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## Research Article

### UZBEKISTAN-US RELATIONS ARE DEEPENING

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#### ABSTRACT

This article covers multilateral cooperation between Uzbekistan and the United States based on facts.

#### KEYWORDS

Diplomacy, foreign policy, international cooperation, ambassador, regional cooperation, international organization.

#### INTRODUCTION

Diplomacy is an important tool of state foreign policy through which the country's external political, economic, and military interests are protected, and comprehensive international cooperation is ensured. One of the fundamental and complex tasks that Uzbekistan faced upon gaining independence was to establish its position in the international arena and to develop beneficial relations with developed countries through foreign policy.

In the complex and challenging process of globalization, Uzbekistan began to actively integrate into the world community, taking into account its own

position and priorities in its foreign policy. From the very beginning of independence, attention was paid to foreign policy issues, understanding that the successful implementation of not only internal reforms but also the correct selection of the country's foreign policy and active participation in global processes are essential for the achievement of high goals. In this way, the strategy, objectives, and priorities of our foreign policy, as well as diplomacy, were shaped.

The development of the global community demonstrates that the degree of integration of any state into the international arena indicates its position

in the external world. In this regard, during the momentous meeting dedicated to the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev emphasized the vital importance of continuing constructive and mutually beneficial relations with all countries, primarily neighboring states. He stated, 'We believe that continuing close cooperation with all countries, including neighboring states, is the most important factor in achieving the high goals we have set ourselves and becoming a member of the club of developed democratic states. All the large-scale reforms we are implementing today are aimed at achieving this goal' (President Shavkat Mirziyoyev's speech at the festive meeting dedicated to the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, December 9, 2017).

In the current complex and unique situation, active foreign policy implementation is considered one of the important guarantees of the country's development. Uzbekistan is establishing and developing comprehensive cooperation and partnership relations with various developed and developing countries. The countries that have achieved progress in the development of the world community can serve as an example for Uzbekistan in terms of high levels of economic development, advanced science, technology, respect for human interests, and the democratic structure of society. Establishing and strengthening relations of cooperation with such countries plays a significant role in Uzbekistan's progress. From the early years of independence, the leadership of Uzbekistan saw the need to establish strong and mutually beneficial cooperation with Western countries. The Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan 'On the Concept of the Foreign Policy Activity of the Republic of Uzbekistan' adopted by the Parliament in 2012 is the legal basis for our country's

foreign policy. At present, this policy, while maintaining its consistency, continues to find its confirmation not only in Uzbekistan's renewal phase but also in changing relations with Western countries. President Shavkat Mirziyoyev also noted in his Address to the Oliy Majlis on December 29, 2020, 'We continue to develop constructive and mutually beneficial relations with our main partners, including Russia, China, the United States, Turkey, Germany, France, the United Kingdom, South Korea, Japan, and India.'

After gaining independence from the Soviet Union, the Republic of Uzbekistan established diplomatic relations with the United States on February 19, 1992. The first US embassy in Tashkent was opened on March 16, 1992, and on June 25, 1996, the Uzbekistan Embassy in Washington, D.C. began its activities. However, establishing equal and mutually beneficial relations between the two countries was not easy. This was due to the perspective of American policymakers who viewed Uzbekistan as a leading country in Central Asia that could counter Russia's "imperial" aspirations [Referring to that book, page 193]. Nevertheless, Uzbekistan's firm position and strategy in its foreign policy forced a change in the United States' attitude towards our country.

According to statistical data, in the early years of independence, there were several official meetings and negotiations between the United States and Uzbekistan, leading to bilateral agreements in various fields. In 1995, during the anniversary session of the UN, Uzbekistan's first President I.A. Karimov met with US Vice President Al Gore and discussed the development of Uzbekistan-US cooperation in global and regional security issues [Referring to that book, page 196]. As a result of measures taken to develop partnership relations, the Uzbekistan-US joint venture

was established in Uzbekistan in 1996 with the participation of American investors.

The further development and advancement of relations between the two states reached a new stage with the official visit of Uzbekistan's first President I.A. Karimov to the United States from June 23 to 28, 1996. During the visit, the presidents of both countries discussed political, economic, and security issues of mutual interest [Nuriddinov E Formation and further development of the external activities of the Republic of Uzbekistan during the stage of country renewal. E., 2021].

As a result of the terrorist attacks that took place in the United States on September 11, 2001, the United States proposed the establishment of an anti-terrorism coalition, which Uzbekistan supported. In general, during the period from 1991 to 2001, there were 28 official visits and meetings between the two countries, but from September 2001 to April 2002, the number of such visits increased significantly. These figures indicate positive trends in the development of Uzbekistan-US relations. However, the dynamics of the two countries' growing bilateral cooperation faced negative repercussions due to the events in Andijan in May 2005. As a result, the US administration criticized Uzbekistan's position at that time, accusing it of violating human rights and failing to adhere to Western democratic values, which had a negative impact on the relationship between the two countries.

With the presidential elections held in the United States in 2009, Barack Obama came to power, and during his tenure, positive changes were observed in Uzbekistan-US relations. The Obama administration not only changed its foreign policy direction towards Uzbekistan but also towards all Central Asian states. However, during this period, the level of bilateral

cooperation between the two countries did not reach a sufficiently broad and beneficial level.

When Shavkat Mirziyoyev came to power in Uzbekistan, he initiated significant reforms in all areas, including foreign policy, and began to develop relations with other countries. In the field of external relations, Uzbekistan and the United States entered a new phase of cooperation. In 2017, the presidents of Uzbekistan and the United States had two meetings: in May, they met in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, during the Arab Islamic American Summit, and in September, they met in New York during the 72nd session of the UN General Assembly, marking the beginning of a new era in bilateral relations.

The positive results of the deep reforms aimed at modernizing our country have not gone unnoticed by American politicians and observers. American experts and politicians have shown great interest in the positive changes taking place in Uzbekistan under the leadership of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev. The official statement by the United States Department of State on December 7, 2020, announcing the removal of Uzbekistan from the "Special Watchlist for Religious Freedom," was highlighted in the newspaper "Xalq so'zi" on December 14, 2020. The article analyzes the high achievements of the reforms implemented under the guidance of President Mirziyoyev, as recognized by American politicians and experts.

Furthermore, an additional joint statement between Uzbekistan and the United States on "Women, Peace, and Security" emphasized the great honor in collaborating with the Uzbek people in developing a national action plan on gender equality, peace, and security. The joint statement was published in "Xalq so'zi" on November 4, 2020. In the same vein, the U.S. Department of State Secretary Michael Pompeo's statement on the occasion of Uzbekistan's 29th

anniversary of independence, acknowledging the country's efforts in overcoming global challenges and promoting cooperation between the United States and Uzbekistan, was highlighted in the newspaper "Xalq so'zi" on September 3, 2020.

President Shavkat Mirziyoyev's speech at the 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly received significant international recognition. The newspaper "Xalq so'zi" published an article on September 29, 2020, quoting positive opinions from American politicians, experts, scholars, and specialists, expressing their optimistic views on Uzbekistan's future, supported by the reforms being implemented in the country. The experts recognized the international community, including the United States, as a strong supporter of Uzbekistan's promising future.

In addition, educational cooperation between Uzbekistan and the United States has entered a new phase. The signing of a significant agreement on educational development and assistance between Uzbekistan and the United States in 2019 is a clear testament to this cooperation. The U.S. government has allocated up to 50 million dollars to support educational reforms in Uzbekistan within the next five years. This project represents the implementation of the third part of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev's five important initiatives and reflects his commitment to organizing social, spiritual, and educational activities.

Furthermore, bilateral trade relations have also been strengthened through cultural and humanitarian cooperation. The volume of mutual trade exceeded 580 million dollars by the end of 2019, indicating a positive trend. Moreover, significant growth has been observed in the tourism sector. For example, the number of tourists from the United States visiting Bukhara alone increased from 5,909 in 2019 to 7,441 in

2022. It is estimated that the number of tourists in 2023 will exceed 30,000 compared to the previous year.

In conclusion, Uzbekistan-U.S. relations are being conducted in accordance with the universally recognized principles and norms of international law, respecting the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of both countries, as well as their mutual interests and democratic values. The political dialogue between the two states serves the purpose of beneficial and successful

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