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# Some issues of improvement of legislative regulation of scientific and expert support of the parliamentary activity of Uzbekistan

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**Abstract:** The article undertakes a thorough analysis of the challenges associated with the legislative framework for scientific and expert support within the parliamentary activities of the Republic of Uzbekistan. It is important to acknowledge that, despite the measures that have been implemented, the interaction between parliament and the scientific community requires further development. The necessity of strengthening scientific and expert support of parliamentary activity in the context of modern reforms is emphasized. The article puts forth a series of recommendations to enhance the legislation, including the formation of scientific and expert councils within the chambers of the Oliy Majlis and the elucidation of the process for obtaining feedback from scientific institutions on draft legislation. The implementation of these proposals is expected to enhance the quality of the lawmaking process and the effectiveness of parliamentary control, thereby fortifying the role of the Parliament of Uzbekistan in democratic transformations.

**Keywords:** Parliament of Uzbekistan, scientific-expert support, legislation, lawmaking, scientific-expert council, parliamentary control, review.

**Introduction:** The evolution of parliamentarism in Uzbekistan is concomitant with the quest for optimal methods to enhance the efficacy of interaction between the legislative branch and the scientific and expert community. Following the establishment of independence, a series of legal and institutional measures have been implemented with the objective of engaging scientists and specialists in the legislative

process.

The ongoing phase of reform in Uzbekistan—which includes the democratization of the system of state governance and the enhancement of parliament's role—raises the bar for the scientific validity of its decisions. The dynamics of transformations necessitate a closer collaboration between the Chambers of the Oliy Majlis and professionals from various spheres (economics, finance, law, social policy, etc.), as well as with leading representatives of the scientific community. In the contemporary age, scientific rigor is imperative in the formulation and implementation of legal frameworks, ensuring that legislation aligns with the demands of the present era and the national development objectives.

The pertinence of the subject matter is especially evident in the context of the tasks delineated by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, during the inaugural session of the Legislative Chamber of Oliy Majlis of the V convocation. The head of state underscored the imperative for substantial enhancement in two domains: the legislative process itself and the instruments of parliamentary oversight.

Among the priority directions articulated by the President are the expansion of the format for public participation, the establishment of constructive cooperation between committees and ministries, the strengthening of parliamentary control over the execution of the State Budget, and the establishment of the Parliamentary Commission on Public Initiatives.

The effective implementation of these initiatives is unfeasible without reliance on the findings of scientific research and analytical developments. Consequently, it is objectively necessary to strengthen cooperation with the scientific community.

Accordingly, the fundamental objectives of the parliamentary reform, as delineated by the President, engender an objective necessity for systematic fortification of scientific and expert support, institutionalization of its mechanisms, and involvement of research centers, academic institutions, and independent experts in the activities of the Legislative Chamber.

The objective of this article is to identify the existing problems in the legal regulation of the involvement of scientific and expert potential in the work of the Parliament, to analyze foreign experience in this area, and to formulate specific proposals to amend the legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Concurrently, the level of interaction between Parliament and the scientific community remains

inadequate and requires further development.

### **Problem statement**

To date, the national legislation of Uzbekistan has laid the foundations for the participation of external experts and scientific institutions in parliamentary activities, which need to be further developed. While numerous nations have established consultative bodies of scientists affiliated with legislative entities, the organizational framework of the Chambers of the Oliy Majlis has not yet constituted a scientific-expert council under the Chambers' direction. However, scientific-expert councils have been established under each committee of the Legislative Chamber. However, the involvement of experts is episodic, more often in the form of consultations at the initiative of deputies or committees. The absence of an institutionalized form of cooperation with the scientific community can be considered, in a sense, a limitation of opportunities for the systematic use of scientific knowledge in the legislative, control and analytical, and representative work of parliamentarians.

The mechanism for obtaining feedback from a scientific institution on a draft law requires clarification. According to the Law "On the procedure for the preparation of draft laws and their submission to the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan," the subject of legislative initiative possesses the right to transmit the project for review to other subjects of the right of legislative initiative, as well as interested bodies, including non-governmental organizations and scientific institutions, subsequent to the completion of work on the project and the conduct of expertise on it. However, submission for review to scientific organizations is permitted exclusively subsequent to the completion of all requisite assessments. A pertinent inquiry emerges: what form should such a review take, given that by the time it is drafted, the project may have already undergone scientific and legal evaluations? At the culmination of the investigative process, what form will the anticipated novel information or evaluation take from the scientific institution? In accordance with the prevailing norm, the aforementioned points are not disclosed. Consequently, the institute of feedback from scientific organizations is not operating at its full potential, as its purpose and role in the lawmaking process remain ambiguous. It is imperative that the law clearly delineate the inquiries to be addressed by a scientific institution in order to ensure the efficacy of this procedure. The absence of regulatory oversight in this domain impedes the efficacy of integrating academic science into the evaluation of draft legislation.

### **Analysis of foreign experience**

The international practice of developed democratic countries demonstrates that high-quality lawmaking is unthinkable without effective scientific and expert support. Parliaments worldwide have established special mechanisms and bodies for the scientific analysis and evaluation of draft laws. In particular, the formation of scientific-expert councils is a common practice within the parliamentary system. These councils are established to provide expert advice to lawmakers on draft legislation. They are comprised of distinguished scientists and experts in their respective fields, who serve in an advisory capacity. The existence of such advisory structures in the parliaments of numerous nations worldwide serves to substantiate their perceived significance. States with a long tradition of parliamentarianism have established independent analytical units. For instance, in the United States, Congress relies on the research of the Congressional Research Service (CRS) to provide MPs with objective scientific information when considering policy issues. Similarly, the United Kingdom has the Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology (POST). In numerous post-Soviet and Eastern European countries, there are scientific expert structures operating under the leadership of the parliament or in close affiliation with it. The most institutionalized models are those of Lithuania, Poland, and Hungary. Consequently, a global trend has emerged: the institutionalization of scientific and expert support for parliaments.

The foreign experience of legislative regulation of expert examination of draft laws is also noteworthy. Numerous countries have instituted procedures for the scientific evaluation of normative acts. Furthermore, legislative acts frequently include explicit references to the necessity of incorporating contemporary scientific data and technological advancements during the process of lawmaking.

Moreover, the involvement of the academic community in parliamentary control is a widespread practice in foreign countries. Parliaments engage in cooperative relationships with academic institutions, research institutes, and expert-analytical centers, colloquially referred to as "think tanks," to oversee the implementation of legislation, evaluate the efficacy of government programs, and formulate strategic recommendations. The integration of scientific knowledge and legal decision-making processes has been demonstrated to enhance the quality of these decisions and to increase public confidence in them.

A review of the experiences of other countries reveals several key elements that are conducive to effective parliamentary oversight. These elements include the presence of permanent expert councils within the

parliament, interaction with independent scientific organizations during various stages of the legislative process, and the utilization of scientific findings for parliamentary oversight. These elements can function as a point of reference in the process of reforming the legislative framework for the scientific and expert support of the activity of the Chambers of the Oliy Majlis.

### **Suggestions**

In light of the identified concerns and in accordance with the most effective international practices, it is imperative to implement the following amendments and supplements to the legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan. These enhancements are intended to fortify the scientific and expert assistance of the Parliament.

The establishment of the Scientific and Expert Advisory Council was overseen by the Chambers of the Oliy Majlis. In order to establish permanent scientific and expert advisory councils under the leadership of the Legislative Chamber and the Senate, it is proposed to amend the Constitutional Laws "On the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan" and "On the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan." These amendments will clearly define the status of the council, its functions, tasks, rights, and duties. Within the framework of legislative provisions concerning the procedural regulations of the chambers, it is imperative to establish a comprehensive procedural framework for the establishment and operations of the scientific-expert council. This procedural framework should encompass the composition of the council, which includes prominent scientists and experts in diverse fields, the mechanisms for selecting its members, the organization of its meetings, and the form of recommendations and conclusions it produces. The establishment of such councils serves to institutionalize a dialogue between parliament and the scientific community. The council has the capacity to undertake a preliminary review of the conceptual frameworks underlying new laws, to furnish feedback on key draft laws that is grounded in scientific principles, and to propose initiatives designed to enhance the quality of legislation.

The following is a clarification of the procedure for requesting feedback from scientific institutions. To ensure the efficacy of the feedback mechanism from scientific organizations, it is imperative to amend the Law "On the procedure for preparing draft laws and their submission to the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan." The law should explicitly enumerate the inquiries to which the proponent of a legislative initiative anticipates receiving a response when transmitting a draft for evaluation to a

scientific institution. For instance, the text could stipulate that the review of the scientific institution should contain the following:a) an assessment of the theoretical validity of the concept of the project;b) an analysis of the scientific data, statistics, and foreign experience used in the project; andc) recommendations for improving the project from a scientific point of view. Furthermore, the existing policy that mandates the submission of projects for review solely after expert evaluation must be reexamined. It is imperative to establish a mechanism that facilitates the dissemination of draft legislation to scientific institutions at earlier stages, in conjunction with other expert reviews. In addition, the development of a standard methodology for the preparation of such reviews is recommended, with the aim of unifying their form. The regulation of these aspects will facilitate the organic integration of academic science into the legislative drafting process. Specialized institutes (e.g., the Institute of Philosophy and Law of the Academy of Sciences, sectoral research institutes) will be capable of providing expert opinions that legislators can consider during the finalization of draft laws.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

The analysis indicates that to advance the development of domestic parliamentarism, it is essential to establish a new level of scientific and expert support for legislative activities. The article identifies and scientifically substantiates some promising directions for improving the legislative basis of such support. The primary conclusions and proposals derived from this study are as follows:

The parliament's adoption of scientific and expert support through institutionalized mechanisms is imperative.

The enhancement of mechanisms of interaction with scientific institutions is imperative.

The present study posits that the expansion of scientific expertise in support of parliamentary control is a pivotal factor in the enhancement of governance and decision-making processes.

In conclusion, it should be emphasized that the proposed measures to improve the legislative framework for scientific and expert support of the parliamentary activity of Uzbekistan correspond to the modern trends of developed parliamentarism and the urgent needs of the country. The implementation of these measures will empower the parliament to adopt legislation that is more scientifically substantiated, enabling more effective monitoring of their implementation and, consequently, a more comprehensive fulfillment of its role within the system

of state power. The enhancement of the connection between scientific research and the legislative body is a crucial element in the effective execution of reforms and the advancement of democratic processes within the Republic of Uzbekistan.

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