

## NEW UZBEKISTAN - A NEW MODEL OF FOREIGN POLICY

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A B S T R A C T	K E Y W O R D S
From the first days of independence, Uzbekistan began to develop the conceptual and constitutional and legal foundations of its foreign policy, which laid the foundation for the establishment of foreign relations bodies of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The conceptual and legislative foundations of the foreign policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan are constantly being improved based on new challenges and threats.	New Uzbekistan, new model, foreign policy, national ideas.

### Introduction

In 2012, in order to further improve the conceptual foundations of Uzbekistan's foreign policy, timely and adequate response to threats and challenges in the region and the world as a whole, and strengthen the country's national security, it was approved.

In accordance with the Concept, Uzbekistan pursues a peaceful policy and does not participate in military-political blocs, reserves the right to withdraw from any interstate entity in the event of its transformation into a military-political bloc. Uzbekistan takes political, economic and other measures to prevent its involvement in armed conflicts and hotbeds of tension in neighboring States, and also does not allow the deployment of foreign military bases and facilities on its territory. Globalization, the displacement of the centers of gravity, the threat of international terrorism, the growing disagreements between different States, regional and national security issues require adequate measures. As R.Mahmudov quite correctly notes, starting from the second half of 2016, when large-scale reforms of the President were launched Shavkat Mirziyoyeva, the foreign policy of Uzbekistan is a subject of special interest. At the same time, the range of opinions is quite wide, which causes numerous discussions about the foreign policy of the new Uzbekistan and its cardinal differences from the course of previous years. In our opinion, today we can confidently talk about the emergence of the phenomenon of a new foreign policy of Uzbekistan. On December 29, 2020, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev addressed another Message to the Oliy Majlis, and in his person - to the people of Uzbekistan. In the Address, the head of state defined further goals and set the most important tasks aimed at ensuring a consistent increase in the level of well-being and well-being of the country's population.

One of the central places in the President's speech was occupied by the issues of conducting an effective foreign policy capable of providing the necessary conditions for the implementation of a large-scale program of reform and modernization of all spheres of life of society and the state.

To this end, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev pointed out the need to improve the republic's foreign policy strategy and adopt an updated concept of activities in this area. At the same time, the importance of ensuring the consistency of Uzbekistan's open, proactive and constructive foreign policy was emphasized.

The demand for conceptualization of foreign policy activities is due to the high dynamics of Uzbekistan's transformation, the transition to a new stage in the formation of a democratic rule of law state with a developed market economy. It is no exaggeration to say that the foundation of a new Renaissance era is being laid in the country, requiring qualitatively new approaches in foreign policy. Under these conditions, the adoption of this Concept of Foreign Policy Activity is designed to accelerate the consistent formation of a favorable external environment for the sustainable internal development of the country, the effective promotion of national interests in the international arena and the progressive improvement of the competitiveness of the country's economy in the world market.

In this regard, the priority tasks today are the consolidation and mobilization of all internal and external resources for the unconditional achievement of national development goals. The development of a new version of the Concept of Foreign Policy Activity also indicates the commitment of the republic to the previously chosen foreign policy course, thanks to which Uzbekistan has achieved significant success. In general, a systematic analysis of the basic principles and characteristic features of Uzbekistan's modern foreign policy strategy demonstrates the deep thoughtfulness of its foreign policy, which today could serve as an exemplary model for many countries, especially in conditions when international relations are experiencing a crisis of trust, a lack of dialogue and mutually beneficial cooperation. These distinctive features of the country's new foreign policy, the dominant role in the design of which belongs to the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, include the following basic principles.

First, a characteristic feature of Uzbekistan's modern foreign policy is pragmatism in building relationships with all traditional partners, as well as countries of the near and far abroad.

In this context, our country proceeds from the tasks of internal development. Among them are maintaining high growth rates, modernization and sustainable development of the economy, improving the standard of living of the population and ensuring full integration into the structure of global economic relations.

## **Discussion of the 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 policy and foreign economic interests of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

For the first time, the priorities of the foreign policy of the new Uzbekistan were defined in the Action Strategy for the five priority areas of development of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2017-2021. This document has formed the following most important priorities in the field 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, creating a region of security, stability and good-neighborly relations around Uzbekistan;
- strengthening the authority of the Republic of Uzbekistan at the international level, providing the world community with objective information about the reforms being carried out in the country;

- improvement of the regulatory and legal framework of Uzbekistan's foreign political and economic activities, as well as its contractual and legal framework for 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 identified new, more important and relevant 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 role of the country as an equal subject of international relations;
- bringing to a higher quality level close cooperation in Central Asia, in the field of security, trade and economic, water, energy, transport, cultural and humanitarian spheres;
- further development of relations with our traditional partners, prioritizing the expansion of the geography of foreign relations, strengthening economic diplomacy;
- To strengthen Uzbekistan's activity in the activities of United Nations bodies and agencies, global and regional economic, financial and humanitarian organizations;
- deepening the processes of joining the World Trade Organization and integration with the Eurasian Economic Union;
- to increase the effectiveness of providing information aimed at improving the image of our country in the world community;
- improvement of the regulatory and legal framework for foreign political and economic activities and the contractual and legal framework for international cooperation;
- improvement of the system of provision of services by diplomatic missions and consular institutions of the Republic of Uzbekistan to citizens of Uzbekistan abroad.

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 thoughtful foreign policy is being implemented, which makes it possible to effectively promote the national interests of our country 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 relations with many countries of the far and near abroad. Today, Uzbekistan has relations in the diplomatic, consular, economic, trade, cultural, educational and other humanitarian spheres with many foreign countries, accepts and sends its representatives, concludes mutually beneficial international agreements, and becomes a member of various international organizations.

The scale of our country's cooperation is based on a multilateral and broad-based framework, which now covers all five continents of the globe. It should be noted that our country is trying to expand the scope of its diplomacy in its foreign policy. This is not just a goal, but a means of responding promptly to the needs of the country's internal development, the sustainability 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 the whole society, but also on every citizen, that is, humanitarian relations and public diplomacy are gaining momentum. Now, citizens of our country, especially our youth, have ample opportunities to travel freely to any country in the world for work, study and tourism. As a practical example, our Government has allowed thousands of our fellow Muslims and representatives of other religious groups to visit our country and their shrines.

The processes of globalization of modern life create favorable conditions for the development of international relations in the field of human rights. I would especially like to focus on what has been done in this area in Uzbekistan. On July 15, 2019, Uzbekistan approved the National Action Plan of the Republic of Uzbekistan for the implementation of the provisions of the UN Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training and implements the measures 5 set out in its Roadmap.

In Uzbekistan, the promotion, protection and observance of human rights is one of the priorities 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.

Considering the commitments undertaken by the country within the framework of international documents, as well as new challenges and problems caused by the pandemic and its

5 The National Action Plan of the Republic of Uzbekistan for the implementation of the provisions of the Convention, in order to effectively implement the tasks defined in the National Strategy of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Human Rights, the issue of organizing human rights education, reflecting new approaches, methodologies and practices, is put on the agenda. In this regard, the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan On the approval of the national program of education in the field of human rights in the Republic of Uzbekistan No. PP-46 dated 02/07/2023 was adopted,<sup>6</sup> where the main objectives of the National Education Program are defined: raising awareness among young people in the field of human rights and freedoms; improving the knowledge and skills of government officials in the field of human rights and gender equality;

improving the system of teacher training and supporting scientific research in the field of human rights;

raising awareness of segments of the population in need of social protection in the field of human rights;

increasing the activity of civil society institutions in the field of human rights education;

improving the effectiveness of the human rights education and upbringing system using modern technologies, artistic works, and mass media;

development of international cooperation in the field of human rights education.

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

In recent years, Uzbekistan has undertaken many constructive initiatives aimed at establishing peace and tranquility in the land of Afghanistan. Uzbekistan expressed its position based on the fact that the Afghan problem cannot be solved with the use of military force, and peace and tranquility on Afghan soil can be achieved only through political means and negotiations.

President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh.M.Mirziyoyev at the 72nd and 75th sessions of the UN General Assembly raised issues of increasing importance, ensuring peace and security in our region and around the world,

"Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan On the approval of the national human rights education program in the Republic of Uzbekistan No. PP-46 environmental protection (especially the Aral problem), economy, youth, raising to a new level the development of educational and medical spheres and that these spheres serve human interests, further development and intensification of cooperation with the United Nations on priority issues tasks that require constant joint efforts of the entire world community. Their full and effective implementation in our country, first of all, requires

their deep understanding of their meaning by members of our society. There is no doubt that the Republic of Uzbekistan will always support the activities of the United Nations and will be more active to enhance its position.

Today, an important task is the idea of connecting South Asia and Central Asia, which is one of the ways to solve the problem of Afghanistan, in order to assist the world community in launching the peace process in this country. As the only country with a direct border with Afghanistan, our country is well aware of the common threats and dangers, 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, where almost 2 billion people live.

International Conference "Central and South Asia: Regional Interdependence. The High-level Threats and Opportunities Conference held in 2020 created a unique opportunity for an open discussion of a number of topical issues of development and strengthening regional interdependence between the countries of Central and South Asia. As the head of our state rightly stated in an interview with the Yangi Uzbekistan newspaper: "Our countries, which have been related and close to each other since ancient times, have begun to cooperate closely on many regional and global issues, socio-economic development. The expression "Central Asian spirit" has appeared in world political science.

When considering the complex of problems related to regional security and general security in Central Asia, the economic aspects of our cooperation will be of great importance. Because the progress of our countries towards peace, stability, well-being and tranquility can be ensured through multifaceted economic cooperation and economic development.

## Conclusions

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

- The increasing importance of the economic component in the country's foreign policy activities. The economization of Uzbekistan's foreign policy is manifested in its active and deep integration into international financial, trade and economic communities.
- Uzbekistan is increasingly using the tools of "soft power" in its new foreign policy. The use of "soft power" is relatively effective in relations with the countries of Central Asia, which has significantly increased 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 shows its effectiveness in relations with Afghanistan, which is important for stability in Central Asia. At the same time, the introduction of a more liberal visa regime than in previous years should be noted as an important element of "soft power" in foreign policy.
- The expansion of dialogue with international human rights structures is a new component of Uzbekistan's foreign policy. Currently, Uzbekistan is actively cooperating with the Office of the United Nations 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 on human rights and media freedom are regularly held in our country.
- The importance of humanitarian aspects in Uzbekistan's foreign policy is sharply increasing. At the same time, the main emphasis is on supporting the citizens of the country and protecting their interests.
- Another new feature of foreign policy is the establishment of ties and relations with compatriots who have moved to other countries and achieved success.



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

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