



Uzbekistan Position Paper

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I/ Background Information on Uzbekistan

Uzbekistan, officially the Republic of Uzbekistan, located in Central Asia. It is situated between two major rivers, Syr Darya and the Amu Darya. Uzbekistan shares a border with Kazakhstan to the northwest, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan to the east and southeast, Afghanistan to the south and Turkmenistan to the southwest. In 1924 the Soviet Government established the Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republic under the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. However, Uzbekistan declared its independence from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on August 31, 1991. The capital of Uzbekistan is Tashkent. Nearly %80 of Uzbekistan's territory is sandy desert, including the massive Kyzyl Kum Desert. The mountains in the southeast and northeast region are the lower mountains of Tian Shan Range, which is an extension of Himalayas. Fergana Valley, between northeast and southeast mountain ranges, has the most suitable land for agriculture in western Asia. In the west, Uzbekistan has Amu Darya River Valley, the Ustyurt Plateau, and the half of the Aral Sea, which is recognized as one of the world's worst environmental disasters. Uzbekistan's climate defined as hot summers and cold winters. Forests cover %8 of Uzbekistan. Uzbeks made up the %80 of the population with Tajiks, Kazakhs, Tatars, and Russians. Uzbeks are Sunni Muslims, while the less than %10 percent of the population is Eastern Orthodox Christian. Uzbekistan placed in 129th place in GDP per capita at \$6.87K.

Uzbekistan is one of the world's leading cotton producers. It is known for its orchards and vineyards, as well as raising Karakul sheep and silkworms. Mineral, oil, and gas reserves are essential for its economy. Uzbekistan produces a large volume of natural gas. Copper, zinc, lead, tungsten, and molybdenum are the metallic ores extracted in Uzbekistan. It possesses significant reserves of natural gas, oil, and coal. Uzbekistan's agriculture is centered in Fergana Valley. Uzbekistan is the leading producer of heavy equipment and machinery in Central Asia. Its main export destinations are Switzerland, China, Turkey, and Kazakhstan, while the importers are China, the Russian Federation, and South Korea. In 1992 Uzbekistan adopted a new constitution to replace the Soviet structure. The new law declares the country as a republic and provides for legislative executive and judicial bodies of government. Shavkat Mirziyoyev is the current leading president. The military Strength of Uzbekistan is ranked 48th.

II/ Past Achievement and Attempt of Uzbekistan on the Issues

A. The Question of the Caucasus:



- As a former Union of Soviet Socialist Republic, Uzbekistan got its independence in 1991. Uzbekistan believes that the situation in the Caucasus originates from the dissolution of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Russian-Uzbek relations are improving after the demise of the Soviet Union. Uzbekistan demanded the United States to leave the airbase in Karshi-Khanabad; after May 2005 unrest occurred in Andijan, Uzbekistan. Russian Federation forgave nearly all of the Uzbek debt to improve the relations between the two countries. Uzbekistan believes in global security and peace while respecting the countries sovereignty. Uzbekistan does not have a previous attempt nor achievement on the issue; however, Uzbekistan is ready to help to solve the problem, which will be a milestone to achieve global peace and security.

B. The Question of the Caspian Sea and Surrounding Territories:

- Uzbekistan believes that the Caspian Sea is one of the most critical environmental issues in Central Asia. As a country that experienced one of the worst ecological disasters, the Aral Sea, Uzbekistan prioritize the situation of the Caspian Sea. Uzbekistan did not sign nor ratify the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which grants the countries the right to use resources of the 200 nautical miles from the mainland. As a “doubly landlocked” country, Uzbekistan has not experienced such a situation. Thus Uzbekistan has not a possible attempt nor achievement upon the case. However, Uzbekistan is deeply concerned about how the situation turned into political conflict. Uzbekistan is eager to help to solve the issue.

C. The Question of the Shift of Trade Routes in Eurasia:

- President Shavkat Mirziyoyev saw the problems in the economy while he was serving as Prime Minister of Uzbekistan. He believed that he could reform it. Thus he elected as President after the death of President Karimov. One of the most significant reforms is the currency reform, which implemented in September 2017. Mirziyoyev defended his changes as he believed that urgent changes are the steps to protect Uzbekistan’s sovereignty, independence, economic viability, and social development. In February 2017, Uzbekistan adopted the reform manifesto “2017-2021 National Development Strategy,” which defined the five priority areas as reform in public administration, improvement of the judiciary, and strengthening the rule of law, economic development, and liberalization; the social is and security and foreign policy. Xi Jinping, President of the People’s Republic of China, announced “One Belt, One Road” in May 2017. The trillion-dollar Initiative has excellent potential for redefining trade and economic relations on a global scale. The Initiative includes Uzbekistan and the relationship between the People’s Republic of China and Uzbekistan. As mentioned, Uzbekistan adopted the National Development Strategy while the People’s



Republic of China launched the Belt and Road Initiative. Uzbekistan believes that the Initiative may create new opportunities to strengthen the bilateral links between the People's Republic of China and Uzbekistan.

III/ Objectives, Aims and Possible Solutions Proposed by Uzbekistan on the Issues

- A. The Question of the Caucasus:** Uzbekistan believes that focusing on civilians should have the same importance as solving a political conflict. Uzbekistan is highly aware that the region has multiple ethnic diversity wanting independence. Uzbekistan also believes that international communication must be served as it believes that every country in the region, as well as More Economically Developed Countries, should have an opinion upon the issue. Uzbekistan thinks collaboration with Non-Governmental Organizations such as International Societies of Red Crescent and Red Cross, Human Rights Watch, and United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees will be efficient in solving the issue. Finally, Uzbekistan believes in a possible ceasefire which is issued by the United Nations Security Council would be an essential attempt to resolve the problem.
- B. The Question of the Caspian Sea and Surrounding Territories:** Uzbekistan highly believes that the most significant attempt to solve the situation in the Caspian Sea is to provide communication between the "Caspian Five." However, the Islamic Republic of Iran does not agree to communicate; it would be beneficial to include Iran to talks. Another vital attempt to solve the issue to implement the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. Uzbekistan believes that the presence of the United Nations will be effective and helpful.
- C. The Question of the Shift of Trade Routes in Eurasia:** With the attempts of Uzbekistan on the economy, Uzbekistan believes the One Belt One Road will be an essential route to improve trade and economy between Europe, Asia, and Africa. However, the route should be equally controlled. As much as Uzbekistan believes in Chinese-Uzbek relations, Uzbekistan also believes that universal collaboration is beneficial. Another solution is to have a transparent, independent, and equal trade route. Monitoring the route by the United Nations or an organization as the World Bank or International Monetary Fund would help to ensure transparency. Also, improving the initiative as finding investment might be helpful to strengthen the route.



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