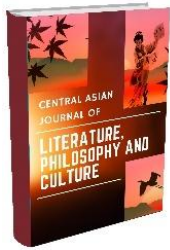




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Analysis of the Reforms Implemented in the Sphere of Interethnic Relations in Uzbekistan within the Framework of the Action Strategy

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Abstract:

This article is devoted to the analysis of the reforms implemented in Uzbekistan in the field of interethnic relations within the framework of the action strategy for 2017-2021.

Keywords: path of progress, development, interethnic harmony, solidarity, peace, cooperation, religious tolerance, friendship, interethnic relations.

Introduction. The decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev “on the strategy of actions for the further development of the Republic of Uzbekistan” dated February 7, 2017 became a historical document in which an in-depth analysis of the development path passed by our country was carried out, fundamentally new approaches and principles of further sustainable and dynamic development of the state were identified in the conditions of a sharp change in the global market conditions and increased competition.

The action strategy for the five priority areas of development of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2017-2021, approved by this decree, was aimed at implementing specific priority areas to further improve the effectiveness of reforms carried out in the country, create conditions for comprehensive and dynamic development of the state and society, modernization of the country and liberalization of all spheres of life.

Mainpart. In the strategy of actions for the further development of the Republic of Uzbekistan, special attention is paid to the issues of ensuring security, interethnic harmony and religious tolerance, strengthening the independence and sovereignty of our state, forming an atmosphere of security, stability and good neighborliness around Uzbekistan, aimed at conducting a balanced, mutually beneficial and practical foreign policy, strengthening the international authority of our country.

Consequently, the reforms and initiatives implemented on the initiative of the President of our country Shavkat Mirziyoyev in this direction have yielded consistent results in the shortest possible time.

This is clearly seen in the example of the consistent development of cooperation not only with neighboring countries, but also with other countries based on the criteria of constructive dialogue, peacefulness and pragmatism, economic efficiency. It receives recognition from the international community and large expert circles [1]. It is under this slogan that our state has been carrying out its reforms since the first days of independence and today adheres to these principles.

Within the framework of the three stages of the action strategy for 2017-2019, the following works were carried out:

First, on January 24, 2017, the decrees of the President of our country Shavkat Mirziyoyev “on awarding a group of activists of national cultural centers in connection with the 25th anniversary of the republican international cultural center” were issued.

For great merits in strengthening interethnic friendship and harmony in our country, preserving the atmosphere of mutual understanding and kindness prevailing in society between representatives of different nationalities and nationalities, educating the younger generation in the spirit of patriotism, respect for national and universal values and developing the activities of national cultural centers, a group of activists was awarded the orders of “Mehnat Shukhrati” and “Dustlik”, as well as the medal “Shukhrat”.

In addition, two cultural figures were awarded the honorary titles of “Honored Worker of Culture of the Republic of Uzbekistan”, as well as “Honored Coach of youth of the Republic of Uzbekistan” [2].

The decrees of the President of our country Shavkat Mirziyoyev “**On measures to further improve interethnic relations and friendly ties with foreign countries**” dated May 19, 2017 [3] are aimed at conducting a mutually beneficial and practical policy aimed at strengthening the independence and sovereignty of our state, creating an atmosphere of security, stability and good neighborliness, further strengthening humanistic values and mutual understanding between representatives of different nationalities in the minds of the population, especially young people., this was an important step in raising the work carried out in this direction to a qualitatively new level. The decree defines urgent tasks for further expansion of work to ensure stability, peace and harmony in society, strengthening the sense of belonging to a large, unified multinational family in the minds of citizens.

In accordance with the decrees of the President of our country “on measures to further improve interethnic relations and friendship ties with foreign countries” dated May 19, 2017, the Committee on Interethnic Relations and Friendship Ties with Foreign Countries under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan was established on the basis of the Republican International Cultural Center and the Council of Friendship Societies and Cultural and Educational Ties of Uzbekistan with Foreign Countries [4].

In particular, the establishment of the Committee on interethnic relations and friendship relations with foreign countries under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the basis of the Republican International Cultural Center and the Council of Friendship Societies and Cultural and Educational Relations of Uzbekistan with foreign countries also plays an important role in the consistent implementation of state policy in the field of interethnic harmony and tolerance, wide promotion of peace-loving policy, achieved successes.

The committee's important tasks will also be to provide practical and methodological assistance to national cultural centers, support their initiatives, strengthen the sense of a single multinational family in the minds of citizens, regardless of nationality, race and religion, and implement the principle "Uzbekistan is our common home [5].

Secondly, the publication of the Uzbekistan magazine, established by the Committee on Interethnic Relations and Relations with Foreign Countries under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan, began in October 2018.

This publication is important because it serves to further strengthen peace and harmony in our country, harmony between peoples and peoples, friendship.

Along with extensive coverage of relations with foreign countries, Uzbekistan magazine publishes information about the traditions and national customs of various nationalities and nationalities living in our country. The quarterly magazine has such headings as "face to face", "call of the century", "Spiritual heritage", "big plan", "Udum", "compatriots", "memory". The articles will be published in three languages - Uzbek, Russian and English [6].

The editorial board of the journal "Uzbekistan" was established on the basis of the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On measures for further improvement of interethnic relations and friendly relations with foreign countries" dated May 19, 2017 and the corresponding resolution dated May 23, 2017 under the chairmanship of the committee and published its first 1-2 issues.

In this magazine, along with extensive coverage of the activities of the Committee on Interethnic Relations and Friendship Relations with Foreign Countries, it is also planned to provide extensive information about the traditions, national customs and traditions of various peoples and nationalities living in peace and harmony. In particular, thanks to the efforts of the committee, the friendly relations established with our compatriots in the United States of America, Germany, and the Russian Federation were reflected in the "face to face" section of the magazine, and the life and work of the great writer Chingiz Aitmatov is widely covered under the "big plan" heading.

The magazine, through colorful and interesting materials, reflects the noble efforts to preserve peace, harmony, interethnic harmony and harmony in our country, the multifaceted activities of many national cultural centers, the noble aspirations of representatives of different nationalities.

Thirdly, at the invitation of the Uzbek side, a delegation headed by OSCE High Commissioner for Nationalities Lamberto Zaner arrived in our country on a working visit. This visit is carried out in accordance with the roadmap of cooperation with the OSCE for 2018-2019. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss prospects for cooperation between Uzbekistan and the High Commissioner for Indigenous Peoples, to receive information about the state program on interethnic issues developed in our country, to consider issues of interethnic and interethnic relations, to exchange views on issues of ensuring security and stability in Central Asia.

Under the leadership of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, new opportunities are opening up to strengthen tolerance in the country. The OSCE High Commissioner for Indigenous Peoples noted that Uzbekistan is one of the full participants of the OSCE. The mandate of the office of the High Commissioner is to provide early warning of conflicts related to the problems of national minorities and, if necessary, to take emergency measures as soon as possible. Preventive diplomacy makes it possible to assess the role of direct stakeholders at an early stage. In particular, this includes more frequent contacts with representatives of minorities and nationalities. The High Commissioner seeks to encourage dialogue, build trust and cooperation between them.

Our goal is to contribute to the stabilization of interethnic relations in your country, the High Commissioner said. We want the efforts of representatives of ethnic minorities to make a worthy contribution to the well-being, peace and prosperity of the country to be more significant [7].

During the meetings, Lamberto Zanier paid special attention to the development of interstate relations, as well as Uzbekistan's relations with compatriots living in other countries.

Fourth, on April 20, 2018, the House of Korean Culture and Art opened in Tashkent. President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev and President of the Republic of Korea Moon Jae-in together with their wives opened this Palace of Friendship and Culture [8].

This majestic structure, which adds turkey meat to the image of our capital, has become a center of friendship, harmony and community, which combines the achievements of modern architecture and traditional Korean culture.

Today, more than 180 thousand compatriots of Korean nationality live in our country. About three hundred of them were awarded high state awards. Along with representatives of all nationalities and nationalities, the necessary conditions have been created for Koreans to preserve their national culture, language, traditions and customs. There are dozens of Korean cultural centers. Korean philology is taught in 12 higher educational institutions, 48 schools and lyceums.

Books and newspapers in Korean are published, exhibitions, concerts and festivals, sports competitions are held.

The Korean House of Culture and Art includes a 478-seat cinema and concert hall, a conference hall, a library, an art gallery, a restaurant and office space. It has become another place that the public and young people aspire to, enriching our common culture. This day has become another bright page in the history of relations between the two strategic partner countries - Uzbekistan and South Korea.

Fifth, on April 24, 2018, on the initiative of the President of our country Shavkat Mirziyoyev, the Uzbek-Turkmen Friendship House was built in Urgench.

During the visit of the President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, the opening of this center of spirituality took place [9].

This complex is built on the basis of ancient and modern architectural traditions, a museum has been created reflecting the centuries-old ties of the Uzbek and Turkmen peoples, a library with a book collection of more than two thousand copies.

Sixth, on June 10, 2017, the President of our country Shavkat Mirziyoyev visited the memorial complex of Imam Bukhari in the Samarkand region.

In his speech at the summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization held on June 8-9 in Astana, the Head of our state emphasized that the establishment of the Imam Bukhari International Research Center in Samarkand will be an important step in strengthening interethnic and intercultural relations [10].

The organized new center served to promote Islamic culture and values, protect our youth from various alien ideas, their modern education and upbringing, becoming perfect people, forming high feelings in the hearts of the younger generation that we are worthy of our great ancestors.

Seventh, on June 22, 2018, the UN General Assembly adopted the resolution "Strengthening regional and international cooperation in order to ensure peace, stability and sustainable development in the Central Asian region". This document, the draft of which was developed by Uzbekistan jointly with neighboring Central Asian countries, was unanimously supported by all UN member states.

This event was of great historical significance not only for the region, but also at the international level. In fact, the adoption of the resolution marked the beginning of a new stage in the development of the Central Asian countries, which are becoming a single region with clear goals.

For the first time, the initiative to adopt this resolution in the interests of Uzbekistan was put forward by the President of our country Shavkat Mirziyoyev at the 72nd session of the UN General Assembly, held in September 2017 in New York. In his speech, the head of Uzbekistan announced the holding of a high-level international conference on Central Asia under the auspices of the United Nations in Samarkand in November 2017, following which he proposed to adopt a special resolution of the Central Asian States in support of their efforts to ensure security and strengthen regional cooperation [11].

The approval of the document means international recognition of the new foreign policy pursued by official Tashkent. At the heart of this policy, as noted by Shavkat Mirziyoyev, is the goal of turning Central Asia into a sustainable, economically developed region.

In short, the international community has demonstrated unconditional support for the efforts of the Central Asian States to deepen regional cooperation, which is an important factor of stability and development. Today, no one doubts that calm in Central Asia is an integral part of world security. In the conditions of continuing tension and tension in a number of regions of the world, strategic prospects for regional cooperation are becoming vital in ensuring international security. The growing uncertainty, stagnation and imbalances in the global economy require the States of the region to make closer, coordinated efforts to find and implement common projects aimed at joint development. Only stable, dynamically developing countries of Central Asia can become attractive, constructive and long-term partners for the international community.

Eighth, ensuring the implementation of the initiatives of the Head of our State, dear Shavkat Miromonovich Mirziyoyev at the summit of the heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in Astana in 2017, as well as for the effective use of the mechanism of people's diplomacy in the successful implementation of the tasks outlined in the action strategy for the five priority areas of development of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2017-2021, and also on the basis of the decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated June 26, 2018 No. PP-3807 "on measures of state support for the establishment of the Center for People's Diplomacy of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in Uzbekistan", the Center for People's Diplomacy of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization was established [12].

Results

The main tasks and activities of the center are defined:

- Strengthening relations of mutual trust and good neighborliness between the SCO countries, interethnic and interreligious harmony, promoting the development of inter-civilizational dialogue;
- Participation in the expansion of cultural and humanitarian ties with the SCO countries, organization of mutual visits of delegations;
- Creating conditions for establishing a friendly atmosphere of cooperation between civil society institutions in the SCO countries, including youth and women's organizations;
- Содействие Promotion of cooperation in the information sphere between the SCO countries, the formation of information resources and cooperation with the media in order to widely explain the goals, objectives, priorities and basic principles of the SCO, the preparation and regular publication of information and analytical materials on the achievements of the SCO countries in the cultural and humanitarian sphere;

- The use of the levers of people's diplomacy in order to bring the SCO countries and their peoples closer together, strengthen the spirit of mutual trust and good neighborliness [13].

The establishment of the Center for People's Diplomacy plays an important role in further strengthening interethnic relations and friendly ties with foreign countries not only in the region, but also in the world.

A special resolution entitled "Education and religious tolerance" was adopted at the ninth plenary session of the UN General Assembly on December 12, 2018. The draft document developed by Uzbekistan was unanimously supported by all UN member States.

The adoption of the resolution was the practical embodiment of the initiative put forward by the President of our country Shavkat Mirziyoyev at the 72nd session of the UN General Assembly, held in September 2017 in New York [14].

Speaking at the high rostrum of the UN, the head of our state noted that the main purpose of the resolution proposed by Uzbekistan is "to promote the right of everyone to education, the eradication of illiteracy and ignorance." The document is aimed at "establishing tolerance and mutual respect, ensuring freedom of religion, protecting the rights of believers, and promoting non-discrimination against them."

In order to implement this initiative, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan, together with a number of other departments, carried out systematic work on the development of the text of the draft resolution and its coordination with all Member States of the United Nations.

It is noteworthy that this resolution was not only unanimously supported by all UN member states, but also adopted in co-authorship with more than 50 countries of North America and Latin America, Asia, Africa and other continents. This testifies to the high recognition by the international community of the relevance and timeliness of the initiative of the head of Uzbekistan.

Among the co-authors are Azerbaijan, Algeria, Bahrain, Belarus, Ghana, Egypt, India, Kazakhstan, Canada, Qatar, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Morocco, UAE, Oman, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Philippines, Japan and other countries.

The document supports all international, regional and national initiatives aimed at promoting harmony in interreligious, cultural and interfaith relations, as well as combating discrimination based on religions and beliefs against individuals.

It should be noted that the purpose and content of the resolution fully comply with the provisions of important documents adopted within the framework of the UN, including the UN Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Sustainable Development Goals for the Period up to 2030, the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief, as well as the provisions of traditional resolutions of the UN General Assembly on this topic.

Conclusion. The unanimous adoption of this resolution by the UN General Assembly is a clear evidence of the full support of the international community for the consistent and thoughtful strategy of the President of our country aimed at strengthening the atmosphere of cooperation, mutual respect and solidarity between different nationalities and faiths, support and preservation of interfaith, interethnic and intercultural dialogue, ensuring peace and harmony in our country.

In general, with the full implementation of the decree “on the strategy of actions for the further development of the Republic of Uzbekistan” and the tasks set in it, the life of the country and society has improved, our efforts to create a rule-based democratic state, a strong civil society have reached a new level.

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