

# A strong social policy is the Foundation of a prosperous life

Sherzod Yunusovich Salimov

Scientific researcher Scientific and Enlightenment Complex named after the First President The Republic of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov

**Abstract**— The article substantiates social policy of Islam Karimov who was the First President of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Islam Karimov, as the founder of independence and new statehood of our country, great politician and wise reformer, who took care of people's welfare, who made a significant contribution to ensuring peace and stability in the region and the world, won great respect among our people and the world community. The noble qualities inherent in the First President of our country, such as unwavering will, patriotism, courage, justice, sincerity and sensitivity, have become a vivid example for all of us. Islam Karimov put interests of Uzbekistan above all else and spared no effort in the name of its development.

**Index Terms**— Uzbek model, the Scientific and Enlightenment Memorial Complex, social policies.

## INTRODUCTION

The comprehensive measures being implemented in our country for the consistent renewal of all spheres of society and accelerated reform of public relations are primarily aimed at improving the living standards of our compatriots, ensuring the interests of the population in need of social protection, further development and prosperity of our homeland. The strengthening of social policies is becoming increasingly important against a backdrop of growing global tensions. Strong social policy is one of the principles developed by the First President Islam Karimov "Uzbek model" of development, the concept of building a new state and society, fully justified in practice. Its essence lies in the constant attention of the state and society to the targeted protection of all segments of the population, especially the socially needy.

In accordance with the Decrees of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev №DP-2744 dated January 25, 2017 «On perpetuating the memory of the First President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Islam Abdughanievich Karimov» and №DP-2929 dated April 25, 2017 «On the organization of the activity of the Scientific and Enlightenment Memorial Complex named after the First President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov at the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan» in the

country consistently implements the memory of the First President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, his enormous

contribution to the achievement of independence and the building of national statehood, the historical role of Islam Karimov's personality, and to the representation of the general public, especially the youth, and foreign guests with the history of the formation and strengthening of Uzbekistan as an independent state under the leadership of the First President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and education of the younger generation on the example of life and activity of Islam Karimov, in the spirit of history and political culture, patriotism and responsibility for the fate of the Motherland.

Thanks to consistent reforms and dedicated work of our people, the status and role of Uzbekistan in the world are increasing. Over a historically short period, significant results have been achieved in all areas, the importance of which cannot be overestimated. In the early years of independence, Uzbekistan set itself the task of creating a socially oriented market economy, conducting an open policy, the formation of a rule of law and a strong civil society. The strategy recognized in the world as the "Uzbek model" of development defined five principles of state and public construction. In addition, today we see the effectiveness of the implemented reforms in the changed worldview of people, their attitude to life.

In just a quarter of a century, Uzbekistan has turned from a once backward region with a one-sided economy to a raw materials appendage with a complete monopoly of cotton production and a low standard of living into a rapidly developing country, primarily due to the modernization and development of modern industries, which is highly appreciated in the world.

In difficult conditions, thanks to the decisive actions of President Islam Karimov, 1.5 million households were expanded in 1989—1990, and 700,000 families received land plots, which made it possible to mitigate the critical social situation at that time.

Since its first years of independence, Uzbekistan has abandoned "shock therapy" and has been implementing gradual reforms. The principles of development also determined the priority of the economy over politics, the rule of law and a strong social policy.

Formed the mechanism of strengthening of the social sector, guaranteeing targeted and efficient social protection. Institutional bases of social support of the population have been created. In 1991, the law «On social protection of disabled persons in the Republic of Uzbekistan» was adopted. In addition, laws "On state pension provision of citizens", "on employment", "on protection of citizens' health" and other legislative acts are being implemented. Their consistent implementation, the annual allocation of about 60 percent of the State budget in the social sphere contribute to the preservation of social stability in the country, strengthening the faith of people in the future. Along with the reforms implemented in the most important sectors of the economy, market reforms are taking place in health care, education, culture and art, physical culture and sports.

Uzbekistan was the first country in the Commonwealth to develop and implement an absolutely new and effective model of education on the basis of a National training programme. It is remembered that in even the most difficult period's special attention was paid to youth policy. The law "On the foundations of the state youth policy in the Republic of Uzbekistan", adopted on November 20, 1991, is one of the first laws

of our independent Republic. It has become a vivid expression of the attitude towards the younger generation as the most important asset and significant platform for creating the necessary conditions for its harmonious development.

In accordance with the law "on education" and the National program for training, the country has established a system to provide modern specialists in the rapidly developing sectors of the economy and social sphere. Modern schools, academic lyceums and vocational colleges have been built in the most remote villages.

To date, the annual expenditure of the state Budget on education and upbringing is 10-12 per cent of GDP. This is almost twice as high as the UNESCO recommendations on the size of investments that should be directed to this area to ensure the stable development of the country, namely 6-7 percent.

The practical implementation of the principle of a strong social policy can be seen on the example of changes and updates in health care. In particular, last year about 500 billion sums were allocated for the construction, reconstruction, and overhaul and equipping of 141 medical institutions in the Republic. Optimization and equipping of rural medical stations with modern diagnostic and therapeutic equipment have been completed.

All ministries and departments, enterprises and organizations of all sectors of the economy, social structures, first the funds "Nuroni" and "Makhalla" were involved in its implementation in order to ensure that no sphere of life of the older generation is left without proper attention and care.

More than 215 thousand elderly people underwent free medical examination in 2017. Needy disabled people had the opportunity to receive free of charge over 11 thousand prosthetic and orthopedic products and technical means of rehabilitation of high quality. The medical examination and rehabilitation in-patient and sanatorium-and-Spa institutions covered about 70 thousand veterans. Special allowances for minimum wage have been added to the pension for all

long-livers of Uzbekistan who have reached the age of 100.

Thanks to the measures taken in this direction, a sharp reduction in the incidence of the population has been achieved. The average life expectancy in Uzbekistan has increased from 68 to 74 years. Over the past five years, the country has several times reduced maternal and child mortality. According to these indicators, Uzbekistan has fully achieved the UN Millennium development Goals.

## CONCLUSIONS

Today, our country is gaining high marks from the world's leading reputable rating agencies for economic growth, creating the best conditions for doing business, ensuring security in the country, caring for the health of citizens, which is a clear example of the implementation of a deeply thought-out far-sighted and wise policy of the state.