



Ensuring Regional Security is the Main Criterion of the Foreign Policy of Uzbekistan

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Abstract: *This article analyzes the role of ensuring a transparent process of stability and improvement of international relations in foreign policy. It also considers an analysis of some of the arguments that have been important in our State since the first days of Independence and especially today, the difficult period of the task of ensuring peace and tranquility, the development of military power, the process of fulfilling priority tasks in the field of foreign policy.*

Keywords: *complexity of social space, independence and sovereignty, openness, pragmatic policy, risk, civil war and humanitarian crisis, harmony of domestic and foreign policy, security, hope and confidence.*

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It is no secret that the issue of preserving and strengthening peaceful life, for which the peoples of the world are fighting, and ensuring security guaranteed to the peoples, is more relevant today than ever. After all, every step taken in practice, and not endless theoretical statements, inspires great hope and confidence in the future of those peoples whose centuries-old dream has come true. Undoubtedly, the foreign policy of New Uzbekistan is, first of all, to be proactive and exemplary in the above areas by building a stable, fair and democratic state in our country, promoting the principle of openness to the outside world and developing regional and multilateral cooperation.

To this end, both theoretical and practical steps have been taken. In particular, on the initiative of Uzbekistan, in cooperation with the countries of Central Asia, several special resolutions of the UN General Assembly have been adopted in recent years. On "Strengthening regional and international cooperation in order to ensure peace, stability and sustainable development in the Central Asian region", the following was adopted:

- "Enlightenment and religious tolerance" (June 22, 2018);
- "Sustainable tourism and sustainable development in Central Asia" (December 19, 2019);
- "Turning the Aral Sea region into a zone of environmental innovation and technology" (May 18, 2021) many resolutions such as will further strengthen ties and stabilizes trust not only on issues related to this area, but also on the topics that drive them.

"In today's difficult situation in the Central Asian region and around the world, where the threat of terrorism, extremism and radicalism is growing, these issues are of decisive importance. With this in mind, we have identified peace and security as one of our priorities from the very beginning of

building a new Uzbekistan”[1, 311]. The fundamental changes taking place in our country in recent years, the consistent and active foreign policy pursued by the leadership of our country, especially close proximity to the countries of Central Asia, strengthen and further enhance the international authority of the country.

The world community is well aware that Uzbekistan pursued a policy aimed at ensuring its independence and sovereignty, security and sustainable socio-economic development, as well as the well-being of all citizens, in all difficult and bright days of historical development, regardless of the situation in the international arena and any threats.

At the heart of an open and transparent pragmatic policy, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Sh. practical foreign policy”[2, 5-6] is very important.

In Annex 1 to this Decree, paragraph 5.2 of the “Priorities in the field of ensuring security, interethnic harmony and religious tolerance and a thoughtful, mutually beneficial and practical foreign policy” states: Particular attention is paid to conceptual issues: “strengthening the independence and sovereignty of the state, increasing the role and place of the country as an equal subject of international relations, joining the ranks of developed democracies, creating an atmosphere of security, stability and good neighborliness around Uzbekistan;

Strengthening the international prestige of the Republic of Uzbekistan, providing objective information to the world community about the reforms being carried out in the country[2, 27-28].

It is known that Afghanistan, as part of the Central Asian region, has been cooperating with us for hundreds of years as a single cultural and civilization space. By the will of fate, many of our thinkers and scientists lived on this earth and left a huge cultural heritage.

However, in the late 1970s, the limited number of former allied troops initially circumvented all existing international rules, and the introduction of US troops into Afghanistan after the September 2001 events created a very dangerous situation for the independent Republic of Uzbekistan in the 1990s and beyond. ..it's not a secret to anyone. Regardless of their scale, wars and conflicts are not a historical memory of the past, and even today they have not completely disappeared from the life of peoples.

None of the forms of government that have emerged in Afghanistan over the past 40 years have been able to rid the suffering Afghan people of near-conflict, but as events unfold, they are reaching a dead end.

The history of the development of human civilization, especially in the modern interdependent world in all respects, clearly shows that any conflict in a single state will not remain within national borders for a long time. There are enough facts in the pages of history to prove that a number of small causes subsequently became larger and completely uncontrollable. This is due to the fact that external forces pursuing different goals and striving to advance their interests in the crisis-ridden region are always waiting for the appearance of favorable conditions and will inevitably take advantage of them.

As one of our closest neighbors, we directly encountered such threats and threats in those years, and we clearly understand all the negative consequences of the possibility of developing the situation in Afghanistan based on this scenario. Under these conditions, the territory of Afghanistan should not be allowed to become a source of threats and dangers to our security.

The President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh. Mirziyoyev, as rightly said, “Uzbekistan pursues a policy aimed at ensuring its independence and sovereignty and sustainable socio-economic development, as well as the well-being of all citizens, regardless of the situation in the international arena and any threats”[1, 326].

Uzbekistan considers the strategic task of building a modern democratic state, widely integrated with the world community in all areas, of course, a priority task in overcoming threats and any aggression.

The geographical and political situation in the world at the end of the twentieth century is extremely indicative, since it began a kind of change in scale. In this context, it is necessary not only to think deeply about the views, cooperation and mechanisms that have arisen in relations between countries, but also to re-evaluate them in many respects. Of course, changes in this area do not occur spontaneously, they are not created, but are gradually resolved by studying the best world experience, establishing ties with foreign countries.

As rightly stated in the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, "The Republic of Uzbekistan is a full-fledged subject of international relations. Its foreign policy is based on the principles of the sovereign equality of states, non-use of force 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"[3, 8], the law indicates that this has become urgent task. The deeper and more reliable the integration of our country with international formations, the smaller the scale of threats to its security, the stronger stability.

President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh. Mirziyoyev's speech at a meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization - the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) said: "There are no guarantees that he will not return to the situation of the 1990s"[5].

The notion has already formed in the ideological space that the measures taken to correct the situation as much as possible, the measures being taken, can turn the unprecedented crisis in Afghanistan into a place where Central Asia and neighboring countries can cause great unrest in the future. However, we recognize our adherence to the basic principles developed in the early years of our independence at a time when peace and cooperation in the region are threatened, and it is worth recalling that it is based on: The primacy of the national interests of the state, taking into account mutual interests; Equality and mutual interest, non-interference in the affairs of other states; Openness to cooperation, regardless of worldview, commitment to universal values, peace and security; the supremacy of international law over domestic legislation; Development of external relations on the basis of both bilateral and multilateral agreements.

But taking control of the situation in Afghanistan and laying the foundations for its future is possible only if there is the will of its long-standing neighbors, the Central Asian states, and the priorities of all multinational Afghans. Therefore, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh. Mirziyoyev emphasized the following: "We consider the security of Afghanistan as a guarantee of the security of our country, the stability and prosperity of the entire region, and we will remain so" [1, 330].

While the Taliban, who came back to power in 2021 after a brief success in 1996, were very interested in initial changes in various areas of public life, further steps, especially on religious, ethnic, gender and many other issues, are already alarmed and even alarmed the world community is also laying the groundwork. Promises made in the name of peace, intermediate agreements do not lead to significant results, as many expected. Unfulfilled promises are made. Not only that, but reports of unhealthy groups forming around rebellious "resistance forces" have become a hot topic in the world's media. In this context, from the point of view of the need to strengthen the independence of Uzbekistan and ensure its security, these events cause us serious concern.

In his congratulatory message on the occasion of the 28th anniversary of the Day of the Armed Forces and Defender of the Fatherland on January 14, 2020, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh. Mirziyoyev said: "This requires us to comprehensively analyze and forecast the

international and regional situation, activate comprehensive measures to ensure security and stability of our country, to increase the combat readiness and combat capability of our Armed Forces” [4, 401].

However, it is no secret that many of them threaten the world community - economic, environmental, cultural, spiritual, human rights and freedoms, the growing influx of refugees, global threats to information security. We must hope that good neighborliness will save us.

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