



## PRESS RELEASE

### LAUNCH EVENT: ON THE ENHANCEMENT OF IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS IN UZBEKISTAN

**TASHKENT, 24 September 2021** - Today, the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ), the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) Regional Office for Central Asia (ROCA) and the Nationwide Movement "Yuksalish" are holding a launch event for a new project on the enhancement of the implementation of international law on economic, social and cultural rights in the national legal framework of Uzbekistan.

The event marks the start of a new three-year project "Enhancing the Quality of Uzbekistan's Application of international Law" (EQUAL) funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented by the ICJ and. It follows the previous EU-funded project "Advancing Civil Society in Promoting ESC Rights Standards (ACCESS)" implemented in 2017-2021 in Uzbekistan.

The partners will present the new project and provide information and plans for its work to advance implementation and protection of economic, social and cultural rights in Uzbekistan in the framework of the EQUAL project.

"This is a very timely project implemented at the time when raising awareness about economic, social and cultural rights is particularly needed. The project EQUAL which we support and endorse is about promoting human rights and the rule of law, which is also an important part of new EU Strategy for Central Asia and Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (EPCA) with Uzbekistan" said H.E. Charlotte Adriaen, Ambassador of the European Union in Uzbekistan.

"We are happy to start a new project on strengthening the implementation of economic, social and cultural rights in Uzbekistan. These are rights which must be guaranteed without discrimination on any ground both in law and in practice, in accordance with States' international law obligations. I look forward to this new phase of our work in Uzbekistan and I hope that the ICJ and its partners will contribute to making economic, social and cultural rights an everyday reality in Uzbekistan". said Róisín Pillay, Director of the ICJ Europe and Centra Asia Programme.

"Uzbekistan has made significant steps towards an improved state of protection of human rights and freedoms in recent years. We must continue to firmly stand for the principles of "leave no one behind" and create inclusive opportunities. I am sure this project will contribute to better understand existing challenges, promote best practices and contribute to improving the quality of decisions made" said Bobur Bekmurodov, Chairman of the Nationwide Movement "Yuksalish".

"Through our ongoing cooperation and this project, in particular, we will continue to promote effective implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), as well other relevant treaties, such as recently ratified Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, by the Republic of Uzbekistan. We also call for better engagement with wider civil society during the implementation of the project," said Ryszard Komenda, Regional Representative of the UN Human Rights Office for Central Asia.

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