

FOREIGN POLICY OF UZBEKISTAN WITH EGYPT

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Abstract. *After gaining independence, the Republic of Uzbekistan began to pursue a very active and open foreign policy. This policy is mainly of a mutually beneficial, constructive nature, which is based on the national interests of the state. This article examines the foreign policy of Uzbekistan with Egypt in different areas. It mainly covers the further development and strengthening of bilateral ties in the fields of education, tourism, culture, industrial cooperation, and trade. The article also provides examples of cooperation, agreements, and contracts in the above areas.*

Keywords: *action strategy, bilateral mutually beneficial relations, diplomatic dialogue, education, science, tourism, Republic of Uzbekistan, Arab Republic of Egypt, foreign policy, trade, airlines.*

INTRODUCTION

At present, the Republic of Uzbekistan is considered one of the rapidly developing countries, which has clear plans for development and progress. Our Republic is trying to develop in all areas. In particular, in the fields of politics, economics, education, medicine, gender equality, etc., the foreign policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan is important to achieve specific goals.

Uzbekistan's foreign policy is based on strengthening the country's independence, establishing complete security, increasing its place and role in the international arena, conducting diplomatic dialogue with many rapidly developing countries, creating favorable conditions for the development of multilateral relations with other states, improving its place in international rankings and indices. The foreign policy of Uzbekistan is based on the 17th article of the main Law of the Republic - the Constitution, the laws "On approval of the Concept of foreign policy activities of the Republic of Uzbekistan" and "On international treaties". It is also enshrined in other legal acts, documents, agreements, and official statements of the Head of our state.

Considering that the 21st century is the century of globalization and technology, our country also strives to conduct foreign policy in accordance with this. Modern politics, in relation to all independent countries, requires the implementation of a thoughtful, comprehensive, proactive foreign policy course. Today, our Republic is trying to pursue a fairly transparent, open, constructive foreign policy. When establishing any diplomatic relations of the Republic of Uzbekistan with other countries, it takes into account the rapidly changing situation in the world and the region.

When it comes to the country's foreign policy, it is important to note the principled position of this state policy. In accordance with this position, our republic has a policy of non-alignment with any military-political blocs, preventing the deployment of foreign military bases and facilities on its territory and non-participation of our country's military personnel in any military operations, as well as resolving all contradictions and conflicts only diplomatically and peacefully way. The main and main goal of our country's foreign policy is to establish diplomatic dialogue through peace, mutual benefit, benefit and progress.

It is important to note that our republic, with its comprehensively considered, balanced foreign policy, was able to implement certain tasks, goals and plans with many Western, Eastern and neighboring countries. Evidence of this can be the strengthening of the status of the Republic of Uzbekistan in international bodies, improvement of positions in world indicators, broad and comprehensive support from the international community and the successful implementation of all initiatives in accordance with international requirements that are established within the framework of the Action Strategies 2017-2021. It was in this strategy that all further tasks of the country were outlined in detail, taking into account international standards and practices.

At the same time, in accordance with the Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan for 2022-2026, the highest priority directions and tasks for the implementation of a pragmatic and proactive foreign policy have been established. In goal 99 of paragraph VI of this strategy, it is noted that the improvement of the regulatory framework for foreign policy and foreign economic activity of the Republic of Uzbekistan is noted.

The relevance of this article can be noted in the study of the expansion of diplomatic relations of the Republic of Uzbekistan with many Arab countries. In particular, today our country has established close mutually friendly ties with such Arab countries as the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Sultanate of Oman, and the State of Qatar. This list can be continued for a long time.

Among the Arab countries with which the Republic of Uzbekistan has established strong bilateral ties, the Arab Republic of Egypt occupies an honorable place.

If we take a historical excursion, it is important to note that among all Arab countries, Egypt was the first to recognize the independence of our country on December 26, 1991. Already in January 1992, the first important steps towards establishing diplomatic relations were taken between Uzbekistan and Egypt. For 32 years now, trust, friendship, and comprehensive cooperation have become increasingly stronger between the two countries. Over the years, Egypt has always proven that it is a good and worthy partner for the further implementation of joint tasks. For Uzbekistan, Egypt is considered an important strategic partner in the Middle East, just as for Egypt, Uzbekistan is important in Central Asia.

The opening of the Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt in our country in 1993, as well as the opening in 1994 of the Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the capital of Egypt, Cairo, further strengthened diplomatic ties between the two countries. The highest priority areas of bilateral relations are:

- establishing strong mutual cooperation in the economic sphere;
- development of cooperation in the field of education and science;
- establishment of contracts for the expansion of investments;
- exchange of experiences in the pharmaceutical and medical fields.

After this, relations between countries increasingly rise to a new level. Evidence of this is the two official visits of our First President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov to the Arab Republic of Egypt. This was in December 1992 and April 2007. During these visits, interstate relations, agreements in educational, economic, cultural, and trade areas were widely discussed. After this visit, countries and heads of state established treaties and agreements that served as a real beacon for the further development of interstate relations.

However, in 2011, bilateral relations between the republics weakened significantly due to the political and unstable situation in Egypt. The Arab Spring in 2011, which changed the political

landscape of Egypt, had a negative impact in all areas of the country. This year, discontent in the form of street demonstrations and protests was held in several cities in Egypt, which became the main reason for the demand for the resignation of the government and the current President Hosni Mubarak. Since 1981, Hosni Mubarak has been the president of Egypt and was re-elected to this post three times. The main reason for these protests is considered to be youth unemployment, dissatisfaction with politics, increasing poverty among the population, etc. After all these discontents, Hosni Mubarak was overthrown as president, then a military interim government came to power. In the presidential elections that took place in 2012, the candidate from the Muslim Brotherhood, Mohammed Morsi, won.

As noted in scientific and historical sources: "On July 4, 2013, under the leadership of the Minister of Defense, Chairman of the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces of Egypt, Abdul-Fattah Said Hussein Khalil al-Sisi, a new military coup took place. This is how the power of Mohammed Morsi was overthrown. The chairman of the country's Constitutional Court, Adly Mansour, became the acting president."

On June 8, 2014, Abdul Fattah al-Sisi became the new sixth President of the Arab Republic of Egypt. It was from that moment that diplomatic relations between Uzbekistan and Egypt were renewed again. On September 4-5, 2018, the President of Egypt made an official visit to the Republic of Uzbekistan, during which there were promising and priority areas for strengthening Uzbek-Egyptian friendship and cooperation. During this visit, 12 agreements and treaties were signed that concerned all spheres of society. Trade, economic and political issues of these relationships were studied. At the same time, the heads of the two republics discussed issues and solutions to combat terrorism. Political scientist Bakhtiyor Ergashev notes that Egypt influences many processes occurring in the Middle East and North Africa. That is why it is very important and necessary to establish warm and strong trusting partnerships. Further plans have also been drawn up between the countries to create various tourism projects. The Republic of Uzbekistan is implementing a broad program of religious tourism and pilgrimage. It is in this regard that many pilgrims may show great interest in these projects and programs. At the same time, Egypt also has great opportunities to become one of the main tourist destinations for recreation and travel for pilgrims and tourists from our country. As noted above, during this visit issues related to religious radicalism, fundamentalism, the fight against terrorism and extremism were widely discussed.

Among 12 documents on cooperation in various fields, the following areas are considered the highest priority:

- tourism;
- trade;
- Agriculture;
- justice;
- culture;
- education.

The heads of the two states expressed their sincere feelings and joy at this visit and the past negotiations and established agreements. It can be confidently noted that a new and renewed stage of relations has begun between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Arab Republic of Egypt.

During this visit, the head of our Republic Shavkat Miromonovich Mirziyoyev noted: "The first official visit of Mr. Abdul-Fattah al-Sisi to Uzbekistan became historic for the relations of our countries. The negotiations, which took place in an open, friendly and constructive spirit, showed

the similarity of our approaches and views on all issues. I am confident that these agreements will qualitatively and meaningfully enrich Uzbek-Egyptian relations and will serve to bring our cooperation to a new, higher level.”

In its foreign policy, the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Arab Republic of Egypt have 62 documents of an intergovernmental and intergovernmental nature.

In the trade and economic direction, together with the Uzbek-Egyptian intergovernmental commission, 6 meetings and meetings were held.

To maintain constant friendship, trust and exchange of culture between the two historical states, the Uzbekistan-Egypt cultural society was created in Uzbekistan in 1997, and in 2000 such a society called “Egypt-Uzbekistan” was opened in the capital of Egypt - Cairo.

This year was also an important year for both countries. Since on February 20-21 of this year our Head of State is on an official visit to Egypt. This visit opened another additional page in the mutually friendly relations of the two republics. These visits play a key role in strengthening and improving mutually beneficial and constructive relations between countries. Many issues and topics were raised and discussed in various areas, the most significant of which were the sphere of politics, economics, security, trade, pharmaceuticals, education, and transport.

In its foreign policy with Egypt, the Republic of Uzbekistan shows openness, trust, and transparency. Education is considered one of the most important areas of mutual cooperation between the two republics. Both countries know very well the significance and importance of obtaining a complete and high-quality education. That is why education is among the priority areas of cooperation at the highest level. If we look at the statistics, in Uzbekistan children and young people under 30 years old make up 60%, and in Egypt these statistics is 55% aged 18-29 years. This indicates that more than half of the population are young people. And they are considered the main mirrors of every independent and developing state. The level of literacy and education of young people shows the level of development of the country. Thanks to this, both countries pay great attention to this area.

1993-2022 The Fund for Technical Cooperation with the CIS Countries under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt, now renamed the Egyptian Cooperation Development Agency, organized advanced training courses for specialists in our country, covering different areas and areas. It is important to note that during these years, more than 1,200 representatives of Uzbekistan were able to improve their skills in such areas as diplomacy, law, business, trade, medicine, culture, Arabic language and literature.

In the course of developing educational cooperation between the two countries, professional teaching staff and students are being exchanged. Our country faces an important task of attracting Egyptian specialists and teachers to the education process.

The Arab Republic of Egypt offers great opportunities for obtaining education in the most popular and top higher educational institutions in the country. Specifically, this promising initiative is a grant competition called “Get an Education in Egypt.” It should be noted that the most famous higher educational institutions in Egypt are:

- Cairo University;
- Ain Shams University;
- American private university;
- one of the most ancient religious institutions of higher education, which was built back in the 10th century, Al-Azhar University.

To deepen educational ties, on October 10-13, 2018, the official visit of the Imam of Al-Azhar University, the Supreme Imam of Egypt, Sheikh Ahmad at-Tayib to the Republic of Uzbekistan took place. Today, those wishing to study at Al-Azhar University from our country have doubled. This is a striking example of the exchange of experience and skills in the field of education.

As a graduate of the Tashkent State University of Oriental Studies, I also wanted to add about the importance of diplomatic and educational ties for students of our country. At our university, great attention is paid to the Arabic language, literature, calligraphy, history and modernity of the Arab world. There is a separate department of Arabic language and literature. Once a year, Arabic Language Month is held, where representatives, professors and ambassadors from Arab countries gather. Many teachers from Egypt work at our university. It is these teachers and joint projects that are a real master class and school for the further implementation of our goals.

CONCLUSION

When it comes to the comprehensive relationship between the two republics, it is important to note cooperation in the trade, economic and investment spheres. A number of practical measures were agreed between the countries to create a joint Center for Industrial Cooperation and Distribution in the city of Port Said, develop and sign a Trade Agreement, establish a joint Business Council and hold the first meeting in the city of Tashkent. The tasks and issues of approving the “Road Map” to strengthen bilateral cooperation in the field of industrial cooperation were also considered.

Ties in the transport sector are being strengthened and expanded. In particular, issues of expanding geographical locations and increasing flights between Uzbekistan and Egypt were discussed with representatives of our republic and representatives of Air Cairo airline Hussein Sherif. The two countries agreed to launch regular flights in the Cairo-Tashkent-Cairo direction in the near future; it was also planned to establish direct regular flights in the cities of Hurghada and Sharm el-Sheikh.

In the business sphere, Uzbekistan works closely with such leading Egyptian companies as Orascom Construction, Kandil Steel Group, Metco, ZAS, Giza Industries, Shoura Chemicals, Solarsol EG.

In summary, it should be noted that the constructive foreign policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan creates favorable conditions for strong friendly relations with the Arab Republic of Egypt. Strengthening the diplomatic dialogue between the two countries in all directions and spheres opens up new titles for the future long-term friendship and trust of the two independent republics.

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