



DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY
CENTER

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CENTER FOR ECONOMIC
RESEARCH AND REFORMS

INFORMATION ON MEASURES TO COMBAT THE EFFECTS OF CORONAVIRUS IN UZBEKISTAN





1

A Special Republican Commission on Preventing the Importation and Transmission of COVID-19, headed by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan, has been established. Its functions come to constant analysis and monitoring of the global, regional and domestic epidemiological situation, intergovernmental interaction and information exchange, coordination of research on coronavirus issues. Each region organized special headquarters led by heads of administrations (region governors).



2

The Republican Anti-Crisis Commission was established and headed by the Prime Minister. It deals with prompt response to challenges arising and with the development of additional policies to ensure smooth operation of industries and economic sectors, social support of the population in the course of counteracting the spread of coronavirus infection and other global risks. Territorial units of the Republican Anti-Crisis Commission are being established in the regions, headed by the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, heads of regional, district and municipal administrations.

3

Ministry of Transport, State Committee for Tourism Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry for Development of Information Technologies and Communications and responsible ministries and departments have set up specialized headquarters to provide information support to foreign citizens, tourists, on their return to their home countries.



4



The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, all embassies and consular offices of Uzbekistan abroad have opened operational headquarters for prompt response to requests from fellow citizens. In two days, over 2,000 citizens addressed the “call center”. The Telegram Messenger received over 3,000 messages.

5

The Ministry of Investments and Foreign Trade established a 24-hour Republican Headquarters to support exporters and entrepreneurs. The headquarters will provide prompt response to all issues related to ensuring a stable operation of foreign trade and investment activities.





6



The Ministry of Health has launched a call center with a single short number 1003. Citizens call and get medically sound answers and recommendations to coronavirus-related questions, their health and condition of their relatives. Call center operates 24 hours. 200 teaching professors and doctors continuously answer questions from citizens in four shifts.

7

An online resource has been created to inform citizens about the current epidemiological situation in the republic.



8



Ministry of Internal Affairs and National Guard are entrusted with ensuring control over the observance of quarantine by citizens.

The Republican Anti-Crisis Commission is entrusted with:

9



- within two months, starting March 22, conducting daily teleconferences and detailed discussions of the course of implementation of measures in each region to counteract the spread of coronavirus infection, ensuring the stable operation of industry, infrastructure, transport and logistics, social services, retail chains and business entities, and making corresponding prompt decisions on emerging issues and problems;



- weekly reporting to the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the progress of implementation of the Decree, and submission of proposals for additional anti-crisis measures, if necessary.

PREVENTION OF PANIC



The country's leadership urges the public to unite and not panic. Measures are being taken to prevent the dissemination of inaccurate, unsubstantiated information in the media and social networks.

The media have been warned of accountability under applicable law for disseminating false information.



COVID-19
[@checkCoronavirusBot](#)

A Telegram bot has been created, offering an opportunity of taking a preliminary test for coronavirus. Ministry for Development of Information Technologies and Communications, jointly with the unified integrator UZINFOCOM and Ministry of Health, created this opportunity (@checkCoronavirusBot) at the official website in order to inform the general public about the coronavirus (COVID-19) and the measures taken to stop its spread.



All ongoing activities in the country comply with the procedures of the World Health Organization.

ACTION TAKEN



As of morning of March 20, coronavirus infection was detected in **33 people**.



Prior to detecting the first case of coronavirus in Tashkent, **1,700 tests** had been made. Nearly **6,000 people** are currently quarantined.

Under the current conditions, the state is taking action, primarily aimed at:



- prevention of the further transmission of infection among the population;



- medical prevention and medical assistance;



- mitigation of negative effects on the country's economy and production.

To further prevent the spread of infection among the population, the following measures have been taken:

1. Passenger traffic with foreign states has been suspended.

Since March 16, Uzbekistan has closed air and road connection with all foreign countries. Three days were assigned to resolve the issue of closing the railway connection.

Charter flights are arranged for citizens of Uzbekistan staying abroad. Those who decide to return to their homeland are quarantined for two weeks. Special flights are organized for foreigners who need to leave Uzbekistan.

The validity of visas of foreign citizens staying in the Republic of Uzbekistan is automatically extended until April 10 of the current year. Citizens of the countries entitled to enter Uzbekistan visa-free for a certain period of time (in case of violation of the established period), as an exception, are allowed to leave the country before April 10 of the current year.

By the decision of the special commission, in case of return of air and train tickets purchased for tourism purposes, including domestic destinations falling under the quarantine period, measures will be taken to fully return the funds to the buyer without penalty or delay. By the decision of the special commission, the Ministry of Transport will take measures to return tickets and fully refund the cost or reschedule them to another date without penalty.

2. Cancellation of public events.

All mass events have been canceled, including sports, cultural (including concerts), and others. The celebration of Navruz and related public events was canceled. Citizens are advised to refrain from visiting crowded places.

The Government recommended religious institutions to limit public events.

Restrictions do not apply to wedding events. They will follow the rules previously approved by a joint resolution of councils of both houses of Parliament.

During the quarantine, employers can transfer employees, especially pregnant women, the elderly, people with disabilities and those suffering from chronic diseases, with their consent, to the remote work, flexible or home-based work.

Meetings in the Legislative Chamber have been temporarily canceled. Meanwhile, deputy corps continue their work. Factions of political parties and lower house committees keep considering draft laws, which are also being discussed in Telegram groups.

3. Early holidays in all educational institutions.

Since March 16, early holidays have begun in pre-school, secondary and higher education institutions. Regional administrations organized free transport to return students to their regions. 80,000 students were centrally sent to places of permanent residence. Also, students living in provinces have been provided with 50% discounts on transportation services.

4. Disinfection



Upon entering the territory of the republic, all freight vehicles are treated with special disinfectants in order to prevent the entry and spread of coronavirus infection.

Disinfection measures should be carried out every four hours at the final stops of public transport and in railway depots.

HEALTHCARE MEASURES



The epidemiological situation is analyzed based on hourly and daily reports, prompt measures are taken.



The treatment is completely free. The quarantined undergo examination three times a day.

In the country there are:



two hospitals
of the national level



14 regional hospitals
of infectious diseases



216 territorial institutions
of sanitary and
epidemiological surveillance



Medical facilities are sufficiently supplied with medicines.
Specialists have been trained.



Medical facilities have shifted to **a special operation mode.**



Health resorts and children's health camps have been adapted to work **as quarantine institutions.**



Almost **5,500 medical workers** were engaged in the fight against coronavirus.



The reserve of medical drugs, diagnostics, reagents, protective and disinfectant means and hospitals allows receiving about a thousand patients simultaneously, treating them, diagnosing and protecting people they contacted with.



Wholesale of medicines, medical products and other medications made in pharmacies has been allowed until October 1, 2020.



It is recommended that citizens with signs of the virus do not leave home, but make phone calls so that specialists could come and examine them.

1. Identification of those infected and sick.

COVID-19 detection means are available in all regions of Uzbekistan. Subdivisions of the Agency for Sanitary and Epidemiological Welfare operate in all regions. They have virology laboratories (there are a total of 16 laboratories), and each of them is equipped with devices and reagents for correct diagnosing. All regions of Uzbekistan have been provided with COVID-19 test systems and protective equipment.



For reference: The total number of citizens who have been tested for COVID-19 from the moment of the first revealed case in Uzbekistan has reached **250.000 people.**

2. Medical prevention and medical aid.



There are two vectors of quarantine actions. If the virus is detected in a person arriving from an epidemically troubled region, he/she is quarantined. Citizens arriving on charter flights are isolated and quarantined as well. All arrivals, except for those who are quarantined, stay under medical supervision at the place of residence.

3. Further reform of the sanitary-epidemiological service.

A draft document is currently being prepared to fundamentally reform and raise the effectiveness of the country's sanitary-epidemiological service. The service will be focused on ensuring medical and sanitary welfare, public health, on organization of morbidity prevention and promotion of a healthy lifestyle.

4. Grants for drug development.

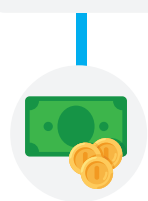
A state order for research projects has been announced on the following topics:

-  - 'Creation of technology of control and treatment of coronavirus infections based on profound analysis of pathogenesis', **funding - \$2 billion, term - 2 years;**
-  - 'Creation of molecular genetic diagnostics for detecting COVID-19 coronavirus strains', **funding - 1.5 billion soums, term - 1 year.**

SOCIAL SUPPORT POLICIES



Under the current conditions, it is vital to support vulnerable segments of the population and guarantee the preservation of jobs during the period of forced cessation of work. The anti-crisis package provides for adoption of the following support measures:



- Parents (substituting persons, guardians, trustees) quarantined with coronavirus infection or suspected of infection, as well as persons caring for their child under the age of 14, are paid temporary disability benefits in the amount of 100 % of the average salary;



- Payment of allowances to families with children, childcare benefits and material assistance, the deadline of which ends in March - June of the current year will be extended by six months without interruption, without requesting an application on their extension for a new term and other documents (but no longer than a child reaches the age of two and 14 years, respectively).



- Employers are prohibited to terminate the employment contract with the employee who is the parent (his/her substitute, guardian, trustee) of a child infected with coronavirus infection or quarantined, and under 14 years of age.



- From April 1, 2020, the number of beneficiaries - families with children under the age of 14 years, those caring for a child under the age of two, and those getting financial support will be increased by 10% or by 60,000;



- Medical, sanitary-epidemiological and other employees will receive a daily supplement of 6% of the monthly official salary for the period of their involvement in measures to counteract the spread of coronavirus infection;



- Employees of budgetary educational, sports and cultural institutions who suspended their activities will get their salaries in time;



- Within a week, it was assigned to take measures to organize a simplified procedure for issuing documents on temporary disability.



- For the period of suspension of preschool and public education institutions, parents (substituting persons, guardians, trustees) of pupils of preschool education institutions and primary school students are granted annual leave (including those who have worked for less than six months), regardless of their annual leave schedule;



- Deadlines for payment of administrative fines applied to persons placed under quarantine (with the exception of liability for violation of quarantine rules) are extended until the end of quarantine;



- For the period of quarantine measures, the List of free basic foodstuffs and hygiene products for lonely elderly and disabled people in need for outside care is supplemented with disposable mask, antiseptic agent and antibacterial soap sets.

The Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan has been additionally assigned to amend the current procedure for the allocation and payment of social benefits in order to streamline the process of assessing the need of families in social benefits, including:



- Reduction of the list of documents enclosed to the application for social benefits;



- Exclusion of individual transfers from the total family income as measures of state social support, and more.

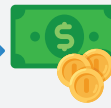
Expenses related to the extension of payment of social benefits and financial assistance are covered by the Anti-Crisis Fund.



Under unfavorable conditions, there are risks of a **1.8%** decrease in Uzbekistan's GDP growth rate this year.



Export is expected to decrease by **\$ 1.1 billion**,



foreign exchange earnings
- by **\$ 500 million**



tourism income
by **\$ 150 million**



delay in the implementation of
foreign-invested projects is
estimated at **\$ 2 billion**.

There are growing risks of non-repayment of 90 billion soums of loans in the hotel business, 650 billion soums in the transport and logistics sector, 180 billion soums in the catering sector, and 3.6 trillion soums at foreign trade enterprises.

In the context of measures to curb the further spread of infection and the development of an unfavorable economic situation on the world market and in Uzbekistan's trade partner countries, the country's leadership has taken action to mitigate the impact of negative effects on the country's economy, and is going to take targeted and specific measures for each industry, region and enterprise.



A Presidential Decree approved a package of anti-crisis measures. Ministry of Finance established an Anti-Crisis Fund of **10 trillion soums**.

It defined the following key areas for using resources:

-  - Financing of measures to combat the spread of coronavirus infection (1 trillion soums);
-  - Support for entrepreneurship and employment (5.5 trillion soums);
-  - Expansion of social support for the population with 0.7 trillion soums of additional funds;
-  - Ensuring the sustainable functioning of economic sectors (2.8 trillion soums)

The Anti-Crisis Fund will be financed from the State Budget of the Republic of Uzbekistan, through cost optimization, soft loans from international financial institutions and other legal sources. The Cabinet of Ministers has been assigned to take measures to draw up to \$ 1 billion in 2020 to support the budget of external borrowings through preferential loans from international financial institutions and other sources.

It is also planned to approve a set of measures to find idle reserves by improving tax and customs administration, ensuring the complete payment of accrued taxes, reducing the shadow economy and introducing new effective forms of tax and customs administration.

By June 1, 2020, the Ministry of Finance is assigned to submit proposals to the Cabinet of Ministers to clarify the parameters of the State Budget of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2020, taking into account the emerging macroeconomic situation and measures taken.

It is planned to review:

- The maximum amount of external government borrowings attracted in 2020;
- An investment program, taking into account the redirection of funds for the implementation of the most priority infrastructure projects that foster the development of entrepreneurship and employment, including engineering communications in small industrial zones.

Ministry of Economy and Industry, Ministry of Finance and the Antimonopoly Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan are assigned to:



- Establish monitoring of the volume of production of raw materials for the production of consumer goods and take measures to raise their representation on the stock exchange to load production capacities;
- Within ten days, compile the list and define the amount of food products needed for importing and intervention by the State Reserves Management Committee under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan;
- Ensure daily monitoring of prices in the markets and establish tough control over the prevention of artificially high prices for socially important food products, creation of shortages and excessive demand for them.

The State Reserves Management Committee under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan is assigned to ensure the sale of food products based on contracts or through exchange trading at a free price and in the amount sufficient for filling the domestic market, as well as stabilize prices for products in the domestic market.

Banking and payment systems

Measures are aimed at ensuring the continuous and stable functioning of the banking and payment system by:

- ✔ - Providing liquidity in the monetary market for a total amount of up to 1 trillion soums per month through active use of monetary policy instruments;
- ✔ - Providing commercial banks with additional liquid resources in the amount of 2.6 trillion soums by facilitation of requirements for mandatory reserves;
- ✔ - Introduction of a special mechanism for providing liquidity to commercial banks with a term of up to three years in the amount of up to two trillion soums.

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 - Uninterrupted supply of ATMs with sufficient cash, as well as by stimulating the development of remote banking services;
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 - By June 1, 2020, commercial banks must provide the results of stress testing of the loan portfolio, as well as the assessment of quality of assets in banks at risk of an increase in problem loans.

Supporting demand and employment through infrastructure construction.

The Anti-Crisis Fund will allocate additional 200 billion soums for the Public Works Fund. The funds will be used for employment and construction of additional infrastructure in communities.

Within a month, it is planned to compile a list of additional infrastructure projects to be implemented in the country's regions in 2020, financed from the Anti-Crisis Fund and providing for construction, reconstruction and repair of:

 <p>infrastructure facilities in small industrial zones totaling 400 billion soums;</p>	 <p>urban and rural streets, current repair of roads totaling 1 trillion soums;</p>
 <p>Water supply and sanitation facilities - 500 billion soums;</p>	 <p>Irrigation and land reclamation facilities - 400 billion soums;</p>
 <p>Health facilities - 500 billion soums;</p>	 <p>Public schools and other social facilities - 800 billion soums;</p>
 <p>Other facilities that foster increased economic activity and employment, including expansion of mortgage lending.</p>	

Support for entrepreneurship



By October 1, 2020, a moratorium is imposed on initiating bankruptcy procedures and declaring bankruptcy by enterprises facing financial difficulties due to restrictive measures to counter the spread of coronavirus infection.

Capitalization of the State Fund for Support of Entrepreneurship is increased to 500 billion soums with an eye to the need to expand the provision of guarantees to business entities and coverage of interest-related loan costs

Until October 1, 2020, the State Entrepreneurship Support Fund provides:

- ✔ - A guarantee on loans issued to business entities with a positive credit history for working capital replenishment up to 75% inclusive of the loan amount, but not more than 10 billion soums, regardless of the number of projects;
- ✔ - Reimbursement of interest expenses on loans issued to business entities in national currency for working capital replenishment with an interest rate not exceeding 1.75 times the basic rate of the Central Bank, while maintaining the established compensation amounts.

The restriction on the provision to one borrower of both guarantee and compensation by the state fund is lifted.

Commercial banks will provide:

- By October 1, 2020 , a total of 5 trillion soums to defer loan repayment (without penalties) for tour operators, hotel business entities, transport and logistics companies and other tourism industry enterprises, as well as business entities experiencing financial difficulties due to restrictions on foreign trade operations;
- Renewable revolving loans to replenish working capital provided to private enterprises, and also to fill the consumer market with essential goods;

In pursuance of the Presidential Decree of March 19, 2020:

- ✔ - 7.9 trillion soums of debts on loans to legal entities have been delayed;
- ✔ - The volume of additionally restructured payments on loans of organizations that faced financial difficulties due to restrictive measures taken in Uzbekistan and in other countries to combat coronavirus, and a sharp decline in economic activity, has been extended to additional 7 trillion soums;
- ✔ - The volume of prolonged payments on loans to individuals and individual entrepreneurs payable in the next six months of 2020 has made up 4.7 trillion soums.

The Central Bank has been assigned with creating conditions and streamlining procedures for:

- ✔ - Granting by commercial banks until October 1, 2020 of deferred payments on loans to legal entities, individuals, and individual entrepreneurs facing financial difficulties;
- ✔ - Lifting sanctions and penalties for overdue loans of borrowers whose activities were adversely affected by the ongoing quarantine regime.

The amount of interest accrued and deferred by commercial banks on loans is not included in the total income when calculating income tax during the period of granted deferment.

It is allowed to hold annual general meetings of shareholders following the results of 2019 until October 1, 2020, as well as via video conferencing.



Ministry of Investments and Foreign Trade and Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of Uzbekistan were assigned to publish within three days an official notice on emergency situation for the period of restrictions, and issue certificates upon requests from business entities within one day.

Fiscal measures



A Presidential Decree approved a wide range of policies to mitigate the negative effects for individuals and legal entities. The policies include:



a) April 1 - October 1, 2020:

- Reducing the minimum amount of social tax to 50% reference calculation value per month for individual entrepreneurs;
- The amount of deductions for wholesalers of alcoholic beverages is reduced from 5 to 3%;
- Fees for the right to retail alcohol products for public catering enterprises are reduced by 25% of the established rates;



b) April 1 - July 1, 2020, the accrual and payment of tourist (hotel) tax is suspended;



c) Tax rates for the use of water resources in the volumes used for agricultural irrigation are reduced in 2020 by 50% of the established rates;



d) The deadline for declaring the total annual income of individuals for 2019 is extended until August 1, 2020;



e) The deadline for paying property tax and land tax by individuals is extended until October 15, 2020;



f) From April 1, 2020, incomes of individuals in the form of financial benefits from charity organizations are exempted from taxation;



g) It is recommended that district and municipal parliaments reduce by 30% the fixed amount of personal income tax for individual entrepreneurs whose activities directly or indirectly depend on the tourism industry;



h) local government authorities are assigned to provide business entities with a six-month deferment (installment plan) for property tax, land tax and tax for the use of water resources without interest.



At the same time, deferral (installment plan) for above taxes is provided based on the taxpayer's application and on the decisions of the heads of regional departments of Ministry of Economy and Industry and Ministry of Finance without requiring other documents.

At the same time, the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Uzbekistan has been assigned to provide monthly reimbursement to local budgets from the Anti-Crisis Fund of shortfalls due to the provision of deferrals (installments) for paying property tax, land tax and water resources tax.

In addition, tax audits of business entities are suspended until January 1, 2021, except for the tax audit conducted in the framework of criminal cases and due to liquidation of a legal entity.



Until October 1, 2020:

- Tax authorities suspend the calculation of interest on property tax, land tax and tax for the use of water resources to business entities experiencing temporary difficulties. They also do not take measures to enforce collection of tax debt.

- Application of penalties to business entities for overdue receivables from foreign trade operations is suspended;



The Decree of April 3 has significantly expanded the tax benefits provided.

From April 1 to December 31, 2020:

a) Tour operators, travel agents and tourism entities providing hotel services (accommodation services), Uzbekistan Airways JSC and its structural divisions, Uzbekistan Airports JSC and Aeronavigation Center State Unitary Enterprise:

- ✔ - Are exempt from land tax for legal entities and legal entities property tax;
- ✔ - Pay social tax at a reduced rate of 1%;

b) Payers of value added tax, whose turnover of goods (services) does not exceed 1 billion soums per month and who use electronic invoices, are entitled to calculate and pay value added tax on a quarterly basis;

c) The procedure for applying increased property tax and land tax rates in relation to idle production areas, non-residential buildings, including those identified before April 1, 2020, as well as interest and penalties for recovering debt arising from the application of increased rates, is suspended on the specified taxes.

The calculation of a fixed amount of personal income tax and social tax is suspended for individual entrepreneurs who have been forced to suspend their activities for the period of quarantine measures, with no need for returning a certificate of state registration and notifying the state tax service of suspending business through a personal taxpayer account.

The right for interest-free deferment (installment plan) of taxes for a period up to October 1, 2020 with notifying tax authorities is granted to micro-firms, small enterprises and individual entrepreneurs who have suspended their activities and (or) whose proceeds from the sale of goods (services) have dropped by more than 50% compared with the monthly average for the first quarter of the current year:

- ✔ - Without reporting to local authorities on turnover tax, property tax, land tax, water resources tax, and with their subsequent payment in equal installments within 12 months;
- ✔ - For social tax, with its subsequent payment in equal installments within 6 months.

The current excise tax rates on alcohol, alcohol products, including wine and beer, as well as excise tax on the sale of gasoline, diesel fuel and gas to the final consumer are effective by the end of 2020.

From April 1, 2020, the mandatory requirement for legal entities to make prepayments for gas and electricity is reduced to 30%.

From April 1, 2020, the value-added tax benefits are applied to taxpayers as provided by decisions of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Cabinet of Ministers, without the precondition of sending the funds exempted from taxation for specific purposes.

The deadline for conducting audits on 2019 outcomes at business entities subject to a mandatory audit is extended until October 1, 2020. The requirement for a mandatory annual audit of limited and additional liability companies with a book value of assets exceeding hundred thousand basic estimated values will be introduced following the results of 2020.

Until the end of 2020, when providing a loan (financial assistance) without obligation to pay interest to the lender, the income to be taxed based on the refinancing rate (base rate) is not subject to inclusion in the total income when calculating income tax and sales tax, and is not taxable, accordingly.

The accrual and collection of rental payments for the use of state property by business entities that have been forced to suspend their activities for the period of the quarantine, is suspended.



Income tax payers are entitled to submit a certificate on the amount of advance payments on income tax starting from the second quarter of 2020 based on the estimated volume, with the cancelation of the requirement for its calculation based on the results of the previous quarter. If facts of abuse of this right are revealed, tax authorities are given the authority to amend the submitted certificates of advance payments of income tax;

FOREIGN ECONOMIC ACTIVITY



An interdepartmental operational headquarters has been established to ensure expedited passage of goods through border customs posts, their uninterrupted customs clearance, and issuance of permits for exported and imported goods;

The Tariff and Non-Tariff Regulation Council, jointly with the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Trade, Ministry of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction, has been entrusted with making proposals for further improving foreign economic activity, paying particular attention to reducing the cost of imported raw materials, accessories, and components used by small businesses for production.





From April 1, 2020, Uzbekistan starts implementing a mechanism for accelerated customs clearance of imported food products, including a procedure for issuing permits before the goods arrive on the territory of the republic.

Until December 31, 2020:



- Zero rates of customs duty and excise tax are established for importing 20 categories of goods, including meat, milk, butter, onions, flour, sugar, gauze, hygiene products, ALV devices, and others.



- Building materials needed for the construction of medical and quarantine institutions to combat coronavirus infection, as well as goods necessary for their functioning, are exempted from customs duties, including value added tax, by December 31, 2020.

COVID-2019 rapid tests are not charged a customs clearance fee when imported.

The Republican Commission for Building Export Capacity in the Regions and Industries was assigned to approve effective measures of targeted support for exporters within two weeks, as well as to ensure timely identification and prompt resolution of the issues challenging exporters of all forms of ownership.



By October 1, 2020, the Commission is entitled to independently make decisions on the provision of subsidies to reimburse part of transport costs of exporters from the funds allocated to the Export Promotion Agency

Business entities are allowed to:

- export goods without guarantee payment with the overdue receivables not exceeding 10% of the total export of goods for the reporting year;

- during 2020, conduct one-time operations on importing technological equipment and raw materials alternatively to the repayment of overdue receivables from foreign trade operations.



It is also assigned to revise loan repayment schedules of Uzbekistan Airways JSC in the amount of \$ 111 million within a month with suspension of debt payments for 2020, as well as to hold negotiations with foreign creditors of Uzbekistan Airways within two months to review the terms of loan repayment and related payments due to emergency situation.

Prior to adoption of the anti-crisis package, the following measures have been taken:

- ✓ 1. Tourism companies, public organizations and large industrial enterprises have been recommended to suspend domestic tourism activities until the spread of coronavirus in the republic is stabilized.
- ✓ 2. The production of facial masks will be increased 10 times to relieve their shortage in pharmacies. Exports of masks have been suspended since March 16.
- ✓ 3. Responsible ministries and departments daily monitor prices for foods and medications, make test purchases in the markets, hyper markets and pharmacies.
- ✓ 4. In order to mitigate possible negative effects for business entities, like repayment of attracted loans amid the spread of coronavirus infection, the Central Bank recommended to all commercial banks:

- to thoroughly study the possibility of repaying loans by enterprises that faced a decrease in cash flows and delay in the implementation of projects due to the spread of coronavirus infection, including enterprises engaged in tourism industry and international cargo transportation, business entities with major counterparties in countries most affected by coronavirus infection, and also enterprises to be likely endangered by negative effects of preventive measures in Uzbekistan;

- based on the results of a study of real cash flows and customer capabilities, as well as the expected timing of projects, it is recommended to review the amendments to the terms of the loan agreement to provide a grace period for the repayment of the principal debt on the loan until October 1, 2020, and to extend the deadlines for payments, based on the grace period granted.

At the same time, commercial banks were empowered not to change the classification of loan quality, the terms of which were revised based on of the above recommendations.



The Central Bank of Uzbekistan recommended that the population preferably used non-cash payment and electronic banking services due to the spread of coronavirus, as well as remote banking methods of payment, including Internet banking, mobile banking applications and payment systems.

Measures to support the educational process.



To enable children to study during the holidays, the Government Commission entrusted the Ministry of Public Education and the National Television and Radio Company of Uzbekistan with preparing and organizing broadcasting of video lessons in accordance with the curriculum. A working group of specialists prepared video lessons and has already launched daily broadcasts.



Video lessons are broadcasted on the channels of the National Television and Radio Company of Uzbekistan and published on the official pages (@uzedu) and website (www.uzedu.uz) of the Ministry of Public Education of Uzbekistan. The Ministry will notify of the schedule of video lessons on its official resources and through the Kundalik system (kundalik.com).

Before preparing video lessons, the Ministry of Public Education and the Republican Education Center, together with experienced teachers, developed recommendations for self-study during the holidays. The recommendations are now published on the official website of the Ministry.





March 24, 2020, marked the launch of online subject competitions among 4-11 grade students, students of academic lyceums and professional colleges in such subjects as mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology and information technology.



Students participate in the competitions voluntarily and free of charge. For that, the participants had to register on **olympiad.uzedu.uz** and receive confirmation from the administration of their educational institution.

National solidarity

In the emerging situation, public and non-governmental institutions, business entities, seek to support the population. It is highly relevant to support distance learning for students and free access to public information.



Center for Economic Research and Reform under the Administration of the President has provided free access to all issues of the Economic Review journal over the past five years. All 62 issues of the Economic Review journal from 2015 to 2020 are available in digital format.

Mobile operator Mobiuz has begun to provide non-fare Internet traffic for seven news sites of Uzbekistan. The company also opened free access to a number of educational information resources.

mobiuz



Mobile operator Beeline Uzbekistan has reset the cost of Internet billing when using five popular online news editions in Uzbekistan.

Beeline™

The Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of Uzbekistan transferred entrepreneurial courses in distance mode. Distance learning is organized on CCI Internet resources. Public services are provided free of charge.