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IMPROVEMENT OF THE INSTITUTIONAL AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF INTERETHNIC RELATIONS (2001-2025)

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Abstract

This article analyzes the improvement of the institutional and regulatory and legal framework for the development of interethnic relations in Uzbekistan during the period 2001–2025. It also reveals the importance of the legal and institutional mechanisms formed in the early years of independence, enriched with new content in subsequent stages, in particular, the institutional reforms implemented in this direction in 2017–2025.

Keywords: Interethnic relations, interethnic harmony, tolerance, national culture, regulatory and legal framework, institutional system, state policy, national cultural centers, civil society.

Introduction. Inter-ethnic relations play a crucial role in ensuring stability and development in multi-ethnic societies. The coexistence of people of different nationalities and ethnicities based on the principles of mutual respect, solidarity, and tolerance directly affects the political, social, and economic stability of the state. From this point of view, ensuring interethnic harmony has been formed as one of the important areas of state policy in Uzbekistan[1]. Uzbekistan has historically been considered one of the regions inhabited by representatives of different nationalities and elates. Today, more than a hundred nationalities and



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elate people live in the country. Necessary conditions have been created for the development of their national language, culture, customs and traditions. The Constitution, laws, presidential decrees and resolutions, state programs, and other regulatory legal acts play an important role in regulating and developing inter-ethnic relations. The years 2001–2025 were a significant stage in the development of policy in the field of interethnic relations in Uzbekistan. In particular, in the period after 2017, the state policy in this area was institutionally revised and new management mechanisms were formed[2].

Normative-legal and institutional foundations of interethnic relations in 2001-2016. The legal framework for interethnic relations in Uzbekistan relies primarily on the principles of equality and non-discrimination enshrined in the Constitution. Equality of citizens before the law, regardless of their nationality, language, religion, social origin, and other characteristics, is a fundamental legal guarantee for regulating inter-ethnic relations. During the period 2001–2016, one of the main institutional mechanisms for developing inter-ethnic relations was the activities of national cultural centers. These centers served to preserve and develop the national culture, language, customs and traditions of representatives of different nationalities. They became an important link in cooperation between public bodies and civil society institutions. Through the activities of national cultural centers, cultural festivals of various peoples, traditional art competitions, and events related to language and culture were organized. This had a positive impact on the formation of an atmosphere of inter-ethnic dialogue and mutual respect in the country[3].

During this period, the education system also became one of the important means of ensuring interethnic harmony. In addition to the opportunities for education in Uzbekistan, the opportunities for learning native languages of different nationalities were also preserved in some educational institutions. This policy was



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aimed at harmonizing national identity and civic values. The media and cultural and art institutions also promoted respect for the cultures of different peoples and the ideas of religious and national tolerance. A new stage in the policy of interethnic relations since 2017. Since 2017, a new stage in the state policy of developing interethnic relations has begun in Uzbekistan. During this period, the processes of further democratization of society, development of civil society, and ensuring human rights also directly affected the sphere of interethnic relations[4]. The Action Strategy, approved on February 7, 2017, paid special attention to ensuring interethnic harmony and religious tolerance. It set tasks aimed at developing civil society institutions, strengthening international and national relations, and strengthening an atmosphere of mutual respect and tolerance in society. An important institutional and regulatory step in this area was the adoption of the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the Approval of the Concept of the State Policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the Field of Inter-Ethnic Relations on November 15, 2019. This document systematically defined the priority areas of state policy in the field of interethnic relations [5].

The concept sets out tasks such as further improving interethnic relations, protecting the rights and interests of representatives of different nationalities and ethnic groups, developing national cultures and languages, and strengthening the atmosphere of friendship and solidarity in society. This period also saw significant changes in the institutional framework. As a result of the improvement of the mechanisms of Public Administration on interethnic relations, the activities of state bodies specializing in the Coordination of issues in this area were strengthened. In particular, in 2019, the Committee for Inter-Ethnic Relations and Friendship with Foreign Countries under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan was established. The committee was tasked with ensuring



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interethnic harmony, coordinating the activities of national cultural centers, and developing friendly relations with foreign countries. This further strengthened the institutionalization of the sphere of interethnic relations as a separate area in the state administration system. New mechanisms for the development of interethnic relations in 2020-2025. In the 2020s, the policy of developing interethnic relations in Uzbekistan was further improved. This process has been closely linked to the country's new development strategies and updated constitutional and legal framework. The new Constitution of Uzbekistan affirms that all citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan have equal rights and freedoms, and that citizens are equal before the law, regardless of their gender, race, nationality, language, religion, or other circumstances. These principles form the constitutional basis for the development of inter-ethnic relations[6]. The Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan for 2022–2026 also pays great attention to ensuring interethnic harmony and civic solidarity in society. This shows the need to view inter-ethnic relations not only as a cultural issue, but also as a strategic factor that ensures the sustainable development of society and civic solidarity.

Conclusion. During the period 2001–2025, the institutional and regulatory framework for the development of interethnic relations in Uzbekistan was gradually improved. During this period, the main goal of state policy was to ensure the rights and legitimate interests of all nationalities and nationalities living in the country, preserve their national culture, language, customs and traditions, and strengthen interethnic harmony and harmony in society. Analyses show that the main legal and organizational mechanisms for regulating interethnic relations were formed in 2001–2016, and since 2017 this system has entered a qualitatively new stage. In particular, the priorities of state policy in the field of interethnic relations were revised, and the activities of institutional structures were improved. The adoption of the Concept of State Policy in the



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Field of Inter-Ethnic Relations in 2019 brought together reforms in this area into a single conceptual framework.

List of literature used.

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