**Lecture VII**

**FOREIGN POLICY OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN**

**Plan**

**Introduction**

**General information**

**Links to the data about foreign policy bodies**

## International agreements on legal assistance and legal relations in civil, family and criminal matters, signed by republic of Uzbekistan

**Сooperation of Uzbekistan with the countries of Central Asia**

**Relations with CIS countries**

**Cooperation of Uzbekistan with European Countries**

**Cooperation of the Republic of Uzbekistan with the countries of the Asia and the Pacific**

## Cooperation of the Republic of Uzbekistan with Near East, Middle East and African countries

## Bilateral relations of the Republic of Uzbekistan with American countries

**Introduction**

The Republic of Uzbekistan conducts an open, mutually beneficial and constructive foreign policy based on the national interests of the country. Current foreign policy of Uzbekistan is formed taking into account the dynamic changes in the world and the region as well as large-scale reforms within the country.

The main goal of the foreign policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan is strengthening of the independence and sovereignty of the state, further enhancing the role and place of the country in international arena, joining the ranks of the developed democratic states, creating security, stability and good neighborliness belt around Uzbekistan.

The Republic is adherent to the policy of non-alignment with military-political blocs, preventing the deployment of foreign military bases and facilities on its territory, as well as the participation of the country's military personnel in peacekeeping operations or military conflicts abroad. Uzbekistan stands for the solution of all contradictions and conflicts exclusively by peaceful means.

Uzbekistan is open to dialogue and is interested in expanding cooperation with all partners in the name of peace, progress and prosperity, relying on the following **basic principles:** *sovereign equality of states, non-use of force or threat, inviolability of borders, non-interference in the internal affairs of other states; fulfillment of international obligations in good faith, respect and protection of human rights and other generally recognized principles and norms of international law; indivisibility of security, openness and pragmatism, development of comprehensive good-neighborly relations with contiguous countries, strengthening of regional and international cooperation.*

One of the main and primary tasks of the foreign policy is the effective implementation of the Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan for 2022-2026.

The following tasks have been set for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to achieve this goal:

- forming the most favorable foreign policy conditions for efficient implementation of the democratic reforms in the country and dynamic processes of modernization of society and economy;

- preserving and strengthening peace and stability in Central Asia, turning the region into a zone of security and sustainable development;

- forming balanced and multidimensional system of strategic partnership with the leading states of the world and international organizations;

- promoting international initiatives of Uzbekistan on the most important areas of regional and international policy;

- facilitating the increase of the volume and expanding the geography of exports of domestic products;

- assisting attraction of foreign direct investments and high technologies to the priority sectors of national economy;

- assisting in attraction of foreign tourists and development the tourist infrastructure of the republic;

- rendering assistance in expansion and deepening of cooperation in the field of transport and transit, development of international transport communications and logistics infrastructure;

- ensuring comprehensive protection of the rights and interests of citizens and legal entities of the Republic of Uzbekistan abroad;

- strengthening the ties with the compatriots living abroad.

**General information**

The main priority of Uzbekistan’s foreign policy is the region of Central Asia. Uzbekistan’s policy in Central Asia is aimed at ensuring peace and stability in the region, addressing the key problems of regional security, including contribution to the settlement of situation in Afghanistan. The Uzbek side will make every effort to strengthen regional trade and economic cooperation, develop regional transport and transit infrastructure, ensure fair and rational use of water resources of transboundary rivers in Central Asia and ecologic sustainability of the region, complete the process of the delimitation and demarcation of borders.

Uzbekistan is interested in strengthening friendly and good-neighborly relations with the countries of the region, developing scientific, technical, cultural and humanitarian cooperation with them, strengthening contacts between parliaments, border regions, NGOs and citizens.

Uzbekistan will further expand its relations with Afghanistan, actively participates in international efforts to peaceful settlement of situation in that country. The Uzbek side will continue to contribute to the economic reconstruction of Afghanistan, the development of its transport, industry, energy and social infrastructure. A stable and prosperous Afghanistan is a guarantee of the regional security in Central Asia.

Another priority direction of the foreign policy of Uzbekistan is the CIS member states, with which the country has historically formed political, economic, transport-communication and other ties. Uzbekistan builds bilateral relations of cooperation with CIS countries on the basis of equality, mutual benefit, respect and consideration of interests of each other.

Consistent development and comprehensive strengthening of friendly ties with Russia on the basis of the Treaty on Strategic Partnership (June 16, 2004), the Treaty on Allied Relations (November 14, 2005), and the Declaration on the Deepening of the Strategic Partnership between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Russian Federation (June 4, 2012) meet the interests of both countries and serve to enhance stability and security in the region. The most important task in bilateral relations is the full implementation of the agreements reached during the state visits of President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev to Russia on April 4-5, 2017 and President of Russian Federation Vladimir Putin to Uzbekistan on October 18-19, 2018.

The Republic of Uzbekistan is interested in further strengthening the strategic partnership with China as a close regional neighbor and the state, which plays one of the key roles in solving global issues. The development of relations with China is based on the Joint Declaration on the Establishment of a Strategic Partnership (June 6, 2012) and the Joint Declaration on the Further Development and Deepening Bilateral Relations of the Strategic Partnership (September 9, 2013) and the Joint Statement on Further Deepening the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (May 12, 2017). The most important task in bilateral relations is to ensure the timely and full implementation of the initiatives and proposals of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, stated within the framework of the second International Forum "One Belt, One Road" on April 24-27, 2019.

Both countries are interested in the practical implementation of the decisions and agreements reached during the state visit of the President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev to Beijing on May 11-13, 2017, as well as in the framework of participation in the international forum «One Belt, One Road» on May 14-15, 2017.

One of the priorities of the foreign policy of Uzbekistan is the development of comprehensive, mutually beneficial and constructive cooperation with the United States of America on the basis of the Declaration on Strategic Partnership and Cooperation Framework between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the United States of America (March 12, 2002). Uzbekistan is interested in further enhancing cooperation with the United States in political, trade, economic, investment, technological, cultural and humanitarian spheres in order to support the ongoing modernization and reforms in the country aimed at strengthening the foundations of civil society and improving the living standards of the population. Important areas of bilateral cooperation are the promotion of peace and stability in Afghanistan, the fight against transnational threats and challenges.

Uzbekistan attaches great importance to the development of mutually beneficial cooperation with the EU and European states. The key areas of cooperation with European countries are development of trade, investment and financial cooperation, transfer of high technologies, partnership in science, education, ecology, health and culture, as well as strengthening of regional security. At the same time, special attention will be paid to the promotion of a higher level of bilateral relations with the leading states of Europe, in particular Germany, France, Great Britain, Belgium, Italy, Spain, Latvia and other countries.

Uzbekistan will continue its consistent policy of strengthening friendship and cooperation with Turkey, with which the country is linked by a centuries-old history, common language, religion, values, similar customs and traditions. The Republic will further develop mutually beneficial relations with Turkey in various areas, in particular in the spheres of trade, investment and tourism.

The priority direction of the foreign policy is the improvement of cooperation with the developed countries of the Asia Pacific region, in particular with the Republic of Korea and Japan. Uzbekistan will continue full-scale practical cooperation with these countries in the fields of investment, trade, high technologies and cultural-humanitarian cooperation.

Uzbekistan actively enhance cooperation with partner countries in Southeast Asia - Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Vietnam and other countries.

The Republic of Uzbekistan supports the development of comprehensive and mutually beneficial relations with the countries of South Asia, in particular, with India and Pakistan, in trade and economy, transport, communication, tourism and other spheres.

Uzbekistan is interested in active development and strengthening of mutually beneficial relations with the states of the Muslim world in the spheres of economy, transport communications, finance, investments and tourism, including within the framework of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the Islamic Development Bank, the Economic Cooperation Organization.

Uzbekistan will continue to participate actively in the work of the United Nations, considering it as the only universal organization responsible for maintaining international peace and security, as well as for promoting the sustainable development of states in the context of the rapid processes of globalization.

The Republic stands for the further development of partnership with the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Organization of Turkic States and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and will effectively use the mechanisms of these structures to develop multilateral cooperation to counteract modern challenges and threats.

Uzbekistan will make every effort to intensify cooperation with international financial institutions such as the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Asian Bank for Infrastructure Investments and the European Investment Bank for the realization of the new projects in the spheres of energy, transport, agriculture, housing construction, small business development and private entrepreneurship.

Today, the Republic of Uzbekistan has established diplomatic relations with 142 countries around the world. Today, 46 embassies of foreign countries, 3 consulates general, 13 honorary consuls, 24 missions of international organizations, 26 representations of international intergovernmental and governmental organizations of foreign states, 1 trade mission are operating in Tashkent.

59 diplomatic and consular missions of the Republic of Uzbekistan are accredited in foreign countries and international organizations. Uzbekistan is a member of more than 100 international organizations and develops interaction with various structures of multilateral cooperation.

## Сooperation of Uzbekistan with the countries of Central Asia

**Uzbek-Kazakh** relations have been developing dynamically. Kazakhstan is among of the important trade partners of Uzbekistan. Significant part of Uzbekistan’s foreign trade with Central Asian countries goes to Kazakhstan. In 2016 the trade turnover reached the amount of $2 032,5 million.

However, there is significant unclaimed potential for further development of bilateral trade between the two countries.

Close bilateral interaction with Kazakhstan certainly promotes stability in Central Asia and helps to resolve the outstanding problems of regional security.

Since 1991 the President of Uzbekistan has paid 10 visits to Kazakhstan and the President of Kazakhstan has paid 11 visits to Uzbekistan.

**Uzbek-Kyrgyz relations** are characterized by progressive implementation of the reached agreements in the sphere of bilateral cooperation on the basis of equality and respect of each other’s core interests.

Maintaining the mutual understanding and stable relations between Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, as well as the implementation of beneficial and promising projects meet the interests of both countries.

Since 1991 the First President of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov has paid 2 visits to Kyrgyzstan (16.01.1994 and 26-27.09.2000) and the President of Kyrgyzstan has paid 4 visits to Uzbekistan (in 1992, 1996, 1998 and 2006). In 2007 and 2013, the First President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov visited Bishkek to attend the SCO summit.

Since 1996 Intergovernmental commission on bilateral cooperation has been functioning between Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan. Seven meetings have been held so far. The last one was held on December 28, 2009 in Tashkent.

In 2016 the trade turnover reached the amount of $169,3 million.

Uzbekistan is interested in development of mutually beneficial cooperation with **Tajikistan** in trade-economic and humanitarian spheres, as well as on fighting against threats to regional security and holding stability in the region.

In June 2000 The First President of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov paid a state visit to Tajikistan. In September 2014, The First President of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov visited Dushanbe to attend the meeting of the SCO CHS.

In January 1998 and December 2001 the President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rakhmon paid an official visit to the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Intergovernmental commission on trade and economic cooperation was established between the countries. Four meetings have been held in Dushanbe so far: the first – on August 22, 2002, the latter on February 18, 2009, the third and the fourth – on June 23, 2015 and on December 28, 2016, in Tashkent.

Maintaining constructive and open dialogue between Uzbekistan and Tajikistan is the important condition of ensuring regional security and stable development of the region.

In 2016 the trade turnover reached the amount of $196,8 million.

Agreements reached at the top level established a strong basis for further expending of mutually beneficial **Uzbek-Turkmen relations,**which are characterized by high-levels of bilateral cooperation. There are strong friendly relations between the Republic of Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, the level of cooperation is advancing steadily in political, trade-economic, scientific and technical, cultural and humanitarian spheres.

Since 1991 21 high level meetings between the Leaders of both countries have taken place. The Presidents of Uzbekistan have paid 10 visits to Turkmenistan and the President of Turkmenistan has paid 11 visits to Uzbekistan.

The scale of economic cooperation between Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan has been enhancing steadily. The trade turnover dynamically increases and in 2016 reached the amount of $213 million.

The interaction of two countries in hydrocarbon industry has been dynamically advancing. The implementation of the project on establishing of the transnational Turkmenistan-Uzbekistan-Kazakhstan-China pipeline serves to diversify the transportation routes of important strategic resources.

Transport and communications constitute another vital dimension of economic cooperation. The implementation of the project on establishing Uzbekistan-Turkmenistan-Iran-Oman transport corridor will serve to allow for colossal opportunities in further bolstering of trade and economic relationships and to lift up the volumes of international transit cargo.

The bilateral cooperation in cultural and humanitarian sphere is also an important issue. Culture and arts representatives of Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan have regularly attended festivals, exhibitions and forums of the two countries.

## Cooperation of the Republic of Uzbekistan with the CIS countries and Georgia

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**Relations with CIS countries**

**Russian Federation** recognized the independence of the Republic of Uzbekistan on 20 March, 1992. On the same day diplomatic relations between two countries were officially established.

Cooperation between two countries is developing on the basis of the Treaty on strategic partnership (2004) and the Treaty on allied relations (2005).

The First President of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov on the invitation of President of Russia V.Putin arrived with an official visit in Moscow on 14-15 April 2013. During this visit Governments of Uzbekistan and Russia signed the Program of Economic cooperation for the period of 2013-2017. On November 12-13, 2013 Russian Federal Assembly President V.Matvienko paid an official visit to Uzbekistan. During the visit Mrs.Matvienko conducted negotiations with the Head of the Senate of Oliy Majlis of Uzbekistan I.Sabirov and Speaker of the Legislative Chamber of Oliy Majlis D.Tashmuhamedova. On the 10th of April 2014 President of Russian Federation Vladimir Putin arrived with an official visit to Tashkent.

Bilateral trade and economic relations with Russian Federation are developing dynamically. Russia secures the first place in the foreign trade of Uzbekistan. In 2016 the trade turnover reached the amount of $4.2 billion.

Bilateral relations with **Azerbaijan** are of strategic character.

Since 1991 the President of Uzbekistan paid 3 visits to Azerbaijan and the President of Azerbaijan paid 3 visits to Uzbekistan.

Important agreements have been reached during these visits. Several documents (the Agreement on cooperation in the sphere of environment protection, On cooperation in the field of information and communication technologies, On measures for further deepening of coo-peration in the field of railway transportation and development of the combined transportation, On cooperation and exchange of information in the sphere of taxation, on mutual protection of confidential information, On humanitarian cooperation and On further measures for the development of trade-economic, scientific and technical cooperation) were signed.

In 2016 the trade turnover reached the amount of $21,2 million.

**Ukraine** is one of the largest foreign trade partners of Uzbekistan as well. Bilateral relations between two countries are based on 142 treaties and agreements, which encompass various spheres.

Since 1991 the President of Uzbekistan has paid 6 visits to the Ukraine and the President of the Ukraine has paid 4 visits to Uzbekistan.

In 2016 the trade turnover reached the amount of $254,1 million.

Uzbekistan attaches importance to strengthening the cooperation with **Belarus**. Documents of bilateral cooperation include the Agreement on economic cooperation between Uzbekistan and Belarus for the years 2008-2017, and the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Government of Belarus on cooperation in the sphere of struggling against crime, the Agreement between the Ministry for Emergency Situations of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Ministry for Emergency Situations of the Republic of Belarus on cooperation in the sphere of preventing emergencies and mitigating their consequences.

In December 1994 the President of Belarus A.Lukashenko paid an official visit to Uzbekistan. In October 2014 in Minsk in the network of the meeting of Head of CIS counties was held bilateral meeting of the First President of Uzbekistan I.A.Karimov with the President of Belarus A.Lukashenko, in which basis question for further widening of mutually beneficial relations was discussed.

The fourth meeting of Intergovernmental commission on trade and economic cooperation between Uzbekistan and Belarus was held on March 11-12, 2015 in Tashkent.

In 2016 the total trade turnover reached the amount of $113,4 million.

Bilateral cooperation with **Armenia** and **Moldova** is developing within the CIS and other regional and international organizations.

On 30-31 March 1995 the President of Uzbekistan I.A.Karimov paid a state visit to Moldova and the President of Moldova P.Luchinski paid an official visit to Uzbekistan on 17-18 December 1998.

**Georgia** is one of the important foreign trade partners of Uzbekistan.

The main document, which regulates relations between two countries, is the Agreement between Uzbekistan and Georgia on friendship and cooperation, signed in Tashkent in September 4, 1995.

The issues of bilateral economic relations are regulated by the common intergovernmental commission between two states on economic cooperation, the 7th meeting of which was held in December 20, 2014 in Tashkent.

In 2016 the total trade turnover reached the amount of $90,8 million.

## Cooperation of the Republic of Uzbekistan with the countries of Europe

### **Cooperation of Uzbekistan with European Union**

Since the first years of Independence Uzbekistan has determined cooperation with Europe as one of the priorities of its foreign policy. Relations with European states are developing both at the bilateral level and within the framework of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the European Communities and their member states, which entered into force on July 1, 1999.

Uzbekistan-EU Cooperation Council, Cooperation Committee, Parliamentary Cooperation Committee, Subcommittee on Trade and Investment, Subcommittee on Justice, Internal Affairs, Human Rights and Related Issues, Subcommittee on Development Cooperation have been established.

The delegation of Uzbekistan headed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs takes part at the annual meetings of the EU-Uzbekistan Cooperation Council in Brussels.

In 1996 and 2011 the First President of Uzbekistan I.A.Karimov paid visits to Brussels and hold meetings with the high ranking officials of the European Union.

The high-level visits to Brussels demonstrated the mutual interest of the parties in expanding cooperation in various fields on the basis of constructive and mutually beneficial partnership.

On May 31, 2011 the Delegation of the European Union was officially accredited in Uzbekistan.

EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini visited Uzbekistan twice to participate in the International Conference on Security and Sustainable Development in Central Asia (Samarkand, November 9-10, 2017) and the High-Level International Conference on Afghanistan (Tashkent, March 26-27, 2018).

President of the European Council Donald Tusk paid a visit to Uzbekistan from May 31 to June 2, 2019.

Most favored nation treatment in trade has been established with the EU countries.

In 2019 the total volume of trade with the EU countries amounted to $ 4.0 billion, incl. exports - $ 574.5 million, imports - $ 3.42 billion.

### **Great Britain**

The foundation of the Uzbek - British relations was laid during the visit of the First President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov to the UK in November 1993.

At present, there is a positive trend in bilateral cooperation. Visits are carried out at various levels between the countries on a regular basis.

The visits of the delegations of Uzbekistan headed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs A.Kamilov to Great Britain took place in November 2013 and July 2019.

In the framework of an inter-parliamentary relations, cooperation groups, whose legal activity is based on Memorandum (signed on September 22, 2010) about mutual understanding between the Group of the Oliy Majlis and “Britain-Uzbekistan” All-Party Parliamentary Group, are operating in the legislative bodies of two countries.

In February 2020, a new All-Party Parliamentary Group for Uzbekistan was established in the UK Parliament. It is chaired by Conservative MP Andrew Bridgen.

In October 2016, January and December 2017, the First Deputy Chairman of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of Uzbekistan S.Safoev paid visits to London. Several briefings on current development and economic priorities of Uzbekistan, meetings at the MFA of Uzbekistan, British Foreign Office, Parliament and with a number of renowned British companies and representatives of the academic community had been held.

An effective mechanism of trade and economic relations is the Uzbek-British Trade and Industry Council (UBTIC), the 23rd meeting of which was held in Tashkent on November 16-18, 2016.

In 2019 the trade turnover between Uzbekistan and Great Britain totaled $208.5 million (export - $105.7 mln, import - $102.8 mln).

Cultural and humanitarian cooperation is developing consistently, including the educational sphere. Since 2002 an International Westminster University has been operating in Tashkent. Training-Experimental Center of High Technologies was established by National university and Academy of Science of the Republic of Uzbekistan in cooperation with Cambridge University in Tashkent.

### **France**

Uzbek-French relations are traditionally friendly and mutually respectful. The President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh.M.Mirziyoyev paid an official visit to France at the invitation of the President of the French Republic Emmanuel Macron on October 8-9, 2018.

During the visit, 11 bilateral documents, as well as agreements and contracts worth 3.4 billion euro, were signed.

On September 30, 2019 Minister of foreign Affairs A. Kamilov visited France to participate in mourning events in connection with the death of the former President of the French Republic J.Chirac. During the visit, talks were held with French foreign Ministry Secretary of state Jean-B.Lemoine.

On November 4, 2019 was held a meeting between Central Asian ambassadors in Paris and French Foreign Ministry Secretary of State J.B.Lemoine, also discussed the issues of holding the second Ministerial meeting in the "France- Central Asia" format (the first was held in March 2017, Paris).

Nowadays, more than 280 thousand Uzbek students are studying French language at 1260 schools, colleges and lyceums, as well as at 8 universities in Uzbekistan.

In 2019 faculties/branches of three French educational institutions have been established in Uzbekistan: the joint faculty of the Paris international fashion Academy at the Tashkent Institute of textile and light industry; a branch of the “Vatel” business school for tourism and hotel management at Bukhara state University; a representative office of the French Alliance branch at the “Ibrat” school of foreign languages at Namangan state University.

Twin-city relations have been established between the cities of Samarkand and Lyon, Bukhara and Rouey-Malmaison. In April 2019 an "Uzbek garden" was opened in the Central Park of Ruey-Malmaison, on the territory of which a monument to the great scientist and encyclopedist Abu Ali Ibn Sino was simultaneously erected.

At the end of 2019, the volume of mutual trade amounted to 345.7 million US dollars, including exports - 205.7 million, imports - 140.0 million. Main export items: products of inorganic chemistry (85.8%), services (13.4%), etc.

Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan №-5551 of October 4, 2018 established a visa-free regime for 30 days for French citizens to enter the territory of Uzbekistan.

### **Germany**

The relations with the Federal Republic of Germany are traditionally advanced and multifaceted, covering a wide range of areas of cooperation. A solid legal framework has been formed. Political dialogue between the countries is maintained at the highest and highest levels.

The official visit of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh.M.Mirziyoyev to Germany was held on January 20-22, 2019. Within the visit there were held the meetings with the Federal President F.W.Steinmeier, the Federal Chancellor A.Merkel and the Chairman of the Bundestag V.Scheuble. The delegation of Uzbekistan also visited the capital of Bavaria - Munich, where the Prime Minister of Bavaria M.Soder received the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The Federal President of Germany paid an official visit to Uzbekistan on May 27-29, 2019. Within its framework there were held the negotiations with the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh.M.Mirziyoyev, a ceremony of signing bilateral documents, meetings with representatives of business circles and civil society, a visit to the Goethe-Institut in Tashkent and a trip to Urgench.

15 rounds of political consultations were held between the foreign ministries of Uzbekistan and Germany. The inter-parliamentary ties are actively developing. The cooperation in the legal, security and military spheres are expanding.

Germany is one of the main trade and economic partners of Uzbekistan in Europe. At the end of 2019, the volume of Uzbek-German trade have reached $980.1 mln. The financial and technical cooperation between the two countries compounds more than 329.9 million euros.

There is a great interest in the learning of German culture and language in Uzbekistan. The German language is the second foreign language most studied in the republic. The partnership in the field of higher education is established with more than 30 universities of Germany, which includes the exchange of students and teaching stuff.

The current partnership relations between Tashkent and Berlin, Samarkand and Bremen, Bukhara and Bonn play an important role in the development of cultural and humanitarian relations.

### **Italy**

The foundations of Uzbek-ltalian relations were laid during the official visits of the First President of the Republic of Uzbekistan to Italy in June 1996 and November 2000.

In May and September 1997 the President of Italy O. Scalfaro and Chairman of the Council of Ministers R. Prodi paid return visits to Uzbekistan.

On May 21, 2007 signed a Protocol on Cooperation between the Foreign Ministries. So far, 6 rounds of political consultations have been held *(the last one during the visit of the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy M.Di Stefano to Uzbekistan on November 14, 2018)*.

On December 11-13, 2019 within the framework of the participation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan A.Kamilov in the International Conference “Italy - Central Asia”, meetings were held with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation L.Di Maio and his Deputy M.Di Stefano, diplomatic advisers to President E.D'Alessandro and Prime Minister P.Benassi, Deputy Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies M.Spadoni.

In 2005 on the initiative of the Italian parliament, the Italy- Uzbekistan Friendship and Cooperation Association was established. Since December 22, 2011 in the Oliy Majlis has been operating an inter-parliamentary cooperation group “Uzbekistan-ltaly”.

The delegation led by the First Deputy Chairman of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan S.Safoev took part in the XI Eurasian Economic Forum *(October 25-26, 2018, Verona)* and the international expert summit "One Belt, One Road" *(November 20-21, 2019, Trieste)*.

Since 1999 there is an Intergovernmental Working Group on Trade, Economic, Industrial Cooperation and Export Credits *(6 meetings were held, the last in Rome on May 6-7, 2019)*.

On November 21-24, 2019 was organized a visit of the delegation led by the governor of the Lombardy region A.Fontana to Uzbekistan.

At the end of 2019, the volume of Uzbek-ltalian trade turnover reached 402.3 million US dollars.

### **Turkey**

Turkey was the first country to recognize independence of Uzbekistan on December 16, 1991.

In 1991, 1994, 1995, 1998, 2017 and 2020 have been organized 6 high-level visits to Turkey.

Uzbekistan were visited by presidents T.Ozal (1993), S.Demirel (1996 and 1999), N.Sezer (2000) and R.T.Erdogan (2016 and 2018), as well as Prime Ministers S.Demirel (1992), T.Chiller (1995), M.Yilmaz (1998) and R.T.Erdogan (2003)

The first meeting of the Uzbek-Turkish Strategic Cooperation Council of the highest level was held in Ankara on February 19.

Inter-MFA consultations are carried out on a regular basis, the 10th round was held on October 26, 2018 in Tashkent.

On August 5-6, 2019 Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan A.Kamilov in Ankara took part in the first meeting of the Strategy Planning Group chaired by the Foreign Ministers and the 11th Annual Conference of Turkish Ambassadors.

On October 14, 2017 in the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan, an inter-parliamentary group of cooperation with the Grand National Assembly (GNA) of Turkey was created.

On July 8-10, 2018 in Ankara, Chairman of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan N.Yuldashev participated in the inauguration ceremony of the President of Turkey R.T.Erdogan.

On September 24, 2018 the Chairman of the GNA of Turkey Yildirim paid a visit to Uzbekistan.

Turkey is one of the largest trading partners of Uzbekistan *(ranks forth after Russia, China and Kazakhstan)*. In 2019 the volume of the Uzbek-Turkish trade turnover valued $ 2.5 billion.

## Cooperation of the Republic of Uzbekistan with the countries of the Asia and the Pacific

### **UZBEKISTAN-AUSTRALIA RELATIONS**

Diplomatic relations between Uzbekistan and Australia were established on December 26, 1991.

The first official contacts began with the visit of Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia G.Evans to Uzbekistan in November 1991.

The political consultations between foreign ministries, which was held in 2009 in Canberra, in 2012 and 2017 in Tashkent, serve as an important mechanism to promote relations.

In 2016, countries exchanged congratulatory messages on the occasion of the 25-th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations.

According to the State Committee of the Republic Uzbekistan on statistics, in 2019 trade turnover between two countries amounted to $5,1 million.

There are six Uzbek-Australian joint ventures, including 1 with 100% Australian capital, function in Uzbekistan.

### **UZBEKISTAN-CHINA RELATIONS**

The People's Republic of China recognized the independence of the Republic of Uzbekistan on December 27, 1991. The diplomatic relations were established on January 2, 1992.

Comprehensive strategic bilateral cooperation covers the whole complex of relations. The trustworthy relations, which were established between the Heads of the two countries, underlie this cooperation. Close or similar approaches on issues related to combating terrorism, extremism and separatism, drug and illegal arms trafficking and other security challenges contribute to the development of mutually beneficial cooperation between Uzbekistan and China.

The Leaders of the two countries regularly exchange high level visits and meetings. During this period, 19 summits of the leaders of the two countries were held.

Presidents of the People's Republic of China Jiang Zemin, Hu Jintao and Xi Jinping paid state visits to Uzbekistan.

In May 2020, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh.M. Mirziyoyev and President of the PRC Xi Jinping had a telephone conversation, during which the leaders of the two countries considered actual issues of bilateral cooperation and the international agenda, including the ongoing fight against coronavirus infection.

During the years 2004-2018, Uzbekistan and China held 16 rounds of political consultations on the level of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, discussing the issues of bilateral cooperation and interaction within the SCO.

Uzbekistan attaches high priority to further strengthening the strategic partnership with China, expanding multifaceted trade, economic, investment and financial cooperation between two countries based on the principles of mutual benefit, interests and equality.

According to the Economic and Trade Agreement (1992) a Most Favored Nation Treatment was established between two countries. China is one of the leading trade partners for Uzbekistan.

In 2019, trade turnover accounted for $7.62 billion, including export $2,32 billion, import – $5.1 billion. In January-July 2020, this indicator amounted to $3.45 billion, including exports - $1 billion, imports - $2.44 billion.

Investment partnership carried out within the framework of the Cooperation Program in the non-primary and high-tech fields, signed between the Governments of Uzbekistan and China in 2010.

A number of Chinese companies are actively involved in projects of exploration and development of hydrocarbon fields as well as deep processing of natural gas in the country.

Uzbekistan supports the implementation of projects for the construction of the pipeline "Uzbekistan-China" and railway "China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan".

Two countries are developing cooperation in the financial sector, in particular with the China Development Bank and Export-Import Bank of China.

The number of joint ventures in Uzbekistan reached 1702, including 116 companies with 100% Chinese investments. More than 73 Chinese companies opened their representative offices in Uzbekistan.

Cooperation in the field of education is growing rapidly, expanding exchanges of students and specialists.

Since May 2005, Confucius Institute promotes the learning of Chinese language and culture in Tashkent. Current number of students is 400. More than 3,500 young people were educated since the establishment of the Institute. The Agreement on establishment of Confucius Institute in Samarkand was signed during President Xi Jinping’s visit to Uzbekistan in September 2013.

In 2018/2019, the PRC government provided educational grants for 120 Uzbek students and trainees on a bilateral agreement and within the SCO.

Center of Uzbekistan Studies and Academic Exchanges as the first of its kind institution in China was opened on the basis of Public Diplomacy Institute of SCO at Shanghai University on May 15, 2013.

In celebration of the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Uzbekistan, on March 13, 2017, On the territory of the Shanghai University, a monument to Alisher Navoi was opened.

Sister city relations established between Tashkent and Shanghai, Navoi and Zhuzhou (Hunan Province), Samarkand and Xi'an (Shaanxi Province), Jizzakh and Yangzhou (Jiangsu province), Bukhara and Luoyang (Hehan Province) as well as between Tashkent region and the province of Hunan, Samarkand region and the province of Shaanxi, Syrdarya region and the province Zhejiang.

### **UZBEKISTAN-INDONESIA RELATIONS**

The Republic of Indonesia recognized the Independence of Uzbekistan on December 28, 1991. The diplomatic relations were established on June 23, 1992.

Indonesia opened its embassy in Tashkent in May 1994. The embassy of Uzbekistan has been operating in Jakarta since December 1996.

In June 1992, the First President of Uzbekistan I.A.Karimov paid a State visit to Jakarta. In April 1995, the reciprocal State visit of the President of Indonesia X.M.Suharto to Uzbekistan took place.

In December 2005, in Tashkent Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia on establishing the Committee of bilateral consultations was signed. So far eight rounds of political consultations were held in Uzbekistan and Indonesia (last was held in July 2020 through video conferencing).

Inter-parliamentary ties have been gradually developing. In particular, in 2007 Speaker of Indonesia People's Representative Council Agung Laksono visited Uzbekistan. In April 2008, the delegation of the Legislative Chamber of Oliy Majlis paid a visit to Indonesia.

In May 2013, the Chairman of the Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation Agency of the House of Representatives of Indonesia S.Hidayat visited to Uzbekistan.

The Deputy chairman of the People's Consultative Assembly of Indonesia Mahyudin, as well as the Chairman of the Regional Representative Council (the upper house of parliament) Irman Gusman paid a visit to Uzbekistan in April and May 2015.

In August 2017, the delegation of Uzbekistan led by the Deputy prime minister Z.T.Mirzaev visited Indonesia. During the visit both parties discussed the cooperation in fishing industry, chili paper cultivation and its preparation for export. The delegation met with the President of the Republic of Indonesia J.Widodo.

The bilateral trade between two countries in 2019 amounted to $44 million.

There are 6 Uzbek-Indonesia joint ventures with Indonesian capital, function in Uzbekistan.

In September 2002, with a view to developing friendship, cooperation and cultural and enlightening ties between the people of the two countries was established the “Uzbekistan – Indonesia” Friendship Society.

In September 1997, a “Protocol on Establishing Sister City Relationship between Samarkand and Banda-Acheh” was signed.

An agreement was signed on the establishment of twinning relations and cooperation in the field of "Halal tourism" between the Bukhara region and the Province of West Nusa Tenggara (PWNT) is one of the world's centers for the implementation of halal services in the tourism industry.

Since 2001, an Indonesian Language Center has been operating under Samarkand Institute of Economics and Service. An Indonesian language and culture class was opened at Samarkand State Institute of Foreign Languages and the Indonesian language is taught as a facultative subject.

In 2013, in the Tashkent State Institute of oriental studies was opened Indonesia language center.

### **UZBEKISTAN-JAPAN RELATIONS**

Japan recognized the Independence of Uzbekistan on December 28, 1991. The diplomatic relations were established on January 26, 1992.

The First President of the Republic of Uzbekistan I.A.Karimov visited Japan three times.

Prime Ministers of Japan Junichiro Koizumi and Shinzo Abe visited Uzbekistan in 2006 and 2015, respectively.

Following the official visit of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh.M. Mirziyoyev to Japan on December 17-20, 2019, 18 bilateral agreements were signed, as well as a package of documents worth $5.6 billion.

Within the framework of inter-parliamentary cooperation, the Japanese parliamentary league of friendship with Uzbekistan has been formed in the Japanese parliament, in the Oliy Majlis of Republic of Uzbekistan - the inter-parliamentary group “Oliy Majlis - the Parliament of Japan”.

In October 2019, the Chairman of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis T.Narbayeva visited Japan.

For the great contribution to the development of Uzbek-Japanese relations of strategic partnership and expansion of multifaceted cooperation, Deputy Prime Minister of Japan, Minister of Finance - Chairman of the Japanese parliamentary League of Friendship with Uzbekistan was awarded the «Do‘stlik» (“Friendship”) Order (2020).

Political consultations between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the two countries have been held on regular basis since 2002 and the last 17th round was held in 29th June, 2019 in Tashkent.

Cooperation in the framework of the Dialogue «Central Asia plus Japan» initiated by Tokyo in 2004 is an important mechanism to develop bilateral relations. Eight meetings of foreign ministers and 13 meetings of senior officials have been held.

Most favored treatment operates in bilateral trade.

Uzbek-Japanese and Japanese-Uzbek economic cooperation committees, which were formed in 1994, play significant role in the development of trade and economic relations. Totally, 15 meetings of the committees have been held, the last one was in July 2019 in Tokyo.

22 joint ventures, including eight - with a 100% Japanese capital were set in Uzbekistan. 15 representatives of Japanese companies have been accredited in Uzbekistan.

In 2019, bilateral trade amounted to about $419.6 million (-40.7%), exports - $33.8 million (+79.7%), imports - $385.8 million (-44%).

In the period January-July 2020 bilateral trade amounted to $99.4 million.

The total volume of financial and technical assistance of Japan to Uzbekistan amounted to more than $4.1 billion. A number of socially significant and infrastructural projects in such areas as healthcare, education, energy, transportation, and telecommunications were implemented due to the financial and technical assistance of Japan to Uzbekistan.

Since 1999, regional offices of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), and also Uzbekistan-Japan Center have been operating in Uzbekistan.

The cooperation in cultural and humanitarian spheres is successfully developing. A Japanese archeologist K.Kato made a significant contribution to the discovery of the monuments of the early Buddhism era in the Southern regions of Uzbekistan. Along with him, for the great contribution to the strengthening of partnership, former first Vice-president of the Banking and Financial Academy of Uzbekistan T.Kitamura and the President of the Waseda University T.Okushima were awarded the «Do‘stlik» (“Friendship”) orders.

Since 2000, in the collaboration with the office of the Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE) in Tashkent above 300 people have studied in Japan on the project Human Resource Development Scholarship.

Over 2400 specialists of Uzbekistan have been trained in Japan through JICA. The Uzbekistan-Japan Center, which was attended by more than 700 thousand people, has been contributing to human resource developing process.

In 1999, «Uzbekistan-Japan» friendship society was established. Its main partners are «Japan-Uzbekistan» Friendship Society and «Fukushima-Uzbekistan» Cultural and Economic Exchange Association.

In 2002, the Uzbek-Japanese Scientific and Creative Center «Caravansary of Cultures of Ikuo Hirayama» was founded in Tashkent.

On August 2-5, 2016, the visit to Uzbekistan of the delegation of Japanese culture and arts representatives headed by the spouse of the Prime Minister of Japan Akie Abe was organized. Within the framework of this event concert of the Japanese group “Dram TAO” was held in the State academic Bolshoi theatre named after Alisher Navoi.

On December 2019, secondary school No. 43 of Shurchinsky district of Surkhandarya region was named after the Japanese archaeologist K.Kato.

On June 15, 2019, in Tokyo, took place the premiere of the joint Uzbek-Japanese feature film "To the Ends of the Earth", filmed by the famous Japanese director Kiyoshi Kurosawa with the assistance of the State Committee for Tourism, Uzbekkino and the Embassy of Uzbekistan in Tokyo.

In November 2019, concerts of masters of arts of Uzbekistan took place in Tokyo, Maizuru and Takasaki.

In December 2019, an exhibition of photographs of Buddhist exhibits of Uzbekistan “Images of Buddhism in the Art of Uzbekistan” was held in the gallery of the Tokyo University of Art.

In February-March 2020, in Tokyo, a photo exhibition of the Uzbek artist H.Ato was held under the title “Uzbekistan - at the crossroads of the Great Silk Road”.

In order to establish cooperation and exchange experience in the field of personnel training three Conferences of rectors of universities of the two countries were held in the cities of Nagoya (2011) and Tashkent (2015, 2019).

In December 2019, were opened the Faculty of Japanese Studies at Tashkent State Institute of Oriental Studies, as well as a scientific and analytical center for the study of Japan at UWED.

### **UZBEKISTAN-MALAYSIA RELATIONS**

Malaysia recognized the Independence of Uzbekistan on January 1, 1992, and established diplomatic relations on February 21, 1992.

The foundation for development of friendly relations and mutually beneficial cooperation was laid during the exchanges of official visits of the First President of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov in 1992 and Prime Minister of Malaysia Mohathir Mohammad in 1993. In 2003, the King of Malaysia His Majesty Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Syed Putra Jamalullail paid a visit to Uzbekistan.

Main events in the development of bilateral relations at the contemporary stage were the State Visit to Malaysia in October 2005 and reciprocal visit of the Prime Minister Ahmad Badawi in November 2008, where a number of intergovernmental agreements in the prospective areas of mutual cooperation were signed.

In July 2010, the ministry of External affairs of Malaysia paid a visit to Uzbekistan.

The political consultations between the Foreign Ministries serve as an important mechanism to promote relations. The last meeting was held in September 2019 in Tashkent.

In February 2020, the Parliament of Malaysia has formed a "Malaysi-Uzbekistan" friendship group consisting of 5 MPs. The head of group is Abdul Rahim bin Bakri.

In May 2020, the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan has established an inter-parliamentary friendship group with the Upper House (Senate) of the Parliament of Malaysia and Mr. B.Saifullaev, Chairman of the Committee on Youth Policy, Culture and Sports, was appointed as the head of the friendship group.

In May 2020, the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan has set up an inter-parliamentary friendship group "Uzbekistan-Malaysia" consisting of 12 MPs with Mr. Sh.Kh. Nazarov, the chairman of the Committee on budgetary policy and economic reforms, as the head of the friendship group.

Jointly with the Malaysian Corporation for the Development of Foreign Trade (MATRADE) was held a business forum on October 14-16, 2019, in Tashkent. Within the framework of the event, the MATRADE representative office was opened at the Embassy of Malaysia in Uzbekistan.

A delegation of Uzbekistan led by Adviser to the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan R.S.Kasimov and former Deputy Prime Minister E.M. Ganiev visited Malaysian on December 18-21, 2019, to participate in the Kuala Lumpur Summit.

According to the State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Statistics, the trade turnover at the end of 2019 reached $116.2 million

According to the State Committee of Statistics of Uzbekistan, bilateral trade between two countries in 2019 amounted to $116,2 million.

Uzbek-Malaysian Joint Trade Committee was founded in 2005. It plays a significant role in developing trade and economic relations. The second meeting was held on October 20, 2009, in Tashkent.

There are 14 enterprises in oil and gas, textile, furniture, electro technical products, financial services and other areas operating in Uzbekistan with Malaysian investors.

Within the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Program (MTCP), representatives of ministries and agencies of Uzbekistan participate in various short-term courses and seminars in Malaysia. As of September 2020, 630 Uzbek specialists trained under MTCP.

In 1998, «Uzbekistan-Malaysia» Friendship Society was established in Tashkent to develop cultural and humanitarian relations between social circles of both countries.

### **UZBEKISTAN-SINGAPORE RELATIONS**

The Republic of Singapore recognized the Independence of Uzbekistan in 1992 and established diplomatic relations on April 8, 1997.

Main event in the development of bilateral relations at the contemporary stage was the State Visit of the First President of Republic of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov to Singapore in January 2007.

Since 2011, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Singapore to the Republic of Uzbekistan is Zulkifli bin Baharudin.

In April 2019, the delegation led by the Senior Minister of State of the Ministries of Defense and Foreign Affairs of Singapore Mohamad Maliki Bin Osman visited Uzbekistan. During the visit, a number of meetings were organized in various ministries and departments of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Political consultations between the foreign ministries of the two countries have become an important stimulus for the intensification of bilateral relations. The last one took place in April 2012 during the visit of the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Singapore M.Zulkifli to Uzbekistan.

According to the State Committee of Statistics of Uzbekistan, bilateral trade between two countries in 2019 accounted for $174.2 million.

There are 32 Uzbek-Singapore joint ventures, including 8 with 100% Singaporean capital, function in Uzbekistan.

“Indorama Corporation” has implemented a number of investment projects on the basis of the “Kokand Textile Factory”. Total investment is $240 million.

Since 2007, with the interaction of Singapore Business Federation, annually organizing a joint business forum in Uzbekistan and Singapore with the participation of representatives of business circles of the two countries.

In February 2020, the delegation of Singapore business circles headed by Senior Minister of State for Trade and Industry of Singapore Koh Poh Koon visited Uzbekistan to intensify trade, economic and investment cooperation between the countries.

In September 2007, a Decision "on organizing the activity of the Singapore Management Development Institute in Tashkent (MDIS in Tashkent)" was taken. The MDIS in Tashkent is a higher educational institution, which was established by the Management Development Institute of Singapore and Association of Banks of Uzbekistan. The training is conducted in areas of «Banking», «Business Management», «Tourism» and «Modern IT in business».

Within the framework of the Technical Cooperation Program implemented by the Government of Singapore, Uzbek specialists from varies ministries and agencies have studied in the short-run courses in the country.

### **UZBEKISTAN – SOUTH KOREA RELATIONS**

The Republic of Korea recognized the Independence of Uzbekistan on December 30, 1991. The diplomatic relations were established on January 29, 1992.

Since that seventeen high level meetings have taken place.

In 2006, Joint Declaration on Strategic Partnership was signed.

As a result of the State visit of the President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev to the Republic of Korea on November 22-25, 2017 were signed Joint Declaration and more than 80 agreements and contracts of total worth about $10 billion.

Following the state visit of the President of the Republic of Korea Moon Jae-in to the Republic of Uzbekistan (April 18-21, 2019), was signed a package of documents worth about $12 billion.

In 2019 relations raises to special strategic partnership level.

On April 13, 2020, a telephone conversation was held between the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh.M.Mirziyoyev and the President of the Republic of Korea Moon Jae-in. Presidents in a traditionally friendly and warm atmosphere discussed in detail the current issues of further strengthening bilateral relations of a special strategic partnership and expanding multifaceted cooperation, primarily in trade and economic sphere, as well as exchanged views on some issues of the regional and international agenda. Special attention was paid to continuing interaction and joint efforts in the fight against the spread of coronavirus infection.

Inter-parliamentary exchanges are successfully developing between two countries. In the parliaments of both countries have been established friendship and cooperation groups.

In September 2017, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea Chung Sye-kyun visited Uzbekistan.

In August 2019, was organized the visit of the parliamentary delegation headed by the Chairman of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan T.Narbaeva to Korea.

Within the framework of interaction between the Foreign Ministries, were held 13 rounds of political consultations.

In April 2018, was organized an official visit of Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea Kang Kyung-wha to Uzbekistan.

In accordance with the Trade Agreement of 1992, the Most Favored Nation Treatment between the two countries is achieved. Seoul is the biggest trade partner of Uzbekistan in Asia-Pacific.

In 2019, the trade turnover totaled $2,75 billion: export of Uzbekistan - $93,5 million, import - $2,66 billion.

Total direct investment from South Korea to Uzbekistan exceeded $7 billion.

Since 1994 there has been operating a joint Intergovernmental Committee on Trade and Economic Cooperation. The ninth meeting was held in March 2019 in Tashkent.

In 2018, an Uzbek-Korean trading house with a showroom of Uzbek export products was opened in Incheon.

The Uzbekistan-Korea textile technopark, Joint scientific and technological center of rare metals and alloys, Engineering design center for agricultural machinery, the Uzbek-Korean center for cooperation in the field of “e-government” have been established in Uzbekistan.

Since 1992, Korean Education Center has been operating in Tashkent.

Korean language, culture and computer centers are successfully operating in the Uzbek State University of World Languages and Samarkand State Institute of World Languages.

The departments of Korean studies were opened totally in 13 higher educational institutions of Uzbekistan. Korean language is taught in 48 schools, lyceums and colleges.

The Friendship Society “Uzbekistan-Republic of Korea” has been operating since 1999.

In Uzbekistan established branches of Korean universities Inha University, Bucheon University, Yeoju University, Uzbek-Korean International University in Fergana.

In April 2019, the Uzbek-Korean Center for Cooperation in Healthcare opened.

In May 2020, was completed the construction of Children’s multidisciplinary medical center in Tashkent with the involvement of funds from the EDCF.

Close relations at the municipal level established between Tashkent and Seoul, Fergana and Yongin, Namangan and Songnam, Samarkand and Geongju, Tashkent region and Geongsang-pukto province.

From February 10, 2018, a visa-free regime is introduced for 30 days for the citizens of the Republic of Korea.

By decrees of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Dustlik order was awarded to the ambassadors of the Republic of Korea in Uzbekistan Choi Yuong Ha (1999), Moon Haeyong (2007) and Chong Dae Wan (2013), Chairman of the Republic of Korea-Uzbekistan Friendship Association Kim Yun Sik (2005) .), Former Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea Lee Man Seop (2006), President and Publisher of the Korea Post magazine Lee Kyung Sik (2009), Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea Kim Yong Goo, Chairman of the “Korean Air” Company Cho Yang Ho and Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of Korea Song Kyung Sik (2011).

Choi Jae Wook, Professor of the Department of Preventive Medicine of the Korea University, was awarded the Order of Salomatlik I degree (2020).

### **UZBEKISTAN-VIETNAM RELATIONS**

The Socialist Republic of Vietnam (SRV) recognized the Independence of the Republic of Uzbekistan on December 27, 1991, the diplomatic relations were established on January 17, 1992. Since 2009, Honorary Consulate of Uzbekistan operates in Hanoi.

In 1996, the First President of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov paid an official visit to Vietnam and put an ink to the Treaty on the Fundamentals of Interstate Relations and Cooperation, as well as several intergovernmental treaties.

In December 2010, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Uzbekistan to Indonesia was appointed as an Ambassador to Vietnam (with the residence in Jakarta).

In October 2011, the Prime Minister of Vietnam Nguyen Tan Dung paid official visit to Uzbekistan.

In order to develop comprehensive cooperation with Vietnam, Deputy Chairman of the National Assembly of Vietnam Wang Tiu Liu (July 2008.), Deputy Prime Minister Hoang Trung Hai (April 2010), Minister of Public Security Le Hong Anya (September 2010), Chairwoman of Hanoi People’s Council Ngo Thi Doan Thanh (2012), Deputy of General Prosecutor Trung Kong Phan (2012), Deputy Minister of Justice Dihn Trung Tung (2013), General Prosecutor Nguyen Hoa Binh (2014) Chairman of Supreme People’s Court Tryng Hoa Binh (2014) visited Uzbekistan.

In August 2013, the delegation of the General Prosecutor's Office of Uzbekistan paid visit to Vietnam.

The political consultations between foreign ministries serve as an important mechanism to promote relations. The last meeting was held in March 2014 in Hanoi.

In February 2017, the Government delegation, headed by the deputy prime minister-minister of agriculture and water resources of the Republic of Uzbekistan Z.Mirzaev, visited SRV.

Organized 7 meetings of Uzbek-Vietnam Intergovernmental Commission, the last of which was held in December 2018 in Tashkent.

According to the State Committee of Statistics of Uzbekistan, bilateral trade between two countries in 2019 totaled $74,9 million.

There are 24 Uzbek-Vietnam joint ventures, including 12 with 100% Vietnam capital, function in Uzbekistan.

Within the implementation of arrangements in the sphere of cultural and humanitarian cooperation, since December 1995 “Uzbekistan-Vietnam” and “Vietnam-Uzbekistan” Friendship Societies have been functioning.

In September 2012, “Days of the culture of Vietnam” was organized in Uzbekistan.

In December 2013, in the Tashkent State Institute of oriental studies was opened Vietnam language center.

## Cooperation of the Republic of Uzbekistan with Near East, Middle East and African countries

### **UZBEKISTAN–BANGLADESH RELATIONS**

Bangladesh recognized the independence of Uzbekistan on December 30, 1991. The diplomatic relations were established on October 15, 1992.

The opening of the Embassy of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh in Uzbekistan took place in March 1996.

In March 2022, the first round of political consultations between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs took place in Tashkent.

In 2020, an inter-parliamentary group of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan was established for cooperation with the National Assembly of Bangladesh. In February 2022, the Bangladesh-Uzbekistan Parliamentary Friendship Group was established in the National Assembly of Bangladesh.

In 2022 trade between Uzbekistan and Bangladesh totaled $35 million.

There are 27 companies with the Bangladeshi capital, including 22 enterprises with 100 percent Bangladeshi capital in Uzbekistan.

On July 29, 2022, Dhaka hosted the 3rd session of the Uzbek-Bangladesh Intergovernmental Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation.

### **UZBEKISTAN–EGYPT RELATIONS**

The Arabic Republic of Egypt recognized Independence of the Republic of Uzbekistan on December 26, 1991.

On January, 2017 Uzbekistan and Egypt celebrated 25th anniversary of the establishment of Diplomatic relations between two countries (January 23, 1992).

On May, 1993 the Embassy of the Arabic Republic of Egypt had been opened in Tashkent. The Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in Cairo has been operating since December 1994.

The official visit of the First President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov to Egypt on December 1992 and April 2007, gave a significant impetus for the development of Uzbek-Egypt relations.

On September 4-5, 2018, took place the official visit of the President of Egypt A. Al-Sisi to the Republic of Uzbekistan. During the visit were discussed perspective directions for the development of Uzbek-Egyptian cooperation and also signed 12 cooperation documents in various fields.

On February 20-21, 2023, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh.M. Mirziyoyev made an official visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt. As a result of the visit, the heads of the states adopted a joint statement, and documents were signed between the ministries and departments of the two countries.

Uzbekistan interacts with Egypt in the framework of international and regional structures, such as the UN, OIC and etc.

The contractual and legal framework of Uzbekistan and Egypt include 66 interstate, intergovernmental and interdepartmental documents.

Until now, 10 rounds of political consultations have been held between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan and Egypt.

So far, 6 meetings of Joint Intergovernmental Commission for Trade-Economic and Scientific-Technical Cooperation of Uzbekistan and have been held.

By the end of 2022, the volume of mutual trade amounted to $37.3 million (export - $34.5 million, import - $2.6 million).

Uzbekistan actively cooperates with the Agency of partnership for development of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Egypt. Since 1993, more than 1100 representatives of Uzbekistan have been trained at Agency courses for diplomats, tourism workers, teachers of the Arabic language, etc.

In 1997 the “Uzbekistan-Egypt” and in May 2000 "Egypt-Uzbekistan" Friendship Societies was established which both of contribute to the development of bilateral cooperation in the cultural and humanitarian sphere.

On October 10-13, 2018, head of the Al-Azhar religious complex, the Supreme Imam of Egypt sheikh Ahmad al-Tayyib visited to Uzbekistan.

On June 7-9, 2022, the delegation of Uzbekistan, headed by the chairman of the Muslim Board of Uzbekistan, Mufti N.Khaliknazarov, took part in the international conference "Religious Extremism: The Intellectual Premises and Counter-Strategies it."

On October 17-18, 2022, in Cairo, under the leadership of the President of Egypt A. al-Sisi, an international conference "Fatwa and sustainable development goals" was held and the Delegation of Uzbekistan took part, headed by the chairman of the Muslim Board of Uzbekistan, Mufti N.Khaliknazarov.

On April 25-30, 2022, the Egyptian dance group "Tannura" took part in the international festival of dance art "Lazgi", held in the city of Khiva, Khorezm region, and took a honorary 3rd place in the nomination of the best dance team.

On November 1-3, 2022, during the week "International ziyarat-tourism" held in Samarkand, Chairman of the Committee of Social Solidarity, Family and Disabled People of the House of Representatives of Egypt, the Ambassador of Uzbekistan for Tourism in Egypt A.al-Kasabi participated.

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### **UZBEKISTAN–INDIA RELATIONS**

India recognized the independence of the Republic of Uzbekistan on December 26, 1991. Diplomatic relations between two states were established on March 18, 1992.

During the period since 1992, 12 visits at the highest level took place.

The Prime Ministers of India P.V. Narasimha Rao (1993), M.Singh (2006) and N.Modi (2015, 2016 and 2022) visited Uzbekistan.

In 2011, Joint Statement on Strategic Partnership was adopted.

The President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh.M.Mirziyoyev paid a State visit to India on 30 September-1 October 2018.

On January 17-18, 2019 the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh.M. Mirziyoyev visited India to participate in 9th International Investment Summit «Vibrant Gujarat – 2019».

On December 11, 2020, an online summit was held between the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Prime Minister of India. As a result, a Joint Statement on close friendship, strong partnership was adopted.

At the invitation of India Prime Minister N. Modi, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh. Mirziyoev took part in the online summit “Voice of the Global South” on January 12, 2023.

Since August 1997, political consultations have been held regularly between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs.

In June 2020, in the framework of inter-parliamentary contacts, the Senate and Legislative Chamber Oliy Mazhlis formed inter-parliamentary groups for cooperation with the upper and lower houses of the Indian parliament.

In accordance with the signed Agreement on trade and economic cooperation, the most-favored-nation treatment in mutual trade is established between the countries.

In 2022 the trade turnover between Uzbekistan and India totaled $690.5 mln.

At present, 382 enterprises with the participation of Indian capital established in Uzbekistan.

On December 24, 2018, the Uzbek-Indian Entrepreneurship Development Center was opened in Tashkent.

In accordance with the Memorandum signed in 2004, the Indian-Uzbek Center for Information Technologies named after J. Nehru functions in Tashkent.

On November 17, 2022, the "Center of the Uzbek Language and the Uzbek-Indian Scientific and Cultural Relations" was opened at the Delhi University.

Since March 22, 2018 the work of the Indo-Uzbek Friendship Society (Delhi) was resumed. Along with this, since 1998 the Uzbek-Indian Friendship Society has been functioning.

There is a Lal Bahadur Shastri Center for Indian Culture at the Embassy of India in Tashkent.

In March 2019, famous Indian fashion designer, founder of her own brand, R.Beri has been appointed as Culture and Tourism brand Ambassador of Uzbekistan to India.

There are branches of Universities of Amity (Tashkent), Sharda (Andijan), Sambhram (Jizzax) in Uzbekistan.

On July 24, 2019, with the assistance of Indian specialists, the Technological Park of software products and information technologies was launched in Tashkent.

On February 3-19, 2023, the delegation of Uzbekistan took part in the International Festival of Arts, Culture and Crafts «Surajkund Crafts Mela» in the state of Haryana.

### **UZBEKISTAN–IRAN RELATIONS**

Islamic Republic of Iran recognized the independence of Uzbekistan in 25 December 1991. Diplomatic relations between the two countries were established on May 10, 1992.

Diplomatic mission of Iran started its activity in Tashkent in November 1992, the Embassy of Uzbekistan in Tehran opened in May 1995.

Over the past period, visits of the First President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov to Iran were held four times (1992, 2003 - official, 1996, 2003 - within the framework of participation in the ECO summit).

In turn, the presidents of the Islamic Republic of Iran A. Rafsanjani on October 1993, S. Khotami on April 2002 and E.Raisi on September 2022 had made an official visits to Uzbekistan.

Uzbek-Iranian political consultations hold regularly on the level of Deputy Ministers of Foreign Affairs. The last 6th round took place in March 2021. in Tehran.

The treaty and legal basis of bilateral relations consists of 77 intergovernmental and interdepartmental agreements in the political, trade, economic and cultural spheres.

In February of 2022 in Tehran there was held the 14 session of the Uzbek-Iranian intergovernmental commission on trade-economic and scientific-technical cooperation.

According to the results of 2022 trade turnover between the two countries amounted to $435,6 million, $139,6 million of which accounted for export of Uzbekistan and $296 million for import.

The main export products of Uzbekistan to the Islamic Republic of Iran are yarn, mineral fertilizer, chemical fiber, and imports consist of building materials, electromechanical equipment, fruits, dried fruits, plastic products.

Today there are 212 joint ventures with Iranian investors’ participation operating in Uzbekistan.

In 25th of April 2011 in Ashgabad on quadripartite meeting of the Foreign Ministers there was signed an agreement on establishing a transport rail corridor Uzbekistan – Turkmenistan – Iran - Oman.

### **UZBEKISTAN–ISRAEL RELATIONS**

The State of Israel recognized Independence of the Republic of Uzbekistan on December 25, 1991. The diplomatic relations between two states were established on February 21, 1992.

The First President of the Republic of Uzbekistan I.Karimov visited the State of Israel by state visit on September 14-16, 1998.

On July 1994 Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel Mr. Sh.Peres paid an official visit to the Republic of Uzbekistan and in April 1997 Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan Mr. A.Kamilov visited the State of Israel.

Regular political consultations are held between the two countries' foreign ministries. Until now have been held 4 rounds of political consultations between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the two countries. The last fourth round of political consultations was held on March 30, 2016 in Tashkent.

The last 7th round of political consultations took place on May 12, 2022 in Tashkent.

On October 12, 2021 in Nur-Sultan, as part of the 6th meeting of CICA Foreign Ministers, a meeting was held between the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan A. Kamilov and the Minister of Tourism of Israel, co-chairman of the Uzbek-Israeli Intergovernmental Commission Y. Razvozov.

On February 16, 2021, an online meeting was held between the Chairman of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan T.K. Narbayeva and Speaker of the Knesset of the State of Israel Ya.G. Levin.

On February 25, 2022, a telephone conversation took place between the Foreign Ministers of Uzbekistan and Israel on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the countries.

The legal and treaty basis of the Uzbek-Israel relations consists of 19 documents (14 interstate and intergovernmental, 5 interagency documents).

Between the two countries the most-favored regime in mutual trade is established. The total volume of bilateral trade for 2021 amounted to $ 25.8 million (exports - $ 6.2 million, imports - $ 19.6 million).

Today, in Uzbekistan there are 37 enterprises with the participation of Israel capital, incl. 7 with 100% foreign capital, in the spheres of tourism, wholesale trade, food production, advisory services on financial and management issues.

After implementation from February 2018 visa-free regime *(30 days)* for the citizens of Israel, the tourist to Uzbekistan has doubled. In 2018 Uzbekistan visited 10 thousand Israeli tourists.

### **UZBEKISTAN–KUWAIT RELATIONS**

The State of Kuwait recognized the independence of the Republic of Uzbekistan on December 30, 1991. Diplomatic relations between countries were established in July 1994.

In 2001 the Embassy of the State of Kuwait had been opened in Tashkent. The Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the State of Kuwait has been operating since November 2004.

The official visit of the First President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov to the State of Kuwait on January 19-20, 2004, gave a significant impetus to the development of relations between two countries. During this visit a legal framework for further strengthening of bilateral relations was created.

In July, 2008, Emir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah paid an official visit to Uzbekistan, during which the two sides signed a number of documents on strengthening the Uzbek-Kuwaiti relations and intensification of trade, economic and investment cooperation.

In June 2017 in the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan, an interparliamentary group for cooperation with the National Assembly of the SC "Uzbekistan-Kuwait" was established.

In December 4, 2018 in Kuwait city was held the 2nd round of political consultations between the ministries of foreign affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the State of Kuwait.

In September 6-10, 2018 Kuwaiti delegation led by the Deputy Secretary General of the National Council of Culture, Art and Literature took part in the International Forum of Maqom Art, which was held in Shahrisabz.

In October 25-26, 2018 in Kuwait city was organized a concert of the youth symphonic orchestra of Uzbekistan and the exhibition of national applied art products.

On June 23-24, 2021, the international forum "Global Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation in Achieving Sustainable Development Goals", attended by Amira al-Hassan, Head of the Regional Office of the United Nations Human Settlements Program (UN-HABITAT) for countries of the Persian Gulf, was held by the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan in Bukhara.

The 46th annual meeting of the Board of the Islamic Development Bank, which was held in Tashkent from August 31 to September 4, 2021, was attended by the Minister of Finance of the State of Kuwait, State Minister for Economic Relations and Investment Khalifa Musaid Khalaf Hamad.

By the end of 2022, trade between the two countries amounted to $2.671 million (exports $2.655 million, imports $16,000). By the end of 2021, this figure amounted to 903.9 thousand dollars (exports - 841 thousand dollars, imports - 62.9 thousand dollars).

The export structure of trade corresponds to services and medical products in the field of tourism, transport and communications, and the structure of imports corresponds to chemical products.

### **UZBEKISTAN–OMAN RELATIONS**

The Sultanate of Oman has recognized the state independence of the Republic of Uzbekistan in December 1991. Diplomatic relations between Uzbekistan and Oman established in April 1992.

The First President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov has visited the Sultanate of Oman in October 2009, during which signed 19 bilateral documents.

In April 2010 the Embassy of the Sultanate of Oman opened in Tashkent. In July 2018 the Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan has opened in Muscat.

On March 15, 2018 The Prime Minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan A.A. Aripov and the Minister of Heritage and Culture of Oman Haisam bin Tariq al-Saeed took part in the opening ceremony of the new building of the Abu Rayhan Beruni Institute of Oriental Studies, built with the financial assistance of the Omani side.

On May 14-18, 2019, an Omani delegation headed by Sheikh Abdullah Mubarak al-Hamdani, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the investment company Al Hamdani Group, visited Uzbekistan.

September 20-21, 2022 Oman hosted the seventh round of political consultations between the ministries of foreign affairs of the two countries.

On January 18, 2022, the 4th meeting of the Intergovernmental Joint Commission was held online.

In 2022, the volume of trade between the two countries amounted to $4.2 million (exports - $272.6 thousand, imports - $3.9 million).

Since November 2022, Salam Air has launched direct flights on the Muscat-Tashkent-Muscat route.

On December 16, 2020, the delegation of Uzbekistan headed by the Chairman of the Olympic Committee R. Shaabdurakhmanov took part in the 39th General Assembly of the Olympic Council of Asia, held in Oman.

On January 6-12, 2023, the national team of Uzbekistan took part in the qualifying competitions for the final of the Asian Hockey Federation Cup among juniors in the city of Muscat.

### **UZBEKISTAN–PAKISTAN RELATIONS**

The Islamic Republic of Pakistan recognized the independence of the Republic of Uzbekistan on December 20, 1991. The diplomatic relations between the countries have been established on 10th May 1992.

The Embassy of Pakistan in Tashkent was opened in June 1992. The Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in Islamabad began to function in July 1994.

Since March 1992 till October 2001 the Consulate-General of the Republic of Uzbekistan in Karachi functioned.

The first President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov visited Pakistan twice (August 1992, April 2006).

The Pakistani side was visited by the Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif *(June 1992, November 2015)*, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto *(May and November 1995)*, President Farooq Leghari *(October 1996)*, President Pervez Musharraf *(March 2005),* Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz *(March 2007)*, Prime Minister Yusaf Gilani *(March 2011)*, Prime Minister Imran Khan *(July 2021)*.

The Uzbek-Pakistani "online summit" between the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat  Mirziyoyev and the Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Imran Khan took place on 14th April 2021.

The Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Imran Khan paid an official visit to Uzbekistan on 15-16 July 2021. During the visit the bilateral relations between the two countries were raised to the level of strategic partnership.

The President of the Republic of Uzbekistan paid a state visit to Pakistan on 3-4 March 2022. During the visi, a "Joint Declaration on the Establishment of Further Steps in the Strategic Partnership between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan" was signed.

The President of the Republic of Uzbekistan met with the leadership of Pakistan within the framework of the following multilateral events: President Asif Zardari - SCO summit *(June 2010, Tashkent)*, President Mamnun Hussein - SCO summit *(June 2016, Tashkent)*, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif - SCO Summit *(June 8, 2017, Astana)*, President Mamnun Hussein - Scientific and Technical Summit of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation *(September 17, 2017, Astana)*, SCO Summit *(June 10, 2018, Qingdao)*, Prime Minister Imran Khan - International Conference "One Belt, One Road" *(April 2019, Beijing)*, SCO summit *(June 2019, Bishkek)*, SCO summit *(September 16-17, 2021, Dushanbe)*, President Arif Alvi - OIC summit *(November 28, 2021, Ashgabat)*, Prime Minister Imran Khan - opening ceremony of the Winter Olympic Games *(February 5, 2022, Beijing)*, Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif – SCO Summit *(September 15-16, Samarkand)*.

The President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev held telephone conversations with the Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan on October 26, 2021, November 25, 2021 and April 5, 2022.

The legal basis of bilateral relations is **74** documents of an interstate, intergovernmental and interdepartmental nature.

There is a Joint Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation between Uzbekistan and Pakistan. The last 8th session of the commission was held on February 24, 2023 in Tashkent.

In accordance with the Agreement on Trade and Economic Cooperation, the most favored nation treatment has been established between the parties. For 2022 the indicator of mutual trade between Uzbekistan and Pakistan amounted to $239.5 million, exports - $130.5 million, imports - $109 million.

There are 200 enterprises operating in Uzbekistan with the participation of Pakistani capital. Main activities: trade, production of textile products, paper, leather goods, food products, provision of transport and tourism services.

### **UZBEKISTAN–SAUDI ARABIA RELATIONS**

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia recognized the independence of the Republic of Uzbekistan in December 1991. Diplomatic relations between Uzbekistan and Saudi Arabia established in February 1992.

The First President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov has visited the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in April 1992.

In November 1992 in Jeddah was opened the General Consulate of the Republic of Uzbekistan. In 1995 the Embassy of Uzbekistan opened in Riyadh. In 1997 the Embassy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has opened in Tashkent.

In April 2012 the Saudi delegation headed by Chairman of the Advisory Council (parliament) Abdullah Al ash-Sheikh visited Uzbekistan.

On May 21, 2017 President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev by the invitation of the King of Saudi Arabia Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, visited Saudi Arabia to participate in the Summit of Arab-Muslim countries and the United States. Within the framework of the Summit, the President of Uzbekistan met with leaders of several states, including Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud.

On March 27, 2018, the Saudi Arabian delegation headed by Deputy Foreign Minister A.Miradh participated in the Tashkent Conference on Afghanistan – "Peace process, security cooperation and regional connectivity".

In December 3, 2018 in Riyadh was held the 3rd round of political consultations between the ministries of foreign affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

In June 2011 in Tashkent was held the 3rd meeting of Uzbek-Saudi governmental commission, during which organized business forum and signed appropriate protocol and agreement on reciprocal promotion of investments.

In December 11-16, 2018 the Saudi delegation led by the Chairman of the Council of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of KSA Sami al-Ubaidi visited to Uzbekistan.

On January 20-26, 2019 the delegation of Uzbekistan led by the Chairman of the Committee on Religious Affairs at the Cabinet of Ministers J.Akramov paid visit to KSA. During the visit was organized meeting with the Minister for Hajj and Umrah Affairs of the KSA Salih Binteyn.

On July 14-17, 2021, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia, Prince Faisal bin Farhan, took part in an international conference as part of an official visit to Uzbekistan.

On January 22-26, 2021, a delegation led by the Minister of Investment of Saudi Arabia K. al-Falih visited Uzbekistan. During the visit, the first meeting of the Uzbek-Saudi Investment Forum and the Council of Entrepreneurs took place in Bukhara. Efforts are being made to further expand partnerships in the energy and petrochemical sectors. Today, major energy projects worth $2 billion 640 million have been launched with ACWA Power. The prospect of partnership with a large Saudi company "SABIC" in the field of chemistry is being worked out.

On May 2-4, 2021, a delegation of Uzbekistan visited Saudi Arabia, held meetings with the Minister of Investments of this country, H. al-Falih, and other officials.

On June 29, 2022, the 4th round of political consultations took place via video link.

On August 17-18, 2022, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh. Mirziyoyev paid a state visit to Saudi Arabia. As a result of the high-level visit, a Joint Statement was adopted on the further expansion of the comprehensive partnership between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

15 documents were adopted on cooperation between the governments and ministries of the two countries in the fields of energy, customs, civil aviation, tourism, agriculture, healthcare and labor relations.

On May 2-4, 2021, the 4th meeting of the intergovernmental joint commission on the further development of trade and economic cooperation was held in Riyadh.

On March 24-26, 2022, a delegation led by the Minister of Investment of Saudi Arabia Khalid al-Falih took part in the Tashkent International Investment Forum.

From September 27 to October 1, 2022, a Saudi delegation led by the Minister of Hajj and Umrah Tawfiq bin Fawzan al-Rabia visited Uzbekistan. As a result of the meeting, it was decided to double the annual hajj quota for citizens of Uzbekistan (up to 24,000 people), and up to 100,000 people die.

On December 22-23, 2022, a delegation led by the Minister of Investment of Saudi Arabia Khalid al-Faleh visited Uzbekistan.

In 2022, the volume of mutual trade between the two countries amounted to $138.9 million (export - $3.1 million, import - $135.8 million).

As part of a high-level visit to Saudi Arabia, a regular meeting of the Uzbek-Saudi Business Council was successfully held. As a result, agreements and contracts worth 14 billion US dollars were signed in the fields of energy, chemistry, electrical engineering, infrastructure development, healthcare, agriculture, pharmaceuticals, information technology and transport.

Currently, there are 38 joint ventures with the participation of Saudi businessmen in Uzbekistan (20 foreign and 18 joint ventures).

An agreement on cooperation in the field of civil aviation was signed in 2009. Together with the Kingdom, a new draft agreement on air communication between the governments of Uzbekistan and Saudi Arabia has been developed. There are regular flights between the two countries.

In 2022, more than 61,000 citizens of Uzbekistan went to Umrah in Saudi Arabia. 12045 citizens of Uzbekistan made the Hajj.

The contractual and legal basis of cooperation is made up of 29 documents (2 interstate, 4 intergovernmental, 23 interdepartmental agreements).

From January 1, 2023, a visa-free procedure for the entry of citizens of Saudi Arabia into Uzbekistan has been introduced.

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### **UZBEKISTAN–UNITED ARAB EMIRATES RELATIONS**

The diplomatic relations between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the United Arab Emirates established in October 1992.

In 1992 the General Consulate of the Republic of Uzbekistan began its activity in Dubai. In 2007 the Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in UAE was opened in Abu Dhabi.

In June 2004 the government of UAE has decided to open a General Consulate in Uzbekistan. In June 2010 the General Consulate of the UAE in Tashkent was converted to the Embassy.

In March 2008 the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov visited UAE, during which 28 governmental and departmental documents were signed.

On December 5, 2018 in Abu-Dhabi was held the 1st round of political consultations between the ministries of foreign affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the United Arab Emirates.

In March 2019, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh.M. Mirziyoyev paid an official visit to the UAE. In May 2022, a protocol visit headed by the President of Uzbekistan to the Emirates was taken place.

The contractual and legal basis of bilateral relations is made up of 31 interstate, intergovernmental and interdepartmental documents on cooperation in the field of extradition, assistance in criminal cases, air traffic, trade and economic cooperation, avoidance of double taxation of income, science and technology, etc.

The volume of trade between Uzbekistan and the UAE for 2022 amounted to $508.9 million (export - $114.5 million, import - $394.3 million).

Uzbekistan’s main exports consist of raw cotton fiber, silk, agricultural products and services; import from the UAE consists of mechanical and electrical equipment, foodstuffs, furniture, vehicles, clothing and sport equipments.

At the present time 240 companies, created with the capital of UAE are carrying out there activity in Uzbekistan, 124 of them are wholly owned companies with UAE capital.

In January and October 2018 the delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister S.Kholmuradov visited the United Arab Emirates. During the Uzbek-Emirates negotiations both sides have achieved agreements on perspective fields of trade and economic cooperation.

In October 3, 2018 The Uzbek-Emirates Business Forum and Cooperation Exchange took place in Tashkent during the visit of business circles led by the Vice Chairman of the UAE Chamber of Commerce Ibrahim Al-Mahmoud.

On April 7, 2021, the 4th meeting of the Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation was held via videoconference.

On August 24-26, 2021, a delegation led by the UAE Minister of Economy Abdullah al-Marri (co-chair of the Intergovernmental Uzbek-Emirati Commission) visited Uzbekistan and an Uzbek-Emirati business forum was held.

Uzbekistan participated at the international exhibition "Dubai Expo", held from September 30, 2021 to March 31, 2022, with its national pavilion.

As part of the exhibition, on November 27, 2021, the Dubai Opera hosted the international premiere of the national ballet Lazgi. On December 8, 2021, the "National Day of Uzbekistan" was held with the participation of a delegation of Uzbekistan.

## Bilateral relations of the Republic of Uzbekistan with American countries

Nowadays, the Republic of Uzbekistan has established diplomatic relations with 28 countries of North and South America, including the United States of America, the United Mexican States, Canada, the Federal Republic of Brazil, the Argentine Republic, the Republic of Chile, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Jamaica, Oriental Republic of Uruguay, the Republic of Peru, the Republic of Costa Rica, the Republic of Paraguay, Republic of Cuba, Republic of Guatemala, the Republic of Nicaragua, the Republic of Honduras, the Dominican Republic, Republic of Ecuador, Republic of Colombia, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Republic of El Salvador, Grenada, the Commonwealth of Dominica, the Republic of Panama, the Federation of Saint Christopher (Saint Kitts and Nevis), Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Antigua and Barbuda, and also with the Co-operative Republic of Guyana.

Cooperation with the United States of America is one of the priorities of the Uzbek foreign policy.

The current Uzbek-American relations are long-term, multifaceted, and based on universally recognized principles and norms of international law, mutual respect and consideration of each other's interests.

The sides have similar positions on a number of international and regional issues, cooperate on strengthening peace and stability in Central Asia and Afghanistan, as well as confronting global security challenges – illicit drug trafficking, WMD proliferation, terrorism extremism and etc.

The Declaration between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the United States of America on strategic partnership and the principles of cooperation signed in 2002 plays a decisive role in bilateral relations.

Constant development of bilateral cooperation is facilitated by regular political dialogue, including on the highest level. During the official visit of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev to the United States in May 2018, a joint statement on a New era of Strategic partnership was adopted.

The parties reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening the strategic partnership relations between the countries based on the principles of mutual respect, trust and consideration of each other's interests.

Political dialogue is also characterized by high dynamics of mutual visits. Uzbekistan is regularly visited by American delegations of various levels, comprising representatives of key departments of the U.S. administration. Interaction is conducted in framework of annual political consultations - a mechanism for exchanging views on topical issues of Uzbek-American relations. Since 2021, bilateral relations have reached the level of Strategic Partnership Dialogue.

Inter-parliamentary ties are developing dynamically between the two states. Mutual exchange visits of Oliy Majlis of Uzbekistan delegations of and U.S. congressmen are organized annually. In August 2018, a «Caucus on Uzbekistan» was established in the House of Representatives of the U.S. Congress (an informal group of congressmen advocating the activation of U.S.-Uzbek relations). The co-chairs of the structure are Congressmen Trent Kelly (Mississippi) and Vicente Gonzalez (Texas).

A regular dialogue is maintained within framework of «Central Asia – the USA» («C5+1») format, which was launched in November 2015 in Samarkand.

Uzbekistan and United States are actively developing trade, economic and investment cooperation, which is a priority area in Uzbek-American relations.

There are 354 enterprises with the participation of the U.S. capital in Uzbekistan, including 165 enterprises with 100% American capital.

American Chamber of Commerce in Uzbekistan plays an important role in supporting and promoting business contacts between countries. A solid contribution to the development of trade cooperation with the United States is also being made by implementation of the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) signed between the USA and the Central Asian states.

A number of world-famous and major American companies operate in Uzbekistan. In particular, the «General Motors» and Uzbekistan operate the plant «General Motors Powertrain Uzbekistan» for the production of car engines.

The «Boeing» company is a constant and key supplier of modern aircraft for the national air company of Uzbekistan, including aircraft of the new generation «Boeing-787-8 Dreamliner».

Other American companies that operate in Uzbekistan include «Exxon Mobil», «CNH Industrial», «Coca-Cola», «Hyatt», «Hilton», «John Deere», «Honeywell», «Caterpillar», and others.

The interaction in the cultural and humanitarian sphere is systematically developing. Uzbekistan and the United States have also stepped up work to develop bilateral ties in the field of education and science, establishing new contacts and practical implementation of the agreements reached, primarily in further strengthening cultural, humanitarian and scientific-educational cooperation.

Twinning ties have been established between Tashkent and Seattle (1978), Bukhara and Santa Fe (1988), as well as Zarafshan and Clinton (2019).

Uzbekistan is regularly visited by experts from specialized agencies and organizations of the United States to hold negotiations and practical joint events. Uzbek specialists take part in U.S. scientific and educational programs. Joint projects are being implemented with a number of American universities, including the Texas A&M University and the University of Mississippi.

As part of further development of the inter-university partnership, work is being carried out to expand the contacts of national universities with other higher educational institutions in the United States for example, Ohio and Michigan universities, Boston College Law School, American and Georgetown universities. In particular, a branch of Webster University in Tashkent was opened in 2019. Direct contacts are established between U.S. medical institutions and specialized clinics and hospitals in Uzbekistan, including in the area of surgery, cardio-surgery, urology, obstetrics and gynecology, eye microsurgery and etc.

Uzbekistan also attaches great importance to strengthening comprehensive cooperation with Canada and strives to intensify mutually beneficial cooperation in the political, trade-economic, investment and humanitarian spheres.

Diplomatic relations were established on April 7, 1992. Bilateral cooperation is carried by the Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in Washington D.C. with concurrent accreditation to Canada and the diplomatic mission of Canada in Moscow with concurrent accreditation to the Republic of Uzbekistan. There is also an Honorable Consulate of Canada in Tashkent since 1997.

A special importance in bilateral relations is attached to the regular political consultations between foreign policy institutions of Uzbekistan and Canada. There is a frequent exchange of visits between the two countries.

In order to further expand Uzbek-Canadian inter-parliamentary cooperation, as well as strengthen interaction with the Parliament of Canada, the practice of holding an annual meeting of the inter-parliamentary friendship group «Uzbekistan-Canada» together with the office of the Chairman of the Canada-Uzbekistan friendship group Ziad Abuoltaif has been established.

The progressive development of trade and economic relations between the parties continues, including through cooperation with the Canadian-Eurasian Chamber of Commerce (CECC).

40 enterprises are operating in Uzbekistan with the participation of Canadian investments, including 10 enterprises with 100% Canadian capital.

Uzbekistan seeks to maintain active contacts with the countries of Latin America. A certain dynamics is observed in relations between Brazil, Cuba, Chile and Argentina.

The interaction is carried out in the form of a regular exchange of messages and mutual visits of delegations.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan regularly holds bilateral meetings with representatives of Latin American delegations arriving in the country to discuss issues of cooperation in the political, trade-economic, cultural-humanitarian, scientific spheres, develop cooperation in the field of tourism and international organizations.