

Friendly and Peaceful Policy of Uzbekistan

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Abstract: This article examines the bilateral relations of foreign policy of Uzbekistan with Russia, China, the USA, France, and Germany. The article shows that the relations between the two countries are conducted based on openness, mutual benefit, and friendly, peaceful principles. It is revealed that mutual relations are based on the rapidly changing situation in the world and the region, as well as large-scale positive changes within the country.

1 INTRODUCTION

The research methodology is based on system and situation analysis methods. The method of analyzing the situation was used within the framework of the scientific project "Interdependence of Central and South Asia" of the Tashkent State University, in which the importance and factors of the role of developed countries in the foreign policy of Uzbekistan were studied. The author also conducted an expert survey (30 experts) among specialists who deal with the problems of interdependence in modern conditions. As materials for research, the author took from the materials obtained during participation in international conferences and roundtable discussions held in Uzbekistan. Also, published scientific analytical materials were used on Uzbekistan's relations with developed countries. Official documents related to diplomatic relations between Uzbekistan and developed countries in the last 30 years were separately analyzed.

2 RELEVANCE OF THE STUDY


The relevance of the research is determined by the following. First, Uzbekistan entered a new stage of its development. The reforms implemented in our country are aimed at human dignity on the basis of social, legal, democratic state and secularism. Of course, these processes are carried out in harmony

with foreign policy. In turn, he put on the agenda to study the practical problems arising in connection with foreign policy. Secondly, the ongoing reforms put the identification of new aspects of active foreign policy on the agenda. Also, directions of the newly revised constitution of Uzbekistan set requirements for finding and implementing new methods and mechanisms for the development of foreign relations. Third, in the conditions of new transformational changes in international relations, it became necessary to study prospective models of protecting the interests of our country.

3 RESEARCH RESULTS

These principles are aimed at strengthening the generally recognized principles of foreign policy in bilateral relations with foreign countries and the constitutional foundations of bilateral relations. Also, it is intended to continue and strengthen our foreign policy course, which has been achieved in foreign policy. In turn, these constitute the central point of our country's foreign policy. Uzbekistan is pursuing an open, mutually beneficial and friendly, peaceful foreign policy in its bilateral relations with foreign countries. Bilateral relations are conducted based on the rapidly changing situation in the world and the region, as well as large-scale positive changes within the country.

In today's world, every nation and state achieve its development and goals through its foreign policy

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based on its national interests. Both history and current experience show that countries that follow this path can ensure stability and provide decent conditions for their people. During the next 30 years, drastic changes are observed in the world order. Attempts to revise the existing arrangements are gaining momentum. We are witnessing an increase in military-political conflicts and conflicts as a result of strong developed countries not agreeing on the issue of global order. In such conditions, Uzbekistan is conducting a foreign policy without falling under the influence of any forces in order to maintain stability and ensure security. It has been actively promoting the foreign economic interests of our country by strengthening the independence and sovereignty of the state, its place and its role in the international arena in its bilateral relations with foreign countries, creating an environment of security, stability and good neighbourliness around it.

Peaceful bilateral relations conducted in Uzbekistan in recent years have led our country to have a uniquely positive position in the modern world community.

Currently, the Republic of Uzbekistan has established diplomatic relations with 142 countries of the world. There are 46 foreign embassies, 3 consulate generals, 13 honorary consuls, 24 representative offices of international organizations, 26 representative offices of foreign international intergovernmental and government organizations, and 1 trade representative office operating in Tashkent. There are 59 diplomatic missions of the Republic of Uzbekistan in foreign countries and international organizations, and there are consular offices. Uzbekistan is a member of more than 100 international organizations, and our country develops mutual partnership relations with various multilateral cooperation structures. (Bazileva, et al., 2016 - Mamasoliev, 2024).

Currently, Uzbekistan's bilateral relations with the USA, Russia, China, USA, France, and Germany are being improved.

3.1 Uzbekistan - Russia

Firstly, Uzbekistan's strategic partnership and cooperation with Russia in bilateral relations have significantly strengthened in recent years. As a result of joint efforts based on openness and mutual trust, a significant expansion of the scope of mutual cooperation in trade-economic, investment, energy, transport, agro-industry, scientific-technical and cultural-humanitarian spheres was achieved. Today, Russia is a strategic partner, close neighbour and ally

of Uzbekistan. Russia is considered one of the main investors in the economy of Uzbekistan. The Russian Federation ranks first in the number of foreign enterprises in our country.

In mutual relations, projects aimed at the implementation of promising projects in the fields of education, tourism, information and communication, housing and communal services are being implemented. Cooperation in the field of education and science can be seen as the pace of international relations has accelerated. The number of students studying in Russian higher education institutions has exceeded 40,000. Branches of Russian higher education institutions are operating in our country. Among them are the branch of Moscow Dalat University, the National Technological Research University (MISiS), the National Nuclear Research University (MIFI) and the first foreign branch of the Moscow State Institute of International Relations. Within the framework of the Uzbekistan-Russia education forum in 2022, more than 20 universities conducted cooperation. All this confirms that the strategic partnership between Uzbekistan and Russia has a solid foundation and a legal basis. On June 14-17 of this year, an interstate agreement on the supply of Russian gas to Uzbekistan was signed within the framework of the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum. It envisages that Russia will import 2.8 billion cubic meters of gas to Uzbekistan annually during 2023-2025. (Bazileva, et al., 2016 - Mamasoliev, 2024).

3.2 Uzbekistan - China

Secondly, Today, our cooperation with China in the political, trade-economic, financial, cultural, agricultural, construction, scientific and educational spheres is developing rapidly and on a mutually beneficial basis. The strategic partnership development program between Uzbekistan and China for 2023-2027 was adopted. China is an important trade partner of Uzbekistan. Both countries are very active in trade and investment. The projects envisage the construction of railway, energy and other infrastructure facilities within the framework of "Silk Road Economic Space", and "One Belt, One Road". China remains the main trade partner of Uzbekistan - the amount of mutual trade is equal to 8.3 billion dollars. (Bazileva, et al., 2016 - Mamasoliev, 2024).

Since 2011, the most favourable state regime has been established between the two countries in mutual trade. The absorbed Chinese investment amounted to 10.9 billion dollars in 2017-2022, including 2.2 billion dollars in 2022. Also, 1763 enterprises with

Chinese investment are operating in Uzbekistan, of which 275 were established in 2022. A total of 283 documents were signed between the Republic of Uzbekistan and China, including 113 interstate and intergovernmental international agreements, 82 interdepartmental and 88 other types of documents. (Bazileva, et al., 2016 - Mamasoliev, 2024).

The ways of cooperation formed between our countries 2000 years ago have been providing an exchange of goods, culture and knowledge. Recently, many young Uzbeks have been interested in learning the Chinese language, and Chinese people are also learning the Uzbek language. It serves the exchange of knowledge and cultural communication. For example, the Confucius Institute established under the Tashkent State University of Oriental Studies and the Samarkand State Institute of Foreign Languages has become a centre of Chinese language and culture.

3.3 Uzbekistan - USA

The United States, which was among the first to recognize the independence of Uzbekistan, remains one of the reliable partners in mutual relations. Bilateral relations are built on a solid foundation and traditionally have a trusting character. Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, great efforts have been made to strengthen mutually beneficial cooperation. In this, the declaration on the foundations of strategic partnership and cooperation between Uzbekistan and the USA signed in 2002, played a decisive role. In May 2018, the Joint Statement "On the Beginning of a New Era of Strategic Partnership" was adopted. Cultural and humanitarian relations are of great importance in strengthening bilateral relations. Cooperation in this regard is also the focus of attention of the people of the two countries. A prestigious "Uzbekistan caucus", that is, a group of unofficial friends of the republic, was formed in the US Congress. A branch of Webster University was opened in Tashkent, which includes a wide range of academic programs, including marketing and entrepreneurship, computer science, media industry, and health management. Constructive cooperation between Uzbekistan and the United States is also implemented in a multilateral format, in particular, within the framework of the UN and C5+1 on global and regional agenda issues.

On September 15-16 of this year, the President of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, and the President of the United States, Joseph Biden, discussed current issues of interstate and regional cooperation at a bilateral meeting in New York. A delegation of Uzbek business representatives led by Carolyn

Lemm, chairwoman of the Uzbek-American Chamber of Commerce, and large multinational companies and corporations - "Air Products", "Citigroup", "SNH", "Boston Consulting Group", "GE HealthCare", "Oppenheimer", He met with the leaders of "Cerberus" and "Cintana". Also, the first summit of the leaders of the Central Asian countries and the United States of America in the "S5+1" format was held and President Shavkat Mirziyoyev took part in it.

One of the important areas of cooperation between the two countries is trade and economic partnership. The parties are striving to continuously expand trade and economic relations and are trying to strengthen economic ties. Mutual trade has been growing over the past three years. For example, by the end of 2022, the volume of Uzbekistan's trade with the United States will be 436.8 million dollars (export - 68.5 million dollars, import - 368.3 million dollars), and by 2021 (426.3 million dollars) and 2020 (277 million dollars) shows a relative increase. (Bazileva, et al., 2016 - Mamasoliev, 2024).

3.4 Uzbekistan - France

Uzbek-French relations are gaining importance in our foreign policy. In this regard, the official visit of French President Emmanuel Macron to Uzbekistan on November 2-3 this year was of historical importance. Within the framework of the official visit, the leaders of Uzbekistan and France adopted a joint statement based on raising bilateral relations to the level of strategic partnership in the future.

The activities of the Uzbekistan-France Intergovernmental Commission on Trade-Economic Cooperation and the French Enterprise Movement "MEDEF International" were supported in terms of trade and investment promotion. In the statement, the portfolio of joint projects implemented in Uzbekistan by the parties with the French Development Agency group is 1.3 billion euros. (Suhrob, et al., 2024 – Rasulov, et al., 2024).

It was noted with satisfaction that the number of trade and joint ventures has doubled. The portfolio of current and prospective projects has exceeded 10 billion euros. A 1-billion-euro Strategic Partnership Program is being implemented with the French Development Agency. (Suhrob, et al., 2024 – Rasulov, et al., 2024).

Today in Uzbekistan, many leading French companies such as "Orano", "EDF", "Total", "SUEZ", "Eiffage", "Volitalia", "Lactalis", "Veolia" are involved in energy, mining, water supply, transport, is implementing large-scale projects in the

agricultural sector. The number of such companies has increased 4 times in recent years. 23 out of 47 enterprises in our country operate on the basis of 100% French investment. (Suhrob, et al., 2024 – Rasulov, et al., 2024).

The economic "Roadmap" for 2020-2030 was adopted. According to this plan, public-private partnerships are prioritized for implementation. It is envisaged to accelerate cooperation in the fields of energy and electricity distribution, geological exploration, water resources management, transport, tourism and mountain facilities, agriculture and food industry, and innovative technologies.

It was noted with pleasure that the agenda of cultural and humanitarian cooperation is rich. It was said that interest in learning the French language is increasing in Uzbekistan. In this regard, the parties welcomed the opening of the branch of the French alliance in Samarkand. In the field of culture and heritage, taking into account the results of two exhibitions organized in 2022-2023 at the Louvre Museum and the Institute of the Arab World in Paris, the parties decided to further develop communication in the field of cultural heritage restoration by establishing cooperation between the Fund for the Development of Culture and the Arts and the National Institute of Cultural Heritage.

3.5 Uzbekistan - Germany

Today, Germany is among the five largest trade and investment partners of Uzbekistan. For the first time in 30 years, the volume of trade between Uzbekistan and Germany exceeded one billion dollars. The presence of German business in Uzbekistan is growing, correspondingly, the volume of German investments has doubled from 700 million to 1.5 billion dollars. Among all our partners, Germany is the largest supplier of modern machines and equipment necessary for the modernization of Uzbekistan's economy. In short, all these are important contributions to the sustainable development of Uzbekistan and the diversification of its economy. (Suhrob, et al., 2024 – Rasulov, et al., 2024).

In 2021 alone, the number of investments from Germany amounted to 1.1 billion dollars (+37.5 per cent), and they were directed to the implementation of projects in the oil and gas and pharmaceutical industries, as well as the production of construction materials. By the end of 2022, this figure was 769.1 million dollars.

219 enterprises with German investment are operating in Uzbekistan, 97 of them are individual

entrepreneurs. Representative offices of 31 German companies are accredited. About 270,000 students study the German language in 980 schools in Uzbekistan, where more than 3,000 teachers teach, German is taught in 24 schools, 6 of which are studied in depth. Cooperation with more than 30 German universities has been established. About 1,000 Uzbek students, postgraduates and doctoral students study at various universities and research centres in Germany.

4 CONCLUSIONS

The reforms that will be carried out in Uzbekistan over the next seven years, the adoption of the new Constitution of Uzbekistan and the strategy "Uzbekistan-2030" create political and legal conditions for the implementation of a friendly and peaceful foreign policy. This can be seen especially in relations with the major partners of Uzbekistan, Russia, China, the USA, France, and Germany. In this process, the following trends are emerging and developing. Firstly, the political-diplomatic relations, built on the basis of trust, openness and pragmatism in mutual relations, gained strategic importance and reached a new stage. In multilateral relations, the basis of national interests prevails and has an important place in the development of countries. Secondly, there is an undoubted shared history and experience in mutual relations, mutual friendly relations between our peoples, as well as regular meetings of the heads of state, the desire to continue the political dialogue between them, to strengthen cooperation in the field of security, effective fight against emerging threats and dangers is growing. Thirdly, strategic partnership dialogue based on the principle of deep respect was launched in a new format. Efforts are being made to further strengthen, deepen and expand the trust-based nature of the relationship, to bring the strategic format to a new level in all areas of partnership. Fourthly, the new positive political environment established in the region as a result of the constructive and good neighbourly policy of Uzbekistan with the countries of Central Asia creates suitable conditions for achieving the goals of the foreign policy of the partner countries in the direction of Central Asia. Fifth, in recent years political-diplomatic, trade-economic and cultural-educational partnership namely, cultural-humanitarian and economic diplomacy is rapidly developing.

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