

# Formation And Development Stages Of The Youth Union Of Uzbekistan As A Non-Governmental Organization

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**Annotation:** This article highlights the emergence of the Youth Union of Uzbekistan as a non-governmental organization, its historical roots, socio-political significance, and its role in shaping civic responsibility among young people. It also analyzes the organization's transformations during the years of independence, its legal foundations, and its contribution to increasing social activity in society.

**Keywords:** Youth Union of Uzbekistan, non-governmental organization, youth policy, civil society, social activity, independence period, youth movement, spiritual education, civic responsibility, New Uzbekistan.

From the first years of Uzbekistan's independence, youth issues were recognized as one of the most important directions of state policy. This is because young people, as a unique social group, represent a crucial factor determining the country's potential for development through their worldview, values, and social activity. As indicators of social change, youth are considered a barometer of societal progress not only in demographic terms but also in spiritual, political, and cultural dimensions.

According to statistical data, during the years of independence, about 64 percent of Uzbekistan's population consisted of young people under the age of 30. Therefore, addressing the social problems of youth, turning them into an active force in society, and nurturing them as spiritually mature and patriotic citizens became a central direction of state policy. In the early 2000s, particular attention was paid to youth affairs, and one of the key historical milestones in this regard was the declaration of 2008 as the "Year of Youth". Within the framework of this initiative, a number of state programs were developed focusing on education, employment, a healthy lifestyle, and the moral and intellectual development of young people.[1-7]

In the following years, this policy was consistently continued, and the year 2010 was declared the "Year of the Harmoniously Developed Generation." During this period, large-scale state programs aimed at strengthening the legal, organizational, and social foundations of youth work were implemented. Through these programs, effective measures were taken to enhance the social protection and employment of young people, expand their opportunities for education and vocational training, nurture them in the spirit of patriotism, and strengthen respect for national values and traditions. These historical stages formed the legal, organizational, and spiritual foundations of youth policy in Uzbekistan. It was during this period that youth issues became one of the top priorities of the state and public life, and the activities of both governmental and non-governmental institutions aimed at increasing youth social activity and supporting their initiatives significantly expanded.[1-8]

As is known, in the early years of Uzbekistan's independence, youth issues were recognized as a priority in the life of the state and society, and the activities of both non-governmental and governmental institutions aimed at increasing youth social activity and encouraging their initiatives and abilities began to develop. In this process, the "Kamolot" Youth Social Movement, established on April 25, 2001, carried out activities focused on uniting young people, promoting a healthy lifestyle, protecting their interests, and creating conditions for talented and active youth to take a worthy place in society.

During the years of Uzbekistan's independence, certain measures were taken to raise the younger generation in the spirit of patriotism, respect for national values and traditions, to form a spiritually mature and physically healthy generation, as well as to protect the rights and interests of youth. During this period, youth policy emerged as one of the key social priorities, and a number of programs and initiatives were implemented within its framework.

However, analyses indicate that efforts to address pressing youth issues particularly involving non-organized (informal) youth in social life, helping them find their place in the labor market, determining their professional orientation, and supporting their initiatives - were not sufficiently systematic. In this regard, the “Kamolot” Youth Social Movement was unable to fully achieve the ambitious goals it had set. It did not reach the level of a broad social movement capable of uniting youth and mobilizing them for the development of the country. In particular, in local areas, especially remote districts and villages, the movement’s ability to develop youth talents and potential, involve them in entrepreneurial activities, protect them from harmful ideas and negative phenomena, and prevent offenses was limited. [4]

The “Kamolot” Youth Social Movement functioned as a self-governing, voluntary non-governmental and non-profit organization. Membership in the movement required acceptance of its program and charter provisions, dedication to the progress of the homeland and the peace of the nation, as well as commitment to serve as an example within society. All citizens of Uzbekistan aged 14 to 28, regardless of gender, race, nationality, language, religion, or social status, had the right to become members. The organization maintained a well-structured management system: its supreme governing body was the Congress, convened once every five years; the Central Council met once every six months as the main leadership body; and the Executive Committee functioned as the operational organ, convening every two months. Through this structure and its mechanisms, the “Kamolot” movement became an important platform for fostering social activity, responsibility, and initiative among young people, as well as for engaging them in vital social and civic processes within the country. [5]

On June 30, 2017, at the IV Congress of the “Kamolot” Youth Social Movement, the organization was restructured and became the Uzbekistan Youth Union. This organization carries out activities aimed at improving youth policy, protecting their rights and interests, and promoting patriotism, national pride, and moral and spiritual development. On July 5, 2017, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan issued a decree titled “On Improving the Effectiveness of State Youth Policy and Supporting the Activities of the Uzbekistan Youth Union”, which strengthened the legal foundation of the organization. As a result, the Union, holding the status of a non-governmental and non-profit organization, operates in cooperation with state and public institutions, educational establishments, and civil society organizations.[5] The Union accepts citizens of Uzbekistan aged 14 to 30 as members and implements comprehensive programs aimed at fostering moral development, social activity, and patriotism. Thus, the transition from the “Kamolot” Movement to the Uzbekistan Youth Union marked an important stage in the history of youth policy, serving as a key platform for strengthening the role of young people in society and promoting their initiative and talent.[5]

The establishment of the Uzbekistan Youth Union marked a new stage in the country’s youth policy. The organization’s activities were aimed at protecting the interests of young people, actively involving them in socio-political life, and fostering patriotism and a constructive spirit. At the same time, the head of state placed special emphasis on strengthening the role and responsibility of youth in society. In this context, the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated July 18, 2017, PQ-3138, “On Comprehensive Measures to Improve the Activities of the Uzbekistan Youth Union”, served as an important legal foundation.[2] This decree envisaged further development of a system to support young people who have demonstrated long-term effective activity within the Union, shown themselves as dedicated leaders, are patriotic, concerned about the future of the country, hardworking, and possess positive personal qualities.[3]

As a result, the activities of the Union gained new meaning and content. The organization was established not only as a body protecting the interests of youth but also as a non-governmental institution enhancing their economic, spiritual, and social activity. In particular, various programs and projects were implemented to train young leaders, encourage their initiatives, and ensure their active participation in social processes. This stage laid the foundation for the Uzbekistan Youth Union to function as a genuine platform for uniting young people and realizing their potential in the life of the country.

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