

FOREIGN POLICY AND BILATERAL COOPERATION RELATIONS OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

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Abstract

This article is devoted to the new foreign policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan, which examines the main goals of the foreign policy activities of the Republic of Uzbekistan, analyzes the priority directions of foreign policy set out in the new development strategy of Uzbekistan for 2022-2026, identifies the specific features of the new foreign policy of Uzbekistan, and also draws theoretical conclusions on this issue.

Keywords: Foreign policy, main goals of foreign policy activities, Republic of Uzbekistan, priority areas of foreign policy, specific features of foreign policy.

Introduction

From the first days of independence, Uzbekistan began to develop the conceptual and constitutional-legal framework of its foreign policy, which laid the foundation for the establishment of the foreign relations bodies of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The conceptual and legislative framework of the foreign policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan is constantly being improved based on new problems and threats.

In 2012, in order to further improve the conceptual foundations of Uzbekistan's foreign policy, respond in a timely and adequate manner to threats and problems

in the region and the world as a whole, and strengthen the country's national security.

In accordance with the concept, Uzbekistan pursues a peace-loving policy and does not participate in military-political blocs, and reserves the right to withdraw from any interstate education in the event of its transformation into a military-political bloc. Uzbekistan takes political, economic and measures to prevent its involvement in armed conflicts and hotbeds of tension in neighboring countries, and also does not allow the placement of foreign military bases and facilities on its territory. Globalization, the movement of centers of gravity, the threat of international terrorism, the intensification of disagreements between different states, and issues of regional and national security require the adoption of appropriate measures.

At the same time, the range of opinions is very wide, giving rise to many discussions about the foreign policy of the new Uzbekistan and its fundamental differences from the course of previous years. In our opinion, today we can confidently speak about the emergence of the phenomenon of the new foreign policy of Uzbekistan.

DISCUSSION AND RESULTS

The main goal of the new foreign policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan is to strengthen the independence and sovereignty of the state, its place and role in the international arena, create an environment of security, stability and good neighborliness around it, and actively promote the foreign political and foreign economic interests of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The priorities of the new Uzbek foreign policy were first outlined in the Strategy of Actions in Five Priority Areas of Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2017-2021. This document formulated the following important priorities of the country's foreign policy:

strengthening the independence and sovereignty of the state, further strengthening the country's place and role as a full-fledged subject of international relations, joining the ranks of developed democratic states, ensuring security around Uzbekistan,
creating a region of stability and good neighborly relations;

Strengthening the international reputation of the Republic of Uzbekistan, providing the world community with objective information about the reforms being implemented in the country;

-Improving the regulatory and legal framework of Uzbekistan's foreign policy and economic activities, as well as the contractual and legal framework of its international cooperation;

Regulation of issues of delimitation and demarcation of the state border of Uzbekistan.

Today, in a period of fundamental changes, our President Sh.M. Mirziyoyev has set new, more important and urgent goals and objectives of foreign policy, which are reflected in the development strategy of the new Uzbekistan for 2022-2026.

This document defined the following priority goals of our country's foreign policy:

increasing the country's role as an equal subject of international relations;

Bringing close cooperation in Central Asia, security, trade and economic, water, energy, transport, and cultural and humanitarian sectors to a high level of quality; further developing relations with our traditional partners, prioritizing the expansion of the geography of foreign relations, and strengthening economic diplomacy;

Strengthening Uzbekistan's active participation in the activities of the United Nations bodies and institutions, global and regional economic, financial and humanitarian organizations;

Membership in the World Trade Organization and deepening integration processes with the Eurasian Economic Union;

increasing the effectiveness of information provision aimed at improving the image of our country in the world community;

-improve the regulatory and legal framework of foreign political and economic activity and the contractual and legal framework of international cooperation;

Improving the system of providing services to Uzbek citizens abroad by diplomatic missions and consular institutions of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Currently, Uzbekistan's new foreign policy is being implemented based on the rapidly changing situation in the world and the region, as well as large-scale changes within the country. An open, consistent and well-thought-out foreign policy is being implemented, which allows us to effectively promote our country's national interests and find solutions to modern international problems.

The Republic of Uzbekistan, as a full-fledged subject of international relations, has established bilateral and multilateral cooperation with many countries of the near and far abroad. Today, Uzbekistan maintains relations with many foreign countries in the diplomatic, consular, economic, trade, cultural, educational and other humanitarian spheres, receives and guides its representatives, concludes mutually beneficial international agreements, and is a member of various international organizations.

The scope of our country's cooperation is being built on a multilateral and broad basis, which currently covers all five continents of the world. It should be noted that our country is trying to expand the sphere of diplomacy in its foreign policy. This is not only a goal, but also a means of quickly responding to the needs of the country's internal development, the stability of our country's economy, and the processes taking place in the world.

As the Republic of Uzbekistan develops close relations with foreign countries, international relations have a positive impact not only on the life of society as a whole, but also on each citizen, that is, humanitarian relations and public diplomacy are developing rapidly. Now, for the citizens of our country, especially our young people, wide opportunities have opened up for unhindered travel to any country in the world for work, study and tourism. As a practical example, our government has allowed thousands of our compatriots, Muslims and representatives of other religions, to visit our country and their places of worship. The globalization processes of modern life create favorable conditions for the development of international relations in the field of human rights. I would like to dwell in particular on the work carried out in Uzbekistan in this area. On July 15, 2019, Uzbekistan approved the National Action Plan of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the implementation of the provisions of the UN Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training and will implement the 5th measure specified in its roadmap.

The promotion, protection and observance of human rights in Uzbekistan are one of the priority areas of state policy. Within the framework of the National Strategy of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Human Rights, targeted measures are being implemented in the field of ensuring personal, political, economic, social and cultural rights. At the same time, important steps have been taken to improve human rights education.

In order to effectively implement the tasks set out in the National Human Rights Strategy of the Republic of Uzbekistan, taking into account the obligations assumed by the country within the framework of international documents, as well as new issues and problems arising from the pandemic and its consequences, the issue of organizing human rights education is being put on the agenda, reflecting new approaches, methodologies and practices. In this regard, the Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. PQ-46 dated February 7, 2023 on approving the National Human Rights Education Program in the Republic of Uzbekistan was adopted . Raising awareness of young people in the field of human rights and freedoms.

The expansion of cooperation between states leads to the deepening of their mutual legal systems and their interaction with international law. A large number of international norms influence the formation of the domestic legislation of states.

In recent years, Uzbekistan has implemented many constructive initiatives aimed at establishing peace and stability in Afghanistan. Uzbekistan has expressed its position that the Afghan problem cannot be solved by military force, and that peace and stability in Afghanistan can only be achieved through political means and negotiations.

The President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh. M. Mirziyoyev raised at the 72nd and 75th sessions of the UN General Assembly issues of great importance in ensuring peace and security in our region and the world as a whole, environmental protection (especially the Aral Sea problem), the economy, youth, education and medicine, and called for further development and intensification of cooperation with the UN on priority tasks that require constant joint efforts of the entire world community so that these areas serve the interests of humanity. Their full and effective implementation in our country requires, first of all, a deep understanding of their meaning by members of our society. Undoubtedly, the Republic of Uzbekistan always supports the activities of the UN and is more active in enhancing its position.

Today, the important task is to unite South Asia and Central Asia, the idea of solving the Afghan problem, and to help the world community launch a peace process in this country. As the only country with a direct border with Afghanistan, our country is well aware of the commonality of threats and dangers, and its responsibility for the fate of the peoples living in the region. It is important that

all countries in both regions strive to stabilize the situation in this country as soon as possible by strengthening relations between the countries of South and Central Asia, which have a population of about 2 billion people.

The international conference "Central and South Asia: Regional Interdependence. High-level Threats and Opportunities", held in 2020, created a unique opportunity to openly discuss a number of pressing issues related to the development and strengthening of regional interconnection between the countries of Central and South Asia. The Head of our state rightly said in an interview with the "Yanyi Uzbekiston" newspaper: "Since ancient times, our countries, which have been close and close to each other, have begun to closely cooperate on many regional and global issues, socio-economic development. The expression "Central Asian spirit" has appeared in world political science.

The economic aspects of our cooperation will be of great importance in addressing a number of issues related to regional security and common security in Central Asia, because the aspirations of our countries for peace, stability, prosperity, and tranquility can be ensured through multifaceted economic cooperation and economic development.

Thus, the following can be recognized as the distinctive features of Uzbekistan's new foreign policy:

The importance of the economic component in the country's foreign policy is increasing. The economization of Uzbekistan's foreign policy is reflected in its active and deep integration into the international financial and trade-economic communities.

Uzbekistan is increasingly using "soft power" tools in its new foreign policy. The use of "soft power" has been relatively effective in relations with the countries of Central Asia, which has allowed it to significantly increase the level of mutual trust, both at the official level and at the level of relations between citizens.

Also, the "soft power" in Uzbekistan's foreign policy is showing its effectiveness in relations with Afghanistan, which is important for stability in Central Asia. At the same time, it is worth noting the introduction of a more liberal visa regime than in previous years as an important element of "soft power" in foreign policy. Expanding dialogue with international human rights structures is a new component of Uzbekistan's foreign policy. Currently, Uzbekistan actively cooperates with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the OSCE

Representative on Freedom of the Media, and others. International forums and conferences dedicated to human rights and media freedom are regularly held in our country.

The importance of humanitarian aspects in Uzbekistan's foreign policy is growing sharply. At the same time, the main focus is on supporting the country's citizens and protecting their interests.

Another new feature of foreign policy is the establishment of contacts and relationships with compatriots who have moved to other countries and achieved success.

Thus, the formation of a new foreign policy of Uzbekistan is manifested, on the one hand, in the emergence of new directions and the transformation of traditional sectors, and on the other hand, in the application of the model of a balanced multi-sectoral system of strategic cooperation.

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