

**UZBEKISTAN 'S FOREIGN POLICY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
OUR NATIONAL INTERESTS****Khamdam Akhmedov**

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Abstract: *Today, the term "New Uzbekistan" is accepted in the international arena not only as a new concept, but also as a real social phenomenon. Such achievements and results, which are the result of the enormous legal opportunities created by our Constitution, certainly give us great pride and honor.*

It should be noted that the Constitution is an encyclopedic document that defines the independence of our people, the peaceful and peaceful life, the restoration of our national values, history and culture, as well as the guarantees of human rights and freedoms.

At the same time, our Constitution is the sum of our national interests, which embodies the development of our country, ensuring the welfare and security of our people, strengthening our sovereignty, our country's activity as an equal subject in international relations.

In addition, radical changes and large-scale reforms in all spheres of state and public life, including the strengthening of the rule of law and human rights, the development of an economy based on free market relations and the priority of private property, cooperation with far and near abroad. Our Constitution serves as an important basis for the establishment of mutually beneficial relations.

Key words: *international law, free market relations, national interests, foreign policy, priority line, resolution.*

Today, Uzbekistan's active foreign policy, based on the principles and norms of international law enshrined in the Constitution, aimed at peaceful, friendly and mutually beneficial cooperation, is a logical continuation of our domestic policy. It lays the foundation for further strengthening our independence, ensuring peace and national harmony of citizens, sustainable economic development of our country and full demonstration of its potential in the international arena.

What is the manifestation of Uzbekistan's foreign policy aimed at achieving the above-mentioned tasks and national interests?

First of all, this is a completely new foreign policy pursued by Uzbekistan in Central Asia in recent years. As the head of our state Shavkat Mirziyoyev noted, the development and strengthening of friendly, close neighborly and mutually beneficial relations with the Central Asian states has been identified as a priority of our foreign policy. The main goal is to create an environment of peace, stability and security in the region and create conditions for the well-being of peoples.

The international conference on security and sustainable development in Central Asia under the auspices of the United Nations in 2017 in Samarkand on "Central Asia: common history and common future, cooperation for sustainable development and progress" was held to mark a new stage in regional

relations. The spirit of Samarkand, formed after the historic event, laid a great foundation.

As a result, in a short period of time, thanks to the joint efforts of the peoples of Central Asia, an atmosphere of friendship, good neighborliness and cooperation has been created in the region.

Political confidence has risen to a high level. This allows for the effective solution of vital problems in the region. The leadership of Uzbekistan pursues a consistent, well-thought-out and proactive foreign policy in this direction.

It should be noted that the positive developments in Central Asia serve to increase the region's place and prestige in the world community. First of all, for example, the UN adopted a resolution "Strengthening regional and international cooperation to ensure peace, stability and sustainable development in Central Asia."

One of the important aspects of this resolution, adopted at the initiative of Uzbekistan, is that this document demonstrates the determination and strong political will of all Central Asian leaders to further strengthen the atmosphere of trust and good neighborliness in the region.

Second, for the first time, the priorities of cooperation in the region were identified by the Central Asian countries in an international document, uniting them into a common and holistic consensus. At the same time, the adoption of the resolution confirmed the readiness of the Central Asian countries to take full responsibility for the fate of the region. For the first time, the goals and interests of the Central Asian states emerged as a single region.

As a logical continuation of this idea, experts from the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace acknowledge that the processes taking place in the region can be seen as an attempt to find the uniqueness of a renewed Central Asia. The current regional closeness and friendly relations are a positive development for the first time since the independence of the Central Asian states.

The growing importance and role of Central Asia in the world community can be seen in the fact that various formats of dialogue are being established in the region and between other foreign countries or international organizations. Among the existing communication formats, such as "Central Asia - USA", "Central Asia - EU", "Central Asia - Republic of Korea", "Central Asia - Japan", in recent years, "Central Asia - India", "Central Asia - China" and New formats such as "Central Asia - Russian Federation" have been added.

What does this indicate?

First of all, the completely new environment created as a result of the positive changes in the region shows that the world's leading countries are paying more attention to Central Asia. now, foreign countries are focusing not only on bilateral cooperation with the countries of the region, but also on the development of a single regional multilateral relationship.

Also, through the "Central Asia and +" formats, the groundwork is being laid for the implementation of common goals, based on the common needs of the region.

This, in turn, is a major step towards ensuring peace, stability and sustainable development in Central Asia, taking into account the interests of all countries in the region. At the same time, the formation of new formats between the region and other states and international institutions is leading to the growing geopolitical and economic importance of Central Asia, as well as the region as a whole political and diplomatic entity in international relations.

This, in turn, ensures the stability of the region, increases its investment attractiveness, and opens wide opportunities for cooperation with foreign countries and investors. At present, the new

environment between Uzbekistan and the countries of the region is bearing fruit in all directions.

Political, trade-economic, rational use of transboundary water resources, border delimitation and demarcation of the border crossing points, such as the most urgent problems in an open and friendly atmosphere, the countries of the region to solve the problem.

Here are some examples:

The trade turnover between Uzbekistan and the countries of the region in 2016 amounted to 2,4 billion US dollars, and by 2019 this figure will reach 5,2 billion US dollars. Despite the pandemic, the trade turnover in January-October this year amounted to 3,8 billion US dollars.

Another evidence of the rapid development of trade, economic and investment relations between Uzbekistan and Central Asia is the growth in the number of joint ventures and foreign capital. For example, in 2017, the number of enterprises with the capital of Central Asian countries in the territory of Uzbekistan was 312, and by July of this year this number increased 4 times to 1,357.

As a result of the removal of some barriers at the border checkpoints, relations between the citizens of Uzbekistan and Central Asia have radically improved. For comparison, 5 years ago, 200-300 people crossed the border between Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan a day, but now this number has reached 30,000.

20,000 people cross the border with Tajikistan every day. All this is the result of favorable conditions created for the peoples of the region.

At the same time, it should be noted that due to the friendly and good-neighborly environment in the Central Asian region, the investment and economic potential of the region is growing. In particular, the investment attractiveness of the Central Asian countries has improved, and in 2019 the economies of the region attracted \$ 37,6 billion in foreign investment. This figure is 40 percent higher than in 2016. In turn, the foreign trade turnover of the countries of the region with foreign countries in 2019 increased by 56% compared to 2016 and amounted to 168 billion US dollars. The number of citizens visiting the countries of the region exceeded 18 million in 2019, an increase of 93% compared to 2016.

The improvement of these indicators, in turn, leads to rapid growth of the region's GDP. In particular, compared to 2016, in 2019 the region's GDP grew by 19,6% to 302,8 billion US dollars.

According to The Diplomat, the election of Shavkat Mirziyoyev as President of the Republic of Uzbekistan has led to a complete improvement of regional relations in Central Asia. - The first practical steps in the foreign policy of the President of Uzbekistan have taken the relations with neighboring countries to a new level by resolving the existing problems in a constructive way. As a result, Central Asia is becoming a region of opportunity.

When it comes to Uzbekistan's regional foreign policy, another important area is undoubtedly the situation in Afghanistan. As the head of our state Shavkat Mirziyoyev noted, Afghanistan is a part of the Central Asian region, and the peoples of the two countries have lived in a single cultural and civilizational space for centuries.

It should be noted that the international conference on Afghanistan, held in March 2018 in Tashkent, has given impetus to the efforts of the world community to establish peace in Afghanistan.

The Tashkent Declaration adopted at the end of the conference demonstrated a common position at the regional and global levels on the urgent need for direct peace talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban.

Undoubtedly, the priority of Uzbekistan's foreign policy in ensuring peace and stability in

Afghanistan is to carry out comprehensive efforts in this direction with the Central Asian states. In turn, in recent years, new regional cooperation in Central Asia has led to the formation of a common position on Afghanistan. In particular, in January 2018, the UN Security Council hosted a special meeting with the participation of Central Asian foreign ministers on "Establishing regional cooperation in Afghanistan and Central Asia as an interdependent model of security and development."

In addition, the Joint Statement adopted within the framework of the Second Consultative Meeting of Central Asian Leaders in Tashkent in 2019 reflected the interest of all countries in establishing peace in Afghanistan. At the same time, the countries of the region stressed the importance of continuing efforts to involve Afghanistan in trade, economic and infrastructure projects in Central Asia.

It should be noted that Tashkent's renewed policy and initiatives in the direction of Afghanistan are well received throughout Afghanistan - by the people of the country, the official government, various political forces.

As a result of the intensification of relations between Uzbekistan and Afghanistan, bilateral trade and economic ties have significantly intensified. In particular, the trade turnover between the two countries in 2019 amounted to 617 million US dollars, which is 28% higher than in 2015. The intensification of trade and economic relations has also had a positive impact on the transport and logistics sector. For example, by 2019, rail freight volumes increased by 10 percent to 1,1 million tons.

Cooperation between the two countries is also intensifying in the energy sector. In particular, Uzbekistan has increased the supply of electricity to Afghanistan by 30 times compared to 2002.

Another important aspect of bilateral relations is the training of qualified Afghan personnel. To this end, a training center for Afghan citizens was opened in Termez in 2018, and today 136 Afghan students have graduated. These graduates are currently working in the Afghan parliament, ministries and departments. Currently, 172 Afghan students are studying at the training center in Termez. noteworthy is that 46 of them are Afghan girls.

According to experts from the German Foundation for Science and Policy, Uzbekistan's foreign policy in the region, including in Afghanistan, makes the country attractive to investors and a reliable partner in the international community. According to German experts, the completely new reforms in Uzbekistan's domestic and foreign policy not only have a positive impact on the socio-economic development of the country, but also lead to the recognition of Uzbekistan as one of the most important countries in the international arena.

Third, as a result of its initiatives and practical actions in solving global and global problems, Uzbekistan is recognized as a strategic and reliable partner by international organizations and states. In particular, on December 12, 2018, the plenary session of the UN General Assembly adopted a special resolution entitled "Enlightenment and Religious Tolerance." The draft document was developed by Uzbekistan and unanimously supported by all UN member states. It should be noted that the adoption of this historic resolution was a practical manifestation of the initiative put forward by President Shavkat Mirziyoyev at the 72nd session of the UN General Assembly in September 2017 in New York.

At the same time, in October this year, Uzbekistan was elected for the first time as a member of the UN Human Rights Council. In order to further develop this area in our country, the National Human Rights Strategy and the "Roadmap" for its implementation have been approved. At the heart of these

initiatives are the principles of human rights guaranteed by the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, ie equality of citizens of our country, regardless of gender, race, nationality, language, religion, social origin. plays an important role.

In general, the combination of principles and tasks set forth in our Constitution is the basis for the positive product of the regional and global foreign policy pursued by Uzbekistan today. most importantly, the foreign policy of the country serves to ensure the highest interests, welfare and security of the state and the people.

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