



CLIMATE CHANGE LAW IN THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

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Article history:	Abstract:
Received: 10 th August 2025 Accepted: 8 th September 2025	Climate change is one of humanity's greatest threats, with far-reaching and devastating consequences for people, the environment, and economies. Climate impacts affect all regions and sectors of society" [1]. Climate change also impacts households' access to food by negatively impacting transport systems, road infrastructure, and other things [2].

Keywords: Climate change

INTRODUCTION

"Climate change is one of humanity's greatest threats, with far-reaching and devastating consequences for people, the environment, and economies. Climate impacts affect all regions and sectors of society" [1]. Climate change also impacts households' access to food by negatively impacting transport systems, road infrastructure, and other things [2].

Today, climate change has become one of the primary risk factors for human development, and its consequences directly impact not only the environment but also socio-economic development, human health, intergovernmental political stability, and the legal system. In particular, speaking recently at a briefing at the headquarters of the Organization, UN Secretary-General A. Guterres said, "The era of global warming is over; the era of global boiling has arrived". At the same time, in his report "Our New Agenda," he identified three planetary crises: climate change, loss of biodiversity, and pollution of the planet. These problems do not bypass Central Asia, which today is increasingly feeling the consequences of global warming. Thus, according to new estimates by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, since 1850, global temperatures have increased by an average of 1.1°C. At the same time, in Central Asia, its growth exceeded the world average, amounting to 2.2°C [3]. The rising levels of the salinized water table significantly affect soil fertility. In Uzbekistan, the total area of irrigated land in the groundwater zone with a salinity up to 3.0 g·L⁻¹ is 3.35 million ha or 77.98% [4].

Among global environmental problems, this phenomenon is the most pressing and is intensifying year by year, manifesting in various forms such as droughts, floods, glacier melting, forest fires, and land degradation. Water shortages, in turn, will pose a threat to local revenue, especially in Uzbekistan, where the economy depends mostly on irrigation agriculture and the impact of water resource reduction caused by climate change will be more significant [5]. The seriousness of the problem is also stated in the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Uzbekistan:

"1. From a geographical point of view, Uzbekistan is a region that includes mountain ranges, large deserts, pastures, and foothill plains. Its climate is sharply continental, characterized by large temperature differences between day and night, as well as between seasons, high solar radiation, and relatively low humidity.

2. Based on the country's location and climate, the following natural disasters may occur in various regions of the republic:

- Geological disasters: earthquakes, landslides, rockfalls, and collapses;
- Meteorological disasters: strong winds, heavy rain, hail, avalanches, droughts;
- Hydrological disasters: mudflows, floods;
- Natural fires: steppe and forest fires.

3. A significant part of the country is within the zone of noticeable climate change impacts, and the consequences of climate change are negatively affecting socio-economic development, people's living conditions and health, as well as the stable operation of economic facilities.

In recent years, due to the effects of climate change, the number of natural disasters in the territory of the republic has increased significantly.

The average number of natural disasters was:

- 115 cases during 2001–2010,
- 126 cases during 2011–2022.

Of these:

- 46% were earthquakes,

- 27% were mudflows,
- 13.5% were landslides,
- 8.7% were strong winds,
- 2.4% were floods,
- 1.6% were natural fires,
- 0.8% were avalanches,
- and others.

4. Due to the current situation related to global climate change, taking adaptation measures and reducing losses related to natural disasters remains a pressing issue in the republic [6].

These situations highlight the urgent need to ensure environmental security and the importance of exploring the climate change law in Uzbekistan.

The goal of this paper is to analyze how Uzbekistan is addressing climate change through law and policy. To fulfill this, the author: *1) explains the legal system of Uzbekistan briefly; 2) analyzes the existing normative legal acts on the issue and their importance; 3) analyzes the court decisions on the issue to show the legal enforcement system of climate change in Uzbekistan.*

BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO THE LEGAL SYSTEM OF UZBEKISTAN

Uzbekistan's legal system operates within a presidential republic, where significant executive power is concentrated in the hands of the President. While the Constitution provides a formal structure of separation of powers, in practice, executive dominance strongly influences the legislative and judicial branches. This centralization shapes the country's legal culture, which is characterized by a top-down approach to law-making and enforcement, and limited public participation in legal processes.

These aspects of legal culture have important implications for climate litigation. Public access to justice in environmental matters remains underdeveloped. Although Uzbekistan has environmental protection laws and is a party to international environmental treaties, including the Paris Agreement, the enforcement of these laws through public interest litigation or civil society initiatives is rare. The legal culture does not yet support adversarial legal challenges against state policies or major industrial actors on environmental grounds.

The Constitution is the highest legal authority and is followed by the constitutional laws, codes, ordinary laws, decrees of the President, decrees of the Cabinet of Ministers, and normative acts in decreasing order of importance [7].

DOMESTIC LEGAL FRAMEWORK OF CLIMATE CHANGE LAW IN UZBEKISTAN.

Climate change action consists of the Constitution, laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Presidential decrees, laws, government decisions, sector strategies, and plans. However, these provisions are scattered in many documents (59 laws, 50 Presidential decrees, and about 200 resolutions) that can be considered to be related to climate change to some extent [8]. In this part, we will focus more on the analysis of these normative legal acts.

CONSTITUTION.

The Constitution is the highest source of law in Uzbekistan. In recent years, the focus on Climate change issues has increased significantly in Uzbekistan. This can be seen by the latest amendment to the Constitution as well. This new edition of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan was adopted by nationwide vote at the referendum of the Republic of Uzbekistan held on April 30, 2023 [9]. This reform aimed to modernize the Constitution and reflect growing public concerns about environmental protection, among other rights. The inclusion of Article 48 marked a significant step toward recognizing environmental rights as part of Uzbekistan's constitutional framework. Here is the extract from the original text:

"Everyone shall have the right to a favorable environment, reliable information about their condition.

The State shall create conditions for the implementation of public control in the field of urban planning activities in order to ensure the environmental rights of citizens and the prevention of harmful environmental impact.

Draft urban planning documents shall be subject to public discussion in the manner prescribed by law.

The State, under the principle of sustainable development, shall implement measures to improve, restore, and protect the environment, maintain ecological balance.

The State shall take measures to protect and restore the ecological system, social, and economic development of the Aral Sea region" [10].

Although the term "climate change" is not explicitly mentioned in the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, there are legal norms related to environmental protection that define the rights and responsibilities of citizens in the context of climate-related issues.

In particular, Article 49 of the Constitution guarantees every person the right to a favorable environment and access to reliable information about their condition. This provision directly supports the legal right to monitor, address, and be informed about the impacts of climate change. Furthermore, the state is constitutionally obligated to ensure environmental safety and, in line with the principle of sustainable development, to implement measures aimed at improving, restoring, and preserving the environment. This approach reflects a commitment to precautionary climate policy supported by legal authority.

Another important aspect of Article 49 is the state's obligation to protect and restore the ecological system of the Aral Sea region, as well as to promote its social and economic development. This region is one of the areas most severely affected by climate change in Uzbekistan, and its special constitutional status highlights the national priority of addressing climate-related challenges.

In addition, Article 62 of the Constitution establishes the duty of citizens to treat the natural environment with care. This affirms that the fight against climate change is not only the responsibility of the state but also a personal civic duty. Through this provision, environmental awareness, green lifestyles, and climate responsibility are elevated to the level of constitutional values.

According to the Constitution, non-governmental organizations are also very very important part of society. Large non-governmental organizations on a republican scale began to actively participate in the implementation of important government programs. In particular, the experience accumulated during ten years of activity of the Ecological Movement of the Republic of Uzbekistan served to move to a new level in the process of protecting and improving the environment, and to increase public activity in them [11]

Therefore, while the Constitution does not mention climate change by name, Articles 49 and 62 provide a solid legal, institutional, and civic foundation for addressing climate challenges. These articles represent the constitutional basis for Uzbekistan's approach to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Limiting Greenhouse Gas Emissions" (No. O'RQ-1073).

On July 7, 2025, the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Limiting Greenhouse Gas Emissions" (No. O'RQ-1073) was adopted.

The Law consists of 6 chapters and 29 articles.

This Law establishes the basic principles of limiting greenhouse gas emissions, ownership relations for reduced greenhouse gases, the authorities of state bodies in the field of limiting greenhouse gas emissions, and the procedures for state accounting of greenhouse gas emissions.

In addition, the law provides for:

- development of target indicators for reducing greenhouse gas emissions;
- criteria and procedures for classifying projects implemented by legal entities, individual entrepreneurs, and individuals as "green" projects, to be determined by the Cabinet of Ministers of Uzbekistan;
- maintenance of a registry of carbon units;
- implementation of a system for monitoring, reporting, and verification (MRV) of greenhouse gas emissions;
- rights and obligations of legal entities and individual entrepreneurs in the field of limiting greenhouse gas emissions.

The adoption of this law will enable the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in our country and regulate the trade of resulting carbon units in international markets, as well as fulfill Uzbekistan's commitments under the Paris Agreement, adopted within the framework of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

For information: Within the framework of the Paris Agreement, the Republic of Uzbekistan has committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions per unit of gross domestic product by 35% by 2030 compared to the 2010 level.

In this regard, the Ministry of Economy and Finance has been designated as the authorized body for limiting greenhouse gas emissions, conducting carbon unit trading at the national and international levels, as well as establishing a registry of carbon units directed to international and domestic carbon markets [12].

Actions on the Enactment of the Environmental Code

By Annex 6 of the Presidential Decree No. PQ-76, dated December 30, 2021, titled "Roadmap for Further Improving the Environmental Protection System, Rational Use and Restoration of Natural Resources, and the System of Environmental Control," comprehensive measures have been outlined to fundamentally reform, systematize, and modernize environmental legislation.

According to this roadmap, the drafting of the Environmental Code has been scheduled. The primary directions in this regard include:

Systematizing and streamlining legislative acts related to environmental protection, which will cover the following key principles:

- fundamentally enhancing the role and impact of public oversight in the field of environmental protection;
- introducing specific mechanisms and incentive systems for the conservation, restoration, and increase of biodiversity;
- clearly defining the rights and obligations of state bodies and citizens in environmental protection;
- establishing procedures for implementing types of environmental control and monitoring, including mechanisms to promote the "green economy";
- Regulating the procedures for conducting environmental expertise (ecological assessment).

The development of the draft Environmental Code began in November 2022, and it is planned that the finalized draft will be submitted to the Cabinet of Ministers by December 2025.

These legal reforms are being consistently continued within the framework of Annex 5 to the Presidential Decree No. PQ-171 dated May 31, 2023 — "Plan for the Development of Normative Legal Acts in the Fields of Ecology, Environmental Protection, Forestry and Hydrometeorology." This plan envisages the revision of core legal acts in the field of ecology, the consolidation of existing norms into a single Code, and the modernization of legal and institutional mechanisms relevant to the sector.

Thus, the development of the Environmental Code aims not only to systematize environmental legislation but also to legally reinforce state policy in the field of environmental protection, enhance ecological safety, and expand the participation of citizens and the public in this area.

The Aral Sea Crisis and Measures Undertaken to Address It

The Aral Sea crisis is one of the most pressing global environmental disasters, attracting the attention of ecologists and policymakers worldwide. Beginning in the second half of the 20th century, the large-scale diversion of water from the Amu Darya and Syr Darya rivers—primarily for cotton cultivation and other irrigated agriculture—led to a dramatic decline in the sea's water levels. By the 2000s, the Aral Sea had largely dried up, resulting in a wide range of severe environmental, social, and economic consequences.

The drying up of the Aral Sea has caused:

- an increase in sealine and dust storms;
- drinking water shortages and soil salinization in surrounding areas;
- a dramatic shift in local biodiversity and microclimate;
- deteriorating public health conditions;
- and growing socio-economic hardships for the local population.

In response, the Government of Uzbekistan has developed a number of state programs and international cooperation projects aimed at mitigating the ecological crisis in the Aral Sea region.

1. Article 49 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan guarantees every individual the right to a favorable environment, access to reliable environmental information, and obligates the state to ensure ecological safety. In the final clause of this article, the Constitution explicitly refers to the Aral Sea region, assigning the state a clear duty to: "Protect and restore the ecological system of the Aral Sea region, and take measures for the social and economic development of the area."

The inclusion of this specific provision in the Constitution underscores the fact that the Aral Sea crisis is not merely a regional concern but a global environmental issue. The drying of the Aral Sea represents one of the most severe environmental disasters in Central Asia, caused by climate change and mismanagement of water resources. As a result, the region has experienced rising temperatures, increased soil salinization, dust storms, water scarcity, and worsening public health conditions.

By explicitly referencing the Aral Sea in its Constitution, Uzbekistan acknowledges the critical importance of addressing climate change and environmental degradation at the highest legal level. The state's constitutional responsibility to rehabilitate the ecological balance and promote sustainable development in the region reflects a strong political will to confront the long-term consequences of environmental mismanagement and climate impact.

Moreover, this provision aligns with Uzbekistan's international initiatives and priorities in the environmental sphere, particularly with the UN General Assembly resolution on the "Multi-partner Human Security Trust Fund for the Aral Sea Region", which positions Uzbekistan as a proactive contributor in the global dialogue on ecological and climate resilience.

2. "Law on Nature Protection"

This Law establishes the legal, economic and organizational foundations for the preservation of natural environmental conditions and the rational use of natural resources. The purpose of the Law is to ensure the harmonious development of relations between man and nature, the protection of ecological systems, natural complexes and individual objects, and the guarantee of the right of citizens to a favorable environment.

Although it does not directly state climate change norms, it does include general provisions on the protection of nature and regulates the use of natural resources.

2. Presidential Decree No. PQ-2784 dated February 16, 2017

"On Measures to Implement the Project 'Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Program for the Aral Sea Basin' with the Participation of the International Development Association (IDA)"

According to this decree, a comprehensive project was launched in cooperation with the International Development Association (IDA) to enhance climate resilience and mitigate the environmental consequences in the Aral Sea region.

Key directions of the project include:

- improving the region's environmental safety;
- restoring degraded lands;
- Creating climate-resilient livelihoods for the local population;
- expanding afforestation and green belts;
- Improving socio-economic infrastructure.

3. Presidential Decree No. PQ-381 dated September 27, 2022

"On Measures to Implement the Project 'Climate Adaptive Water Resources Management in the Aral Sea Basin' with the Participation of the Asian Development Bank"

This project, implemented in partnership with the Asian Development Bank (ADB), focuses on:

- Introducing modern technologies for water resource management;
- enhancing efficiency in water usage;
- Updating and developing water supply infrastructure;
- increasing the region's adaptability to climate change.

Through these projects, Uzbekistan aims to:

- ensure ecological safety for the Aral Sea region population;
- create sustainable economic opportunities;
- prevent environmental migration;
- and develop local solutions to a global environmental crisis.

Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change: Establishment and Key Responsibilities

In Uzbekistan, the government body responsible for implementing state policy in the field of ecology and environmental protection previously operated under the name of the State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan for Ecology and Environmental Protection. However, the authority of this committee did not specifically include climate change issues as a separate direction.

In recent years, however, climate change has become a global issue worldwide, and its consequences — such as disruption of ecological balance, water scarcity, desertification, reduction of biodiversity, and increased health risks — have begun to manifest clearly in the territory of Uzbekistan as well. It was precisely due to these growing threats and modern needs, as well as the expansion of international cooperation, that a new structure — the Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change — was established by Presidential Decree No. PF-81 dated May 31, 2023. To ensure the effective operation of this ministry, the Presidential Resolution No. PQ-171 dated May 31, 2023, was adopted. This resolution outlines specific measures to systematically organize the ministry's activities, strengthen the regulatory and legal framework, adapt to climate change, and reform the environmental management system.

The following text is taken from Presidential Decree No. PF-81:

At the same time, due to the negligence of regional leaders and authorities responsible for environmental and legal protection in the Republic, serious shortcomings have occurred in the field in recent years, and in some cases, irreparable damage has been inflicted on nature and society. In particular:

- The situation regarding air pollution, especially in urban areas, is worsening, and systematic efforts to reduce the load of emissions into the atmosphere have not been established.
- During the moratorium announced on the cutting of trees and shrubs, nearly 44,000 trees, including about 9,500 valuable trees, were illegally cut down, causing environmental damage amounting to 36 billion Uzbek soums.
- Covering the root systems of trees with concrete and asphalt and attaching various electric lights and advertising devices to trees has led to their serious damage.
- Cases of cruelty towards animals, including domestic and stray animals, are increasing in society, while a modern system for identifying, chipping, vaccinating, and sterilizing them does not exist.
- The uncontrolled and unregulated grazing of livestock in protected natural areas, along with the unsystematic use of underground water without scientific justification, has disrupted ecosystems, increased land degradation and desertification, intensified the impact of climate change, and posed threats to human life and health.
- In 2022, 27 criminal cases related to environmental violations were initiated, but in all these cases, only light financial fines were imposed as punishment.
- The condition of existing landfills does not meet environmental and sanitary standards, and the lack of recycling and waste disposal technologies in their operation raises the risk of these landfills turning into ecological disasters in the future.

To address those problems establishment of a new structure — the Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change has become very big step.

Key Measures for Reducing the Risk of Natural Disasters and Enhancing Climate Resilience

According to Annex 1 of the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 362, dated August 11, 2023, the National Action Plan of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2023–2030 on reducing the risk of natural disasters and increasing resilience to climate change outlines a set of comprehensive measures aimed primarily at adaptation. These actions are of vital importance in the face of growing climate stress and increasing disaster risks.

Main Measures:

1. Development of monitoring, detection, and awareness systems:

Risk assessment and public awareness programs are being implemented to identify and evaluate the threats posed by natural disasters.

Modern monitoring systems based on artificial intelligence and geoinformation technologies are being introduced, along with initiatives to alert the population to the risks of disasters such as floods and droughts.

2. Legal and institutional reforms:

New legislative norms and strategies at national and local levels are being developed, engaging local governments as independent and responsible actors.

Climate and disaster risk factors are being integrated into urban planning codes and construction standards, which helps prepare industrial and infrastructure facilities for potential hazards.

3. Public education and community engagement:

Local-level seminars and training sessions are being organized to improve preparedness for emergencies, involving the Civil Protection Institute, local governments, and educational institutions.

Climate change and disaster preparedness topics are being integrated into general and higher education curricula to foster resilient thinking among students.

4. Financing and investment mobilization:

Both public and private sector investments are being attracted. For example, local production of emergency and rescue equipment under public-private partnerships is being promoted to ensure stable adaptation of infrastructure; Insurance mechanisms for natural disasters and tools to support financial stability are being developed.

5. Deployment of technologies and technical platforms:

Data from monitors and automated stations will be integrated into a unified geoinformation database and electronic platform.

This integration will consolidate research, monitoring, and forecasting materials into a centralized system for timely access and decision-making.

These measures are crucial for several reasons:

- Climate change is becoming more severe: Uzbekistan is facing more frequent and intense droughts, floods, strong winds, and even earthquakes. These pose serious risks to key sectors like agriculture and water infrastructure, which are vital for the country's economy and daily life.
- Protecting people and communities: It's essential to ensure safe and stable living conditions in areas affected by climate change. This includes preventing forced migration caused by environmental factors and strengthening healthcare systems to cope with new climate-related challenges.
- Honoring global commitments: Uzbekistan has pledged to take action under international climate agreements. These measures help the country meet its goals with the support of global partners, including access to climate finance and technical cooperation.
- Following a clear plan for the future, From 2023 to 2030, Uzbekistan is implementing a structured action plan. This provides a roadmap for reducing risks, building resilience, and ensuring that progress is regularly monitored and adjusted as needed.

The Concept annexed to the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers No. 257 dated May 1, 2024, on "Measures for the Introduction of Mechanisms for Tracking (Labeling) the Compliance of State Budget Expenditures with National Sustainable Development Goals and Their Impact on Climate Change"

According to the Concept annexed to the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers No. 257 dated May 1, 2024, on **"Measures for the Introduction of Mechanisms for Tracking (Labeling) the Compliance of State Budget Expenditures with National Sustainable Development Goals and Their Impact on Climate Change,"** a system has been established to assess the compliance of state budget expenditures with sustainable development goals and their impact on climate change.

In response to the growing threats of climate change, the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan, by Resolution No. 257 dated May 1, 2024, adopted a Concept for introducing a labeling mechanism to assess state budget expenditures in terms of their alignment with national sustainable development goals and their impact on the climate. This Concept is considered an important step toward aligning fiscal policy with modern environmental challenges.

As stated in paragraph 17 of the Concept, state budget expenditures can be categorized into three groups based on their impact on climate change: "positive," "negative," or "neutral." This allows for a systematic assessment and analysis of the climate impact of expenditures across various sectors.

Specifically, expenditures with a positive impact include initiatives aimed at reducing air pollution, implementing energy-efficient technologies, developing green areas, and using water resources efficiently. These expenditures contribute positively to the climate and support sustainable development goals.

On the other hand, expenditures with a negative impact include funding infrastructure projects that increase harmful emissions into the atmosphere, overuse of natural resources, or exploitation without environmental protection measures. Such expenditures may further exacerbate climate risks in the future.

Neutral expenditures are those that do not directly affect climate change but contribute to social and economic stability. For example, certain social sector and administrative expenditures fall into this category.

Through the labeling system, during the annual budgeting process, projects with potential negative climate impacts can be reduced, while those with a positive impact can be prioritized. This approach supports the implementation of a climate-responsive budget policy. Additionally, the labeling mechanism serves as a key tool for preparing climate-related financial reports in cooperation with international financial institutions and donors.

The practical implementation of this Concept will ensure that the share of climate change mitigation and adaptation expenditures within the State Budget of the Republic of Uzbekistan is identifiable. This, in turn, will increase the transparency and effectiveness of financing national climate strategies.

LEGAL ENFORCEMENT IN TERMS OF CLIMATE CHANGE LAW

Recent court cases in Uzbekistan show a clear trend in how environmental disputes are handled. Most of these cases are initiated by state environmental authorities who seek to enforce ecological laws and recover compensation for environmental damage. The defendants are usually companies or production facilities that have violated environmental rules — for example, by failing to pay compensation fees, operating without environmental assessments,

or releasing pollutants without proper filtration systems. Courts generally side with the state agencies, ordering the companies to pay damages, cover penalties, or suspend their operations until legal requirements are met.

This pattern shows that environmental protection in Uzbekistan is still mainly driven by government oversight. The courts play an important role in supporting this oversight, but so far, there are almost no cases where private citizens, communities, or organizations have sued the state over environmental or climate-related issues. In other words, environmental justice in Uzbekistan works mostly in one direction — from the state toward private entities.

For environmental law and governance to develop further, it will be important for the legal system to also create space for public participation and accountability. Allowing individuals and non-governmental organizations to bring cases against state bodies would help build a more balanced and transparent system. This would not only strengthen environmental protection but also make the enforcement of ecological standards more inclusive and effective.

CONSTITUTIONAL COMPLAINT MECHANISM OF UZBEKISTAN

In the legislation of Uzbekistan, there is a special mechanism that how can citizens to complain to the Constitutional court of the Uzbekistan Republic. In order to submit a complaint to the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the following conditions must be met According to Article 27 of the law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan":

- 1) A court must have applied a specific law in a case involving a citizen or legal entity;
- 2) The court proceedings must be fully completed, meaning there are no ongoing trials or appeals;
- 3) All other legal remedies must have been exhausted, including any appeals in the regular court system;
- 4) Only then may the citizen or legal entity submit a complaint to the Constitutional Court challenging the constitutionality of the law applied in their case [13].

If the case has been successfully found in favor of citizen, that will have a positive legal effect for not only the citizen but also for the overall development of the legislation. According to the decision of the Constitutional Court, a normative legal act or a part of it that is found to be inconsistent with the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan shall cease to have legal effect. In practice, there have also been cases that caused the cessation to have legal effect. For example, in 2019, a local authority in Tashkent granted a land plot to a private developer ("X X STROY") for the construction of new residential buildings. This project required the demolition of a private house owned by Ms. X, and her relocation to an apartment in another area. Ms. X filed a complaint challenging the relocation process and the refusal to suspend construction, arguing that these actions effectively deprived her of property rights. She claimed that Articles 197 and 206 of the Civil Code and Articles 11 and 27 of the Housing Code had been applied—or could be applied—in a way that violated her constitutional rights. Specifically, she argued that these provisions permitted deprivation of property without sufficient legal safeguards, contrary to Articles 53 (protection of property rights) and 54 (ecological and environmental limits on property use) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

So, to complain against the government on the issues of Climate change law, citizens have to exhaust all the above-mentioned processes. In our view, Oliy Majlis – the supreme legislative body of Uzbekistan should enact a new law on the simplification of the complaint procedure on environmental matters. As Abrorkhon Rozikulov wrote in his article, "Citizens have the right to file complaints and applications, but their involvement is still low [14]". We totally agree with this and think that one of the main reasons is the legal mechanism. But by reforming it, justice on climate change law can also be ensured. Furthermore, the government should take action to raise the awareness of citizens and to improve citizens' legal culture about environmental issues and the government's policies. Although there is an enacted law [15] on the national program for improving legal culture in society. As the President of Uzbekistan said, we believe that it should be reformed again, because it was enacted in 1997, but now society has changed a lot [16].

ANALYSIS OF THE LEGISLATION IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES

In contrast to Uzbekistan, many developed countries have adopted a unified climate change framework law that sets clear and legally binding obligations. For instance, the European Climate Law (2021) establishes the European Union's target of climate neutrality by 2050 and a 55 percent emission reduction by 2030 compared to 1990 levels [17]. It integrates all climate and energy policies under one legal instrument and requires annual progress monitoring and public reporting. Similarly, the United Kingdom's Climate Change Act (2008) was the first law in the world to set legally binding long-term emission reduction targets [18]. It introduced a system of five-year "carbon budgets" and created an independent Committee on Climate Change to advise the government and monitor compliance. Germany's Federal Climate Change Act (2019, amended 2021) also sets sectoral emission limits and obliges ministries to adjust policies if targets are not met [19]. The advantage of such unified acts is that they ensure legal certainty, transparency, and accountability by transforming climate policy into enforceable law rather than political commitment. Unlike Uzbekistan, where climate provisions are scattered across multiple decrees and programs, these countries follow a structured and binding legal model that guarantees long-term consistency and judicial oversight in achieving climate goals.

CONCLUSION

Uzbekistan acknowledges the global significance of environmental challenges and the need for concerted efforts to address them. The country has embraced the principles of sustainable development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), recognizing that poverty eradication must be accompanied by measures addressing environmental, educational, health, social, and employment-related challenges [20].

Based on the above analysis, it can be concluded that while the issue of climate change was not previously reflected as an independent sector within Uzbekistan's national legislation, a coherent system is now being developed through normative legal acts, strategic concepts, and state programs. First and foremost, attention to climate change has been elevated to the constitutional level, as seen in Article 49 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Furthermore, the main measures related to climate change are generally implemented through subordinate legislation, including Cabinet of Ministers' resolutions, Presidential decrees, and national action plans. These documents prioritize the mitigation of the negative impacts of climate change, adaptation of infrastructure to climate-related risks, the introduction of sustainable disaster risk management mechanisms, and the promotion of the "green economy" and energy-efficient technologies.

It should also be noted that the growing urgency of climate change has been reflected in the structure of public administration. The former State Committee for Ecology and Environmental Protection was reorganized into the Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection, and Climate Change. This newly established ministry has been entrusted with clear functions and responsibilities related to combating and adapting to climate change.

Regarding the enforcement of law in this sphere, current judicial practice in Uzbekistan shows that environmental authorities typically act as plaintiffs, while business entities are usually defendants. The analysis of court cases reveals that most claims are related to environmental violations, such as air pollution, illegal waste management, and failure to install filtration systems. In such cases, penalties such as fines and the suspension of operations have been applied to business actors.

At the same time, there are virtually no cases where business entities or citizens have filed claims against state authorities in matters related to climate change. This indicates that the culture and mechanisms for protecting individuals' environmental rights through the courts are not yet fully developed in Uzbekistan.

Overall, Uzbekistan has begun to establish a solid legal framework in the field of climate change. However, the continued development of legislation, implementation of the main international climate change principles, strengthening of enforcement mechanisms, and enhancement of legal activism within civil society remain key tasks for the future. Moreover, it is advisable for Uzbekistan to adopt a unified Climate Change Framework Law similar to the European Climate Law, the United Kingdom's Climate Change Act, or Germany's Federal Climate Change Act. Such a law would consolidate the many existing legal provisions on climate issues into a single comprehensive act. It should clearly define national targets, responsible institutions, and mechanisms for accountability.

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