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WORLD BANK AND UZBEKISTAN : A DEFINING PARTNERSHIP

BUSINESS OUTREACH 2025
TASHKENT [24-25 APRIL 2025]



ABOUT WORLD BANK GROUP'S MISSION

- 1. End poverty,**
- 2. Boost shared prosperity,**
- 3. Livable planet**

UZBEKISTAN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2030

To become an upper-middle-income country by 2030.....

Strategic pillars:

- ▶ **Empowering citizens**
- ▶ **Promoting sustainable economic growth**
- ▶ **Protecting the environment;**
- ▶ **Developing people-centered public services**

UZBEKISTAN AND THE WORLD BANK – A WIN-WIN PARTNERSHIP

A Longstanding Partnership

- **Uzbekistan signed World Bank Articles of Agreement in 1992**
- **Over three decades of collaboration and shared development goals**

Uzbekistan Country Partnership Framework (CPF) with the World Bank

- **New CPF outlines support through 2022-26, aligned with national strategy**
- **Focus areas:**
 - **Boost private sector employment;**
 - **Enhance human capital; and**
 - **Enable greener, more inclusive growth**

WORLD BANK PORTFOLIO IN UZBEKISTAN

Projects....

- **24 active projects**, totaling **\$4.7 billion**
- **10 pipeline projects**, estimated over **\$1.5 billion**
- **Focus sectors:** Energy, Transport, Water, Urban Development, Agriculture, Health, Education, Social Protection

Together we transform.....

World Bank supports structural and functional reforms through:

- ▶ Financial assistance;
- ▶ Technical expertise and
- ▶ Knowledge sharing

EFFICIENT PUBLIC PROCUREMENT – WHY IT IS IMPORTANT

- Public procurement covers approximately 20-30% of the Country's GDP
- Essential for **effective use of public funds** and national development
- Drives **value for money** and project impact
- **Creates opportunities for private sector growth**, especially for local businesses through Transparent and Fair approach

MAJOR PROCUREMENT REFORMS INITIATIVES SUPPORTED BY BANK

- **Procurement Law 2018** and its recent Amendment in 2021 and 2024
- **Presidential Resolution No. 51** focused on efficiency, accountability, and sustainability
- Approved Shaffof **e-procurement system** upto certain threshold
- Presidential Decree on **Anti-Corruption 2025**
- Working to bring sustainability through procurement

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR THROUGH BEST PROCUREMENT APPROACH

- Procurement reforms increase **access to public contracts**
- Enhanced **transparency and fair competition**
- Enables local firms to compete with **international players**
- Encourages **innovation**, entrepreneurship, and market expansion
- **Inclusive** reforms require input from businesses
- **Collaborative** approach ensures practical, market-friendly policies

CHALLENGES AHEAD FOR UZBEKISTAN

- **Job creation lagging at just 1.1% annual growth over five years**
- **Population growing at 2% annually; 250,000 added to the working-age population each year**
- **Urgency to:**
 - ▶ **Reduce state dominance**
 - ▶ **Liberalize sectors**
 - ▶ **Improve trade, business, and investment climate and efficiency**
 - ▶ **Invest in skills and human capital**

WORLD BANK'S CONTINUED COMMITMENT IN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

- **Support to strengthen public procurement systems through studies, assessments, DPOs and PforR Operations**
- **Initiatives for private sector development:**
 - **Capacity building for local firms**
 - **Advisory services**
 - **Platforms for public-private dialogue**

THE WAY FORWARD – TO ATTRACT PRIVATE INVESTORS

- **Success depends on sustained dialogue between government and private sector**
- **A transparent, competitive, and innovation-friendly procurement system is the key**
- **Reforms will unlock new opportunities and improve public service delivery**

THANK YOU