



Jeddah 2017  
42<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL MEETING  
ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP

## Statement of the IDB Governor for the Republic of Uzbekistan

The 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the IDB Board of Governors  
Jeddah – Kingdom of Saudi Arabia  
20 – 22 Sha’baan 1438H (16 - 18 May 2017)

Original Text  
(English)

Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh.

**Excellencies,  
Dear Dr. Bandar Bin Mohammed H. Hajjar  
Distinguished Governors, brothers and sisters**

First of all, let me express my sincere appreciation to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, His Majesty King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, may Allah bless him, for the warm welcome and generous hospitality.

We are pleased that Uzbekistan being a motherland for great Islamic scientists and philosophes such as Imam Bukhari, Ahmad Fargoni, Imam Termezi, Imam Maturidi, Bahauddin Naqshbandi as well as a whole pledged IDB member has an opportunity to contribute to progressive development of our Islamic civilization.

IDB Groups' constructive work aimed at promoting sustainable economic growth and social progress in member countries, strengthening Islamic solidarity and developing the whole Muslim Ummah, is highly appreciated in Uzbekistan.

We proudly emphasize that thanks to the tireless work of our brothers and sisters in the Bank under the leadership of Dr. Bandar Bin Mohammed H. Hajjar, the IDB has positioned itself as a first class international financial institution with highest international ratings.

Highly appreciating the progress made by our Bank over the last four decades, we express our belief in its further progressive development for the benefit of all member countries and the Muslim world, as a whole.

**Dear Governors,**

Since the 2000s, the Republic of Uzbekistan has been implementing a consistent policy of structural reforms, the meaning of which is as follows:

strengthening macroeconomic stability;

structural reforms, modernization and introduction of the most advanced technologies in all industries;

the removal of all barriers and constraints to the development of private property and private entrepreneurship;

critical assessment of the state participation in the economy, reducing it to a strategically and economically reasonable share;

creation of developed infrastructure, first of all, information and communication systems, development of road transport and engineering communications construction.

Successful implementation of this strategy is explained by the fact that over the past 11 years, including 7 years in times of crisis, the Uzbek economy is growing at an annual average rate of at least 8%, which is one of the highest rates in the world.

Since 2005, Uzbekistan maintains a positive trade and payments as well as budget surplus balance. In 2015 rate of our economic growth amounted to 8 percent.

Since 2000, Uzbekistan's GDP grew by more than 5 times. At present, the government's internal debt equals to zero, and the external debt does not exceed 18% of GDP, during all the years of independence there were no any foreign loan arrears.

In the result of structural reforms, entirely new industries such as automobile industry, petrochemistry, oil and gas and railway engineering, production of modern building materials, pharmaceuticals, consumer electronics, modern food processing and textiles and other industries have been created in Uzbekistan.

During independence years, exports grew more than 30 times. In addition, if at the beginning of the 90s, more than 60% of exports was cotton now its share is less than 6% and 70% of exports is now finished products and semi-finished products.

In the beginning of 2015, our Government adopted a number of State programs aimed at further modernization and the improvement of competitiveness of our economy including the program of modernization and technological reinforcement of industries and the program of development of engineering communications and transport infrastructure for 2015-2019.

These programs provides the realization of more than 300 investment projects amounted at over 40 billion dollars.

We are interested in active attraction of foreign investors, the companies - leaders in technology, leading international financial institutions, including our esteemed Islamic Development Bank, to the implementation of projects in frameworks of these strategic programs.

**Dear participants,**

Taking this opportunity, let me briefly describe the reforms aimed at further liberalization of the economy implemented in recent months on the initiative of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoyev.

These days we are implementing the Strategy of Actions for 2017-2021, covering the five main priority areas of Uzbekistan's development, namely:

1. Improvement of state and society building;
2. Ensuring the rule of law and further reforming the judicial and legal system;
3. Development and liberalization of the economy;

4. Development of the social sphere;
5. Ensuring security, interethnic harmony and religious tolerance, implementing a balanced, mutually beneficial and constructive foreign policy;

This Strategy, worked out on the basis of public deliberation, provides for cardinal measures to ensure sustainable growth of the economy, its further reforming, liberalization and increase of its competitiveness, active attraction of foreign investments and advanced technologies, development of the country's export potential.

President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Mr. Sh. Mirziyoyev also identified 11 key directions and priorities of the government's economic and social program for 2017. They are:

1. Development of a permanent dialogue with the population within the framework of the State Program "Year of Dialogue with the People and Human Interest".
2. Continuation of an active investment policy;
3. Strengthening the protection of the rights and interests of private entrepreneurship;
4. Gradual reduction of the role of the state in the economy;
5. Intensive development and modernization of agriculture;
6. Expansion of export potential of industries;
7. Integrated and intensive development of the regions of the republic;
8. Continuation of active social policy;
9. Realization of affordable housing programs;
10. Improving the system of public administration;
11. Further strengthening of macroeconomic stability and maintaining high rates of economic growth.

In whole, we put a goal of doubling our economy by 2030 and decreasing simultaneously its energy consumption by two times.

**Dear brothers and sisters,**

We highly appreciate the support of the IDB in the efforts to achieve sustainable economic development in Uzbekistan by financing the most important socially significant programs and priority investment projects.

Thanks to IDB's assistance a number of significant projects implemented and continue being implemented in Uzbekistan in such areas as public health, education, irrigation and

reclamation, energy, water supply, public utilities, road infrastructure, support for small businesses.

In cooperation with the IDB we developed and are implementing an Indicative Working Program for 2017-2019 which provides the realization of 18 priority projects at the sum of 1,35 billion dollars.

Also, we hope that within the days IDB will adopt a Member Country Partnership Strategy (MCPS) for Uzbekistan which will be a guideline for our close and fruitful interaction in mid-term future.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to draw your attention to the initiative of establishing the Imam al-Bukhariy International Research Center (TIBIRC) in Samarkand put forth by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Mr. Sh. Mirziyoev in his speech at the opening of 43<sup>rd</sup> OIC Foreign Ministers Meeting in October 2016, in Tashkent.

We invite our Islamic bank and other International financial institutions to take part in the realization of this initiative that will become, Insha Allah, worthy contribution of Uzbekistan to the further development of Islamic science and culture.

Concluding my speech, I wish our esteemed Bank further prosperity and creative activities for the benefit of the whole Muslim Ummah.

**Assalamualaikum!**