



FOREIGN POLICY OF THE NEW UZBEKISTAN AND ITS FEATURES

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Article history:	Abstract:
Received: June 20 th 2023 Accepted: July 20 th 2023 Published: August 24 th 2023	This article is devoted to of the new foreign policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan, it examines the main goals of the foreign policy activities of the Republic of Uzbekistan, analyzes the priority areas of foreign policy identified in the New Development Strategy of Uzbekistan for 2022-2026 and identifies the features of the foreign policy of the new Uzbekistan, as well as theoretical conclusions have been drawn on this issue.
Keywords: Foreign policy, main goals of foreign policy, the Republic of Uzbekistan, priority areas of foreign policy, features of foreign policy.	

INTRODUCTION

Uzbekistan began to develop the conceptual and constitutional and legal foundations of its foreign policy From the first days of independence, which laid the foundation for the establishment of the foreign relations bodies of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The conceptual and legislative foundations of Uzbekistan's foreign policy are constantly being improved on the basis of new challenges and threats.

In 2012, with a view to further improving the conceptual foundations of Uzbekistan's foreign policy, timely and adequate response to threats and challenges in the region and the world at large, and strengthening the country's national security, the Concept was approved.

In accordance with the Concept, Uzbekistan pursues a peace-loving policy and does not participate in military-political blocs, reserving the right to withdraw from any inter-State 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 does not allow the placement of foreign military bases and facilities on its territory. Globalization, shifting centers of gravity, the threat of international terrorism, growing disagreements between various States, and issues of regional and national security require the adoption of adequate measures.

According to R. Makhmudov, since the second half of 2016, when President Shavkat Mirziyoyev's large-scale reforms were launched, Uzbekistan's foreign policy has been 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 speak confidently enough about the emergence of the phenomenon of Uzbekistan's new foreign policy.

DISCUSSION AND 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, to create around it an environment of security, stability and good-neighborliness, to actively promote the foreign policy and foreign economic interests of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The priorities of the foreign policy of the new Uzbekistan were first defined in the Strategy of Action on Five Priority Areas of Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2017-2021. This document formed the following major priorities in the field of the country's foreign policy:

- Strengthening the independence and sovereignty of the state, further consolidating the place and role of the country 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 Uzbekistan at the international level and providing the international community with objective information on the reforms being carried out in the country;

- Improving the legal and regulatory framework for Uzbekistan's foreign political and economic activities and its legal framework for international cooperation;

- regulating the delimitation and demarcation of the State border of Uzbekistan.

Today, in the period of fundamental changes, our President Sh.M.Mirziyoyev has defined new, more important and urgent goals and objectives of foreign policy, which have found their expression in the Strategy of Development of New Uzbekistan for 2022-2026.

This document defined the following priority goals of our country's foreign policy:



- Enhancing the country's role as an equal subject of international relations;

- bringing to a higher qualitative level close cooperation in Central Asia, in security, trade and economic, water, energy, transportation, cultural and humanitarian spheres;

- further developing relations with our traditional partners, prioritizing the expansion of the geography of foreign relations, and strengthening economic diplomacy;

- Strengthen Uzbekistan's activity in the activities of United Nations bodies and agencies and global and regional economic, financial and humanitarian organizations;

- deepen the processes of accession to the World Trade Organization and integration with the Eurasian Economic Union;

- Increase the effectiveness of the presentation of information aimed at improving the image of our country in the international community;

- improving the legal framework for foreign political and economic activities and the contractual and legal framework for international cooperation;

- improving the system of services provided by diplomatic missions and consular offices of the Republic of Uzbekistan to Uzbek citizens abroad.

At present, Uzbekistan's new foreign policy is being implemented on the basis of the rapidly changing situation in the world and the region, as well as large-scale changes within the country. An open, consistent and well-considered foreign policy is being implemented, making it possible to effectively promote the national interests of our country and find solutions to contemporary international problems.

As a full-fledged subject of international relations, the Republic of Uzbekistan has established bilateral and multilateral relations of cooperation with many far and near abroad countries. Today Uzbekistan is bound by relations in diplomatic, consular, economic, trade, cultural, educational and other humanitarian spheres with many foreign countries, receives and sends its representatives, concludes mutually beneficial international agreements, becomes a member of various international organizations.

The scope of our country's cooperation is built on a multilateral and broad basis, 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. It is not just an objective, but a means of promptly responding to the needs of the country's internal development, the sustainability of our country's economy and the processes taking place in the world.

With the development of close relations of the Republic of Uzbekistan with foreign countries, international relations have a positive impact not only

on the life of the whole society, but also on each citizen, that is, humanitarian relations and public diplomacy are gaining momentum. Now citizens of our country, especially our youth have wide opportunities for unhindered travel to any country of the world for work, study and tourism. As a practical example, our government has allowed thousands of our fellow Muslims and representatives of other religions 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 sphere of human rights. I would like to dwell in particular on what has been done in this sphere in Uzbekistan. On July 15, 2019, Uzbekistan approved the National Plan of Action of the Republic of Uzbekistan to implement the provisions of the UN Declaration on Human Rights Education and Learning and is implementing the measures outlined in its Roadmap.

In Uzbekistan, the promotion, protection and observance of human rights is one of the priority areas of State policy. As part of the National Human Rights Strategy, targeted measures are being taken to guarantee personal, political, economic, social and cultural rights. At the same time, important steps have been taken to improve human rights education.

In view of the obligations assumed by the country under international instruments and the new challenges and problems caused by the pandemic and its aftermath, in order to effectively implement the tasks set out in the National Human Rights Strategy, the issue of organizing human rights education that reflects new approaches, methodologies and practices is on the agenda. In this connection, Presidential Decision No. PP-46 of 07 February 2023 approving the national human rights education programme was adopted, where the main objectives of the national education programme are defined as follows:

raising awareness of young people in the field of human rights and freedoms;

Increasing the knowledge and skills of public 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 human rights among segments of the population in need of social protection:

1)Increasing the activity of civil society institutions in the field of human rights education;

2)Increasing the effectiveness of the system of human rights education and upbringing through the use of modern technologies, artistic works and the mass media;



3) Development of international cooperation in the field of human rights education.

4) Increased 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 States' domestic legislation.

In recent years, Uzbekistan has undertaken many constructive initiatives aimed at establishing peace and tranquillity on the land of Afghanistan. Uzbekistan has expressed its position based on the fact that the Afghan problem cannot be resolved through the use of military force and that peace and tranquillity 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 has raised issues of growing importance, ensuring peace and security in our region and around the world, environmental protection (especially the Aral problem), economy, youth, raising the development of educational and medical spheres to a new level so that these spheres serve human interests, further development and intensification of cooperation with the UN on priority tasks that require constant joint efforts of the entire world community. Their full and effective realization in our country, first of all, requires their deep understanding of their meaning by the 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 in order to enhance its position.

CONCLUSION

Thus, the following can be recognized as peculiarities of Uzbekistan's new foreign policy:

- Increasing importance of the economic component in the country's foreign policy activities. Economization of Uzbekistan's foreign policy is manifested in its active and deep integration into international financial and trade-economic communities.

- Uzbekistan is increasingly using soft power tools 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, "soft power" in Uzbekistan's foreign policy shows its effectiveness in relations with Afghanistan, which is important for stability in Central Asia. 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.

- Expansion of dialog with international human rights structures is a new component of

Uzbekistan's foreign policy. Uzbekistan is currently 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 freedom of the media are regularly organized in Uzbekistan.

- The importance of humanitarian aspects in Uzbekistan's foreign policy is increasing sharply. The main emphasis is placed on supporting the country's citizens 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.

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

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