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Even countries where there is currently no increased demand for water resources may become vulnerable due to droughts, experts say.

For example, Ukraine and Moldova may experience severe consequences in case of droughts. In regions where water scarcity is associated with socio-economic factors, risks can be reduced if water resources are effectively managed, data from the Aqueduct project show.

An example is given of the Singapore "Four Taps" system - a system of sustainable collection and distribution of water created by the government of an Asian city-state.

This name means that Singapore uses water from four sources: imported, salt-free sea water, processed water that has passed a multi-stage purification system, known as NEWater, and rainwater collected on the territory of the city.

Israel is also among the world leaders in the field of technologies for the extraction and distribution of water resources.

According to Hofste, countries with water scarcity, such as India, could focus on similar examples to solve their problems.

"Everything depends on the management in the country, there are examples of successful solutions to extreme water shortages in the world," the scientist added.

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## **MAIN ASPECTS OF REGIONAL PROCESSES OF UZBEKISTAN'S FOREIGN POLICY**

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**Abstract.** In this article, the author highlights the main aspects that determine the need for regional collaboration of the Republic of Uzbekistan to enhance interaction, to develop timely initiatives and new approaches to solve pressing problems. The author specifies that for the past few years the Uzbekistan's foreign policy has undergone significant changes. First, Tashkent's approach to interaction with its closest neighbors in the region of Central Asia has changed. These

relationships have become more constructive and intense. It is obvious that Tashkent is striving to untie the sharp knots that took place in interaction with Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, as well as to intensify the already existing constructive relations with Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan. And, it must be said, the neighbors also went towards Uzbekistan. Second, Uzbekistan's ties with major international players have significantly intensified: Russia, China, the United States, the European Union, as well as other Eurasian powers, such as Turkey and Pakistan. Of course, Uzbekistan has previously maintained a high level of contacts with key international players, but the intensity of interaction was still lower. Third, Tashkent has significantly stepped-up work in international organizations, striving to solve common problems in cooperation with other states, concerning not only political and economic aspects, but also affecting issues of a humanitarian nature, ecology, and sustainable development in general. Fourth, we have witnessed a shift in emphasis in foreign policy. Over the past four to five years, Uzbekistan has been paying much more attention to the development of trade and economic relations, expanding opportunities for exporting its own products, as well as attracting investment and foreign business to work in Uzbekistan. In conclusion, the author draws a conclusion about the potential positive effects from the active participation of Uzbekistan in regional processes in the economic sphere and the factors of successful integration processes in Uzbekistan.

Key words: foreign policy, region policy, Central Asia, Eurasian Economic Union, interstate collaboration, state border, economic development.

Having set itself the goal of becoming one of the top 50 economies in the world, the government of Uzbekistan combines a maximum of development directions. Geopolitical and demographic resources form the basis that allows the country's leadership to strengthen regionalism. One of the solutions to the accumulated problems in both regional and domestic affairs in the country is the strengthening of interaction between the Central Asian countries. This position is fixed in strategic documents and reflected in practical projects. The pragmatic and constructive policy of the Uzbek Republic has developed a region's new political reality in an unprecedentedly short time. The interstate relations of the Central Asian states have become characterized by such characteristics as mutual consideration and respect for interests, mutual openness, and political trust. Breakthrough decisions have been reached on the problems regarding demarcation and delimitation of state borders between Uzbekistan and the Central Asian countries.

Over 80 percent of the border was determined by the signing of the "Treaty on state borders between Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan" at the time of official visit of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh. Mirziyoyev to Bishkek on September 5-6, 2017, which has become the major result of the process of border's delimitation and demarcation issue [1].

Also, in November 2017 the Heads of Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan signed an understanding memorandum regarding the state borders' intersection between the three countries. The initiating of such an agreement grants the completion of one of the steps of the international legal notarization of the governmental borders between the Parties of the Treaty, and forms a solid foundation for strengthening mutual respect, sovereign equality and territorial integrity between Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

During his visit to Dushanbe Mr. Sh. Mirziyoyev, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, signed the "Treaty on separate sections of the Uzbek-Tajik state border", which in turn solved the problem regarding recognition of 99.9% of previously undelimited parts of their borders. This is not just the settlement of mutual arguments; this is the final closure of a possible intense arguments in the future of the whole region and a step forward to a new level of political trust between states [1].

A few years ago, The President of Uzbek Republic presented main actions of Uzbekistan in the international arena which have become the implementation in practice of the foreign policy section of the Action Strategy in the five prerogative fields of Uzbekistan development for the period of 2017-2021 years. The main idea of this document concentrated on the necessity of a "balanced, mutually beneficial and constructive foreign policy" aimed at "strengthening the independence and sovereignty of the state, creating a belt of security, stability and good neighborliness around Uzbekistan, strengthening the international image of the country." The issue on state borders' delimitation and demarcation with neighboring states was indicated as a separate task of foreign policy in this strategy [1]. These changes in foreign policy did not go unnoticed by numerous outside observers. Moreover, the steps taken by Uzbekistan in the international arena over the past four or five years contrasted quite strongly with the notion of Uzbekistan that has become familiar to many foreigners as a relatively closed country, not much striving to actively participate in international political life.

Of course, the current foreign policy of Uzbekistan, despite its novelty, also retains significant features of continuity with the foreign policy of an earlier period. This is especially noticeable in the field of goal setting. The geostrategic position of Uzbekistan has not undergone significant changes over the past half decade. The tasks facing the government and society for the development of the economy and the social sphere have retained their continuity: creating jobs, improving the welfare of the population, developing infrastructure, improving the efficiency of the state apparatus, the quality of education, healthcare, and many others. To this day, such challenges as instability in neighboring Afghanistan, problems of drug trafficking and providing the country with water resources remain on the agenda of the Uzbek authorities. Thus, changes in foreign policy have affected its goals to a much lesser extent, and to a greater extent - the methods and means of achieving foreign policy goals. Methods and ways of achieving foreign policy goals have become more flexible, diverse and, as it became obvious after a certain time, more effective overall.

One of the new components in the foreign policy of Uzbekistan in recent years has been a significant increase in activity through international organizations. Uzbekistan, like any other country, is a member of many international organizations. However, at the same time, Tashkent excludes joining military-political blocs and alliances. The most authoritative and important of the international organizations, of course, is the UN. In recent years, Uzbekistan has stepped up its involvement in the UN projects. During the 75th session of the UN General Assembly, Mr. Sh. Mirziyoyev introduced several initiatives, such as the formation of an International Code of Voluntary Obligations of States during a Pandemic, special resolutions of the UN General Assembly on enhancing the role of parliaments in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and ensuring human rights, as well as on declaring the Aral Sea region a zone of ecological innovations and technologies, creating under the auspices of the UN a Regional Center for the Development of Transport and Communication Interconnection. Also, the leader of Uzbekistan proposed to hold the International Forum "Central Asia at the Crossroads of World Civilizations" in Khiva [2]. Tashkent is already actively promoting these ideas and can be expected to receive support from other countries to implement them. There are several initiatives of the Uzbekistan President that have been already adopted earlier by the UN such as international cooperation in the field of tourism, sustainable development issues, issues of regional cooperation and interfaith harmony. In the short and medium term, Uzbekistan should be expected to continue this course and put forward new initiatives at the UN that would simultaneously concern the interests of Uzbekistan itself, and at the same time would be relevant for a wide range of other states.

In the issue of interaction with the countries of Eurasia, interaction through the Shanghai Cooperation Organization is important for Uzbekistan. At the same time, not only the anti-terrorist and "stabilizing" potential of the SCO's work is relevant for Tashkent, but the economic and humanitarian dimension of cooperation is also important. It is no coincidence that in November 2020, Uzbekistan called for the speedy resumption of communication between the SCO countries, and advocated the early approval of a joint action plan for the implementation of the program of cooperation between the SCO member states in the field of tourism for 2021-2022 [2].

The intensification of Uzbekistan's participation in the work of international organizations has not bypassed such an important, and in certain aspects, the key direction of Tashkent's foreign policy as interaction with the Russian Federation and post-Soviet countries, with which Uzbekistan is connected not only by considerations of an economic nature and maintaining regional stability, but also by extensive humanitarian contacts, common history, and culture. The most important step of Tashkent in this direction was the acquisition of observer status in the Eurasian Economic Union, which took place in December 2020. This step indicates that the authorities of Uzbekistan consider the Russian direction of foreign policy and foreign economic contacts one of the highest priorities and are ready to move towards further intensification of mutually beneficial cooperation. In turn, Tashkent is counting on reciprocal steps from Russia and its partners in the EAEU in creating more comfortable conditions and formats for cooperation. At the same time, it is important to understand that membership in an organization and the status of an observer in an organization are fundamentally different things in terms of the degree of involvement, as well as the degree of responsibility assumed. Uzbekistan has actively begun as an observer to study the mechanisms and procedures adopted within the framework of the EAEU, as they say, almost "from within". At the same time, further strengthening of Tashkent's multi-format cooperation with Russia and other EAEU countries will most likely continue to grow in the foreseeable future. So, even following the results of an economically difficult 2020, the volume of rail and road transportation between Russia and Uzbekistan increased by 27.4 and 27.9%, respectively [2].

Another direction of foreign policy in which Uzbekistan realizes its interests, including through the work of international organizations, is interaction with Turkey and other states of the Middle East. It is no secret that for more than 20 years, relations between Tashkent and Ankara have been at a very low level due to political differences. However, economic relations between the two countries continued to develop during this difficult period. Today, Turkey, in addition to having a capacious sales market, is also an important logistics hub on the route of cargo transshipment from East to West - through the Caspian Sea and further to South-Eastern Europe. In addition, Ankara has a serious influence on regional political processes and security issues.

The geographical aspect is no less important, especially against the backdrop of the development of continental transport corridors, the creation of logistics hubs and the gradual digitalization of cargo turnover and customs clearance procedures, which are rapidly taking place in Eurasia today. Uzbekistan is one of the few countries in the world, separated from the sea areas by the territory of more than one state. Despite the increase in the cost of maritime container shipping due to turbulence associated with coronavirus restrictions, maritime routes are still the cheapest and most convenient way to ship goods. Accordingly, a vital task for the socio-economic development of Uzbekistan is to provide access to the sea to improve the possibilities of exporting its products and providing its own economy with import supplies.

Along with the task of accessing seaports, for Uzbekistan, which has embarked on the path of an export-oriented economic development model, the task of entering large markets is extremely important. The states of Central Asia surrounding Uzbekistan, even with good demonstrated

demographic indicators, cannot boast of either a significant population or good solvent demand (except for Kazakhstan). At the same time, capacious markets such as Russia, China, Turkey, South Asian states are located at a certain geographical distance. Russia is separated from Uzbekistan by Kazakhstan. The path to China lies through Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. The path to the densely populated and growing economically and demographically South Asia is blocked by the mountainous and politically very unstable Afghanistan [3].

In many ways, this is where Tashkent's interest in interacting with its neighbors in Central Asia in an individual and multilateral format stems: it was on the initiative of Tashkent that the summits of the heads of states of Central Asia began to be held several years ago. The desire to take political and economic interaction with Russia, Belarus and other EAEU countries to a new level can explain Uzbekistan's obtaining observer status in the Eurasian Economic Union. The need to strengthen economic ties with Turkey and the Middle East region explains the membership and initiative work of Tashkent in the CCTS and the ECO. For the other initiatives, which are based on the desire of Tashkent to secure access to the sea and promising markets, one should, of course, mention the desire to build the Uzbekistan-Kyrgyzstan-China railway, as well as the initiative to build a railway from Uzbekistan to Pakistan with access to the Pakistani ports of Karachi and Gwadar through the territory of Afghanistan. The issue of building a railway corridor from Uzbekistan to Pakistan via Kabul and Peshawar was discussed during online negotiations between the two Presidents in mid-April 2021.

Of course, the collaboration in terms of international organizations does not in any case cancel the cooperation with other countries on a bilateral and multilateral basis. The same as any other state, the general idea of Uzbekistan's foreign policy prevails the bilateral and multilateral form of intergovernmental collaboration. However, cooperation through the work of international organizations also has its advantages: it allows you to coordinate positions, promote your interests more widely and direct the work of an international organization in the right direction, find allies and accumulate the resources of several states at once, increase international authority and improve positioning. Therefore, the active participation of Uzbekistan in the work of international organizations is a relevant and useful form of foreign policy activity, contributing to a more effective achievement of the set foreign policy goals and objectives.

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## **WRITING HISTORY: SCHOOL CURRICULUM ON THE HISTORY OF KAZAKHSTAN AND UZBEKISTAN**

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