



# THE PROGRESSIVE PURSUITS DEFINING THE PARADIGM SHIFT IN NEW UZBEKISTAN

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**Abstract:** Uzbekistan, being an equivalent participant in the realm of international relations, has effectively implemented a proactive foreign policy on both regional and global scales, fostering reciprocal and advantageous connections with foreign counterparts. This steadfast, lucid, and constructive foreign policy has garnered recognition from experts and observers within the international community. The cultivation of amicable relations with the nations of Central Asia, alongside the promotion of legal, political, and spiritual unity, assumes a pivotal role in facilitating cooperation amongst these nations.

**Keywords:** legislation, Central Asia, demarcation, Constitution, strategic approach, diplomatic stance, pluralism.

The consolidation of mutual confidence, amiable neighborly associations, and interconnections stand as pivotal elements on the agenda, providing indispensable support to endeavors spanning the domains of legality, politics, trade, economics, and culture. Notably, Uzbekistan's resolute endeavors have successfully addressed a multitude of issues with neighboring nations, encompassing matters of state demarcation, border disputes, and challenges pertaining to the transportation of water resources. Moreover, this serves as a fertile ground for meticulously devised plans aligned with the legal system rooted in the Romano-Germanic tradition prevalent in Central Asian countries. It is only natural that the ongoing processes of state-building, societal progression, state modernization, and the embodiment of law, its stability, and augmentation necessitate purposeful actions.

Consequently, several paramount principles have been put forth as the overarching objectives of our society, encompassing the revised Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, existing legislations, historical legal heritage, legal values, and traditions of our people, as well as the establishment of a lawful state and civil society. This has become the central rallying cry resonating across all Central Asian nations, fostering a harmonious convergence of shared aspirations. Present-day Uzbek society is rediscovering fundamental notions such as the "socio-legal state", "human dignity", "freedom of expression", and "pluralism" [1:12].

The countries of Central Asia are steadily progressing in various dimensions day by day. It is widely recognized that fostering an environment of peace, stability, and security in its vicinity stands as a key objective of Uzbekistan's foreign policy. From this vantage point, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev has identified the development and fortification of friendly, close-neighborly, and mutually advantageous relations with our Central Asian counterparts as the foremost priority in our foreign policy. The dynamics of friendly dialogues with Central Asian countries can be classified into two phases. The first phase encompasses the period from 2017 to 2020, marked by diverse political and legal circumstances, including the global proliferation of the coronavirus pandemic, which has resulted in the loss of numerous lives.



Notably, special attention has been dedicated to ensuring social and political stability within the country, while simultaneously nurturing robust partnerships with regional and global allies, even in the face of such global crisis risks. President Shavkat Mirziyoyev has emerged as one of the prominent figures among Central Asian leaders, owing to his innovative plans and progressive ideas. As substantiation of this, we can cite advanced initiatives aimed at ensuring sustainable development in the region and combating threats posed by climate change.

In this context, a forthcoming international summit on climate change in Central Asia is scheduled to be held in the historic city of Samarkand. The President has graciously extended invitations to delegations from the countries of the region, urging them to actively engage in this conference. Following the forum, a draft resolution entitled "Central Asia in the Face of Global Climate Threats: Solidarity for Common Prosperity" will be meticulously prepared for submission to the esteemed UN General Assembly. Furthermore, the adoption of a regional strategy for climate change adaptation has been proposed as a significant contribution to climate stability and the advancement of environmentally conscious "green" development. In pursuit of this objective, the establishment of a multilateral platform named the "Central Asian Dialogue on Climate" at the ministerial level is suggested, with the aim of shaping a collective climate agenda for the region and implementing effective measures in unison.

Additionally, the President has introduced several fundamental initiatives to the Central Asian countries, encompassing:

- An agreement on the overarching principles of youth policy among Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.
- An agreement on the enhancement of interconnectivity in ground transportation throughout Central Asia.
- Regulations governing the Council of National Coordinators for Consultative Meetings of the Heads of Central Asian States.
- A comprehensive "roadmap" outlining support for health and well-being in Central Asia from 2022 to 2025 [2].

The primary objective of the foreign policy endeavors of the Republic of Uzbekistan is to fortify the nation's independence and sovereignty, elevate its standing and role in the international arena, and foster an environment of security, stability, and amicable relations in its immediate surroundings. Moreover, it actively champions the foreign economic interests of the republic. The nation steadfastly adheres to a course of non-alignment with military-political alliances, firmly prohibiting the establishment of foreign military bases or facilities on its sacred soil. Likewise, the participation of its military personnel in peacekeeping operations or armed conflicts abroad is strictly proscribed. Uzbekistan ardently advocates for the peaceful resolution of all conflicts and disputes, exclusively through political means.

Uzbekistan ardently upholds the principles of sovereign equality among states, renouncing the use or threat of force, respecting the inviolability of borders, and refraining from interfering in the internal affairs of other nations. The nation diligently fulfills its international obligations, safeguarding and upholding human rights, while adhering to universally recognized principles and norms of international law. Uzbekistan is deeply committed to expanding cooperation with all partners in the pursuit of peace, development, and prosperity, guided by the fundamental principles of indivisible security, openness, pragmatism, and the cultivation of amicable relations with its neighboring states.



At the forefront of our agenda lie the priorities of fostering robust mutual trust, cultivating harmonious neighborly relations, and forging meaningful connections that play an integral role in supporting endeavors across the domains of legality, politics, trade, economics, culture, and humanitarianism. Through unwavering efforts, Uzbekistan has successfully resolved various issues pertaining to neighboring countries, including matters of state demarcation, border delineation, and challenges associated with the transportation of goods through water resources. Furthermore, this fertile ground provides the foundation for the development of meticulously crafted plans that adhere to the legal system deeply rooted in the Romano-Germanic tradition prevalent in Central Asian countries. Moreover, it is only natural that the ongoing processes of state and societal construction, state modernization, and the embodiment of legal principles call for purposeful and diligent actions. As a result, several paramount ideals have been put forth, encompassing the revised Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, existing laws, the historical legal heritage, legal values, and the cherished traditions embedded within our people. The establishment of a lawful state and a vibrant civil society stands as the ultimate goal for our society. These principles have become the central rallying cry resonating across all Central Asian nations, fostering a harmonious convergence of shared aspirations. In the present-day Uzbek society, fundamental concepts such as the “social-legal state”, “human dignity”, “freedom of expression”, and “pluralism” are being rediscovered and embraced.

The countries of Central Asia are steadily advancing in various dimensions with each passing day. It is widely recognized that one of the primary objectives of Uzbekistan's foreign policy is to cultivate an atmosphere of peace, stability, and security within its immediate surroundings. From this perspective, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev has identified the development and strengthening of friendly, close-neighborly, and mutually advantageous relations with our Central Asian counterparts as the foremost priority in our foreign policy endeavors.

The dynamics of amicable dialogue with Central Asian nations can be divided into two distinct stages. These stages encompass the period from 2017 to 2020 and the present period from 2020 onwards. The first stage encompasses various political and legal circumstances, including the global spread of the devastating coronavirus pandemic, leading to the tragic loss of numerous lives. Notably, considerable attention has been devoted to ensuring social and political stability within the country while maintaining robust relationships with regional and global partners, even amidst the perilous risks posed by this global crisis. President Shavkat Mirziyoyev has emerged as a prominent figure among Central Asian leaders, thanks to his visionary plans and progressive ideas. As tangible evidence of this, we can cite advanced initiatives aimed at fostering sustainable development in the region and combating threats associated with climate change.

In light of these endeavors, an international summit on climate change in Central Asia is scheduled to take place in the historic city of Samarkand. The President has graciously extended invitations to delegations from the countries of the region, urging them to actively engage in this conference. Following the forum, a meticulously prepared draft resolution titled "Central Asia in the Face of Global Climate Threats: Solidarity for Common Prosperity" will be submitted to the esteemed UN General Assembly. Furthermore, the adoption of a regional strategy for climate change adaptation has been proposed, recognizing its significant contribution to climate stability and the promotion of environmentally conscious "green"



development. To accomplish this objective, the establishment of a ministerial-level multilateral platform known as the "Central Asian Dialogue on Climate" is suggested, with the aim of shaping a collective climate agenda for the region and implementing effective measures in harmonious collaboration.

Additionally, the President has introduced several fundamental initiatives to the Central Asian countries, including:

- An agreement on the overarching principles of youth policy among Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.
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- A comprehensive "roadmap" outlining support for health and well-being in Central Asia from 2022 to 2025.

The primary objective of the foreign policy endeavors of the Republic of Uzbekistan is to strengthen the nation's independence and sovereignty, elevate its standing and role in the international arena, and foster an environment of security, stability, and amicable relations within its immediate vicinity. Moreover, Uzbekistan actively champions the foreign economic interests of the republic. The nation steadfastly adheres to a course of non-alignment with military-political alliances, firmly prohibiting the establishment of foreign military bases or facilities on its sacred soil. Similarly, the participation of its military personnel in peacekeeping operations or armed conflicts abroad is strictly proscribed. Uzbekistan ardently advocates for the peaceful resolution of all conflicts and disputes solely through political means. The nation upholds the principles of sovereign equality among states, renouncing the use or threat of force, respecting the inviolability of borders, and refraining from interfering in the internal affairs of other nations. Uzbekistan conscientiously fulfills its international obligations, upholds and safeguards human rights, and adheres to universally recognized principles and norms of international law.

The paramount focus of our foreign policy lies in the Central Asian region. Uzbekistan's policy in Central Asia is directed towards the attainment of peace and stability, the resolution of critical challenges pertaining to regional security, including contributing to the resolution of the situation in Afghanistan. Uzbekistan will exert utmost efforts to fortify regional trade and economic cooperation, foster the development of the region's transport and transit infrastructure, ensure the judicious and comprehensive utilization of the water and energy resources of the transboundary rivers of Central Asia, safeguard the environmental equilibrium of the region, and conclude the process of border delimitation and demarcation. Uzbekistan actively seeks to strengthen friendly and harmonious neighborly relations with the countries of the region, foster scientific-technical and cultural-humanitarian cooperation, and enhance relations between parliaments, border regions, public organizations, and ordinary citizens. Uzbekistan will persist in expanding its ties with Afghanistan and actively participate in international endeavors aimed at achieving a peaceful resolution to the situation in the country. The Uzbek side will continue to extend support for the revival of Afghanistan's economy, the advancement of its transport, production, energy, and social infrastructures. A stable and prosperous Afghanistan serves as an assurance of regional security in Central Asia [3:4].



Over the past five years, Uzbekistan has actively initiated and facilitated high-level visits between itself and all the countries in the region. These visits have served as a catalyst for a continuous and meaningful political dialogue among the leaders of the regional nations, built upon a foundation of mutual trust. As a result of these engagements, crucial joint decisions of mutual, regional, and international significance have been reached, addressing matters of security, borders, economy, investment, tourism, culture, health, and ecology, all of which are of great interest to the Central Asian countries. These concerted efforts have led to a remarkable improvement in Uzbekistan's relations with all of its regional counterparts, including the reestablishment of mutual ties and the opening of borders. Such developments have further strengthened the bonds of neighborliness and have sparked a vibrant resurgence in public diplomacy, humanitarian aid, and cultural cooperation. Trade and economic relations with the countries of Central Asia have been steadily progressing. By examining the dynamics of Uzbekistan's foreign trade turnover with its Central Asian neighbors, we observe that it amounted to \$2.5 billion in 2016, \$2.7 billion in 2017, \$4.0 billion in 2018, \$5.2 billion in 2019, and despite the challenges imposed by the pandemic, it reached \$5.0 billion in 2020. A meticulous analysis of this dynamic table reveals that the volume of foreign trade has doubled from 2016 to 2020. This serves as a testament to the proactive foreign policy pursued by the Uzbekistani government [4:2].

At the heart of these developments lies the strengthening of amicable relations among the Central Asian countries, which directly contributes to the peace and prosperity of the entire region. The fact that these nations also stand as cooperative partners in various significant issues ensures a promising future for all. It is not an overstatement to assert that the harmonization of their legal systems represents a noteworthy achievement. In conclusion, firstly, the good neighborly relations fostered by the New Uzbekistan with its Central Asian counterparts serve as a pivotal factor not only for our nation but also for the development of neighboring countries. Secondly, the regional-level initiatives undertaken by the President of Uzbekistan are reinforcing our country's standing within the region and simultaneously on the global stage.

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