



## **ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN UZBEKISTAN AND AZERBAIJAN IN THE 21ST CENTURY**

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### **Abstract:**

This article analyzes the issues of economic cooperation between Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan in the 21st century. Dedicated to the analysis of the development processes, directions and prospects of economic cooperation between Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan in the 21st century. The article examines key aspects of the historical, cultural and economic ties between the two countries and analyzes how they are developing in the modern global and regional economic environment. Historical roots, cultural cohesion and economic interests uniting Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan serve as the basis for further strengthening cooperation. In the 21st century, these ties are rising to a new level of quality, with large-scale cooperation projects in areas such as transport, energy, agriculture, investments and trade

**Keywords:** Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Energy Security, Organization of Turkic states, Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

### **Introduction**

The 21st century marked a new stage in the development of international relations. Globalization processes, economic and political integrations are motivating to further strengthen bilateral or multilateral cooperation. Economic cooperation between Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan is of particular importance within these trends, corresponding to the economic and political interests of both countries.



Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan are united by common history, culture and common values. It serves as a solid foundation for the development of interaction. The economic cooperation of the countries is manifested, first of all, in the areas of energy, transport, agriculture and trade. Azerbaijan is one of the countries with rich experience in oil and gas. This makes it an important Energy Center in the region. Uzbekistan in turn has an interest in gas and oil exports. Negotiations are underway between the countries to exchange experience in the energy sector, attract joint investments and introduce innovative technologies. This cooperation is of bilateral interest, creating favorable conditions for economic growth. Cooperation in the field of Transport is another important direction of communication between the two states. The geographical location of Uzbekistan allows it to play a strategic role in regional transport corridors. Azerbaijan, on the other hand, acts as the main bridge on the way to the markets of the Caucasus and Europe. In particular, the transport route "China-Uzbekistan-Azerbaijan" provides ample opportunities for increasing regional trade. At the same time, the export of goods from Uzbekistan to Europe through Azerbaijan will strengthen the integration of the region. In recent years, the volume of trade between Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan has increased significantly. Uzbekistan exports automotive, agricultural products, textiles and food products. Azerbaijan, on the other hand, provides the Uzbek market with petroleum products, chemical industry products and agricultural products. In addition, the number of joint ventures is increasing, and economic relations are deepening. Joint agricultural projects are also developing rapidly between Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan. The combination of climatic conditions and technological experience provides a solid basis for bilateral beneficial relations. For example, Uzbekistan is importing agricultural machinery and high-yield seeds from Azerbaijan. In turn, Uzbekistan is finding new markets for the export of agricultural products. The volume of investments between Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan is increasing. Capital of Uzbekistan is involved in various sectors of Azerbaijan, including infrastructure and tourism. At the same time, Azerbaijani investment in the industrial and energy sectors of Uzbekistan is being attracted. The increase in the number of joint projects between countries indicates a high level of mutual trust and interest. Economic cooperation between Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan serves the strategic interests of the two countries. This cooperation contributes significantly to regional stability and economic growth. In the 21st century, these contacts are expected to deepen and



develop in a multifaceted way. This process has a positive effect on the integration of not only the two countries, but the entire region. Therefore, further strengthening economic ties between Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan will remain one of the urgent tasks in the future.

Both nations have a number of common interests in regional security issues. The cooperation of Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan plays a significant role mainly in combating terrorism, extremism, narcotics and other international security threats, as well as ensuring stability in the transport and energy sectors.

This article will consider security issues in Central Asia and the Caucasus region and the areas of cooperation between the two countries. The purpose of the study is to analyze the main areas of cooperation in the direction of security and assess the prospects of strategic partnership between the two countries.[1].

### **1. Threats to regional security**

**Terrorism and extremism:** the threat of religious and political extremism is strong in Central Asia and the Caucasus. The uncertain political situation in Afghanistan as well as the activities of global terrorist organizations exacerbate security concerns. Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan aim to fight these threats through joint actions. **Safety of Transport and energy roads:** for Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan, it is of great importance to export energy resources and ensure the safety of transport corridors. Therefore, the two states seek to support regional integration by creating sustainable transport routes.

### **2. Areas of cooperation in the field of security**

Security cooperation between Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan is carried out in several main directions.[2]

**Joint measures against terrorism and extremism:** both states hold joint measures in the fight against threats of extremism and terrorism, exchange experiences and regularly consult on security issues. For example, the two state special services have increased cooperation on counterterrorism operations. **Anti-drug measures:** Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan exchange information between security forces and customs services to combat drug trafficking. Both nations participate in international structures such as the " Central Asia Regional Information Coordination Center " to organize joint anti-drug efforts.



Joint military and security exercises: military exercises and joint practices are organized in order to ensure security between the two countries. For example, Special Forces training is regularly conducted to strengthen border security and exchange experience in joint counter-terrorism practices.

### **3. Cooperation within international organizations**

Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan also actively cooperate within the framework of international organizations in ensuring regional security.[3].

Organization of Turkic states: both states are considered members of the Organization of Turkic states, in which General decisions are made on security issues. Within the framework of this organization, states carry out projects aimed at combating terrorism, humanitarian assistance and economic stability.

Shanghai Cooperation Organization: Uzbekistan is the founder of the SCO, and Azerbaijan has close ties with this organization. Within the SCO, the two nations develop joint strategies to counter the problems of extremism, terrorism and drug trafficking.[4]. Results and prospects of security cooperation

The cooperation of Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan in the field of security allows both countries to strengthen economic and social stability. The energy corridors of Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan's transport opportunities will strengthen trade relations between the two countries. In the future, the implementation of more effective joint measures in the fight against terrorism and extremism by both states, strengthening cooperation within international organizations will lead to significant positive changes in the provision of regional security.

### **Conclusion**

The cooperation of Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan in the field of security is becoming important in the fight against common threats in the region. Close cooperation is needed on issues such as terrorism, drug trafficking, and transportation security threats, as well as energy security. At the same time, joint measures and military exercises within the framework of international organizations are considered important tools for strengthening stability in the region. This cooperation remains an important part of the strategic cooperation between Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan in increasing regional stability and ensuring international security.



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