



FOREIGN POLICY OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN BASED ON PEACE AND HARMONY IN THE INTERNATIONAL FIELD

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Abstract. This article examines the foreign policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the international arena, based on the principles of peace, mutual respect, and cooperation. It analyzes the evolution of Uzbekistan's diplomatic strategy since independence, with particular emphasis on its commitment to peaceful conflict resolution, regional stability, and the development of constructive international relations. The study highlights key initiatives of Uzbekistan aimed at strengthening good-neighborly relations in Central Asia, expanding multilateral cooperation within international organizations, and promoting global peace and security. Special attention is given to the country's balanced and pragmatic foreign policy approach, which seeks to maintain sovereignty while actively engaging in global integration processes. The findings demonstrate that Uzbekistan's foreign policy plays an important role in fostering stability, mutual trust, and sustainable development both regionally and globally.

Keywords: Uzbekistan, foreign policy, international relations, peace diplomacy, regional cooperation, Central Asia, multilateral relations, global stability, diplomacy, mutual trust.

Introduction. Since 1991, when the Republic of Uzbekistan gained independence, the state's foreign policy has reached a fundamentally new level. Uzbekistan has formed a foreign policy based on its national interests, international legal norms, and the principles of maintaining peace and stability. The main goal of this direction is to ensure the country's sovereignty and security, increase its prestige in the international arena, strengthen peace in the region, and create favorable external conditions for economic development. In foreign policy, Uzbekistan has chosen an independent path - namely, the principles of "non-alignment with any military-political bloc", "mutually beneficial cooperation" and "peace-loving policy" formed its basis. Therefore, our country has been recognized in the international community as a reliable and peace-loving state. From today, under the leadership of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, Uzbekistan has entered a new stage in foreign policy based on the principles of openness, friendship, and cooperation. Initiatives such as strengthening mutual trust with close neighboring countries, activating integration processes in the region, peacefully resolving the Afghan problem, and finding a fair solution to water and energy issues are practical manifestations of this policy. Uzbekistan also actively cooperates with the United Nations (UN), the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and other international structures,



promoting the ideas of peace, security and sustainable development in the world. In this regard, the content of Uzbekistan's foreign policy is manifested as a strategic direction aimed not only at ensuring national interests, but also at ensuring the stability and security of the entire Central Asian region.

The Republic of Uzbekistan, having gained independence on September 1, 1991, chose its own path of development and declared itself a sovereign state in the international arena. From that day on, one of the most important tasks facing the country is the formation of an independent foreign policy, finding its place in international relations and protecting national interests. From the very beginning, Uzbekistan's foreign policy has been conducted in a direction based on peace-loving, open, and friendly relations.

The main principles of the foreign policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Openness to cooperation, regardless of ideological views, commitment to maintaining security.

Respect for the sovereign equality of states and the inviolability of borders.

Non-interference in the internal affairs of other states.

Peaceful resolution of disputes.

Non-use of force and threat of force.

Respect for human rights and freedoms.

The primacy of internationally recognized rules and norms over domestic national laws and legal norms.

Formation of alliances and secession from them to ensure the supreme interests of the state and people, security.

Non-entry into aggressive military blocs and associations.

Equality and mutual benefit in interstate relations, the primacy of state and national interests.

Development of foreign relations on both a bilateral and multilateral basis.

The Republic of Uzbekistan is a full-fledged subject of international relations. Its foreign policy is based on the principles of sovereign equality of states, non-use or threat of force, inviolability of borders, peaceful settlement of disputes, non-interference in the internal affairs of other states, and other generally recognized rules and norms of international law.

The Republic may, in order to ensure the supreme interests, well-being and security of the state and people, form alliances, enter into commonwealths and other interstate structures and withdraw from them (Article 17).

Historical stages of Uzbekistan's foreign policy (1991-2025). 1991-2000 - The period of strengthening independence: Uzbekistan integrated into the international community as a sovereign state. Became a member of the UN, SCO, CIS, and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. The main focus was on establishing diplomatic relations and ensuring regional security. 2001-2016 - Moderate unilateral diplomacy: Caution and stability became a priority in foreign policy. Non-alignment with military blocs and internal political stability were preserved. Relations with Russia, China, and Asian countries deepened, but a closed policy



was noticeable. 2017-2025 - The stage of openness and active diplomacy: President Shavkat Mirziyoyev established active participation in foreign policy. Initiative foreign policy, regional integration, multi-vector orientation, investment and transport diplomacy became the main directions.

Stages of formation of foreign policy In the early years of independence, Uzbekistan's foreign policy was formed in three main directions:

1. Strengthening state sovereignty and achieving recognition of Uzbekistan as an independent state in the international community;
2. Ensuring security and stability - active participation in the regional and global security system;
3. Expanding economic and diplomatic ties - establishing mutually beneficial cooperation with foreign countries. On March 2, 1992, the Republic of Uzbekistan was admitted as a full member of the United Nations. This historical event was of great importance in giving the country's foreign policy an independent and legal basis.

Friendship and solidarity with neighbors. One of the most important directions of Uzbekistan's foreign policy is the development of friendly relations with close neighboring countries. Strengthening peace, trust and cooperation in Central Asia is a priority goal of the country's foreign policy. Since the 1990s, Uzbekistan has established diplomatic relations with Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. In recent years, these relations have expanded further in the political, economic and cultural spheres. Under the leadership of Shavkat Mirziyoyev, this principle has reached a new level as the "Policy of Friendship with Close Neighbors". This principle has yielded the following results in practice:

1. Created an atmosphere of peace and trust in the region;
2. Strengthened friendly relations with neighboring countries;
3. Made Uzbekistan a respected and reliable partner in the international arena;
4. It has increased the prestige of Uzbekistan as a peace-loving state in the world community. Therefore, the principles of friendship and solidarity in Uzbekistan's foreign policy serve not only as a diplomatic direction, but also as the main guarantee for the peaceful and prosperous life of the people.

The principle of equality and mutual benefit. Uzbekistan establishes cooperation with all states on an equal basis. Any international agreement or treaty is concluded on the basis of mutual benefit. This policy has established Uzbekistan as a reliable partner of the world community.

Commitment to international law. The country conducts its foreign policy on the basis of international law, the UN Charter and international treaties. Uzbekistan respects the territorial integrity and sovereignty of other states. Prioritizing national interests. The most important principle of Uzbekistan's foreign policy is to prioritize national interests above all else. Any international agreement or diplomatic initiative must serve the country's security, economic development and well-being of the people.



During the years of independence, Uzbekistan has established diplomatic relations with more than 160 countries. Embassies of many countries have been opened in Tashkent, and embassies of Uzbekistan also operate in foreign countries. The country has expanded cooperation with such influential international structures as the UN, OSCE, SCO, CIS, and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. Thanks to this active foreign policy, Uzbekistan is recognized in the region and around the world as a peace-loving, reliable, and stable state. In conclusion, the Foreign Policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan is a policy based on independence, peace, cooperation, and national interest. It is distinguished by its clear position and active initiatives in the international arena. In a word, Uzbekistan's foreign policy is a policy that serves the peace and prosperity of the people, expresses national pride and independence. Uzbekistan supports programs aimed at ensuring security within the framework of the UN, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

Policy of peace and stability in Central Asia. A number of important initiatives have been put forward on the initiative of Uzbekistan to strengthen the atmosphere of peace and trust in Central Asia. In the 1990s, Islam Karimov promoted the principle of the "Open Door Policy" in the region, aiming to develop friendly relations with all neighboring countries. Uzbekistan's regional policy has reached a new level in recent years under the leadership of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev. In 2017, he spoke at the UN General Assembly and put forward the concept of "New Central Asia" to strengthen the atmosphere of peace and trust in Central Asia. Today, thanks to this policy of Uzbekistan: border disputes with Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan have been resolved peacefully; Cooperation in the use of water and energy resources has intensified; Cooperation between the countries of the region in the trade, transport, cultural and scientific spheres has been strengthened.

Uzbekistan's peace-loving position on the issue of Afghanistan. Since Afghanistan is a country that directly borders Uzbekistan, the political situation there directly affects the country's security. For this reason, Uzbekistan has been actively and consistently pursuing diplomatic efforts to establish peace in Afghanistan[1].

In March 2018, an international conference was held in Tashkent on the topic "The Peace Process in Afghanistan: Cooperation and Solidarity". It was attended by representatives of the UN, the European Union, the United States, Russia, China, Pakistan and other countries. This initiative once again demonstrated Uzbekistan's leading role in ensuring peace in the region. President Shavkat Mirziyoyev said in this regard: "The people of Afghanistan need peace and stability. We see this country as an integral part of our region"[2].

Uzbekistan is known as a state that actively participates in international security issues. In the 2000s, the country strengthened cooperation with the UN and the SCO in the fight against international terrorism; Since the 2010s, Uzbekistan has firmly supported the policy of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and has put forward the initiative to create a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia; In 2020, Uzbekistan received the status of the UN "State Supporting



Peacekeeping Initiatives". These results have further increased Uzbekistan's prestige in the international arena. The National Security Concept of the Republic of Uzbekistan is a document aimed at ensuring the independence, territorial integrity, political stability and economic strength of the country. It sets out the following priority areas:

1. Maintaining internal political stability;
2. Strengthening international cooperation in the fight against external threats;
3. Ensuring information security;
4. Strengthening state borders;
5. Ensuring water, food and environmental security. This concept practically strengthens Uzbekistan's peace-loving foreign policy.

Cooperation of Uzbekistan with international organizations. Since the first days of independence, the Republic of Uzbekistan has been implementing the policy of establishing active relations with the international community and establishing cooperation with various international organizations. This cooperation occupies an important place in the foreign policy of the country, because through cooperation with international organizations, Uzbekistan protects its interests on a global scale, contributes to the peaceful resolution of regional and global problems. Cooperation with the United Nations (UN) On March 2, 1992, the Republic of Uzbekistan was recognized as a full member of the United Nations (UN). This historical event strengthened the independence of Uzbekistan in the international arena and made the country an equal member of the world community. Cooperation with the UN is one of the most important areas of Uzbekistan's foreign policy. Our country took a number of initiatives within the framework of the UN:

In 2000, the President of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov put forward the initiative "Declaring Central Asia a nuclear-weapon-free zone". This initiative was implemented in 2006, and an international treaty banning nuclear weapons was signed in Central Asia. In 2017, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev gave a speech at the UN General Assembly and put forward the idea of "Central Asia: sustainable development through mutual trust and cooperation". This initiative was an important step towards maintaining peace in the region. Uzbekistan is conducting effective projects with organizations such as the UN Human Rights Council, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), UNESCO, UNICEF, and FAO. For example, in cooperation with UNESCO, historical cities such as Samarkand, Bukhara, Khiva and Shahrizabz were included in the list of world cultural heritage. This is not only an international recognition, but also a great achievement in the way of introducing the rich cultural heritage of Uzbekistan to the world. Cooperation with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

Uzbekistan became a member of the OSCE in 1992. Cooperation with the organization is carried out mainly in three areas:

1. Ensuring safety,
2. Development of democratic institutions,



3. Protection of human rights.

Within the framework of cooperation with the OSCE, a number of programs have been implemented in Uzbekistan to monitor election processes, develop civil society, combat corruption, and ensure gender equality. OSCE projects in Uzbekistan serve to strengthen political stability in the region, develop the rule of law, and improve public administration. Cooperation with the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

Uzbekistan is one of the founders of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). The country joined the organization in 2001. Cooperation within the SCO mainly covers the areas of security, trade, transport, energy, and culture. Through the SCO, Uzbekistan actively participates in the fight against terrorism, extremism, and drug trafficking; plays a leading role in the activities of the "SCO Regional Anti-Terrorism Center"; and promotes initiatives to expand regional economic cooperation. Within the framework of the SCO summits, Uzbekistan has put forward many initiatives, in particular, such ideas as "Development of Transport and Logistics Infrastructure" and "Establishment of the Youth Diplomacy Council" are being implemented.

The SCO anniversary summit, held in Beijing from August 31 to September 1, 2025, was attended by leaders of more than 20 states and 10 international organizations. President Sh. Mirziyoyev, who participated in this summit, put forward more than 20 initiatives to further enhance the organization's activities. These initiatives were welcomed by the international community[3].

Cooperation with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Uzbekistan became a member of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in 1996. Within the framework of this organization, the country has taken active initiatives in the field of religious tolerance, peace, the fight against terrorism, education and science. In 2016, Tashkent was declared the "Capital of Islamic Culture" by the OIC. In 2018, the "OIC Youth Forum" was held in Samarkand. These events further increased Uzbekistan's prestige in the Islamic world. In addition, within the OIC, Uzbekistan's "Islamic Solidarity and Tolerance" initiative is being promoted and actively promoted to strengthen religious harmony in the world. Cooperation with the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). Uzbekistan is one of the founding countries of the CIS in 1991. Within the Commonwealth, wide-ranging cooperation has been established in the political, economic, cultural and humanitarian spheres. Uzbekistan actively participates in economic integration processes within the CIS; cooperates on security and border protection issues; supports exchange programs in the fields of culture, sports, science and education. In 2020, Uzbekistan chaired the CIS and during this period put forward a number of initiatives to revitalize the organization's activities, expand regional economic projects, and strengthen mutual assistance in the fight against the coronavirus pandemic.

Cooperation with the European Union (EU) and other organizations. Uzbekistan is also developing effective economic cooperation with the European Union, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development



(EBRD), and the Asian Development Bank (ADB). Through these organizations, international programs are being implemented to: finance reforms in the economy; implement infrastructure projects; develop social sectors; and address environmental problems. For example, new lines of the Tashkent metro are being built in cooperation with the EBRD, and water supply and agricultural modernization programs are being implemented with the ADB.

On April 3-4, 2025, the first summit of Uzbekistan and the European Union was held in Samarkand. It was attended by the High Representative of the European Union Antonio Costa and Ursula von der Leyen, Presidents of major banks and companies. As a result of the meeting, an agreement was reached on investments worth 40 billion euros based on large-scale economic and humanitarian projects. On October 24, 2025, a solemn ceremony was held in Brussels to sign the Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the European Union, with the participation of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, the President of the European Council Antonio Costa and the President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen. The document updates and significantly expands the legal framework of Uzbekistan-Europe cooperation, which is based on the 1996 Partnership and Cooperation Agreement. Negotiations on the draft new agreement began in February 2019 and were completed in July 2022. The document was initialed in Brussels on July 6, 2022. The agreement consists of 9 chapters, 356 articles and 14 annexes. It covers almost all areas of bilateral relations and forms a comprehensive legal framework for strengthening political dialogue, developing cooperation in all areas of mutual interest, with particular attention to trade and investment, sustainable development, science and education, innovation and high technologies, environment and climate change. During this meeting, the European Union additionally invested 10 billion euros in Uzbekistan. The signing of the agreement marks a new stage in relations between Uzbekistan and the EU and brings the multifaceted partnership to an unprecedented level[4].

The development of Uzbekistan's comprehensive relations with the United States.

On September 23, at the UN headquarters, Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev met with US President Donald Trump. In a brief conversation, Trump expressed satisfaction with the \$105 billion worth of agreements signed between Uzbek and US companies. Uzbekistan was recognized at this meeting as a major buyer of modern US equipment and machinery. The \$105 billion worth of agreements signed between Uzbek and US companies surprised the world. The two sides expressed their desire to continue their dialogue in the future[5].

Also, on November 5-6, 2025, a summit of the leaders of the US plus 5 Central Asian countries was held in Washington at the initiative of President D. Trump. Central Asia, and in particular Uzbekistan, with its rare underground resources, has been of great interest to advanced industrial countries. Our state has creative mineral resources such as copper, lithium, lead, silver, gold, uranium. The two countries are expanding cooperation in the development of mining and quarrying, bringing them to the level of finished products, and launching new



oil and gas fields. Important agreements are being implemented to import and use modern geological heavy equipment and technologies from the USA to Uzbekistan.

President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev held a meeting with a delegation of leading US companies within the framework of the Fifth Tashkent International Investment Forum, which was held on June 16-18, 2026. The meeting was attended by John Yovanovitch, President and Chairman of the US Eximbank, Ben Black, CEO of the International Finance Corporation (IFC), Carolyn Lamm, Chairwoman of the US-Uzbekistan Chamber of Commerce, as well as the heads of Air Products, Cove Capital, Templeton Global Investments, Boeing, 77 Construction, BlackRock, FLS, Visa, JP Morgan, Meta, GULF and a number of other companies. The Head of our state noted with satisfaction that this meeting is a continuation of a good tradition that has emerged in recent years and a confirmation of the growing interest of US businessmen in expanding their activities in Uzbekistan. It was emphasized that economic cooperation is one of the main pillars of the strategic partnership between Uzbekistan and the United States. The leader of our country outlined a number of relevant areas aimed at further developing trade and economic cooperation between the two countries.

Thanks to the enthusiasm and activity of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, several prestigious international summits and conferences were held in Uzbekistan in 2025 alone. For example, Tashkent hosted the 150th anniversary Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. (April 2025)

- On April 2-3, 2025, the first Central Asia-European Union summit was held in Samarkand, and soon after, the International Climate Forum. From October 31 to November 15, 2025, the 43rd session of the UNESCO General Conference was held in Samarkand.

- On October 24, 2025, an agreement on enhanced partnership and cooperation between Uzbekistan and the European Union was signed in Brussels[6].

The President announced that the economy in Uzbekistan will grow by 6.7% in 2026, and the gross domestic product will reach \$167 billion. It was noted that there are opportunities to increase the volume of the economy by \$240 billion in the next 5 years. "This is a forecast based on accurate and thorough calculations," the President said.

Particular attention is being paid to promoting specific projects in the development and processing of important minerals, energy, metallurgy, finance, artificial intelligence, digital technologies and many other areas. The heads of large US companies expressed gratitude to the President of Uzbekistan for the favorable conditions created for the effective operation of investors and outlined their specific proposals and plans. At the end of the roundtable discussion, a ceremony of exchanging bilateral documents with leading US companies was held. The package of signed agreements amounted to \$10 trillion[7].

On October 15, 2025 and May 3, 2026, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev held meetings with the heads of leading companies of Saudi Arabia[8]. The event was attended by the Minister of Investments of the Kingdom, Khalid al-Falih, the



head of ACWA Power, Muhammad Abunayan, Al Muhaidib Group, Vision Invest, Data Volt, Riyadh Cables, AlMajdiah, InterHealth, Saudi Tabreed, AlBawani Holding, Miahona, Pemco and other leading companies and corporations. At the beginning of the meeting, our President emphasized that thanks to the joint efforts of the leaders of the two states, Uzbek-Saudi multifaceted partnership relations have risen to a high level in recent years. The total portfolio of joint projects has exceeded \$ 30 billion. The volume of mutual trade is steadily growing. The number of flights between the two countries has exceeded 60 times a week.

The Head of State highly appreciated the activities of the company "ACWA Power", which is the main partner of Uzbekistan in the field of "green" energy. It was noted that new investment initiatives launched in December last year, including projects for the construction of solar and wind power plants, are being consistently implemented in accordance with the established plans. During the conversation, special attention was paid to promising areas of cooperation. In particular, the issues of building the "New Tashkent" international airport, establishing a multidisciplinary medical institution in the city of Fergana, as well as launching a modern data processing center (data center) in the IT park were discussed[9].

Conclusion. In conclusion, the foreign policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan is distinguished by its principles of peacekeeping, cooperation and mutual respect. Each foreign policy step of our country serves to ensure national interests, regional security and international peace. This policy, formed during the years of independence, has strengthened Uzbekistan's position in the world community and established it as a reliable partner. The idea of "Our Common Home in Central Asia" put forward by President Shavkat Mirziyoyev has further strengthened friendship, trust and mutually beneficial relations between the countries of the region. Thanks to this approach, long-standing border and water and energy problems in the region began to be resolved peacefully, and trade and economic relations have expanded dramatically. Uzbekistan's cooperation with international organizations, in particular, its active participation in the UN, SCO, OIC and other influential structures, and its contribution to global peace and sustainable development also demonstrate the effectiveness of its foreign policy. The main goal of Uzbekistan's foreign policy is to establish friendly relations with the countries of the world, resolve conflicts only through negotiations, and ensure international security and peace. Thanks to this policy, today our country is recognized in the international arena as a "peace-loving, open, reliable and stable partner." At the same time, this far-sighted, fair policy serves to ensure the material well-being of our people and raise the social protection of the population to a high level. Thus, Uzbekistan's foreign policy is not only a policy that protects the interests of the state, but also establishes solidarity, peace and mutual trust in the region. Therefore, this policy is a guarantee of peace, stability and prosperity for present and future generations.



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