

2022 Annual Report for the Uzbekistan Vision 2030 Multi-Partner Trust Fund



For the period 16 August to 31 December 2022

Introduction

The Uzbekistan Vision 2030 Fund is an UN inter-agency pooled fund that aims at achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in Uzbekistan by 2030. It is anchored in the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF).

The Fund is capitalized through a contribution representing a return of assets that have been definitively forfeited in criminal proceedings in Switzerland. The Fund will support principled, transparent, and effective asset restitution via programs aimed at accelerating the Government of Uzbekistan's national reform agenda and the SDGs.

This consolidated Annual Report of the Uzbekistan Vision 2030 Multi-Partner Trust Fund was prepared by the Secretariat and the MPTF Office, demonstrating commitment to fulfilling all obligations as outlined in the Fund's Terms of Reference (TOR), the Standard Administrative Arrangement (SAA), and other foundational documents signed with the Government of Switzerland, and the Government of Uzbekistan.

Covering the period from 16 August to 31 December 2022, this consolidated report provides narrative and financial data, showcasing the significant progress achieved in the implementation of the Fund. This Annual Report is accessible to the public through the MPTF Office Gateway, ensuring transparency and accountability.

Key results in 2022

- The Fund was established on 16 August 2022 at a ceremony in Bern, Switzerland
- Twenty-two agencies (UNICEF, UNESCO, UNFPA, WHO, UNDP, UNOPS, ENECE, UNODC, IOM, ILO, ESCAP, ITC, ITU, FAO, OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNCTAD, UNEP, UNHCR, UNICRI, UNIDO, and UN WOMEN) signed the Fund MOU
- The Fund was capitalized with \$95m out of a first tranche of \$131m
- Five meetings of the Management Committee (MC) convened where key Fund tools and strategies were approved. Summaries of all MC decisions made publicly available, ensuring transparency and accountability.
- The first Resource Allocation Strategy for \$87m was agreed by the Management Committee and later validated by the High-Level Strategic Committee.
- Four Civil Society meetings and workshops were organized involving international and local independent CSO activists. Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Civil Society Advisory Council (CSAC) developed and approved.
- Key Fund tools and documents developed and approved including Fund Operations Manual, Communications Strategy, etc.
- Secretariat Project Document approved by Management Committee. Recruitment of Secretariat staff started in 2022 and was finalized in 2023.

Establishment of the Fund

The Uzbekistan Vision 2030 Fund was established in July 2022 through conclusion of the MOU by Participating UN Organizations. On 16 August 2022 the contribution agreement was concluded at a ceremony in Bern, Switzerland following the conclusion of a restitution arrangement between the Swiss Confederation and the Republic of Uzbekistan. The Fund's capitalization is derived from a contribution representing a return of assets that have been definitively forfeited in criminal proceedings in Switzerland. This financing provides the foundation for the Fund's mission to support principled, transparent, and effective asset restitution in Uzbekistan. The Fund aims to help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Uzbekistan by 2030 and accelerate the Government of Uzbekistan's national reform agenda.



Signing of the Uzbekistan Vision 2030 Fund Standard Administrative Arrangement by Ignazio Cassis, President of the Swiss Confederation, and Jennifer Topping, Executive Director of the UN MPTFO.

The Fund leverages the UNSDCF implementation architecture. Aligned with the strategic priorities of the UNSDCF, the Fund's Management Committee has approved the first Resource Allocation Strategy allocating US\$ 87m of a total of US\$ 131m in committed funds against two strategic priorities: i) reduced maternal and infant mortality and ii) inclusive and equitable quality education. A strong anti-corruption component will be incorporated across all programs and projects. Under the guidance of the UN Resident Coordinator, the UN Country Team (UNCT) in Uzbekistan is currently in the process of formulating project proposals in alignment with the identified priorities.

Governance and management structure

The Uzbekistan Vision 2030 Fund has been designed to help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in Uzbekistan by 2030. The Fund's governance structure has been designed to ensure effective coordination, accountability, inclusivity, and transparency.



The High-level Strategic Committee engages in political dialogue regarding the restitution and provides recommendations on the strategic direction and structure of the Uzbekistan Vision 2030 Fund. The Management Committee, co-chaired by representatives from Uzbekistan, Switzerland, and the UN Resident Coordinator in Tashkent, is responsible for the overall management of the Uzbekistan Vision 2030 Fund.

The Civil Society Advisory Council comprises representatives from national and international civil society organizations, as well as academia. It plays a consultative role by providing a voice for civil society in the Uzbekistan Vision 2030 Fund.

Twenty-two Participating UN Organizations (PUNOs) signed MOUs with the Administrative Agent. These Implementing Organizations assume full programmatic and financial accountability for the funds that may be disbursed to it on the basis of the approved Resource Allocation Strategy.

Since its establishment in August 2022, the Fund Management Committee approved the Fund Secretariat, The Operations Manual, Resource Allocation Strategy, CSAC Terms of Reference, and other key documents that are available from the MPTFO Gateway website at <https://mptf.undp.org/fund/uzb00>

Civil Society engagement

Civil society engagement is vital for the Vision 2030 Fund. Involving civil society organizations actively promotes transparency, inclusivity, and accountability. In 2022, four meetings were held with 18 CSO representatives to explore how the role of civil society can be optimized in the Fund governance and implementation of projects.

A Civil Society workshop took place in Tashkent on November 22-23, 2022. During the event, representatives from various civil society organizations (CSOs) actively contributed to the development of the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Civil Society Advisory Committee (CSAC).



- **Kobil Khidirov**
Journalist, blogger
- **Sayyora Khodjaeva**
Democracy and Human Rights
- **Oybek Isakov**
Assoc. of People with Disabilities
- **Nodira Karimova**
NGO "Istiqbolli Avlod"
- **Irina Matvienko**
Gender equality activist
- **Liliana Sin**
NGO "KRASS"
- **Oliya Ilmuradova**
NGO "Sustainable Life"
- **Mathias Huter**
UNCAC Coalition
- **Patrick Mutzenberg**
Centre of Civil and Political Rights
- **Shamil Asyanov**
Center for Legal Problems
- **Nazifa Kamalova**
NGO "Istiqlol avlodi"
- **Kamola Alieva**
Gender equality activist
- **Artur Vakhitov**
NGO Ecoforum
- **Sanjar Yuldashev**
NGO "Barqaror Hayot"
- **Yuliy Yusupov**
Center for Economic Development
- **Isa Khamedov**
Professor
- **Muslim Mirzajonov**
Human.uz
- **Aziza Kurbanova**
Journalist, blogger

2022 press conferences and public events

Press conference in Bern, Switzerland – 16 August 2022

On 16 August 2022, a press conference was organized in Bern, Switzerland with Ignazio Cassis, President of the Swiss Confederation, and Ruslanbek Davletov, Minister of Justice of Uzbekistan. The press conference was attended by both international and national journalists.



Press conference in Tashkent, Uzbekistan – 13 September 2022

On 13 September 2022, the Ministry of Justice organized a media briefing on the Swiss restitution and the formation of the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund. The UNRC and the Swiss Ambassador were both invited to make statements and answer questions from journalists and media representatives. A high-quality recording of the full media briefing can be found here: <https://youtu.be/wlUdBDZa-as>



International Expert Meeting on asset return and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – 22 November 2022

On 22 November 2022, Christian Frutiger, Head of Thematic Cooperation, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, and Ilhom Norkulov, First Deputy Minister, and the Head of Fund Secretariat presented the Uzbekistan Vision 2030 Fund at the International Expert Meeting on asset return and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Nairobi, Kenya.



Annex 1: Management Committee meetings and decisions

The Management Committee, co-chaired by representatives from Uzbekistan, Switzerland, and the UN Resident Coordinator in Tashkent, is responsible for the overall management of the Uzbekistan Vision 2030 Fund.



Members of the Management Committee are:

Consuelo Vidal-Bruce, UN Resident Coordinator for Uzbekistan

Konstantin Obolensky, Ambassador of Switzerland to Uzbekistan

Ilhom Norkulov, First Deputy Minister of Economy and Finance of Uzbekistan

As part of its commitment to transparency, the Management Committee of the Ishonch Vision 2030 Fund maintains a log of all its meetings and decisions since its inception. This log serves as a comprehensive record of the decisions taken during each meeting and is made public on the MPTFO Gateway website.

The log provides a chronological account of each Management Committee meeting, capturing key agenda items and decisions. It also refers to adoption of relevant documents that are discussed during the meetings. Adopted documents are available from the MPTFO Gateway website.

The log is updated after each meeting and reflects the Committee's commitment to transparency and accountability in its decision-making processes.

Meetings of the Uzbekistan Vision 2030 Fund Management Committee (MC)

MC meeting on 23 September 2022

Agenda items included: Secretariat Project Document, Operations Manual 1.0, Communications and Visibility Strategy 1.0, Civil Society nominations for the second phase, Presentation of Funding Framework by MPTFO, Discussion of resource allocation, Six months timeline and next steps. The Management Committee made the following decisions:

- The Secretariat Project Document was endorsed in principle with the understanding that the Secretariat will make the agreed changes and re-circulate the updated document by 28 September to the Management Committee.
- The Operations Manual was endorsed in principle with the understanding that the Secretariat will make the agreed changes and re-circulate the updated document by 28 September to the Management Committee.
- The Secretariat will circulate an updated version of the Communications and Visibility Strategy by 30 September to the Management Committee. The Management Committee will make a decision on the Uzbek brand and the strategy at the 6 October Management Committee meeting.
- The Secretariat will circulate an updated CSAC TOR by 3 October to the Management Committee. The Management Committee will make a decision on the shortlisting [of CSO representatives] at the 6 October Management Committee meeting.
- The Secretariat will circulate by 28 September a list of project concepts/ideas corresponding to the priority areas that emerged during the meeting. The Management Committee will respond to the Secretariat by Tuesday 4 October with feedback including an indication of which thematic priority areas they would like to see reflected in the first draft of the Resource Allocation Strategy (Annex 1 of the Operations Manual). This will allow the Secretariat to produce a first draft of the Resource Allocation Strategy to help structure discussions at the 6 October Management Committee meeting.

MC Meeting on 7 November 2022

The Management Committee discussed Secretariat Project Document, Operations Manual 1.0, Communications and Visibility Strategy 1.0, Discussion on accountability mechanisms and conflicts of interest, Next phase of Civil Society engagement, Presentation of Funding Framework by MPTFO, Discussion of resource allocation.

- The Management Committee adopted the Secretariat Project Document with small adjustments.
- The Management Committee adopted the current version 1.0 of the Operations Manual with a number of minor changes

- The Management Committee adopted in principle the current version 1.0 of the Communications and Visibility Strategy. To ensure all members have the latest version of the strategy, the Secretariat will circulate the latest version by e-mail. If no objections are received within five working days, the document will be considered formally adopted.
- The Management Committee decided to proceed for the time being with Health and Education as the two thematic priorities for the first tranche of the Fund.
 - A strong anti-corruption component should be incorporated across all programs and projects.
 - The concerned RG and its sub-groups were tasked with consulting line ministries to produce an evidence-based update of proposed project concepts for Health and Education.
 - It was agreed that two-thirds of the first tranche of US\$131 million could be allocated to Health and Education priorities for the initial resource allocation strategy which will be presented on 1 December, subject to discussions with the relevant line ministries.
 - The updated project portfolio for Health and Education are to be submitted five working days before the next Management Committee meeting on 1 Dec 2022.
 - The Secretariat will produce a draft Resource Allocation Strategy based on the decision of the Management Committee and the input from the concerned RG

MC Meeting on 6 December 2022

Agenda items included: Resource Allocation Strategy. No decisions were made at this meeting.

MC Meeting on 15 December 2022

Agenda items included: Resource Allocation Strategy, Discussion on document retention, dissemination and accessibility policy, Update on the Second Phase of Civil Society engagement, 2013 schedule and workplan, Presentation of MPTFO Funding Framework

- The Management Committee requested the Secretariat to produce an updated Resource Allocation Strategy template.

MC meeting on 16 December 2022

- The Management Committee decided to proceed for the time being with health and education as the two sectors for the first tranche of the Fund. Other sectors, and other areas within the health and education sectors could be considered for future tranches.

Annex 2 - Key foundational documents, manuals, procedures, and documents

- **Agreement between the Swiss Confederation and the Republic of Uzbekistan on the modalities for the return of illegally acquired assets forfeited in the Swiss Confederation to the benefit of the population of the Republic of Uzbekistan**
(signed on 16 August 2022)
- **Standard Administrative Arrangement (SAA) for Uzbekistan Vision 2030 Fund using pass-through fund management**
(signed on 16 August 2022)
- **Terms of Reference of the United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund “Uzbekistan Vision 2030 Fund” (TOR)**
(approved on 16 August 2022)
- **Standard Memorandum of Understanding for Uzbekistan Vision 2030 Fund using pass-through fund management**
(signed by 22 UN agencies in 2022)
- **Operations Manual for the Uzbekistan Vision 2030 Fund**
(approved on 7 November 2022)
- **Communications and Visibility Strategy for the Uzbekistan Vision 2030 Fund**
(approved on 7 November 2022)
- **Uzbekistan Vision 2030 Fund Secretariat Direct Cost Project Document**
(approved on 7 November 2022)
- **Resource Allocation Strategy for the Uzbekistan Vision 2030 Fund**
(approved and validated on 20 March 2023)
- **Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Civil Society Advisory Council (CSAC)**
(approved on 20 March 2023)
- **Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Project Assessment Committee (PAC)**
(approved on 21 April 2023)
- **Log of Management Committee decisions**
(approved on 21 April 2023)

All documents are publicly available from the MPTFO Gateway

Annex 3 - Selected news articles from 2022 about the Uzbekistan Vision 2030 Fund

<https://www.uzdaily.uz/en/post/74960>

<https://www.reuters.com/world/switzerland-return-uzbekistans-assets-frozen-money-laundering-probe-2022-08-16/>

<https://thediplomat.com/2022/08/swiss-agree-to-return-131-million-to-uzbekistan-via-un-trust-fund/>

<https://kun.uz/en/news/2022/08/16/uzbekistan-switzerland-sign-a-definitive-agreement-on-return-of-gulnara-karimovas-assets>

<https://cablefreetv.org/agreement-on-return-of-karimovas-assets-to-uzbekistan-signed-news-from-germany-on-world-events-dw/>

<https://www.occrp.org/en/daily/16663-corruption-cash-frozen-in-switzerland-to-fund-development-in-uzbekistan>

<https://www.rferl.org/a/swiss-to-return-illegal-millions-uzbek-karimova/31991585.html>

<https://www.gazeta.uz/ru/2022/08/16/uzbekistan-vision>

<https://news.am/eng/news/716291.html>

https://gazette.com/news/us-world/switzerland-to-return-uzbekistans-assets-frozen-in-money-laundering-probe/article_bd73ccfa-3577-546d-bc2e-690082c75307.html

<https://krdo.com/news/ap-national-business/2022/08/16/switzerland-uzbekistan-sign-deal-on-return-of-karimova-cash-2/>

<https://www.latestly.com/agency-news/world-news-switzerland-uzbekistan-sign-deal-on-return-of-karimova-cash-4088894.html>

<https://emeatribune.com/switzerland-uzbekistan-sign-deal-on-return-of-karimova-cash/>

<https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/switzerland-uzbekistan-sign-deal-return-karimova-cash-88440593>

<https://www.thebharatexpressnews.com/switzerland-and-uzbekistan-sign-deal-to-return-karimova-money/>

<https://www.amlintelligence.com/2022/08/switzerland-returns-100m-to-uzbekistan-following-investigation/>

<https://globalinvestigationsreview.com/article/switzerland-return-stolen-uzbekistan-assets-un-development-fund>

<https://www.macaubusiness.com/swiss-agree-to-return-seized-assets-to-uzbekistan/>

<https://www.rsi.ch/news/svizzera/Averi-illeciti-tornano-in-Uzbekistan-15555307.html>

https://www.gazeta.uz/ru/2022/09/13/assets/?utm_source=push

<https://kun.uz/en/27514789>

<https://kun.uz/en/33714574>

<https://rferl.click/LWd3>

<https://kun.uz/97881912>

<https://xabar.uz/huquq/gulnora-karimova-olib-chiqib-ketgan>

https://www.gazeta.uz/ru/2022/09/13/gulnara-karimova/?utm_source=push&utm_medium=telegram

<https://fergana.media/news/127717/>

<https://mediazona.ca/news/2022/09/13/confiscation>

[Selected tweets from UN officials](#)

<https://twitter.com/AsthanaRoli/status/1559529720852742144>

https://twitter.com/gwi_son/status/1559920914623610880

<https://twitter.com/asthanaroli/status/1559560260259663873>

https://twitter.com/un_sdg/status/1559597929853321216

<https://twitter.com/helenafraserun/status/1559602344723111936>

<https://twitter.com/unpiper/status/1559679467382902785>

[Tweets from Ignazio Cassis, President of the Swiss Confederation](#)

<https://twitter.com/ignaziocassis/status/1559506160767606787>

<https://twitter.com/ignaziocassis/status/1559506636473081859>

[Other tweets](#)

<https://twitter.com/Navbahor/status/1559620207739543559>

<https://twitter.com/Navbahor/status/1559555579508572166>

<https://twitter.com/Navbahor/status/1559555581437935618>

https://twitter.com/Diplomat_APAC/status/1559991463735336987
<https://twitter.com/aanjuwon/status/1560106997290307585>
https://twitter.com/Mike_Eckel/status/1559802329242955776
<https://twitter.com/IreneKenyon4/status/1559902193586675712>
<https://twitter.com/DaryoEng/status/1559804225923727360>
<https://twitter.com/schfm/status/1559607295885119489>
<https://twitter.com/EITuz7/status/1559506504432091137>
<https://twitter.com/GregoireMangeat/status/1559510853501730816>
<https://twitter.com/swissbusiness/status/1559956992751312897>
<https://twitter.com/UzbekForum/status/1559551759688802305>
<https://twitter.com/steveswerdlow/status/1559743920300429314>
<https://twitter.com/steveswerdlow/status/1559749352549076992>
<https://twitter.com/astrupun/status/1559556309124513802>
<https://twitter.com/gmamarasulova/status/1559764220098527233>

Contacts

For more information about the Ishonch Vision 2030 Fund, please visit:

<https://mptf.undp.org/fund/uzb00>

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