



UZBEKISTAN'S PARTICIPATION AND INITIATIVES IN ENSURING REGIONAL SECURITY IN CENTRAL ASIA

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Abstract: *This article analyzes the main norms related to ensuring international and regional security. The degree of reflection of the main concepts of international and regional security in national and foreign legislation has been deeply and comprehensively analyzed. The works carried out in this area and the degree of their effectiveness are also presented. The initiatives put forward by the Republic of Uzbekistan to ensure regional security in Central Asia in the current process of globalization are also presented.*

Key words: *International security, regional security, global international security.*

In any society that has chosen the path of democratic development, along with improving economic, social, cultural and spiritual foundations, there is a leading demand to elevate political processes to a higher level.

Today, the rapid development of globalization processes is influencing international relations. In these circumstances, strengthening interstate relations, combating transnational threats, and ensuring global stability directly depend on the formation of a balance of powers and interests between states. Recent events in the world have fundamentally renewed the geopolitical structure and direction of the world, and as a result of the gradual entry of a group of new sovereign states into world politics, the field of interstate politics and diplomacy is taking on a fundamentally different essence and content.

The United Nations has also adopted several international documents regarding the ensuring of interethnic harmony and security. In particular, the UN Charter stipulates that international peace and security should be organized based on international law norms and universally recognized principles, and should be implemented by the General Assembly and Security Council, whose powers are clearly defined in this area. Also, among the international documents adopted to date, there is Resolution 377 A (V) of the General Assembly of November 3, 1950, which was named "Uniting for Peace."

The need to ensure security led to the emergence of the concept of comprehensive international security. This concept envisages organizing international relations in a way that excludes the possibility of war. The notable feature of the proposed system is that it encompasses measures aimed at



establishing peace and security on Earth⁸. Additionally, the UN General Assembly adopted special resolutions on establishing a comprehensive system of international peace and security on December 5, 1986, and December 7, 1987, and on December 7, 1988 – adopted the resolution "Comprehensive Approach to Strengthening International Peace and Security in Accordance with the UN Charter.

In general terms, among the resolutions and declarations adopted by the UN aimed at ensuring peace and security, we can include the 1970 Declaration on Strengthening International Security, UN General Assembly Resolution 3314 (XXIX) of December 14, 1974, on the Definition of Aggression, the 1988 Declaration on the Prevention and Removal of Disputes and Situations Which May Threaten International Peace and Security and on the Role of the United Nations in this Field, and UN General Assembly Resolution 44/21 of November 15, 1989, on Comprehensive International Cooperation in All Fields according to the UN Charter to Strengthen International Peace and Security⁹.

The UN Charter, besides the general system of international security, also provides for the possibility of creating a regional system for maintaining international peace¹⁰. As stipulated in Article 52 of the Charter, the Charter does not preclude the existence of such regional agreements and bodies if their activities in maintaining international peace and security conform to the principles and purposes of the UN Charter.

The Central Asian region is considered one of the strategically important regions of the world. The dramatic changes taking place in this region inevitably influence global political life. Today, the interests of leading powers intersect in this region, and various non-traditional threats still persist. In such circumstances, there is a growing need to strengthen regional diplomacy among Central Asian states and jointly resolve pressing issues. In this regard, the Republic of Uzbekistan, through its geopolitical initiative and practical efforts, has succeeded in creating such a diplomatic environment in the region.

As an integral and closely connected part of the Central Asian region, Uzbekistan is the only state that shares borders with all countries in the region. Therefore, any changes in the political, economic, and cultural spheres in the region directly affect Uzbekistan. Moreover, the successful implementation of major projects in transport, economy, energy, and water sectors depends on the level of

⁸ International Law. Textbook. Responsible editor PhD in Law, Prof. G. Yuldasheva // Team of authors. –T.: TSUL publishing house, 2017. – 443 pages.

⁹ International Security Law: Textbook for Higher Education Institutions. Responsible editor and foreword author Y.M. Kolosov; – T.: TSUL publishing house, 2009.

¹⁰ Malcolm N. Shaw. International law. Sixth edition. International law today. Cambridge University Press. New York, 2008. –P 43.



cooperation between regional states. From this perspective, the sustainable development and prosperity of Central Asia is one of Uzbekistan's main objectives.

The political environment formed in Central Asia as a result of Uzbekistan's new regional policy is now making a significant contribution to unlocking the huge economic potential of regional states. In particular, in 2022, the volume of foreign trade turnover of regional states increased by 56 percent compared to 2016, amounting to 168.2 billion. The volume of investments attracted to the regional states increased by 40% in 2020 compared to 2016, reaching 37.6 billion. The number of tourists visiting Central Asian countries is also increasing year by year. For example, the number of tourists visiting regional states in 2022 increased by 93% compared to 2020, reaching 18.4 million people.

We witnessed the importance of regional cooperation in ensuring state security and stability during the coronavirus pandemic. As a result of the new political environment in the region in recent years, Central Asian states managed to implement coordinated policies against the pandemic in a short time.

In Uzbekistan, establishing practical, mutually beneficial, and good-neighborly relations with Central Asian states and ensuring regional security has been designated as a priority direction of foreign policy. The leader of Uzbekistan detailed his strategic views on ensuring regional security and stability at the 72nd session of the UN General Assembly held in New York on September 19, 2017¹¹.

Additionally, in the President's speech in Uzbek at the 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly on September 24, 2020, it was emphasized that Uzbekistan accepts Afghanistan as an integral part of Central Asia, that the high-level Tashkent Conference on Afghanistan held in March 2018 marked a new stage in mobilizing international community efforts to resolve the Afghan problem, and that there is full support for the peace negotiations between Afghan political forces that began in Doha in September 2020, with hope that these negotiations will establish peace and stability in the long-suffering Afghan land¹².

In 2008, a meeting of foreign ministers was organized in the "6+3" format with the aim of maintaining peace and stability in Afghanistan, and on March 27, 2018, the "Tashkent Declaration" was adopted. In general, Afghanistan can provide Central Asian countries with the shortest route to the ports of the Indian Ocean and the Persian Gulf, and connect India, Iran and Pakistan with European and Middle Eastern markets. In this regard, confirming a broad and firm international consensus on the main issues of establishing peace and security in Afghanistan, supporting measures for national reconciliation led by and through the efforts of Afghans is becoming increasingly important. Our country actively participates in

¹¹ <https://president.uz/oz/lists/view/1063>

¹² <https://president.uz/oz/lists/view/3845>



almost all international forums dedicated to the Afghan problem. These include the "Kabul Process", "Moscow Format", "Heart of Asia - Istanbul Process" forum, International Contact Group on Afghanistan, "SCO - Afghanistan" Contact Group, Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan.

The Concept of Foreign Policy Activity of the Republic of Uzbekistan emphasizes that the Republic of Uzbekistan takes political, economic and other measures to prevent involvement in armed conflicts and hotspots of tension in neighboring countries, and also does not allow the deployment of foreign military bases and facilities on its territory.

Furthermore, the Regional Office of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime has been operating in Uzbekistan since 1993, addressing public health and security issues, especially youth health, through implementing projects aimed at combating illegal drug trafficking, crime, drug trade, terrorism and extremism.

Although Central Asian countries have been independent for many years, considering that they face certain challenges in declaring clear positions and allegiances in foreign policy regarding Russia-Ukraine, Israel-Palestine, and Middle East events, we believe these states should unite into a single Union of Central Asian States. This would enable strengthening Central Asian cooperation within the Commonwealth of Independent States and SCO, closer relations with Russia and China, and the opportunity to use them as partners in ensuring international security. In today's volatile world politics, skilled diplomacy remains the key to peace in the international arena.

Ensuring Central Asian security is closely linked with both regional and global security systems. The countries in the region are developing security mechanisms based on international law and regional organizations. However, threats related to Afghanistan, transnational crime, and terrorism pose serious challenges to regional stability, necessitating further strengthening of interstate cooperation.

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3. International Security Law: Textbook for Higher Educational Institutions. Executive editor and foreword author Y.M.Kolosov; -T.: TSIL publishing house, 2009.
4. <https://president.uz>