

Research Article

## **The Importance Of The Turkish Council As A Sustainable Direction Of National Interests Of Uzbekistan**

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### **Annotation**

This Article Described The Priorities Of The Foreign Policy Of The Republic Of Uzbekistan. It Also Analyzed The Cooperation Council Of Turkic Speaking States And Its Reflection On Uzbekistan's National Interests. They Would Discuss The Turkish Council's Establishment, Its Activities, And The Importance Of Uzbekistan's Participation In The Council.

**Keywords:** Turkic Council, Turkic Language, Turkic-Speaking Countries, Foreign Policy Bilateral Cooperation, Neighborhood, Economic Ties, Central Asia, Diplomacy, Interest.

### **Introduction**

It Would Not Be An Exaggeration To Say That 2017 Was A Year Of Radical Changes In Our Country's Foreign Policy. The Identified Foreign Policy Activities Focused On The Development And Strengthening Of Friendly Relations With Our Close Neighbors. Issues That Had Been Unresolved For Many Years Had Begun To Be Resolved Together In Practice. In Particular, It Had Addressed Many Sensitive Issues Such As The Everyday Use Of Water Resources, The Demarcation Of Borders, The Opening Of Checkpoints, The Resumption, And The Expansion Of Traffic. High Rates Of Trade With Neighboring Countries Were Achieved. For The First Time, Inter-Regional And Cross-Border Cooperation Had Been Established, And Interaction At All Levels Had Intensified.

### **Materials And Methods**

Uzbekistan Had Identified Its Primary Foreign Policy Efforts In The Action Strategy For The Five Priority Areas Of Development Of The Republic Of Uzbekistan For 2017-2021. The Following Were The Main Priorities Of The Country's Foreign Policy:

- Strengthening State Independence And Sovereignty, Further Strengthening The Role And Place Of The Country As A Full-Fledged Subject Of International Relations, Joining The Ranks Of Developed Democracies, Creating A Belt Of Security, Stability, And Good Neighborliness Around Uzbekistan;

- Strengthening The International Image Of The Republic Of Uzbekistan, Providing The World Community With Objective Information About The Ongoing Reforms In The Country;

- Improving The Regulatory Framework For Foreign Policy And Foreign Economic Activity Of Uzbekistan, As Well As The Legal Framework For International Cooperation;

- Addressing The Issues Of Delimitation And Demarcation Of The State Border Of Uzbekistan.

Uzbekistan Is The Leading State In Central Asia. Foreign Experts And Representatives Of Political Circles Also Recognized The Importance Of The Region. Tashkent Had Signed Strategic Partnership Agreements With All Neighboring Countries In The Region, Which Would Allow Building A High Level Of Regional Policy. The Work Carried Out For This Purpose Is Also Essential In Strengthening The Country's Role And Place In International

Relations. By Offering Initiatives To Develop Cooperation, Uzbekistan Did Not Seek Any Advantage In The Region. Uzbekistan's Initiatives Took Into Account All Countries' Interests And Are Based On The Principle Of Consensus.

The New Political Reality In The Region Formed Due To Uzbekistan's Initiative And Constructive Diplomacy And Positively Impacted The Establishment Of Relations Between The Countries Of Central Asia On A Wide Range Of Issues. A Vivid Example Of This Was The November 2019 In Consultative Meeting Of Central Asian Leaders In Tashkent. During The Meeting, The Parties Discussed The Solution To Many Problematic Issues On The Central Asian Agenda, Which Cannot Be Done Unilaterally Or Bilaterally. Besides, An Agreement Was Reached To Hold Such Meetings Regularly. At The Same Time, Holding A Consultative Meeting Of Central Asian Leaders Did Not Mean Creating A New International Organization In The Region Or Any Integration Structure With Its Charter And Interethnic Bodies. This Activity Would Only Focus On "Reconciling Hours" On Important Issues Of Regional Development.

The Country's Current Foreign Policy Priorities Were At The Level Of The Tasks Set Out In The "Strategy Of Action." They Were Reflected In The Practical Steps To Develop New Approaches To Expanding Ties In The International Arena. In This Regard, Several Relevant Policy Documents Were Developed And Adopted And Roadmaps For Further Development Of Multifaceted Cooperation With Countries Worldwide, Including Turkey, India, China, Japan, Germany, France, And Afghanistan.

The Formation Of A Balanced System Of Strategic Partnership And Cooperation With The World's Leading Countries And International Organizations Was An Essential Priority Of Uzbekistan's Foreign Policy. This Approach Was Designed To Effectively Address The Challenges Of Modernizing The Economy, Maintaining Stability And Security, And Creating An Enabling Environment For Cooperation In Central Asia. Thanks To The Highest Level Of Contacts, Uzbekistan Had Taken Its Relations With The World's Leading Countries And International Organizations To A Radically New Level. The New Foreign Policy Direction Would Be Reflected In The Intensification Of Interaction And Strengthening Of Its Regional And International Organizations' Position. Development And Strengthening Of Relations With Turkic States Was A Priority Of Uzbekistan's Foreign Policy. In September 2019, The Country Became A Turkic Council Member (Cooperation Council Of Turkic Speaking States). In The Long Run, The Turkish Council Should Become A Unique Mechanism For Regional Cooperation Between The Sub-Regional Union, Europe, The Middle East, The Caucasus, And Central Asia.

The Closeness Between The Turkic Peoples Was Due To The Common Culture, Language, Religion, Values, And The Long-Standing Trade Relations And Cooperation. These Ties Were Severed During The Former Soviet-Era; Although Limited, The Sense Of Brotherhood Had Found Its Old Roots Again By The Years Of Independence. In The Former Soviet Union's Turkic Countries, The Emphasis On National Identity Had Increased, Historical Traditions Had Been Revived, And Relations With Turkic-Speaking Countries Had Intensified. The Cooperation Council Of Turkic Speaking States (Turkic Council) Was Established In 2009 As An International Intergovernmental Organization To Develop Comprehensive Cooperation Between Turkic-Speaking Countries. The Initiative To Establish The Former President Of Kazakhstan Put It Forward In 2006. The Founding Members Of The Council Were Turkey, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, And Kyrgyzstan.

## **Results**

The Turkish Council's Activities Aimed To Strengthen Peace And Stability, Develop Broad Cooperation, And Open Up Opportunities For The Joint Development Of Member States. Although The Organization Unites A Particular Country Group, It Did Not Take An Exclusive Approach. On The Contrary, It Sought To Serve As A New Regional Tool For Developing International Cooperation On The Eurasian Continent, Especially In Central Asia And The Caucasus, Through Deeper Ties And Solidarity Between The Turkic-Speaking Countries.

The Turkish Council, Built On Four Pillars: A Common History, Common Language, Common Identity, And Culture, Was Not Limited To These Standard Features. On The Contrary, It Aimed To Expand Existing Bilateral Cooperation Areas, Such As Multilateral Cooperation Between Member States In The Interests Of The Region In The Fields Of Economy, Science, Education, Transport, Customs, Tourism, And Others. The Turkish Council Cooperated Voluntarily With Neighboring Countries To Ensure Peace And Stability In Its Region,

Especially In Transport, Customs, Tourism, And Other Fields, Not Limited To Its Member States. In The Turkish-Speaking Countries' Territories, The Rules In Force In The European Union Allowed For The Free Movement Of People, Goods, And Services. Intensification Of Cooperation With The Organization Would Open New Opportunities For Our Country To Develop Multifaceted Relations With Neighboring Countries And Close Non-Regional Partners (Turkey, Azerbaijan). Participation In The Organization As A Permanent Member Would Provide Uzbekistan With Additional Political And Diplomatic Opportunities To Promote Its Initiatives In The International Arena And Strengthen The Country's International Prestige And Status As One Of The Centers.

On September 3, 2018, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev Represented Uzbekistan For The First Time At The Turkish Council's Summit In Cholpon-Ata, Kyrgyzstan. Uzbekistan's Leadership, One Of The Turkic-Speaking Countries In The World, Had Not Participated In Any Of The Summits Of The Cooperation Council Of Turkic Speaking States Until 2018. In His Speech At The Summit, The President Of Uzbekistan Noted That Peoples Have A Common Language, Common Spiritual Values , And Ties Of Cooperation And That Today There Are No Problems Or Disagreements On The Political Agenda Of The Council. "We Are Interested In Further Developing Mutually Beneficial Cooperation Within The Turkish Council. At This Stage, We Are Ready To Participate In Its Activities In Areas Of Practical Interest To Our Country," Said The President Of Uzbekistan.

### **Discussion**

By Becoming A Member Of This Council, Uzbekistan, As A Sovereign State, A Full-Fledged Subject Of International Relations, Had Opened A New Direction In Its Foreign Policy, Gained Its Voice In A New Structure. Secondly, There Was An Opportunity To Directly Participate In Managing One Of The Most Important International Organizations Operating In Central Asia And The Broader Macro-Region In Determining Its Plan, Future, Priorities. Third, Our People's Age-Old Values Related To National Identity, History, Language, And Turkic Origin And Friendly Relations With Neighboring And Distant Fraternal Countries Had Been Strengthened By Additional Means. Fourth, There Was An Opportunity To Develop Our Direct Cooperation Bilaterally And Multilaterally With Member And Observer States And Several Structures Involved In This International Organization. For Example, In Some Areas Of Strategic Importance, Such As International Transit, International Transport, And Ecology, Bilateral Relations Were Insufficient, Multilateral Mechanisms Were An Integral And Inevitable Tool In Such Processes.

Uzbekistan Emphasized The Need To Expand Trade, Economic, And Investment Ties, Strengthen Cooperation Between Leading Industrial Enterprises, Banking And Financial Institutions, And Business Structures In The Cooperation Council Of Turkic Speaking States Framework. One Of The Organization's Essential Tasks Should Be To Create An Integrated Transport Network, Paying Particular Attention To Access To Primary Markets In The World And The Region. A Significant Positive Factor Was The Huge Potential For The Development Of Tourism Within The Organization, And The Strengthening Of Cultural And Humanitarian Ties Would Bring Our People Closer.

### **Conclusion**

In Short, The Turkish Council Would Work Together To Ensure Peace And Stability In Its Region, Especially In Transport, Customs, Tourism, And Other Fields. Not Only Uzbekistan But Also Other Member States Focused On Protecting Their National Interests Within The Council. Accordingly, Uzbekistan Also Became A Member Of This Organization In The National Interest. The Concept Of The Foreign Policy Included: The Right Of The Republic Of Uzbekistan To Form Alliances, Join And Leave The Commonwealth And Other Interstate Structures Following The Highest Interests Of The State, The People, Their Welfare And Security, The Priorities Of Modernization, The Current National Legislation And International Obligations. It Is Written That It Retained. Therefore, Uzbekistan's Participation In International Organizations Was Determined By National Interests.

### **Conflict Of Interests And Contribution Of Authors**

The Authors Declare The Absence Of Apparent And Potential Conflicts Of Interest Related To The Publication Of This Article And Report On Each Author's Contribution.

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