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THE IMPORTANCE OF MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY IN THE FOREIGN POLICY OF UZBEKISTAN: RESPONSIBILITY AND OPPORTUNITY

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In difficult and unstable times like the present, when some countries are facing economic, humanitarian, ecological and other problems, and some are in wars, diplomacy ,which solves problems peacefully and through negotiations , is the right way. Multilateral diplomacy is much more effective in this regard. This type of diplomacy plays an important role not only in the politics of our country, but also in the political system of many countries. Before talking about the role of multilateral diplomacy in the foreign policy of Uzbekistan, I think that we should first look at what the concept of multilateral diplomacy is and what are its advantages.

Multilateral diplomacy is the consideration of global and regional problems not only between two countries, but also between several countries. This type of diplomacy is a diplomatic activity that can be carried out within local or international organizations, through various summits, meetings, negotiations.

Multilateral diplomacy offers several advantages:

1. Inclusivity: It involves multiple parties, allowing for a diverse range of perspectives and interests to be considered.

2. Collective Action: It promotes collaboration among multiple stakeholders, which can lead to more comprehensive and effective solutions to complex global challenges.

3. Conflict Resolution: It provides a platform for resolving disputes peacefully through dialogue and negotiation, reducing the likelihood of conflict escalation.

4. Norms and Rules: It helps establish and reinforce international norms, rules, and institutions, fostering stability and predictability in global affairs.

5. Resource Sharing: It facilitates the pooling of resources, expertise, and information to address common problems more efficiently.

6. Building Trust: By fostering cooperation and mutual understanding, multilateral diplomacy can help build trust and goodwill among nations over the long term.

Multilateral diplomacy plays a pivotal role in shaping the foreign policy landscape of nations worldwide. For Uzbekistan, a nation nestled in the heart of Central Asia, multilateral diplomacy represents both a responsibility and an opportunity. Following paragraphs delve into the significance of multilateral diplomacy in Uzbekistan's foreign policy, exploring how it fosters cooperation, enhances regional stability, and promotes the country's strategic interests.

Uzbekistan's engagement in multilateral diplomacy has developed significantly since independence in 1991. The country initially focused on building bilateral ties with neighboring countries and global powers. However, with the changing geopolitical landscape and the

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emergence of regional problems, Uzbekistan recognized the need to adopt multilateral relations as the basis of its foreign policy. Joining the CIS on December 21, 1991, the UN on March 2, 1992, and the OIC on October 2, 1996 is a clear proof of how much our country has begun to emphasize multilateral diplomacy.

One of the main reasons for Uzbekistan's commitment to multilateral diplomacy is the special attention paid to the development of cooperation and ensuring regional stability. Central Asia, characterized by diverse nationalities, shared history, and complex geopolitical dynamics, has both challenges and opportunities. Through multilateral platforms such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) and the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU), Uzbekistan strives to solve common problems such as border security, the fight against terrorism and economic development. For example, the fact that the leader of our country raises the problem of Afghanistan at almost all UN summits is a manifestation of his sense of responsibility towards international organizations. In particular, at the 78th session of the UN, which was held in September 2023, the head of our country addressed the problem of Afghanistan again on behalf of the entire Central Asia, "Introduction of the Central Asian climate dialogue", "Central Asia in the face of global climate threats: on the way to common prosperity promoting initiatives such as the adoption of the "Solidarity" resolution is indeed a great responsibility.[1]

In this framework, Uzbekistan demonstrates its commitment to cooperative resolution and resolution of disputes through cooperation with regional partners. In addition, multilateral initiatives are an area of dialogue and diplomacy, allowing Uzbekistan to protect its interests while respecting the sovereignty of other countries. In this way, multilateral relations serve as a mechanism for strengthening mutual trust, eliminating disagreements and achieving mutual prosperity.

In addition to contributing to regional stability, multilateral diplomacy provides Uzbekistan with opportunities for economic integration and development. As a landlocked country with abundant natural resources and a young, dynamic population, Uzbekistan will benefit from increased trade and investment within and outside the region. Participation in multilateral organizations such as the Eurasian Economic Union and the World Trade Organization facilitates access to markets, technology and capital, and promotes economic growth and diversification. On the example of the Organization of Turkic States, this organization is able to make a huge digital contribution to the economy of Uzbekistan. In 2021, the gross domestic product of Uzbekistan amounted to 69.2 billion dollars at current prices. Compared to 2020, it increased by 7.4% in real terms.[2]

In addition, multilateral development banks and initiatives provide Uzbekistan with opportunities for infrastructure financing, capacity building, and implementation of sustainable development projects. Through the effective use of these resources, Uzbekistan will be able to solve social and economic problems, eliminate deficiencies in infrastructure, and improve the welfare of citizens. Multilateralism thus becomes a catalyst for inclusive growth, poverty reduction and regional prosperity.

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[1] https://president.uz/oz. From the speech of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev at the 78th session of the UN.

[2] Turkic States Economy by Vusal Gasimli. Country specific profile of the Republic of Uzbekistan, p 277

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In addition to proximity, multilateral diplomacy allows Uzbekistan to strengthen its voice on the world stage and develop soft power. Active participation in international forums, summits and diplomatic initiatives allows Uzbekistan to demonstrate its cultural heritage, promote its values, contribute to global discussions on current issues such as climate change, human rights and peacekeeping. will give. in particular, the fact that the city of Khiva was included in the list of UNESCO's "World Cultural Heritage" on December 12, 1990, and declared the "Cultural Capital of the Turkic World" in 2020 is a clear example.[3]

Uzbekistan affirms its commitment to international peace, security and cooperation through initiatives such as the Council for Cooperation and Confidence Building Measures in Asia and the United Nations. By cooperating with various stakeholders and supporting multilateral approaches to global issues, Uzbekistan enhances its reputation as a responsible member of the international community.

In conclusion, multilateral diplomacy occupies a central place in the foreign policy of Uzbekistan, offering both responsibility and opportunity. By engaging in collaborative efforts to promote regional stability, economic integration, and global engagement, Uzbekistan reaffirms its commitment to peaceful coexistence, mutual prosperity, and shared progress. As the country continues to navigate the complexities of the 21st-century world, multilateralism will remain a cornerstone of its efforts to secure a brighter future for its people and contribute to a more peaceful, prosperous world.

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