

## PRIORITY DIRECTIONS OF FOREIGN POLICY OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

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**Abstract:** This article provides an in-depth analysis of the key principles, objectives, and priority directions of the modern foreign policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan. It emphasizes an open, mutually beneficial, and constructive foreign policy based on national interests, aimed at strengthening state independence and sovereignty, ensuring regional security and stability, fostering a climate of good neighborliness, and maintaining non-alignment with military-political blocs. Central Asia is identified as the top strategic priority, with special attention given to the importance of supporting a peaceful resolution of the situation in Afghanistan. The article also analyzes the development of strategic partnerships and multifaceted cooperation with major powers such as Russia, China, the United States, the European Union, and Turkey, as well as with international organizations including the United Nations, the CIS, and the SCO.

**Key words:** Uzbekistan, foreign policy, national interests, independence, sovereignty, security, stability, Central Asia, Afghanistan, non-alignment with military-political blocs, strategic partnership, cooperation, Russia, China, United States, European Union, Turkey, international organizations, diplomacy.

**Annotatsiya:** Ushbu maqolada O'zbekiston Respublikasining zamonaviy tashqi siyosatining asosiy tamoyillari, maqsadlari va ustuvor yo'nalishlari keng yoritilgan. Milliy manfaatlariga asoslangan ochiq, o'zaro manfaatli va konstruktiv siyosat olib borish, davlat mustaqilligi va suverenitetini mustahkamlash, mintaqaviy xavfsizlik, barqarorlik va yaxshi qo'shnihilik muhitini shakllantirish, harbiy-siyosiy bloklarga qo'shilmaslik kabi jihatlar ta'kidlanadi. Markaziy Osiyo bosh ustuvor yo'nalish sifatida belgilanib, Afg'onistondagi vaziyatni tinch yo'l bilan hal etishga ko'maklashish muhimligi qayd etilgan. Shuningdek, Rossiya, Xitoy, AQSh, Yevropa Ittifoqi, Turkiya kabi yirik davlatlar hamda BMT, MDH, SHHT kabi xalqaro tashkilotlar bilan strategik sheriklik va ko'p qirrali hamkorlikning rivojlanishi tahlil qilingan.

**Kalit so'zlar:** O'zbekiston, tashqi siyosat, milliy manfaatlar, mustaqillik, suverenitet, xavfsizlik, barqarorlik, Markaziy Osiyo, Afg'oniston, harbiy-siyosiy bloklarga qo'shilmaslik, strategik sheriklik, hamkorlik, Rossiya, Xitoy, AQSh, Yevropa Ittifoqi, Turkiya, xalqaro tashkilotlar, diplomatiya.

**Аннотация:** В данной статье представлен глубокий анализ основных принципов, задач и приоритетных направлений современной внешней политики Республики Узбекистан. В ней подчеркивается открытая, взаимовыгодная и конструктивная внешняя политика, основанная на национальных интересах, направленная на укрепление государственной независимости и суверенитета, обеспечение региональной безопасности и стабильности, формирование атмосферы добрососедства, сохранение неприсоединения к военно-политическим блокам. Центральная Азия определена в качестве высшего стратегического приоритета, с особым акцентом на важность поддержки мирного урегулирования ситуации в Афганистане. В статье также анализируется развитие стратегического партнерства и многопланового сотрудничества с крупными державами,

такими как Россия, Китай, США, Европейский Союз и Турция, а также с международными организациями, включая Организацию Объединенных Наций, СНГ и ШОС.

Ключевые слова: Узбекистан, внешняя политика, национальные интересы, независимость, суверенитет, безопасность, стабильность, Центральная Азия, Афганистан, неприсоединение к военно-политическим блокам, стратегическое партнерство, сотрудничество, Россия, Китай, США, Европейский Союз, Турция, международные организации, дипломатия.

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Republic of Uzbekistan pursues an open, mutually beneficial, and constructive foreign policy based on its national interests. The modern foreign policy of the republic is formed on the basis of the dynamically changing situation in the world and the region, as well as large-scale transformations in the country's work.

The main goal of the foreign policy activity of the Republic of Uzbekistan is to strengthen the independence and sovereignty of the state, its place and role in the international arena, the formation of an atmosphere of security, stability and good neighborliness around it, and the active promotion of the republic's foreign economic interests. The principled position of our foreign policy is determined by non-alignment with any military-political blocs, the inadmissibility of the deployment of military bases and facilities of other states on the territory of Uzbekistan, the non-participation of our military personnel in peacekeeping operations outside the country, and the commitment to resolving all conflicts exclusively through political means. Uzbekistan, without joining any blocs, is interested in dialogue and expanding cooperation with all its partners for the sake of peace, development, and prosperity.

The main priority of our foreign policy is the Central Asian region. Uzbekistan's policy in Central Asia is aimed at ensuring peace and stability in the region, addressing key regional security issues, including facilitating the resolution of the situation in Afghanistan. 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 ecological stability of the region, and complete the process of delimitation and demarcation of borders. Uzbekistan is interested in strengthening friendly and good-neighborly relations with the states of the region, developing scientific, technical, and cultural-humanitarian cooperation, and strengthening ties between parliaments, border regions, public organizations, and ordinary citizens.

### **DISCUSSION**

Uzbekistan will continue to expand relations with Afghanistan and actively participate in international efforts aimed at a peaceful settlement of the situation in this country. The Uzbek side will continue to contribute to the restoration of the Afghan economy, the development of its transport, production, energy, and social infrastructure. A stable and prosperous Afghanistan is a guarantor of regional security in Central Asia.

Cooperation with the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States is also a priority of Uzbekistan's foreign policy. Our republic has historically established political, economic, transport-communication, and other ties with these states. Uzbekistan will continue to build bilateral cooperation with the Commonwealth countries on the principles of equality, mutual benefit, respect, and consideration of each other's interests.

Uzbekistan maintains friendly relations with Russia on the basis of the Treaty on Strategic Partnership of June 16, 2004, the Treaty on Allied Relations of November 14, 2005, and the Declaration on Deepening Strategic Partnership between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Russian Federation of June 4, 2012. The comprehensive strengthening and gradual development of these relations fully corresponds to the interests of the two countries and serves to strengthen peace and security in the region. The most important tasks of bilateral relations are to ensure the full implementation of the agreements reached during the state visit of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh.M. Mirziyoyev to Russia on April 4-5, 2017.

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, and the Declaration on the Further Development and Deepening of Bilateral Strategic Partnership of September 9, 2013. The implementation of the decisions and agreements reached on the basis of the state visit of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh.M. Mirziyoyev to Beijing on May 11-13, 2017, as well as participation in the international forum "One Belt, One Road" on May 14-15, 2017, corresponds to the interests of both countries.

One of the priorities of Uzbekistan's foreign policy is the comprehensive development of mutually beneficial and constructive cooperation with the United States of America on the basis of the Declaration on the Foundations of Strategic Partnership and Cooperation between Uzbekistan and the United States of America, signed on March 12, 2002. Uzbekistan is interested in further expanding cooperation with the United States of America in the political, trade-economic, investment-technological, and cultural-humanitarian spheres in order to support the ongoing modernization process and reforms aimed at strengthening the foundations of civil society and improving the living standards of the people in the country. Strengthening peace and stability in Afghanistan, promoting the fight against transnational threats and challenges are important areas of bilateral cooperation.

## **RESULTS**

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 will focus on 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 its policy aimed at strengthening friendship and cooperation with Turkey, which has a common centuries-old history, a common language and religion, common values and similar traditions.

Our country develops comprehensive mutually beneficial cooperation with Turkey, including in the areas of trade, investment, and tourism.

Cooperation with the countries of the Asia-Pacific region, in particular with the Republic of Korea and Japan, will remain one of the important directions of the policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Uzbekistan will continue comprehensive cooperation with these countries in the investment, trade, high-tech, and cultural-humanitarian spheres.

Uzbekistan develops cooperation with countries of Southeast Asia, such as Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, and Vietnam.

Uzbekistan supports the development of comprehensive and mutually beneficial cooperation with the countries of South Asia, in particular, India and Pakistan, in such areas as trade, transport and communications, and tourism.

Uzbekistan is interested in actively developing and strengthening mutually beneficial ties with the countries of the Muslim world in the fields of economy, transport communications, finance, investment, and tourism, including within the framework of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the Islamic Development Bank.

Uzbekistan will continue to actively participate in the activities of the United Nations and considers it the only universal organization responsible for ensuring international peace and security, promoting the sustainable development of states in the process of accelerated globalization.

Our country will further develop partnerships with the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Organization of Turkic States, and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe in order to effectively use the mechanisms of these structures in the fight against modern problems and threats, and in the development of 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.

### CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the Republic of Uzbekistan has established diplomatic relations with 156 countries of the world. 46 foreign embassies, 3 consulates general, 13 honorary consuls, 24 representative offices of international organizations, 26 representative offices of foreign international intergovernmental and governmental organizations, and 1 trade representative office operate in Tashkent. The Republic of Uzbekistan has 59 diplomatic missions and consular offices 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.

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