

Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> May-2025

**SOME ASPECTS OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN UNION  
AND UZBEKISTAN IN ENSURING STABILITY IN CENTRAL ASIA**

**Umirov Baxtiyor**

Teacher of public health technical college named after  
Republic No. 1 Abu Ali Ibn Sina

**Annotation:** Today's Republic of Uzbekistan is an important, active and worthy member of the international community. Over the past 31 years, the country has strengthened its national sovereignty. It is important to note the responsible, peace-loving policy of the state and its initiatives aimed at improving relations between countries, strengthening mutual trust, global and regional security.

**Keywords:** history, state, international image, security, president, independence, dialogue, peace-loving.

Today's Republic of Uzbekistan is an important, active and worthy member of the international community. Over the past 31 years, the country has strengthened its national sovereignty. It is important to note the responsible, peace-loving policy of the state and its initiatives aimed at improving relations between countries, strengthening mutual trust, global and regional security. The Republic of Uzbekistan, thanks to its restrained, open and constructive foreign policy, is not only strengthening its independence and sovereignty, but also enhancing its international image. Major world powers recognized that it was at the initiative of the first President of Uzbekistan, Islam Karimov, that Central Asia became a nuclear-weapon-free zone, and then the decision was adopted by the permanent members of the UN Security Council. Ensuring security and stability in Central Asia is one of the priority tasks in the foreign policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan. In particular, the issue of Afghanistan remains the issue most frequently raised by Uzbekistan within the UN framework over the past thirty years. The first President of Uzbekistan, I. A. Karimov, and President Sh. Mirziyoyev made several proposals on the Afghan problem and its solution, and this process is still ongoing. At the same time, cooperation with the international community is being established and developed to solve this problem. Deepening cooperation in the Central Asian region, including ensuring stability in Afghanistan, intensifying investment cooperation with leading foreign countries, deepening partnerships with influential international financial institutions, as well as protecting the rights and interests of compatriots abroad, have been identified as priority areas in foreign policy today. If we compare it with the period before 2016, no one could have predicted the emergence of such cooperation between the countries of the region. One of the important aspects is that Afghanistan, which was seen as a threat in recent years, is now perceived as a country of opportunities. At the second Consultative Meeting of the Central Asian States held in Tashkent, the leaders of the countries of the region also emphasized the need to use all opportunities to involve Afghanistan in regional cooperation. In his new political direction, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev pays great



Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> May-2025



attention to the protection of human rights and freedoms, ensuring security, interfaith harmony and tolerance. The tasks in this area were clearly reflected in the Strategy of Actions on Five Priority Areas of Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2017-2021 and the Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan for 2022-2026. In particular, the approaches to combating extremism have changed conceptually. The main focus here is not on the consequences of extremism, but on eliminating its causes and factors. At the same time, the fact that one of the laws signed by President Sh.M. Mirziyoyev in the first years of his coming to power, namely on July 31, 2018, was the Law “On Combating Extremism”, indicates how serious attention is being paid to this issue.

In developing this law, the experience of many Western countries, including the European Union countries Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, and France, which provide for criminal liability for extremist acts, was comprehensively analyzed, and the legislation of Moldova, Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, and other countries that have adopted special laws against extremism was comparatively studied[8]. The adoption of this document, first of all, serves to ensure the security of the individual, society, and the state, to protect the constitutional order and territorial integrity of the state, to maintain the peace of citizens, and to maintain interethnic and interfaith harmony. In addition, mechanisms for strengthening interfaith dialogue as an important factor ensuring social cohesion in our country have been improved. In 2018, a new composition of the Council on Confessions, which operates as a public advisory body under the Committee on Religious Affairs, was approved. It includes all religious organizations belonging to various confessions registered in Uzbekistan. All this, along with ensuring Uzbekistan's internal stability, plays an important role in the development of relations with regional countries, including Afghanistan.

Uzbekistan has been providing all possible assistance to the Afghan people for almost thirty years and is making a comprehensive contribution to the establishment of peace and tranquility there. It plans to actively participate in international cooperation on the construction of the Termez - Mazar-i-Sharif - Kabul - Peshawar railway, as well as important strategic projects in the energy, trade and industrial sectors. In particular, the regional and international initiatives put forward by President Shavkat Mirziyoyev in recent years, including those that allow us to look at the Afghan problem with a new perspective, are being noted by the world community. Over the past period, Uzbekistan has significantly expanded bilateral relations with Afghanistan, actively joined international efforts to resolve the Afghan problem. In particular, in his speech at the 72nd session of the UN General Assembly in September 2017 and at the international conference on “Central Asia: a common history and a common future, sustainable development and cooperation for progress” held in Samarkand under the auspices of the UN in November of this year, Shavkat Mirziyoyev emphasized the need to abandon the division of threats to security in Central Asia into “one's own and others”, to practically adhere to the principle of “comprehensive security”, and that peace in the neighboring country can only be achieved through negotiations. After all, stabilizing the situation in Afghanistan is an important condition for ensuring not only regional, but also global security. On March 26, within the

Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> May-2025

framework of the Tashkent International High-Level Conference on Afghanistan on the theme “Peace Process, Security Cooperation and Regional Partnership”, held at the initiative of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, the next meeting of foreign ministers in the “European Union – Central Asia” format was held in Tashkent. The Prime Ministers of the Central Asian countries participating in it, including the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan Abdulaziz Kamilov and the Vice-President of the European Commission, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini, discussed current issues of interregional cooperation.

Uzbekistan and the European Union have common views on regional security issues in Central Asia. In particular, the European Union supports Uzbekistan's initiatives aimed at stabilizing the situation in Afghanistan. The new foreign policy of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev towards Afghanistan is based on the principles of openness, good neighborliness, mutual respect and consideration of interests, and is contributing to a significant expansion of bilateral relations. An important part of this policy is the active participation of official Tashkent in multilateral mechanisms that contribute to the peace process in Afghanistan and the economic recovery of the country, and Uzbekistan's support for the active involvement of Kabul in regional economic processes. This was also recognized by the President of the European Union Council Donald Tusk, who visited our country in 2019. Afghanistan has been an integral part of Central Asia as a country with unique strategic and cross-border opportunities in the Eurasian region. The peoples of the region are united by a common history, religion, culture and traditions. A peaceful Afghanistan will provide the countries of Central Asia with the shortest access to the ports of the Indian Ocean and the Persian Gulf, and will connect India, Iran and Pakistan with Europe and other regions. Therefore, stability and consistent development not only in Central Asia, but also in neighboring regions are inextricably linked with the establishment of peace and tranquility in Afghanistan.

#### **REFERENCES:**

1. Slovak Ambassador: “Uzbekistan is an active and worthy member of the international community” // People's Word. - 2016. - September 1.
2. The world community supports the constructive foreign policy of Uzbekistan // People's Word. - 2020. - March 31.
3. Consultative meeting - a new format of meetings of the Central Asian states, the author of this proposal is the President of Uzbekistan Sh.M. Mirziyoyev. The first meeting was held in 2018 in the capital of Kazakhstan, Nur-Sultan, the second in 2019 in Tashkent, the third in 2021 in Turkmenistan, and the fourth consultative meeting in 2022 in Kyrgyzstan.
4. The world community supports Uzbekistan's constructive foreign policy // People's Word. - 2020. - March 31.
5. Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. PF-4947 dated February 7, 2017 "On the Strategy of Actions for the Further Development of the Republic of

Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> May-2025

Uzbekistan" // Collection of Legislative Documents of the Republic of Uzbekistan, 2017,  
No. 6.



**International Conferences**  
Open Access | Scientific Online | Conference Proceedings

