



**7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Eurasian Alliance of Ombudsmen**  
**"Legal education on human rights and freedoms as a**  
**direction of human rights activity"**  
Moscow, November 15, 2022

**Statement by**  
**the Commissioner for Human Rights in the Republic of Uzbekistan**  
**Feruz Eshmatova**

Dear colleagues, dear Tatiana Nikolaevna, first of all, let me thank the Commissioner for Human Rights in the Russian Federation, Tatyana Nikolaevna Moskalkova, for organizing this event.

As you know, the Commissioner of the Oliy Majlis for Human Rights (Ombudsman) participates in the meetings of the Eurasian Alliance regularly as an observer. Since January 2022, we have been participating in the Alliance as a full member.

Today I would like to express my gratitude to Tatiana Nikolaevna and our other colleagues for their support in this matter. I would also like to emphasize that the Eurasian Ombudsman Alliance is the first human rights union in history that unites the efforts of state human rights defenders in Europe and Asia. The Alliance guarantees permanent working contact to the ombudsmen of the Eurasian states, which will allow solving problematic issues of citizens of their countries abroad.

Dear participants of the event, the promotion, protection and observance of human rights in the Republic of Uzbekistan have been elevated to the rank of a priority of state policy. Within the framework of the Action Strategy on 5 priority areas of Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2017-2021, specific targeted measures were taken to ensure the personal political, economic, social and cultural rights of citizens. A new Development Strategy of Uzbekistan for 2022-2026 has been adopted, which is a logical continuation of the Action Strategy. This document clearly defines the development trends of Uzbekistan in the near and medium term, the directions of comprehensive development of all spheres of life of the state and society. At the same time, improving the legal culture is a very important direction. It should be noted that a program of measures to improve the legal culture in society for 2022-2023 has been adopted. Large-scale reforms are also being carried out, the purpose of which is to further increase the importance of the institution of the Commissioner for Human Rights, the Ombudsman as an independent national institution for the protection of human rights and freedoms, as well as improving the institutional foundations of its activities, expanding the powers of the Ombudsman to ensure respect for the rights and freedoms of citizens and its participation in the regions, widespread introduction of information in the activities of the Ombudsman.-communication technologies.

Dear participants of the event, the Institute of the Commissioner of the Oliy Majlis, the Parliament of Uzbekistan, for human Rights designates educational and educational work as one of the main directions of its activities. We have signed memorandums of cooperation with the Chamber of Lawyers of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Tashkent State Law University, and within the framework of this memorandum, the "Ombudsman's Club" was created under the Commissioner of the Oliy Majlis for Human Rights

In addition, we hold meetings with students with the involvement of international experts and teachers of foreign universities in the field of human rights, at which we provide students with information about the reforms carried out in our country in the field of human rights protection, work on the prevention of torture and the activities of the Ombudsman institute. During one of the above-

mentioned meetings of the Ombudsman, a proposal was made to develop a joint project designed for a year and aimed at increasing the potential of the staff of the Ombudsman Institute and the level of professional knowledge and skills of students studying in the field of jurisprudence and law.

The Commissioner for Human Rights also pays special attention to raising the legal awareness of the population as one of the main directions of his activities. The reason is the analysis of appeals sent to the Ombudsman, which showed a low level of awareness about reforms to strengthen social protection of the population, improve conditions, as well as knowledge of human rights. For this reason, since this year, the Ombudsman's projects have been implemented aimed at raising awareness of citizens about the opportunities and benefits created for citizens in remote areas of the Republic. To date, events within the framework of this project have been held in about 10 regions of the country. Within the framework of these events, a visiting reception of the commissioner, a job fair for unemployed citizens, a medical examination of the population with the participation of a narrow circle of specialists, an exhibition aimed at raising awareness of citizens about the reforms and opportunities being implemented in the country were organized. At the event, handouts were also distributed to citizens aimed at raising public awareness of the newly adopted regulatory documents.

Also, with the support of international organizations, training seminars are regularly held with the participation of international experts in order to improve the legal literacy of the staff of the Ombudsman's secretariat, members of the Commission on the observance of constitutional rights and freedoms of regional representatives of the Ombudsman, representatives of NGOs and civil society, as well as law enforcement agencies. It is worth noting that we have already had the experience of conducting training seminars for judges as part of our cooperation with the international prison reform. We also hold such events for employees of the Department of Penal Institutions.

The activities of the Ombudsman are constantly covered in the media, as well as by posting publications and videos on social networks.

Based on today's topics, we would like to propose the development of joint projects for the implementation of scientific research in the field of human rights within the framework of the Alliance, as well as joint activities to raise legal awareness of the population on issues of information and digital security.

Another of the main activities of the Commissioner of the Oliy Majlis for Human Rights is informing the public about the processes of development of international cooperation in the field of human rights, studying international standards and the experience of democratic institutions. The basic principles of such cooperation are the establishment and development of cooperation in order to ensure respect for and observance of human rights, as well as their promotion. The Ombudsman pays great attention to the development of international cooperation in the field of human rights through the development of close cooperation with foreign partners, as well as the development of ties within international organizations. We continue our participation in the activities of the International Ombudsman Institute, the European Ombudsman Institute and the Asian Ombudsman Association by exchanging information, publishing materials, electing governing bodies, as well as participating in human rights events.

In recent years, cooperation between the Ombudsmen of Central Asian countries has intensified. In order to further strengthen cooperation between the Ombudsmen of Central Asian countries, the first forum of Central Asian Ombudsmen was organized this year. We hope that this forum will become a platform for the exchange of experience in the field of human rights and will be held annually in the countries of Central Asia. The main purpose of the forum is to develop international cooperation of Central Asian ombudsmen in the field of human rights, organize a regional discussion on topical human

rights issues and consolidate efforts and opportunities in this direction. Following the results of the first forum, the Tashkent Declaration of the First Forum of Ombudsmen was adopted.

Also this year, the Commissioner of the Oliy Majlis for Human Rights took part in the founding meeting of the Association of Ombudsmen and National Human Rights Institutions of Turkic-speaking Countries in the city of Bursa. Following the negotiations, the national human rights institutions of Uzbekistan, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan signed a memorandum on the establishment of an Association of Ombudsmen and national human rights institutions of Turkic-speaking countries. The foundation of this association is a historic decision that has possible significance for ensuring the unity and consistent development of the Turkic-speaking state.

For 9 months of 2022, the Commissioner received more than 10,000 appeals, of which more than 40 were sent from foreign countries. Most of these appeals come from the Russian Federation and Central Asian countries. In this regard, one of the main activities of the Ombudsman in the Russian Federation and Central Asian countries is to jointly consider citizens' appeals. I would like to focus on a detailed analysis of these appeals during tomorrow's event.

Dear participants, I would like to once again express my gratitude to the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Russian Federation for organizing such a high-level event, and thereby provide an opportunity to conduct an effective exchange of experience. I would also like to wish success in our work to our esteemed colleagues, thank you for your attention.