for development, Uzbekistan assigns a central role to human rights, considering them as the basis of sustainable development, peace and

prosperity. Uzbekistan has strengthened cooperation with OIC and the Independent Permanent Commission on Human Rights (IPHRC). In 2017, a representative of Uzbekistan was elected to the membership of the OIC-IPHRC from the Asian Group. In December 2018, the representative of Uzbekistan was elected Chair of the Independent Permanent Commission on Human Rights for 2019.

### **Voluntary pledges and commitments for the candidature of Uzbekistan to the Human Rights Council, 2021–2023**

58. Uzbekistan is fully aware of the responsibilities that will be assigned to it as a member of the Human Rights Council. In order to further consolidate the progress achieved in recent years and solve existing problems during its membership in the Human Rights Council and at the end of this period, Uzbekistan strongly intends to make a constructive contribution to the promotion and protection of human rights:

59. At the international level, it intends to:

(a) Promote the role of the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms, as well as the role of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights as mediators for international cooperation in the field of human rights, strengthening national capacities and sharing experiences and best practices;

(b) Continue constructive cooperation and collaboration with the Human Rights Council in accordance with General Assembly resolution [60/251](#) in order to facilitate the full implementation of its mandate, as well as support initiatives to strengthen the capacity of the Council and the implementation of its resolutions and decisions at the national level;

(c) Encourage a spirit of cooperation within the framework of the Human Rights Council, based on the principles of mutual respect and dialogue, free from politicization and double standards;

(d) Promote the cooperation of the Human Rights Council with national human rights institutions, non-governmental organizations and civil society, parliaments, the private sector and other international organizations;

(e) Strengthen interregional dialogue and interregional cooperation within the framework of the Human Rights Council in order to resolve the situations of concern within the framework of the Human Rights Council;

(f) Uphold the principles of dialogue and cooperation between all interested parties in order to promote and protect human rights for all peoples, with due regard to the historical, cultural and religious values of the Member States and their specific socioeconomic conditions;

(g) Maintain the universal nature of the universal periodic review and take part in the review process through constructive cooperation through an interactive dialogue;

(h) Strengthen cooperation and collaboration with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and special procedures and mechanisms of the Human Rights Council, and also send an invitation to the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment to visit Uzbekistan at a mutually acceptable time;

(i) Promote constructive engagement, dialogue and cooperation with concerned States in addressing “situations of concern” in the Human Rights Council;

(j) Continue to support all efforts aimed at ensuring an effective response by the international community to global human rights violations, by taking measures to prevent and early response;

(k) Improve platforms for dialogue with civil society in the context of preparing and confirming reports to treaty bodies, as well as mechanisms designed to take into account comments made by treaty bodies and to follow up on them;

(l) Promote the inclusion of aspects of the protection and promotion of human rights as a guiding principle in the processes being promoted within the United Nations system;

(m) Participate actively in global initiatives and discussions on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

(n) Intensify the process of developing and approving guidelines for the operation of national reporting mechanisms and follow-up to determine the status of these mechanisms at the national level;

(o) Assist in ensuring that gender issues are fully integrated in all areas of activity of the Human Rights Council and other United Nations mechanisms, focusing on the following issues: the role of women in sustainable development; women and peace and security; women's human rights, including reproductive health and rights; ending all forms of violence against women and girls; as well as gender equality in trade and the economic empowerment of women;

(p) Contribute at the international level to the promotion of women's rights, the rights of children, the rights of persons with disabilities and the human rights aspects of migration, health and education, and share best practices, experiences and achievements in these areas with interested partners;

(q) Make efforts to implement the General Assembly resolution on enlightenment and religious tolerance in order to promote tolerance, peaceful coexistence and interreligious dialogue as ways to combat hate speech, radicalization and extremism;

(r) Cooperate with all relevant stakeholders in the promotion and protection of human rights throughout the world, in particular through dialogue, the exchange of special experiences, technical cooperation and advice, assuming that all human rights, including the right to development, are indivisible and interrelated;

(s) Contribute to international initiatives for the protection of human rights through the provision of appropriate financial resources.

60. At the regional level, it intends to:

(a) Continue to work at the regional level with its partners in the framework of OIC, in particular with IPHRC, in promoting human rights in the region;

(b) Continue to promote the establishment of a regional human rights mechanism in the Asian region and promote its role and objectives in the respective Member States;

(c) Create incentives to include human rights among the priority issues discussed in regional forums and ensure their full inclusion in regional forums, programmes, activities and priority activities;

(d) Support bilateral and multilateral programmes that advocate the promotion and protection of human rights in the countries of the region;

(e) Continue to play a constructive role and act as an impartial and bona fide participant in the legal and humanitarian settlement of regional crises, in particular through mediation, in order to protect human rights and eliminate the threat of violation of these rights.

61. At the national level, it intends to:

- (a) Adhere to the highest standards in the promotion and protection of human rights and ensure that human rights are fully integrated in various areas of government activity at the national and international levels;
- (b) Strengthen cooperation and collaboration with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and special procedures;
- (c) Continuously interact with all interested parties to evaluate and monitor the implementation of the recommendations of the universal periodic review mechanism, and also interact with this mechanism by providing action-oriented and useful recommendations to other Member States;
- (d) Cooperate with the United Nations treaty bodies and ensure timely submission of national periodic reports in accordance with international treaties of the Republic of Uzbekistan on human rights;
- (e) Continue to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of national human rights institutions through the use of international best practices and the exchange of experiences;
- (f) Consider the accession to international human rights instruments to which Uzbekistan is not yet a party;
- (g) Strengthen the capacity of Uzbekistan to fulfil its obligations under international human rights treaties to which it is a party, effectively implementing the relevant national action plans on human rights;
- (h) Develop its national mechanism for reporting and follow-up activities so that it serves the practical implementation of international and regional human rights standards and practices directly at the national level;
- (i) Implement measures aimed at ensuring the right to equal and effective participation of all citizens in political and public life and strengthening the democratic rule of law;
- (j) Give priority to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, making it a major component of its national and international public policy, and in cooperation with other countries to promote the reforms necessary for its effective implementation;
- (k) Adopt and ensure the implementation of the national action plan on business issues in the aspect of human rights and implementation, the practical measures stipulated in it in order to implement all the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights;
- (l) Support public policies aimed at promoting the human rights of various social groups, women, children, the elderly, people with disabilities and migrant workers;
- (m) Strengthen gender mainstreaming in all areas of public policy in line with the gender equality concept and with particular attention to measures aimed at eliminating violence against women and eliminating all forms of discrimination;
- (n) Take measures to fully implement the human rights of persons with disabilities to ensure inclusion and participation, and ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, adopted in 2006;
- (o) Continue to promote the genuine participation of civil society and human rights defenders in activities to promote and protect human rights and their real involvement in this activity;

(p) Strengthen a human rights culture by raising awareness of human rights issues through media campaigns, seminars and workshops, and through the incorporation of human rights education into academic and educational programmes;

(q) Implement at a practical level the Samarkand Declaration on the principles of dialogue and cooperation among all interested parties in assisting the promotion and protection of human rights for all peoples.

62. As a democratic and progressive State, Uzbekistan is determined to protect, promote and support universal human rights and fundamental freedoms for all. This is manifest in the high-level political commitment and the policies and programmes of the Government on human rights, as well as a constant desire and commitment of Uzbekistan to work with the international community in order to strengthen multilateral cooperation and arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights. Uzbekistan considers the opportunity of its membership in the Human Rights Council as a means to achieve its goals and would deeply appreciate the confidence and support of Member States.

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