

UZBEKISTAN - QATAR: A NEW STAGE OF BILATERAL COOPERATION

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Abstract

The article is devoted to the visit of the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, to Uzbekistan, which attracted a lot of attention both within the country and abroad. During the visit, important agreements were reached and agreements were signed in various fields, including politics, trade, economics, culture, humanitarian sphere and investment.

Qatar's growing political and economic role in international relations is also noted, especially in ensuring security and resolving conflicts in the Middle East and Afghanistan. Qatar actively promotes the peaceful resolution of disputes, rejecting the use of military force and coercion.

Both states - Qatar and Uzbekistan - have common interests in ensuring security in the region, especially in Afghanistan, and strive for stability and prosperity in Central Asia and the Middle East.

Keywords Uzbekistan, Qatar, agreements, politics, trade, economics, humanitarian sphere, investment, political and economic role, international relations, security, conflict resolution, Middle East, Afghanistan, peaceful resolution of disputes, common interests, stability, Central Asia.

INTRODUCTION

It is known that the visit of the Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani to Uzbekistan attracted great attention both in Uzbekistan and abroad, taking into account the results, agreements reached and agreements signed following its results in political, trade-economic, cultural-humanitarian, investment and other areas.

In Samarkand, where the Uzbek-Qatari negotiations took place at the highest level, 15 documents were signed. Among them are cooperation programs between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Justice for 2023-2025 and an agreement to create a joint platform for financing priority investment projects.

The official visit was an important milestone in the transition of Uzbek-Qatari relations to a new stage

of cooperation and is aimed at strengthening friendly ties and expanding interaction between the countries.

"We consider Qatar as our promising partner not only in the Middle East region, but throughout the Arab-Muslim world," the President of Uzbekistan emphasized during negotiations with the Emir of Qatar.

In the context of this, it is necessary to note the growing political and economic role of Qatar in international relations, especially in ensuring security and resolving conflicts in the Middle East and Afghanistan. At the same time, the country, based on its commitment to renouncing the use of military force and coercion, promotes the need for the peaceful resolution of disputes.

Qatar and Uzbekistan have common interests in ensuring security in the region, especially in

Afghanistan, as the states strive for stability and prosperity in Central Asia and the Middle East.

In light of this, an important place in the further progress of Uzbek-Qatari cooperation will be given to the issues of reconstruction and development of Afghanistan.

Joint cooperation can be carried out in the field of investing in infrastructure, implementing large projects in this sector, developing education, healthcare and other areas that contribute to the stability and recovery process of the country.

Another important area of common interests between Tashkent and Doha is the policy of countering terrorism and extremism, which the countries are actively implementing. Both states participate in international initiatives in this area and take the necessary measures to combat such manifestations through bilateral and multilateral interaction.

In particular, Qatar is a founding member of the Global Counterterrorism Forum, coordinating initiatives with 30 different countries, including France, the UK, Germany, Canada and the US. The Emirate reached an agreement on the creation of the UN Counter-Terrorism Structure in Doha and allocated \$75 million for the implementation of the initiative. The country is an active member of the Center for Combating the Financing of Terrorism.

In turn, Uzbekistan is a co-developer and active participant in the Joint Action Plan for the implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia, adopted in a new edition during a high-level international conference in Tashkent in March last year.

In addition, while pursuing a policy of countering terrorism and extremism, Qatar and Uzbekistan, as two important countries in the Muslim world, pay great attention to issues of religious development.

In this regard, states consider education and clarification of the true essence of Islam as a peaceful religion as the main tool for countering radicalization and extremism.

In this direction, Qatar and Uzbekistan can establish joint educational and cultural programs aimed at spreading knowledge about the true

values and teachings of Islam among youth and society as a whole. This will help counter the distortions of religion used by extremists.

Countries can cooperate in the field of religious education, sharing experiences and knowledge on Islamic theology, countering misinterpretations of Islamic texts that can lead to radicalization.

An important area currently is monitoring and controlling the spread of extremist and terrorist propaganda in the media and the Internet. The parties could cooperate on these issues and also counteract this with positive content showing the true values of Islam.

The basis for such interaction could be the road map developed and adopted by Uzbekistan jointly with the UN Counter-Terrorism Office in October 2022, where the central place is given to the issues of religious education, countering manifestations of extremism and terrorism in cyberspace.

In this way, Uzbekistan and Qatar can join forces to combat extremism and terrorism, as well as promote the true teachings of Islam, using education and dialogue as the main tools.

At the same time, assessing the prospects for Uzbek-Qatari relations, it can be noted that they have great potential across the entire range of bilateral relations, including issues of joint cooperation in resolving conflicts and strengthening regional security. The implementation of such a policy can be implemented through joint initiatives of Tashkent and Doha within the framework of the UN, OIC, CICA, SCO, where Qatar has become a dialogue partner in the Organization.

In conclusion, Uzbekistan and Qatar can find common interests in expanding both economic ties, including trade, investment and infrastructure projects, and political ones, which could contribute to the growth and development of the region, ensuring its security.

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