

## Cooperation of Uzbekistan With the USA and Pakistan in Solving Problems in Afghanistan

*Kasimov Mutalib*

*Tashkent State University of Oriental Studies Free Applicant*

### ANNOTATION

*In this article, Uzbekistan's cooperation with the United States and Pakistan in solving the problems of the neighboring state of Afghanistan will be analyzed on the basis of the latest materials. Previously unannounced data will be provided. The main attention will be paid to the role of cooperation of these three states for Afghanistan.*

**KEYWORDS:** *cooperation, neighboring state, economic partnership, security, initiative, stability, peace, humanitarian aid.*

Every day, our country's cooperation with the United States and Pakistan in solving the problems of Afghanistan in the new Uzbekistan is expanding. Because the stable development of the countries of Central Asia is directly related to the stabilization of the situation in Afghanistan. Therefore, as the President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev emphasizes almost at every opportunity, it is impossible to talk about a peaceful and highly developed Central Asia without solving the Afghan problem.

The decisive contribution of Uzbekistan to the intensification of the intra-Afghan peace process was the international conference on the theme "Peace process, security cooperation and regional partnership", held in March 2018 in Tashkent at the initiative of the head of our state.

For example, on July 21, 2022, President Sh. Mirziyev in the city of Issyk-Kul of Kyrgyzstan focused on the problems in Afghanistan and said:

“Continuing close cooperation in promoting long-term peace and social and economic reconstruction in Afghanistan must remain our top priority.

We, as the closest neighbors of this country, should first of all be interested in the stability of this land. How this problem will be perceived by the international community depends largely on us.

We also stand for the active development of trade relations with this country, its involvement in the economic processes in our region, the expansion of humanitarian assistance to the Afghan people, and the promotion of important social and infrastructure projects<sup>1</sup>.

Of course, it will be difficult for Uzbekistan alone to restore the infrastructure of a country that has been at war for almost 40 years. To do this, it is necessary to establish large-scale cooperation not only with the countries of the region, but also with the United States, as well as with Pakistan, whose religious and spiritual affinity is very similar to Afghanistan.

**Development of modern cooperation between Uzbekistan and the United States in various fields** is highlighted in the works of various researchers. For example, the article “Uzbekistan-USA: a new era of strategic partnership” published in the issue of the Narodnoye Slovo newspaper dated July 23, 2020, co-authored with a doctor of political sciences, (PhD) Professor Gregory Gleason,

<sup>1</sup> <https://kun.uz/news/2022/07/21/ozaro-savdo-oziq-ovqat-xavfsizligi-ekologiya-va-afgoniston-shavkat-mirziyoyev-cholponota-uchrashuvida-nimalar-haqida-gapirdi>

<https://cejsr.academicjournal.io>

Professor Saifiddin Juraev, Candidate of Economic Sciences, Associate Professor Elyar Makhmudov is distinguished by deep analysis, despite its compactness. But this article does not indicate the role of this cooperation in the Afghan problem.

Regular work is being done in this direction. Issues of regional security were also raised during the visit of Sh. Mirziyoyev to the United States in May 2018. Then the parties expressed their determination to strengthen cooperation in the fight against extremism and terrorism, common global threats.

The visit of US Secretary of State Michael Pompeo to Uzbekistan on February 3, 2020 can be considered one of the unique events between the two countries. During this visit, the ground was to be prepared for a new stage of strategic cooperation between the parties.

During the visit, a new strategy for Central Asia for 2019-2025, prepared by the US State Department, was announced. The main principles of this strategy include: strengthening the independence of the countries of the region; Unification of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (Currently the name of the country is the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan - M.K.) with Central Asia; This includes promoting human rights and investment reforms in the region.<sup>2</sup>

In relations between the US and Uzbekistan, serious attention is paid to multilateral cooperation in monitoring the situation in Afghanistan. Washington recognizes Uzbekistan's active efforts to resolve conflicts in Afghanistan. Tashkent's path to reconcile Kabul with the country's main political forces, including the Taliban, is acceptable to many. In addition, on May 27, 2020, the first trilateral meeting between Uzbekistan - the United States - Afghanistan was held in the form of a videoconference<sup>3</sup>.

On June 30, 2020, the US Secretary of State, the foreign ministers of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, during the high-level dialogue in the C5 + 1 format, agreed on the following.

**The C5+1 program of work include:**

**Firstly**, continue to strengthen joint work under the Framework Agreement on Trade and investments (Trade and Investment Framework Agreement - TIFA).

The Economic Working Group seeks to create an enabling environment for women in the economy, where C5+1 see women as active participants in economic recovery and prosperity. The economic working group will also discuss areas such as health, agriculture, tourism, transport, information technology, financial transparency and sustainability.

**Secondly**, the participants agreed to create opportunities for expert meetings of working groups within the framework of the C5+1 format on cooperation in the field of improving air and water quality, in order to strengthen cooperation in the field of energy and the environment, using renewable energy sources and attracting private sector investments.

The Security Working Group seeks to enhance security and ensure a significant presence in peacebuilding and maintenance, conflict resolution, and countering terrorism and violent extremism. The Security Working Group will also consider conducting trainings on countering violent extremism, countering terrorist networks engaged in online recruitment, and enabling C5+1 countries to meet their international obligations.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>2</sup>The United States published a new strategy for Central Asia for 2019-2025 Gazeta.uz 06.02.20

<sup>3</sup>Uzbekistan, the United States and Afghanistan step up the fight against COVID-19, terrorism and drug trafficking Gazeta.uz 06.02.20 available [www https://www.gazeta.uz/ru/2020/08/13/safety/](https://www.gazeta.uz/ru/2020/08/13/safety/)

<sup>4</sup><https://uz.usembassy.gov/ru/joint-statement-for-the-press-on-c51-high-level-dialogue-ru/>

<https://cejsr.academicjournal.io>

In our opinion, it seems doubtful why the United States, which leads this group, did not include Pakistan, its longtime partner, in the C5+1.

A unique event in 2021 can be called the gradual withdrawal of military forces from Afghanistan and the resulting increase in instability in the country and the rise of the Taliban. Therefore, in May of this year, negotiations were continued with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan A. Komilov and the Special Representative of the US President for Afghanistan, Zalmay Khalilzod.

On August 31, 2021, the US almost completed the withdrawal of its troops from Afghanistan. But on August 15 of this year, the whole of Afghanistan (except for the Panjshir region, which is under the control of Ahmad Masud - M.K.) was already in the hands of the Taliban.

Formerly known as the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan is now known as the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan. However, the fact that so far no country has officially recognized this state suggests that no one can say what will happen in this area. We say this because on August 15, 2022, the Taliban celebrated the first anniversary of the independence of their country, but not a single country, including Uzbekistan, congratulated the Taliban on this occasion.

After the completion of the withdrawal of American troops, the President of the United States declared that the intended goal in this country has been achieved - that is, the complete destruction of Al-Qaeda. If the implication is that al-Qaeda still has a relationship with the Taliban, then this idea cannot be trusted.

Interestingly, media representatives asked Biden: "Do you believe in the Taliban?" He answers "No" to such questions. He also states that he does not believe the Taliban will take over Afghanistan because 300,000 well-trained government troops with US help are facing 75,000 Taliban, but subsequent developments have shown that his promises (to take responsibility for Afghan citizens, etc.) were completely unfounded.

In addition, the fact that the US left \$85 billion worth of weapons and military equipment to the Taliban while "escaping" from Afghanistan shows that the US still has long-term goals in Afghanistan.<sup>5</sup> The reason we say this is because, according to The Washington Post, shortly before the Americans left, CIA director William Burns held a secret meeting with Mullah Abdul Ghani Barodar in Kabul. It is not yet known what they were talking about.<sup>6</sup>

**As for today's relations between Uzbekistan and Pakistan**, then, according to Farhat Asif, President of the Pakistan Institute for Peace and Diplomacy, "for many centuries, the inhabitants of the land on which the current state of Pakistan is located were inspired by the inhabitants of the country where Uzbekistan is today, their history, culture, lifestyle and idea, supported mutual trade relations. Merchants and Sufis traveled from the great cities of Samarkand and Bukhara to the Indus Valley and its environs, spreading knowledge and not only trading, but also exchanging ideas and views. Several mystics traveled throughout South Asia and brought the true ideas and meaning of Islam to the people, and promoted religious tolerance, harmony and human respect throughout the region."<sup>7</sup>

Today, relations between our countries have reached a very high level. In Afghanistan, there are

---

<sup>5</sup><https://www.gazeta.uz/ru/2021/07/09/afghanistan/>

<sup>6</sup> Vladimir Malyshev, On both sides of the Panj, or the US New Game. <https://vpoanalytics.com/2021/09/07/po-obestorony-pyandzha-ili-novaya-igra-ssha/>

<sup>7</sup> Uzbekiston va Pokistonni chuquur tarihiy va fight meros umumiyligi birlashtiradi | Uzbekiston Respublikasi Prezidenti Huzuridagi Strategist va mintaqalararo tadqiqotlar institute (isrs.uz)

<https://cejsr.academicjournal.io>

common interests and common views on the establishment of peace, the protection of human rights and many other issues. As for the socio-economic sphere, I would like to note that bilateral trade has already exceeded \$100 million and should reach a new level after the situation in Afghanistan improves.

The visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan to Uzbekistan and the close relations between the leaders of the two countries will stimulate the further development of mutual cooperation. Pakistan has taken bold and deliberate steps under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan. In particular, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is developing, as it will not only be useful for the country, but will also create great opportunities for regional and international investors.

Pakistan, which is one of the countries trying to strengthen its position in Central Asia, sees Uzbekistan as an equal strategic partner. One reason for this is that Uzbekistan is the most populous country in Central Asia, rich in material resources and occupying an important geostrategic space.

Diplomatic relations between Uzbekistan and Pakistan were established in 1992. In this context, despite the intensive dialogue between the countries in the political and economic spheres (visits of high-ranking delegations, the signing of agreements and other joint documents), clear bilateral interaction was limited. One of the reasons for this was a geographical reason - the lack of a common border, the need to ensure "Afghan transit", as well as political reasons - the inclination of the two countries during the Cold War years to different sides - Uzbekistan to the USSR, and Pakistan to the USA, therefore there was no political dialogues. The "Afghan factor" was a problem not only in the economic but also in the political sphere.

In addition, Uzbekistan and Pakistan supported various forces due to internal problems in Afghanistan, Pakistan supported the field commander Gulbiddin Hekmatyar, and Uzbekistan supported the forces of the Northern Alliance, mainly Uzbeks under the leadership of Abdurashid Dostum.

It should also be noted that in 1989-2000, among the countries of Central Asia, Uzbekistan made a rather painless transition to a market economy. For example, in 1989-1996, the fall in gross domestic product (GDP) was 17% in Uzbekistan, 49% in Tajikistan, 48% in Kyrgyzstan, 43% in Kazakhstan, and 29% in Turkmenistan.<sup>8</sup>

In general, trade and economic cooperation between the two countries is based on geographical and economic factors. As a landlocked transit country, Pakistan occupies an important place in the export of goods of Uzbekistan, while Uzbekistan is of interest to Pakistani investors due to its developed infrastructure, quality cotton, gas reserves, and a large number of cheap labor. Promising areas for both countries may be the establishment of cooperation in the field of energy, gas pipelines, textiles, infrastructure, medicine, and ferrous metallurgy.

On March 3, 2022, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev arrived in Pakistan on a state visit. On March 4, together with the Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Shahbaz Sharif, Uzbekistan and Pakistan signed an agreement on the development of a strategic partnership.

During the visit, the importance of starting the construction of the strategic railway "Termez - Mazar-i Sharif - Kabul - Peshawar", going to international seaports through the territory of Pakistan, was emphasized.

We believe that the Termez-Mazar-i-Sharif-Kabul-Peshawar railway, which is called the "project of

---

<sup>8</sup>Azmat Hayat Khan, Shabir Ahmad Khan. Pak-Uzbek trade and economic relations. Area Study Center (Russia, China & Central Asia). University of Peshawar. September, 2006.

<https://cejsr.academicjournal.io>

the century”, will contribute to the overall development of not only our countries, but also the peoples of our vast regions,” said Shavkat Mirziyoyev.

The SCO pays special attention to cooperation between Uzbekistan and Pakistan in the development of Afghanistan. In particular, at the summit of the SCO member countries, held in Samarkand on September 15-17, 2022, the leader of our country expressed a number of advanced ideas.

In particular, the President of Uzbekistan called Afghanistan "an integral part of the SCO space." "Our moral duty is to extend a helping hand to it, help it integrate into regional and global development processes and thereby create favorable conditions for its exit from the long-term crisis", "Afghanistan, which has played the role of a buffer in conflicts between global states and regional centers of power for centuries, now it must prove itself in a new peaceful mission, acting as a bridge connecting Central and South Asia."

Based on the above opinions of the heads of state and politicians, Uzbekistan should continue to make available efforts to ensure peace in Afghanistan and establish good neighborliness, comprehensive, mutually beneficial economic cooperation with this country, and for these purposes, improve its relations with the United States and Pakistan. to the conclusion about the desire to strengthen.

#### References:

1. <https://kun.uz/news/2022/07/21/ozaro-savdo-oziq-ovqat-xavfsizligi-ekologiya-va-afgoniston-shavkat-mirziyoyev-cholponota-uchrashuvida-nimalar-haqida-gapirdi>
2. The United States published a new strategy for Central Asia for 2019-2025 Gazeta.uz 06.02.20
3. Uzbekistan, USA and Afghanistan step up fight against COVID-19, terrorism and drug trafficking Gazeta.uz 06.02.20 available [wwwhttps://www.gazeta.uz/ru/2020/08/13/safety/](https://www.gazeta.uz/ru/2020/08/13/safety/)
4. <https://uz.usembassy.gov/ru/joint-statement-for-the-press-on-c51-high-level-dialogue-ru/>
5. <https://www.gazeta.uz/ru/2021/07/09/afghanistan/>
6. *Vladimir Malyshev*, On both sides of the Panj, or the US New Game. <https://vpoanalytics.com/2021/09/07/po-obe-storony-pyandzha-ili-novaya-igra-ssha/>
7. Uzbekiston va Pokistonni chuquur tarihiy va fight meros umumiyligi birlashtiradi | Uzbekiston Respublikasi Prezidenti Huzuridagi Strategist va mintaqalararo tadqiqotlar institute (isrs.uz)
8. Azmat Hayat Khan, Shabir Ahmad Khan. Pak-Uzbek trade and economic relations. Area Study Center (Russia, China & Central Asia). University of Peshawar. September, 2006.