

Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan On Measures to Enhance Support and Stimulation of Exports

[Extract]

Over the current year, systemic structural reforms have been implemented in the foreign economic sphere of the country, aimed at ensuring steady growth in foreign trade and export volumes. In particular, foreign exchange policy has been liberalized, administrative barriers have been eliminated, and a market-based mechanism for pricing and payment for exported fruit and vegetable products has been established. Legal entities with an export share exceeding 15 percent of their total revenue from the sale of goods (works, services), including through a commission agent (trustee), are granted the opportunity to reduce the taxable base for corporate income tax and the single tax payment. However, ongoing monitoring of the effectiveness of these measures indicates that, despite overall positive trends in foreign trade and export indicators, the actual growth rates of export volumes do not align with the pace of economic modernization. Significant growth in export volumes, particularly in industries with competitive advantages, is hindered by several systemic issues and shortcomings, including:

- First, underutilization of existing production capacities and advantages related to the availability of a wide range of raw materials and labor resources, which could ensure the production of competitive, high-value-added products for foreign markets;
- Second, insufficient development of financial support tools for exporters' activities and the absence of pre-export and export financing mechanisms;
- Third, inadequate attention to conducting in-depth marketing research, establishing long-term stable markets, and creating foreign trade infrastructure, including abroad;
- Fourth, lack of systematic efforts to organize and promote the export of various types of services and insufficient development of the necessary infrastructure for their provision.

To significantly increase the volume of exports of goods and services, expand the range of export-oriented products, ensure balanced foreign trade, and increase foreign currency inflows, the following measures are hereby adopted:

1. The most critical tasks for the heads of complexes of the Cabinet of Ministers, the **Ministry of Investments and Foreign Trade**, the **Ministry of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction**, ministries, agencies, economic management bodies, other organizations, as well as the **Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Karakalpakstan**, **regional governors**, and the **Mayor of Tashkent** shall be to provide comprehensive support to business entities in:
 - Increasing the production of competitive, export-oriented, high-value-added products, significantly boosting the export of services (tourism, medical, educational, transport, construction, etc.), and accelerating the creation of supporting infrastructure for their provision;
 - Identifying partners and concluding contracts with organizations and enterprises for the supply of domestically produced goods.
2. **Adopt the proposal of the Ministry of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Economy, and the Central Bank to establish the National Export Support System,** with its primary tasks being:
 - a) **In terms of information and analytical support for export activities:**
 - Improving state policy on export development and support, and facilitating the implementation of state programs to enhance export potential;

- Providing informational and advisory support to exporters and their foreign counterparts on marketing, pricing, transport logistics, certification, standardization, quality control, tax, and customs administration, including abroad, as well as conditions for accessing foreign markets under the **"single window"** principle;
- Assisting in finding foreign buyers and supporting the negotiation process up to the conclusion of export contracts, including their preparation;
- Ensuring systematic interaction with ministries, agencies, and regional and district administrations to promote national export products abroad, provide exporters with access to information on export support measures, available benefits and preferences, and the tasks and functions of authorized state bodies;
- Establishing a network of information and consultation centers in the regions;
- Supporting an electronic foreign trade platform by maintaining a database of domestic exporters, their products, and services, and assisting business entities engaged in production and export activities in accessing leading international e-commerce platforms;
- Implementing the **"Made in Uzbekistan"** program to promote Uzbek brands and goods abroad, affirming the reliability of domestic producers as suppliers of high-quality products, including through the annual **"Made in Uzbekistan"** national exhibition, industry and regional exhibitions and fairs, and participation in international exhibitions and presentations;
- Organizing and conducting educational seminars and training sessions for novice exporters, as well as trade missions for entrepreneurs to foreign countries on foreign trade issues;

b) In terms of financial support for export activities:

- Ensuring access to financial resources for exporting enterprises, promoting the growth of non-commodity exports, increasing the number of national exporters, and expanding the list of countries purchasing their products;
- Providing financial assistance for registering national products and brands (trademarks) with foreign authorized bodies, participating in international exhibitions, fairs, tenders, and competitions, conducting presentations and advertising campaigns to promote traditional national products and brands in potential markets, and sending samples of products abroad for evaluation;
- Providing targeted financial assistance to exporters to cover expenses related to implementing international standardization and certification systems both domestically and abroad, and registering national products with foreign authorized bodies;
- Compensating 50 percent of expenses incurred abroad related to the establishment and maintenance of trading houses, leasing office, retail, and warehouse spaces, and organizing advertising campaigns; compensating 50 percent of expenses related to training members of agricultural associations of fruit and vegetable exporters in new technologies, conducting agro-technical monitoring and marketing research, and obtaining permits and certificates from authorized bodies required for product exports;
- Compensating expenses related to the accreditation of conformity assessment bodies by an accreditation body that is a member of international organizations **ILAC/IAF**;
- Partially compensating expenses for textile and garment enterprises to implement financial reporting based on international standards;
- Introducing mechanisms for pre-export and export financing, export credit insurance, and risk mitigation, drawing on the experience of foreign countries that

- have successfully implemented modern financial support and export insurance mechanisms, including with the involvement of international financial institutions;
 - Attracting loans and preferential credits from international and foreign financial institutions for trade financing;
 - Providing other comprehensive financial and consulting services.
3. It is established that the operation of the **National Export Support System** shall be coordinated by the **Ministry of Foreign Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan**.
 4. **Approve the proposals of the Ministry of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Economy, Central Bank, State Committee for Investments, and State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan for Support of Privatized Enterprises and Competition Development to:**
 - Establish the **Export Promotion Agency** under the **Ministry of Foreign Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan**, based on the **Export Support Fund for Small Businesses and Private Entrepreneurship** under the **National Bank for Foreign Economic Activity of the Republic of Uzbekistan**;
 - Assign the **National Export-Import Insurance Company "Uzbekinvest"** the functions of insuring export credits and operations, with its transfer to the **Ministry of Foreign Trade**;
 - Appoint the **Minister of Foreign Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan** as the Chairman of the Supervisory Board of the **Joint-Stock Commercial Bank "Uzagroexportbank"**;
 - Establish trade representations at the embassies of the Republic of Uzbekistan abroad.
 5. The **Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Uzbekistan** shall, starting from 2019, annually allocate at least **15 million USD** in the State Budget parameters for the **Export Promotion Agency** under the **Ministry of Investments and Foreign Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan**.
 6. The **Ministry of Foreign Trade**, together with the **Ministry of Finance, State Committee for Investments, and Central Bank of the Republic of Uzbekistan**, shall:
 - Within **one month**, submit proposals to the Cabinet of Ministers on organizing the operation of the **National Export Support System**, including funding sources for its effective functioning, mechanisms for financial support for exporters, risk insurance for exports, and protection against discriminatory measures, tariff, and non-tariff barriers;
 - Within **one week**, submit proposals to increase the authorized capital of the **Joint-Stock Commercial Bank "Uzagroexportbank"** to the minimum required level.
 7. **Supervisory responsibility** for the implementation of this Decree is assigned to:
 - **Prime Minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan A.N. Aripov**;
 - **Head of the Administration of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Z.Sh. Nizomiddinov**;
 - **Deputy Advisor to the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan E.M. Ganiev**.

President of the Republic of Uzbekistan
 Sh. Mirziyoyev
 Tashkent, December 20, 2018
 No. PP-4069

(National Database of Legislation, December 21, 2018, No. 07/18/4069/2353; September 28, 2020, No. 06/20/6075/1330; November 21, 2023, No. 06/23/198/0868)