

NEW UZBEKISTAN AND CENTRAL ASIA FRIENDLY COOPERATION

Isomiddinov Sur'at Sayfiddin o'g'li

JizPl. assistant teacher of the department of social sciences

isomiddinovsurat@gmail.com

Abstract: *This article talks about the importance of developing mutual cooperation to ensure sustainable development in Central Asia. Today, the peoples of the region face the main goal - through joint efforts to transform Central Asia into a stable, economically developed and highly developed region. From this point of view, mutual cooperation between the countries of the region is analyzed by many experts and shows its relevance.*

Key words: *Central Asia, UN, CIS, SCO, TDT, Consultative meeting, constructive foreign policy, peace, stability, security, strategic partnership, "public diplomacy".*

Introduction: This vital initiative found the support of our fraternal peoples and was implemented within a year, with consultative meetings being held regularly. In recent years, the large-scale reforms, openness and renewal carried out in Uzbekistan have reached a new level in the country's foreign policy. Being an equal subject of international relations, Uzbekistan pursues an active foreign policy at the regional and global level and develops mutually beneficial relations with foreign partners. Such a consistent, clear and constructive foreign policy is recognized by international experts and observers.

The government of Uzbekistan pays special attention not only to ensuring socio-economic stability in the country, but also to continuing cooperation with the countries of the region and the world community. In this regard, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev has identified the development and strengthening of friendly, good-neighborly and mutually beneficial relations with our neighbors - the countries of Central Asia - as the main priority direction of foreign policy.

2023 – within the framework of the State program "Year of Attention to People and Quality Education", Uzbekistan consistently continued open and pragmatic foreign policy activities, including in the direction of Central Asia. In particular, a number of visits at the highest level of state bodies of foreign policy and economic activity with the aim of bringing relations with the countries of the Central Asian region to a new level of quality and content in the spirit of mutual friendship, good neighborliness and strategic partnership

were carried out in all areas and various events. It was noted that “public diplomacy” was very actively involved in this process. In particular, many different meetings, conferences, video conferences and other similar events were held with the participation of representatives of the people - scientists and artists, cultural and religious figures, businessmen and youth, tourism and sports organizations, public associations and non-governmental organizations. As noted, consultative meetings of the heads of state of Central Asia, which are regularly held on the initiative of President Sh. Mirziyoyev, are of great importance. As a result, the level of bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the region has risen to a new level. In particular, in recent years, trade turnover with the countries of Central Asia has increased by an average of more than 50 percent. The total volume of trade turnover between Uzbekistan and the countries of Central Asia is \$6.6 billion. In particular, the share of Central Asian countries in the total foreign trade turnover of Uzbekistan is increasing every year, and trade and economic ties are being established in new directions, which in turn helps to increase the investment attractiveness of the region.

Also, as a result of Uzbekistan's open, constructive, thoughtful and pragmatic policy towards the countries of Central Asia during 2020-2023, water use, delimitation and demarcation of state borders between Uzbekistan and neighboring countries, the use of transport communications, solutions to complex and intricate problems were discovered, such as crossing state borders. If five or six years ago 300-400 people crossed the Uzbek-Kyrgyz state border per day, then before the restrictions imposed due to the global pandemic, this figure reached 30 thousand people per day, Uzbekistan - 20 thousand citizens crossed the border of Tajikistan every day.

In addition, in January 2020, the governments of Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, in cooperation with the United States, will commit at least \$1 billion over five years to support projects that will expand economic ties in the region. launched the Central Asian Investment Partnership initiative to attract funds in US dollars. This initiative, implemented through the C5+1 platform, aims to seize all available opportunities to increase trade, stimulate inclusive development and deepen multilateral relations in order to strengthen the economy and growth of Central Asian countries. We see the growing importance and role of Central Asia in the world community when various formats of multilateral cooperation are organized between the region and large countries. In recent years, communication formats have included “Central Asia – USA”, “Central Asia – European Union”, “Central

Asia – Republic of Korea”, “Central Asia – Japan”, and in recent years “Central Asia – India”. , “Central Asia - new formats have been added, such as “China” and “Central Asia - Russian Federation”. This situation shows that, firstly, a completely new environment created as a result of positive changes in the region has increased the attention of the leading countries of the world to Central Asia, and secondly, foreign countries are working with the countries of the region not only within the framework of bilateral cooperation , but also as a unified regional vision. This is a sign that he attaches great importance to the development of bilateral relations. At the same time, the formation of new formats between the region and other state and international institutions leads to an increase in the geopolitical and economic significance of Central Asia, as well as the consideration of the region as an integrated political and diplomatic entity in international relations. communications.

Turkic-speaking countries. It is intended to develop not only political and diplomatic relations, but also economic diplomacy, inter-parliamentary diplomacy and public diplomacy within the framework of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and other structures. In addition, during the chairmanship of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the SCO in 2021-2022, priority tasks and main areas of activity within the framework of cooperation between member states were identified and are being consistently implemented. It may be noted that Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan are members of the SCO along with Russia, China, Pakistan and India from Central Asian countries, and accelerating cooperation within this international organization is of particular importance. In conclusion, it should be noted that pursuing an open, pragmatic, thoughtful and mutually beneficial foreign policy remains the main priority of Uzbekistan's foreign policy. This is reflected in the fact that Uzbekistan is the only country in the region bordering all Central Asian countries, that any political, economic and cultural changes in the country directly affect the region, and that the stable development of Central Asia serves the interests of all countries in the region. Today's foreign policy of Uzbekistan, in particular its good neighborly and pragmatic regional policy, serves to increase the country's international prestige and transform Central Asia into a stable and geopolitical space of cooperation with great opportunities.

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