



UZBEKISTAN–USA COOPERATION: STRENGTHENING STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP AT REGIONAL AND GLOBAL LEVELS

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Annotation: *This article analyzes the renewed phase of strategic partnership and cooperation between Uzbekistan and the United States. The recent visits of the President of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, to the United States, along with high-level dialogues between the heads of both states, have facilitated a transition to a qualitatively higher stage of cooperation. The article highlights the practical outcomes of the strategic partnership in political, economic, investment, trade, humanitarian, and educational-scientific spheres, as well as its significance within regional cooperation frameworks. The study examines the sustainable development of Uzbekistan–U.S. cooperation, its role in safeguarding the national interests of both countries, and in strengthening strategic stability in the Central Asian region. The findings underscore the long-term prospects of trust-based relations between the two states, the expansion of investment and trade ties, and the application of effective mechanisms for ensuring global and regional security.*

Keywords: *Uzbekistan–U.S. relations, strategic partnership, investment, trade and economic cooperation, regional stability, global security.*

Relations between Uzbekistan and the United States have been significant since the early years of Uzbekistan's independence, with political, economic, and humanitarian cooperation steadily developing between the two countries. Today, this partnership is entering a new stage, further enhancing the practical significance of the concept of strategic partnership. Uzbekistan's high level of diplomatic activity in regional and global arenas, its advanced foreign policy framework, and effective diplomatic initiatives have created favorable conditions for fostering a trust-based partnership between the two states. In recent years, the stability and constructively oriented strategy of Uzbekistan's foreign policy have been highly appreciated by the United States. The reforms undertaken by the country's leadership—particularly those aimed at strengthening democratic processes and implementing economic reforms—provide a solid foundation for international cooperation, especially with the United States. This partnership exerts a positive influence not only on political



cooperation but also on economic, investment, educational, and scientific research domains.

Looking at history, the development of Uzbekistan–U.S. relations has been grounded in the most important political and legal frameworks established since 1991. The 2002 Declaration on the Foundations of Strategic Partnership and Cooperation marked a new qualitative stage in bilateral relations and created a foundation for long-term cooperation. Furthermore, the official visit of Uzbekistan’s President Shavkat Mirziyoyev to the United States in 2018 was recognized as a significant historical event in deepening the partnership and activating multifaceted cooperation between the two countries. During this visit, new mechanisms for collaboration in political, economic, and humanitarian spheres were established, and the parties reached a series of agreements that clearly defined the practical functions of the strategic partnership.

Moreover, in November 2020, the parties decided to elevate the annual political consultations to the level of a Strategic Partnership Dialogue. This process serves to further deepen cooperation in political, security, economic, and humanitarian spheres. The trust-based relations between Tashkent and Washington today represent a significant platform for international and regional security, economic development, and global cooperation. In particular, Uzbekistan’s interests in the strategically important geopolitical space and its active role in ensuring regional stability are highly valued by the United States. This provides opportunities to develop bilateral cooperation on a stable basis, as well as to expand investment and trade relations. At this stage, relations between the two countries hold strategic significance not only for the parties themselves but also for the entire Central Asian region. From this perspective, the present article aims to analyze the new phase of Uzbekistan–U.S. relations, examining the legal, economic, and geopolitical aspects of the strategic partnership. The study also explores mechanisms of political trust and cooperation, the practical substance of bilateral dialogue, and its impact on regional and global security.

Strategic partnership and cooperative relations between Uzbekistan and the United States have been steadily developing since the years of Uzbekistan’s independence. These relations are based on political trust, economic collaboration, and humanitarian solidarity, aiming to safeguard the national interests of both countries and ensure regional stability. Uzbekistan’s active efforts to strengthen diplomatic ties with the United States during its early years of independence played a crucial role in enhancing the country’s international standing. Recognition of Uzbekistan by the United States from the very first days of independence, along with comprehensive support,



established a stable foundation for bilateral relations. The Strategic Partnership Declaration signed in 2002 between Uzbekistan and the United States marked a qualitative stage in these relations. The main objective of the Declaration was to develop multifaceted cooperation in political, economic, and security spheres, an objective that continues to retain practical relevance today.

Since 2017, a new era of cooperation between Uzbekistan and the United States has emerged. In particular, the official visit of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev to the United States from May 15 to 17, 2018, represented a significant step forward in the development of strategic partnership between the two countries. During this visit, issues of multifaceted cooperation in the political, economic, and human rights spheres were thoroughly discussed. Negotiations involving high-ranking U.S. officials, as well as representatives from business and academia, provided an opportunity to elevate bilateral relations to a new level.

In November 2020, the parties decided to elevate the annual bilateral consultations to the level of a Strategic Partnership Dialogue. This process serves to deepen cooperation in the areas of politics, security, the economy, and human rights. Within the framework of this dialogue, the United States and Uzbekistan aimed to further develop political and economic cooperation, maintain close collaboration on security issues, and advance joint efforts in the field of human rights. Economic cooperation between the two countries has also been progressing rapidly. In recent years, significant agreements have been reached to expand the participation of major U.S. companies in the Uzbek market, as well as to implement investment and technological projects. Among these companies are General Electric, General Motors, Hyatt, John Deere, Boeing, Honeywell, and others, which are actively engaging with Uzbekistan's reforms and market opportunities.

During 2020–2021, bilateral trade relations and investment partnerships expanded significantly. In 2019, Uzbekistan's trade turnover with the United States reached USD 596.1 million, reflecting a 43% increase compared to 2018. Despite the global pandemic and the closure of international borders in 2020, trade volume amounted to USD 275.1 million (exports – USD 26.7 million, imports – USD 248.3 million). These figures demonstrate the robustness of cooperation between the two countries and indicate the potential for further growth in the future.

Uzbekistan–U.S. cooperation also holds strategic significance in ensuring regional stability and addressing global security issues. Through meetings within the “C5+1” format, the parties discuss regional collaboration, counterterrorism, and security matters. This process supports U.S. initiatives aimed at promoting stability and economic development in Central Asia. At the



same time, Uzbekistan’s efforts to advance human rights and religious freedoms are highly valued by the United States. Achievements in producing goods free from forced and child labor also demonstrate the effective mechanisms of bilateral cooperation. Relevant U.S. decisions play a significant role in supporting Uzbekistan’s legal and economic reforms. Another important area of bilateral cooperation is education and scientific research. Relations between U.S. and Uzbek universities and research centers are expanding, providing opportunities to develop intellectual potential and implement joint projects in science and technology. From this perspective, Uzbekistan–U.S. cooperation is developing on the basis of strategic partnership, creating a solid foundation in political trust, economic activity, and human rights. This holds not only bilateral but also strategic importance for the entire Central Asian region.

Overall, Uzbekistan–U.S. relations manifest not only as a historical partnership but also as a practical example of effective strategic cooperation. Every initiative, dialogue, and collaborative project serves the interests of both countries and their peoples.

The renewed phase of cooperation and strategic partnership between Uzbekistan and the United States holds strategic significance not only for the two countries but also for the entire Central Asian region. In particular, the recent visits and high-level dialogues of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev to the United States have played a crucial role in strengthening trust and cooperation in bilateral relations. Historically, the U.S. recognition of Uzbekistan’s independence from its earliest days and the consistent support provided have established a stable foundation for bilateral partnership. The 2002 Declaration on Strategic Partnership and the official visits in 2018 marked a new quality stage in the relationship, opening a new chapter. These documents and visits have contributed to deepening cooperation across political, economic, and humanitarian spheres. The strategic partnership between the two countries has also demonstrated significant progress in economic, investment, and trade relations. In recent years, major U.S. companies have been actively engaged in the Uzbek market, participating in investment projects and contributing to economic development, which in turn reinforces regional stability. Furthermore, joint efforts in human rights, religious freedoms, and the fight against child labor have been of critical importance. Legal and social reforms recognized by the United States have enhanced Uzbekistan’s reputation on the global stage. This multifaceted cooperation is a tangible outcome that further consolidates mutual trust between the two countries. Education, science, and research sectors hold particular importance within this partnership. Collaboration between U.S. and Uzbek universities and scientific centers enhances



intellectual potential, promotes joint projects, and expands cooperation in the fields of science and technology, positively impacting the sustainable economic and social development of both nations. Moreover, the strategic partnership extends beyond bilateral relations to support regional cooperation. Meetings and programs under the “C5+1” format create effective mechanisms for economic integration, security, and stability in Central Asia. The active participation of the United States in this region is reinforced by Uzbekistan’s new strategic direction, underscoring the shared commitment to regional prosperity and stability.

In conclusion, it is important to emphasize that the renewed phase of Uzbekistan–U.S. relations marks a qualitative advancement in strategic partnership, reinforcing political trust and cooperation. This development not only facilitates economic growth and creates investment opportunities but also plays a crucial role in ensuring human rights, religious freedoms, and regional stability. The stable and effective strategic partnership between the two countries, along with practical cooperation, investment and trade relations, and joint projects in education and science, outlines the strategic prospects for both Uzbekistan and the United States. Consequently, this partnership contributes significantly to stability, economic development, and global security in Central Asia. Taking these factors into account, it can be asserted that Uzbekistan–U.S. cooperation serves as an effective mechanism for fostering sustainable and long-term strategic partnership. Mutual trust, close dialogue, and collaborative projects ensure the protection of national interests while simultaneously exerting a positive influence on the international stage.

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