



PRINCIPLES OF CREATIVE AND POPULAR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN UZBEKISTAN'S FOREIGN POLICY

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ABSTRACT	KEYWORDS
<p>The article analyzes the formation, main directions and priority principles of the foreign policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the post-independence period. The study extensively covers Uzbekistan's cooperation with the UN, SCO, CIS, Organization of Islamic Cooperation and other international structures. Special attention is paid to the issues of ensuring economic, political and environmental security through international organizations. It also substantiates the fact that foreign policy has reached a new, open and practical level under the leadership of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev. The conclusion emphasizes that international cooperation is an important factor in the sustainable development and increasing the international prestige of Uzbekistan.</p>	<p>Foreign policy of Uzbekistan, international organizations, UN, SCO, CIS, OIC, environmental security, economic cooperation, regional stability, New Uzbekistan</p>

Introduction

1. Formation and main directions of Uzbekistan's foreign policy.

After gaining independence, the Republic of Uzbekistan formed its foreign policy based on national interests and international law. The main goal of foreign policy is to strengthen the country's sovereignty, ensure peace and security, and establish mutually beneficial relations with the international community. In today's globalization environment, the development of any state cannot be fully realized without international cooperation. Therefore, cooperation with international organizations is of strategic importance for Uzbekistan. These relations allow for development not only in the political, but also in the economic, social, environmental and cultural spheres. Uzbekistan's foreign policy is based on the principles of "openness, peacekeeping, friendship and mutual benefit". From the first years of independence, the country has established active cooperation with such structures as the United Nations (UN), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

As a result of this policy, Uzbekistan is today recognized as an active participant in the international arena and a state that makes a significant contribution to ensuring peace and stability in the region. Uzbekistan's foreign policy was formed gradually in the post-independence period. Initially, the law "On Foreign Policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan", adopted in 1992, determined the legal basis of the state in international relations. In accordance with this document, the country's foreign policy was based on such principles as sovereignty, equality, non-interference in internal affairs, and peaceful

resolution of disputes. The main directions of foreign policy during the reign of Islam Karimov were strengthening independence, maintaining regional stability, ensuring national security, and attracting foreign investment.

Currently, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev has taken these directions to a new level. With his initiatives, the principles of "openness" and "practical diplomacy" have become a priority in Uzbekistan's foreign policy. The "Strategy of New Uzbekistan" identifies the expansion of international relations, strengthening cooperation with neighboring countries on the basis of trust, and finding solutions to global problems through international organizations as one of the main tasks. Today, Uzbekistan's foreign policy is recognized as a policy of developing mutually beneficial relations with the international community while maintaining political sovereignty. For example, Uzbekistan's relations with Asian countries have historical, economic, and cultural roots. Asian countries are one of the most important directions of Uzbekistan's foreign policy[1].

Today, Uzbekistan is actively pursuing political, economic and technological cooperation with countries such as China, South Korea, Japan, Turkey, Malaysia and India. For example, cooperation with China serves to develop infrastructure, energy and transport sectors within the framework of the "One Belt, One Road" initiative. Joint programs are being implemented with the Republic of Korea in the fields of education, healthcare and IT.

Relations with Asian countries strengthen Uzbekistan's economic independence, ensure stability in the region and create new opportunities in international trade.

Uzbekistan is also strengthening cultural diplomacy with Asian countries, introducing the rich culture of the Uzbek people to the world.

Thus, the Asian direction is one of the most important pillars of our country's foreign policy, which, along with economic interests, serves to ensure regional peace.

2. Cooperation with the UN, SCO, CIS, Organization of Islamic Cooperation and other structures.

From the first years of independence, Uzbekistan has identified relations with international organizations as one of the most important pillars of its foreign policy. Because today, the development pace of each country depends not only on internal reforms, but also on the breadth and effectiveness of international cooperation. Therefore, the Republic of Uzbekistan has established cooperation with international organizations on an equal footing and has formed itself as a state actively participating in the world community. First of all, relations with the United Nations (UN) are of particular importance. Uzbekistan became a member of the UN on March 2, 1992 and since that day has been actively participating in all areas of the organization. Within the framework of cooperation with the UN, Uzbekistan has put forward many initiatives in the areas of environmental security, water resources management, counterterrorism, gender equality, youth policy, and human rights protection. In particular, the initiative to put the issue of the ecological tragedy in the Aral Sea region on the international agenda was put forward by Uzbekistan and supported by the UN General Assembly. In 2018, the UN established the "Multilateral Trust Fund for Human Security for the Aral Sea Region". In addition, Uzbekistan actively participates in the framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). The SCO is a large organization established in 2001 to develop regional security, economic cooperation and cultural ties. Uzbekistan is one of the founding states of the SCO and has implemented many joint programs within the framework of the organization to combat terrorism,

extremism and drug trafficking. Also, significant achievements have been noted through the SCO in developing transport and logistics areas, expanding regional trade, and deepening integration in the energy sector. Cooperation with the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) is also one of the important directions of Uzbekistan's foreign policy. This organization was created to maintain economic, cultural and humanitarian ties between the countries of the former Soviet Union and develop them in new conditions. Uzbekistan participates in a number of joint programs within the CIS in the fields of security, customs, transport, agriculture and culture.

Relations with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) play an important role in strengthening Uzbekistan's ties with the Muslim world. Uzbekistan joined this organization in 1996 and is currently implementing effective projects with the OIC in the fields of religious tolerance, education, science, culture, and tourism. In 2016, the OIC held the Youth and Education Forum in Samarkand, which was one of the important events that increased Uzbekistan's international prestige. In addition, Uzbekistan is actively involved in organizations such as UNESCO, UNICEF, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the European Union, the OECD, and the OSCE. These partnerships are of great importance in the country's efforts to promote education, healthcare, cultural heritage preservation, economic reforms, and human capital development.

Therefore, relations with international organizations are one of the strategic directions of Uzbekistan's foreign policy, which serve to strengthen the country's sovereignty, stability, and position in the world community.

3. Ensuring economic, political and environmental security through international organizations

International organizations are an integral part of today's global politics, through which countries protect their national interests, expand their economic opportunities and ensure security. For Uzbekistan, these partnerships are an important means of maintaining the stability of national development and increasing the well-being of the people. First of all, on the issue of economic security, Uzbekistan has established close cooperation with international financial institutions. In particular, as a result of cooperation with the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), many infrastructure, transport, energy and agricultural projects are being implemented. These projects serve to strengthen Uzbekistan's economic independence, create new jobs and increase export potential. In addition, within the framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), Uzbekistan is expanding trade and economic cooperation with China, Russia and Central Asian countries and actively participating in the "New Silk Road" initiative. This project is aimed at developing the transport and logistics system, creating new energy corridors and increasing international trade flows. In the field of political security, Uzbekistan is actively cooperating with organizations such as the UN, CIS, SCO, OSCE to maintain regional stability. For example, within the framework of UN peacekeeping missions, Uzbekistan is promoting regional initiatives to resolve the Afghan issue. The holding of the "Afghanistan Peace Process" conference in Tashkent in 2018 is a vivid example of this.

Within the CIS, Uzbekistan participates in joint programs to combat terrorism, extremism, illegal migration and transnational crime. Cooperation in the field of security is being further strengthened through the SCO Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure. Ecological security is one of the most pressing areas of Uzbekistan's foreign policy. The Aral Sea tragedy has become an ecological threat to all of humanity. Therefore, Uzbekistan is working closely with the UN, UNEP (United Nations Environment

Programme) and UNESCO on this issue. In 2018, at the initiative of Uzbekistan, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution "Transforming the Aral Sea region into a zone of ecological innovations and technologies". This initiative marked a significant turning point in the field of Uzbekistan's ecological diplomacy.

Uzbekistan is also actively promoting initiatives within the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to address environmental issues, rational use of water resources, and combating desertification. Projects are being implemented with UNESCO in the field of preserving tangible and intangible cultural heritage, restoring historical cities, and developing eco-tourism.

In conclusion, cooperation with international organizations is a decisive factor for Uzbekistan in ensuring economic growth, political stability, and environmental security. An active policy in this direction demonstrates the country as a reliable partner on the global scale and a state moving towards sustainable development.

4. A new stage of international cooperation in the policy of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev

Under the leadership of Shavkat Mirziyoyev, a new era has begun in Uzbekistan's foreign policy. This era is characterized by a new diplomatic direction based on the principles of "openness, trust, pragmatism and regional stability." The President's works "Strategy of the New Uzbekistan" (2021) and "We will continue our path of national development with determination and take it to a new level" deeply cover the essence of this policy. Shavkat Mirziyoyev's foreign policy concept is aimed, first of all, at strengthening friendship and reliable neighborliness with the countries of Central Asia. Uzbekistan has peacefully resolved border issues with Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan, creating a new model of regional cooperation. Through this, Central Asia is recognized in the international arena as a "space of stability and development"[2]. President Shavkat Mirziyoyev has identified deepening ties with international organizations as the most important direction of foreign policy. From the UN rostrum, he announced initiatives to peacefully resolve the situation in Afghanistan, transform the Aral Sea region into a center of ecological innovation, and promote youth policy at the global level. These initiatives were widely supported by the UN General Assembly. Also, under the leadership of Sh. Mirziyoyev, Uzbekistan has brought cooperation with the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the CIS, the Organization of Turkic States, and other international structures to a new level.

For example, the SCO summit held in Samarkand in 2022 further increased Uzbekistan's diplomatic prestige. New agreements were signed at the summit in the fields of energy, transport, trade and security. At the same time, Uzbekistan put forward initiatives on the "green economy" and "digital integration" within the framework of the SCO. Relations with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation have also acquired new content. Uzbekistan successfully hosted the 46th meeting of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers in Tashkent in 2021. This event discussed issues of strengthening cooperation in the fields of tolerance, science and culture in the Islamic world. President Shavkat Mirziyoyev is paying special attention to harmonizing foreign policy with "people's diplomacy". Relations with Uzbek diasporas abroad are being strengthened, and new programs have been introduced to protect the rights and interests of compatriots. Uzbekistan has also been able to strengthen strategic partnerships with the European Union, the United States, Japan, South Korea, and Turkey, increasing investment and technology flows. The main feature of our leader's policy is that he was able to combine international

relations with the country's internal reforms. Supporting domestic economic reforms through external cooperation, attracting investment and innovation are practical results of the new diplomacy[3].

In 2025 alone, several prestigious international summits and conferences were held in Uzbekistan. For example, Tashkent hosted the 150th anniversary Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. (April 2025) - On April 2-3, 2025, the first Central Asia-European Union summit and international climate forum were held in Samarkand;

- On October 31-November 15, 2025, the 43rd session of the UNESCO General Conference was held in Samarkand;

- On October 24, 2025, an agreement on enhanced partnership and cooperation between Uzbekistan and the European Union was signed in Brussels[4].

Our Head of State announced that in 2026, the economy in Uzbekistan will grow by 6.6%, and the gross domestic product will reach \$157 billion. It was said that in the next 5 years there are opportunities to increase the size of the economy by \$ 240 billion. "This is a forecast based on accurate and thorough calculations," the president said. In conclusion, the foreign policy under the leadership of Shavkat Mirziyoyev is a practical, open, stable and people-oriented diplomacy. He has increased the international prestige of Uzbekistan and made the country a symbol of peace, development and reliable cooperation.

Conclusion

After gaining independence, the Republic of Uzbekistan gained the opportunity to independently conduct its foreign policy. From the first years of independence, our country chose a policy aimed at establishing equal cooperation with the international community, ensuring global peace and stability. Because active cooperation with international organizations, even before the internal reforms of our country, it established active cooperation with the United Nations (UN), the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), UNESCO, the World Bank and many other international structures. Through these partnerships, the country was recognized as an active subject in international politics. In particular, together with the UN, Uzbekistan put forward a number of initiatives to ensure peace and stability in the region, rational use of water resources, environmental problems, in particular, to mitigate the consequences of the Aral Sea tragedy[5].

Within the framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, Uzbekistan has been actively participating as an initiative state in the field of security, counter-terrorism, counter-narcotics, as well as in the development of transport and energy projects. Cooperation with the CIS has made it possible to maintain and develop economic and cultural ties in the territory of the former Soviet Union in a new form. Through the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, Uzbekistan has strengthened cooperation with Muslim countries in the political, cultural, educational, and humanitarian spheres, demonstrating religious tolerance and commitment to universal human values.

Cooperation with international organizations is important for Uzbekistan not only politically, but also economically and ecologically. Through these organizations, our country has gained the opportunity to attract new investments, use technological innovations, access international financial markets, and ensure environmental safety. For example, in cooperation with the UNDP, the World Bank, and the Asian Development Bank, large-scale projects in the energy, infrastructure, and education sectors are

being implemented in Uzbekistan. This is a great impetus for the sustainable development of the country's economy. As a result of the initiatives of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, Uzbekistan has reached a new stage in its foreign policy. The works “Strategy of the New Uzbekistan” and “We will continue our path of national development with determination and take it to a new level” emphasize the need for international cooperation to be based on the principles of openness, trust, and mutual benefit. Today, Uzbekistan has established a constructive dialogue with all regional and global organizations through the “open door policy.” This policy has increased the prestige of our country internationally and contributes to regional peace and stability.

In conclusion, cooperation with international organizations is an integral part of Uzbekistan's foreign policy and has made our country an active participant in global politics. Through this cooperation, Uzbekistan not only protects its national interests, but also promotes the ideals of peace, development and humanity at the regional and global levels. Therefore, strengthening cooperation with international organizations is not only a political necessity, but also one of the main directions of Uzbekistan's sustainable development strategy.

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