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IMPORTANT DIRECTIONS OF FOREIGN POLICY OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

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Abstract

This article, based on a scientific approach, covers the priority directions of the foreign policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the main principles of regional and global cooperation, as well as the new strategic position of the state in the international arena. Uzbekistan's policy based on mutual trust with neighboring countries, its activity in international organizations, priorities of economic diplomacy, and integration issues in the transport, logistics, and energy sectors will be analyzed. The country's contribution to security, sustainable development, and addressing global challenges will also be widely disclosed.

Keywords: Uzbekistan's foreign policy, regional cooperation, Central Asia, international integration, security, economic diplomacy, international organizations, development strategy, cyberspace, social network, extremism, information protection, mass culture.

Introduction

During the years of independence, the Republic of Uzbekistan has been gradually forming and implementing its foreign policy concept. The foreign policy of our country is developing on the basis of generally accepted principles of



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international law, sovereign equality, mutual respect, the inviolability of internal affairs, and a balance of interests. In recent years, the country's open, pragmatic, and active foreign policy has significantly enhanced Uzbekistan's international standing. The Republic of Uzbekistan pursues an open, mutually beneficial foreign policy based on its national interests.

The reforms carried out in our country in recent years in the field of foreign policy serve to strengthen peace and stability in the region, expand the country's potential in the international arena, and develop comprehensive and mutually beneficial relations with foreign countries. Article 17 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan states: "The Republic of Uzbekistan is a full-fledged subject of international relations. The foreign policy of Uzbekistan is based on the principles of sovereign equality of states, non-use of force or threat of force, inviolability of borders, territorial integrity of states, peaceful settlement of disputes, non-interference in the internal affairs of other states, as well as other generally recognized principles and norms of international law. The establishment of the rule "The Republic of Uzbekistan may conclude alliances, join and withdraw from the commonwealths and other interstate structures based on the highest interests of the state, the people, their well-being and security" indicates that our country has a firm position in implementing foreign policy. Since interstate relations occupy a central place in international relations, diplomacy is a very important means of implementing foreign policy. The main goal of Uzbekistan's foreign policy diplomacy is to establish mutually beneficial cooperation with all states in order to protect state sovereignty, ensure peace, regional and international security. It was emphasized that Uzbekistan pursues a peaceful policy, does not participate in military-political blocs, and retains the right to withdraw from any interstate structures in the event of their transformation into a military-political bloc. In order to further increase the effectiveness of the reforms initiated by the President of our country Shavkat Mirziyoyev, create conditions for the comprehensive and accelerated development of the state and society, modernize the country, and implement priority areas for the liberalization of all spheres of life, the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated February 7, 2017, approved the

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"Action Strategy on Five Priority Areas of Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2017-2021." The Strategy was developed based on the results of a comprehensive study of current issues of concern to the population and entrepreneurs, analysis of legislation, law enforcement practice, and foreign experience. The Action Strategy is being implemented in 5 stages, each of which provides for the approval of a separate annual state program based on the name of the year. The fifth stage of this strategy, entitled "Security, Religious Tolerance and Interethnic Harmony, Mutually Beneficial and Practical Foreign Policy," played an important role in the implementation of foreign policy. In subsequent years, in order to consistently continue the above-mentioned program, the Strategy "Uzbekistan-2030" was developed on the basis of the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh. Mirziyoyev No. UP-158 dated September 11, 2023. This strategy consists of seven sections and includes 100 goals. From goal 93 to goal 100 of this strategy, special attention was paid to the issues of foreign policy of our country. At the same time, the analysis of the path of development traversed by our country, the sharp changes in the demands of the world market, and the growing competition in the context of globalization require the development of a completely new approach to the accelerated development of our state. "Uzbekistan's foreign policy is carried out in full accordance with the fundamental rights and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, our Constitution, and our international obligations. In pursuing our foreign policy, we will continue to rely on the strategic tasks and priorities defined in the foreign policy concept of the Republic of Uzbekistan. We are always committed to our chosen, peace-loving path aimed at resolving emerging conflicts and contradictions only through peaceful, political means. Non-alignment with any military-political blocs, preventing the deployment of military bases and facilities of other states on the territory of Uzbekistan and the participation of our military personnel in operations abroad will remain the firm political position of our state. We will pursue a pragmatic policy in the spirit of openness and goodwill towards all our foreign policy partners." The above-mentioned remarks by our esteemed president are confirmation of the continuous



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implementation of our country's foreign policy, which is being carried out on the basis of peace and strong mutual trust.

One of the most important priorities of Uzbekistan's foreign policy is to pursue a friendly, constructive, and open policy with neighboring countries. The main priority of our foreign policy is the Central Asian region.

Uzbekistan's policy in Central Asia will continue to contribute to ensuring peace and stability in the region, solving important problems of regional security, including the economic recovery of Afghanistan, and the development of its transport, production, energy, and social infrastructure. A stable and prosperous Afghanistan is a guarantor of regional security in Central Asia. Uzbekistan will make every effort to strengthen regional trade and economic cooperation, develop the transport and transit infrastructure of the region, rationally and comprehensively use the water and energy resources of the transboundary rivers of Central Asia, ensure the environmental sustainability of the region, and complete the process of delimitation and demarcation of borders.

The Republic of Uzbekistan is a supporter of strengthening strategic partnership with its close regional neighbor China, which plays an important role in solving global problems. The development of relations with China is based on the Joint Declaration "On the Establishment of Strategic Partnership" of June 6, 2012, the Declaration "On the Further Development and Deepening of Bilateral Strategic Partnership" of September 9, 2013, and the Joint Statement "On the Further Deepening of Comprehensive Strategic Partnership Relations" of May 12, 2017. Uzbekistan attaches great importance to mutually beneficial cooperation with the European Union and European countries. The main areas of cooperation with European countries are trade development, investment and finance, transfer of modern technologies, science, technology, education, ecology, healthcare, culture, and regional security. Uzbekistan pays special attention to bringing bilateral cooperation to a higher level with leading European countries, in particular, Germany, France, Great Britain, Belgium, Italy, Spain, Latvia, and others.

Our republic will consistently continue the policy aimed at strengthening friendship and cooperation with the Turkish state, which has a common centuries-



old history, a common language and religion, common values and similar traditions. Our country will develop mutually beneficial cooperation with Turkey, including in such areas as trade, investment, and tourism.

Our country will further develop partnerships with the OSCE, SCO, and CIS organizations in order to effectively use the mechanisms of these structures in combating modern challenges and threats, and in developing multilateral cooperation.

Uzbekistan will make every effort to intensify cooperation with international financial institutions, including the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, and European investment banks, in the implementation of new projects for the development of energy, transport, agriculture, housing construction, small business, and private entrepreneurship.

The Republic of Uzbekistan has established diplomatic relations with more than 130 countries of the world. 44 foreign embassies, 1 consulate general, 8 honorary consuls, 17 representative offices of international organizations, 13 representative offices of foreign international intergovernmental and governmental organizations, and 1 trade representative office with diplomatic status operate in Tashkent. The Republic of Uzbekistan has 55 diplomatic and consular missions in foreign countries and international organizations. Uzbekistan is a member of more than 100 international organizations, and our country develops partnerships with various multilateral cooperation structures.

In conclusion, in recent years, important and urgent large-scale reforms and transformations have been consistently implemented in the socio-political, economic, cultural, educational, and other spheres of Uzbekistan's life. The foreign policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan is active, open, constructive, and pragmatic, aimed at ensuring stability in the region, expanding global cooperation, and securing a worthy place for the country in the world community. The consistent strategy of our country in this direction increases its authority in the international arena and creates broad opportunities for political, economic, and social development.



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